



PA Thoroughbred **REPORT**

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EDGE OF REALITY Takes Big Step In G3 Smarty Jones S.

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Found Gold - SO MANY WAYS Concludes Career With \$400,000 Charles Town Oaks Score

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EDGE OF REALITY Takes Big Step In Grade 3 Smarty Jones Stakes

The Elkstone Group's promising PA-Bred 3-year-old EDGE OF REALITY had his connections "thinking big" over the summer, as the Tony Dutrow-trained colt whipped through two allowances at Parx and shipped to Saratoga to get a stakes-placing in the Curlin Stakes. His next start wasn't big - it was gigantic.

Sent postward for the \$350,000 Grade 3 Smarty Jones Stakes on Labor Day as part of the favored entry in the field of 10, Edge of Reality went right to the lead under Stew-

art Elliott, set every fraction, and came out on top by a neck after a rip-roaring stretch drive with Speak Logistics over a muddy track. It was the first stakes win from seven starts for the son of Lawyer Ron, who first got to the races this past January with a maiden-breaking win at Parx. He's now won four of five at the track.

A homebred for The Elkstone Group, Edge of Reality was one of six stakes horses to represent Stuart Grant's successful breeding venture in the first two weeks of

September. The majority were foaled at Derry Meeting Farm, including Edge of Reality's 2-year-old half-sister Cosmic Emergency, who finished third behind colts in the Mark McDermott Stakes at Presque Isle Downs on September 8.

Through September 20, The Elkstone Group was among the nation's top 40 leading breeders by money won, and ranked among the highest by percentage of stakes winners per starters, with three from 30 starters. 🌟



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Found Gold - SO MANY WAYS Scores In rich Charles Town Oaks

When prominent Thoroughbred owner Maggi Moss sent bloodstock agent James Schenck to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall yearling sale two years ago, she had instructed Schenck to specifically look for a PA-Bred that would offer potential for a nice return on a moderate investment. They got far more than they ever imagined.

After perusing the sales catalogue and getting a glimpse of each of the dozens of PA-Breds set for auction, Schenck quickly came to the conclusion that a daughter of Sightseeing offered the best value for the money. He told Moss the filly, bred and being sold by Pennland Farm, not only looked good but had a pleasant demeanor and predicted she would go for roughly \$20,000, hardly a hefty sum.

Schenck would eventually land So Many Ways for Moss for \$22,000, outbidding a group of Korean investors who opted not to go any higher. In hindsight, Schenck admitted that if the Korean group had po-



nied up \$24,000 for the next bid, he likely would have bypassed a chance to top them and left the sale empty-handed. As luck would have it, the modest purchase price was a genuine bargain as So Many Ways went on to win five of 10 starts and bank \$717,148 in her 10-race career which concluded on Sept. 21 with a victory in the \$400,000 Charles Town Oaks.

"If we didn't get her at the sale, she would have ended up being the Zenyatta of Korea," Schenck said in a phone interview. "I told Maggi that I thought we could get her

for around \$20,000. She was definitely the best PA-Bred horse in the sale. I thought the sire was unknown and unproven and I liked the way she behaved. She's an amazing filly. She's got a warm personality. Once she gets to know you, she's like a Labrador Retriever. I've never been around another horse like her."

So Many Way began her career in trainer Anthony Dutrow's barn and emerged on the scene her 2-year-old season on one of the sport's biggest stages, Saratoga, taking both the Grade 3 Schuylerville and the Grade 1 Spinaway. But Schenck was quick to commend Frank Smith for his work with So Many Ways in Ellore, S.C., before her racing career began.

"Tony did a great job with her," Schenck said. "But a lot of credit has to go to Frank Smith. He broke her and he gave her the early education horses need at that age before heading to the track. I was fortunate

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A Shin Top winning the G2 Keio Hai Nisai Stakes in Japan.

Tale of a Champion winning the G2 Charles Whittingham Stakes.



Forty Tales winning the G2 Woody Stephens.



No Neigh Never winning the G1 Prix De Morny in France.

Our Blooms of 2013

Check Us Out in Barns J and K at Timonium



Hip 47

Ghostzapper – Starlicious
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Hip 154

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Hip 128

Pomeroy – Wonderously
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Hip 340

Jump Start – Miss Pauline
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Paramount Sales

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A Beautiful Day In NORMAN ASBJORNSON's Neighborhood

Thoroughbred breeders Thomas McClay and Harry Nye live in adjacent homes in Hummelstown, Pa., and both are retired from different occupations within the heating and air conditioning business. Now the next door neighbors are going to be forever linked through the efforts of their talented homebred runner, Norman Asbjornson.

On the 11-race Pennsylvania Day At the Races card on Sept. 7 at Parx Racing

that featured PA-Breds of all ages, Norman Asbjornson lived up to his role as the 7-5 favorite in the \$75,000 Roanoke Stakes when he rallied from well off the pace and overcame traffic trouble turning for home to prevail. The 5-year-old son of Real Quiet out of the Citidancer mare Merryland Missy has enjoyed a solid career for his connections.

Based at the Bowie Training Center in trainer Chris Grove's barn, Norman

Asbjornson has won six times and been second on seven other occasions in 24 career outings, banking \$520,100 along the way. His previous victory this year was a late-charging score in the Harrison E. Johnson Memorial Stakes at Laurel Park in March. Two years earlier he finished second in the Grade 2 Gotham Stakes, fourth in the Grade 1 Wood Memorial and 11th in the Preakness Stakes-G1.

"He's not quite at the top level, but he's right below it," McClay said in a phone interview. "He's always done well in stakes races, especially the longer races. The other day at Parx, not much went his way and he still won. When he got shut off at the top of the lane, I thought he was going to run second. But when he got clear, he just kept running and he got there. It's exciting to see one of our few

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STUD NEWS

WEIGELIA's Numbers Keep Adding Up For WynOaks Farm

They didn't know what to expect. After all, the horse had raced 48 times – and raced fast. They were looking for a stallion, but maybe this prospect had burned himself out on the track.

Not so, Barbara Wheeler recalls. "He came out on his hind legs, just ripping and roaring," she says. And Weigelia, then recently retired as a racehorse, is now a stallion and passing that fire onto his foals at WynOaks Farm in Delta.

Wheeler and her husband Chip run the farm (Chip's mother is Sue Quick, and his stepfather is Steve Quick, long-time breeders in Maryland). And WynOaks' lone stallion is their rising star with two stakes winners from 10 starters in his second crop. Chippewawwhitechief won the \$75,000 Mark McDermott Stakes on Sept 8 at Presque Isle Downs, and Barracuda Wayne captured the \$50,000

Strike Your Colors Stakes on July 29 at Delaware Park.



Currently, Wheeler says, Weigelia has 22 runners and 10 winners. That's not so surprising, since as a racehorse he earned \$1,007,708, finishing first, second or third in 33 of his 48 races. He won eight stakes and set two track records – 5 furlongs at Monmouth Park and 6 furlongs at Belmont Park.

He stands in Pennsylvania for \$3,500 at this relatively new farm (the

Quicks, Chip Wheeler and his sister Suzanne bought it in 1995), because, Barbara Wheeler says, Pennsylvania lawmakers made it appealing to come.

"When Pennsylvania's program started to take off, my father-in-law looked at it as an opportunity, because Maryland still hadn't done anything with slots," she says. "Now the Maryland program is getting very strong, but because Pennsylvania is already established, it works effortlessly.

"We viewed it as the trifecta. You could have Maryland-sired, PA-Bred and Delaware-certified. Within a two-hour radius you could be racing in three different states."

With their own stallion producing winning PA-Breds, she says, "That's even more appealing today." ❁

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Pennsylvania News Briefs

JUMP START

Millionaire Pants On Fire, winner of the Ack Ack H.-G3 at Churchill Downs on Sept. 7, was one of three stakes winners the first week of September for Northview PA's prolific sire, joining handicap mare Cry Cry Cry and 2-year-old filly Miss Behaviour, the latter a member of Jump Start's first PA-Sired crop.



WISEMAN'S FERRY

Defending Horse of the Year Wise Dan got his seventh career Grade 1 victory with his second consecutive Woodbine Mile S. Not only did he score easily, he just missed the world record while geared down at the finish, getting the mile distance in course record 1:31.75. It was his fifth win from as many starts this year, and boosted his career earnings over the \$5 million mark. Wiseman's Ferry as stood at Dana Point Farm since 2009.

OFFLEE WILD

The weekend of Sept. 7 was rewarding for the owners of Offlee Wild offspring. Juvenile filly She's Offlee Good took the venerable \$100,000 Arlington-Washington Lassie S. on Saturday, and graded stakes winner Hogy followed the next day with a score in the \$250,000 Presque Isle Mile S. Offlee Wild stood his first Pennsylvania season at Pin Oak Lane Farm in 2013.



NORMAN ASBJORNSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

homebreds - he might have been our first - go on and do this well.”

Fittingly, Norman Asbjornson has enjoyed most of his success at tracks in Pennsylvania, garnering his diploma with a maiden special weight tally at Penn National at 2 and has since won four of seven starts at Parx (formerly Philadelphia Park). His only victory outside Pennsylvania was the aforementioned Harrison Johnson, but he has performed well in defeat at tracks in Maryland, New York and New Jersey.



“Once he started competing in the longer races, he really started to show us what he could do,” McClay said. “He looked okay in sprints, but once he stretched out he really did well. It was exciting for us to see him run in the Preakness. That was a very good group and those horses were just better than him. But he looks great and Chris Grove deserves all the credit for that. Our plan is to run him next year and then the year after that.”

Since the fall of his 3-year-old season, Norman Asbjornson has made 16 starts, 13 in stakes competition, and added black type to his record nine times. Among his stakes-placings are a second in this year's \$250,000 Mountaintop Handicap at Penn National, and a third in Aqueduct's Grade 3 Excelsior Stakes in 2012. ❁

Maple Leaf Farm Filly Highest-Priced PA-Bred At Keeneland September Yearling Sale

A total of 46 PA-Bred yearlings sold for \$3,119,000 at the Keeneland September sale, topped by a Malibu Moon filly purchased by Live Oak Plantation for \$350,000. Bred and sold by Anne F. Thorington's Maple Leaf Farm, the filly is the first foal for stakes winner Hidden Expression, a half-sister to Whitney Handicap-G1 winner Bullsbay, graded stakes winner Our Khrysty and juvenile stakes winner Vegas No Show. Ten PA-Bred yearlings brought six figures this year's sale.

SO MANY WAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

enough to see her two wins at Saratoga. I spend the summer in Saratoga and it was rewarding to see So Many Ways win those two stakes. She had a good career. She ended it with a nice win in a \$400,000 stakes.”

Less than 48 hours after winning the Charles Town Oaks, So Many Ways was sold to Katsumi Yushida's Northern Farm in Japan where she will join fellow broodmares Azeri, Zazu and Musical Romance in her second career. ❁



Notable Pennsylvania Bred Winners

MISSBEHAVIOUR →



Sorority Stakes, \$100,000, 6 fur., 2-year-old fillies. Monmouth Park, Sept. 1.

EDGE OF REALITY →

Smarty Jones Stakes-G3, \$350,000, 1 mi. and 70 yds., 3-year-olds. Parx Racing, Sept 2.

HELLO

Matron Stakes, \$50,000, 11/8 mi., fillies and mares, 3 & up. Assiniboia Downs, Sept. 2.

CLASSY COCO →

Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes, \$75,000, 6 fur., registered PA-Bred 3-year-old fillies. Parx Racing, Sept. 7.

FERSMILEY →

Banjo Picker Sprint Stakes, \$75,000, 6 fur., registered PA-Breds, 3 & up. Parx Racing, Sept. 7.

NORMAN ASBJORNSON →

Roanoke Stakes, \$75,000, 11/16 mi., registered PA-Breds, 3 & up. Parx Racing, Sept. 7.

SKI HOLIDAY →

Mrs. Penny Stakes, \$75,000, 11/16 mi., turf, registered PA-Bred fillies and mares, 3 & up. Parx Racing, Sept. 7.

THIS AIN'T NO BULL →

Marshall Jenney Handicap, \$75,000, 5 fur., turf, registered PA-Breds, 3 & up. Parx Racing, Sept. 7.

CHIPPEAWHITECHIEF →

Mark McDermott Stakes, \$75,000, 6 fur., registered PA-Bred 2-year-olds. Presque Isle Downs, Sept. 8.

MANAGED ACCOUNT →

DTHA Governors Day Stakes, \$75,000, 1 mi. and 70 yds., 3 & up who had started at Delaware Park in races other than stakes in 2013. Delaware Park, Sept. 14.

ROADHOG →

Alphabet Soup Handicap, \$75,000, 11/16 mi., turf, registered PA-Breds, 3 & up. Parx Racing, Sept. 21.

SO MANY WAYS →



Charles Town Oaks, \$400,000, 7 fur., 3-year-old fillies. Charles Town, Sept. 21.



Click Horse's Name
To View Race Video



Who To Contact



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Calendar of Events

PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES

- Nov 27** \$75,000 Penn Blue Mt Juvenile S. 2YO fillies 6 Fur
- Dec 7** \$75,000 Parx PA Nursery S. 2YO 7 Fur

SALES

- Sep 30** Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale
- Oct 21-23** Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Sale
- Nov 4** Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November Sale
- Nov 5-15** Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale