

PA THOROUGHBRED REPORT

BRUSHWOOD STABLE'S CONTINUING

Legacy

AUGUST 2025
ISSUE NO. 137



2025 KENTUCKY DERBY
AND BELMONT WINNER
SOVEREIGNTY

COADY MEDIA

IN THIS ISSUE

- SOVEREIGNTY CONTINUES LEGACY OF BETTY MORAN
- A PLETHORA OF FIRSTS FOR ROYAL BREEZE THOROUGHBREDS



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

July was a big month for PA-Bred Stakes at Presque Isle Downs. Congrats to Our Lady (bred by Blackstone Farm LLC), He's a Mess (bred by Eddy and Linda Martinez), and Candy Reward (bred by Warrior's Reward LLC). They won the Malvern Rose, Hard Spun and Princess of Sylmar Stakes respectively. Candy Reward notched her fifth win in a row! Wow! I can't wait till she runs again. A special congrats to Fierce and Strong, bred by Ultra Championship Racing LLC, who won the \$100,000 Wolf Hill Stakes at Monmouth impressively on Haskell Day.

Take a look at the video and results of our first Yearling Show, which is located in this edition. Everyone had a great time and we've already been contacted by other breeders who said they would be there next year. Remember, all participants are eligible for a share of \$40,000 at the end of their 2yo and 3yo careers, according to highest earnings. That's \$20,000 awarded for each year, and not limited to Pennsylvania earnings. Hope to see your future yearlings.



I'm happy to announce that there will be no registration fee for the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series in 2025. If your 2yo is a PA-Sired PA-Bred you will be automatically registered to run. The only exception will be the third and final leg of the 2024 Stallion Series which will be run on Sept. 19 on PA Day at the Races, with stakes purses of \$100,000 for 3yos and 3yo fillies. These horses were already registered as 2yos in 2024. Any 3yos you wish to enter in these races that were not nominated in 2024 will have to be nominated by paying the \$5,000 stated late fee to the PHBA before the nomination date of Tuesday, Sept. 2. A \$50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the 2024 series will be paid after those races – \$25,000 for first, \$15,000 for second and \$10,000 for third.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless this year. Wishing you good luck for the balance of 2025, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race!!

Brian Sanfratello
Executive Secretary

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Congratulations!

SMARTY JONES

PATRICIA CHAPMAN,
JOHN SERVIS AND ALL
CONNECTIONS ON
HIS INDUCTION INTO
**THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF
RACING'S
HALL OF
FAME**

**2025
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION
CEREMONY**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST
10:30 A.M.**

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LIMITED SEATING!

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DERBY AND
PREAKNESS
WINNER**

WITH LIFETIME
EARNINGS OF
\$7,613,155


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OF FAME, PENNSYLVANIA BREDS PERFORM!**

BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON PHOTO

#PABred on social media   

SOVEREIGNTY

CONTINUES LEGACY OF BETTY MORAN

BY NIKKI SHERMAN



When Sovereignty stormed to victory in this year's \$5 million Kentucky Derby-G1, it was the culmination of over a century of breeding the best to the best. In a time when many of the nation's top racehorses are owned by partnerships that take up multiple lines in the program, his rich female lineage is composed of some of the most prominent single-entity breeders in history.

In 1924, Nellie Morse became the fourth of just six fillies to capture the Preakness Stakes during a sparkling career that saw her crowned American champion 3-year-old filly. Over a century later, she is the 10th dam of Sovereignty. Her daughter Nellie Flag was the very first homebred stakes winner for legendary Calumet Farm, and followed her mother in earning a championship as the top 2-year-old filly in 1934.

Nellie Flag was the dam of three stakes winners, led by champion Mar-Kell, as well as 1943 Kentucky Oaks heroine Nellie L. The latter produced Comely Nell, dam of Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes-G1 winner and champion 3-year-old Bold Forbes. Two years after Bold Forbes came his full sister Priceless Fame, both being by Irish Castle. Priceless Fame made history when sold for a broodmare record price of \$6 million in 1984 while in foal to Seattle Slew. In a unique twist, the buyer was Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud. Several generations later, the sheikh would breed Sovereignty under his Godolphin moniker.

A two-time winner at 3 of \$9,700, Priceless Fame was raced by breeders Eaton Farms and Red Bull Stable, retired for them as a broodmare, produced three foals, all stakes performers, including Grade/Group 1-winning juveniles Dunbeath and Saratoga Six (the latter, a son of Alydar, was a \$2.2 million sales yearling), and was sold for \$3.2 million, in foal to Alydar, to breeder Joseph Morrissey in 1983.



**2025 KENTUCKY DERBY
AND BELMONT WINNER
SOVEREIGNTY**

COADY MEDIA

continued on next page 4

SOVEREIGNTY (CONT.)

Morrissey bred one foal before nearly doubling his return on investment a year later. Priceless Fame's second Alydar offspring was the filly Milliardaire. She added to the Morrissey coffers when selling at Saratoga in 1985 to Mike G. Rutherford for \$2.7 million, marking the highest price for a yearling filly that year.

Milliardaire's most successful daughter was Rutherford's homebred multiple Grade 1 winner Lakeway (by Seattle Slew), who in turn produced \$1.5 million sales yearling and eventual stakes winner Sluice. It is through this female line that Sovereignty was conceived, and how the route to a Derby winner passed through one of the most elite breeders in Pennsylvania history.

Zayat Stables purchased Sluice's first foal for \$1.6 million at the 2006 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Yearling Sale. Named Mushka, the daughter of Empire Maker showed promise as a juvenile with an electrifying 4½-length come-from-behind score in the \$200,000 Demoiselle Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct. However, the excitement fizzled out when she did not win again for almost a year, finally taking an allowance on the turf at Keeneland in October.

One month later, Mushka was catalogued at Keeneland's mixed sale. It was there that Betty Moran discovered the tall, leggy filly and decided she absolutely needed the daughter of Seeking the Gold. She would not be deterred and held strong to purchase Mushka for \$2.4 million.

Moran owned a former dairy farm in Malvern, Pa., which she and her father converted into a gorgeous spot of equine heaven. The property was christened Brushwood Stable. Over the years, Moran fully embraced equestrian life in Chester County and became known as a generous philanthropist who was beloved by everyone who knew her.

Reiley McDonald of Eaton Sales advised Moran for over 30 years and after Sovereignty's Derby win, wrote in a letter to the editor of the Thoroughbred Daily News, "Mrs. Moran's breeding theory was to simply breed the best to the best, and she rapidly developed one of the best small broodmare bands in U.S. history."

Among the horses bred by Moran were millionaires Hard Spun, High Yield, Master Command and Unique Bella, along with European champion Russian Rhythm. She was unfazed at spending money at the sales, as evidenced by Mushka, \$2.8 million Breeders' Cup winner Unrivaled Belle and \$3.1 million Eclipse Award winner Fiji (GB).

And she also kept a small racing division where Brushwood Stable campaigned Belmont Stakes winner Creme Fraiche, English Grand National winner Papillon and Arlington Million-G1 winner Kicken Kris. And notably, all three of those racehorses retired to live out their days on the quiet Chester County farm.

Mushka was sold as a racing/broodmare prospect and Moran was happy to keep the filly in training with original trainer Bill Mott. He knew the family well, having also trained Sluice. And of course he currently trains Sovereignty. Overall, Mott saddled Mushka for first or second place

finishes in 12 of 19 career starts. A dozen starts, all but two graded stakes, came under Brushwood Stable colors and included a victory in Saratoga's Glens Falls Handicap-G3, followed by a Grade 1 score in the \$500,000 Spinster Stakes at Keeneland and then a shot in the Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic at Santa Anita, in which she rallied to finish second behind Life Is Sweet.

Upon her retirement to Moran's Pennsylvania farm, Mushka's foals were very well received at the sales, with

Shadwell Farm shelling out \$1.65 million for her first foal, a son of Distorted Humor. It took \$1.2 million for Godolphin to nail down her very next foal, a daughter of Bernardini who was given the impressive name Crowned. While Crowned never made it to the races, she has produced three foals by Into Mischief, the last being Sovereignty.

In the post-Derby press conference at Churchill Downs, Mott reflected, "It makes it fun because I trained the third dam (Sluice)...and we won a stakes with her in Chicago. Then I was lucky enough to get Mushka...and we won the Spinster with her. Then Mushka, in turn, produced Crowned; and then Godolphin bought Crowned. It's really kind of a neat thing to be able to train those families. It might be telling my age a little bit, but it really makes it pretty special."

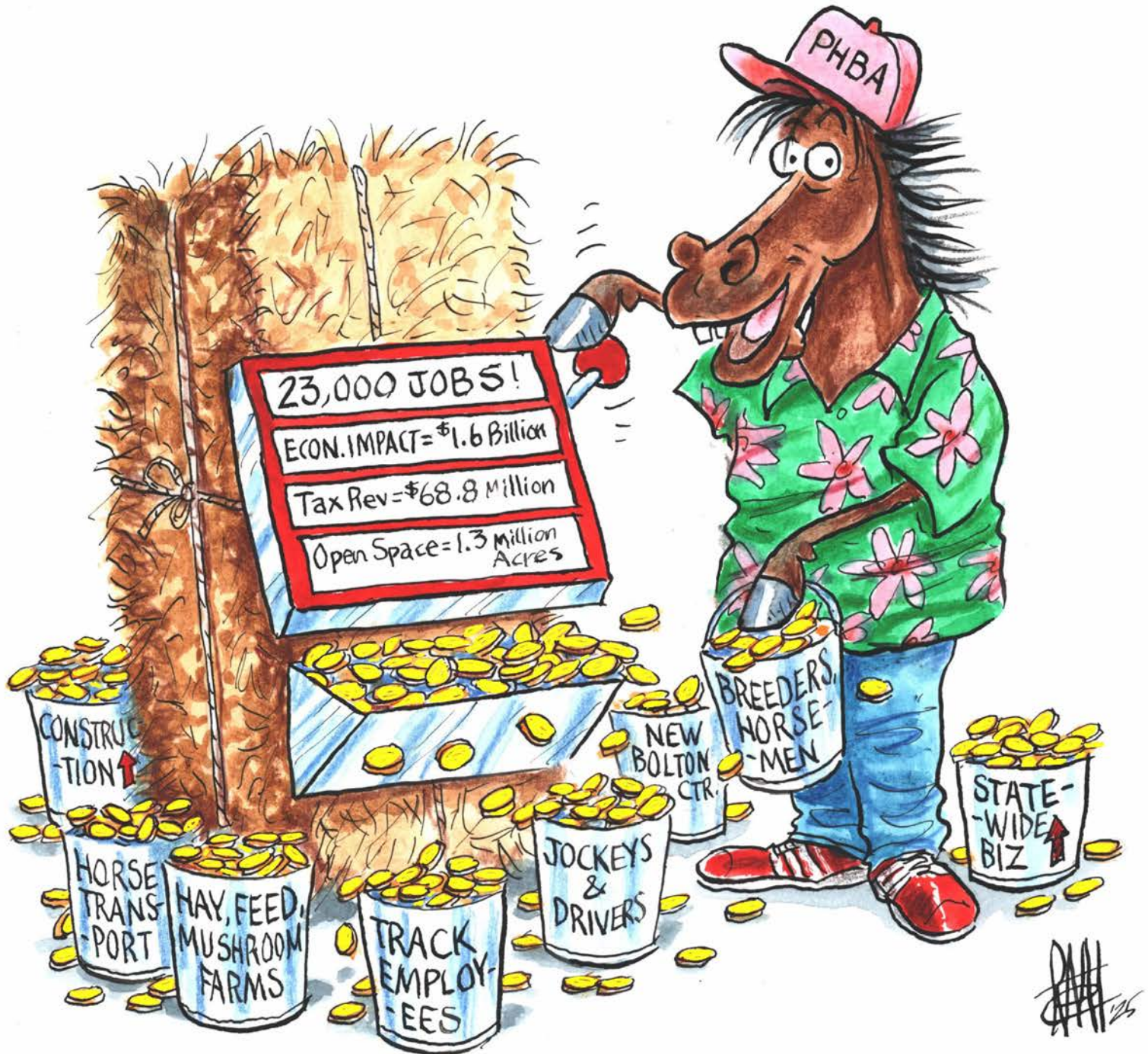
Crowned passed away last year due to foaling complications, but she has forever stamped her place in history as the dam of a Kentucky Derby winner. Similarly, Betty Moran passed away in 2020. But she would be so incredibly proud to see her legacy continue on.

Sovereignty took a second classic when capturing the Belmont Stakes June 7 at Saratoga. In doing so, he became the first horse to win the Derby, skip the Preakness, and return to win the Belmont Stakes. Not only has he stamped himself as the top 3-year-old in the country, he now ranks at the top of the NTRA rankings following his Jim Dandy score on July 26. ■



KEENELAND PHOTO

PENNSYLVANIA



BREEDING & RACING



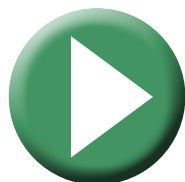
2025
Inaugural
Yearling Show

June 21st
Brandywine Polo Club

 **PENNSYLVANIA**
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION



The inaugural Pennsylvania Yearling Show took place
Saturday, June 21st
Brandywine Polo Club
in Toughkenamon,
Pennsylvania



CLICK HERE TO CHECK
OUT OUR INAUGURAL
YEARLING SHOW VIDEO!



A Plethora of Firsts for ROYAL BREEZE THOROUGHBREDS

BY NIKKI SHERMAN



You've seen it before in countless books and films: the uplifting journey of a little girl from a non-horsey family living in an urban community who loves horses and dreams of the winner's circle. Well, this fairy tale for Carol Casella is no longer fictional. The Boston native remembered begging her father to take her to the racetrack until getting her driver's license opened up a wide open world of riding horses. She showed Arabians and participated in barrel racing but the racetrack still beckoned.

"I loved the adrenaline rush of riding fast horses but did not know how to get started," Casella said. "I had no contacts at the track. I followed racing and went to the (Kentucky) Derby for many years; it's a bucket list for many to go only once but I went every year. I had no idea I would end up breeding to some of those horses as stallions today!"

In 2018, she discovered a mare in a Texas kill pen, and that changed everything. There was no doubt in her mind that she would rescue the mare, especially since her appreciation for the great Thoroughbreds of the past was piqued when she researched the mare's pedigree. The bay named Ravin in the Heat was a granddaughter of Alleged, a great-granddaughter of Lyphard and a great-great granddaughter of Bold Reasoning.

"Alleged went down in history in Europe (when winning) the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe twice," Casella noted. "(Ravin in the Heat) is sweet as anything, talented and a great ride."

Her discovery of Ravin in the Heat solidified the importance of not only racehorse aftercare but also sharing the facts of its many myths. She actively rehomes her own horses when they are ready for a new career and makes sure to track them.

While she is grateful to have found the Alleged descendant, she explained, "Her original owners that I tracked down loved these horses and had a buy-back guarantee, so they would have taken them back. We need to get the word out to people selling about checking references, information and how people are posing as homes and taking them right to the kill pen."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL CASELLA



EQUIPHOTO

MISS CASELLA



SHOWN WINNING AT PARX ON MAY 28, 2025



After her purchase of Ravin in the Heat, Casella traveled to Texas so she could watch one of the mare's foals race at Sam Houston in person, just as he was getting started on a racing career that would see him earn six figures. While on the backstretch she fell in love with a gorgeous, silvery-gray mare in their barn named Rockin Royalty who was at the tail end of her career. Shortly thereafter, the mare became Casella's first broodmare. She also gave inspiration for a stable name, Royal Breeze Thoroughbreds.

"I wanted to give homage to a Thoroughbred breezing and Rockin Royalty is a nicely built, old style horse with old bloodlines," Casella noted. "So in that way, Rockin Royalty helped me decide on a stable name."

Rockin Royalty's first foal was bred in Texas and when the sire of that filly, Airoforce, moved to Pennsylvania, Casella was introduced to the benefits for Pennsylvania-Breds. The mare

has been in the Keystone State ever since. Her 3-year-old son, Rockinhot Amadeaus (by Latent Heat), is currently in training at Parx Racing.

Though she lives in Massachusetts, Casella drives down for every race and has nothing but praise for her time in Pennsylvania. "It has the best breeders awards, a great offering of Kentucky-quality stallions, many stakes and races for all levels, and so much more! We have foaled, run and done business in four other states and love it here. The people are enjoyable and everyone is supportive of each other. I've made many friends here who I value."

In slowly building her broodmare band, Casella focuses on quality commercial and solid regional mares and is proud to own black-type daughters of Tapit, as well as others by Unbridled's Song, Nyquist, War Front and Oxbow.



EQUIPHOTO

One of those mares is a daughter of Tale of the Cat named Miss Antonella. Casella chose to focus on the PA-Sired/PA-Bred races when utilizing Pennsylvania stallion Tight Ten, a son of Tapit from the female family of multiple Grade 1 winner Fleet Renee. Tight Ten stands for \$2,500 at Rich Miller's Mountain Springs Stables in Palmyra. The resulting foal was a flashy chestnut filly with a feisty streak, earning her the moniker "Baby Shark".

On May 28 of this year, that filly left her mark after just three career starts. Officially named Miss Casella, she went right to the lead from the start, begrudgingly gave way, and then found another gear while professionally surging back to win by a length and a half. It was a plethora of firsts, including the first winner for Tight Ten.

"To breed a foal and win is amazing," Carol Casella raved. "Not only was she the first Pennsylvania-Bred of ours to make it to a race, she was the first to win. There is no feeling like seeing them at your own farm, caring for them every day since birth, and exceeding our expectations all the way to the winner's circle! I have purchased young horses before and had a claiming horse, but there's no feeling like this.

"Miss Casella is the first foal out of Miss Antonella and the first foal by Tight Ten to win. He's a well-bred Tapit who competed in the Breeders' Cup and I know Rich has high hopes for him. I'm excited that Miss Casella is contributing to his success and career at stud."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL CASELLA

MISS CASELLA

WITH HER WINNING CONNECTIONS AT PARX

The future is bright for Casella and her Royal Breeze Thoroughbreds. She has several partners from her home state joining her, thanks to the enticing Pennsylvania incentives. Her PA-Breds are sired by a "who's who" of stallions nationally and locally, including Catholic Boy, Jimmy Creed, Smarty Jones, Gift Box, Frosted, Mystic Guide and Keen Ice.

She is most excited about several by Preakness Stakes winner Cloud Computing, who moved to Dr. Bill Solomon's Pin Oak Lane Farm at the start of the 2024 season and stands for \$3,500. Casella credits Dr. Solomon for being a valued mentor in the move to Pennsylvania. To honor his legacy, she chose to name their first Cloud Computing colt of the season "Sulayman", which is Arabic for Solomon.

And then there's one filly in particular who is forever recorded by Miss Casella's winner's circle photo. "A huge Cloud Computing filly we had in February is the size of a yearling," recounted Casella. "She has temper tantrums at times and strikes out. Well, the week Miss Casella won, she struck out and hit me in the eye, so I have a black eye in the winner's circle. We named her Punch N Judy. It's just the life of a breeder!" ■

Uptowncharlybrown

PENNSYLVANIA'S LEADING STALLION



TOP 3 STALLIONS IN PA AVERAGE EARNINGS PER RUNNER

CLOUD COMPUTING: \$15,655

ENTICED: \$17,857

UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN: \$23,800

PA BROODMARES THAT HAVE BRED TO UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN FROM
JANUARY 1, 2023 THRU JUNE 30, 2025 (2 1/2 YEARS) HAVE EARNED
\$2.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN BREEDER AWARDS!

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FASIG-TIPTON: JULY DIGITAL SALES RESULTS

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Name	Sire	Dam	Sire of Dam	Breeder	Consignor	Purchaser	Price
74	4/14/24	B	C		Outwork	Winning Smile	Plan	Linda Merritt	Brookdale, Agent	Nuh Basheer	10,000
108	4/23/16	B	M	Jesse the Great	Albert the Great	Jessica's Tak	Mutakddim	William J. Solomon VMD	William J. Solomon VMD	K.O.I.D. Co. Ltd	2,500
116	4/29/19	CH	G	Lucky Running Cat	Madefromlucky	Run Cat Run	Sir Cat	Blackstone Farm LLC	Pewter Stable	San Lazaro Stud	4,000

FASIG-TIPTON: THE JULY SALE RESULTS

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Name	Sire	Dam	Sire of Dam	Breeder	Consignor	Purchaser	Price
93	3/17/24	B	F		Drain the Clock	Nebo	Freud	Joan A. Wilson	Equus Farm, Agent II	Alexa Zepp, agent	45,000
96	4/11/24	B	F		Practical Joke	One for Jim	Distorted Humor	Winning Direction Inc	Mill Ridge Sales Agent	Susan Naylor	70,000
152	3/14/24	GRR	C		Frosted	Thus	Tiznow	Dr. & Mrs. William E. Riddle Jr.	Marshall W. Silverman Agent	Derek Chin	15,000
205	2/5/24	DKB	C		Constitution	Felicity	Arrogate	Blackstone Farm LLC	Taylor Made Sales Agency	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners	215,000
315	4/8/22	B	C	Insurmountable	City of Light	Shabby Chic	Union Rags	Whysper Wynd Farm LLC	Grovendale Sales, Agent IV	Legion Bloodstock, agent	150,000
331	4/4/22	B	C	Romanesque	Practical Joke	Mony's littlegracie	Alphabet Soup	Elizabeth B. Barr	Elite, Agent	Pewter Stable	90,000

– Offered at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale –

HIP 29

JUSTIFY - ZEEZEE ZOOMZOOM

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SELLING AUGUST 4 | BARN 2

**PA-BRED HALF BROTHER TO
MG 1W CARAVEL AND 7X SW WITTY
BY LEADING SIRE JUSTIFY**

Good luck to breeder Elizabeth Merryman!

— 2025 —

PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE



Sunday, June 15

\$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP
\$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES

3 & up, 6 furlongs
3 & up, f&m, 6 furlongs



Friday, June 27

\$75,000 LYPHARD STAKES
\$75,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP

3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf
3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf



Monday, July 7

\$75,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES

3YO fillies, 6 1/2 furlongs



Monday, July 21

\$75,000 HARD SPUN STAKES

3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards



Monday, July 28

\$75,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES

3 & up, f&m, 1 mile 70 yards



Friday, August 15

\$75,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP
\$75,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES

3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf
3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf



Friday, Sept. 19

\$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES
\$100,000 PRINCE LUCKY STAKES
\$100,000 IMPLY STAKES

3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards
3YO PA-Sired, PA-Bred, 7 furlongs
3YO fillies, PA-Sired, PA-Bred, 7 furlongs



Wednesday, Oct. 22

\$75,000 JUMP START STAKES
\$75,000 DISCO CHICK STAKES

3 & up, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs
3 & up, f&m, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs



Wednesday, Nov. 26

\$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES
\$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES

2YO, 7 furlongs
2YO fillies, 6 furlongs

2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS:



Tuesday, Dec. 30

\$75,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES
\$75,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES *Non-Black-Type

2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs
2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs



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PA-BRED STAKES RESULTS

PARX RACING
Sunday, June 15

\$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP

3 & up, 6 furlongs

1ST - HOUGHTON SHUFFLE
2ND - KOHLER'S
3RD - NINETYPERCENTMADDIE

\$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES

3 & up, f&m, 6 furlongs

1ST - CARMELINA
2ND - CONFIRMED STAR
3RD - CHAPA

PENN NATIONAL
Friday, June 27

\$75,000 LYPHARD STAKES

3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf

1ST - CORINNA
2ND - JEANNE MARIE
3RD - PRINCESS JAVONCIA

\$75,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES

3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf

1ST - FIERCE AND STRONG
2ND - DYLAN'S RUBY
3RD - TREVESSO

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, July 7

\$75,000 MALVEN ROSE STAKES

3YO fillies, 6 1/2 furlongs

1ST - OUR LADY
2ND - QUEEN'S WREATH
3RD - ICONA MAMA

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, July 21

\$75,000 HARD SPUN STAKES

3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards

1ST - HE'S A MESS
2ND - TWILIGHT DANCER
3RD - JOHN DUTTON

PA-BRED STAKES RESULTS (CONT.)

\$75,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 1 mile 70 yards

PRESQUE ISLE

Monday, July 28

1ST - CANDY REWARD

2ND - RUSTY MY BROTHER

3RD - JEANNE MARIE

The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

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PA-BRED AGRICULTURE APRIL_2025



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\$27 MILLION
ON AVERAGE THE
LAST 10 YEARS

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winners/starters lifetime

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IS THE PLACE TO
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Seven breeders on
pace for **\$200,000**
in awards

Top two on pace to finish between
\$500,000 and
\$1 MILLION

To learn more, contact
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or info@pabred.com

Over the last 10 years, the PHBA
Breeding Fund distributed an average of

\$27 MILLION

annually in Awards, Owner Bonuses & Restricted Race Purses

UP TO 40% in Owner Bonuses

UP TO 40% in Breeders Awards

APPROXIMATELY
\$7 MILLION

in PA-Bred stakes and restricted races

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [pabred.com](#) | #PABred on social media

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

MALVERN ROSE S

PID, \$75,000, 3YOF, 6 1/2FA, 7-7.

WON - OUR LADY

f, 3, Bolt d'Oro–Summer's Ready, by More Than Ready.
(\$75,000 2023 FTKFEB; \$160,000 2024 FTMMAY)
O-JDLP Holdings Inc., B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA),
T-Steven Chircop, J-Patrick Husbands, \$44,550.

2ND - QUEEN'S WREATH

f, 3, Jimmy Creed–Ilanthe, by Sky Mesa. (\$27,000 RNA
2023 KEESEP) O-Tom Coulter, B-Arrowwood Farm Inc. (PA),
\$14,850.

3RD - ICONA MAMA

f, 3, Maximus Mischief–Classe Signora, by Bernstein.
(\$75,000 2024 OBSAPR) O-DeSales 85 LLC,
B-J. Patrick Morell & Tanya Lobsiger (PA), \$8,167.

Facing stakes company for the first time in her career, 3-year-old filly Our Lady looked to have a tough task. Lining up against her was a field of stakes performers, including winners Honorable Win, Icona Mama and Dixieland Belle. But with two dominant wins in two starts, both at Woodbine in May, the daughter of Bolt d'Oro was far from overlooked as she went off the 3-10 favorite in the field of six sent postward for the Malvern Rose Stakes at Presque Isle Downs on July 7.

Biding her time behind a tightly bunched field under her regular rider, eight-time Sovereign Award outstanding jockey Patrick Husbands, Our Lady made light work when asked. Shifting out six-wide as the field entered the stretch, she caught Queen's Wreath in the the final yards while under a strong hold. The chart noted she was: "... taken in hand at the wire under confident handling in a convincing performance." Winning by a half length, she completed the 6½ furlongs in 1:17.66 (off fractions of :23.82, :47.09, 1:11.57).

Trained by Woodbine-based Steven Chircop, she races in the colors of JDLP Holdings, which purchased her for \$160,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-olds in training sale. Bred by Blackstone Farm, Our Lady initially sold as a short yearling through the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky February sale for \$75,000. Putting in bullet works at Woodbine in June 2024, she had

gaps in her training and didn't race at 2. She returned regularly to the worktab in late March and made her debut on May 4, leading every step of a 6-furlong maiden special weight over the all-weather track to win by 6 ¼ lengths under a hand ride in a final time of 1:09.68.

Twenty days later she led the majority of the 6 furlongs in allowance company, cruising home by 4 1/4 lengths as the 1-4 favorite in the field of 10. With her third win, she boosted her career earnings to \$110,188.

Blackstone purchased her dam, the unraced More Than Ready mare Summer's Ready - out of a half-sister to millionaire Lewis Bay and graded winners Misconnect and Winslow Homer - for \$15,000 at the 2018 Keeneland November Breeding Stock sale in foal to Gormley. When bred to Nyquist the next year, Summer's Ready produced Brushback, who sold for \$170,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Summer yearlings sale in 2021.

Our Lady is Summer's Ready second named foal, and her only winner. The mare has an unraced American Pharoah 2-year-old filly named Jr Miss Buttercup and a Volatile colt this year. She was bred back to Bright Future this spring. ■



COADY MEDIA

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

WOLF HILL S, MTH

\$100,000, 3YO/UP, 5½FT, 7-19.

WON - FIERCE AND STRONG

g, 5, Hoppertunity–Doubleclickdamouse, by Point of Entry. O-Ultra Championship Racing LLC, B-Ultra Championship Racing LLC (PA), T-Michael W. Salvaggio Jr., J-Tyler Conner, \$60,000.

Fierce and Strong remained undefeated in three starts this year with an eye-catching score in Monmouth Park's Wolf Hill Stakes on Haskell Day, July 19.

Totally overlooked at 12-1 odds in the field of seven sent out to contest the 5½ furlongs on a firm turf, the son of Hoppertunity was in the clear while lengths off the pacesetters down the backstretch, made a move around the far turn and took aim down the stretch.

"Everything set up just perfectly for him," said winning trainer Michael Salvaggio. "We were hoping the speed would set it up for him and it did. He came motoring down the stretch and Tyler (Conner) was able to save enough ground, which is what you need to do on this course, and then he swung him out. I said, 'Oh my gosh. We've got a heck of a shot' and we did. I've won a race at Monmouth before but never a stakes race. This is great."

Winning by 1¾ lengths, he stopped the clock in 1:02.37. "I appreciate Michael Salvaggio having this horse ready," said Conner. "When I rode him at Pimlico it was the first time I rode him short. Before that I had only ridden on him going long. But when I rode him short in that Pimlico race I told (Salvaggio) after the race that I think he is better sprinting because I have so much horse when it is time to go. Going long he goes too fast early sometimes. This race he was full of run the whole way.

"I think sprinting is his game for sure," Conner continued. "I think this horse is very underrated. They didn't give him any credit today. I know it was a tough race with good horses in there but this horse runs 85 Beyers every race. He is very consistent. He always shows up." Fierce and Strong earned a 94 Beyer in the Wolf Hill.

The Ultra Championship Racing LLC homebred came into the race off a determined head bob score in the 1⅞-mile Alphabet Soup Handicap over a yielding Penn National turf course on June 27. In his first start of the year, he won at 5 furlongs over a Pimlico turf rated good on Preakness weekend, surprising at nearly 10-1 while surging late to win by a length.

A winner of eight of his 13 starts on the turf while finishing second in four others, 5-year-old Fierce and Strong made his first 21 starts in his home state, among the highlights a three-race win streak culminating with a win in last year's With Anticipation Stakes on Penn Mile day, and a second-place finish in last fall's Alphabet Soup Handicap. Since last October he's started five times, all but once in Pennsylvania.

With his most recent win, the bay gelding boosted his record to 26-10-6-2, for earnings of \$377,476.

Ultra Championship Racing purchased his dam Doubleclickdamouse, a daughter of Point of Entry, for \$5,500 as a yearling at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October sale. Descending from the talented racemare Caress, dam of Grade 1 winner and sire Sky Mesa, Doubleclickdamouse never raced and produced Fierce and Strong as her first foal. She was bred to Hoppertunity four consecutive years until delivering a colt by Uncle Lino in May 2024. ■



EQUIPHOTO

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

HARD SPUN S

PID, \$75,000, 3YO/UP, 1M&70YA, 7-21.

WON - HE'S A MESS

g, 7, Dramedy–Nightfury, by Kitalpha. O-Scooter Davis, B-Eddy R. Martinez and Linda Martinez (PA), T-Scooter Davis, J-Willie Martinez, \$45,000.

2ND - TWILIGHT DANCER

g, 4, Tapiture–Moonlight Basin, by Eurosilver. O-Juan Arriagada, B-Warrior's Reward LLC (PA), \$15,000.

3RD - JOHN DUTTON

g, 5, Eastwood–Reconsider, by Graydar. O-Long Shot Racing Stables LLC, B-Town & Country Horse Farms LLC (PA), \$8,250.

It was third time's a charm for 7-year-old He's a Mess in Presque Isle Downs' Hard Spun Stakes. In 2023, he closed well but couldn't catch frontrunner Nice Ace and finished second. In 2024, he turned in what looked to be a winning rally, got the lead down the stretch and fought to the wire in a duel with Twilight Dancer, but wound up second again, missing by a head.

Campaigned his first four seasons by Linda Martinez, who bred him with Eddy Martinez, He's a Mess was still seeking his first stakes win when he was dropped in for a tag on June 16 at Presque Isle. He faced a familiar foe in Twilight Dancer, but neither could catch the frontrunner, stakes winner Heavy Pour: Twilight Dancer finished second, nearly 8 lengths ahead of He's a Mess in third. Two of the four horses in the race ran for a \$25,000 claiming price – He's a Mess and Twilight Dancer – and each were claimed.

He's a Mess went to owner/trainer Scooter Davis; Twilight Dancer to owner/trainer Juan Arriagada. And they met once again in the Hard Spun.

A field of five went postward, with Heavy Pour the even-money favorite. John Dutton, an easy allowance winner on the front end in his previous start, took the lead and was pressured by Heavy Pour through opening fractions of :24.37, :47.40 and 1:11.70 as He's a Mess trailed more than 6 lengths back.

Starting to make up ground on the inside, He's a Mess was kept to the inside by Willie Martinez while Twilight Dancer was

matching strides to the outside. Sweeping around the battling leaders, Twilight Dancer had a clear shot to the lead, while He's a Mess was in a bit of a mess trying to find running room. As Twilight Dancer set sail for home, He's a Mess was forced to steady in midstretch and looked hopelessly beaten, then found the opening he was desperately craving. He dug in and began to cut into the margin, and got up in the final strides to win by a neck. Final time for the mile and 70 yards was 1:40.90.

Jogging back to the winner's circle looking quite pleased with himself, He's a Mess recorded his first stakes victory in his 27th start. A son of former Kentucky sire Dramedy, a beautifully-bred Distorted Humor stallion who was sold to Saudi Arabia in 2019, the dark bay gelding now has seven wins, to go with seven seconds and three thirds, while upping his career earnings to \$308,010. It was his second win in a row for new owner Davis, as he came into the stakes off a 8¼-length score at Presque Isle on July 9 while risked for a \$40,000 tag.

Unraced until May of his 4-year-old season, He's a Mess made his first eight starts at Presque Isle and counts 21 in total at the Erie Track. Twice he's contested the Presque Isle Mile against open company, finishing second once. He's one of two stakes performers for his dam Nightfury, a winning daughter of Kitalpha who is also the dam of Happyisashappydoes, a \$204,720-earner by First Dude still campaigned by Martinez who once defeated his then-stablemate/half-brother in a June 2024 allowance in a one-two finish. Nightfury's richest runner is He's a Mess' year-older full brother Valentine Bug, a winner of two of his three starts this year with lifetime earnings of \$314,507. The mare produced a PA-Bred colt by First Dude this past February and was bred back to Country Grammer. ■



COADY MEDIA

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

PRINCESS OF SYLMAR S

PID, \$75,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1M&70YA, 7-28.

WON - CANDY REWARD

f, 4, Warrior's Reward–Unimagineable, by Twirling Candy.
O-Warrior's Reward LLC, B-Warrior's Reward LLC (PA),
T-Brandon L. Kulp, J-Pablo Morales, \$45,000.

2ND - RUSTY MY BROTHER

m, 5, Social Inclusion–Estaprimo, by Primal Storm.
O-The Elkstone Group LLC (Stuart Grant),
B-Glenn E. Brok LLC (PA), \$15,000.

3RD - JEANNE MARIE

f, 4, Speightster–Bouquet of Gold, by Medaglia d'Oro.
O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC, B-Cash is King LLC
and LC Racing LLC (PA), \$8,250.

Candy Reward towered above her six rivals, both literally and figuratively, in the Princess of Sylmar Stakes run on July 28 at Presque Isle Downs.

Trained by Brandon Kulp, the big-bodied, solidly-built, nearly 17-hand daughter of Warrior's Reward went off as the 3-10 favorite in the 1-mile and 70-yard contest for PA-bred fillies and mares. Breaking well, she stalked menacingly down the backstretch behind pacesetter Rusty My Brother before unleashing her winning move going into the far turn. By the time she straightened into the stretch, she had opened up by 5 and continued to draw off, crossing the wire 9 ¾ lengths the best. After solid splits of :23.36, :46.98, 1:11.73 and 1:36.50, she clocked a final time of 1:40.77.

It was Candy Reward's third win of the year, and fifth in a row going back to last September. The 4-year-old Warrior's Reward LLC-homebred has been one of the most consistent runners in training. Since making her debut at 2 in the Finest City Stakes at Presque Isle, where she finished third, she has been in the top-three in nine of her 10 starts, and fourth in the other. Her earnings now stand at \$213,955.

Eight of her 10 starts have been at the Erie track. Said Donnie Brown, partner with Tom McClay in Warrior's Reward LLC: "We've taken our time with her but think she can handle all three surfaces. We know from some of her workouts that she can handle the dirt too."

One of the filly's six career wins came at Penn National on the main track going 1 mile in March. It was her first start of the year, and first since recording her initial stakes victory in the H.B.P.A. Stakes at Presque Isle Downs in October.

"We've always been high on her," added Brown. "We've just been waiting for the mind, body and maturity to all come together."

"She's a bigger girl - she's solid and carries good weight. And she's starting to blossom for us now."

Candy Reward is the second foal out of Unimagineable, an unraced daughter of Twirling Candy. The mare's first foal, the Competitive Edge gelding Shy Da Runner, is an earner of \$115,996.

Unimagineable has a Warrior's Reward 2-year-old filly named Eye Candy Warrior, a Warrior's Reward yearling colt named Mr. Monk, and produced a colt by Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mandaloun in March before being bred to Cody's Wish.

The imposing Warrior's Reward was retired after covering 10 mares in 2024 and is now a resident at Old Friends in Kentucky.

Brown noted that Candy Reward "seems to handle whatever is going on. Shipping doesn't bother her at all." He added, "We love staying in state because of the breeders bonus. Right now it looks like there is plenty of racing for her into the fall in Pennsylvania." ■



COADY MEDIA

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

OPEN S

LBG, \$10,750, 3YO/UP, 7F, 6-29.

WON - SABURO'S GRACE

g, 5, Saburo—Miz Graycee, by Mizzen Mast.
O-Barbara Norlander, B-Ruis Racing LLC (PA),
T-Lyle W. Magnuson, J-Garfield Gordon, \$4,162.

SPRINT SERIES S

GPR, \$10,900, 3YO/UP, 6F, 7-27.

WON - LITTLE J P

g, 5, Prospect Park—Dances On Water, by In Excess (IRE).
O-Jeff Van Nistelrooy, Barb Depew, Rick Wiest, Cory Wiest
and Lana Wiest, B-John Parker (PA), T-Laurie Ferguson,
J-Larris Allen, \$4,217.

FALLS THOROUGHBRED S

GF, \$8,800, 3YO/UP, 7F, 7-27.

WON - ROBO WARRIOR

g, 5, Warrior's Reward—Morning Ridge, by Quaker Ridge.
O-Kayla Warren, B-Warrior's Reward LLC (PA),
T-Kayla Warren, J-Jarred Journet, \$4,840.

Their paths cross once again.

The 5-year-old PA-Bred geldings Saburo's Grace and Little J P are based a long way from home. The two grays campaign in Western Canada where the purses are small but the competition fierce, and they have racked up a number of stakes wins and placings. A few times they've been in direct competition, the most recent the 6-furlong Sprint Series Stakes on July 27 at Grande Prairie in Alberta.

Little J P recorded his seventh career victory by battling for the lead from the start and then holding off a late run by favorite Crown Ruler to win by a head. Saburo's Grace, who didn't have the cleanest of breaks, rallied from way back to finish a length back in third.

Owned by Jeff Van Nistelrooy, Barb Depew, Rick Wiest, Cory Wiest and Lana Wiest, Little J P has now won four stakes,

including back-to-back runnings of the Sprint Series. Trainer Laurie Ferguson sent out the gelding for his most recent two races, both victories. He came into the race having scored in a starter allowance on July 12.

Little J P launched his career at Parx Racing in May of his 2-year-old season and won for his breeder John Parker.

Campaigned on the East Coast at 2 and 3, the son of Prospect Park out of unraced Dances On Water, by In Excess (Ire), and a half-brother to graded stakes winner Gold Rush Dancer, made his first start at 4 for a tag for owner/trainer Robert Baze at Turf Paradise. Since the move west, he's started 14 times and finished first or second in nine of them. His earnings stand at \$82,089, with most accrued during his four-start juvenile season.

Saburo's Grace has one more career win, and a higher percentage of on-the-board finishes in 18 starts, but less in earnings (\$43,243). Never worse than third in his last 16 outings, all in either Alberta, Canada, or at Great Falls in Montana, he's made three of his four 2025 starts in stakes competition, and recorded a victory in the Open Stakes by a nose on June 29 at Lethbridge - Rmtc. Also a four-time stakes winner, Saburo's Grace is owned by Barbara Norlander and trained by Lyle W. Magnuson. A son of Saburo, he was bred by Mick Ruis' Ruis Racing LLC, Saburo's Grace is the only winner out of Miz Graycee, a daughter of Mizzen Mast campaigned by Ruis to four wins at Santa Anita and Los Alamitos.

Robo Warrior, a 5-year-old gelding by Warrior's Reward, won four times in Pennsylvania at 3 and 4 before making his way west. After racing at Turf Paradise, Sunland Park and Sunray Park, he was claimed by current owner/trainer Kayla Warren for \$2,500 at Energy Downs 307 Horse Racing on June 20. Making his Great Falls debut, he missed by a neck in a starter allowance on July 19, and eight days later swept to a 15¼ length victory in the Falls Thoroughbred Stakes. In 21 career starts, he has six wins, a second and three thirds, with earnings of \$69,335. Bred by Warrior's Reward LLC, he is one of six winners from seven starters for his stakes-placed dam Morning Ridge (by Quaker Ridge). Three of her winners are sons of Warrior's Reward. ■

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

CARRY BACK S

GP, \$75,000, 3YO, 7F, 7-4.

2ND - INSURMOUNTABLE

c, 3, City of Light, - Shabby Chic, by Union Rags.

(\$80,000 2023 KEESEP) O-Tami Bobo,

B-Whysper Wynd Farm LLC (PA), \$15,000.

SPRINT SERIES LEG ONE S

GPR, \$10,900, 3YO/UP, 5 ½F, 7-13.

2ND - SABURO'S GRACE

g, 5, Saburo-Miz Graycee, by Mizzen Mast.

O-Barbara Norlander, B-Ruis Racing LLC (PA), \$2,070.

LADY CAREY TURF SPRINT

HAW, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 5 ½F, 7-27.

3RD - GRAY LIGHTNING

f, 4, Social Inclusion-Fairy Gray, by Cat Thief.

(\$370,000 2024 FTOAPR) O-NR Club,

B-Desmond C. Wynter (PA), \$10,000.

SPRINT SERIES S

GPR, \$10,900, 3YO/UP, 6F, 7-27.

3RD - SABURO'S GRACE

g, 5, Saburo-Miz Graycee, by Mizzen Mast.

O-Barbara Norlander, B-Ruis Racing LLC (PA), \$955.



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IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM J. HARTWELL



William Joseph "Bill" Hartwell, 85, passed peacefully at his Buckingham farm on April 21, 2025. Bill was born April 9, 1940 in Philadelphia, Pa., to the late John and Beatrice Hartwell.

Bill lived life on his terms and left his positive mark on so many people. Bill genuinely wanted everyone around him to flourish and succeed.

He will be remembered by all as a mighty, but kind man who worked tirelessly in business and at home to provide for his family.

Bill started working as a child delivering groceries and newspapers on his bicycle in Philadelphia: in his teens he became a truck mechanic, then truck driver hauling steel to Cleveland, Ohio, then delivering sugar to the

New Jersey Shore. In 1969, Bill took over as a terminal agent for A. Duie Pyle and worked up until his passing. In 1974, Bill and his wife Frances purchased their farm in Buckingham, PA, where they bred, raised and raced Thoroughbreds, a business and a hobby. In 1981, Bill opened and operated Hartwell Warehouse in several locations until he settled in Bristol, Pa., in 1995. Hartwell Warehouse was, and still is, part of Bill's legacy.

Bill was a great husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by Frances Mary Bell Hartwell, his wife of almost 65 years., Frances Mary Bell Hartwell, and their four children - William Hartwell Jr. (Lee Anne), Janice Viers (Brett), Linda Barron (Paul) and Michael Hartwell (Dianne). Bill is also survived by his 11 grandchildren, Julian, Emily, Evelyn, Sean (Stacey), Tyler (Katelyn), Troy, Jessica, Jake (Jenny), Nicholas (Eva), Noah (Taylor) and Nolan; and his great-grandson Shayne. His grandchildren became his life!

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Bill's name to Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation 821, Corporate Drive, Lexington, Ky. 40503.



DR. ROBERTA L. SCHNEIDER



Dr. Roberta L. "Bobbie" Schneider, of Doylestown, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. She was 73 years old.

Bobbie was born in New York, N.Y. in 1952. Her father, Arthur William Schneider, designed the sound systems for the New York World's Fairs in 1939 and 1964, along with Sound Engineering at Walt Disney World. Her mother, Helen (Polly Perkins Luen), performed in the ballet corps of Radio City Music Hall. Her parents met when Arthur was designing the sound system for Rockefeller Center in New York.

After graduating from Ursuline Academy, Bobbie pursued her undergraduate and Master of Science degrees at Wichita State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude and receiving the Graduate Associate Endowment fellowship. She then earned her M.D. from the

Medical College of Pennsylvania, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, graduated Magna Cum Laude, and received Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence throughout her studies, as well as the Lemmon Company Award for Excellence in Emergency Medicine.

As a board-certified emergency room physician, Bobbie remained an exceptional diagnostician throughout her life, always advocating for those dear to her. She served as President of the Montgomery County, PA chapter of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and presented at AMA conferences numerous times.

Later in her career, Bobbie transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry, where she applied her expertise to assist drug companies navigate the exhaustive FDA approval process for new medications. Her decades-long career in pharmaceuticals continued until her retirement last year, and thousands of people worldwide have benefited from the drugs she helped shepherd through the approval process.

Bobbie's true passion was horses, a love that began at age 4 with her first riding lesson. From that moment forward, her life revolved around these magnificent animals. As a teenager, she participated in horse shows, jumping, and equitation, and was active in the Howard County Hunt.

On her Doylestown property, Bobbie was able to pursue her horse breeding and racing dreams. She bred racehorses for many years and was a past board member of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association (PHBA), achieving the distinction of receiving two awards for her horses winning stakes in Pennsylvania.

The youngest of three sisters, Bobbie married following her junior year in college. She and her Air Force officer husband moved to California, where he was stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Living in Lompoc, Bobbie embraced California living, enjoying the Lompoc Flower Festival and the amazing foods and Danish culture available in nearby Solvang.

Their next assignment took them to Wichita, Kans., where Bobbie completed her Bachelor's in Biology and Master's in Microbiology from Wichita State University. She began research into antigenic competition in cardiac tissue and discovered that in Kansas, the sky really does turn green when tornadoes are present—just like in *The Wizard of Oz*.

When her husband was discharged from the Air Force, they moved to his hometown of Elmer, N.J. Realizing the limited income potential in biological research, Bobbie took her MCATs and applied to medical school at the Medical College of Pennsylvania (formerly Women's Medical College, now Drexel University College of Medicine). Though her marriage ended during her medical studies, she persevered through the grueling years to become a board-certified emergency room physician.

Bobbie cared deeply for others and was a generous supporter of many charities, including Toys for Tots, the Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund, and her local police and fire companies. Throughout her life, she was both generous and imaginative in finding ways to help those she cared for.

Despite facing overwhelming physical challenges in recent years, Bobbie exhibited remarkable resilience and grace, rising time and again to overcome obstacles and make her life work on her own terms.

Roberta is survived by her sister, Lynn Schneider, and her nephew, Matthew Forney. She is also survived by dear and loyal friend and farm manager Kimberly Hanna, as well as close friends and neighbors Paul and Rebecca Nehrbas.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in memory of Roberta Schneider, MD to the Drexel University College of Medicine Polly Perkins Luen Endowed Scholarship Fund. {Gifts may be directed online at <http://giving.drexel.edu/SchneiderMemorial> or by mail to: Drexel University College of Medicine, Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 8215, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Please indicate that your gift is in memory of Roberta Schneider, MD.}

Dr. Roberta L. "Bobbie" Schneider's life was a testament to intelligence, perseverance, and compassion. Her contributions to medicine, her love of horses, and her generous spirit will be remembered by all who knew her.



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