



MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, October 14, 2019

Andi'amu dominates at Virginia Fall

Ballybristol Farm's Andi'amu put his superior speed to good use and scored an easy 7/4-length victory Saturday in the Virginia Fall Races' \$40,000 National Sporting Library and Museum Cup.

Trained by Leslie Young, the Virginia Gold Cup winner never was asked for a maximum effort by jockey Jack Doyle and pulled away effortlessly from Irv Naylor's Super Saturday and Blair Wyatt's Witor over the final quarter-mile of the 3/4-mile National Sporting Library.

Super Saturday finished second under Gerard Galligan, and Witor was third under Paul O'Neill. The timber race's fourth entrant, Kinross Farm's Just Wait And See, was scratched. Andi'amu ran the distance in 6:59 on firm turf.

Doyle moved Andi'amu to the lead at the start and established a comfortable two-length advantage over Witor, with Super Saturday close behind in third. Andi'amu galloped under Doyle's light restraint and put in efficient jumps over the Virginia Fall fences.

Approaching the final fences, O'Neill and Galligan asked their mounts for additional run and gained slightly on Andi'amu, who remained on a long rein. Super Saturday moved into second before the final fence, but Andi'amu's superior speed carried him well ahead of his opponents.

Doyle checked under his right arm nearing the stretch and kept Andi'amu at a steady gallop approaching the last fence. They jumped the last



Tod Marks

Ballybristol Farm's Andi'amu jumped a fence with Jack Doyle in the National Sporting Library.

without incident, and Doyle gave one final look over his right shoulder before easing Andi'amu to the finish line and an easy victory.

The National Sporting Library was Andi'amu's fifth straight victory, dating back to a second-place finish in the Noel Laing Handicap at

Montpelier nearly two years ago. He raced over steeplethron mixed obstacles last year and scored wins at Middleburg Spring and the Virginia Gold Cup.

Now nine, the French-bred came back this year with a 5/4-length victory in the Middleburg Hunt Cup on April 20 and won the Virginia Gold Cup by three lengths on May 4.

The victory, Doyle's 17th of the season, lifted him into a tie with Michael Mitchell for the year's jockey title by wins.

Schoodic bounces back at Genesee

Dolly Fisher's Schoodic overcame a mistake at the last fence of the \$30,000 Genesee Valley Hunt Cup and held off Le Chevalier to win by a length on Saturday.

Early pacesetter Grand Manan, who had won the 2016 edition of the 3/2-mile Genesee Valley Hunt Cup, held on well to finish third, 6/4 lengths farther back.

Trained by Jack Fisher, the owner's son, Schoodic had sustained his first defeat over timber fences two weeks earlier when second in Shawan Downs' Brown Advisory Legacy Chase. He had won the Iroquois Steeplechase's Mason Houghland Memorial in May.

Armata Stables' Grand Manan invariably sets the pace in his races, and the Billy Meister-

trained 10-year-old jumped to the front at the start on the Genesee Valley course in Genesee, N.Y.

Jockey Hadden Frost placed Schoodic in second position for the first two miles and moved to the front on the clubhouse turn. Michael A. Smith's Le Chevalier, ridden by Mark Beecher, moved into second on the run down the backstretch for the final time.

Schoodic took down the top rail of the final fence with his knees and lost some momentum. Beecher, sensing an opportunity, asked Le Chevalier for one final assault, but Schoodic quickly recovered and led to the finish. Schoodic ran the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup distance in 7:22 1/5 on turf rated as good.

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Go Jump Racing!





Kinross Farm records two Virginia Fall wins while Morris and Watters add a flat victory

Jack Doyle tied Michael Mitchell in the jockey standings by wins. Darren Nagle, always hot as the days grow cooler, won two races, both for Jonathan Sheppard.

Trainer Leslie Young racked up two timber victories, Andi'amu's effortless victory in the \$40,000 National Sporting Library and Museum Cup and a newly sanctioned amateur apprentice timber race at the Genesee Valley Hunt Races with Fat Chance Farm's Flaming Sword.

Jack Fisher was shut out at Middleburg on Saturday but recorded a win with his mother's Schoodic in the \$30,000 Genesee Valley Hunt Cup.

But the day's biggest winners were Kinross Farm, trainer Neil Morris, and jockey Graham Watters. Together, they combined for three victories. Kinross struck with its only two starters in hurdle races, while Morris and Watters combined for a third victory, with Flying Elvis Stable's Vincent Van Gogo in a training flat race that doesn't count in the standings.

Zohar Ben-Dov's Kinross operation in Marshall sponsored the afternoon's steeplethon but didn't have a starter in it. The victory in the \$30,000 race over mixed obstacles went to KMSN Stable's Able Archer, trained by Sheppard and ridden by Nagle.

Nagle started the afternoon with a victory in the Bon Nouvel ratings handicap with Sheppard's front-running Ebullience, but then Team Kinross took over. First up was the \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle sponsored by the Virginia Equine Alliance.



Kinross Farm's Big Bend took the lead over the last fence of the Virginia Equine Alliance maiden hurdle and won by 2 3/4 lengths over Royal Drumlee.

After several lead changes in the 2 1/8-mile hurdle race, Kinross' Big Bend made a big move at the last fence and won by 2 3/4 lengths over Irv Naylor's Royal Drumlee, who was making his

first career sanctioned start.

A five-year-old Union Rags gelding, Big Bend won his first start over fences. He had won the Keeneland Race Course's Sycamore Stakes (Gr. 3) two years earlier but had raced with limited success in graded turf stakes since then.

Kinross also sat out the three-horse National Sporting Library and then struck with Junonia in the \$15,000 maiden claiming hurdle.

Watters advanced Junonia in midrace and picked off the front-runners to win by 3 1/4 lengths over owner-trainer William Wofford's Choklitcoverdonut.

Bred in Pennsylvania by Rod Moorhead, five-year-old Junonia tried hurdles at Fair Hill and finished fifth behind a fast-developing Teodoro. His starts over the summer and early fall had all been on the flat, including a maiden victory over fellow Pennsylvania-breds at Presque Isle Downs.

Rebecca Shepherd's Curve of Stones notched his first timber victory in Virginia Fall's James P. McCormick Memorial with a three-quarter-length score under Barry Foley. Naylor's On My Wish List finished second under Watters.

A Virginia-bred, Curve of Stones is trained by David Bourke. The eight-year-old Arch gelding had finished fifth in the Radnor Hunt Cup.



KMSN Stable's Able Archer, with jockey Darren Nagle thoroughly in control, jumped the last fence of the Virginia Fall Steeplethon and won by 2 3/4 lengths.

Tod Marks

Tod Marks

Grand National draws strong overseas cast as Jury Duty is nominated for return visit

Formidable overseas invaders, including 2018 winner Jury Duty and top-rated competitors Wicklow Brave and The Storyteller, are among the 16 nominees to the America's richest steeplechase race, the \$450,000 Grand National (Gr. 1), at the Far Hills Races on Saturday.

Arrayed against nine overseas nominees for the 2 5/8-mile Grand National are the past two Eclipse Award winners, Scorpiancer and Zanjabeel, and the two most recent novice champions, Moscato and Iranistan.

The Grand National's 16 nominees capped a record 105 nominations to Far Hills' all-stakes races program, with purses totaling \$850,000. First post time will be 1 p.m. at Moorland Farm in Far Hills, N.J., and pari-mutuel wagering will be offered on all seven races.

Also on the program are the \$100,000 Foxbrook Champion Hurdle for novices, the \$75,000 Harry E. Harris Stakes for four-year-olds, the \$75,000 Peapack Stakes for fillies and mares, the \$50,000 Gladstone Stakes for three-year-olds, the \$50,000 Appleton Handicap for horses rated at 130 or lower, and the \$50,000 New Jersey Hunt Cup on the flat.

Gordon Elliott, a leading Irish trainer who sent over Jury Duty for an impressive 3 1/2-length victory last year, nominated Sideways Syndicate's standardbearer and The Storyteller, who is owned by Pat Sloan.

Now eight, Jury Duty will be attempting to rediscover his best form. He took the winter off after his American win and won an allowance hurdle in March, but he was unplaced in his next two starts and most recently was sixth in the PWC Champion Chase at Ireland's Gowran Park, a key race for Irish competitors looking to a trip to America.

The Storyteller carried a top rating into the Gowran Park race on Oct. 5 and finished eighth at 12-to-1. The eight-year-old will be going for his first victory in 18 months at Far Hills.

Trained by Willie Mullins, Wicklow Brave is riding a three-race winning streak to New Jersey. He won two allowance steeplechases around a six-length victory at even money in Galway's Guinness Brewery Novice Steeplechase on Aug 1.

Trainer Jessica Harrington nominated Gerard McGrath's homebred Jett, who defeated The Storyteller in Fairyhouse's Devenish Steeplechase in April.

Topping the American team are Bruton Street-US's Scorpiancer and Zanjabeel, owned by Rosbrian Farm and Meadow Run Farm. Trained by Jack Fisher, Scorpiancer comes into the Grand National from a fifth-place finish in Belmont Park's Lonesome Glory Handicap (Gr. 1).



Jury Duty jumped the last fence of the 2018 Grand National and won by 3 1/2 lengths.

Tod Marks

In May, Scorpiancer won the Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1) for a second time. His 2017 victory in the Nashville race capped his Eclipse Award campaign that year.

Zanjabeel will return to the race course for the first time since winning the 2018 Lonesome Glory and locking up last year's championship. Trained by Ricky Hendriks, the six-year-old participated in the horsemen's invitational trials at Shawan Downs on Oct. 5 and worked an additional distance under his regular jockey, Ross Geraghty.

Bruton Street-US's Moscato, also trained by Fisher, missed the 2018 season and returned with a victory in Middleburg Spring's Temple Gwathmey Handicap (Gr. 2). He finished third in the Iroquois on May 11 and eighth in the Lonesome Glory on Sept. 19.

Also returning to the races after a long absence is Hudson River Farms' Iranistan, who most recently finished third in the 2018 New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap (Gr. 1) at Saratoga Race Course. The five-year-old is trained by Racing Hall of Fame member Jonathan Sheppard.

Snap Decision tops Foxbrook nominees

A maiden at the beginning of July, Bruton Street-US's Snap Decision has risen to the top rungs of the National Steeplechase Association's novice division, and he heads a talented group of 13 nominees to the \$100,000 Foxbrook Champion Hurdle at the Far Hills Races on Saturday.

The 2 1/2-mile Foxbrook attracted four nominees who would be making their first American starts. Rocket Lad and The Holy One also were nominated to the \$450,000 Grand National (Gr. 1). Lethal Steps, trained by Gordon Elliott, very likely would be one of the Foxbrook favorites.

Bred by the Phipps Stable, Snap Decision

has blossomed in trainer Jack Fisher's stable. He has won three straight races, most recently Belmont Park's William Entenmann Memorial Novice Stakes on Sept. 18.

Snap Decision is likely to have several serious challengers in the Foxbrook. Riverdee Stable's City Dreamer, also trained by Fisher, won the Iroquois Steeplechase's Marcellus Frost Champion Hurdle in May and was fourth in the Entenmann Memorial.

Irv Naylor's Chief Justice, fourth in the Marcellus Frost, finished third in the Entenmann for trainer Cyril Murphy. KMSN Stable's Sportswear finished fifth in the Belmont race.



Pink police cars a big hit in New Jersey

Steeplechase race meets historically have been significant contributors to charities and other worthy causes within their communities, and that tradition remains strong today.

Race meets always are on the lookout for promotions that will feature their commitment to community.

The Far Hills Race Meeting struck a responsive chord this year with its sponsorship of three police cars decked out in pink in honor of breast cancer awareness month in October.

In conjunction with its marketing firm, JConnelly Inc., and the Franklin Township Police Benevolent Association, Far Hills sponsored the car wraps for Franklin Township, Branchburg, and the Somerset County prosecutor's office.

Far Hills' patrons will be able to sign the pink police cars on Saturday.

Over the years, Far Hills has donated more than \$18-million to support health care in central New Jersey. The principal beneficiary has been the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset and its Steeplechase Cancer Care Center, named in honor of Far Hills. The pink police care promotion received widespread coverage in the New York metropolitan area.



Gabriella Daidone

STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH OCT. 14



OWNERS BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Bruton Street-US	31	7	6	5	\$379,000
Riverdee Stable	19	4	5	2	247,350
Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.	39	9	5	7	243,300
Hudson River Farms	12	4	0	4	241,300
Irvin S. Naylor	51	4	8	8	160,800
Rosbrian Farm	16	4	3	0	149,300
Ballybristol Farm	15	4	3	1	133,300
Wendy Hendriks	5	1	2	1	126,900
Sharon E. Sheppard	16	4	3	3	120,250
Beverly R. Steinman	29	2	3	4	99,100

JOCKEYS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Michael Mitchell	67	17	10	7	\$533,450
Jack Doyle	71	17	9	8	468,250
Sean McDermott	61	9	6	10	375,400
Willie McCarthy	45	8	8	5	309,050
Thomas Garner	47	7	4	6	374,000
Ross Geraghty	46	5	7	5	306,250
Richard Boucher	19	5	1	2	93,800
Gerard Galligan	51	4	9	8	212,750
Barry Foley	52	4	5	9	145,450
Hadden Frost	12	4	3	0	95,050

TRAINERS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Fisher	112	31	20	11	\$1,155,800
Jonathan Sheppard	72	15	5	12	553,800
Leslie F. Young	44	11	10	5	302,650
Ricky Hendriks	60	7	7	8	331,550
Katherine Neilson	48	7	6	5	176,650
Lilith Boucher	13	5	1	2	90,500
Neil R. Morris	29	4	2	6	96,750
Mark Beecher	25	3	1	1	68,950
Julie Gomena	48	2	8	6	118,450
Doug Fout	42	2	3	7	124,650

HORSES BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Winston C	4	2	0	1	\$197,500
Surprising Soul	3	1	1	0	119,500
Snap Decision	5	3	2	0	116,700
Andi'amu (Fr)	3	3	0	0	102,000
Gibralfaro (Ire)	4	1	1	0	99,000
Scorpiancer (Ire)	3	1	0	0	96,000
Senior Senator	2	2	0	0	90,000
City Dreamer (Ire)	3	1	0	0	68,750
Schoodic	5	4	1	0	64,500
Hinterland (Fr)	6	0	2	1	62,450