

## **2024 GUIDE**

to Saratoga Race Course Trainers'

## Saddle Towels



16th Edition

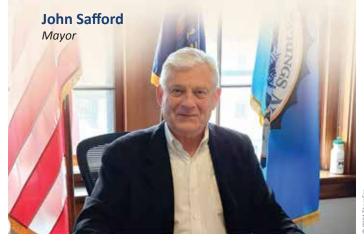
elcome to Saratoga Springs, where a captivating blend of history, culture, and natural beauty promises an unforgettable experience for every traveler. Steeped in tradition, the iconic Saratoga Race Course stands as a testament to the city's rich legacy in thoroughbred horse racing, while the Canfield Casino and historical museum in Congress Park provide a window into Saratoga Springs' vibrant past as a social hub.

Art enthusiasts will find inspiration at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), where world-class performances by renowned orchestras and dance companies unfold under the starlit sky. Meanwhile, Yaddo, a century-old artist's retreat, offers a serene haven for creative minds to flourish.

The city's downtown area buzzes with activity, boasting charming shops, enticing restaurants, and lively cafes housed within historic buildings. A leisurely stroll down Broadway reveals a delightful mix of local boutiques and national brands, while the culinary scene delights with fresh, seasonal offerings and innovative cuisine.

Nature lovers will find solace in Saratoga Springs' beautiful parks, from the manicured lawns and vibrant flower gardens of Congress Park to the hiking trails and mineral springs and baths of Saratoga State Park. Surrounding the city, the picturesque Adirondack Mountains offers opportunities for outdoor adventures, from hiking and biking to golfing on world-class courses.

In Saratoga Springs, every corner is infused with history, culture, and natural splendor, offering travelers a chance to craft their own unforgettable story amidst this enchanting backdrop.



### It's Curtain Time!

This 16th edition
of ThoroFan Guide
to the Saratoga Race
Course Trainers' Saddle
Towels recalls the firsts at the
Saratoga Race Course in 2023
and those about to happen in 2024.

Racing's top trainers return to compete for Leading Trainer in 426 races with \$63M purses. 25% of the Grade1races (24 of 94) in the US will run at The Spa in 2024. 277 trainers entered races in 2023 and we tried including the Towels for most. Included are towels for trainers not entered in 2023 but spotted watching this year's morning works and/or who we think might show up to find the Winner's Circle. See how many you can spot while enjoying your coffee or breakfast on the rail. If you spot one not included in this Guide, please pass it on to giordanorj@aol.com.

For 14 years it's been a battle between Chad Brown and Todd Pletcher for most wins. Brown has 5, Pletcher has 8. In 2023 Chad Brown and Linda Rice shared the title with 35 wins. (See Page 4). The last time there was a Leading Trainer tie was 1997 when John Kimmel and Bill Mott each tallied 15 wins. Mott also had 14 wins 5 years earlier when he tied D. Wayne Lukas in 1992.

42 of the 277 trainers in 2023 were women (5%). The Index pages highlight them. The growing impact of women trainers in racing was clear with the 2023 Rice/Antonucci headline performances. (See pages 6, 16, 40) For the first time since 1938 when Mary Hirsch's *Thanksgiving* recorded the only Travers win for a woman trainer, another woman, Jena Antonucci took the 2023 Travers with *Arcangelo*. This was her second "First" after becoming the first woman to win the 2023 Triple Crown Belmont. And Tina Bond of Bond Racing Stables is now president of the New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association (NYTHA), and the first woman head of the US Thoroughbred Horseman's Association (THA).

And, in 2024, the 161-year Saratoga tradition included the 156th "Run for the White Carnations" when the156th Belmont Stakes became part of its history. Look for "Belmont Bits" – facts about the "Test of Champions" in these pages.

This year racing at Saratoga will indeed be historic.

Let the Curtain Go Up!!



#### H. ALLEN JERKENS

#### SARATOGA TRAINING TITLE

ThoroFan Congratulates
the 2023 H. ALLEN JERKENS
SARATOGA TRAINING TITLE Award winner,
Linda Rice and Chad Brown with 35 WINS

#### CHAD BROWN WINNING HORSES 2023 MEET

8/11 Carl Spackler (National Museum of Racing) 8/11 Kalifornia Queen 8/11 Moore's Law 8/13 Activist Investing 8/17 Tangential 8/19 Randomized (Alabama) 8/19 Aspray (Lake Placid) 8/19 Leadership Ability 8/20 Money Supply 8/20 Digitize 8/25 Global Perspective 9/1 Forced Ranking 9/1 Carl Spackler (Saranac) 9/2 General Partner 9/2 Accretive 9/3 Weigh The

| 7/13 | Salimah             |
|------|---------------------|
| 7/14 | Randomized          |
|      | (Wilton)            |
| 7/15 | Whitebeam (Diana    |
| 7/19 | Anna Karenine       |
| 7/20 | Spirit of St. Louis |
| 7/21 | Surge Capacity      |
|      | (Lake George)       |
| 7/22 | Accretive           |
| 7/22 | Undervalued Asse    |
| 7/23 | Hard to Justify     |
| 7/26 | Siempre Elegante    |
|      | Faraday             |
| 7/29 | Tough Street        |
| 7/29 | Overacting          |
| 8/2  | Technical Analysis  |
|      | (De La Rose)        |
| 8/3  | Mckulick            |
|      | (Glens Falls)       |
| 8/5  | Program Trading     |
|      | (Saratoga Derby)    |
| 8/5  | Trade Imbalance     |
| 8/6  | Ways and Means      |

| N WINNING      | LINDA RICE WINNING |              |  |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 023 MEET       | HORSES 2023 MEET   |              |  |
| 8/11 Dr Ardito | 7/13 Bustin Bay    | 8/17 Watasha |  |

| 7/13 | Bustin Bay       | 8/17 | Watasha          |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 7/14 | Magnolia         | 8/17 | Ride Up          |
|      | Midnight         | 8/18 | T Max            |
| 7/15 | Ichiban          | 8/23 | Amundson         |
| 7/15 | Talkin Pharoah   | 8/23 | Perfect Munnings |
| 7/16 | Jolly Miss Jill  | 8/24 | Classic Mark     |
| 7/20 | Portage          | 8/25 | Vax              |
| 7/21 | Costa Terra      | 8/26 | Feathers Road    |
| 7/21 | Headland         | 8/27 | Ichiban          |
| 7/22 | Paddington       |      | (Fleet Indian)   |
| 7/23 | Howdyou-         | 8/30 | Uncle Marty      |
|      | makeurmoney      | 9/1  | Brooklyn         |
| 7/26 | Indian Mischief  |      | Diamonds         |
| 7/26 | Amanda's Folly   | 9/3  | Indian Mischief  |
| 7/26 | Ichiban          | 9/3  | Magnolia         |
| 7/27 | Pioneering Spirt |      | Midnight         |
| 7/30 | Obrigada         | 9/3  | Film Star        |
| 8/4  | Happy Bob        | 9/4  | Pioneering Spirt |
| 8/4  | Risk Profile     |      | (Bernard Baruch) |
| 8/5  | Zeebear          | 9/4  | Lt. Mitchell     |
| 8/12 | Chileno          |      |                  |
| 8/12 | Chileno          |      |                  |

#### We had a Photo Finish!

For the first time in Saratoga history a female and male trainer tied for winning trainer. **Linda Rice** and **Chad Brown** each notched 35 wins for the 2023 meet.



It was literally down to the wire, with Rice winning the last race of the last day of the meet with 3-year-old gelding *Lt. Mitchell*, scoring her the win she needed to tie trainer Chad Brown. Rice, a trainer for 36 years, has over 2,000 career wins and purse earnings of \$100+ million. She has been a top 10 trainer in New York state

for over a decade and she does not plan to lose that spot. Horse racing in the Rice family is a tradition. Her father, Clyde Rice, was a successful trainer in Pennsylvania. Starting from the pitchfork up, the sport was more than just a sport for her, it was a passion. She took Saratoga's Leading Trainer title in 2009. She owns the training title for the 2023 Belmont at Aqueduct spring meet, the Saratoga Summer meet, and The Fall, Winter & Spring Belmont at Aqueduct. New York's Winners Circles are her home.



Cornell graduate trainer Chad Brown sealed off his 6th Saratoga Training Title in 2023. After going to school to become a veterinarian, Brown decided – as did Rice - training horses instead was his passion. Brown has now been training for 17 years, earning over 2,500 wins in his career. He started working for long time trainer Shug

McGaughey back in 2002. He learned from Bobby Frankel before going out on his own. His first Grade 1 victory in was 2011 with 5-year-old *Stacelita*, and he has not looked back.

The 2024 Meet will have Brown and Rice vying for another title. Rice is on a roll. She has won 6 of the last 7 meet titles at NYRA. Brown is always in the hunt. Stay tuned!

4

# HOW to locate a Trainers' Towel

#### BY BACKGROUND COLOR

In this years guide, trainers' towels have been indexed by the background color of the towel, into 6 color categories:

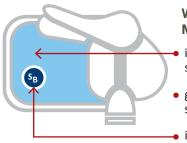
- BLACK & BROWN
- BLUE, TEAL, & PURPLE
- GREEN
- RED, ORANGE, & PINK
- WHITE & GREY
- **YELLOW & GOLD**

#### OR BY NAME INDEX

An alphabetical listing of trainers' towels is on pages 49-52.

Some trainers use Owners logos. In such cases the owner's name is in "()".

We encourage feedback at saddletowels@gmail.com. Photos of new Towels can also be sent for inclusion in our next edition.



#### WHILE WATCHING THE MORNING WORKOUT:

- identify the main color of the saddle towel
- go to the towels' main color section in this booklet
- identify the trainer by additional colors, letters, and logos

#### WHY ARE SADDLE TOWELS USED?

Racehorses are athletes and therefore have to condition their muscles, just like human athletes do, before racing.

Jockeys on horses entered in the afternoon races wear the unique colors of the horse's owners. When horses train in the mornings, the trainers use unique saddle towels on their horses so that they, the Gap Attendants, and the Clockers can identify them as they conduct their workouts in accordance with New York State Racing and Wagering Board Rule 4003.53 which states:

"...A trainer desiring to engage a horse in a work-out shall, prior to such work-out, cause the following to be specified to a work-out coordinator: the name of the horse, the distance the horse will work-out and at what point on the facility the work-out is intended to begin..."

The people who time the horses as they workout in the morning are called Clockers. The Clockers not only time the horses and note the distance that they run, but also how hard they were ridden and urged by the rider.

#### A Seat At My Own Table

ena Antonucci will always be remembered as the first woman in 155 years to saddle a Triple Crown winner when her *Arcangelo* headed the field in the 2023 Belmont Stakes. Her legacy was enhanced 11 weeks later when she took home the Travers Stakes Trophy after *Arcangelo* was first across the Saratoga wire. Her Travers victory put her in the company of one other woman – Mary Hirsch. 86 years ago, the daughter of legendary trainer Max Hirsch, entered a horse named *Thanksgiving* in the Travers. She took home the trophy. In 2023 Antonucci repeated the feat, becoming the



second woman in history to win the Mid-Summer Derby.

Antonucci began riding at the age of 2 and grew up in the equitation, hunter/jumper world. At 4 she made her debut in the show ring. She had her first

horse at 9. Starting with lead line classes and supported by her family and racehorse owning grandparents, she spent her beginning years retraining off-track Thoroughbreds for second careers. She found a pitchfork comfortable in her hands. In 2000 she found her way to Ocala Fl. and moved up to breaking and training young thoroughbreds learning from the program of Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas. Her passion for the horse and her competitive nature meshed with the basic elements needed to develop a great Thoroughbred. She soon established her own barn and began handling broodmares, foals, weanlings, and yearlings. Jena notched her first career win as trainer in 2010 at Tampa Bay Downs. In 2016 she notched her first graded stakes win at Parx with *Doctor J. Dub.* She now maintains strings of horses in New York and Florida.

Jena Antonucci is a leader committed to the success of her sport. In 2022 she co-founded "horseOlogy" & "horseOlogy Encore" to provide care and training for active and retired racehorses. She sits on the Boards of NY Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and horseOlogy Encore.

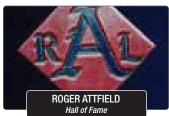


























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# BELMONTBIT

The Belmont Stakes was named for the August Belmont Sr., who financed the first 1867. Starting in 1926 August Belmont Trophy is presented to the winner.





















































The 1½ mile Belmont Stakes distance changed on 4 occasions in 156 years. 110 times at was the classic 1½ miles. 7 times it ran at 15/8 miles (1867-1873). 28 times it was 13/8 miles to the wire. 3 times It was contested at 11/8 miles (including the 2020 pandemic). And, when run at Saratoga in 2024 & 2025, it will be 1½ miles for the 8th time.



























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Why Join? Racing fans come from all walks of life and enjoy many different aspects of Thoroughbred racing. We bet, we handicap, we own, breed, train, work with, and enjoy these fabulous creatures. We attend live racing, we go to off track venues, we watch from our homes. We are all fans and we are critical to racing's existence.

Each fan, regardless of our level of participation, needs to have our concerns identified and supported if Thoroughbred racing is to prosper. This is ThoroFan's focus.

Today racing is at a junction that requires ALL of US to become involved and STAND-UP for our sport. Fans need to be part of this solution. THOROFAN CAN HELP! **JOIN THOROFAN** 



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t's a long way for a young college student at Bryant & Stratton Business Institute in the Finger Lakes of Central New York to President of the New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association (NYTHA).

Unlike the other two *Women in Racing* highlighted in this 16th edition, **Tina Bond** did not meet the horse at an early age. While working in a restaurant she caught the eye of young trainer H. James Bond. Things clicked and she found herself owning a horse



a racehorse – in 1983, She named this gift from Jim "*Murtie*" - her first NYRA winner when she was 25.

Not "looking this gift horse in the mouth," Tina was grateful enough to marry Jim in 1984. They set up

Song Hill Farm in nearby Victor NY. She did not yet make a career in horse racing, opting instead to work for Eastman Kodak as an investment specialist at Kodak's bank ESL Federal Credit Union. This financial/business background suited her to racing operations.

After she foaled 2 boys (now the Grand Dam of 2), they packed up the van and shipped Song Hill to Belmont, Saratoga, and Gulfstream in 1991. Juggling breaking and training these 2 young boys while managing Bond Stables was hard on the young family. Jim travelled as the rest of the family grew. In 1996, twelve years after tying the knot, they reordered their priorities. Tina left the corporate world and embraced racing full time as office manager. In 2005, sons Kevin and Ryan went off to college, and Song Hill Thoroughbreds moved to a 100-acre farm in Stillwater NY. Kevin and Ryan now have their trainer's licenses. Tina now oversees the farm's broodmares, foals, and yearlings — as well as sales prep, rehabilitation of their horses, and retired thoroughbreds.

With the family involved in racing, Tina decided to involve herself deeper in the industry. She is the newly elected President of NYTHA, serving on the NYTHA Backstretch/Safety, Finance, and Women in Racing Committees. As President of NYTHA, she is also the first woman President of the Thoroughbred Horseman's Association (THA) standing for 20,000+ owners & trainers, as well as on the NYRA Board, the NTRA Board and the TOBA Board.



ZUZ4 HIDIOFIZIA

























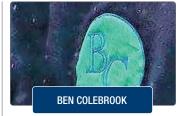


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The Belmont Stakes has run at 5 tracks. Jerome Park Racetrack (Bronx 1860-1880) Morris Park Race Track ((Westchester 1890 -1904), Belmont Park in Elmont(1905-1962), Aqueduct in Queens(1963-67), and back to Belmont Park (1968 -2023). The 5th change is Upstate at Saratoga Racecourse while Belmont undergoes reconstruction for the 2nd time (2024 & 2025).

























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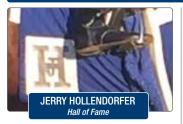




#### BELMONTBIT



Initially the Belmont Stakes ran in the clockwise tradition (right-handed) of English racing. Man O' War won the last right-handed Belmont in 1920. Since then, the race has been run in the American, or counter-clockwise, (left handed) direction.



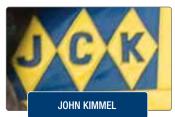








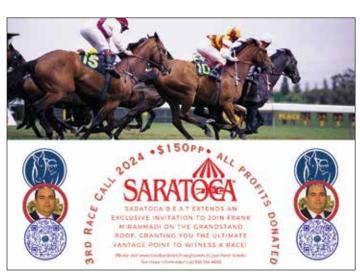






































The "The Sidewalks of New York" was the1st song played at a US Post Parade at Belmont in 1884. "New York, New York" and "Empire State of Mind" were also played over the years. Broadway actress Idina Menzel sang "New York, New York" at Saratoga in 2024 for the 156th Belmont Post Parade.

















































101 trainers have won the Belmont Stakes in 156 years. James G. Rowe Sr. won the most – 8. (1883, 1884, 1901, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1910, 1913)

















































The Belmont Stakes 126# assigned weight started in 1900 at Morris Park. When first run at Jerome Park (1867) it was 110#. Later it rose to 118 (1888-89). When shifted to Morris Park(1890) past performance determined weight assigned. In 1897 & 1899 all ran with 122#. The only other time with less then 126# was in 1913. See p28.



























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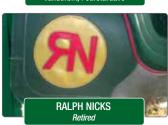
















Only five living trainers have won three Triple Crown races: D. Wayne Lukas, Bob Baffert, Nick Zito, Barclay Tagg (started 1972), and now Ken McPeek (started 1985). Only the first 3 are in the National Racing Museum Hall of Fame. At least 1 of these remaining 2 is overdue.











































#### BELMONTBIT



Only 2 women have won the Belmont Stakes to date. Jockey Julie Krone aboard Colonial Affair and trainer Jena Antonucci's Arcangelo. (the 1st of 11 women to saddle an entry and the 1st sinc 2011).





















































## BELMONTBIT

There have been 3 nicknames for the Belmont Stakes – "The Test of the Champion", "The Test of the Champions, "The Run for the Carnations." Now in 2024 & 2005 it is called "The Belmont Stakes – Saratoga."































#### **2023 SARATOGA LEADING TRAINERS (BY WINS)**

|    | Name               | Wins     |
|----|--------------------|----------|
| 1  | Chad Brown         | 35 (tie) |
| 2  | Linda Rice         | 35 (tie) |
| 3  | Todd Pletcher      | 28       |
| 4  | Christophe Clement | 19       |
| 5  | Mott               | 17       |
| 6  | Brad Cox           | 14       |
| 7  | Michel Maker       | 12       |
| 8  | Steve Asmussen     | 11       |
| 9  | George Weaver      | 10 (tie) |
| 9  | Rudy Rodriguez     | 10 (tie) |
| 10 | Mark Hennig        | 8        |

#### **2023 SARATOGA LEADING TRAINERS (BY PURSE)**

|    | Name               | Purse       |
|----|--------------------|-------------|
| 1  | Chad Brown         | \$5,487,603 |
| 2  | Todd Pletcher      | \$4,044,056 |
| 3  | Bill Mott          | \$2,805,957 |
| 4  | Linda Rice         | \$2,640,777 |
| 5  | Christophe Clement | \$2,324,500 |
| 6  | Brad Cox           | \$2,114,498 |
| 7  | Steve Asmussen     | \$1,961,082 |
| 8  | Michael Maker      | \$1,228,210 |
| 9  | Rick Dutrow        | \$ 805,578  |
| 10 | George Weraver     | \$ 776,840  |

#### BELMONTBIT



James Rowe Sr. (1872, 1873) & George Odom (1904) won the Belmont stakes as both jockeys and trainers. There is a road named after Odom on the Saratoga backstretch.

#### **WHITE & GREY TOWELS**



























#### **WHITE & GREY TOWELS**

























# BELMONTBIT

Jockey James McLaughlin won 6 Belmont Stakes in the span of 7 years. Eddie Arcaro tied this record with his 6th in 1955 aboard Nashua. Mike Smith is the leading active rider with 3.























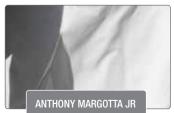




























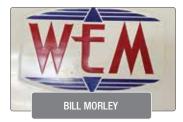


Man O' War did not enter the Kentucky Derby in 1920 but did get the Preakness and the Belmont. That year, the distance was 1 3/8 miles. He finished 20 lengths ahead of the field. Later Count Fleet did it bt 25 lengths, and the immortal Secretariat led the field by 31 lengths.



























3rd-generation Thoroughbred trainer, Linda Rice found horse racing as a child in Central Wisconsin where her father Clyde Rice and Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas began their careers. Linda grew up breaking, training, and developing his horses. She tagged along when he moved to Pennsylvania where he was atop the trainer standings for over a decade.

After years of barn chores, grooming and hot walking, Linda decided on pursuing a racing career as an exercise rider and assistant trainer. In 1987 she became a licensed trainer and saddled horses for a living in the New York /New Jersey circuits.

In 1998 Rice saddled *Things Change* for back-to-back victories in the G2 Adirondack and then the G1 Spinaway at Saratoga. In 2000 her *City Zip* swept all of Saratoga's graded stakes for 2-year-



olds, earning her the NY Turfwriters
Association Fourstardave Award for
Outstanding Achievement. She trained
La Veridad, the 2015 Champion Female
Sprinter Eclipse Award Winner. Once
Linda Rice decided to make New
York her base, she has not looked
back. In 2008 she ran 1-2-3-4 in the
Mechanicville Stakes – now known
as the "The Rice Superfecta"- a first

in US history. In 2009 she was the first woman Saratoga Leading Trainer with 20 winners. She was NY Thoroughbred Breeders Trainer of the Year in 2009, 2010, 2013,2014,2015. As shown on pages \_7&\_\_, in 2023 she tied Chad Brown for the Saratoga Leading Trainer. She has taken NYRA Leading Trainer honors for the last 7? NYRA meetings. In 2023 she was the first trainer to record 165 wins - breaking NYRA single year record. She continues that streak in 2024, leading all trainers in the Aqueduct, and Belmont at Aqueduct meets. As of this writing she has 2466 lifetime wins for over \$107M.

Importantly, Linda Rice has kept a leadership role in her sport for 22 years. An active member of the New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association (NYTHA), she works to increase purse monies, set up uniform medication rules to protect horse racing integrity, manage workers' compensation rules, and markets racing as a national sport. She chairs the Scholarship Committee to help develop the capabilities of the all-important backstretch employees.

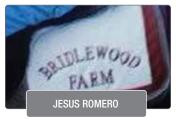
Lind Rice leads the way for Women in Racing and the road ahead awaits...





























Read it at the track, around town, online. www.thisishorseracing.com



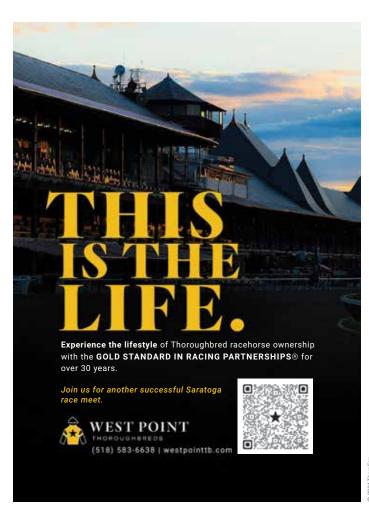












#### **2023 SARATOGA GRADE 1 WINNING TRAINERS**

| Race<br>The Diana<br>Coaching Club<br>American Oaks                            | <b>Trainer</b><br>Chad Brown<br>Brad Cox               | <b>Purse</b><br>\$ 500,000<br>\$ 500,000             | Winner<br>Whitebeam<br>Wet Paint                           |
|--|--|--|--|
| A.G. Vanderbilt Handicap<br>A.P. Smithwick<br>Memorial Chase                   | Bill Mott<br>Jack Fisher                               | \$ 350,000<br>\$ 150,000                             | Elite Power<br>Belfast Banter                              |
| The Whitney<br>The Test  | Rick Dutrow<br>Brendan Walsh                           | \$1,000,000<br>\$ 500,000                            | White Abarrio<br>Pretty<br>Mischievous                     |
| Saratoga Derby<br>Invitational   | Chad Brown   | \$ 600,000   | Program<br>Trading   |
| The Alabama The Jonathan Sheppard  | Chad Brown<br>Jack Fisher                              | \$ 600.000<br>\$ 150,000                             | Randomized<br>Awakened                                     |
| Sword Dancer Invitational<br>The Travers                                       |  | \$ 750,000<br>\$1,250,000                            | Bolshoi Ballet<br>Arcangelo                                |
| The Ballerina  | Steve Asmussen   | \$ 500,000   | Echo Zulu  |
| The Forego Handicap Fourstardave Handicap The Personal Ensign H. Allen Jerkens | Steve Asmussen Bill Mott Brad Cox Esteban Martinez     | \$ 500,000<br>\$ 500,000<br>\$ 500,000<br>\$ 500,000 | Gunite<br>Casa Creed<br>Idiomatic<br>One in                |
| Memorial<br>The Spinaway<br>The Hopeful<br>Jockey Club Gold Cup                | John Alexander Ortiz<br>Gary Contessa<br>Todd Pletcher | . ,  | Vermillion<br>Brightwork<br>Nutella Fella<br>Bright Future |

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A Vorkout

Owners, trainers, jockeys, clockers, handicappers and pretty much anyone else in racing watch morning workouts and try to learn something. How fast is that horse? How competitive is this horse? How fit? How ready? Expert or not, it can be great fun to watch training at a racetrack, especially one as historic and meaningful as Saratoga. A racehorse trains almost every day. He or she gallops (slower than race speed) sometimes as far as 2 miles; jogs (trots) to warm up or to get some light exercise. Racehorses work or breeze (race speed) once a week or so, usually a half-mile or 5 furlongs though sometimes longer. While watching the action, look for riders trying to teach horses how to switch leads (left on the turns, right in the stretch), how to relax, how to wait for their cues. Riders don't want horses to pull too hard, or to be too lazy. It's all about balance. A galloping racehorse should be energetic, bouncy, light on its feet, but manageable. Even a novice can tell if a horse is pulling too hard – its rider will be leaning back, tugging on the reins. A rider on a relaxed horse will look just the opposite – hands down, reins comparatively loose, weight balanced over the saddle. Working or breezing, the same thoughts apply. A breezing racehorse should be doing it at least somewhat on its own – with little encouragement or urging. Discerning names can be difficult in the busy atmosphere, but morning exercise offers a rare chance to find some heroes. Keep an eye on the saddle towels and other clues and you might just recognize a superstar such as 2024 Kentucky Derby winner Mystic Dan, Preakness Winner Seize the Grey, Belmont winner Dornach and 2023 Eclipse Champion Fierceness. Before and after a training session, you can see horses "standing in" to face the track. It's a way for them to relax, take a deep breath and realize life's not always about running.

- Joe Clancy "The Saratoga Special" (thisishorseracing.com)

# **YELLOW & GOLD TOWELS**





























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| Juan Bernardini     |     | Keith Desormeaux        |       |
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# BELMONTBIT



The horse atop the Belmont Trophy is Fenian, a NY Bred and descendant of Eclipse won the 1869 Belmont Stakes. Only 2 other NY Breds are Belmont winners – Forrester (1882) and Barclay Tagg's Tiz The Law (2020).

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Eclipse – recognized as the 2nd wave of foundation sires, all directly descended from the original from the Goldolphin Arabian, Byerly Turk & The Darley Arabian. The Darley Arabian line accounts for over 90% of current runners.

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# BELMONTBIT

The August Belmont Trophy is a perpetual trophy, not kept by the winning owners. They receive an engraved plate with the names of all previous winners on the back. The permanent home of the trophy is normally Belmont Park. It was transferred to Aqueduct during Belmont's last renovation. Will it be at the National Racing Museum in Saratoga this time?

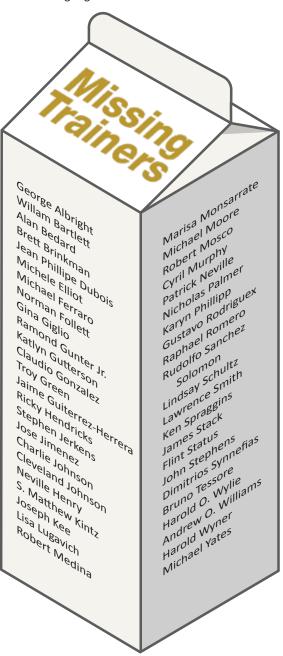
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The August Belmont Trophy is a bowl with a large acorn atop an oak tree trunk surrounded by 3 horses. The base It symbolizes the thoroughbred breed – "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow." The leaves and acorns bordering the top are said to represent horses presently racing. Acorns and shells – some without kernels – represent older broodmares and stallions that "have shown their services."

Listed below are the 46 trainers that entered races at Saratoga in 2024 whose saddle towels are not listed in the 2024 Guide. Please send images of these and any others that you spot this season so that they may be included in the 17th edition, should they enter in 2025. Send to giordanorj@aol.com to help continue to improve this publication. Working together works!





races (1887, 1888, 1892, 1910, & 1920)
In the 1920 race *ManO'War* defeated

Donnaconna by 20 lengths and set a

record for 11 furlongs.

BELMONTBIT

# THANK YOU!!

A lot goes into the preparation of This Guide each year. Special Thanks to those listed below for their help.

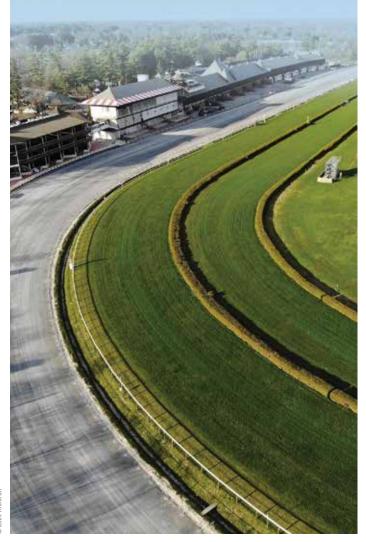
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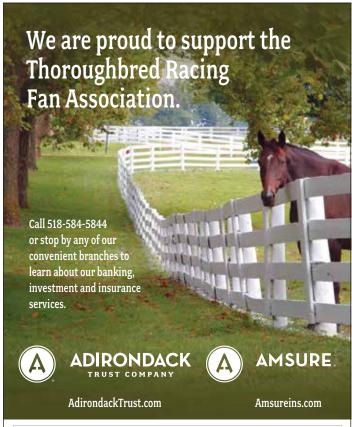
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