

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Another summer quickly gone
— May, June, July, August,
Memorial Day, Fourth of July,
Labor Day.

It was an eventful time.

Increases in purses.

Improvements in the back-stretch.

Improvements frontside.

The Pennsylvania Racing Commission received an application from Philadelphia Park to open an off-track wagering facility in Northeast Philadelphia on Roosevelt Blvd. A successful Claiming Crown Series 2000 at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Minn., Aug. 6 that was dominated by our horsemen.

A highly successful Pennsylvania Derby Day with a record crowd of 18,000 and handle of \$3.5 million.

The completion of another series in the popular "Let's Go Racing" TV show with Keith Jones, Dick Jerardi and Bruce Cassella.

New track records established over the racing surface at Philadelphia Park.



President

Altogether, it was a summer of accomplishment and satisfaction.

A general membership meeting was held Aug. 16 at Philadelphia Park.

continued on page 10

PENNSYLVANIA DERBY EMBRACES GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

by Larry McMullen

The Pennsylvania Derby cruised into the new millennium by going global as Pine Dance, a Kentuckybred who began his career racing in

Ireland, won the state's premier event for his multi-national connections.

The son of Preakness winner

Pine Bluff is trained by Dermot Weld, an Irishman who recently broke a record for career victories in his country that stood for almost 60 years. Weld, who approaching 2,800 victories in his native country, is probably the only trainer in the world to have won major races on four different continents, including the Belmont in 1980 with Go And Go.

continued on page 2

10

FLASH DANCE — Pine Dance dashes to victory.

PENNSYLVANIA DERBY - Pages 1-4

* * * *

PA DERBY HISTORY - Page 5

* * * *

BACKSIDEVIEW - Page 6

* * * *

THE NEW ELITE - Page 7

* * *

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - Page 8

* * *

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - Page 9

* * *

IZ SEZ / TROPHY WINNERS - Page 11

PENNSYLVANIA DERBY EMBRACES GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

continued from page 1

Typical of the jet stream way in which he conducts his stable's business, Weld flew into Philadelphia a few days before the Derby was to be run, checked on the condition of Pine Dance with his long-time assistant and fellow countryman Bobby Dolan, the colt's caretaker while he was stabled at Philadelphia Park, and immediately returned to Ireland to direct his stable's operations there.

He never did see Pine Dance win the \$300,000 Grade III Pennsylvania Derby. He was, instead, informed of the outcome by cell phone by his son, Mark, who flew in from Ireland on the day of the race, gave instructions before the Derby to jockey Michael McCarthy, posed for pictures in the winners circle, submitted to interviews by the local press afterwards and jetted home by nightfall of the same day.

Pine Dance, who was bred at Highland Farms in Kentucky, began his career racing in Ireland. His first race in America was the Grade II American Derby at Arlington Park in July, which he won. The Grade III \$300,000 Pennsylvania Derby was his first race ever on the dirt.

Entering the colt in the 22nd edition of the local race wasn't a shot in the dark, however, by the shrewd Weld. It was a calculated move with a colt who cost \$200,000 as a yearling.

"His sire was a champion on the dirt," the younger Weld noted after the race of Pine Bluff, who won the Preakness in 1992. "Now Pine Dance has won a Grade II race on the turf and a Grade III on the dirt. There isn't a more saleable horse in America right now."

According to winning jockey McCarthy, who was aboard Pine Dance the first time only a few days before the race in a slow morning workout, there might not be a more ridable horse in America, either.

"You get on some horses in the morning," said McCarthy, "and it's a bumpy ride. This was like riding in a Mercedes."

Pine Dance flashed the same smooth, powerful move in the Derby. Next to last early in the 10horse field, he exploded on the far turn and quickly passed horses. McCarthy said he was briefly concerned maybe it was too quickly.

It wasn't. Robert E. Meyerhoff's favored Include was traveling easily to the lead at the top of the stretch and appeared destined to win the

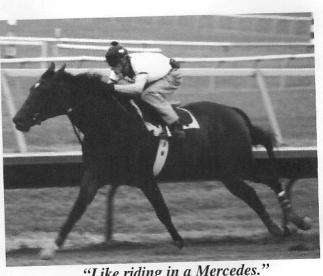
Dance race. Pine passed him in a blur and at the wire was three lengths in front of eventual secondplace finisher, New Farm and William S. Farish's Mass Market. Marilyn S. Ketts' Cherokeeinthehills, a 72-1 shot, was third. Include faded out of the money.

Despite the confidence of his connections going into the race assistant Bobby Dolan said days before the race that the only way he'd be surprised was if Pine Dance wasn't one-two-three in the Derby, the colt was sent off at 13-1 by the public and returned \$28.

Florida Derby winner Hal's Hope, bred, owned and trained by 89-year-old Harold J. Rose, injured himself in his stall at Philadelphia Park a couple of days prior to the race and had to be scratched.

There is a chance Pine Dance will be pointed to this year's Churchill Breeder's Cup at Downs. If he goes, his value could increase even more dramatically for his owners, including Highland Farms that retained 50 percent ownership after Pine Dance was bred there, English businessman Peter Wetzel and Five Star Racing, which consists solely of a Beijing businessman who avoids publicity.

continued on page 3



... "Like riding in a Mercedes."

PENNSYLVANIA DERBY EMBRACES GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

continued from page 1

* * *

In tune with the jet set, high-class flavor of the 2000 Pennsylvania Derby, the Horsemen's Club that consists of 36 boxes for owners and trainers and a major restaurant with a horseshoe bar on the second floor of Philadelphia Park, celebrated its opening the day of the big race.

Each box has its own 19-inch television set for viewing the races and a Tiny Tim betting machine. The boxes were overflowing with horsemen and their guests for Derby Day, in keeping with the crowd of about 18,000 that filled every corner of the racetrack. Children were entertained in the picnic grove area with rides and amusements and live music was provided for the adults.

A total of \$3.5 million was bet on the day's 12 races, including money plunked down at race tracks, casinos and off-track wagering facilities across the country, in Canada and the Caribbean and Mexico by viewers who saw the races via satellite signals provided by Philadelphia Park Live and The Racing Network.

It isn't enough that the world comes to Philadelphia Park for major events. Now Philadelphia Park has started going out to the world —- every day.



BLANKET OF FLOWERS adorn victorious Pine Dance, Mike McCarthy up, in the winners' circle.



TROPHY TIME — Winning Connections, including trainer Dermot Weld's son, Mark (to right of jockey Mike McCarthy), share moment of triumph.

DERBY DAY KUDOS

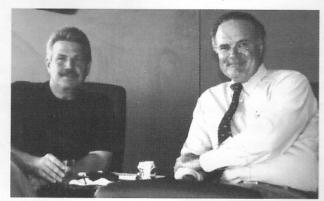
PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi said the only way Pennsylvania Derby Day could have been the huge success it turned out to be was through the individual efforts and overall teamwork of many people.

"Sometimes, there's a tendency to overlook individuals who contribute to Derby Day," Ballezzi said.

He said special thanks should be extended to the department heads and managers responsible for the care, feeding and entertainment of the great crowds that graced every corner of Philadelphia Park and the Turf Clubs and contributed to a large extent to the total betting handle of \$3.5 million for the day's racing at the 22nd edition of the Derby.

Compliments and gratitude are richly deserved and offered:

Larry Riviello, PTHA President, and the entire Board of Directors; Robert W. Green, Chairman and President, Greenwood Racing, Inc.; Harold G. Handel, Chief Executive Officer; James L. Gagliano, Executive Vice President and General Manager; Pablo Dishman, Vice President, Turf Club Operations; Michael Jaffe, Vice President, Food Services; Bill Barrett, Director of Security and Guest Services; Linda Bell, Director of Grandstand Maintenance; Virgil Goncalves, Director of Facilities; Salvatore Sinatra, Director of Racing; Roy C. Smith, Director Racing Surfaces/Horsemen's Facilities; Joseph Wilson, Director of Wagering Services; Edward Vomacka, Racing Secretary; Kylie Waters, Senior Manager and Monica Gillian, Manager.



SAVORING THE MOMENT -- Two of the prime movers behind the success of Derby Day, PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and Greenwood Racing Inc.'s Chief Executive Officer Hal Handel, enjoy the ambience of the Horsemen's Club for the running of Pennsylvania's richest and most prestigious race.

JET LAG, ANYONE?

Think you're busy? Check this out:

Mark Weld, 24-year-old son of Pennsylvania Derby-winning trainer Dermot Weld, was prepping horses for his father at the race course at Galway in his native Ireland the day prior to the running of the Derby at Philadelphia Park.

"It's a three-day meet," young Weld said of the races at Galway after he saddled Pine Dance to capture the \$300,000 Pennsylvania race on Labor Day.

What it all means is that Weld saddled horses to race for



Weld at end of a long day.

Galway's opening day, caught a flight to America the next morning at 6 a.m., arrived in Philadelphia at 3 in the afternoon and got to the racetrack in time for Pine Dance's impressive and relatively easy victory.

"This race took nothing out of him," he said as he talked about the possibility of Pine Dance running in this year's Breeder's Cup.

It might have taken a little out of Weld, however.

"I'm catching a flight back to Ireland in two hours," he said.

He had horses to saddle for closing day of the three-day meet at Galway.

ROSE'S REWARD

Eighty-nine-year-old Harold J. Rose, who bred, owns and trains Hal's Hope, winner of the Florida Derby and entrant in this year's Pennsylvania Derby, has had to make concessions to his age.

"I got to the barn every morning at 3:50 to take care of my horses," he said of his 20-horse racing stable he keeps on the farm in Florida. "The doctors told me I couldn't do that any more."

So now he gets to the barn at 4:30 every morning.

The key for the good-humored Rose is that horse racing isn't his work. It's his pleasure.

Rose came to horse racing kind of late. He was in his 40s and living in New Jersey when he started buying cheap claimers. Early on, he raced the Jersey circuit, Garden State, Monmouth and Atlantic City. He received his first trainer's license in 1968 and moved his base

of operations full time to Florida in 1970 at an age when most men who have been as successful in business as he was are retiring to the Sunshine State.

His wife, Elsie A., is his biographer and keeps a daily diary on his activities in the racing world. She has already written three books and is working on a fourth, tentatively titled, "The Road To Hal's Hope."

The road had a bump in it as Rose was prepping his horse for the Pennsylvania Derby.

Hal's Hope got spooked on the Philadelphia Park backstretch by a thunderstorm a couple of nights before the big race and kicked a wall of his stall with his right hind, causing a bruise that became infected. The colt had to be scratched from the Derby.



IN THEIR ELEMENT — The Roses at the racetrack.

"You get all of the expenses of being entered in a big race but none of the rewards," he was saying at Philadelphia Park on Labor Day.

He and his wife stayed over for the Pennsylvania Derby in spite of their horse's absence from the race. It gave them one small reward they cherish.

Being at the races.

Pennsylvania Derby History

Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens won the Pennsylvania Derby three times, including the initial running in 1979 with Smarten.

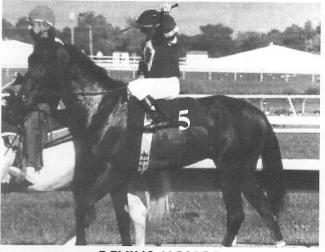
The next year, favored Temperance Hill finished fifth to Frank Bonsal Jr.'s Lively King and went on two weeks later to add luster to Pennsylvania's richest race by also winning the Belmont Stakes. Put more simply, the Pennsylvania Derby loser immediately after captured one of the most prestigious races on the face of the earth.

In 1981, Charles T. Wilson's Summing, so lightly regarded in the Pennsylvania Derby that he paid \$75.20 to win, added even more glitter to Pennsylvania's richest race when he won his next start — in the Belmont.

The most renowned edition of the Derby was almost certainly the 1986 race in which Robert Meyerhoff's Broad Brush, with a clear lead, bolted to the outside fence at the top of the stretch under Angel Cordero Jr, who said afterwards he briefly considered jumping off the runaway colt, probably in hopes of saving his life. Cordero persevered, however, hit Broad Brush



THELASTCRUSADE



DEVIL'S HONOR

across the nose with his whip, steered him back toward the center of the track, caught the field and won going away.

Andrea Seefeldt was the first and only woman jockey to win the race with Meyerhoff's Valley Crossing in 1991, but she didn't have heavy betting support in doing so. Valley Crossing paid \$158.60 to win.

Nancy Vanier and Script R Farm's Western Playboy set a Pennsylvania Derby record time for nine furlongs, 1:47 3/5, in 1989 that still stands in blowing away the field by a whopping 17 lengths.

Even with all of those spectacular highlights, two races stand out in these parts because local connections dominated the local Derby. The home teams won.

In 1992, Pam Shavelson trained Thelastcrusade to win the Derby for her parents' Petrified Stable. Philadelphia Park jockey Victor Molina guided the colt to victory.

In 1996, Noreen Carpenito's Devil's Honor, trained by Walter Reese, scored under a brilliant ride by all-time Philadelphia Park leading rider Tony Black.

BACKSIDEVIEW Up Close & Personal



Much sadness on the recent death after a lengthy illness of Joe DeSandro Sr., a respected, longtime local horse owner and admired and dear friend to many. He was 80 years old. He was preceded in death in April of

1999 by his beloved wife, Rose. They were married 53 years and had four children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. The accompanying photo is from around the time they were wed. The couple lived for many years in Bensalem.

They met at Wagner's Ballroom in North Philadelphia shortly after Joe was discharged from the Army Air Corps in October of 1945 following service in Europe during World War II with the 8th and 9th Air Forces.

DeSandro ran an auto parts business for many years and owned horses since the 1960s.

He remained active in the VFW until his passing. He was laid to rest wearing his uniform.

Francis J. (Frank) Gleason, Administrative Officer of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission at Philadelphia Park, passed away Sept. 10. He is survived by his wife, Annette DePascale Gleason, children Dina Marie Cassidy and Francis J. Gleason and grandchildren F. Vincent, Gabriella, Mackenzie and Tyler. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Frank's memory to the Northeast Catholic Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 4896, Phila., PA, 19124, would be very much appreciated by his family.

Condolences to family and friends on the passing of Mary E. Welch, 99, mother of owner/trainer Hubert Welch.



Welcome to our world to Ryan Patrick Crowell, born Aug. 1, to Susan Lynn Harvatt Crowell, trainer, and Sean Patrick Crowell, assistant starter.

Speedy recovery to Harriet Harvatt, wife of trainer Charles Harvatt, who is recuperating at home from her recent illness.

Prayers are offered for Iz Schwartz, longtime member of the PTHA Board of Directors and columnist for the newsletter, and owner/trainer Terry D'Amario, both of whom are seriously ill at home.

The basketball season for the PTHA teams got underway Oct. 1 and will run through Oct. 31.

Commis-League sioner Ron Taylor reports that the new surface and fence for the outdoor court on the backstretch are a great help to the program, thanks to the efforts of PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi. The six teams and captains Linda

are PTHA, Cowan;



Linda Cowan and Ron Taylor at pre-season practice.

Lakers, Bill Everett; E & G Kings, Ron Taylor; TRN, Jason Davis; Corporation, Joe Williams, and Ron's Backstretch cafe, Kevin McClease. Chaplain Jack Cordell's office is managing the schedule and the Chaplain serves on the League Governing Committee.

THE NEW ELITE

July 9, 2000

PTHA PO Box 300 Bensalem, PA 19020 Attn: Mr. Mike Ballezzi

Dear Mr. Mike Ballezzi,

Sorry for the delay in writing this letter, it is long overdue. Both my husband and myself want to thank you for the wonderful "Pennsylvania Claiming Crown" event.

We are the proud owners of six thoroughbreds, who are stabled and run at Philadelphia Park Race Track.

This event took a 20-year step back in time when horse owners and trainers were treated like they were participants in THE SPORT OF KINGS. Although we are small owners and trainers, we were treated with the respect usually given to the elite of the horse racing sport. The entire event made us feel very privileged and special to be a part of this sport and a part of Philadelphia Park Race Track.

We are very thankful to the staff and organizations that made this event possible. It was a wonderful experience and you should all be very proud of your accomplishment. No detail was left undone, everything and everyone was treated to a wonderful day full of special memories and treatment.

Words cannot express the tremendous thanks that we want to express, and the gratitude to all involved. It was a perfect day, a great experience and one filled with memories not soon to be forgotten.

Mr. Mrs R. DeBlasio

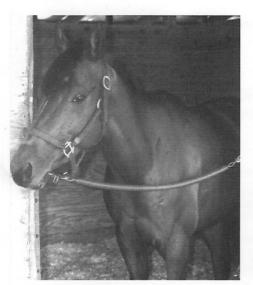
Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeBlasio

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It began with Dell West in Barn 35. Elaine DiMarsico owns this fascinating creature. One day her husband Joe said, "Chaplain, you should see what this horse does. When they play the National Anthem on race days, he stops what he's doing and stands at attention the whole time."

To garner proof of this phenomenon, I enlisted my secretary, Pat Hodge, and we trudged over to Barn 35 one morning just before they played "The Star Spangled Banner." We quietly entered the barn and waited. Track announcer Keith Jones gave his race day greeting and the music blared.

Sure enough, that magnificent thoroughbred creation of the Almighty moved to his stall door, eyes alert, ears heavenward, and stood rigid to that song. Double wow — a patriotic, (surely) Godfearing horse right here at Philadelphia Park! That animal stops eating to stand at attention out of respect for our National Anthem. What a horse!



DELL WEST at attention.

Well, after some reflection, I concluded that surely a spiritual truth lurks here. We preacher types are always on the lookout for such things. If a song can cause a horse to stand tall and quiet, even to the point of dropping his food, what about us humans? What captures your attention as you move through the day?

Job 23:12 fits here: "I have treasured the words of his mouth

more than my daily bread."

God's words were precious to Job. That's how he endured what life handed him. Do you "treasure" words from God? Do you stand alert to what he says to you in the Bible, when he speaks through a caring friend

or in a circumstance that might be shredding your life today? What holds your attention? Answer that question and you will learn something about yourself. You will understand about God, too. It's worth pondering.



The Chaplain's Office is most thankful to veterinarian Dr. Roger Clymans and the six businesses that donated items to the Chaplain's Emergency Fund at the PTHA pig roast: Duffy's Saddlery, Eisele Feed, Ron's Backstretch Cafe, Neil's on Wheels, Cloud Nine, Inc., and the Horsemen's Purchasing Association Tack Shop.

The total retail value of the donations was \$747! We would also like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets which



CHAPLAIN JACK CORDELL



RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

raised \$193 for the Chaplain's Emergency Fund. We hope to have responses from more back-stretch businesses next year.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Events

Plans are in the works for the upcoming holiday events sponsored by the PTHA involving the Chaplain's Office and many churches in the area and around the nation. Please plan to register your child/children to attend the Christmas party. Additional details will follow as the events approach. There are many events to look forward to, such as chapel meals, Christmas caroling and the delivery of Christmas gifts. We are looking forward to a great season this year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

OPTIONS OFFERED IN HEALTH PLANS

Horsemen who have medical insurance through Horizon HMO (formerly Medigroup) will lose their coverage as of midnight, Nov. 30.

Notice that Horizon had decided to discontinue coverage in Pennsylvania effective Dec. 1, 2000, was given directly to subscribers.

Horsemen can contact Harry Steitz of IRUS Corporation at (215) 423-7400 to discuss alternative medical plans. He will also be in the PTHA office Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Plans are available from notable carriers such as Aetna/U.S. Healthcare and Keystone HMO.

The insurance can be started on the 1st of any month providing all paperwork is completed by the 15th of the previous month.

COLEEN MCMULLEN

GRAPHICS ☆ TYPESETTING
DESIGN ☆ WRITING

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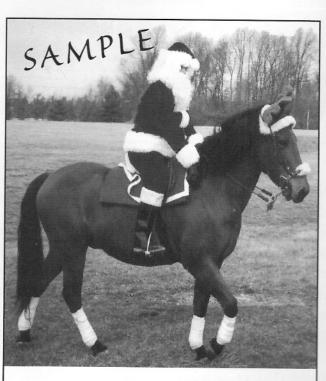
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Season's Greetings

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

I thank Dr. Larry Soma, Dr. Cornelius Uboh and Dr. E.K. Birks for attending and making an informative presentation. Thanks also to Caesar Valdez, drug enforcement officer for the Pennsylvania Racing Commission.

Dr. Soma announced that a new piece of equipment (called LCMSMS) that cost the State \$800,000 and is the first of its kind in the country can detail the complete "fingerprints" on ten different drugs within a single second and is being utilized to screen samples submitted for drug tests at the lab.

* * *

John Servis was named Trainer of the Week on Let's Go Racing after his filly, Jostle, captured the Grade I Alabama Stakes in New York with a 2 1/4 length victory over Secret Status.

Jostle also won the Grade II Black Eyed Susan to put herself in position to win an Eclipse Award as the nation's top three-year-old filly.

* * *

Many thanks to management for major improvements that included a \$3.5 million renovation of the second floor grandstand with a new air conditioning system, granite and marble floors and walls, a new sports bar and restaurant many TV monitors and Horsemen's Club box seats overlooking the stretch.

Horsemen's box seats are in a rich plum leather, each box seats four to seven people and includes a 19-inch TV set and a Tiny Tim wagering machine.

Good horsemen and horsewomen, good horses and good atmosphere combine for a winning combination. I thank management and Executive Director Mike Ballezzi for working together as a team in making Pennsylvania Derby Day a great success.

Congratulations to owners Highland Farms, Peter Wetzel and



DR. LAWRENCE SOMA



DR. CORNELIUS UBOH

Five Star Stable and trainer Dermot Weld for winning the Derby with Pine Dance. Michael McCarthy was in the irons.

I took time on Derby Day to walk the grounds talking with patrons. All comments were favorable. Children and adults, everyone enjoyed themselves at the races on Labor Day.

I would like to see the silks of the

Pennsylvania Derby winner displayed as they are at Churchill Downs after the Kentucky Derby.

* * *

The annual Pig Roast was held Friday, Sept. 1, behind the Recreation Hall. Excellent food and great fun with music provided by Jody King's band.

In my opinion, one of the best pig roasts in years. Job well done by Ron Finley, who also does outstanding work in the track kitchen.

* * *

Penn National HPBA President Joe Santanna will not seek reelection to that office but will run instead for the Board of Directors.

I'll miss Joe because he played an important role in all our negotiations. He is a credit to his organization. It was my pleasure to work with Joe the past three years. He is a leading figure in the Pennsylvania thoroughbred industry and on top of that, a real gentleman and true friend.

As a director, I know he'll make his presence felt. Lots of luck, Joseph.

* * *

Todd Mostoller has been hired as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania HPBA. Todd participated in some of our negotiations and I know he'll excel in his new position.

Reminder: Philadelphia Park, closed to live racing Oct. 12, will resume Nov. 4.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Everybody works so hard to live but but some forget how to live.



In the past, readers of my column will readily recognize that I have never been enamored of the training ability of the now Hall of Fame trainer, D. Wayne Lukas. I took another look and realized that I must find out why this man gets credit for so many classic wins when other great or good trainers don't even come close.

I decided to do an investigative report on him and see what makes him click and tick, especially in the big races he wins.

The first thing we see is Lukas at all the auction sales, usually with one or two clients. He indicates which horses he wants the clients to buy.

Now comes the fun part. Mr. Lukas decides which horses go where, because he has assistant trainers all over the country in California, Kentucky, Louisiana, and at New Jersey's Monmouth Park, which he favors for two year olds.

At this point, I realize something I should have seen before, that this man is a master mathematician, probably the best anywhere, and through that he also becomes the "Master of Pace" — as he well showed us in the Belmont with Commendable's well-paced victory.

I owe him an apology for not recognizing the points I have just made — a really great mathematician and the Master of Pace. That's why he wins the big ones.



ISADORE SCHWARTZ



COMMENDABLE



THA TROPHY WINNERS

August - September



HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER
IMPERIAL KNIGHT STAGE BEAUTY	CHICKEN RIDGE FRED WILHELM	JOHN MCCASLIN JENNIE SALDANA
GETHSEMANE GOLDEN LAKE	JONATHAN E. SHEPPARD PLUMSTEAD STABLES	Jonathan E. Sheppard Robert J. Seeger
BUM Huricane Joe Qtpi	MILTON G. MCKENZIE MAUI MEADOW FARM & JOSEPH W. HOLMAN, JR. MAR-VIC STABLE	Jose F. Agrinsoni Guadalupe Preciado Anthony Correnti
HUMBLE BEVERLY DANA'S DEVEL	CHURCHVILLE FARM EMERALD RACING STABLE	RALPH RIVIEZZO HEROLD O. WHYLIE
STRIKINGLY PROUD CAPTAIN'S SECRET	TWO C STABLES FRANCIS C. MC DONNELL	Anthony Correnti George R. Handy
LORD OF THE SWORD J.D.'S AFFAIR BOLD MARIA	THEODORE W. SHAPIRO VALLEY FORGE STABLE DIANE M. DAY	DANIEL J. LOPEZ ERNEST CRANFIELD DIANE M. DAY
DEVILISH BUCK MOON'S SO FRIENDLY	ESTATE OF JOSEPH A. DESANDRO, SR. ROBERT A. ROSS & SHADYBROOK FARM, INC.	ROBERT T. SCETTA SUSAN L. CROWELL
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