



# MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, September 23, 2019

## Surprising Soul upsets Lonesome Glory

Wendy Hendriks' Surprising Soul, fresh after a four-month vacation, pulled a 17.60-to-1 surprise on Sept. 19 when he set all the pace in Belmont Park's \$150,000 Lonesome Glory Handicap (Gr. 1) and galloped home to a 3 3/4-length victory.

With Ross Geraghty aboard, the Perfect Soul seven-year-old was never seriously challenged after the first 100 yards of the Lonesome Glory and ran the 2½-mile distance in 4:34.41 on firm turf. Bred in Ontario by Charles Fipke, Surprising Soul returned \$37.20 on a \$2 win bet.

Two veteran longshots, Harold A. "Sonny" Via's Hinterland and Buttonwood Farm's All the Way Jose, filled the pari-mutuel table. Hinterland, 43.25-to-1, made steady progress to finish second by 3/4 lengths over 48.25-to-1 All the Way Jose, who had won the 2017 edition of the Lonesome Glory.

All the Way Jose's stablemate Winston C encountered some late traffic issues on the spacious Belmont course, toppled a beacon nearing the homestretch while in tight, and finished fourth as the 9-to-10 favorite.

Trained by Jonathan Sheppard, Winston C was odds-on after winning Saratoga Race Course's A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1) and the New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1).

The year's other Grade 1 winner, Bruton Street-US's Scorpiancer, finished fifth, a length behind Winston C, and Bruton Street-US's Moscato was eighth in a nine-horse field.

Ricky Hendriks, who trains Surprising Soul for his mother, recorded his second straight Lonesome Glory win, after Rosbrian Farm's eventual Eclipse Award winner Zanjabeel last year.



Tod Marks

Wendy Hendriks' Surprising Soul and Ross Geraghty rolled to the Lonesome Glory finish line.

Geraghty, who was last year's leading steeplechase jockey by purse earnings, had credited Hendriks with scaling back on Surprising Soul's racing schedule. In 2017, Surprising Soul had won two early races and then tailed off at the end of a seven-race season.

Last year, Surprising Soul made three starts and won two stakes, Radnor Hunt Races' National Hunt Cup (Gr. 3) and Saratoga's Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes, before a second in a division of the Far Hills Races' Foxbrook Champion Hurdle. Those three starts were worth \$97,500 in purse earnings.

The Lonesome Glory was Surprising Soul's third start of the year, following a fourth in

the Carolina Cup in late March and a second to Scorpiancer, beaten a length, in the Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1) in Nashville on May 11.

Surprising Soul possesses sufficient speed to set the pace, and Geraghty took advantage of a field with little early lick to take a two-length advantage after All the Way Jose chose not to press him too closely.

The front-runner jumped well while Winston C occupied his usual spot at the back of the field. He lost some ground over the next-to-last fence and took an inside route on the final turn before bouncing off the beacon while inside Scorpiancer, losing some ground, and resuming his challenge.

By then, Surprising Soul had opened 4½ lengths at the furlong pole and had sealed a Grade 1 victory for owner Hendriks. The \$90,000 first-place purse increased Surprising Soul's 2019 earnings to \$119,500.

## Shawan, Foxfield on tap this weekend

Steeplechase racing returns to the countryside this weekend with the 19th annual Shawan Downs Races on Saturday and the 42nd annual Foxfield Fall Races on Sunday.

Both race meets will be live-streamed in high definition on the NSA Network, which is available from the National Steeplechase Association's home page, [nationalsteeplechase.com](http://nationalsteeplechase.com).

Entries for both meets will be taken today.

Shawan Downs in Hunt Valley, Md., will kick off the fall timber campaign with the \$25,000 Legacy Chase at 3 1/4 miles.

Also on the program is a \$30,000 ratings handicap and a \$30,000 maiden hurdle, both at two miles. Shawan will open the racing season for three-year-olds with a \$20,000 maiden hurdle, also at two miles. First post time for the six-race program is 1 p.m.

Foxfield Fall in Charlottesville, Va., will put its focus on newcomers to jump racing with the \$30,000 Virginia Equine Alliance maiden hurdle, a \$20,000 maiden hurdle for fillies and mares, and a \$15,000 maiden claiming hurdle.

First post time is 1:30 p.m.

### On the inside

Favored Snap Decision wins Belmont's William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes .....2

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# Go Jump Racing!





## Snap Decision takes Belmont's Entenmann

Bruton Street-US's Snap Decision, confirming the quality of his previous victories, surged to the lead after the final fence on Belmont Park's backstretch, opened a daylight lead early in the stretch, and came home to a two-length victory in the \$75,000 William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes on Sept. 18.

Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Arch My Boy, who had broken on top and then stalked the pace of KMSN Stable's Sportswear, finished a game second, five lengths clear of Irv Naylor's Chief Justice in third. Riverdee Stable's City Dreamer finished fourth in a field of seven.

No stranger to New York and Belmont bettors, Snap Decision went off as the short-priced 0.55-to-1 favorite and paid \$3.10 to win after running the Entenmann's 2¼ miles in 4:17.37 on firm turf.

Bred by Phipps Stable, the five-year-old had two wins on the flat for trainer Shug McGaughey before landing in the stable of champion trainer Jack Fisher. After two second-place finishes in maiden hurdles at the Queen's Cup and Iroquois Steeplechase in the spring, the Hard Spun gelding won his maiden victory at Monmouth

Park by 4½ lengths on July 4.

Back at his former home at Saratoga Race Course, Snap Decision turned heads on Aug. 14 when he drew away to a 38½-length victory in an entry-level allowance hurdle. Novice stakes competition was the next step, and Belmont's bettors concluded overwhelmingly that he was ready to advance.

As Arch My Boy and then 4.20-to-1 second betting choice Sportswear set the pace on Belmont's inner turf course, jockey Willie McCarthy placed Snap Decision toward the back of the field.

Sportswear, previously unbeaten over fences, took the lead entering Belmont's clubhouse turn for the final time, and the but the four-year-old tired after the last fence to finish fifth.

Snap Decision had Sportswear in his sights over the last fence, jumped it confidently and surged to the lead. He opened a daylight lead entering the stretch, and McCarthy looked back twice to see if anyone was advancing.

Arch My Boy, ridden by Kieran Norris, continued his pursuit with so sign of giving up, and McCarthy asked for a little more from Snap

Decision in midstretch.


The leader responded, led by two lengths at the furlong pole, and maintained that advantage to the finish line.

Chief Justice, who had left himself too much ground to make up when third to City Dreamer in the Iroquois Steeplechase's Marcellus Frost Champion Hurdle for novices on May 11, was in third place throughout the Entenmann, but he was unable to make up any ground on Snap Decision and 6.50-to-1 third betting choice Arch My Boy in the stretch.

City Dreamer never threatened and finished fourth, 3 3/4 lengths farther back, and passed the tiring Sportswear in deep stretch.

The Entenmann Memorial's \$45,000 first-place purse raised Snap Decision's 2019 earnings to \$116,400 and lifted him into third place in the standings.

Snap Decision is out of the Phipps-bred mare Salute. She was the result of mating two champions: 1990 Kentucky Derby (Gr. 1) and Breeders' Cup Classic (Gr. 1) winner Unbridled and unbeaten Racing Hall of Fame member Personal Ensign.



## STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH SEPT. 23

| OWNERS BY EARNINGS     |     |     |     |     |           | JOCKEYS BY WINS  |     |     |     |     |           |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
|                        | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings  |                  | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings  |
| Bruton Street-US       | 31  | 7   | 6   | 5   | \$379,000 | Michael Mitchell | 61  | 16  | 10  | 6   | \$511,150 |
| Riverdee Stable        | 18  | 4   | 5   | 2   | 246,150   | Jack Doyle       | 59  | 11  | 6   | 8   | 364,200   |
| Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr. | 35  | 8   | 4   | 7   | 226,600   | Sean McDermott   | 53  | 9   | 5   | 10  | 369,300   |
| Hudson River Farms     | 10  | 2   | 0   | 4   | 208,300   | Willie McCarthy  | 38  | 7   | 7   | 5   | 290,900   |
| Rosbrian Farm          | 16  | 4   | 3   | 0   | 149,300   | Thomas Garner    | 42  | 6   | 3   | 6   | 351,800   |
| Irvin S. Naylor        | 41  | 4   | 5   | 7   | 139,550   | Ross Geraghty    | 40  | 5   | 6   | 4   | 300,950   |
| Wendy Hendriks         | 5   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 126,900   | Richard Boucher  | 17  | 5   | 1   | 2   | 93,800    |
| Ballybristol Farm      | 10  | 2   | 3   | 1   | 98,850    | Gerard Galligan  | 40  | 4   | 7   | 5   | 193,250   |
| Sharon E. Sheppard     | 12  | 3   | 2   | 3   | 95,650    | Barry Foley      | 45  | 3   | 4   | 9   | 140,750   |
| Beverly R. Steinman    | 24  | 2   | 2   | 3   | 93,400    | Hadden Frost     | 10  | 3   | 2   | 0   | 72,550    |

| TRAINERS BY WINS  |     |     |     |     |             | HORSES BY EARNINGS |     |     |     |     |           |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
|                   | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings    |                    | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings  |
| Jack Fisher       | 103 | 28  | 18  | 10  | \$1,094,400 | Winston C          | 4   | 2   | 0   | 1   | \$197,500 |
| Jonathan Sheppard | 60  | 11  | 5   | 9   | 485,300     | Surprising Soul    | 3   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 119,500   |
| Leslie F. Young   | 32  | 7   | 7   | 4   | 230,600     | Snap Decision      | 5   | 3   | 2   | 0   | 116,700   |
| Ricky Hendriks    | 53  | 7   | 6   | 7   | 325,250     | Gibralfaro (Ire)   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 99,000    |
| Katherine Neilson | 39  | 6   | 5   | 5   | 159,450     | Scorpiancer (Ire)  | 3   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 96,000    |
| Lilith Boucher    | 12  | 5   | 1   | 2   | 90,500      | Senior Senator     | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 90,000    |
| Julie Gomena      | 38  | 2   | 7   | 4   | 107,750     | Andi'amu (Fr)      | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 78,000    |
| Joseph G. Davies  | 16  | 2   | 2   | 1   | 114,700     | City Dreamer (Ire) | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 65,000    |
| Doug Fout         | 32  | 2   | 2   | 6   | 116,550     | Hinterland (Fr)    | 6   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 62,450    |
| Neil R. Morris    | 24  | 2   | 2   | 5   | 66,050      | Teodoro (Ire)      | 3   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 62,400    |