



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

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Connections of Sunny Ridge, Blank Paige eyeing big summer

By Bill Finley

Winter is behind us, summer is not far off and Monmouth Park was up and running. That's good news for the connections of a couple of Jersey-breds who appear poised to make some noise before the year is out.

Both Blank Paige and Sunny Ridge were in action during April at Aqueduct and showed signs that, for them, 2018 could be a very productive year.

Sunny Ridge, you already know. Bred and owned by Dennis Drazin and trained by Jason Servis, he was the 2016 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year. He won the Grade 3 Withers that year at 3 and finished third in the Grade 1 Haskell behind Exaggerator. For him, 2017 was not a total loss as he won two non-graded stakes at Aqueduct and finished second in the historic Grade 2 Brooklyn in June at Belmont. But that would be his last start of the year, and he did not live up to the lofty expectations that had been placed on him.

"He was just sour and needed a break. It was nothing more than that," Servis explained.

It took the trainer 10 months to get Sunny Ridge back to where he wanted him. He made his return April 20 in an \$85,000 allowance race at Aqueduct, where he finished second, beaten three-quarters of a length. Though that might not have been vintage Sunny Ridge, it was a good effort off a long layoff and a sign that the 5-year-old gelding is about to regain top form.

"He had been off 10 months and I thought I had found a nice soft spot for him. That was

actually a very tough field he faced," Servis said. "He ran hard and he came back good after the race. He's ready to go."

Servis had originally hoped to have Sunny Ridge ready for another crack at the Brooklyn, but doesn't believe he has enough time to get the son of Holy Bull ready for a mile and a half race. He said he has not picked out where Sunny Ridge would start next.

Servis knows what he has in Sunny Ridge. This is not the sort of horse who will win an Eclipse Award and he may never be a Grade 1 winner. But he is tough horse who, if he stays healthy, should make a lot of money.

"If he put \$400,000 into his account this year I would be happy," he said. "He could do that this year and he could do that next year. He's not that old and he's got the ability to get that done."

Because Sunny Ridge is capable of winning races with much larger purses than what is offered in New Jersey-bred stakes, he may not appear that often this summer at Monmouth. Servis said one race he will definitely try to make is the Iselin.

Blank Paige has a long way to go before she can be compared to a horse like Sunny Ridge, but she's shown enough potential to suggest she could very well win an open company stakes some day.

Owned by her breeder, Danny Lopez, Blank Paige did not make her debut until earlier this year, in a January maiden claimer at Aqueduct



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while in for a \$20,000 tag. She was already 4, but Lopez said she had never had any major problems and had been set back by an illness. She finished second in her debut, but Lopez and trainer Linda Rice liked what they saw that day and ran her back in a maiden special weight. She won that day by 1½ lengths and came back a month later to win an April 15 starter allowance at the Big A.

“I thought she could run and she showed she could run the first time when she ran a mile and just got beat,” Lopez said. “We ran her back in the maiden special and she definitely moved forward. She took another step forward when she won the starter allowance. That puts us in a good spot because she still has all her conditions left for the Monmouth meet.”

Because Lopez wanted Blank Paige with a local trainer for the Monmouth meet he has sent her to Stacy Machiz. The daughter of Jump Start might be good enough to immediately

tackle Jersey-bred stakes company, but Lopez said he will first attempt to win at the allowance level.

“Ultimately, we’d like to have her come out of the meet without blowing any conditions for the New York allowance races,” Lopez said. “They have \$70,000 allowance races and she’s also eligible for the bonus they give to Jersey-breds for winning in open company. We’ll see what happens. If she shows enough talent that we think she can place in an open stakes race we’ll have to look at that.”

Blank Paige, out of Not For Love’s stakes-placed daughter Blank Invitation, is a half-sister to 6-year-old Banana Anna, who was also bred by and at one time campaigned for Lopez. Now based in Pennsylvania with trainer Jamie Ness for Jagger Inc., she has won each of her four years of competition, earning \$201,505.

Out-of-State runners for March 2018

Runners eligible for New Jersey-bred incentive awards. Visit www.njbreds.com for more details.

Horse	Breeder	Race Date	Race Track	Finish	Purse	Earnings
POSSE DREAMIN	Edwin T. Broome	3/3/18	Delta Downs	2	36,000	5,800
BLANK PAIGE	Joe-Dan Farm Inc.	3/4/18	Aqueduct	1	60,000	36,000
GABLES GIRL	Law Legacy Stables LLC	3/5/18	Parx Racing	3	22,820	1,980
DAME AMOUR	A.J. Bardaro & J.H. Pierce Jr. Inc.	3/6/18	Mahoning Valley	1	14,700	7,860
ROSEMARIE	Kaz Hill Farm	3/6/18	Parx Racing	2	21,250	4,000
CHUBBLE MAKER	Joe-Dan Farm, Inc.	3/9/18	Oaklawn Park	1	23,000	13,800
MORE TRIX	Mildred Fleming	3/10/18	Penn National	2	10,800	2,160
SPRING FOR MORE	New Farm	3/11/18	Aqueduct	1	50,000	30,000
CRAZY DAISY	Red Oak Stable	3/12/18	Parx Racing	2	28,250	5,600
POSSE DREAMIN	Edwin T. Broome	3/13/18	Sam Houston Race Park	1	10,000	5,700
SMART ROMANCE	Hope Jones & Isabelle de Tomaso	3/14/18	Gulfstream Park	2	29,000	5,000
GETAWAY'S VOW	Law Legacy Stables LLC	3/15/18	Penn National	1	19,222	10,860
EVIL MONKEY	Edelstein David & Greenfields Farm Inc.	3/15/18	Penn National	1	28,781	16,260
LIGHT'S GONE WILD	Joseph Ioia & Gayle Ioia	3/15/18	Penn National	2	13,216	2,360
BILLY'S JUMP START	Hidden Acres 4-D Farm LLC	3/17/18	Penn National	1	20,178	11,400
J R'S RHYTHM	John L. & Monica Ryan	3/17/18	Parx Racing	1	48,774	27,600
SWEET FILLY O'MINE	Law Legacy Stables LLC	3/17/18	Charles Town Races	2	24,500	4,900
POSTINO'S IDOL	Law Legacy Stables LLC	3/18/18	Tampa Bay Downs	3	16,700	1,500
BANANA ANNA	Joe-Dan Farm Inc.	3/19/18	Parx Racing	1	20,750	12,000
VALEDICTORIAN	John Bowers Jr.	3/22/18	Gulfstream Park	2	57,000	11,000
AMATTEROFTIME	New Farm	3/23/18	Charles Town Races	2	23,000	4,580
LADY GREGORIA	Joseph R. Rivera	3/23/18	Tampa Bay Downs	1	10,700	6,180
PHONE MY POSSE	Bright View Farm Inc.	3/24/18	Penn National	1	15,400	9,240
CHUBBLE MAKER	Joe-Dan Farm, Inc	3/25/18	Oaklawn Park	1	34,000	20,400
GABLES GIRL	Law Legacy Stables LLC	3/26/18	Parx Racing	2	19,500	3,600
WE B JAMMIN	Red Oak Stable	3/27/18	Parx Racing	1	26,500	15,600
GREED IS GOOD	Joseph Birnbaum	3/27/18	Parx Racing	3	22,020	2,090
TOTALLY GAGA	Spring Run Farm LLC	3/29/18	Penn National	1	10,800	6,480
ONE FOR DON	Patricia Generazio	3/30/18	Penn National	3	10,000	1,100
OGEECHEE	Wes Carter	3/30/18	Penn National	3	18,144	1,782
BILLY LION HEART	Hidden Acres 4-D Farm LLC	3/31/18	Parx Racing	2	25,262	4,600
SWEET FILLY O'MINE	Law Legacy Stables LLC	3/31/18	Charles Town Races	3	12,000	1,200
LET'S PARLAY	Red Oak Stable	3/31/18	Parx Racing	2	32,614	6,200



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Rutgers Equine Science Center's Endowed Research Fund supports innovative research on Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies

While it is commonly thought that human and animal interactions have a positive impact on both the human and animal, previous studies have only focused on the impact that Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies (EAAT) has on people.

Used for the first time since its creation, the study was funded by the Rutgers University Equine Science Center's Gwendolin E. Stableford Endowed Equine Research Fund. In what might be potentially groundbreaking research for those interested in EAAT as a way to help veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), this study was one of the first trials conducted that focused on not only the effects on the human side of this type of therapy, but also on the horse.

The study was conducted at the Monmouth County Park System's Sunnyside Equestrian Center in Lincroft, N.J., for five consecutive days in April of 2016. Sitting on part of the 135-acre site and preserved as open space by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Sunnyside Equestrian Center

works closely with the community to provide therapeutic riding and activities to people of all abilities. Volunteers who directed and serviced the EAAT sessions came from SPUR (Special People United to Ride), as they guided seven veterans from Lakewood Veterans Affairs during the trial. Blood samples were used to look at specific markers in the blood, such as the hormone oxytocin, which is frequently described as the love or happiness hormone. "To our knowledge, this is the first report of the measurement of oxytocin in horses used in EAAT programs" stated Karyn Malinowski, Founding Director of the Rutgers Equine Science Center. "If the concentration of this hormone increased during the trial, we would be able to suggest a positive effect on the horses." The other hormone that was analyzed was cortisol, or the "stress hormone."

Read more about the study on the Equine Science Center's website. It has also been published as an open access paper, accessible for free by going to: [http://www.j-evs.com/article/S0737-0806\(17\)30776-1/fulltext](http://www.j-evs.com/article/S0737-0806(17)30776-1/fulltext)

Monmouth Park Stakes Schedule for June and July

Run Date	Stakes Name		Purse	Division	Distance
June 2	Tale of the Cat Stakes		\$60,000	3 YO	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles (Turf)
June 9	Ms. Liberty Stakes	Listed	\$75,000	F & M 3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles (Turf)
June 17	Pegasus Stakes	Listed	\$100,000	3 YO	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles
June 17	Regret Stakes		\$75,000	F & M 3 and up	6 furlongs
June 17	Mr. Prospector Stakes	Listed	\$75,000	3 and up	6 furlongs
June 17	Dan Horn Handicap	NJ Breds	\$60,000	3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles (Turf)
June 23	Open Mind Stakes		\$60,000	3 YO Fillies	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles (Turf)
June 30	United Nations Stakes	G1	\$300,000	3 and up	1 $\frac{3}{8}$ miles (Turf)
June 30	Philip H. Iselin Stakes	G3	\$100,000	3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles
June 30	Eatontown Stakes	G3	\$100,000	F & M 3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles (Turf)
June 30	Lady's Secret Stakes	Listed	\$75,000	F & M 3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles
July 4	Jersey Girl Handicap	NJ Breds	\$75,000	F & M 3 and up	1 mile (Turf)
July 7	betfair.com Long Branch Stakes	Listed	\$100,000	3 YO	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles
July 14	My Frenchman Stakes		\$60,000	3 YO	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs (Turf)
July 21	Blue Sparkler Stakes		\$60,000	3 YO Fillies	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs (Turf)
July 29	betfair.com Haskell Invitational	G1	\$1,000,000	3 YO	1 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles
July 29	Monmouth Cup	G3	\$150,000	3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles
July 29	Molly Pitcher Stakes	G3	\$100,000	F & M 3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles
July 29	WinStar Matchmaker Stakes	G3	\$100,000	F & M 3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles (Turf)
July 29	Oceanport Stakes	G3	\$100,000	3 and up	1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles (Turf)
July 29	Wolf Hill Stakes		\$75,000	3 and up	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs (Turf)



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2018 New Jersey-Bred Races

NJ-Bred All Open

Two Year Olds

TYPE OF RACE	SHORT	LONG
Maiden Special (NJ)	Aug 26	
MD 40,000-30,000 (NJ)	Jul 22	

Three Year Olds and Upward

TYPE OF RACE	SHORT	LONG
STAKES (NJ)	May 26, Aug 26	Jun 17(T), Aug 26
ALW NW 20T (NJ)	Jul 1, Aug 4	
ALW NW 10T (NJ)	May 5, 26, Jun 17, Jul 29, Aug 18, Sep 9	Jun 30, Jul 29, Aug 26(T)
25,000-20,000 NW2 (NJ)	Jun 24(T), Aug 17	May 19, Sep 3
16000-14000 (NJ)	Aug 26(T)	
12,500-10,500 (NJ)	Aug 2(T)	Aug 26(T)
Maiden Special (NJ)	Jun 9, Jul 4, 28, Aug 26	Jul 4, 28
MD 40,000-30,000 (NJ)	May 12	Aug 19(T)
MD 25,000-20,000 (NJ)	May 28, Jun 23, Aug 10, 25	Jul 21(T)
MD 12,500-10,500 (NJ)	May 27, Jun 16, Jul 20	Aug 23

Fillies, Two Year Olds

TYPE OF RACE	SHORT	LONG
Maiden Special (NJ)	Aug 26	
MD 40,000-30,000 (NJ)	Jul 20	

Fillies And Mares, Three Year Olds and Upward

TYPE OF RACE	SHORT	LONG
STAKES (NJ)	Aug 26	Jul 4(T)
ALW NW 20T (NJ)	May 28, Aug 5	
ALW NW 10T (NJ)	May 20, Jun 16, Jul 8, 29, Aug 26	Jul 14, Aug 11(T), 26
25,000-20,000 NW2 (NJ)	Jun 3, Jul 7(T), Aug 16	Jun 2, Aug 31
16000-14000 (NJ)		Aug 26(T)
12,500-10,500 (NJ)	Aug 26(T)	Aug 3(T)
Maiden Special (NJ)	Jun 10, Jul 15, Aug 12, Sep 1	Jul 15
MD 40,000-30,000 (NJ)	May 13	Sep 2(T)
MD 25,000-20,000 (NJ)	Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 9, 24	Jul 27(T)
MD 12,500-10,500 (NJ)	May 20, Jul 13, Aug 5	Jul 13, Sep 8

*Schedule is tentative and subject to change at management's discretion.



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