

I'M VERY BUSY

SHOWN WINNING THE
GRADE 2
MUNIZ MEMORIAL
CLASSIC
AT FAIR GROUNDS



HODGE PHOTO

IN THIS ISSUE

I'M VERY BUSY GIVING BREEDERS AN INCREDIBLE RIDE
THE ENDURING LEGACY OF BILL BRADY



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Good Luck this Derby Saturday to I'm Very Busy, bred jointly by Glenn Brok and Mark Toothaker, in the \$1,000,000 Grade 1 Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic at Churchill Downs. He's just off a fantastic finish in the Grade 2 Muniz Memorial Classic, so cross your fingers. Also, a shout out to the Blackstone Farm-bred Roses for Debra, who came from off the pace to win the Grade 3 Giant's Causeway Stakes at Keeneland on April 13 going away! This was her first outing in 2024 and she did not disappoint. Next out could be the Grade 2 Intercontinental Stakes or the Grade 1 Jaipur against the boys on Belmont Stakes weekend in Saratoga.



Don't wait to become part of the action, go to pabred.com and view the 2024 Stallion Directory. While you're there, check out the new stallions standing in 2024. Breed to a PA stallion and receive 40% in Breeder Awards, up to 40% in Owner Bonuses, eligibility for the PA-Sired, PA-Bred Series, and hundreds of Restricted Races. Wow! The PA-Sired PA-Bred series has been expanded for foals of 2022 to include 3yos. The nomination fee is now \$1,000, for those who have purchased 2yos, through June 30. Replacing the trainer bonus this year will be 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.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. 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.

All broodmare domicile forms should have already been entered online for the 2024 foaling season, except for public sales and breed backs. Please submit your form when your mare enters the state. These domicile reports are MANDATORY and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Go PA!!

Brian Sanfratello
Executive Secretary

IN THIS ISSUE

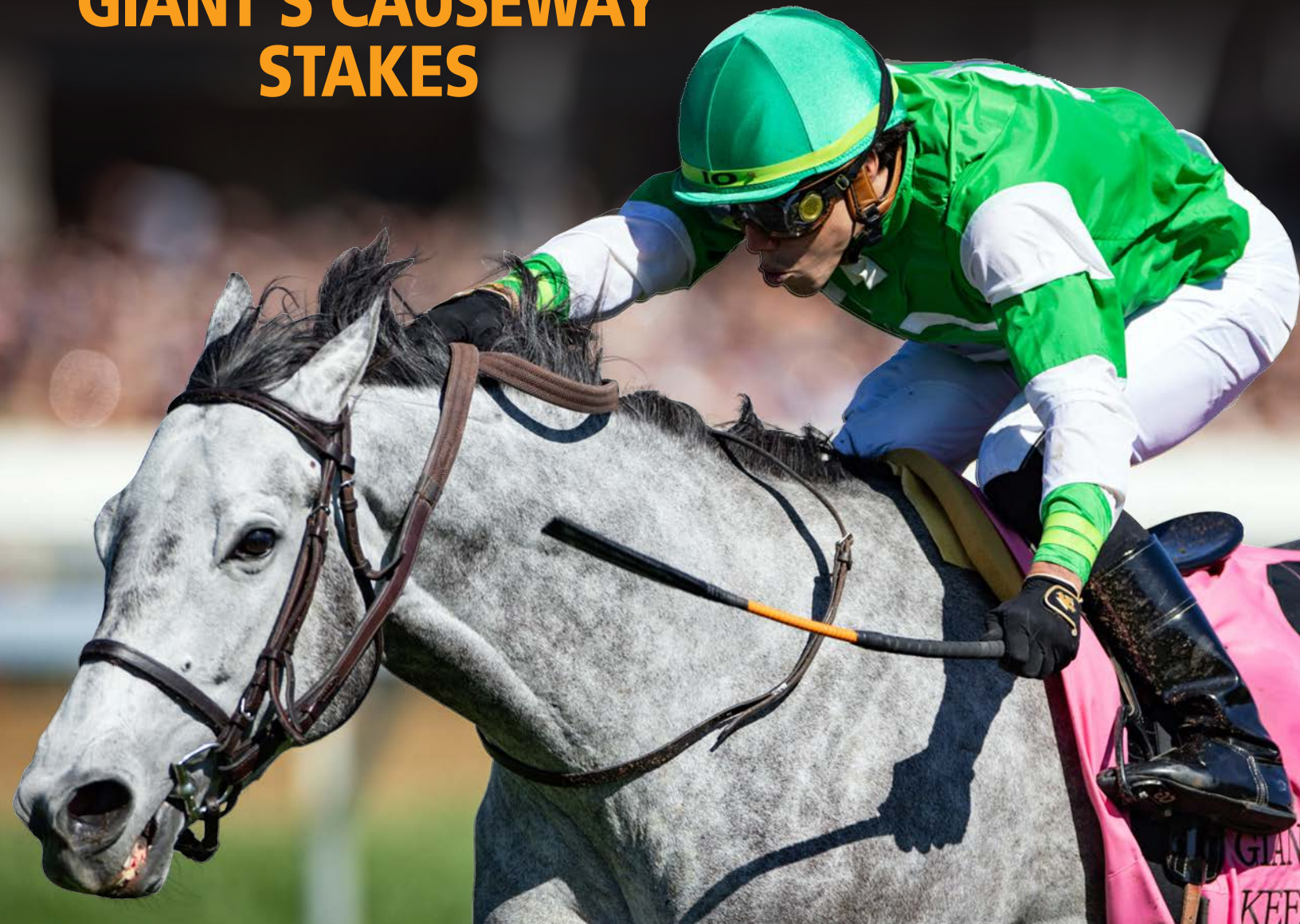
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Well Done!

GRADE 3 WINNER

OF KEENELAND'S
**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY
STAKES**

PA-BRED
ROSES
FOR
DEBRA



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HORSE BREEDERS
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WITH CAREER EARNINGS OF \$579,868.00**

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ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE PHOTO

I'M VERY BUSY

MSW WINNER AT
SARATOGA

BY NIKKI SHERMAN

GIVING BREEDERS AN INCREDIBLE RIDE

What happens when co-breeding a foal with the winner of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association's Lifetime Achievement Award? Well, there's a solid chance that the resulting Pennsylvania-Bred will have serious talent on the racetrack. Cue the partnership of Glenn Brok with Mark Toothaker, the latter being the Stallion Sales Manager of the legendary Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky, and that good chance becomes an even more exciting prospect. The duo first met over a decade ago when Toothaker moved to Kentucky with his family.

"We knew each other from the industry," Brok noted. "We kept showing up at the same venues. Mark was interested in getting horses into our state-bred program so he sent up some mares to foal with us. He's a great partner and a really good guy."

Toothaker agreed. "Glenn and I partnered for at least a half dozen years on some mares. He was in a great location with such a good breeders' program. Pennsylvania was a great spot for some of my mares; you could ship in before the end of the year and get qualified for the program."

In November 2019, Brok and his wife Becky traveled to Kentucky and met with Toothaker at Spendthrift to chat. They ended up looking at some of the broodmares out in the paddocks to see if any of them fit their type of breeding partnership. That's when Toothaker pointed out a well-bred 18-year-old mare named Two Kisses, a half-sister to Eclipse Award winner and 1998 Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 champion Answer Lively.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

"When I originally got Two Kisses, Martha Jane Mulholland had reached out to me since her owner wanted to move her along," Toothaker said. "I looked her up and her entire family was a John Franks masterpiece. I had to have her. I was able to sell her foal by Can the Man (at the 2018 Keeneland September Yearling sale) and he earned six figures. That year I loved one of our Spendthrift stallions, Cloud Computing, who was a first-year horse that I was very excited about. I bred two mares to him including Two Kisses, and both foals have been very successful."

Brok remembers that November 2019 day well. "Usually Becky wasn't able to leave (our PA farm) but she came with me for that trip. So, we're out there in this field of 20 or 30 mares and Mark showed us Two Kisses, who was an older mare but was from the old Roberto line through Kris S. Now Becky always scolds me for getting old mares, but this time when I turned to her she immediately said, 'I like that mare, we're taking her.' "

Shortly thereafter, Two Kisses shipped up to Diamond B Farm in Mohrsville and in the spring had an easy foaling, producing a handsome bay colt. That son of Cloud Computing would grow up to become graded stakes winner I'm Very Busy, who is currently entered in the \$1,000,000 Grade 1 Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic Stakes on Kentucky Derby Day at Churchill Downs.

But before Saturday's big race, I'm Very Busy needed to find his way into the hands of racing owners. While Diamond B Farm was in operation, the Broks held an annual Open House to showcase their PA-Bred yearlings, allowing local Pennsylvania owners and trainers onto the property to examine and purchase the yearlings. The goal was that the PA-Breds would stay in the state so that Brok would receive breeders' awards. However, he kept I'm Very Busy aside that year.

"I thought he was a nicer colt and that he would do better at public auction," Brok said. "He just didn't come around

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

LIFETIME EARNINGS OF \$590,450

ALLOWANCE WINNER AT
AQUEDUCT



so I sent him to my daughter Sarah and her husband Carlos, where they took him to KESMARC (Kentucky Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center) in Kentucky and swam him, really tucking him up nicely. We put him in the yearling sale at Timonium and James Layden bought him for \$50,000.”

Layden is a well-known pinhooker so it was not surprising when I'm Very Busy showed up at the Ocala Breeders' Sales March Two-Year-Olds in Training auction. Lauren Carlisle purchased him for \$135,000 on behalf of current owners Team Hanley, Richard Schermerhorn and Paul Braverman, who in turn sent the colt to trainer Chad Brown in New York.

I'm Very Busy debuted at Saratoga Race Course on Aug. 13, 2022 in a \$100,000 maiden special weight on the turf. Brok just happened to be in attendance that afternoon and watched in awe as the colt, ridden by Flavien Prat, “blew past (all foes) and pulled clear” by 3 3/4 lengths, according to the official Equibase chart. Brok was still reeling from that performance when he ran across friend and jockey Jose Ortiz in the paddock for the next race.

“He was telling me all about my horse with crazy details, all excited. I said to him, ‘You didn’t even ride the horse! How do you know this?’ He just said, ‘We pay attention.’ That meant something coming from him.”

In his next start, I'm Very Busy finished second in the \$200,000 Grade 2 Pilgrim Stakes at Belmont at The Big A going 1 1/16 miles, earning a berth in the 2022 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf-G1 at Keeneland. Both Toothaker and Brok were thrilled to attend after receiving tickets for being the breeders of the PA-Bred. Unfortunately, I'm Very Busy had a rough trip and finished 10th of 14 entrants.

The colt didn't return to the races until July 2023 at Saratoga, where he started twice, improving with each race. I'm Very Busy finally re-entered the winner's circle on Oct. 4 after a \$100,000 allowance going 1 mile at Belmont at The Big A.

He did it in style, drawing away to win by 4 1/2 lengths as the favorite in the 10-horse field. In his next start, the \$250,000 Grade 2 Hill Prince Stakes at Aqueduct on Nov. 18, he closed to be second. I'm Very Busy was growing and learning with each and every start. The future looked bright.

It was then that his connections knew where they wanted I'm Very Busy to race next: the prestigious \$1,000,000 Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational-G1 at Gulfstream Park in late January. It would be his first start of 2024. Ironically, Irad Ortiz Jr. was named to ride the horse; Jose Ortiz, who had talked to Glenn Brok after I'm Very Busy broke his maiden, is Irad's brother. The stretch run was an absolute thriller as I'm Very Busy passed horses like they were standing still. The only one remaining was the sensational filly from Europe, Warm Heart (IRE). I'm Very Busy surged in the final strides but was ultimately second by a half-length. The final time of 1:44.45 broke a 17-year-old track record, previously held by superstar English Channel.

Most recently, I'm Very Busy finally notched his first stakes victory in the \$300,000 Grade 2 Muniz Memorial Classic Stakes at the Fair Grounds on March 23. As the obvious favorite following the Pegasus, he ran the perfect race from start to finish, eventually coasting under the wire 3 3/4 lengths ahead of any competition.

**MULTIPLE
GRADED
STAKES
PLACED SON
OF PA SIRE**

**CLOUD
COMPUTING**

“We were at the Pegasus World Cup this year and he would have won if he didn't get blocked in the turn,” said Brok. “He's one of the best we've ever bred; he and The Man, who won seven in a row. We've been blessed to be around so many good, useful, talented horses. We've had a really great run. To run in the Breeders' Cup and at Saratoga...wow!”

Mark Toothaker agreed, stating, “It's been a fun ride, and certainly can be more fun with a Grade 1 win on Derby Day. I've been fortunate to be around a lot of great horses, but this one is extra special with being a co-breeder.” ■



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SUMMARY JUDGMENT - won 4/17 at Parx

CORONA CAMPIONE - won 3/19 at Parx

LIKE A SALTSHAKER - won 3/15 at Turfway

PEACEFULPERSUASION - won 3/13 at Mahoning

DIESEL - won 3/6 at Parx

BRONX TALE - won 3/6 at Penn National

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from starters.

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from starters.

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per start lifetime.

Average earnings
per starter of
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(Nearly 12x Stud Fee)

*LIFETIME STATS AS OF 04/26/2024



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2023 IROQUOIS AWARD CHAMPION FINALISTS

This year's Iroquois Awards will be held on Friday, May 10 at the Inn at Mendenhall in Chadds Ford PA.

Congratulations to all of our Pennsylvania-bred finalists!

HORSE OF THE YEAR

ANGEL OF EMPIRE

Forgotten Land Investment Inc and
Black Diamond Equine Corp

NEECIE MARIE

Jon A. Marshall

ROSES FOR DEBRA

Blackstone Farm LLC

CARAVEL

Elizabeth Merryman

NIMITZ CLASS

Arrowwood Farm

TWISTED RIDE

Kasey K Racing Stable

ARMONY'S ANGEL

Dam of Angel of Empire

BROODMARE OF THE YEAR

HOME ICE

Dam of Morning Matcha

DIVA'S GOLD

Dam of Twisted Ride

FIVE DIAMONDS

Dam of Nimitz Class

KATARICA DISCO

Dam of Disco Ebo, Fore Harp & Smooth B

ESSENTIAL ROSE

Dam of Roses for Debra

ZEEZEE ZOOMZOOM

Dam of Caravel & Witty

2YO FILLY

AOIFE'S MAGIC

Mohns Hill Farm LLC

2YO COLT

CAPO

A1A Racing

OLDER FEMALE

CARAVEL

Elizabeth Merryman

OLDER MALE

NIMITZ CLASS

Arrowwood Farm

CARMELINA

Lilith Boucher

DRUM ROLL PLEASE

Barlar LLC

DISCO EBO

St Omer's Farm

OUR SHOT

Dr. S. Mark Rayburg Inc

DANCING SPIRIT

Glenn E. Brok LLC

GOING UP

Tammy Klimasewski and
Robert Klimasewski

MORNING MATCHA

Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC

TWISTED RIDE

Kasey K Racing Stable

GREAVETTE

Heart Hill Farm

NOTICE OF ACTION

Bryan Minnich

ROSES FOR DEBRA

Blackstone Farm LLC

WITTY

Elizabeth Merryman

UNCLE HEAVY

Barbara Reid

3YO FILLY

CAPTAIN COURTNEY

Wesley R. Bennett

3YO COLT

ANGEL OF EMPIRE

Forgotten Land Investment Inc
and Black Diamond Equine Corp

FEMALE SPRINTER

CARMELINA

Lilith Boucher

MALE SPRINT

GORDIAN KNOT

Mr and Mrs Joe Imbesi

LATE FROST

Gregory and Caroline Bentley

GORDIAN KNOT

Mr and Mrs Joe Imbesi

CARAVEL

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Jon A. Marshall

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Forgotten Land Investment Inc

LATE FROST

Gregory and Caroline Bentley

TWISTED RIDE

Kasey K Racing Stable

TAPPIN JOSIE

Charles Blanford

NINETYPRCENTMADDIE

LC Racing LLC

ROSES FOR DEBRA

Blackstone Farm LLC

WITTY

Elizabeth Merryman

WARRIOR'S RANSOM

Warrior's Reward LLC

PA PREFERRED FEMALE

AOIFE'S MAGIC

Mohns Hill Farm LLC

PA PREFERRED MALE

BEREN

Susan C. Quick & Christopher Feifarek

TURF FEMALE

CARAVEL

Elizabeth Merryman

TURF MALE

BUY LAND AND SEE

Joseph Imbesi

DISCO EBO

St Omers Farm

GORDIAN KNOT

Mr and Mrs. Joe Imbesi

HEARTY CONSTITUTION

Roberta L. Schneider MD

OUR SHOT

Dr. S. Mark Rayburg Inc

HEY MAMALUKE

Joe Capriglione

NINETYPRCENTMADDIE

LC Racing LLC

NEECIE MARIE

Jon A. Marshall

WITTY

Elizabeth Merryman

SOCIAL SUCCESS

Shirley Lojeski

NOTICE OF ACTION

Bryan Minnach

ROSES FOR DEBRA

Blackstone Farm LLC

YOU MUST CHILL

Mark Grier



The Enduring Legacy of **BILL BRADY**

BY NIKKI SHERMAN

When All American Rod roared to a 3 1/4-length victory at 35-1 in his career debut Feb. 6 at Parx Racing, emotions surged as his connections celebrated the upset win. There were many reasons why, with the most obvious being that it was the first career win for new owners Stephanie and Mike Yekenchik, who race under the name Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable. But behind the scenes, everyone involved with the 3-year-old Rimrod gelding was remembering All American Rod's breeder, William "Bill" Brady of R H Breeding.

Brady had been a longtime fixture in the lives of Castle Rock Farm owner Peter Giangliulo and manager June Hillman, as well as trainer Dee Curry. When he passed unexpectedly in July 2023, it hit his family and friends hard. He left behind his wife of 58 years, Kathleen, as well as sons Michael, Mark and Brian, and eight grandchildren. That's without even mentioning his large but close extended family, a rarity in today's age.

ALL AMERICAN ROD
ALLOWANCE WINNER
AT PARX 3-6-24



ALL AMERICAN ROD

MSW WINNER AT PARX 2-6-24



BARBARA WEIDL/EQUIPHOTO

Bill threw himself into everything he loved, including playing golf, volunteering, cheering on all of "his" Philadelphia sports teams (especially the Flyers and Phillies), and perhaps most importantly, his love of horse racing. Brady's family made sure to include his membership in the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association in his obituary.

Brady had several broodmares at Castle Rock Farm and a few racehorses with Curry. His family wasn't sure how to handle his beloved horses, so they raced one horse under The Estate of William P. Brady. Whatsagizmo won one week after Brady passed away, and Curry was in tears in the winner's circle. She specifically asked if the track photographers in the Equi-Photo office could add a notation to the top of the win photo: "It was an Honor to Give You One More Win."

While Brady's family was happy that his homebred had won a race, the reminder of their recent loss became too painful and they made the difficult decision to disperse his horses. That was when Hillman and Curry leapt into action. They were able to find homes for all of his horses, either for permanent retirement or new broodmare/racing owners.

Curry was looking for potential buyers of the youngsters and

racehorses when she spoke to longtime jockey agent Dave Yannuzzi. He suggested reaching out to his daughter Stephanie Yekenchik, who, along with her husband Mike, ran two farms: a horse boarding stable called The Jennings Farm and an animal/produce farm named Medford Cattle Farms.

"The thing is, I wanted nothing to do with racing," Yekenchik admitted. "My dad was an agent before he retired and my grandfather [Joe Yannuzzi] was a trainer. I didn't have a high opinion of racing and was way more into show horses."

One of Yekenchik's concerns was for the welfare of the racehorses, especially when they finished racing. However, Curry has had a hand in Thoroughbred aftercare for a long time and reassured her that there was no need to worry.

"I told Stephanie that we always find homes for the horses when they're ready," Curry explained. "Parx has the Turning for Home program or we could rehome them ourselves. That seemed to ease her mind."

One day in church, Stephanie's husband Mike read a Bible verse and it instantly made him think of horses racing. Isaiah 40:31 states, "They who wait for the Lord shall renew

their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." The couple knew they had found a name for their racing entity: Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable.

Hillman absolutely loved the name. "Bill was a man of faith so the Bible reference in their stable name is significant."

All American Rod's career debut on that fateful Parx afternoon in February was Isaiah 4031 Racing Stable's fourth as an owner, coming a few weeks after just missing a win with another horse from Brady's breeding legacy, the Rimrod gelding Dropline.

"Never in a million years did I think he was going to win," Yekenchik posted on her Facebook page, and then added later, "He's just so gritty!"

Curry found herself feeling the power and presence of Bill Brady that day. All American Rod is a half-brother to Whatsagizmo. Hillman felt it in her heart as well.

"I know Dee talks about it all the time," she said. "I truly believe he is looking down on the horses and maybe has a hand in the success they have had since his passing. We are all so proud that we were able to keep so many of them on the same path they would have been on if he was still alive. We feel like it is fate."

Less than three weeks later, Dropline strongly drew away to a

5 1/2-length Parx maiden special weight victory.

And then on March 6, All American Rod ran against older, more experienced horses in an allowance at Parx. Again a longshot, he ran his heart out and won by a length at 18-1.

The Yekenchiks were rendered speechless; they had been prepared for the race to be a learning experience, not a win.

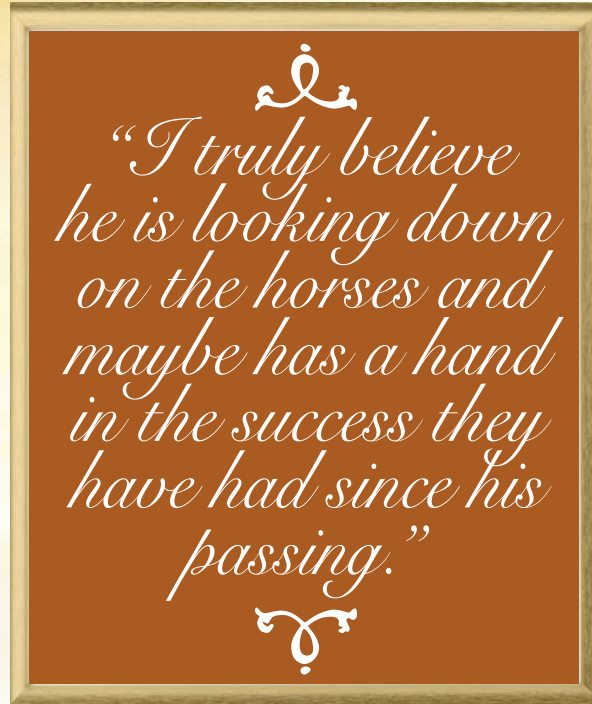
"For some reason, there haven't been any races in the condition book for straight 3-year-olds," Curry lamented. "I thought we had no chance but there were no other options so we decided to give it a shot. Look at his birth date - May 13th - he's still biologically a 2-year-old!"

Then Curry realized something special. Brady's last wins with her as trainer under his own R H Breeding name had been with Late to the Show almost exactly two years prior, on March 15, 2022, and Ninja Prize, on March 21, 2023. She knew at that moment,

it was Bill watching from above.

Hillman misses Brady but enjoys caring for his broodmares that are still at Castle Rock Farm. His family even gifted her ownership of a Rimrod mare named Lemon Strudel.

"I am truly honored to have known Bill Brady," she said. "He was the kindest man. I was always happy to see him and he was the type of owner we need more of in racing. I feel a great sense of peace from helping to be a part of continuing his legacy with his horses." ■



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APRIL OBS TWO-YEAR-OLD IN TRAINING RESULTS

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Sire	Dam	Dam Sire	Breeder	Consignor	Purchaser	Price
324	5/8/22	DB/BR	F	More Than Ready	Midnight Bliss	Midnight Lute	Blackstone Farm LLC	Randy Miles, Agent V	Calumet Farm	100,000
402	3/4/22	B	C	Instagrand	Nancy G.	Fusaichi Pegasus	John R. Penn	Cruzin' Tbreeds LLC, Agent	John Fanelli	85,000
555	3/30/22	DB/BR	F	Global Campaign	Rutherford Rd	First Samurai	Blackstone Farm LLC	Best A Luck Farm LLC, Agent	Eclipse Tbred Partners	250,000
702	2/8/22	B	C	Rowayton	Streak of Kitten	Kitten's Joy	Whiskey Run Stables LLC	Hoppel LLC, Agent XXI	Bouesly Group, Nabil Erian, Agent	25,000
919	4/5/22	DB/BR	C	Bolt d'Oro	Amber Grace	Elusive Quality	Blackstone Farm LLC	Wavertree Stables, Inc., Agent	Pewter Stable	20,000
937	3/2/22	B	C	Tapiture	Arched	Arch	Best Foot Forward Holdings Inc.	Best A Luck Farm LLC, Agent	Pedro Lanz, agent	130,000
1015	3/15/22	DB/BR	F	Rowayton	Bonnie K	Majestic Warrior	Towering Cumulus LLC	Triple C Sales	not sold	27,000
1083	3/18/22	B	F	Maximus Mischief	Classe Signora	Bernstein	J. Patrick Morrell & Tanya Lobsiger	Grassroots Training & Sales LLC, Agent	Taproot for DeSales 85 LLC	75,000
1194	3/1/22	DB/BR	F	American Pharoah	Essential Rose	Bernardini	Blackstone Farm LLC	Six K's Training & Sales LLC, Agent	Gatsas Stables	190,000

MIDLANTIC MAY TWO-YEAR-OLD IN TRAINING — MAY 20-21

Hip	DOB	Color	Sex	Sire	Dam	Dam Sire	Breeder	Consignor
28	3/15/22	B	C	Lookin At Lucky	Five Diamonds	Flatter	Arrowwood Farm	Niall Brennan Stables, Agent
37	5/18/22	CH	C	Pat On the Back	Fringe Benefits	Cape Blanco (IRE)	Barbara Rickline & Gabe Rispo	Kings Equine, Agent
155	2/8/22	B	F	Justify	Mahkama	Bernardini	Blackstone Farm LLC	Paul Sharp, Agent
290	2/11/22	CH	F	Improbable	Seanchai	English Channel	Blackstone Farm LLC	Randy Miles, Agent
317	5/16/22	DKB	F	Honor A. P.	Softly Lit	Latent Heat	Blackstone Farm LLC	Parrish Farms Inc., Agent
337	3/24/22	B	F	Bolt d'Oro	Summer's Ready	More Than Ready	Blackstone Farm LLC	De Meric Sales, Agent
345	3/22/22	CH	F	More Than Ready	Sweet Promises	Bernardini	Blackstone Farm LLC	Crane Thoroughbred Services, Agent
354	4/8/22	CH	F	Solomini	Tease	Crowd Pleaser	EQB Inc.	Randy Miles, Agent
406	4/16/22	B	C	Street Magician	Who's In Love	Not For Love	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	Fast Horses, Agent
486	3/15/22	GRR	F	Caravaggio	Brush Up	Broken Vow	Forgotten Land Investment Inc	James Layden, Agent
514	2/16/22	DKB	C	Enticed	Cherokee Sky	Sky Mesa	Horseshoe Valley Equine Center LLC	Grassroots Training And Sales LLC



UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN 1st PA STALLION EVER TO SWEEP TRIPLE CROWN

Leading Stallions 2023	
Sire	Stallion Awards
Uptowncharlybrown	\$236,389
Weigelia	\$199,145
Warrior's Reward	\$161,368
Jump Start	\$141,735
Social Inclusion	\$133,512

Leading Breeder 2023	
Name	Breeder Awards
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	\$632,476*
Warriors Reward	\$515,339
Glenn E Brok LLC	\$359,839
Steven W Young Racing LLC	\$332,507
Blackstone Farm LLC	\$297,773
* NEW RECORD SET BY UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN STUD	

Leading Breeder and Stallion Awards 2023	
Name	Breeder and Stallion Awards
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	\$868,865*
Warriors Reward	\$676,707
Glenn E Brok LLC	\$492,485
Steven W Young Racing LLC	\$450,665
Northview StallionStation Inc	\$420,396
* NEW RECORD SET BY UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN STUD	



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Blackstone Farm, 116 Long Stretch Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY S-G3

KEE, \$250,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 5 1/2FT, 4-13.

WON - ROSES FOR DEBRA

m, 5, Liam's Map–Essential Rose, by Bernardini.

(\$120,000 2020 KEEJAN, \$25,000 2020 KEESEP)

O-Cheyenne Stable LLC and John O'Meara,

B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA), T-Christophe Clement,

J-Irad Ortiz Jr., \$141,438.

Just when one gray turf-loving PA-Bred speedster retires, another grabs the baton. Roses for Debra returned on April 13 at Keeneland for her first start since November and faced 11 rivals in the Grade 3 Giant's Causeway Stakes. With regular rider Irad Ortiz aboard, the 8-5 favorite tucked in along the rail, about 4 lengths off splits of :21.28 and :44.29, was tipped out to go after the leaders turning for home and, with more than 6 lengths to make up at the top of the stretch, had clear sailing. She wasn't making much headway until midstretch, when she turned on the afterburners, grabbing the lead and was drawing away at the end to win by 1 1/4 lengths. Her final time for the 5 1/2 furlongs over a good course was 1:02.79, resulting in a 100 Beyer Speed Figure.

"To do that [win today] off her layoff, it's amazing, she ran great today," said Ortiz. "A touch rusty at the three-sixteenth pole and I got a bit worried, but then from the eighth pole on she overtook the leaders and won going away."

Christophe Clement has trained Roses for Debra since the start of 2023, resulting in five wins from seven starts. Both her losses came in open company against males – a third in Parx's Turf Monster-G3 in September, and in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, in which she faced the defending champion, PA-Bred sensation Caravel. Roses for Debra finished ninth, a neck ahead of Caravel in 10th, in a tightly-bunched field in which the winner was 5 lengths ahead of the pair.

Roses for Debra, now 5, has traveled a career path reminiscent to that of Breeders' Cup-winning millionaire Caravel. Both were unraced at 2 and recorded wins in the Presque Isle Downs' Malvern Rose Stakes at 3 and Saratoga's Grade 3 Caress Stakes at 4. They also each have wins in the Smart N Fancy Stakes at Saratoga (Caravel in 2022, Roses for Debra

in 2023) and have taken on males multiple times. Roses for Debra has less than half the number of starts to date, but has a stellar record of 12-8-1-1 while earning \$579,868.

Bred by Blackstone Farm LLC out of the unraced Bernardini mare Essential Rose, Roses for Debra is a half-sister to stakes winner Rose's Vision and the stakes-placed Justify filly Rosie's Alibi, a \$625,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sales yearling in 2021. Essential Rose has an American Pharoah filly who sold recently at the OBS 2-year-old April sale for \$190,000, lost her foal by Gun Runner last year, and was bred to Curlin for this year.

A daughter of Liam's Map, Roses for Debra is owned by Everett Dobson's Cheyenne Stables and John O'Meara. O'Meara has had her since the 2020 Keeneland September when his client Chris Drakos bought her for \$25,000. O'Meara told the Thoroughbred Daily News that Roses for Debra was bought to pinhook. "I sent her to Florida for the 2-year-old sales and she worked in :10 flat [at OBS April] but chipped her knee. So I had to bring her home and operate on her and give her the time."

Clement has told the Daily Racing Form that the next start for the gray may be the Grade 2, \$200,000 Intercontinental Stakes against mares on June 7 or the Grade 1, \$500,000 Jaipur against males the following day. Both races are at 5 1/2 furlongs, the distance of the Giant's Causeway. And both were won by Caravel. ■



PHOTO BY Z

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

UNIQUE BELLA S

PRX, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 7F, 4-22.

WON - MORNING MATCHA

m, 5, Central Banker–Home Ice, by lam the Iceman. (\$18,000 2020 FTMOCT). O-LC Racing, Cash is King LLC and Gary Barber, B-Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC (PA), T-Robert E. Reid Jr., J-Mychel J. Sanchez, \$55,200.

2ND - DOCTOR ABBIE

f, 4, Sky Kingdom–La Estrellita, by Crypto Star. O-Brian C. Scharz, B-Brian C. Scharz (PA), \$18,400.

3RD - WARRIOR'S RANSOM

f, 4, Warrior's Reward–Ransom Past Due, by Stephen Got Even. O-Double B Racing Stables, B-Warrior's Reward LLC (PA), \$9,200.

LC Racing, Cash is King and Gary Barber's Morning Matcha kicked off 2024 as she did 2023 – with a win in Parx Racing's \$100,000 Unique Bella Stakes at 7 furlongs for PA-Bred fillies and mares.

Making her first start since taking the \$125,000 Staten Island division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series at Aqueduct in early December, the 5-year-old Central Banker mare went off the 3-5 favorite in the field of nine. Taking her customary position off the pace, but well behind the early fractions of :22.67 and :46.58, she cut into the lead heading into the far turn, angled six-wide for clear running, reeled in frontrunner Aoife's Magic to grab the lead midstretch and turned back the bids of Doctor Abbie and Warrior's Ransom to win by 2 1/4 lengths. Her final time was 1:26.33.

The fourth stakes winner of the year for trainer Butch Reid (Uncle Heavy – Withers-G3, Jeanne Marie – Main Line and Disco Ebo – Primonetta), Morning Matcha got her seventh career win (to go with seven seconds and seven thirds) in 25 starts. The million-dollar milestone edges ever closer, as her earnings now stand at \$954,940.

A PA-Bred champion filly at 2 and 3, and a finalist for older female in 2023, Morning Matcha has four career stakes wins,

and regularly competes in graded company, with a second in the Grade 1 Cotillion and thirds in the Grade 2 Delaware Handicap, and Grade 3 Delaware Oaks and Comely Stakes.

Racing exclusively in stakes competition since August 2022, she has been worse than third just once during the 11-start stretch, that in her only start last year on the turf.

Morning Matcha was bred by Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC and is the only PA-Bred from six named foals out of stakes-placed Home Ice. Clovis Crane purchased California-bred Home Ice (by lam the Iceman), under the name 4 Little Monkeys (an entity named for the Crane kids Amara, Dalia, Rosey and Coy), for \$3,500 at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale with Morning Matcha in utero.

"She was a big, strong, pretty mare, and in foal to Central Banker [whose oldest crop were 2-year-olds]," said Crane following Morning Matcha's first stakes win. "I had seen his foals and thought he'd be a good stallion. And the mare could run. We bought her for next to nothing and took a chance." Home Ice died in 2020 without producing another foal.

Morning Matcha was sold as a yearling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October sale for \$18,000 to LC Racing. ■



PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

KING T. LEATHERBURY S

LRL, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, 5 1/2FT, 4-20.

WON - WITTY

g, 5, Great Notion–Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats.
O-Elizabeth M. Merryman, B-Elizabeth M. Merryman (PA),
T-Elizabeth M. Merryman, J-Jevian Toledo, \$60,000.

Just days after being honored at the Renaissance Awards dinner near Baltimore as the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's 2023 Maryland Male Turf Horse of the Year, Lizzie Merryman's Witty returned to action to state his case for a repeat in 2024.

Making his first start since December, the 5-year-old gray son of Great Notion contested Laurel's 5 1/2-furlong King T. Leatherbury Stakes on April 20.

Sent off the 8-5 favorite in the field of nine, he needed every yard of the turf stakes as he rallied down the stretch to score by a neck.

Witty had a lot to do after breaking next-to-last leaving the gate, at one point nearly 10 lengths off the leaders, who posted an opening quarter in :21.85. But he steadily cut into the lead,

and kicked into gear entering the stretch. His final time over the firm turf was 1:01.94.

"He's quite a fighter when it comes down to it and he loves the long Laurel stretch," said breeder/owner/trainer Merryman, who added that Witty could run in the \$100,000 Jim McKay Turf Sprint Preakness Day May 18.

Witty has now placed first or second in 15 of 21 starts, with eight being victories. His stakes wins have come at Parx (2021 Pennsylvania Nursery), Delaware Park (2022 Stanton) and Pimlico (2023 Ben's Cat), but he's had his greatest success at Laurel. In seven starts, on both turf and dirt, he's been either first or second, and counts additional stakes wins in the 2022 Spectacular Bid and 2023 Maryland Million Turf Sprint and a second in the 2023 Laurel Dash (behind fellow PA-Bred Fore Harp).

Witty increased his earnings to \$565,260. The fourth winner from five starters for his dam Zeezee Zoomzoom (by Congrats), he is a half-sister to superstar turf sprinter Caravel (by Mizzen Mast), winner of the 2022 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1 who retired with earnings of \$1,983,327 from 26 starts.

Witty has a 3-year-old full brother named Enzo who has hit the board in three of his five starts to date. Zeezee Zoomzoom produced a Street Boss filly in May 2022 and was not bred for 2023. This year the 12-year-old mare delivered a Pennsylvania-bred Justify colt on March 3. ■



PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

PRIMONETTA S

LRL, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 6F, 4-13.

WON - DISCO EBO

m, 5, Weigelia – Katarica Disco, by Disco Rico. (\$52,000 2020 EASOCT). O-Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC, B-St. Omer's Farm (PA), T-Robert E. Reid Jr., J-Sheldon Russell, \$60,000.

Solid describes Disco Ebo to a tee. She's a stakes winner each of the four years she's competed and, since the fall of 2022, the daughter of Weigelia has won eight of 12 starts, never finishing worse than fourth, while recording five stakes wins or placings. Her most recent victory came in Laurel Park's Primonetta Stakes on April 13 as she led throughout and scored by 2 lengths while going 6 furlongs in 1:11.34 over a fast track.

It was her 11th career win in 22 starts and pushed her total earnings to \$658,544, a sensational return on investment for owners Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC after being purchased as a yearling at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October sale for \$52,000.

Bred by St. Omer's Farm, Disco Ebo is a full sister to stakes winners Smooth B, an earner of \$818,667, \$423,318-earner Fat Kat and \$326,542-earner Fore Harp; graded stakes-placed Disco

Rose, with earnings of \$449,280; and stakes-placed Pink Princess (\$572,135). Combined, the 11 foals out of Katarica Disco (by Disco Rico) have earned \$3,579,565; 10 are winners.

Disco Ebo won the Shamrock Rose Stakes at Penn National at 2; ventured to Mahoning Valley Race Course in Ohio to capture the Youngstown Oaks at 3; and last year scored in the Penn's Landing Stakes at Parx Racing, her fifth win during a six-race streak. After finishing second in last April's Unique Bella Stakes at Parx to stablemate Morning Matcha, Disco Ebo got the summer off and returned in allowance company on Halloween at Parx; she scored a frontrunning victory as the odds-on favorite.

This year she won first-time out in a Parx allowance in January, then shipped to Laurel for the Grade 3 Barbara Fritchie Stakes. The hotly-contested winter signature sprint for fillies and mares saw Disco Ebo set fractions of :22.83, :45.32 and 1:11.34 and take a daylight lead into the stretch. She dug in but finally gave way to finish fourth, less than 3 lengths behind winner Apple Picker.

The last reported foal for Katarica Disco, now 20, is her 2021 colt by Weigelia named Harp's Hot Corner, who was purchased by LC Racing at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale for \$110,000. In his only start – last year at 2 – he was second behind eventual graded stakes winner Yo Yo Candy in a Parx maiden special weight on May 23 as the 2-5 favorite. ■



PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

PAGE MCKENNEY H

PRX, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, 7F, 4-22.

WON - FAR MO POWER

g, 5, Uncle Lino – J. D. Safari, by Power by Far.
O-Joseph E. Sutton, B-Peter Giangliulio (PA).
T-Louis C. Linder Jr., J-Dexter Haddock, \$52,800.

2ND - NINETYPERCENTMADDIE

g, 4, Weigelia–Amblin Easy, by Private Interview.
O-LC Racing LLC, B-LC Racing LLC (PA), \$17,600.

3RD - UNCLE ERNIE

g, 6, Talent Search–Mary Cole, by Broken Vow.
O-Gilman Hallenbeck, B-Gilman Hallenbeck (PA), \$8,800.

Two years ago the imposing Far Mo Power made his stakes debut in the Page McKenney Handicap and ran fifth in the field of 10. It was the worst finish in a career in which the 6-year-old son of Uncle Lino has proven to be a model of consistency.

For this year's running it appeared he was in over his head once again. Making his first start in nine months and facing a field of veteran stakes performers, including favorite Uncle Ernie, Beren, Ninetypercentmaddie, Twisted Ride, Movisitor and Veeson, he trailed by more than a dozen lengths early. But he kicked into gear and powered home late to win by 1 1/4 lengths.

The performance was visually impressive. As the 11-horse field left the gate, 10 of them blasted away, while Far Mo Power galloped alone, well behind the field. Setting the pace was Twisted Ride and Movisitor, who battled for the lead through fractions of :22.93 and :46.58.

Heading down the backstretch into the far turn, jockey Dexter Haddock had Far Mo Power rolling along the rail. The bay gelding was gaining on the field as Haddock shifted him out for the stretch run. With lengths to make up, Far Mo Power accelerated down the center of the track with ground-gobbling strides, caught the leaders in the final sixteenth and drew off to stop the clock for 7 furlongs in 1:25.82.

Trained by Lou Linder Jr. for Joseph E. Sutton, it was Far Mo Power's first win since Jan. 30, 2023, but he has an enviable record of eight wins and seven placings in 17 starts, for earnings of \$450,168.

Unraced at 2, Far Mo Power didn't make his debut until November 2021, finishing third in a Parx maiden special weight in which he made up ground late. He broke through emphatically three weeks later, winning by 5 lengths going 6 furlongs. His 2022 season saw him win five times, with two seconds, in nine starts. His most exciting race was a neck victory over Grade 1 winner Mind Control in the \$200,000 Parx Dirt Mile on Pennsylvania Derby-G1 day. Unfortunately the win was taken away following a stewards inquiry and a claim of foul by the runnerup, and he was placed second for interference in the stretch. However, less than a year later, the win was reinstated when Mind Control was disqualified due to a positive test. The difference in earnings was \$76,000.

While the 2023 season wasn't as lucrative, he was never off the board in five starts, including a third in Aqueduct's Stymie Stakes. However, his season was cut short by a nagging foot injury and he went to the sidelines for a freshening. He returned to the worktab in February.

Far Mo Power was bred by Peter Giangliulio of Castle Rock Farm out of the multiple stakes-placed Pennsylvania-bred mare J. D. Safari, a daughter of Castle Rock Farm sire Power by Far. His next five dams were all winners foaled in Pennsylvania. J. D. Safari, who was second in the Robellino Stakes and third in the Bristol and Foxy J. G. Stakes and Northern Fling and Caught in the Rain Handicaps while racing from 2004 through 2008, earned \$209,879 in 34 starts. Over the course of 14 years, she's produced six named foals, three of them winners, including \$128,226-earner Castle Rockstar (by Rimrod). This year, at age 22, she delivered a colt by Uncle Lino on March 11, her first foal since Far Mo Power in 2018. ■



NIKKI SHERMAN/EQUI-PHOTO

PA-BRED STAKES RECAPS

BAY SHORE S

AQU, \$150,000, 3YO, 7F, 4-6.

2ND - MAXIMUS MERIDIUS

c, 3, Maximus Mischief–Quiet Virtue, by Quiet American.
O-LC Racing LLC, Cash is King LLC and Robert E. Reid Jr.,
B-Westerly Farm (PA), \$30,000.

WEBER CITY MISS S

LRL, \$125,000, 3YOF, 1 1/16M, 4-20.

2ND - JEANNE MARIE

f, 3, 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), \$25,000.

HEAVENLY CAUSE S

LRL, \$100,000, 3YO/UP, F/M, 1M, 4-13.

2ND - DOCTOR ABBIE

f, 4, Sky Kingdom–La Estrellita, by Crypto Star.
O-Brian C. Schartz, B-Brian C. Schartz (PA), \$20,000.

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2024 PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

	Monday, April 22	\$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP \$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES	3 & up, 7 furlongs 3 & up, f&m, 7 furlongs
	Friday, May 31	\$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES \$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES	3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf
	Monday, June 24	\$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES \$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES	3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf 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
	Monday, August 26	\$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP \$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES \$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES \$100,000 JUMP START STAKES	3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards 3 & up, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs
	Saturday, Sept. 21	\$100,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP \$100,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES 2YO PA-SIRED PA-BREDS: \$100,000 WHISTLE PIG STAKES \$100,000 MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES	3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf 3 & up, f&m, 1 mile 70 yards 2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 6 furlongs 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. 20	\$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 \$100,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES	2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs 2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds, 7 furlongs



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