

2025 GUIDE

to Saratoga Race Course Trainers

Saddle Towels



17th Edition



elcome to Saratoga Race Course and the best Thoroughbred racing in the country. Racing fans worldwide have attending Saratoga on their "bucket list." Glad you made it! We at NYRA appreciate you joining us. Our team is here to help you make your visit a memorable one.

Beginning your day of racing watching morning workouts is the perfect way to enjoy your day at the Spa, and this *ThoroFan Guide* will help you learn more about the beauty and importance of morning training. You can lean on the fence by the historic 1864 grandstand or the Oklahoma training track's Whitney Viewing Stand and watch these athletes - both horse and human - train. Here you may see the current and future stars of Thoroughbred racing. Often the riders and jockeys will interact with you and pose for a photo. Only at Saratoga!

Afternoons are when Saratoga comes alive. Thousands of people like you come each race day. If your approach is casual, find a picnic table in the backyard and set up for the day in a beautiful environment unique in the sport. Always a fun and social experience, you may be invited by an owner, trainer, or me, to help you get closer to racing by trips to the paddock and the Winner's Circle on select days.

Enjoy your day(s) of racing at Saratoga Race Course. Let us know how you are doing and what we can do to improve your stay.

See you on the rail!



Encore!

The French word for "Again"!

This 17th edition of the guide to Saratoga Race Course Trainers' Saddle Towels is the 16th Encore of this publication intended to give fans a little deeper understanding of what occurs during the morning workouts be it at the Oklahoma Whitney stand or historic 1864 clubhouse and grandstand.

We also find ourselves witnessing another Encore - the return of the Belmont Stakes to the Saratoga oval in 2025. The legacies August Belmont Sr. and his son August Jr. live on not only in the name of the third jewel of the Triple Crown series but are part of the foundation of Saratoga. Learn more on pages 16 & 26.

The 2024 meet showcased another Encore. Chad Brown again took the leading Trainer title, his 7th since his first in 2016.

And, in 2024 Irad Ortiz again led all jockeys by winning 52 races, 7 more than runner-up and leading money winner Flavien Prat.

And once again Klaravich Stables using conditioner Chad Brown captured the Leading Owner title, their 6th.

2024 was full of Encores, but there is no guarantee that there will be more repeats of Saratoga title winners. That's the beauty and uncertainty of thoroughbred racing. But there WILL be racing at Saratoga "Again", and the Belmont Stakes will return in 2026 for the last time as the Belmont track renovations are scheduled to be completed that fall. Savor it and the excitement and rounds of applause each day of this 2025 meet.

And enjoy the quiet energy of the morning workouts with this Guide in hand.

Encore!





H. ALLEN JERKENS

SARATOGA TRAINING TITLE

ThoroFan Congratulates
the 2024 H. ALLEN JERKENS
SARATOGA TRAINING TITLE Award winner,
Chad Brown with 42 WINS

CHAD BROWN 2024 WINNERS

7/12	Clever Mischief	8/14	Cost Containment
7/13	Carl Spackler	8/17	Grayosh
7/13	Whitebeam	8/18	Briland
7/19	It's Hot in Here	8/22	Beautè Cachèe
7/19	Unmatched Wisdom	8/22	Headline Numbers
7/19	Root Cause	8/23	Senza Parole
7/20	Incentive Pay	8/23	Transactional
7/21	Raging Sea	8/23	Raging Sea
7/21	Virgin Colada	8/24	Domestic Product
7/21	Moore's Law	8/24	Treaty Obligation
7/25	Dolomite	8/29	Call Protection
7/26	Tough Street	8/29	Right to Vote
7/27	Chancer McPatrick	8/29	Zulu Kingdom
8/1	Peak Popularity	8/29	Credit Worthy
8/1	McKulick	8/31	MacCullough
8/2	Fantasy Performer	8/31	Idea Generation
8/2	Evaluation	9/1	Opulent Restraint
8/3	Ways and Means	9/1	Running Bee
8/4	Kick a Buck	9/2	Marvelous Madison
8/11	Proprietary Trade	9/2	Prerequisite
8/11	Carl Spackler	9/2	Dea Matrona

Still On A Roll!!

At Saratoga in recent years "Encore!" is synonymous with Chad Brown. Chad was the Saratoga Meeting leading trainer for the

seventh time in 2024 with 42 wins. Brown also led all trainers pocketing \$5,848,233 in purse money as well as the number of Grade 1 stakes. Considering that he started training 18 years ago this is a phenomenal accomplishment.

Included in the 2024 victories were 6 Grade 1 races among which was an "Encore!" with White Beam (Caravaggio)



in the 2024 Grade 1 Diana stakes. That Diana was also an "Encore!" G1 win for him, a repeat of the 2023 victory. Additionally, Brown achieved the rare feat of saddling 3 two-time winners at Saratoga. To those honors, Chad notched a Breeder's Cup win and was honored as the 2024 Eclipse Award winning trainer.



Brown's longtime owners, Klaravich Stables, celebrated their own 8th "Encore!" as Leading Owner for the 2024 meet with winnings of \$2,175,928 from 18 wins - 12 more than the second place Owner.

Taka A Bow Mister Brown!

HOW to locate a Trainers' Towel

BY BACKGROUND COLOR

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

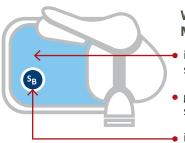
- BLACK & BROWN
- BLUE, TEAL, & PURPLE
- GREEN
- RED, ORANGE, & PINK
- WHITE & GREY
- **YELLOW & GOLD**

OR BY NAME INDEX

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

Some trainers use Owner's 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.

he inaugural running of the third jewel of the Triple Crown – the Belmont Stakes – took place at Saratoga for its 156th running. History will record that the winner was a horse trained by Danny Gargan.

Gargan was foaled in 1973 and grew up in Louisville a couple of blocks from Churchill Downs. Racing is in Danny's bloodline. His father was a jockey riding for owner C. V. Whitney and trainer George Poole. He rode *Bag of Tunes*, winner of the 1973 Kentucky Oaks. Prior to taking out his trainer's license in



2013 Danny was an assistant trainer and jockey agent. Gargan built his training stable through astute picks in claiming races. He claimed Tax in 2018 out of a 2-year old maiden race in Keeneland. Tax went on to win more than \$1,000,000 for Gargan and his owners.

Gargan spotted a yearling colt at the Keeneland September Sale he thought looked very promising. The yearling was by *Good Magic* out of the mare *Puca*. He bought the colt for \$325,000, more than he had budgeted. One of his clients, West Paces Racing, was in for 33% and another client took 25%. His other clients all declined, which left Gargan with 42%. Gargan wanted to be the trainer not the owner. Danny approached Jason Werth, a retired all-star major league



baseball player, at the sale. Werth took a 10% share. The horse was **Dormoch**. The colt finished 2nd in its first race at Saratoga. He broke his maiden two races later, and by then other Gargan clients had bought into the

colt. Interest in the colt was due to more than his race record. His full brother *Mage* had run a strong race in the Florida Derby and, of course, went on to win the 2023 Kentucky Derby.

Danny Gargan's training prowess was on full display with *Dornoch's* record of 10 starts, 5 wins, and 2 seconds, but the horse's campaign displayed much more than training acumen. Gargan searched for and found a yearling that caught his eye, bid on the colt, bought the colt, marketed him, and then did do an outstanding job of caring for and training the 2024 Belmont winner. The Louisville kid earned more than \$2,400,000 for his owners.

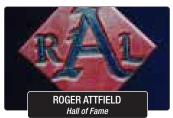
The sign on barn 18 is a testament to Danny Gargan's rise in the racing game. And he's not done yet!

























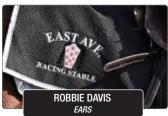
























































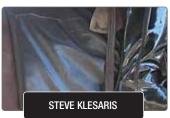


















































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Why Join? Racing fans come from all walks of life and enjoy many different aspects of Thoroughbred racing. We bet, we handicap, we own, breed, train, work with, and enjoy these fabulous creatures. We attend live racing, we go to off track venues, we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

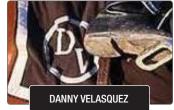
GIVING THE FAN A VOICE

Go to *thorofan.com/join* and apply or print our member form and mail to us: P.O. Box 603, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



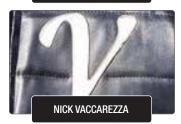
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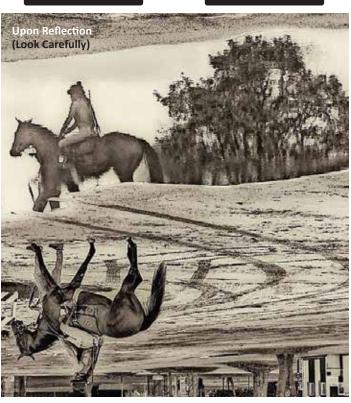




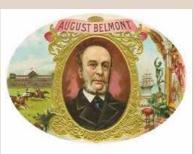








ugust Belmont Senior was born in 1813 and immigrated to America in 1837 from his native Germany. He was the Rothchild bank's New York representative and subsequently established his own bank there. With his wealth and influence he acquired political influence, entered New York Society, and Belmont naturally took part in the Saratoga Springs season each summer. In Saratoga he met and married Admiral William Perry's daughter Caroline in 1849. He was at the Springs for Morrissey's inaugural thoroughbred race meet in 1863 and kept a Saratoga



1813-1890

Financier & Rothschild Bank Representative in the US stable under Hall of Fame trainer Jacob Pincus at the historic barns in Oklahoma's Horse Haven.

In 1867, after the success of Saratoga Race Course, Belmont helped finance the construction of Jerome Park racetrack and

was initial president of the race track board. He also sponsored a major stake race at Jerome Park that would eventually bear his name. The Belmont Stakes, first run in1867, is the longest and oldest of the Triple Crown races. His horse *Fenian*, trained by Jacob Pincus, won the 1869 running of the race. *Fenian* is the horse atop the Belmont Stakes Trophy. August Belmont Sr. was president of the Jockey Club from 1866 to 1887. In 1890 Belmont formed the short-lived Saratoga Association. The group dissolved when August Sr. and another founding member George Hearst died within a year of its formation. Upon his death his son August Jr. took control of the Belmont bank as well as his father's horse racing interests.



2025 ThoroFan

























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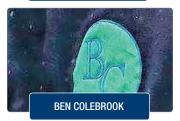










































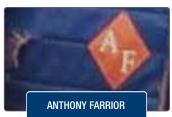


























































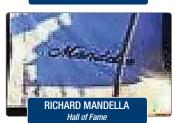






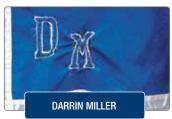








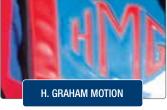


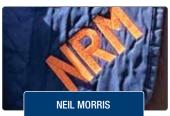






































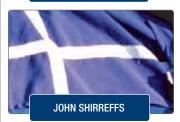


















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The Surcingle

ugust Belmont Junior created his own legacy in banking, finance, and transportation as well as horse racing, where he was very active. He was part of Whitney's group that purchased Saratoga Race Course and Belmont obtained 13+ plus acres of land adjacent to the track and build his own training center the "Surcingle". When the Hart Agnew Act was repealed in 1914 and racing resumed, William Clare was named track superintendent. His brother Thomas succeeded him and then in 1940 Thomas' wife Ann took over the reins. In July of that year George Bull, President of The Saratoga Association, renamed it "Clare Court" in recognition of the family's 46-year impact on Saratoga.



Belmont Junior was the first president of the Jockey Club, created the Westchester Racing Association, was one of the 9 founding members of the National Steeplechase Association (1895) and in 1905 he built Belmont Park racetrack. Three Belmont horses won the Belmont Stakes: *Masterman* (1902), *Friar Rock*

(1916), and *Hourless* (1917). Hall of Famer Sam Hildreth conditioned the 1916 & 1917 winners. In 1911 the Hart-Agnew Act effectively shut down horse racing. Belmont defied that anti-gambling law in 1913 and held a race meet anyway. The crowd was so huge that the authorities did not enforce the ban, the law was repealed and racing resumed. Belmont is credited with having saved thoroughbred racing with his successful effort to have the law repealed. Belmont Junior and his three sons volunteered for the World War I American expeditionary force. Belmont had no idea when or if he would be coming home or if the war might end and decided to sell his entire stable. A 2-year-old for sale was a colt that Mrs. Belmont had named "My Man o'-War" to honor her husband. The sale was held in Saratoga Springs and Man o' War was sold to Sam Riddle. August Belmont Jr. died in 1924.

























































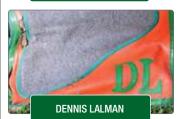




















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ill Mott's trainee Sovereignty won the 152nd running of the Kentucky Derby on the first Saturday of May and the Belmont at Saratoga in June, capturing 2 of the 3 jewels in horse racing's Triple Crown. These achievements top the long list of career successes for this conditioner that began at the age of 15 in his hometown of Mobridge, South Dakota. He won his first race as a trainer at 16. When he got a little older, he became an exercise rider there and

gradually moved up to assistant trainer in South Dakota.

In his early twenties Mott worked for Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg at Chicago area race tracks. Van Berg was one of, if not the first, "super-trainers" - trainers with many horses in their care throughout the country. Van Berg won an Eclipse Award while Mott was one of his two Chicago assistants. In 1978 Bill went

out on his own and set a record for wins at Churchill Downs in 1984, one that lasted for 31 years. In 1987 he became the private trainer for Bert and Diana Firestone and that brought Bill to Saratoga. Mott trained many outstanding horses carrying the Firestone silks – dark green with a white diamond on the chest and back. 5 years later when his affiliation with the Firestones ended, Bill continued using

the green background and white diamond as his stable colors.

Bill Mott has won 4 Eclipse Awards as America's leading trainer and notched 9 training titles at Saratoga. In 1998, at 45, he entered the Racing Hall of Fame - the youngest ever given this honor. Hall of Famer Allen Jerkens was 46 when inducted in 1975

Race fans are watching to see if Bill Mott and Sovereignty can take home the 4th Jewel in the Triple Crown - The 2025 Travers. The



Travers is a more defining measure of a thoroughbred's ability and health during a 3 year old's campaign. There was a Travers race before the 3 Triple Crown races began.

Mott's son and former assistant Riley continues the family tradition and went out on his own in 2022. With his dad's pedigree, good things lie ahead.











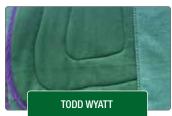




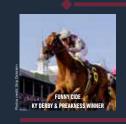








THEY SAY LIGHTNING DOESN'T STRIKE TWICE. WE BEG TO DIFFER.



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2024 SARATOGA LEADING TRAINERS (BY WINS)

	Name	Nins
1	Chad Brown	.45
2	Todd Pletcher	.22
2	Michael Maker	.22
3	Linda Rice	.18
4	Bill Mott	.15
4	Mark Casse	.15
5	Brad Cox	.14
6	Saffie Joseph	.11
7	Christophe Clement	.10
7	Rudy Rodriguez	.10
7	Michael Maker	.10
8	Horatio DePaz	8
8	Raymond Handal	8
9	Jeremiah Englehart	7
10	Phil Bauer	6
10	Jorge Abreu	6
10	Tom Amoss	6
10	John A. Ortiz	6

2024 SARATOGA LEADING TRAINERS (BY PURSE)

	Name	Purse
1	Chad Brown	\$5,848,233
2	Todd Pletcher	\$3.367,585
3	Bill Mott	\$2,354,721
4	Christophe Clement	\$2,142,720
5	Brad Cox	\$2,077,110
6	Michael Maker	\$1,660,937
7	Linda Rice	\$1,635,091
8	Steve Asmussen	\$1,271,363
9	Mark Casse	\$1,264,065
10	Cherie DeVaux	\$1,021,400



RED, ORANGE, & PINK TOWELS











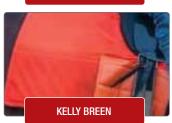
















RED, ORANGE, & PINK TOWELS



























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RED, ORANGE, & PINK TOWELS















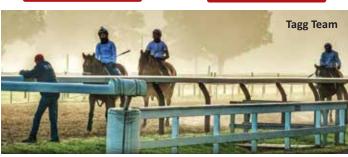












RED, ORANGE, & PINK TOWELS







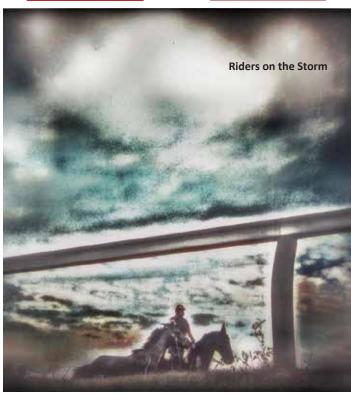












2024 LEADING JOCKEYS - BY WINS

	Name	Wins
1	Irad Ortiz Jr	52
2	Flavien Prat	45
3	Dylan Davis	36(tie)
3	Tyler Gaffalione	36(tie)
4	Manuel Franco	29
5	Jose Ortiz	26
6	Luis Saez	24
7	Junior Alvarado	22
8	Ricardo Santana Jr	19
9	Joel Rosario	16
10	lavier Castellano	15





Irad Ortiz

Flavien Prat

2024 LEADING JOCKEYS - BY EARNINGS

	Name	Purse
1	Flavien Prat	\$6,610,757
2	Irad Ortiz	\$5,117,556
3	Tyler Gaffalione	\$3,612,499
4	Dylan Davis	\$3,515,391
5	Manuel Franco	\$3,235,230
6	Junior Alvarado	\$2,922,795
7	Joel Rosario	\$2,469,499
8	John Velazquez	\$2,298,968
9	Javier Castellano	\$1,820,803
10	Ricardo Santana Jr	\$1,456,116























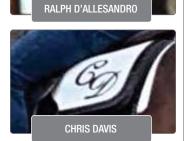










































































































































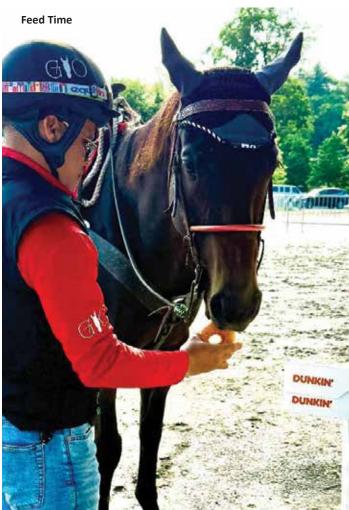












2024 SARATOGA'S 18 GRADE 1 STAKES WINNERS

Race	Trainer	Purse	Winner
The Diana	Chad Brown	\$ 500,000	Whitebeam-
			Encore!
CC American Oaks	Ken McPeek	\$ 500,000	Thorpedo Anna
A.G. Vanderbilt	Wesley Ward	\$ 350,000	Nakatomi
A.P Smithwick Chase	Jack Fisher	\$ 150,000	Ziggle Pops
The Whitney	Bill Mott	\$1,000,000	Arthur's Ride
The Test	Chad Brown	\$ 500,000	Ways and Means
Saratoga Derby	Christophe Clement	\$ 600,000	Carson's Run
Alabama	Jorge Delgado	\$ 600,000	Power Squeeze
The Jonathan Sheppard	Keri Brion	\$ 150,000	Jimmy P
Sword Dancer	Christophe Clement	\$ 750,000	Far Bridge
The Travers	Todd Pletcher	\$1,250,000	Fierceness
The Ballerina	Steve Asmussen	\$ 500,000	Society
Forego Handicap	Rudolphe Brisset	\$ 500,000	Mullikin
FourstarDave Handicap	Chad Brown	\$ 500,000	Carl Spackler
Personal Ensign	Chad Brown	\$ 500,000	Raging Sea
H. Allen Jerkens Memorial	Chad Brown	\$ 500,000	One in
			Vermillion
The Spinaway	Brad Cox	\$ 300,000	Immersive
The Hopeful	Chad Brown	\$ 300,000	Chancer
			McPatrick
Jockey Club Gold Cup	Brad Cox	\$1,000,000	Highland Falls

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A WORK OUT

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 most of the 2024 Eclipse Award winning horses including Horse of the Year, including Thorpedo Anna, Travers winner Fierceness, and then 2 year old stars Citizen Bull, Immersive, and Derby/Belmont Winner Sovereignty.

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

YELLOW & GOLD TOWELS



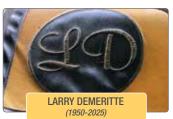






























\$3.2 Million in Annual Funding for Backstretch Programs comes from Horsemen & Women!



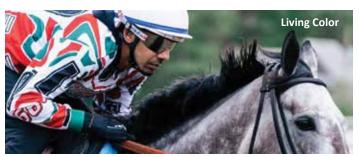
Some of the services provided to backstretch workers at NYRA racetracks:

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- Free Healthcare/Primary Care Clinics
- Holiday Celebrations
- Pension/Retirement Plan for Eligible Workers
- Recreational Programs
- Safety Equipment Vouchers for Riders
- Social Services
- Transportation
- Weekly Food Pantry





Name	Page		
Fernando Abreu	15	Jose Camejo	19
Jorge Abreu	15	Jess Campetelli	39
Scott Acker	7	Cairo Caramori	19
Ned Allard	17	Jimmy Carrerra	19
Tom Amoss	17	Mark Casse	34
Philip Antonacci	17, 39	Norm Casse	7, 34
Jenna Antonucci	7	Wayne Catalano	7
Charles Appleby	17, 21	Humberto Cedeno	34
Marcel Arenas	17	James K. Chapman	28
Rusty Arnold	28, 39	Naipaul Chatterpaul	35
Antonio Arriaga	7, 39	Amira Chikakly	7
Steve Asmussen	17	Dylan Clarke	19
Rob Atras	17	Christophe Clement	19
Roger Attfield	7	Coffeepot	35
Manny Azpura	17	Maryalice Coffee	39
Bob Baffert		Maryalice Coffee	
Charlie Baker	18	(Joint Venture Racing)	40
Charlton Baker	18	Ben Colebrook19	, 47
Reade Baker	18	Edward Colletti	47
James Baker	39	Bradley Combs	19
Richard Baltas	54	Teresa Connely	35
Edward Barker	17, 35	Gary Contessa	3, 28
Darwin Barnach	7	Susan Cooney	20
Oscar Barrera	18	Ignacio Correas	20
Paul Barrow	18	Ricky Courville	20
Phil Bauer	39	Brad Cox	20
Whit Beckman	35	Rohan Crichton	55
James Begg	18	Lenin Cruz	20
Harry Benson	34	Ralph D'Allesandro	40
Fenneka Bentley	7, 28	Jose D'Angelo	20
Juan Bernardini	34	Kate Dalton	20
Patrick Biancone	18	Kelsey Danner	
Chris Block		Chris David	8
H. James Bond	18	Chris Davis	
Debra Breed	47	Edward Davis	40
Kelly Breen		Robbie Davis (East Ave) 8	3, 40
Lonnie Brinley	39	Arnaud Delacour	20
Keri Brion		Edward Delauro	40
Rudolphe Brisset	17	Gustavo Delgado	40
Eddie Broome	34	Jorge Delgado	40
Bruce Brown	7	Larry Demeritte	47
Chad Brown	17	Joe Demola	
Roger Burchell	17	Horacio De Paz	40
Kelly Breen		Keith Desormeaux	8
Bret Calhoun		Adrianne DeVaux	
Simon Callaghan	39	Cherie DeVaux	8



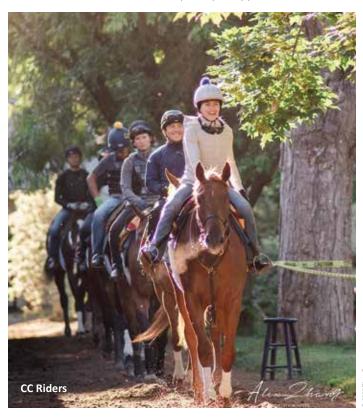
Name	Page		
Greg DiPrima	40	Gabe Goodwin	
Linda Dixon	20, 21	Eduardo Graham	39
Wallace Dollase	40	Alan Granitz	9
David Donk	26, 35	Amelia Green	42
James Doyle	26, 55	Al Greenwald	35, 40
David Duggan	21, 28	Jose Guerro	9
Bob Dunham	21, 41	Rae Guest	20
Bernard Dunham	8	Peter Gulyas	9
Anthony Dutrow	8	Fausto Gutierrez	35
Rick Dutrow	8	Leah Gyarmati	
Steve Dworskin	21	Tim Hamm	
Skip Einhorn	41	Ray Handal	
Gordon Elliot	21	Michelle Hemingway	
Emirates	21	Mark Hennig	
Chris Englehart	41	William Higgins	29
Jeff Englehart	41	Tim Hills	29
Jeremiah Englehart	9	Jerry Hollendorfer	20
Jeff Engler	21	Jim Hooper	29
Mary Eppler	41	Jessica Howell	20
Peter Eurton	41	Emron Ibrahim	21
Robert Falcone Jr	41	Eduardo Jones	35
Jacqueline Falk	35	Saffie Joseph	21
John Farley	21	Mertkan Kantarmaci	21
Pat Farro	24	Pat Kelly	38
Antonio Ferraro	31	Eddie Kenneally	21
Anthony Farrior	21	John Kimmel	
James Farraro	21	Arch Kingsley	
James Ferrara	35	John Kirby	
Ollie Figgins	28	Steve Klesaris	
Carlos Figueroa	41	Donna Kurt	
David Figueroa		Lilli Kurtinecz	
Jack Fisher	21, 28	Scott Lake	22
Greg Foley	35	Dennis Lalman	
Paul D. Fout		Kim Laudati	42
Mitch Friedman	,	James Lawrence	_
Mark Frostad		Joe Lee	
Allison Fuller		Roy Lerman	
Carla Gaines		Bruce Levine	
Rodolfo Garcia	28	Lisa Lewis	
Danny Gargan		Michelle Lovell	
Lacey Gaudet		D.Wayne Lukas	
Michelle Giangulio		Brian Lynch	
Melanie Giddings		Cathal Lynch	
Mark Glatt		Mike Machowsky	
Charlie Appleby (Godo		Kieron Magee	
Kellyn Gorder	29	Michael Maker	42



Name	Page		
Richard Mandella	23	Joseph (JP) O'Brien	11
Kathy Mangeon	32	Jeremiah O'Dwyer	36, 37
Maria Mann	42	Victoria Oliver	30
Anthony Margotta	42	Doug O'Neill	24, 47
George Maroun		Keith O'Neill	
Carlos Martin		Joe Orseno	
Clyde Martin		John Ortiz	
Jayne Martin		Jennifer Paragallo	
Pamela Martino		Joseph Parker	
Estaban Martinez		Matt Peebles	
Michael Matz		Benjamin Perkins Jr	
Alejandro Maymo		Eddie Plesa	
Michael McCarthy		Randy Persaud	
Sean McCarthy		Todd Pletcher	
Paul McEntee		Terri Pompay	
Claude "Shug" McGaughey.		Wayne Potts	
Hugh McMahon		Edmund Pringle	
Grances McNeely		Kirsten Proctor	
Ken McPeek		Thomas Proctor	
Pat Meadow		Christopher Progno	
Anna Meah	_	Peter Pugh	
Kerry Metevier		Michael Puype	
Michael Micelli		Patrick Quick	
Darrin Miller		Luis Ramirez	
Luis Miranda2		Sylvio Ramirez	
Kathy Mongeon		Eric Reed	
William Morey		Robert "Butch" Reid	
•		Pat Reynolds	
Tom Morley Randy Morse		Robert Ribaudo	
Riley Mott		Kevin Rice	
William Mott		Linda Rice	
Ron Moquette		Jesus Romero	
Neil Morris		Larry Rivelli	
Tom Morley		Gustavo Rodriguez	
Randy Morse		Rudy Rodriguez	
H. Graham Motion24		Dale Romans	
Riley Mott		Kelly Rubley	
Bill Mott		Mick Ruis	
Nabor Moubarak		Brittany Russell	
Mike Mullin	_	,	
		Derek Ryan	
Reid Nagel		James Ryerson	
Henry Neville Michelle Nevin		Ryerson John Sadler	
		John Salzman	
Ralph Nicks		Dana Saul	
Michele Nihei1 Orlando Noda		Mercat Sancal	
Onando Noda	24	ויוכולמנ שמוולמו	52

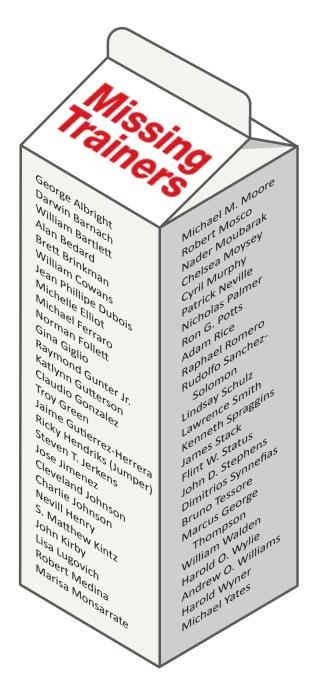


Name	Page		
Greg Sacco	37	John Tebbut	32
Richard Sacco	37	John Terranova	27
Antonio Sano	25	Jonathan Thomas	37
Saratoga Outriders	33	Glen Thompson	44
Domenick Schettino	41	Michael Tomlinson	45
Peter Schiergen	21	John Toscano	37
Gary Sciacca	25	Austin Trites	15
Rachel Sells	32	Michael Trombetta	25
Phil Serpe	25	Nick Vaccarezza	15
John Servis	25	Richard Valentine13	, 42
Niall Seville	44	Danny Velasquez	15
Doug Seyler	44	David Vance	45
Joe Sharp	41	Juan Vasquez	37
Matt Shirer	13	Richard Vega	25
John Shirreffs	25	Danny Velasquez	13
Dood Shivmingal	25	Will Walden	15
Stuart Simon	13	Peter Walder	32
Gary Sims	33	Will Walker	13
Jack Sisterson	25	Brendan Walsh	27
Uriah St. Lewis	47	Ryan Walsh	45
Albert Stall	25	Wesley Ward	15
Dallas Stewart	44	George Weaver	45
Michael Stidham	13	West Point Thoroughbreds	
Kenneth Streicher	32, 44	lan Wilkes	37
Chad Summers	13	Melvin Winney	37
J. Kent Sweezey	27	Marty Wolfson	45
Barclay Tagg	32	Todd Wyatt	32
Joseph Taylor	47	Tim Yakteen	27
Jimmy Toner	54	Nick Zito	27
Toam Valor	20	Joseph Zonni	27



Listed below are the are the 54 trainers that entered races at Saratoga in 2024 whose saddle towels are not listed in this 2025 guide. Please send images of these and any others that you spot this season so that they may be included in the 18th edition, should they enter in 2025, Send to giordanori@aol.com to help continue to improve upon this publication.

Working together works!



LATE ARRIVALS







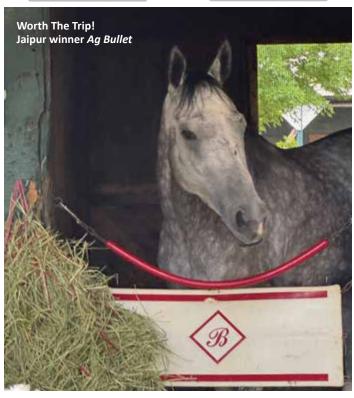












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Passion

All Horsemen have it to one degree or another. For some it is the reason for their careers. Pat Meadow had an extra heaping helping of that passion.

A Harvard astrophysicist and internal medicine doctor, Pat never let go of her passion for the horse that started when at 6 she got a pony from her dad. At 14 she went to horse camp and the passion grew.

At 29 that passion led to enter as an apprentice jockey at Suffolk Downs. 49 years ago. That ride led to being a



respected trainer, owner and breeder running her own small stable.

She stayed with it, a few wins, among many starts. But she was there every day taking care of things herself, enjoying the saddle still breeezing when she was 75.

Passion.

Pat's boots are now backwards in the saddle, and her tack and

saddle may have gone somewhere, but the memory of Pat Meadow at Oklahoma racecourse will linger a while longer on the Oklahoma training track. A testament to passion and the satisfaction that it brings.

Gallop on Granny....

Acknowledgements

These long-time advertisers listed below helped underwrite this free publication for your education and enjoyment. Any comments or suggestions as to how to improve this Guide are welcomed. Please pass them on to giordanorj@aol.com.

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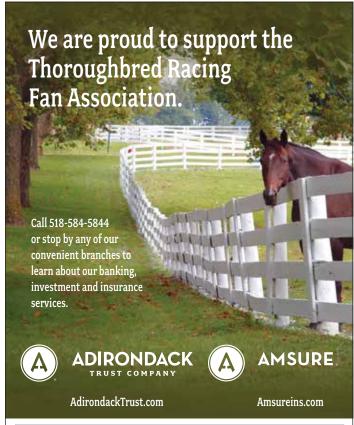
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