



MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, November 18, 2019

Must See The Doc prevails in Alston Cup as Charleston concludes NSA season

Irv Naylor's Must See The Doc, always prominent in the Steeplechase of Charleston's \$25,000 Alston Cup for three-year-olds, battled past front-runner Global Freedom after the last fence and held off Another Try for a narrow victory on Sunday.

Hudson River Farms' Another Try finished second, just ahead of Rosbrian Farm's Global Freedom, winner of the Far Hills Races' \$50,000 Gladstone Stakes on Oct. 19.

Trained by Ricky Hendriks, Global Freedom became the year's three-year-old champion with \$32,500 in jump purses. Leslie Young-trained Must See The Doc, second to Global Freedom in the Gladstone, finished second with \$24,000.

Under sunny skies and with temperatures in the brisk mid-50s, the six-race Steeplechase of Charleston at Stono Ferry brought down the curtain on the 2019 National Steeplechase Association season. The races in Hollywood, S.C., were run for the first time under the ownership of the Post and Courier, the South's oldest newspaper.

In the Alston Cup, Gerard Galligan sent Global Freedom to the lead at the start and set a moderate pace on the Stono Ferry course. Must See The Doc took up an occasionally fractious stalking position under Brian Linehan, with Diablo Voloce briefly prominent in the early going and Another Try well back.

Must See The Doc briefly gained the lead passing the finish line for the next-to-last time, but Linehan restrained him behind Global Freedom's pace around the clubhouse turn and down the backstretch.

Darren Nagle moved Jonathan Sheppard-trained Another Try into contention at the third-from-last fence and made steady progress to challenge the leaders on the final turn. Galligan guided Global Freedom to the inside for the last fence, and Must See The Doc took the middle course with Another Try to his outside.

Another Try, fifth in the Gladstone, appeared on the verge of an upset, but Linehan applied pressure to Must See The Doc through the stretch, and they reached the finish line a neck



Tod Marks

Irv Naylor's Must See The Doc headed for the start of the Far Hills Races' Gladstone Stakes, in which he finished second to Global Freedom.

ahead of Another Try.

Global Freedom tired late but continued gamely to preserve third money. Black Cloud Racing's Summer Vow, also trained by Hendriks, finished fourth in a field of eight. Must See The Doc, who had two wins in three starts over fences in England before his Gladstone second, ran the Alston Cup's 2 1/16 miles in 4:18 2/5 on turf rated as good.

Earlier on the program, Young and Linehan combined for a 7/4-length victory with Silverton Hill's Bodes Well in a \$15,000 ratings handicap. Irv Naylor's Ocean Ready finished second, and Kinross Farm's Junonia was third.

Daniel Denefrio's Fightinirishtabit, a \$6,250 claim off the flat, notched a two-length victory in the Steeplechase of Charleston's \$25,000 Post and Courier Cup maiden hurdle.

With Galligan in the saddle for Hendriks, the Tiznow four-year-old followed the early pace of Decisive Triumph and held off Stonelea Stables'

Quick Toss at the finish. Sam-Son Farm's Aldous Snow was a distant third.

Sheppard claimed the top two spots in the Steeplechase of Charleston's \$20,000 ratings handicap for horses ranked at 115 or lower. Ridden by Galligan, the owner-trainer's Hepcat prevailed by 3/4 lengths over Eve Ledyard's Go Get the Basil. Why Not Racing's Jump Ship finished third.

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Go Jump Racing!



With a selfless act of sportsmanship, 2019 jockey championship ends in a tie

Michael Mitchell had the 2019 jockey championship at his mercy after his compatriot Jack Doyle sustained a season-ending injury at the last fence of the last race at the Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens on Nov. 9.

Mitchell only had to make a few calls, or take a few calls, and get on the favorites at the season-concluding Steeplechase at Charleston at Stono Ferry on Sunday. He certainly would have had a full dance card, and one win in five jump races would have given him the championship over Doyle, who is recovering from a fractured jaw sustained in an allowance hurdle for four-year-olds.

One race earlier, Mitchell had climbed into a tie with Doyle for year-end honors with his victory aboard Storm Team in the Aflac Supreme Hurdle. The English-born jockey, who was New Zealand's champion jumps jockey four years ago, had every chance of occupying the line as 2019's champion jockey in the National Steeplechase Association annals.

Instead, the 2019 jockey title will contain two lines, one for Mitchell and one for Doyle, after Mitchell declined to take any mounts at Charleston. In a magnanimous gesture, Mitchell refused to take advantage of Doyle's misfortune. So, as reported in last week's Monday Report, the title ends in a tie, with each jockey having 20 victories.

Mitchell's action was widely hailed, and especially by Doyle, who reported on Facebook that



Tod Marks (2)

Michael Mitchell, left, and Jack Doyle ended the 2019 racing season in a tie for the jockey championship with 20 wins apiece after Mitchell declined mounts at the Steeplechase at Charleston.

he will have his jaw wired shut for four to six weeks after undergoing surgery at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Hospital. "Goes to show what an unbelievably classy guy he is!" Doyle wrote in his posting.

The *Racing Post*, in reporting Mitchell's gesture, likened it to John Francome's decision to end the 1982 National Hunt season tied with Peter Scudamore, who had been injured in April while leading for the championship. Francome pulled into a tie and then declined the rest of his starts for the season.

Mitchell and Doyle had been locked in a seesaw battle for the title from the start of the year. Doyle started the year well, but Mitchell caught fire in late April and led the standings by six wins, 15 to Doyle's nine, after the Fair Hill meet at the end of May. Mitchell went cold over the summer, and Doyle had several wins.

Doyle took the lead with a win at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup on Nov. 3, and Mitchell drew even with the Aflac Supreme Hurdle win. Mitchell led the year's purse-earnings standings, with \$733,550 to Doyle's \$597,250.

The trainer title, both by wins and earnings, was not close at all. Jack Fisher, who also sat out the Charleston meet, ended the year with 37 victories, the highest total since Jonathan Sheppard had the same number in 1994.

Fisher, who started the year impressively and maintained a winning pace throughout the year, shattered his record for purse earnings at the Far Hills meet and ended the year with \$1,590,500. Sheppard was second in the standings with 21 wins and purse earnings of \$712,850.



Tod Marks

Jack Fisher led the sport's trainers with 37 wins in 2019 and shattered his record for purses earnings, accumulating nearly \$1.6-million.



Looking ahead

Sam Robinson's art on display at Md. gallery

Several of National Steeplechase Association official artist Sam Robinson's finest works will be on display and for sale through Dec. 21 at the Halcyon House Antiques Gallery in Lutherville, Md.

Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the gallery is located at 11219 Greenspring Ave.

Robinson, a resident of Maryland's Worthington Valley, became the NSA's official artist last year, and he has worked at many race meets as well as Saratoga Race Course during the current season. Several of his works were featured in the 2018 edition of *American Steeplechasing*, the NSA's annual chronicle of the racing season.


His style is reminiscent of Sir Alfred Munnings, with an occasional splash of Andrew Wyeth. In his cover painting for the 2018 annual, he captured the color and pageantry of the steeplechase sport even on a gray day at the races.

His painting that opened the Racing Scene chapter, Paddock Judge, is among those on display and for sale at Halcyon House Antiques. In it, Robinson chronicles details such as a bridle and lead shank without being photographic, and he captures the impressionist effects of afternoon sunlight on the scene.


"The connection between Sporting Art and Steeplechasing is long and deep," he told the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation's Alissa Norman. "There is no question that great paintings not only memorialize the great moments, but they also add to the public perception of the excitement and beauty of the sport. Eventually, I hope to be thought of as the Alfred Munnings or Franklin Voss of our place and time."

His self-portrait, a detail of which is at right, is not part of the sale.





STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS



2019 FINAL

OWNERS BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Bruton Street-US	39	9	7	6	\$614,500
Hudson River Farms	23	6	2	4	317,800
Riverdee Stable	24	5	7	2	317,250
Irvin S. Naylor	78	9	12	10	299,350
Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.	51	10	6	8	278,750
Michael Buckley	1	1	0	0	270,000
Rosbrian Farm	27	5	6	2	219,650
Ballybristol Farm	18	4	5	1	154,000
Wendy Hendriks	8	1	2	1	140,850
Sharon E. Sheppard	20	4	3	3	138,750

JOCKEYS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Doyle	95	20	14	11	\$597,250
Michael Mitchell	86	20	12	12	733,550
Willie McCarthy	60	10	11	5	422,300
Sean McDermott	70	9	8	11	473,850
Ross Geraghty	63	7	9	6	378,600
Thomas Garner	51	7	5	6	404,750
Gerard Galligan	76	6	10	15	297,000
Barry Foley	68	6	8	11	215,050
Darren Nagle	44	6	4	4	141,900
Hadden Frost	15	5	3	0	142,050

TRAINERS BY WINS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Jack Fisher	141	37	23	17	\$1,590,550
Jonathan Sheppard	108	21	10	15	712,850
Leslie F. Young	66	15	15	7	436,450
Ricky Hendriks	80	10	12	13	483,200
Katherine Neilson	66	8	6	9	215,200
Neil R. Morris	46	7	4	9	178,300
Lilith Boucher	17	5	1	4	102,250
Doug Fout	56	3	3	9	152,400
Mark Beecher	35	3	3	2	88,150
Todd Wyatt	25	3	5	5	80,650

HORSES BY EARNINGS

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Brain Power (Ire)	1	1	0	0	\$270,000
Winston C	4	2	0	1	197,500
Scorpiancer (Ire)	4	1	1	0	177,000
Snap Decision	6	4	2	0	176,400
Gibralfaro (Ire)	5	2	1	0	144,000
Surprising Soul	4	1	1	0	133,000
Andi'amu (Fr)	4	3	1	0	115,500
Schoodic	6	5	1	0	109,500
Moscato (GB)	4	1	0	2	105,000
Senior Senator	2	2	0	0	90,000