



Six-Figure PA-Bred juveniles at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale

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A Letter from Executive Secretary Brian Sanfratello

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PA Thoroughbred REPORT

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Senior Senator is one tough competitor

Senior Senator was like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole when it came to racing on the flat, unable to win even lower-level claiming races at Penn National, but he has now won the Maryland Hunt Cup, one of the world's most challenging races, twice.

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Midnight Poker a hot hand for new breeders

Dr. Lou Bucky recently add the title of "stakes-winning breeder" to an already impressive resume with his undefeated Midnight Poker.

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Page McKenney leading MATCH

Page McKenney's first start at Monmouth Park resulted in his 15th career stakes victory when taking in the Grade 3 Salvator Mile and giving the 8-year-old gelding 10 points and the lead for the MATCH Series 3-Year-Old & Up Long – Dirt Division.

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*A membership survey and focus group data pointed towards integrity as racing's number one issue. We are seeking to tackle this issue head on with new methods of drug testing.
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Senior Senator is one tough competitor

by Linda Dougherty

Senior Senator was like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole when it came to racing on the flat, unable to win even lower-level claiming races at Penn National Race Course.

But given time, and with the patience of his owners, Irvin L. “Skip” Crawford and his wife, Vicki, and trainer Joe Davies and his wife, Blythe Miller, the Pennsylvania-bred gelding showed that his true talent was competing over fences, where he fit into that round hole just perfectly.

The 8-year-old son of Domestic Dispute, bred by Charles C.D. McGill, captured his second Maryland Hunt Cup April 28, a grueling timber race in Glyndon at four miles over towering fences, and was contested on turf made sodden from rain the day before. He captured the 2016 race, but fell in last year’s renewal and suffered a fractured neck. Sideline for months, and continuing his comeback after surgery that saved his life, the gelding led wire-to-wire with amateur jockey Eric Poretz aboard, recording a gutty five-length victory. The Hunt Cup, considered one of the nation’s premier steeplechase races, followed on the heels of his triumph in the Grand National April 21 in Butler.

The story of how Senior Senator was transformed from a rogue who did not like the atmosphere of the racetrack, or being confined to a stall for most of the day, into a Maryland Hunt Cup winner even attracted the attention of *60 Minutes*, who featured him as part of a segment on steeplechase racing in April of 2017.

Davies and Miller, both former steeplechase riders and Hunt Cup winners, went to Penn National the night of May 11, 2013, and when they saw Senior Senator, they thought his 17.2-hand frame would do well in hunt races and decided to claim him for \$7,500. But when they watched how the big bay behaved, they had second thoughts. Before the race, he dropped his jockey and ran loose for a bit, and afterwards his trainer Flint Stites told the couple that he’d “never trained a crazier horse” as a warning so that they wouldn’t get hurt. Stites even called the gelding’s owner McGill to ask if he wanted to buy the horse back, but he declined. And so Senior Senator began his new life with Davies and Miller.

“I knew Joe [Davies] and Blythe [Miller] were good people, and because Senior Sen-

ator wasn’t happy and his future wasn’t very bright, I was perfectly happy that he went home with them,” recalled McGill.

Back at Davies’ farm in Maryland, the couple realized they had quite a project on their hands.

“At first, we couldn’t get a bridle or tack on him,” said Davies. “He’s not mean, he’s just a big horse and very exuberant. He’s done a lot of crazy things. The first time we took him to breeze at Laurel Park, he jumped over the partition in the trailer, and we had a whole crew that came to free him with the jaws of life, with a veterinarian telling us he should be put down because he’d sliced a leg open coming over the partition. He’d jump the fence of every field we’d put him in. So many

continues on page 6



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SENIOR SENATOR *continued from page 4*

people said we were wasting our time, but he seemed like he might have a lot of talent and potential. It was a combination of stupidity on our part and genius on his part that made it all work.

"He just wants to run 30 miles an hour and jump over the biggest fences," he said.

Paired with Poretz, Senior Senator rewarded his owners and trainer with a victory in the 2016 Hunt Cup. In the 2017 renewal, however, he fell at the third fence, and was sent to Dr. Dean Richardson at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center for surgery.

"He has a small plate in his neck to fuse the vertebrae," said Davies. "The people at New Bolton made no promises about him being able to jump again, but they said even if he was going to be a turnout, he deserved a chance. They'd had success with one show horse returning to competition before with similar surgery."

Senior Senator proved to be a great patient, and gradually went from months of being hand-walked to light exercise on a Eurociser. Davies said that not wearing shoes for eight months helped his bad feet grow and heal. And when he returned to competition in April after a year on the sidelines, he first won the Grand National, followed by the Hunt Cup.

"The Crawfords had every reason to doubt our faith in this horse," said Davies. "They kept a stiff upper lip the whole time. And Eric [Poretz] has been a huge part of this story. None of the professional jockeys would ride him. Eric and Senior Senator have a special rapport. They made each other. Eric is a dedicated amateur rider who does this for the love of the sport."

"The Hunt Cup is the race everybody wants to win," said Skip Crawford. "It was special to win this race with Senior Senator two years ago, but, under the circumstances, it's even better this time." Foaled at Dr. William Solomon's Pin Oak Lane Farm in New Freedom, Pa., Senior Senator

was raised at breeder McGill's High Hope Farm in Upperco, Md., only a few miles away from the Hunt Cup course.

"I remember him vividly as a yearling," recalled McGill, a lawyer. "He had a very impressive stature, and he stood out. I've raised and handled many horses, and we've had some miscreants come through here, but he wasn't one of them. He was a really nice horse with no problems. He wasn't a problem when he was being broken, either. But the way Flint [Stites] sees it, it was something about all the noise and activity and confinement at the racetrack that he wanted no part of. In that environment, he became a problem."

McGill said that he and his wife have gotten much pleasure from Senior Senator's success in his new career.

"We couldn't be happier," said McGill. "It's been a win-win situation for the horse and for the people who own and care for him now."

Since making his first start over timber in October 2014, the gelding has made 10 starts, winning five, been second in three others, and has earned nearly \$200,000.

In addition to Senior Senator, his dam Queen Kennelot (by Awesome Again) produced the stakes-placed Pennsylvania-bred Jump Start gelding Johnny Jump Up in 2011, an earner of \$242,875. She has a 2-year-old colt by Smarty Jones that McGill named Junior Senator, who is doing well training with Stites. The mare had a colt by Golden Lad this spring, and is in foal to Madefromlucky.

As for Senior Senator, Davies said he's currently being ridden three to four days a week, doing light exercise.

"We might do some fox hunting with him in the fall and some hunter trials, but he won't run again until next year, we run him in the spring only," he said. ■



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Midnight Poker a hot hand for new breeders

by Linda Dougherty

For many years, Dr. Lou Bucky has been a member of the partnership group Main Line Racing Stable, which has raced many stakes winners under the guidance of trainer John Servis.

But it wasn't until April 21 that Dr. Bucky could add the title of "stakes-winning breeder" to his already impressive resume. Dr. Bucky, one of the country's top doctors for cosmetic and reconstructive surgery, whose clinical work has been featured on national television programs like Good Morning America, Healthwatch and CNN, is the breeder of Midnight Poker, an undefeated son of Smarty Jones trained by Servis and owned by Main Line Racing Stable. Midnight Poker's most recent triumph came in the \$85,000 Robert Hilton Memorial Stakes at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races April 21.

Foaled in Pennsylvania at Lojeski Farm in Emmaus, Midnight Poker has thus far proven to be a very nice surprise, winning all four of his lifetime starts and climbing from the maiden-claiming ranks to that of stakes competition.

The story of Midnight Poker began when Main Line Racing Stable raced his dam, Halo Hollie, a daughter of Halo's Image, from 2010 until early 2012.

"Halo Hollie was a favorite of mine," said Dr. Bucky. "She had a good career with us, and at one point she had won three races in a row. She was versatile and a good athlete—she could go short or long, and run on dirt or turf."

"She was big and beautiful," recalled Servis. "And every time you led her over there, she ran her heart out."

In February 2012 at Parx Racing, Halo Hollie was claimed away from Main Line Racing Stable and then spent the next two years competing throughout the mid-Atlantic region, changing hands several times.

"I kept my eye on her, and offered to buy her back as a broodmare," recalled Dr. Bucky. "I got her for \$2,500 [in August 2013] and then she was retired."

Halo Hollie headed to the breeding shed with a record of 35 starts, 11 wins, and nearly \$260,000 in earnings. The first stallion she was bred to was Smarty Jones, whom Servis nearly won the Triple Crown with in 2004, and in 2015 she foaled Midnight Poker.

"He doesn't look like Halo Hollie, but he is a beautiful horse," said Dr. Bucky. "John [Servis] didn't know what to think of him before his first start, because he didn't show much in the morning, so we decided to put him in a maiden claimer. He won that first race [Sept. 5, 2017, at Parx] and then we brought him back in a starter allowance [Dec. 4], which he won pretty impressively. After he won, John said, 'this horse might be okay,' and after a three-month break we entered him in an open allowance at Parx [March 5] at 7 furlongs, which he won by nearly 6 lengths, even though Kendrick Carmouche said he was getting a little tired after the race."

Servis thought Midnight Poker might do well against stakes competition, so he picked out the Robert Hilton Memorial for 3-year-olds at 7 furlongs, which shared the card with the \$1.15 million Charles Town Classic-G2.

With one of the nation's top jockeys, Irad Ortiz Jr., aboard, the gelding seized the lead right out of the gate and established nearly a 2-length advantage through the first half-mile while basically being under a hand ride. He maintained that lead

around the far turn, and then Ortiz went to the stick, urging him along to turn back the challenge of Threes Over Deuces, who had been steadied early but was rallying strongly under Arnaldo Bocachica. Midnight Poker, however, had plenty left, and began to increase his lead to the wire, winning by 1¾ lengths in 1:25.14 as the betting favorite.

"That was a very impressive race, and he earned a big speed figure, too," said Dr. Bucky. "It was especially exciting because he was the first stakes winner I've bred."

"Midnight Poker isn't a very big horse, and he was a real handful when he was being broken," said Servis. "When I got him, he didn't show much until he ran, so I wasn't real confident going into his first race. He's had a different rider in every one of his races, and every rider loves him."



continues on page 13

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New Broodmare Domicile Requirements & Registration Eligibility for 2018 Foals

We are pleased to announce that the Registration Eligibility and Broodmare Domicile requirements for the 2018 crop of foals have changed. Mares bred to registered PA-Sires are up substantially this year, according to our preliminary count, and continuing that trend will move us to an increase in registered foals, which is our priority.

- The dam of the foal resided continuously in Pennsylvania since **DECEMBER 1** of the year of conception through foaling. Mares not being bred back will fall under this category. *(Formerly November 1.)*

- The dam of the foal was purchased at a public sale after **DECEMBER 1** of the year of conception and brought into Pennsylvania within 14 days of the date of purchase and remained continuously through foaling. During the year of foaling, the foal or its dam spent at least ninety (90) days in the state. *(Formerly November 1.)*

- The dam of the foal arrived after **DECEMBER 1** of the year of conception, foaled in Pennsylvania and was bred back to a registered PA stallion standing in Pennsylvania and the dam of the foal resided **SIXTY (60)** consecutive days during which foaling occurred. *(Formerly November 1 and 90 days.)*



A Letter From the Executive Secretary



The richest card of the year at Penn National is Saturday, June 2. The \$500,000 Grade 2 Penn Mile is the featured race. There will be no shortage of PA-Breds that day with the running of three \$100,000 PA-Bred Stakes on the card, the Lyphard for fillies and mares, 3 years and up; the Danzig for 3-year-olds; and the New Start for 3-year-old fillies. We'll also have five Pa-Breds participating in the Governor's Cup. What a day! Hope to see you there.

This years' Iroquois Banquet will again be at The Hotel Hershey on Friday, June 8, beginning with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Come out and help us honor our PA-Bred Stakes and Award Winners. The guest speaker this year is retired Hall of Fame Jockey Ramon Dominguez. Come out for an evening of fun! Tickets are limited so get yours now. Call 610.444.1050.

/Brian Sanfratello



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Pennsylvania News Briefs

PAGE MCKENNEY EARLY LEADER OF PHBA MATCH SERIES BONUS

Page McKenney, the 2015 PA-Bred Horse of the Year and champion older male of 2016, had made 55 career starts, but never once at Monmouth Park. In his seaside track debut on May 26, Adam Staple and Jalin Stable's 8-year-old gelding captured the Grade 3 Salvator Mile, his 15th career stakes victory, and his first in the revived MATCH Series. The win in the \$100,000 stakes pushed his lifetime bankroll to \$1,870,940 and gave him 10 points and the lead for the MATCH Series 3-Year-Old & Up Long – Dirt Division.

"I was always afraid to try him at Monmouth because it's always speed-holding," said his trainer Mary Eppler to MATCH officials. "Now, we'll have to look at the other races in the MATCH Series for him."

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association has joined other breeders' organizations in the region to offer \$10,000 in bonuses to state-bred MATCH Series participants, with the breeder of the top point-earning PA-Bred male and female at the end of the series each receiving a \$5,000 bonus. The decision by the organizations to join the series completes the effort to get all of the region's stakeholders to participate and enjoy the benefits of the championship competition.

The MATCH Series is the racing industry's first and only regional championship competition. Horses compete in stakes in five

different divisions throughout the region from mid-May through mid-September, with the horses competing for just under \$3 million in purses and earning points for their order of finish.

The owners and trainers of the series horses will compete for \$450,000 in bonuses, with bonuses being paid for the winners of each division and the overall championship. The first, second and third-place owners, respectively, in each division will earn \$20,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000. The top three earning trainers will earn \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively. The MATCH Series overall top earning owner will win \$50,000, while the top earning trainer will earn \$25,000.

Three of the 3-Year-Old & Up Long – Dirt Division stakes are run at Monmouth (next up is the Philip H. Iselin on June 30). The division concludes with the Salvatore M. Debunda President's Cup at Parx on Aug. 25 and the Presque Isle Mile at Presque Isle Downs on Sept. 16.

Page McKenney, bred by Dr. James Bryant and Linda Davis, has won 22 times and been second or third in another 19 during his seven-year career. He is among the finalists - for older male and male sprinter - for the 2017 Iroquois Awards, which will be presented June 8 at The Hotel Hershey.



PA-Bred Bonus Babies

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37 starts in PA, 7 wins

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PA Breeding Fund money earned by his connections
(Breeder & Stallion Awards and Owner Bonuses): \$165,371



Pennsylvania News Briefs

FOUR PA-BREDS BRING SIX-FIGURES AT FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC MAY 2-YEAR-OLD SALE

Led by a \$210,000 Friesan Fire colt bred by Vicky Schowe and Beasie Patterson, 23 PA-Breds sold at the two-day Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training sale held May 21 and 22 at the sales grounds in Timonium, Md. The PA-Breds grossed \$1,352,000, for an average of \$58,783.

Grassroots Training & Sales LLC consigned the Friesan Fire colt after purchasing him for \$20,000 at last fall's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale. The colt worked an eighth-mile in :10 2/5, two ticks off the fastest time for the sale, and Gary Young made the purchase for Mike Dubb. He is the third foal of racing age for Forestry's winning daughter Avani Force, whose other two foals are winners. Second dam Avani (by Gulch) is a half-sister to three stakes winners including graded winner Jade Flush.

The final 2-year-old to sell in the sale, Hip 597, was a PA-Bred colt by Take Charge Indy out of Tweet, by Medaglia d'Oro. Offered by Classic Bloodstock, Agent II, he sold to Linda Rice, Agent, for

\$200,000. Bred by Equivine Farm LLC, the bay born May 4 sold as a yearling last October at the Maryland sale for \$50,000. He also clocked an eighth-mile in :10 2/5.

Speedway Stable bid \$180,000 to take home an Into Mischief filly bred by James R. McGlinn. A May 10 foal, she is out of Street Singer, by Street Cry (Ire), also the dam of PA-Bred winners Street Invader (\$215,008), Awesome Singer (\$188,590) and current 3-year-old Our Philly Girl, from the family of graded winner and \$761,654-earner Irish Warrior. She worked one of the fastest times of the sale, getting an eighth mile in :10 1/5.

Realizing a final bid of \$135,000 from trainer Joe Sharp, Agent, was an Alternation filly out of And Stay Out, by Exchange Rate, bred by Three Lyons Racing LLC. Sold through the Bobby Dodd consignment, the filly who worked in :10 2/5 is the first foal for her dam, a half-sister to graded stakes winner Sorryaboutnothing. She initially sold for \$75,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale.



MIDNIGHT POKER continued from page 8

Four Bucks Racing, the gelding's official breeder, is comprised of the entire Bucky family—daughters Alexandra and Caroline, wife Elizabeth, and Lou.

"This horse keeps proving us wrong, every step he takes," said Dr. Bucky, referring to Midnight Poker's road to an unbeaten record, during which he's amassed earnings of \$144,570. "His next start will likely be in the \$100,000 Danzig Stakes [for Pennsylvania-bred 3-year-olds at 6 furlongs] at Penn National on June 2."

Dr. Bucky said that Halo Hollie foaled a filly by Overanalyze April 28, and is scheduled

to be bred back to Mizzen Mast. Halo Hollie has a 2-year-old colt by Jump Start named Defibrillator that will be trained by Servis, and an Afleet Alex yearling filly. Dr. Bucky also has an interest in two other Pennsylvania-based broodmares with Main Line Racing Stable—Whistling Straits, a winning Scat Daddy mare who had a Tapizar filly in early April, and Bai Bai Baby, a winning Unbridled's Song mare who had a colt by Violence in March.

Dr. Bucky said he became a horse owner through his golf outings with the renowned professional Gary Player; Player has received worldwide acclaim for breeding top Thorough-

breeds, including Grade 1 Sword Dancer Invitational winner Broadway Flyer, at his Gary Player Stud Farm in South Africa, and he encouraged Dr. Bucky to get involved in the sport.

"My first horse was co-owned with Gary Player in Florida; eventually I met John [Servis] and then other friends got together and formed Main Line Racing Stable," he said. "These are a group of guys who love racing and just love having a good time. They understand the business and take their losses well."

Thus far, Midnight Poker has given the Main Line partners and Four Bucks Racing plenty to cheer about. ■

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PHBA Dates to Remember

Reminders for Breeders

PHBA Membership Form and Dues: March 31

Broodmare Domicile: Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale

Yearling Registration: Dec. 31 of the yearling year

Early Registration: Within 365 days of foaling

Stallion Registration for next breeding season:

Feb. 15 of year breeding or before any mares are bred.

Check out the "Calendar of Events & Reminders" section at www.pabred.com for more reminders and upcoming PA-Bred stakes, members' events, and more.

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PA-Bred 2018 Stakes Schedule



Three PA-Bred stakes, including two for 3-year-olds, are on the rich Penn Mile seven-stakes card at Penn National on June 2.

A total of 32 PA-Breds have been entered in the state-bred stakes – post time of the first stakes, the New Start (race 3) is 4:40 p.m.

There are 22 Pennsylvania Bred restricted \$100,000 stakes races on the schedule for 2018, worth a total of \$2.75 million in purses when calculating in the 25 percent bonus for all PA-Sired PA-Bred horses finishing first through third in all restricted stakes.

The date for Pennsylvania's Day At the Races is set for Saturday, Sept. 1 at Parx Racing, with five stakes scheduled on the card for PA-Breds.

Contact the racing office or check the tracks' websites on a regular basis for closing dates, updates and changes of the 2018 schedule.

ALL BREEDING FUND STAKES WILL INCLUDE A 25% PA-SIRED BONUS FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD.

Proposed 2018 schedule—dates and conditions for all the PA-Bred Stakes are subject to change. Please contact the Racing Offices for the most current schedules.

Sat., April 28, Parx	\$100,000 Lyman S , 3 & up, 7 fur. 1st-Grasshoppin, 2nd-Driven to Compete, 3rd-Red Razzo
	\$100,000 Foxy J. G. S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 fur. 1st-Power of Snunner, 2nd-Trace of Grace, 3rd-Formal Class
Sat., June 2, Penn	\$100,000 Lyphard S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
	\$100,000 Danzig S , 3YO, 6 fur.
	\$100,000 New Start S , 3YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sun., July 8, PID	\$100,000 Leematt S , 3 & up, 1 mi.
	\$100,000 Northern Fling S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mi.
Sat., July 21, Parx	\$100,000 Crowd Pleaser S , 3YO, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
	\$100,000 Marshall Jenney S , 3 & up, 5 fur., turf
Sat., Aug. 4, Penn	\$100,000 Robellino S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Aug. 5, PID	\$100,000 Malvern Rose S , 3YO fillies, 1 mi.

Pennsylvania's Day At the Races

Sat., Sept. 1, Parx	\$100,000 Banjo Picker Sprint S , 3 & up, 6 fur.
	\$100,000 Roanoke S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
	\$100,000 Power by Far S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 fur., turf
	\$100,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial S , 3 & up, F&M, 6 fur.
	\$100,000 Mrs. Penny S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sun., Sept. 2, PID	\$100,000 Mark McDermott S , 2YO, 6 fur.
Sun., Sept. 16, PID	\$100,000 Mrs. Henry D. Paxson Memorial S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Sept. 22, Parx	\$100,000 Alphabet Soup S , 3 & up, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., turf
Sat., Oct. 6, Parx	\$100,000 Plum Pretty S , 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi.
Wed., Nov. 21, Penn	\$100,000 Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies S , 2YO fillies, 6 fur.
Sat., Dec. 1, Parx	\$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery S , 2YO colts and geldings, 7 fur.

Total: \$2,750,000



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Recent PA-Bred Stakes Horses



PAGE MCKENNEY

g, 8, Eavesdropper - Winning Grace

Won - SALVATOR MILE S-G3, Monmouth Park, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, 1M, 5/26.

SPRING QUALITY

g, 6, Quality Road - Spring Star

2nd - FORT MARCY S-G3, Belmont Park, \$150,000, 4YO/UP, 1 1/8MT, 5/5.

INVERNESS

f, 4, Giant's Causeway - Fareena

2nd - MARGARET CURREY HENLEY HURDLE S, Percy Warner, \$50,000, 4YO/UP, F/M, 2 1/4MT, 5/12.

DADDY IS A LEGEND

f, 3, Scat Daddy - Randie's Legend

3rd - EDGEWOOD S-G3, Churchill Downs, \$200,000, 3YO, F, 1 1/16MT, 5/4.



TROOPER JOHN

g, 4, Colonel John - Shouldn't We All

Won - JOURNAL H, Northlands Park, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, 6F, 5/19.

PRINCE LUCKY

g, 3, Corinthian - Lucky Notion

3rd - SIR BARTON S, Pimlico, \$100,000, 3YO, 1 1/16M, 5/19.

TRACE OF GRACE

m, 5, Petionville - Joy to Run

3rd - POLITELY S, Monmouth Park, \$60,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1M, 5/19.



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Name To View
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Pennsylvania Racing Commission is a departmental administrative commission within the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture which supervises all thoroughbred racing at which pari-mutuel wagering is conducted. 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110. Phone: (717) 787-4737
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