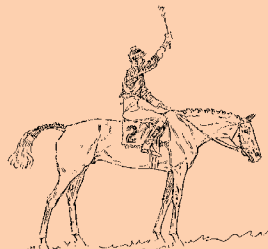


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Pride Day II deemed a success, sign of things to come

By Joe Clancy

If you're reading this, you know the impact of Ben's Cat on Maryland's Thoroughbred industry. The 10-year-old Maryland-bred is in his seventh season on the track and boasts 32 wins from 59 starts (through Sept. 15 anyway) with \$2,640,282 earned. But did you know he's also a key driver of betting handle?

The fact came to light at the second annual Maryland Pride Day at Laurel Park Aug. 20 when a full card of races restricted to Maryland-bred and Maryland-sired horses produced a strong \$2.86 million in total handle. The number was slightly off last year's figure of more than \$3 million—including about \$300,000 bet on Ben's Cat to show. That big bettor didn't show this year, though he or she would have cashed as Ben's Cat finished third in the Mister Diz.

"You can't predict when that will happen," said the Maryland Jockey Club's Sal Sinatra with a laugh. "I made his race the feature, I was playing off Ben because you almost have to give who he is and what he means to people. You've got to love him."

Big bettor or no big bettor, Sinatra was happy with the day—a joint venture between the track, the Maryland Horse

Breeders Association and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. This year's card featured 11 races worth \$475,000 and lured 109 horses to follow up on similar success in 2015.

The day helped close out Laurel's summer meet and anchor August's promotional options at the track.

"We're looking to do a big day every month or every other month," said Sinatra. "August was a new month [for Laurel] this year and that day anchored the month for us. It was a natural. We're fortunate in Maryland, because we've got very loyal people. They show up. Credit the Maryland fans."

Also credit a collaborative effort designed to produce a meaningful racing day. The budget for Maryland Pride Day is shared, with purses coming from the Maryland Bred Fund, the horsemen's purse account and the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. Laurel pays to market the event, and handle helps seed the purse account and the bred fund.

All 11 races were won by Maryland-breds, with Maryland sires Lion Hearted, Louis Quatorze, Not For Love and

Dance With Ravens also represented by winners.

"For me, it's an example of how much success can come from a cooperative effort in Maryland," said Willie White, MHBA president. "When it came time to fund it, we all went in a room—a couple guys from the breeders, a couple guys from Jockey Club, a couple guys from MTHA, and we decided how it would work. The result is one of the best days in Maryland racing."

Pride Day serves several purposes.

- It can be a preview of sorts to this month's Maryland Million card, which showcases Maryland-sired horses.

- It can provide racing opportunities for Maryland-bred and -sired horses, who otherwise have to compete in an ever-deeper pool at the Maryland tracks.

- It can give the Maryland Jockey Club another promotional tool, along the lines of the day of Virginia-bred races, Mid-Atlantic Day, Maryland Million, the proposed return of the international turf festival and the Preakness.

For breeders and stallion owners, there's no doubting the impact. Maryland does not offer widespread restrict-



MARYLAND-BRED STAKES WINNERS

Cathryn Sophia joins illustrious list with romp in Cotillion prep



Equi-Photo Inc.

The inaugural running of the \$150,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes at Parx Racing Sept. 3, a prep for the track's \$1 million Grade 1 Cotillion Stakes three weeks later, lured Maryland-bred Cathryn Sophia, one of the top 3-year-old fillies in the nation. The daughter of Street Boss trained by John Servis coasted to a 6½-length victory in the 1-mile stakes. It was her sixth win in eight lifetime starts.

Bred by Bob Manfuso and purchased by Chuck Zacney for \$30,000 out of the Chanceland Farm consignment at the

2014 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearlings sale, Cathryn Sophia pushed her earnings to \$1,019,720 this year—becoming the third Maryland-bred in history to earn in excess of \$1 million as a 3-year-old. Counting two starts as a juvenile, she has earned \$1,109,720 overall.

Broad Brush, a seven-time stakes winner his sophomore season, and his son Concern, winner of the 1994 Breeders' Cup Classic-G1, are the other millionaires on the list.

Cathryn Sophia moved to 19th on the list of all-time Maryland-bred earners.

Maryland Pride Day *continued from page 1*

ed races the way New York does, but can begin to create those opportunities through programs like this.

"Some serious horses are coming to Laurel to race because the purse structure is so good, and that's great," said White, also an owner and breeder. "But it's become tougher and tougher to win a race in Maryland. Some restricted races provide us some opportunities. We're all about supporting Maryland racing."

MHBA executive director Cricket Goodall echoed White's sentiment.

"The hope is that the track is going to embrace it and grow it into an event, a lead-in to Maryland Million," she said. "That's the intent and they beefed up their promotion a little, and I hope it continues to grow. It's a good example of collaboration between the breeders, the horsemen and the track to create something people can enjoy."

In addition to the racing, MHBA hosted a Sales 101 seminar at Laurel on Maryland Pride Day. Geared toward newcomers to racing,

the introductory seminar focused on yearling sales and featured Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett, consignors Bill Reightler and Andrew Motion and bloodstock agent Patrick Lawley-Wakelin. A follow-up seminar was planned for the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale.

Sinatra loves the togetherness, the support at the entry box and the end result of more people at the track and a larger wagering handle. He also preaches caution as the state's racing industry continues to advance with the help of purse and breeder/stallion enhancements from slots revenue.

"It seems like the Maryland-sired growth is a little bit behind the Maryland-bred program's and I understand why," he said. "The sires are going to come back, but it might take a little longer. My concern, looking down the road a little bit, is that a Maryland-bred day might overshadow a Maryland-sired day. We just need to be aware of that."

Maryland's Best



Jim McCue

Maryland's Best, a member of the second crop of foals bred by the University of Maryland's equine studies program, became the second winner from as many starters for the program when he scored at Laurel Park Sept. 10. The 2-year-old son of Rock Slide owned and trained by Javier Contreras was prominent throughout the 5½ furlongs, took the lead midway around the turn and won by 1¼ lengths. Out of the Salem Drive mare The Best Sister, Maryland's Best is one of four foals born on the university's campus in 2012 and 2013. The other starter, Diamondback Fire, broke his maiden at Timonium in 2015.

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MARYLAND FUND STAKES RECAPS

John Jones

Mister Diz Stakes
\$75,000-guaranteed, 6 fur., turf, registered Maryland-breds, 3 & up, Laurel Park, Aug. 20.

Dk.b./br.g., 2012, by Smarty Jones—Chrusciki, by Polish Numbers. Bred by Nancy Lee Farms; owned by Matthew Schera; trained by Lacey Gaudet. Foaled at Willowdale Farm, Butler, Md.

starts	Lifetime			earnings
	1st	2nd	3rd	
15	4 (1)	1	0	\$151,494 (through Aug. 20)

2016: 1st \$75,000 Mister Diz S, 6 fur., turf, registered Md.-breds, 3 & up, Laurel, Aug. 20.

Victor Frenkil and his late wife Nancy were very fond of Smarty Jones. "In fact we went up to watch him win the Triple Crown, which of course he lost," recounts the 79-year-old Maryland breeder/owner. It only seemed natural when the popular champion moved to Pennsylvania for the 2011 breeding season, the Frenkils would send him a mare.

They sent one of their best, stakes-winning Polish Numbers daughter Chrusciki. The result was John Jones, upset winner of the Mister Diz Stakes at Laurel on Maryland Pride Day, Aug. 20, over six-time Mister Diz winner Ben's Cat.

Unfortunately for Frenkil, John Jones was making his 15th lifetime start for new connections, having been claimed by trainer Lacey Gaudet for Matthew Schera for \$25,000.

"We had raced him for \$25,000 [he was fifth, beaten more than 6 lengths] in his previous race, and it looked like a good race to run him back," said Frenkil of the July 17 claimer at Laurel Park.

In the name of Nancy Lee Farms, Frenkil breeds to race, and regularly makes auction purchases to add to his stable.

The Frenkils purchased Chrusciki—named for a Polish

bowtie cookie—for \$40,000 as a weanling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed sale in 2000.

Frenkil still has about seven horses in training, most with Ferris Allen and a few with Tim Keefe, including John Jones' 5-year-old half-sister Officer Buns, an allowance winner of \$131,585 by Officer. He bred Chrusciki back to Smarty Jones in 2015 and she produced a filly this past May. She visited Seville (Ger) this year.

"My wife was the brains of the outfit," said Frenkil of Nancy, who died in July 2012. "I keep it going because of her, but she was the brains." He admits that he was going to cut back at his Glyndon farm after her death, "but it's gotten worse," he laughed, adding "she's the one who kept it in control."

Lovable Lady

Jameela Stakes
\$75,000-guaranteed, 6 fur., turf, registered Maryland-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up, Laurel Park, Aug. 20.

Dk.b./br.m., 2011, by Not For Love—Summer Notebook, by Notebook. Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Rogers Jr.; owned by Samuel H. Rogers Jr. Trust; trained by Mary E. Eppler. Foaled at Murmur Farm, Darlington, Md.

starts	Lifetime			earnings
	1st	2nd	3rd	
13	5 (1)	2	5	\$229,145 (through Aug. 20)

2016: 1st \$75,000 Jameela S, 6 fur., turf, registered Md.-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up, Laurel, Aug. 20.

Virginians Samuel and Carolyn Rogers bred, raced and sold more than 50 stakes winners over the decades off their White Oaks Farm in Leesburg. Together for 68 years, the couple turned out such gems as Sharp Cat and Summer Guest.

Sam Rogers passed away in October 2015 at 93. Less



Lovable Lady, representing three generations of the late Samuel and Carolyn Rogers' breeding program, won the Jameela Stakes.



Jim McCue

Victor Frenkil and his late wife Nancy bred Mister Diz Stakes winner John Jones in the name of Nancy Lee Farms.

than four months later, on Valentine's Day, the active 88-year-old Carolyn died unexpectedly, one day after witnessing one more White Oaks winner.

The Rogers' filly Lovable Lady recorded her third career victory Feb. 13 at Laurel. The daughter of Not For Love, a third-generation homebred, continues to add to the Rogers' legacy, most recently winning her stakes debut, the Jameela at Laurel Park on Maryland Pride Day, Aug. 20.

Foaled in Maryland at Murmur Farm in Darlington, Lovable Lady is the second of three foals out of Summer Notebook, a daughter of Notebook who was a two-time winner in five starts.

A June foal, Lovable Lady didn't get to the races until January of her 4-year-old sea-

son. Trained throughout her career by Mary Eppler, the dark bay won at first asking, a 6-furlong maiden special weight at Laurel Park.

Lovable Lady has been a mark of consistency ever since: 5-2-5 in 13 starts, for earnings of \$229,145.

Coming into the Jameela off a 6-furlong allowance win on the main track at Pimlico June 18, she was overlooked while making her second start on the turf. Sent off as the fifth choice, at 10-1, in the 11-horse field, she tracked a couple of lengths off longshot leader Deliver Me before making a sweeping move around the turn and powering down the stretch. She reeled in favorite Everything Lovely to win the 6-furlong test by a half-length.

State Fair Hunter Breeder Show

As part of a long tradition, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association again sponsored the Maryland State Fair's Hunter Breeder Show at Timonium Aug. 30. Jay Williamson enjoyed a big day with his Thoroughbreds, who went home with several blue ribbons. His mare Parade of Colors (below left photo) was the Grand Champion Thoroughbred and the top Maryland-bred at the show. The mare's yearling colt Parade of Freedom (by Freedom Child) won his class and the Junior Thoroughbred Championship. The mare's 2016 foal, Tri Try Colors (by Tritap) won the Thoroughbred foal class and was the Reserve Junior Thoroughbred Champion. Together, they won the Thoroughbred produce of dam class (top photo). Shown by owner Kris Morris, Prime Time (below right photo) won the Non-Thoroughbred Grand Championship. MHBA executive director Cricket Goodall made the presentations.



Barrie B. Reighner (3)

State Fair Thoroughbred Show



Anne Litz (3)

Also sponsored by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, the fair's Thoroughbred Alliance Horse Show Series featured classes for Thoroughbreds. Acquisitive, owned and ridden by Jacqueline Needle, won the Jump Start Hunter Over Fences championship. Bred in Pennsylvania by Two Sisters' Farm, the 7-year-old mare won once in seven starts as a racehorse.

The \$400 Handy Hunter class attracted (left, top to bottom): Midnight Perspiration, owned and ridden by Brittney St. Clair, and J H Cheyenne with owner/rider Brandy Biggs



2016 Maryland State Fair

Photographs by Anne Litz



The Maryland Horse industry once again teamed up to host Horseland, which featured 11 days of free equine demonstrations and activities, at the fair. Highlights included plenty of smiling young faces taking part.



Pony races were again part of the fair, with action on the dirt track at Timonium.



A military showcase featuring drill teams and other guests was a crowd favorite.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2016

(through September 6)

1. Cathryn Sophia . . . \$1,019,720	11. Bioterp \$92,985
2. Giant Run 237,420	12. Worthy Lion 91,659
3. Sonny Inspired 148,500	13. Sazerac Girl 91,350
4. Ben's Cat 144,877	14. Blu Moon Ace 86,763
5. Lovable Lady 138,899	15. Kiss to Remember 85,703
6. Just Jack 109,698	16. Night Officer 83,636
7. Indian Bucks 106,436	17. Street Cruiser 82,134
8. Gursky 106,030	18. John Jones 75,012
9. Candida H. 97,815	19. Tango Delta 74,494
10. Jrock 93,377	20. Any Court Inastorm . . 73,452

Maryland Flag Horse Logo Wear



Maryland Horse

Tie - \$60

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Maryland's leading sires

Supplied by The Jockey Club Information Services, these statistics compiled on September 6 are for stallions who currently stand or completed their career in Maryland. Lifetime earnings for stallions with at least one starter in 2016. † denotes freshman sire.

Earnings in 2016

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	90	466	46	72	\$1,912,293
Lion Hearted	73	417	30	44	1,190,173
Great Notion	52	246	27	40	1,136,218
Friesan Fire	52	273	25	31	1,130,635
Orientate	80	400	37	72	1,004,062
Petionville	60	307	20	28	737,788
Louis Quatorze	51	271	20	25	636,164
Scipion	39	240	19	30	586,635
Street Magician	39	177	14	18	574,934
Outflanker	36	173	17	25	572,432
Rock Slide	34	192	12	21	519,235
Two Punch	20	125	10	14	262,743
Cherokee's Boy	24	120	8	13	254,671
Showing Up	26	117	10	13	200,371
Etched	17	54	3	7	150,482

2-year-old earnings in 2016

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	4	8	1	2	\$117,000
Great Notion	5	12	1	1	79,200
Orientate	6	11	3	3	78,210
†Cal Nation	7	14	2	2	67,215
Friesan Fire	4	9	1	1	37,170
Street Magician	5	13	0	0	30,920
Etched	4	6	1	1	28,362
Petionville	2	4	1	1	27,990

Earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	796	17,405	637	2,619	\$73,145,037
Two Punch	938	18,125	732	2,663	54,852,225
Orientate	618	12,289	482	1,825	43,084,992
Petionville	618	13,195	483	1,806	42,129,598
Louis Quatorze	761	14,244	564	1,886	35,960,940
Polish Numbers	442	9,352	365	1,370	33,375,908
Lion Hearted	489	8,935	373	1,232	27,977,355
Outflanker	410	8,777	309	1,261	27,539,353
Waquoit	484	11,418	368	1,521	26,912,540
Eastern Echo	417	8,680	292	1,129	22,694,913
Go for Gin	322	6,076	212	717	18,908,303
Great Notion	160	2,260	122	371	11,028,764
Rock Slide	207	3,360	138	370	9,706,988
Mojave Moon	153	3,077	106	337	5,908,132
Gators N Bears	124	1,813	71	220	5,700,448

2-year-old earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love	356	1,129	136	183	\$6,827,861
Two Punch	449	1,447	164	207	5,686,112
Orientate	345	1,076	131	172	4,899,582
Petionville	360	1,120	119	148	4,682,767
Polish Numbers	229	700	84	122	3,673,216
Louis Quatorze	334	1,035	103	129	3,467,116
Outflanker	216	875	91	122	3,283,413
Eastern Echo	220	814	74	101	3,059,366
Lion Hearted	218	711	80	110	3,050,991
Waquoit	204	694	59	84	2,000,531
Great Notion	59	171	23	35	1,271,412
Rock Slide	90	286	23	34	1,037,469
Go for Gin	162	528	32	39	982,754
Scipion	47	202	23	30	883,526
Mojave Moon	84	326	25	30	666,532