



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - August 2018 -

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Chublicious impressive in Mr. Prospector Stakes

By Tom LaMarra

Brittlyn Stable's venerable New Jersey-bred Chublicious took top honors in the \$75,000 Mr. Prospector Stakes at Monmouth Park.

Chublicious, in his first start for Belmont Park-based trainer David Cannizzo, rallied from fourth early under Antonio Gallardo to collect his first win of the year after two second-place finishes in stakes. The 7-year-old gelding dueled with Lewisfield the length of the stretch and edged away to win by a half-length in 1:09.92 for 6 furlongs on a track rated fast.

Linda Zang's Lewisfield, a Maryland-bred who has never been worse than third in nine starts, took the lead at will from Delta Bluesman heading into the far turn and battled gamely for jockey Arnoldo Bocachica and trainer Jeff Runco. Lewisfield had 2 lengths on fellow Maryland-bred Laki, who rallied from last to third.

"I loved that early speed duel," Gallardo said. "I know this horse. I know he likes to come off the pace a little bit – not too far behind it but



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a little bit off of it. Everything came together perfectly with two horses going head to head and a lot of speed in the race. From the three-eighths pole I knew I had a lot of horse. He's a tough horse. He loves to win."

It was the 11th win in 27 starts for Chublicious, who won the Grade 3 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Stakes at Laurel Park last September.

Chublicious, by New Jersey stallion Hey Chub out of Sassy Broad, was bred in New Jersey by Joe-Dan Farm. He pushed his earnings to \$620,754.



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Irish Strait wins Dan Horn Handicap



Irish Strait, the 2017 New Jersey-bred champion turf runner, made his return to the Monmouth Park winner's circle in the \$60,000 Dan Horn Handicap on Father's Day, June 17. The 6-year-old gelding by English Channel out of Irish Sovereign,

by Polish Numbers, was bred by his owner, Isabelle de Tomaso.

Irish Strait was coming off a photo finish loss in the Cliff Hanger Stakes May 5.

"Antonio Gallardo rode him flawlessly. He moved at just the right time," said Elizabeth Silva, assistant to trainer Graham Motion. "This horse likes to be close and there was a lot of speed and it was outside of him, which is not the ideal set-up for him, but Antonio worked it out and didn't fight him and let the horse do his job."

"The last time I rode him I waited a little bit too long," said winning jockey Antonio Gallardo. "That's why he was second by a nose. It was kind of a nice, easy pace early and I felt it was time to go when I did. He was actually dragging me. You really don't want to fight him when he is ready to go so I decided it was time and it was the right move this time. I made a mistake one time with him but not the second time."

The 1-2 favorite, Irish Strait was followed home by Golden Brown and Fuzzy Muzzle in the field of nine New Jersey-bred older runners.

Oak Bluffs takes Pennsylvania Governor's Cup

By Tom LaMarra

Oak Bluffs, an 8-year-old New Jersey-bred gelding, went to the top of the MATCH Series leaderboard with a sharp victory in the \$200,000 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup at Penn National Race Course June 2.

The bay gelding earned 10 points in the Governor's Cup, the second of five races in the 3-Year-Olds and Up Sprint-Turf Division, and five for his third-place finish in the \$100,000 Jim McKay Turf Sprint May 26 at Pimlico.

Ridden by Paco Lopez, Oak Bluffs rated off a quick early pace in the 5-furlong turf stakes, moved up along the inside on the far turn, got caught along the rail, then angled outside to make his run at the top of the stretch. He rallied past eventual third-place finisher Pool Winner and held off a rallying Dubini by three-quarters of a length.

Bred in New Jersey by Patricia Generazio, Oak Bluffs is owned and trained by Mary Eppler, who claimed him for \$5,000 at Laurel Park Nov. 26, 2015. He has made 20 starts for Eppler since, finishing in the top three 14 times and earning nearly \$300,000.

"This was fun," Eppler said. "I think he's better off going a little longer [than 5 furlongs], but I think we'll look at the Parx Dash. He doesn't like soft turf [like he got at Pimlico when he finished third]. He's getting better and better. Was it his best race? Yes."

Oak Bluffs made his 43rd career start in the \$200,000 Parx Dash July 7 and failed to rally after having to steady on the far turn. He finished sixth behind the top three finishers Vision Perfect, Pool Winner and odds-on choice Pure Sensation.



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Veteran Monmouth Park trainer and longtime breeder Joe Pierce Jr. dies at 90

Joe H. Pierce Jr., a fixture in the Monmouth Park training ranks since the late 1960s, died June 7 following a lengthy illness. He would have been 91 on June 24.

The son of a trainer, Pierce took out his training license in 1956 and saddled the winners of 2,256 races, with earnings of \$36,363,939 during a distinguished career. His first stakes win came with Abby's Crown in 1963. Stable stars over the decades were led by Friendly Lover, one of just 11 New Jersey-bred millionaires and a member of the New Jersey-bred Hall of Fame, and Grecian Flight, a Cormorant filly bred and owned by Henry Lindh who won the Grade 1 Acorn, Grade 2 Black-Eyed Susan and 12 other stakes, placed in nine more, and earned \$1.3 million. Pierce won stakes with Grecian Flight's son French Vintage, whom he bred in partnership with Lindh.

Private Treasure, a filly bred by his father J.H. Pierce Sr. and Lin-Drake Farm, set a stakes record in winning the Grade 2 Alcibiades Stakes at Keeneland in 1990 and followed with a second-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1 behind champion Meadow Star.

Private Treasure was a New Jersey-bred champion, as was three-time champion Friendly Lover, two-time champion sprinter Girl Powder and Paradise Tonight, all bred by Pierce in partnership. He sent out more than 60 stakes winners including Night Invader, one of the top runners at 2 and 3 in

the late 1960s, with wins in the Washington Park Handicap and Tyro Stakes.

Pierce ranks as one of the Meadowlands' all-time leading trainers by number of wins and was the leading trainer at the track by earnings in 1982.

"He was a great horse man and a fabulous guy," said trainer Chuck Spina, who shared Barn 14 with Pierce on the Monmouth Park backstretch for the past two decades. "He has always been one of my idols. He had so many great horses over the years. He was an old-school type of trainer who had the ability to adapt to whatever the times were."

Pierce's father, Joe Sr., started as a jockey, worked for more than 20 years with James "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons, galloped the likes of Triple Crown winners Gallant Fox and Omaha, and counted among horses he trained stakes winner Nouredin, who finished third in the 1958 Kentucky Derby. The senior Pierce died at age 92 in 1998.

A licensed pilot, Pierce Jr. joined the Navy at the age of 17 and was a World War II veteran.

Monmouth Park honored him with the prestigious Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award in 1999.

Pierce was still active as a trainer during the current meeting, saddling a winner from four starters.

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey statement on sports betting

As of this morning (June 14) the breeding and racing industry in New Jersey began a new life. Sports betting in New Jersey and throughout the country began a new era. In New Jersey, the breeding industry was suffering from a diminished crop of state bred foals and farms were disappearing from lack of business, but now opportunities in both areas are open to new beginnings.

We can thank Dennis Drazin and the State of New Jersey for their tireless efforts in achieving this monumental goal. For seven years Dennis dreamt it, believed it, and brought it to fruition. On behalf of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association

of New Jersey, thank you for helping us achieve our dream of a flourishing foal crop in New Jersey and success in all aspects of the racing industry.

As a breeder of over 40 years and President of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, thank you Dennis Drazin and the State of New Jersey.

Mildred Fleming, President
Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey



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THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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- Breeder A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.
- Owner An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.
- Associate An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for \$65.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total \$100.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

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