

PA THOROUGHBRED REPORT

DECEMBER 2024
ISSUE NO. 129

”
It all just came together for her this year. She won those allowance races back-to-back and every day she just seemed to get better and better. She's sharp and ready to go.

—
OWNER DIANNE STERN
—



FOXY JUNIOR

Shown winning the 2024
Maryland Million Distaff

IN THIS ISSUE

- FOXY JUNIOR PROVES LAST CHANCES ARE POSSIBLE
- OUR SHOT GETS RETRIBUTION AT KEENELAND



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Congratulations to the Blackstone-bred Roses for Debra who sold for \$2.4 million at the Keeneland November sale, the highest price of the sale. PA-Bred Foxy Junior, a homebred for Dianne Stern, ran her record to six wins in seven starts this year by winning her third straight stakes race in the Thirty Eight Go Go at Laurel. Wow!

Our \$100,000 2yo features of 2024 were run on Nov. 27. Congrats to the Brian Schartz-bred Crab Daddy, who came up the rail to victory in the Pennsylvania Nursery at PARX, and J. Patrick Morell and Tanya Lobsiger-bred Icona Mama, who pretty much had her way in the Shamrock Rose Stakes at Penn National, running away by 9½ lengths.

The next races in the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series are scheduled for Dec. 30 at PARX. The second leg in the series will carry \$100,000 in purses for 2yos and 2yo fillies and a \$50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: \$25,000 for first, \$15,000 for second and \$10,000 for third. This bonus will be paid after the 3yo races in 2025.

Our two newest stallion additions to Pennsylvania are the Tapit-sired Tyson and the Curlin-sired Curlin's Wisdom. The Canadian champion older male of 2023, Tyson is out of the winning Smart Strike mare Honouring, putting him in a deep family that includes champions Rags to Riches and Arcangelo, also Belmont Stakes winner Jazil. He will be standing at Darryl and Jill Myers' Stone Jug Ranch in Dillsburg. Stakes-placed Curlin's Wisdom is out of the Rockport Harbor mare Whisper Wisdom, who is a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Connect. He will stand at Maria Vorhauer's Cabin Creek Gettysburg Farm.

Domicile forms are mandatory and should have already been completed by Dec. 1 or when you mare comes into the state if breeding back to a PA stallion or within 14 days of a public sale. 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 in 2025. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Wishing you a fantastic finish to 2024, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Over \$30 million paid out in 2023 to PA-Bred owners and breeders in Breeder Awards, Owner Bonuses and Restricted Races. Go PA!!

Brian Sanfratello
Executive Secretary



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New to Pennsylvania for 2025

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BY ELITE SIRE
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Sometimes it's the last chance to find success that offers the best opportunity. This is true in the case with Dianne Stern's homebred filly Foxy Junior, whose family has been with Stern for three generations.

"I claimed her grandmother Hanalei Bay for \$7,500 (in December 2005)," said Stern. "She went on to be stakes placed, with earnings just over \$200,000. She produced all winners."

In 2010, Stern sent Hanalei Bay to Flatter, which produced Foxy Drummer. This filly showed mild talent in capturing three races, including a maiden special weight at Charles Town in West Virginia. Foxy Drummer went out with a win, although it was not the plan to end there. Unfortunately she bowed a tendon and was retired to become a broodmare.

Stern remembered: "Other than Foxy Junior, her babies never made it as racehorses. I had planned on giving Foxy Drummer away. When I was offered a free breeding to Cuba I gladly accepted it. I intended to keep the baby, who I was sure would be my last racehorse.

"The person getting (Foxy Drummer) as a pleasure horse lived in Pennsylvania. Thus, the baby was born there and registered as a PA-Bred. I liked the bonus system for PA-Breds, so I was happy with the arrangement."

Foxy Junior was born on May 9, 2020. Her sire was the underused warhorse Cuba, a son of the legendary Not For Love. Cuba won 14 of 59 career starts and was a multiple stakes winner and graded stakes-placed while garnering career earnings of \$792,694. Stern noted that from the beginning, Foxy Junior looked like a racehorse just like her mother, who had the build of a Quarter Horse. They even had the same facial markings.

FOXY JUNIOR

PROVES LAST CHANCES ARE POSSIBLE

BY NIKKI SHERMAN

FOXY JUNIOR CONT.

As a juvenile, Foxy Junior's fourth start was the charm. On Dec. 21, 2022, going 6 furlongs at Penn National, Foxy Junior got her first victory by three-quarters of a length in her final race of the year. It is difficult to win as a 2-year-old, let alone in a maiden special weight, so it was a great day for her connections: Stern, trainer Bernie Houghton and jockey Maicol Inirio.

Foxy Junior had earned a winter freshening and returned to the races the following May. The now-sophomore filly was also ready for longer races. She snagged two straight allowance scores in June and July at Penn National, earning a spot in a local stakes race with interesting conditions.

The \$50,000 Fort Indiantown Gap Stakes was open to any filly or mare with a 2023 start at Penn National who had not won a stakes that year. Originally scheduled for the turf, the 1 1/16-mile event was contested on the dirt and featured

several future stakes winners. Foxy Junior was one of that group, but it wasn't yet time for her to become a stakes winner. The top three runners ran 1-2-3 throughout the entire route, with Foxy Junior pressing Perfect Hideaway and Wings of a Song. The trio were just heads apart at the top of the stretch, with the battle continuing. In the end it was just 1 length separating the winner from Foxy Junior in third.

In her eight starts as a 3-year-old, Foxy Junior never finished out of the money. A third victory eluded her after the stakes race and, by December, she was ready for her annual winter vacation. Foxy Junior came back in May this year at the top of her game.

"She won twice as a 3-year-old," Stern said. "Given time off, she's really blossomed as a 4-year-old. Foxy was a May foal, so I think that is why she is so much better (this year). The time off and limited races helped too."

SHOWN WINNING THE
PLUM PRETTY S.
AT PARX
9.21.2024



FOXY JUNIOR CONT.

Winning as a juvenile and then at 3 is hard, but Foxy Junior's 4-year-old campaign is the most impressive. Paired up with new rider Jomar Torres, it was nearly perfect. The duo won six of seven starts, culminating in three straight stakes scores.

Their lone loss was a fourth-place finish in the \$100,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes at Presque Isle Downs in July. It was still a quality race for her resume, as Foxy Junior traveled the farthest of all the competitors since she was stuck four-wide around the far turn. And those competitors were no joke: stakes winners New Hire, Rosie's Alibi and Stern Chaser. It was also over a different surface, the all-weather track.

Prior to the trip north to Erie, Foxy Junior rolled to three straight allowance/optional claiming victories at Penn National. In her 2024 debut, she snuck under the radar and nabbed the optional claimer for a \$25,000 tag, absolutely demolishing her competition by 11½ lengths. After that performance, claiming races were out of the question. She scored those two additional allowance victories in May and July.

Foxy Junior returned to the winner's circle on Pennsylvania Derby Day at Parx Racing in the \$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes, beating five other PA-Bred fillies and mares by 1¾ lengths. One of those she defeated was now-millionaire Morning Matcha.

Based on that performance, Stern and Houghton decided to give the \$100,000 Maryland Million Distaff at Laurel Park a shot. It was a race that had been on their radar, but they did not want to embarrass themselves. Such an emphatic win in the Plum Pretty Stakes convinced them to "go for it" in Stern's home state.

Beforehand, Houghton explained the decision. "We gave her time off in the wintertime like we usually do and for some reason she just came back so good. It all just came together for her this year. She won those allowance races back-to-back and every day she just seemed to get better and better. She's sharp and ready to go."

The race was a cut back to 7 furlongs, which was a bit of a concern for Houghton. It didn't matter: Foxy Junior was sharp indeed, settling just off the pace, yet again overcoming a wide trip, and driving past the first and second choices to score by

three-quarters of a length. To many onlookers, the Maryland Million Distaff was the most impressive race of the day.

The \$100,000 Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes at Laurel Park on Nov. 9 was the finale to her nearly perfect season. Foxy Junior finally got a good trip and was able to sit in a perfect second-place position before making her move around the turn. She drew off under Jomar Torres to win by 2¾ lengths.

And with that, her 4-year-

old season has come to a close. Foxy Junior has earned a much-needed rest at the Houghtons' Sylmar Farm for the winter. Plans are for the mare to begin training again in February for her 2025 campaign. It will be hard to do better than this year, but she has eclipsed so many obstacles that anything is possible.

Stern is glad she kept that last foal out of Foxy Drummer. If Foxy Junior truly is her last racehorse, she will be going out with a bang. In the meantime, "I am enjoying the thrill ride!" ■



MJC PHOTO

Foxy Junior winning the 2024 Maryland Million Distaff Stakes

TRUE NICKS

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1st	Pewter Stable	Honorable Win (Winchill)	5 points
2nd	Barbara Rickline & Gabe Rispo	Reelin N Dealin (Pat On the Back)	3 points
2nd	Roberta L. Schneider MD	Tudox Dahlia (Weigelia)	3 points
3rd	Barbara Reid	Beyondexpectations (Peace and Justice)	2 points
3rd	Barbara A. Rickline	Vivi Rose (Xixixi)	2 points
4th	Warrior's Reward LLC	Au Some Warrior (Warrior's Reward)	1 point
4th	Richard Simoff	Dr. Lou (Wicked Strong)	1 point
4th	Equivine Farm LLC	Roxton (Rowayton)	1 point
4th	Y. Kolybabiuk	Angel of Hope (Warrior's Reward)	1 point
4th	Equivine Farm LLC	Miss Raucus (Boisterous)	1 point
4th	Scott Bunker & Cynthia Bartkowski	Hopeforgreatness (Weigelia)	1 point
4th	Towering Cumulus LLC	Loveumom (Rowayton)	1 point
4th	Dennis Johnson	Carousel Queen (Uptowncharlybrown)	1 point

OUR SHOT

GETS RETRIBUTION AT KEENELAND

BY NIKKI SHERMAN



SHOWN WINNING THE
**GRADE 2
WOODFORD S.**
AT KEENELAND 10.5.2024

PHOTO BY Z

Pennsylvania welcomed its newest graded stakes winner on Oct. 5, 2024: a gleaming chestnut named Our Shot. The 5-year-old gelding shone while catapulting to the lead down Keeneland's stretch during the \$300,000 Woodford Stakes-G2 and flashing under the wire 1¾ lengths ahead of longshot Charcoal, with Arzak another neck back in third. It was a year-long quest for retribution. Arzak had bested Our Shot by those nearly identical 2 lengths in the 2023 rendition of the Woodford Stakes.

Our Shot was bred by Dr. S. Mark Rayburg, who had purchased his dam Fleetheart for \$35,000 14 years ago at the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale. The stakes-placed daughter of Northern Afleet was a five-time winner from 15 career starts. Fleetheart was also a full sister to stakes winner Afleet Angel and a half-sister to stakes winner Guardianofthegate.

"John Mayer, who owns Nursery Place, started my breeding education in earnest," Dr. Rayburg said. "He recommended the purchase of Fleetheart."

The advice came from one of the best in the business. Mayer's family has owned the famed Nursery Place in Lexington, Ky., for more than 200 years, with many graded stakes winners born on that land.

Dr. Rayburg has been in horse racing for a long time as well, over 45 years. In 1982, he joined an uncle and a cousin in breeding his first mares at their farm in Ohio. Soon enough, he was ready to expand on his own. He decided to buy land in Pennsylvania in 1986 and had it ready for horses by 1990. Prior to Our Shot, one of the most successful horses he bred was the Pennsylvania-bred mare Noble Maz, a two-time

OUR SHOT cont.

stakes winner, including the Mr. Jenney Handicap against males. Dr. Rayburg co-bred Noble Maz's dam, Illusive Note (by Dixieland Band), with Nursery Place. Noble Maz produced 2018 Louisiana Derby-G2 winner and Kentucky Derby-G1 starter Noble Indy.

"I currently have seven horses, with two mares that are pregnant this year," he said. "I really like the breeding end of the business but occasionally race. I usually transport my own horses. I am an hour away from Presque Isle Downs where my 3-year-old raced this year."

When it was time to choose a stallion for Fleetheart in 2018, Dr. Rayburg liked the stallion Kantharos, noting the undefeated stallion's proven record for siring "hard-knocking racehorses." Offspring of Kantharos include millionaires XY Jet, World of Trouble and Bay Storm, as well as near-millionaire Bucchero, himself the sire of millionaire Book'em Danno. This year Dr. Rayburg has two Kantharos weanlings on his farm.

Dr. Rayburg sold Our Shot as a yearling at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Eastern Fall Yearling Sale. The Kantharos colt was tied for the sixth highest-priced yearling, selling for \$135,000 to Gatsas Stables, Stephen Schoenfeld and John Terranova II, with the latter becoming the colt's trainer.

Our Shot broke his maiden as a sophomore in his second career start, a 6-furlong \$80,000 maiden special weight on the dirt at Aqueduct by 4½ lengths on Feb. 3, 2022. After a fourth-place finish in his subsequent race, Terranova made the choice that would positively change the trajectory of Our Shot's career: a surface change to the grass. A victory in a 5-furlong turf allowance for 3 and up against 13 others at Pimlico on May 20, 2022, concluded the colt's 3-year-old year, but he would come back with fervor on the new surface. In January 2023, Our Shot began a campaign that would eventually crown him as the year's Pennsylvania-Bred Champion Turf Male. He also had the ultimate equipment



SHOWN WINNING THE
**GRADE 2
WOODFORD S.**
AT KEENELAND 10.5.2024

OUR SHOT cont.

change—he had been gelded during his time off. In eight starts as a 4-year-old, Our Shot finished no worse than fourth, with three victories as well as that second-place finish in the Woodford Stakes, a second in the \$100,000 Get Serious Stakes at Monmouth Park and a third in the \$150,000 Harvey Pack Stakes at Saratoga. All three wins came in allowance races, including one at Keeneland worth nearly \$100,000 and another at Saratoga with a purse of \$125,000.

Still, Our Shot sought that elusive stakes score. It finally came this fall at Keeneland in his second Woodford try. He also found a rider who consistently rode him and that made a world of difference. Prior to the Woodford, Our Shot had been ridden by nine different jockeys in 18 races. Luis Saez was aboard in this year's Woodford after two straight second-place finishes at Saratoga this summer. Saez had the strength to push Our Shot to near-misses in a \$120,000 allowance by a nose and by a head in the \$150,000 Harvey Pack Stakes behind millionaire Big Invasion. Back in April 2023, he had also been the gelding's rider in a 3-length allowance romp at Keeneland.

"We really liked him for this race," Saez noted after the Woodford. "His last two races at Saratoga were a little tricky. We had a lot of trouble (up there), but we couldn't wait to be here today and were pretty comfortable that he was going to do a pretty good race."

Trainer and co-owner John Terranova II had all the praise in the world for Saez and was expecting a solid race by Our Shot. "Luis gave him a fantastic ride. The whole team did a great job. He was coming into this race doing really well. We saw a little something extra

in him this week—just his whole mental attitude and everything since we got here—so we were pretty confident he was going to run a good race; hoping it set up well and he got a good trip."

Terranova was also positive about the gelding's future. "We hope (he's turned a corner after this performance). We think so. These turf sprinters tend to get better with age and with some seasoning."

The horses finishing behind Our Shot in the Woodford certainly emphasized his talent. The other 11 horses in the race boasted 83 career victories and included 2023 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 winner Nobals as well as additional millionaires One Timer and Gear Jockey, the latter a three-time Breeders' Cup contender who finished third in the 2019 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G1. Arzak contested the 2023 and 2024 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprints and is less than \$6,000 from becoming a millionaire too.

Dr. Rayburg was able to take time away from his dental practice and cheered for Our Shot in person on that beautiful fall afternoon at Keeneland. "I got the chance to watch him win the Woodford and was proud that he had been foaled and raised in Pennsylvania. John Mayer texted me 10 seconds after Our Shot crossed the finish line to congratulate us. It was a good day. I am happy to breed in Pennsylvania." ■



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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

SMART HALO S

LRL, \$100,000, 2YOF, 6F, 11-9.

WON - CAPRICE

f, 2, Golden Lad–Grand Folly, by Street Cry (Ire).
Runnymore Racing LLC, B-Gregory and
Caroline Bentley Breeders (PA), T-Cathal A. Lynch,
J-Jaime Rodriguez, \$60,000.

The Cathal Lynch-trained 2-year-old filly Caprice is based at Fair Hill, but Delaware Park was her home track as she launched her career with three wins, including the Blue Hen and Small Wonder Stakes, and was second in the White Clay Creek Stakes in four starts.

With Delaware Park closed for the season, Caprice was shipped to Laurel Park and found the new surroundings to her liking as she rallied to win the \$100,000 Smart Halo Stakes by a half-length over familiar rival Great Andrei.

Bred and campaigned by Gregory and Caroline Bentley's Runnymore Racing, Caprice sat off fast fractions of

:22.63, :45.99 and :58.52 set by race favorite Daze. The second choice at 1.60-1 in the field of seven, Caprice was sent by Jamie Rodriguez after Great Andrei, who took over the lead from a tiring Daze in upper stretch, and wore her down. The final time was 1:11.58 for the 6 furlongs.

With four wins in five starts, the daughter of Maryland sire Golden Lad has earnings of \$211,250. She's been entered in the \$100,000 Maryland Juvenile Filly on Dec. 7 to face a field of Maryland-bred fillies.

Caprice is the third winner from as many foals of racing age for the Street Cry (Ire) mare Grand Folly. Purchased by the Bentleys as a 4-year-old out of the 2017 Keeneland November sale for \$32,000 after making seven starts that season, Grand Folly remained in training, finished off the board in her only start for her new owners the following May, and joined the Bentleys' broodmare band as a winner in 13 starts with earnings of \$45,665.

Grand Folly has a yearling filly by Galawi (Ire) and delivered a colt by Warrior's Reward this past April. ■





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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY S

PRX, \$100,000, 2YO, 7F, 11-27.

WON - CRAB DADDY

g, 2, Uncle Lino–So Innocent, by Blame. O-Brian C. Schartz, B-Brian C. Schartz (PA), T-Linda L. Albert, J-Ruben Silvera, \$60,000.

2ND - THE BOY'S WARRIOR

g, 2, Warrior's Reward–Inciarte, by Broken Vow. O-Warrior's Reward LLC, B-Warrior's Reward LLC (PA), \$20,000.

3RD - BABY DUKES

c, 2, Maximus Mischief–Flatter's Secret, by Flatter. (\$130,000 2023 FTMOCT) O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing, B-Dr. & Mrs. William E. Riddle Jr. (PA), \$10,000.

It seemed a long drive to try to win a first race against the likes of undefeated two-time stakes winner The Boy's Warrior, but owner/breeder Brian C. Schartz and trainer Linda Albert chose the \$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery on Nov. 27 at Parx for Crab Daddy's second start. It proved the perfect spot for the son of Uncle Lino.

Crab Daddy went off the third choice at 12-1 in the field of five – The Boy's Warrior was 2-5, while stakes-placed Baby Dukes, a \$130,000 sales yearling, was 2-1. But all those accomplishments went out the window as the field left the gate in the 7-furlong Nursery.

The Boy's Warrior broke a bit slowly but was hustled up to join the field as they raced in a line the opening 100 yards. Soon the favorite was on top, setting fractions of :22.58 and :45.46, but it wasn't easy as he being pressured. Surprisingly, the first to take him on was Crab Daddy, who in his first start less than three weeks earlier at Laurel didn't show any early speed.

By the half-mile pole Baby Dukes took aim at the leader as Crab Daddy suddenly dropped back. The Boy's Warrior had a short lead over Baby Dukes into the stretch, but the efforts saw him drift away from the rail as they got the 6 furlongs in 1:11.51.

Baby Dukes kept up the battle and headed the leader mid-stretch. As those two slugged it out to the finish, Crab Daddy was being encouraged by Ruben Silvera to the inside. With a wide open path and determined energy, Crab Daddy kept grinding. He made up more than 2 lengths in the stretch to catch the top two and drew off to win by nearly 4 lengths. The Boy's Warrior outdueled Baby Dukes, getting the head bob for second. The final time for the 7 furlongs was 1:25.15.

In his debut on Nov. 9, Crab Daddy rallied to finish second in a 12-horse field at 45-1 after a challenging trip in which he was steadied and had to go six-wide. Based at Laurel with Albert, he had been working steadily since the beginning of October.

The plain bay is the first foal out of \$194,790-earner So Innocent. A daughter of Blame, So Innocent sold to Schartz, with Crab Daddy in utero, for \$8,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale. From two starts, Crab Daddy has earnings of \$68,200.

The 10-year-old So Innocent has since had a 2023 colt by West Coast named Crown Apple and a filly this past March by Take Charge Indy, both PA-breds. She was bred back to Take Charge Indy. ■





Lydia A. Williams



WINCHILL, TAPIT's #1 Son in 2024 Standing in Pennsylvania

PA's Leading 2-Year-Old Sire by Percentage of 2024 Stakes Winners -25% and by Average Earnings per 2YO starter \$25,458



Top PA Sire in 2024, **WINCHILL** is the sire of 2YO \$100,000 Miss Blue Tye S. debut winner **HONORABLE WIN** (\$75,200). Next out 2nd by 1/2 length \$100,000 Finest City S. to a KY sired More Than Ready filly. Stakes Winners **YOU MUST CHILL** (\$603,942) was on the board in 8 of 10 starts and **WINNING TIME** (\$239,060), SW at 2, 7 career starts 3-1-3 to 4, **100 E Speed 11/11/24** allowance win. Other 2024 leaders include: **WORD ON A WING** (\$347,718) won at Parx and on the board in 4 of 6 starts; **TEMPEST RISING** (\$136,052) 3 wins at Parx; 2YO winner by 4 3/4 lengths **VANAKA**; back-to-back 2024 winner **PRINCE OF CHILL**; etc.

WINCHILL

Tapit - Exclusive Hold, by Phone Trick / **2025 Fee: \$3,000 Live Foal**

Special consideration for PA foaling mares
(due when foal stands and nurses)

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[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE](#)

To access the form, please visit our website (pabred.com) and click on the "forms" tab. The form can be accessed under **Broodmare Domicile Report 2025**.

This form should be completed for all mares that are planning to foal out in Pennsylvania in 2025. The form helps PHBA determine the registration eligibility for the resulting foal.

Please note, broodmare domicile reports are required to register the resulting foal with PHBA.

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Special Consideration To Pa Foaling Mares

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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

THIRTY EIGHT GO GO S

LRL, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1 1/16M, 11-9.

WON - FOXY JUNIOR

f, 4, Cuba–Foxy Drummer, by Flatter.
O-Dianne L. Stern, B-Dianne L. Stern (PA),
T-T. Bernard Houghton, J-Jomar Torres, \$60,000.

Foxy Junior's sensational season concluded at Laurel Park on Nov. 9 when Dianne Stern's homebred drew off over seven others in the \$100,000 Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes. The dark bay 4-year-old filly recorded her third stakes win in a row and her sixth win in seven starts for the year.

Conditioned by Bernard Houghton, Foxy Junior covered the 1 1/16 miles under jockey Jomar Torres in 1:44.18. "She was sharp. She came into this race really good," said Houghton after the race. "I was very confident at the three-eighths pole."

Sent off the favorite against a field that included graded winner Foggy Night and multiple stakes winner Malibu Beauty,

Foxy Junior raced about 5 lengths off the early pace set by Malibu Beauty, made her move outside the leader as the pair entered the stretch and took command to win by nearly 3 lengths. Malibu Beauty was clear of stakes winner Kissedbyanangel for second, while Foggy Night was a distant fourth.

The win was Foxy Junior's ninth in 19 starts—three of her wins coming in her four starts at the distance—and it pushed her lifetime earnings to \$332,669, nearly \$250,000 earned this year.

The daughter of the late Maryland sire Cuba won the Maryland Million Distaff in her first start outside Maryland in her previous start on Oct. 12, and captured the Plum Pretty Stakes over PA-Bred fillies and mares on the PA Derby Day card on Sept. 21.

For more on the history of the family of Foxy Junior, see the article about Sterns elsewhere in this PA Thoroughbred Report. ■



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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

SHAMROCK ROSE S

PEN, \$100,000, 2YO, 6F, 11-27.

WON - ICONA MAMA

f, 2, Maximus Mischief–Classe Signora, by Bernstein. (\$75,000 2024 OBSAPR) O-DeSales Eight-Five, B-J. Patrick Morell and Tanya Lobsiger (PA), T-Flint W. Stites, J-Ricardo Chiappe, \$57,600.

2ND - DADOO

f, 2, Maximus Mischief–Bree’s Got Heart, by Colonel John. O-LC Racing LLC, B-LC Racing LLC (PA), \$19,200.

3RD - QUERCUS

f, 2, Tiz the Law–Bellflower, by Cherokee Run. O-Tom Coulter, B-Arrowwood Farm Inc. (PA), \$10,560.

Trainer Flint Stites sent DeSales 85 LLC’s 2-year-old filly Icona Mama out for her debut on July 22 at Presque Isle Downs going 5 furlongs in an open maiden special weight. She came home a 3 ½-length winner. The Penn National-based filly continued her road trip. Next out (August 18) she was in Saratoga for the 5 1/2-furlong Bolton Landing Stakes and finished second (at 29-1).

A trip to Churchill Downs came less than a month later. She finished third of 14 in the 1-mile Grade 3 Pocahontas Stakes (at 31-1), beaten less than a length.

New York was next and the Grade 1 Frizette. No longer double-digit odds, it proved to be the worst performance of her career as she came up empty and finished fifth.

Icona Mama returned home. And she entered the gate for the \$100,000 Shamrock Rose Stakes on Nov. 27 at Penn National as the overwhelming 1-5 favorite. In her fifth start of the year, and first on home soil, she demolished her eight PA-Bred rivals, winning by 9 1/2 lengths while getting 6 furlongs in 1:10.24.

Icona Mama races for Danny Bader, a best-selling author and podcast host who purchased the filly for \$75,000 at this year’s OBS 2-year-old sale in April. She’s the third foal for Classe Signora, claimed by J. Patrick Morell for \$12,500 off a win at Presque Isle in August 2014. A speedy daughter of Bernstein, Classe Signora won 14 races in 49 starts at the claiming and allowance levels, while earning \$284,295. Morell and Tanya Lobsiger are the breeders of Icona Mama, the richest runner from the second crop of Maximus Mischief. With a record of 5-2-1-1, Icona Mama has earnings of \$147,475.

Classe Signora didn’t produce a foal in 2023 after being bred to Cloud Computing. She delivered a colt by Temple City in April and went back to that graded stakes-winning Grade 1 sire. ■



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Elusive Quality - I'll Get Along by Smile
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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

CHOCOLATE TOWN S, PEN, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, 1M, 11-27.

WON - TUDOX OPPORTUNITY

g, 4, Hoppertunity–Distinct Sparkle, by With Distinction.
O-Tudox Farm, B-Roberta L. Schneider MD (PA),
T-Elisha Perez, J-Jomar Torres, \$28,500.

The offspring of Dr. Roberta “Bobbie” Schneider’s broodmare Distinct Sparkle sometime take a bit to reach full potential. Case in point: Tudox Opportunity. The 4-year-old son of Hoppertunity came to the races midway through his 3-year-old season. That was an instant success, as he won his debut by 2 lengths at Penn National that June 30. He didn’t attempt stakes company until his first start this year, getting caught at the wire to finish second in the Fabulous Strike Stakes in May.

He struck paydirt in Penn National’s Chocolate Town Stakes on Nov. 27, becoming the third stakes winner for his dam.

Racing as a homebred for Schneider under the stable name Tudox Farm, Tudox Opportunity was the slight favorite in the 10-horse Chocolate Town field. The bay trained by Elisha Perez broke mid-pack and was sent for the lead by Jomar Torres, as was nearly half the field. It was pretty much anyone’s race until Tudox Opportunity inched away heading into the far turn. Holding his position in front, he opened up by a length and had enough left to hold off longshot Wild Vine at the wire by three-quarters of a length. Final time was 1:37.47 for the mile distance, off fractions of :23.76, :47.25 and 1:11.45.

It was the sixth career victory in 11 starts for Tudox Opportunity, all at Penn National, and boosted his earnings to \$151,740. He is the year-younger half-brother to Heartyconstitution, a daughter of Constitution bred by Schneider and sold as a short-yearling at the Keeneland January sale in 2020 for \$165,000. In October of that year the filly was purchased by Wayne Sanders and Larry Hirsch for \$200,000. She went on to win five of 11 starts, including the 2023 Lyphard Stakes, and placed in two other stakes to earn \$328,580. She was sold at the 2024 Keeneland January sale as a broodmare prospect for \$325,000 and was bred to McKinzie that winter.

The Pennsylvania history of Florida-bred Distinct Sparkle, a daughter of With Distinction, began with a private purchase, for \$23,000, by Pennsylvania-based Morell Bloodstock after walking through the ring at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky’s Winter Mixed sale in February 2019. The then 9-year-old mare, carrying Heartyconstitution at the time, was from a nice family of stakes performers that included Breeders’ Cup Sprint-G1 winner Very Subtle.

Before the move to Pennsylvania, Distinct Sparkle produced graded stakes winner Chateau, one of the top sprinters on the East Coast in 2021 and 2022, winner of the 2021 Grade 3 Tom Fool at Aqueduct, four times graded stakes-placed and an earner of \$831,129, and 12-time winner and \$221,916-earner Dazzle Me.

The mare’s third PA-bred foal is Tudox Farm’s current 2-year-old Tudox Dahlia (by Weigelia), second-place finisher in the Miss Blue Tye Dye Stakes at Parx in September.

Distinct Sparkle delivered a Union Rags colt in May 2023, wasn’t bred for 2024, and returned to Weigelia for 2025. ■



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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY S

PEN, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1M, 11-27.

WON - STASSI

f, 4, Warrior's Reward–Darn Quiet, by Real Quiet.
O-James H. Eshleman, B-Sandra Kim Eshleman (PA),
T-T. Bernard Houghton, J-David Cora, \$29,700.

The Susquehanna Valley Stakes at Penn National the evening of Nov. 27 had competition, drama and a rousing finish. In the race restricted to fillies and mares who had run at the Grantville track in 2024 but had not won a stakes this year, a field of six broke from the gate. Making her stakes debut was Stassi, who had to avoid a riderless Filtered Light (she unseated her rider at the start) while making her move on the far turn, battled favorite Hot Fudge Warrior into the stretch, then was able to hold off Doctor Abbie at the wire to get the victory by a neck. She completed the 1 mile in 1:39.80.

Bred by Sandra Kim Eshleman and racing for James H. Eshleman, the Bernie Houghton-trainee recorded her fifth career victory in her 18th start. She's earned \$167,895, much the hard way while dipping into the claiming ranks. The 4-year-old daughter of Warrior's Reward came into the race off a 6¼-length score for a \$16,000 tag two and a half weeks earlier at Penn, her only other start at 1 mile.

Stassi is the second foal out of the PA-bred Real Quiet mare Darn Quiet. A winner of \$224,177, Darn Quiet also did it the hard way. Racing primarily at Penn National and Parx, she made 47 starts over four seasons, never in stakes company, while winning or placing 22 times.

Retired as a broodmare in 2017, Darn Quiet didn't produce a foal after being bred to Jump Start. To the cover of Uncle Lino, she delivered the filly Union Folly in 2019. A stablemate to Stassi, Union Folly won three races at 3 and 4.

Unraced at 2, Stassi was a maiden special weight and allowance winner at 3 during a season where she never finished worse than fourth in nine starts. She began 2024 on a high note, taking a 6-furlong allowance at Penn National in January, but in her next six starts failed to find the winner's circle until the November claimer.

Stassi becomes the 33rd stakes winner for the pensioned Warrior's Reward, who is now a resident at Old Friends in Kentucky. The former WynOaks Farm stallion stood his final season this year, when he covered 10 mares, before the decision was made to retire him.

Darn Quiet hadn't produced another foal since Stassi until this year, when she delivered a filly by Brody's Cause, named Lady Cabernet, for the Eshlemans in March. ■



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PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

STEEL VALLEY SPRINT S

MVR, \$300,000, 3YO, 6F, 11-25.

2ND - MAXIMUS MERIDIUS

g, 3, Maximus Mischief–Quiet Virtue, by Quiet American.
O-LC Racing, Cash is King LLC and Wellesley Stable,
B-Westerly Farm (PA), \$58,800.

CORNUCOPIA S

PRX, \$75,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 6½F, 11-27.

2ND - CONFIRMED STAR

f, 4, Uptowncharlybrown–Its My Town, by Cowtown Cat.
(\$32,000 2022 FTMMAY) O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC,
B-Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC (PA), \$15,000.

LET'S GIVE THANKS S,

PRX, \$75,000, 3YO/UP, 6½F, 11-27.

2ND - ONE MORE SCOOP

g, 5, Uncle Lino–Single Scoop, by Scrimshaw.
O-Shooting Star Stable, B-Michael Anspach (PA), \$14,600.

CHOCOLATE TOWN S

PEN, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, 1M, 11-27.

2ND - WILD VINE

g, 5, Red Vine–Praslin, by Even the Score.
O-Short Straw Stable, B-R R Equine Stables LLC (PA), \$9,500.

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY S

PEN, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1M, 11-27.

2ND - DOCTOR ABBIE

f, 4, Sky Kingdom–La Estrellita, by Crypto Star.
O-Brian C. Scharz, B-Brian C. Scharz (PA), \$9,900.

AQUEDUCT TURF SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP S

AQU, \$150,000, 3YO/UP, 6F, 11-9.

3RD - JEAN VALJEAN

g, 5, Uncle Lino–Lady's Tale, by Tale of the Cat.
O-Martha Nevins and Michael Pawasarat,
B-Hasting Farm (PA), \$18,000.

HOLLYWOOD GAMING MAHONING DISTAFF S

MVR, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 6F, 11-25.

3RD - DISCO EBO

m, 5, Weigelia–Katarica Disco, by Disco Rico.
(\$52,000 2020 FTMOCT) O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC,
B-St. Omer's Farm (PA), \$9,700.

LET'S GIVE THANKS S

PRX, \$75,000, 3YO/UP, 6½F, 11-27.

3RD - CAPO

g, 3, Peace and Justice–Seven Dreams, by Majestic Warrior.
O-Jacinto Solis, B-A1A Racing (PA), \$7,300.

TURKEY TROT S

PRX, \$75,000, 3YO/UP, 1M 70Y, 11-27.

3RD - NINETYPERCENTMADDIE

g, 4, Weigelia–Amblin Easy, by Private Interview.
O-LC Racing LLC, B-LC Racing LLC (PA), \$7,300.

CHOCOLATE TOWN S

PEN, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, 1M, 11-27.

3RD - MARKET MAVEN

g, 6, Super Ninety Nine–My Sonata, by Noble Causeway.
O-Gregory A. Gordon, B-Gregory Gordon (PA), \$5,225.

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY S

PEN, \$50,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1M, 11-27.

3RD - SWAN POINT

m, 6, Oxbow–Fleet Special, by Afleet Alex.
(\$15,000 2019 FTMOCT) O-Naku Kan Wayra,
B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA), \$5,445.



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**PA-BRED STAKES &
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2024 PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE



Monday, April 22 **\$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 7 furlongs
\$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 7 furlongs



Friday, May 31 **\$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES** 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf
\$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf



Monday, June 24 **\$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES** 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf
\$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 5 furlongs, turf



Monday, July 8 **\$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES** 3YO fillies, 6 1/2 furlongs



Monday, July 22 **\$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES** 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards



Monday, July 29 **\$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES** 3 & up, f&m, 1 mile 70 yards



\$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf
\$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf
\$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards
\$100,000 JUMP START STAKES 3 & up, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs



Saturday, Sept. 21 **\$100,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf
\$100,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 1 mile 70 yards
2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS:
\$100,000 WHISTLE PIG STAKES 2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs
\$100,000 MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES 2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs



Monday, Oct. 14 **\$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs



Monday, Oct. 21 **\$100,000 MARK McDERMOTT STAKES** 2YO, 6 furlongs



Wednesday, Nov. 27 **\$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs



Wednesday, Nov. 27 **\$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES** 2YO, 7 furlongs



Monday, Dec. 30 2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS:
\$100,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES 2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs
\$100,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES 2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs



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PA-BRED STAKES RESULTS

PARX RACING
Monday, April 22

\$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP 3 & up, 7 furlongs

1ST - FAR MO POWER
2ND - NINETYPRCENTMADDIE
3RD - UNCLE ERNIE

\$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 7 furlongs

1ST - MORNING MATCHA
2ND - DOCTOR ABBIE
3RD - WARRIOR'S RANSOM

PENN NATIONAL
Friday, May 31

\$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf

1ST - STERN CHASER
2ND - LADY OUTFOTHE BLUE
3RD - PRINCESS JAVONCIA

\$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf

1ST - FIERCE AND STRONG
2ND - CRISPER
3RD - A WESTERN YARN

PARX RACING
Monday, June 24

\$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf

1ST - DONTLOOKBACKATALL
2ND - ORGANIZED CHAOS
3RD - EIGHT DANZAS

\$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES 3 & up, f&m, 5 furlongs, turf

1ST - TREVESSO
2ND - CAPO
3RD - MAX BARLEY

PA-BRED STAKES RESULTS

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, July 8

\$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES

3YO f, 6 1/2 furlongs

1ST - GREAVETTE
2ND - CARMELINA
3RD - FLAMINGO WAY

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, July 22

\$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES

3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards

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

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, July 29

\$100,000 PRINCESS SYLMAR STAKES

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

1ST - ROSIE'S ALIBI
2ND - NEW HIRE
3RD - GENEVIEVE'S Z VA

MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP

3 & up, 5 furlongs, off turf

1ST - SMOOTH B
2ND - TRADERS LUCK
3RD - KEITHSENDSHELLOOOO

JUMP START STAKES

3 & up, PA-Sire PA-bred,
7 furlongs

1ST - GORDIAN KNOT
2ND - CAPO
3RD - VEESON

PARX RACING
Monday, August 26

STORM CAT STAKES

3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards

1ST - IRISH CORK
2ND - MARGIN OF AIR
3RD - MARKET MAVEN

MRS. PENNY STAKES

3 & up, f&m, 11/16 miles, off turf

1ST - MORNING MATCHA
2ND - MIA TOSCA
3RD - NATURE'S CANDY

PA-BRED STAKES RESULTS

ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP

3 & up, 1¹/₁₆ miles, turf

1ST - CRISPER
2ND - FIERCE AND STRONG
3RD - MARGIN OF AIR

WHISTLE PIG STAKES

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

1ST - THE BOY'S WARRIOR
2ND - REELIN N DEALIN
3RD - BEYONDEXPECTATIONS

MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES

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

1ST - HONORABLE WIN
2ND - TUDOX DAHLIA
3RD - VIVI ROSE

PLUM PRETTY STAKES

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

1ST - FOXY JUNIOR
2ND - PACHELBEL
3RD - CONFIRMED STAR

FINEST CITY STAKES

2YO fillies, 6 furlongs

1ST - DIXIELAND BELLE
2ND - HONORABLE WIN
3RD - BOUJIE BETZ

MARK McDERMOTT STAKES

2YO, 6 furlongs

1ST - THE BOY'S WARRIOR
2ND - BALLAD OF WARRIOR
3RD - MISSION FIRST

PARX RACING
Saturday, Sept. 21

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, Oct. 14

PRESQUE ISLE
Monday, Oct. 21

PA-BRED STAKES RESULTS

\$100,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES 2YO, 7 furlongs

1ST - CRAB DADDY

2ND - THE BOY'S WARRIOR

3RD - BABY DUKES

PARX RACING

Wednesday, Nov. 27

\$100,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES

2YO fillies, 6 furlongs

1ST - ICONA MAMA

2ND - DADOO

3RD - QUERCUS

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<https://www.presqueisledowns.com>



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
<https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>