

# THOROFAN

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## VOICE

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Its Thanksgiving eve and I don't have a package of cranberries so that means I'll have to run out to the market. The lines are certain to be long at this hour. That's my punishment for coming in from dinner last night and reading the Blood-Horse instead of making a late evening run to the store. That's okay, the read was worth it. Tomorrow, when it's my turn to list the things I am grateful for, high on the list will be that I am a racing fan. For four-score and three years racing has made other challenges in life easier to deal with.



*There are a million great reasons to be a fan.*

The rich emotions which racing serves up every day are a conduit to furnishing a full life. This sport takes you on exhilarating thrill rides and too can dump you into the lowest forms of depression. All you have to do is hang on and in time it will pick you up from the bottom and send you back up again. I want to share with as many people as possible the marvels horses offer and the value of racing. The courage of Thoroughbreds lends strength to overcome the toughest of obstacles. Many of you have read how the great horses accomplish this, but too few of you know how the rest of them do their part. As I write, my copy of the Blood-Horse is in view and on the cover is a photo of Peppers Pride. So let's start there.

For those of you who do not know her, Peppers Pride is an undefeated New Mexico-bred filly. She is undefeated in an overwhelming eighteen starts. Most of you remember when Cigar was defeated going for his 17<sup>th</sup> straight victory—every fan was disappointed that day. Albeit, Peppers Pride is no Cigar; no one is pretending she is, but it does not diminish the pure joy she has delivered to untold thousands of people. Myriad wonderful emotions stir as I look at this photo of Peppers Pride with her jock astride. She is flanked by her owner, trainer and groom. There is a lot of love displayed in this photo. The look in the filly's eye tells it all.

I just tried to call Zia Park in New Mexico. If I could show you this photo I would need to say no more, but Zia is dark on Wednesday. I'll try to reach Bill Pitt, their track photographer on Friday, and if I can get the photo, I'll share it with you then. Leslie Deckard wrote a terrific article about Joe Allen, the owner/breeder of Peppers Pride which you can find in the November 22 issue of Blood-Horse Magazine. I encourage you to read this heart-warming story. It pairs well with the articles we are featuring in the newsletter on New York's Tin Cup Chalice. He's in Japan and scheduled to compete in the Japan Cup Dirt (Gr1) on December 7. It's a nice contrast to see how Joe Allen is keeping his filly in New Mexico while Tin Cup has gone all the way to Japan. Peppers Pride is due to start one more time this year. Trainer Joel Marr plans to start her in the December 14th New Mexico State Racing Commission Handicap at Sunland Park.

Out on the west coast we have Zenyatta. The undefeated daughter of Street Cry is a shoo-in to deliver Jerry and Ann Moss their first champion. She is remaining in training to try to add to her nine-for-nine record for trainer John Shirreffs. This is a very lucky break for racing fans—Zenyatta will be five-years-old. She has nothing more to prove—hats off to Jerry and Ann Moss. Your sportsmanship is heralded!

Commentator puts his illustrious form on the line in the Clark Handicap (G2) at Churchill on Friday. The voice of ThoroFan will ring loud to bring the New York-bred home in front. We're proud of you Nick for keeping this old warrior together and continuing to thrill his fans. Mr. Farmer can't wait to get his pet home, but just maybe he won't mind a delay. New York roots that Commentator will come back to Saratoga in '09 to pull off an unprecedented third Whitney score.

Wanderin Boy has his hands full in the Cigar Mile at Aqueduct on Thanksgiving Day. Monterey Jazz is shipping in from CA to try his luck in the same grade 1. If you like a hotly contested pace you won't want to miss seeing this race.

For every color of collar, there are horses to suit. There are a million great reasons to be a fan. On Thanksgiving, I will give thanks to Thorofan for providing opportunity for all of us to join together to celebrate and perpetuate this great sport.

Good Health and Happy Thanksgiving,

Marilyn Lane  
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***QUOTABLE***

*"The task of the writer is to seize the reader by the back of the neck and force him to love life" ~ Leo Tolstoy*

*This editor's task is to take fans by the forelock and lead them back to the traditions and joys of horseracing.*