

## Scott

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pared to six for the rest of the 20-horse field combined. Although he has good speed from the gate, he does not need the early lead. And he has shown tenacity in the stretch, out-fighting rivals late in several of his victories. In his first try at nine furlongs in the Florida Derby, he drew off to win by 3 3/4 lengths.

Still, with the possible exception of his connections and their closest friends and relatives, few people consider Nyquist invincible. The question is, who's going to beat him? It's generally agreed that this isn't the strongest group of Derby horses ever assembled. Only three other starters have won their last two races, and several of Nyquist's chief rivals are coming off disappointing performances.

Mohaymen, unbeaten in his first five starts, was the first to falter when he finished fourth behind Nyquist in the Florida Derby. One week later Shagaf, who had won his first three races, ran fifth in a muddy Wood Memorial. That same afternoon Danzing Candy, a gate-to-wire winner in the San Felipe the month before, staggered home a well-beaten fourth in the Santa Anita Derby after flying the opening half-mile in 45 seconds.

Maybe Mohaymen just had a bad day, and maybe Shagaf doesn't like an off track. And maybe Danzing Candy will consent to being rated this time around. It is worth remembering, however, that the only two horses in the past 20 years to win the Derby after finishing off the board in their final preps were Giacomo and Mine That Bird, 50-1 shots who may have had other forces working for them on Derby Day.

In the reshuffling that has occurred since the last round of preps, Exaggerator has emerged as the probable second choice behind Nyquist. Benefiting from Danzing Candy's torrid pace at Santa Anita, Exaggerator blew by the field to win by 6 1/4 lengths. It was a visually impres-

sive performance accomplished on a sloppy track. Exaggerator, it should be noted, has already been beaten three times by Nyquist, albeit at shorter distances.

Other horses likely to draw support in the Derby include Gun Runner and Destin. Both have won their last two starts in graded preps at Fair Grounds and Tampa Bay Downs, respectively, tracks not considered major proving grounds for the Kentucky Derby. On the other hand, in the Tampa Bay Derby, Destin defeated subsequent Grade 1 winners Outwork (Wood Memorial) and Brody's Cause (Blue Grass).

Recent Derby history shows it can be a mistake to overlook lightly raced horses — not because they're more likely to win, but because sometimes they've yet to show what they can really do. Animal Kingdom had only raced four times, with the Grade 3 Spiral his lone stakes victory, when he won the 2011 Derby at 20-1. One year later, I'll Have Another, after five career starts which included a narrow win in the Santa Anita Derby, prevailed in the Derby as a 17-1 shot. With a break or two, both Derby longshots might have won the Triple Crown.

This year's Derby field includes three horses with just four career starts (Outwork, Shagaf and My Man Sam) and three with five starts (Gun Runner, Danzing Candy and Destin). The trick, of course, is determining which one — if any — has enough upside to win the Kentucky Derby.

Nyquist should be the deserving favorite on Saturday, and could fashion an ideal stalking trip behind what is not expected to be an especially fast pace. Might he still be vulnerable, particularly at 1 1/4 miles? Of course. But the question remains, after considering the alternatives, who's going to beat him?

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## Ethier

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year of winning sectionals, but I think that my goals of improving every year and just being able to play in college is what I was really striving for and I got to accomplish that."

Competing against boys her age while playing on the Saratoga Catholic golf team throughout high school, Ethier is confident she'll have a bit of an edge when she arrives on the Geneva campus.

"I think that although it's going to be different, it's going to give me a confidence booster just because I do play from the men's white tees and it's farther," Ethier said. "It's 6,200 yards around and the women's tees in college are like 5,800ish, so I think that playing an extra distance is definitely going to pay off because I won't have to do that and even if I do come

to that I'll be ready for it."

Ethier also played volleyball and basketball and ran on the Saints track and field team. She was a scholar athlete and WAC all-star during this past basketball season. When she graduates from Saratoga Catholic in the spring, Ethier will leave the school with the most varsity letters in girls athletics history, with 16.

Considering she spent her time playing multiple sports every year, including both golf and volleyball at the same time, Ethier is looking forward to shifting her attention to golf in college.

"I'm so excited. I'm going to be focusing on golf more than I have during high school, so I think that my best golf is yet to come," Ethier said. "With an awesome coach that I'm going to have, I know that she's going to help me a lot. It's the little things that can help me improve way more than I have."

by the school after using inappropriate language with the team, a violation of the district's coaching handbook. Brock missed the rest of the regular season before he returned to coach a sectional game. He did not coach the team the 2013-14 season.

In 2015, varsity baseball coach Dean Bailey was relieved of his duties for the remainder of the season after a critical post-game talk after a loss did not meet the professionalism expected from coaches as explained in the school district's coaching handbook. Bailey did not return to coach varsity baseball this spring.

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## HORSE RACING

# Rivals get in final Derby work

By Gary B. Graves  
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. » A day after storms drenched Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby horses Mor Spirit, Gun Runner and stablemate Creator enjoyed sunny skies and solid footing in their final workouts for racing's marquee event.

All three came through Monday's workouts in good order as a result, with newly elected Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen particularly encouraged by the showings of Gun Runner and Creator entering Saturday's 142nd Run for the Roses. Said Asmussen, "they're cooling out extremely well and we're very excited for the Derby."

Fellow Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert was just as confident about Mor Spirit, his lone Derby pupil this year after guiding eventual Triple Crown champion American Pharoah and Dortmund here last May. The colt covered five furlongs in 59.80 with jockey Gary Stevens aboard.

"It went just as planned," Baffert said. "Gary was happy with him. He loves

the surface. He goes over it much better than Santa Anita. That's half the battle, if they like it."

Baffert has tempered expectations of Mor Spirit following American Pharoah as a Triple Crown champion and noted that it took 37 years before that stellar colt finally succeeded last spring.

Stevens was just as cautious and pointed out that Saturday's challenge will be trying to knock off unbeaten Nyquist, the likely favorite in the 1 1/4 mile Derby featuring 20 entrants. But he suggested anything was possible with the colt's impressive record — three wins and four seconds in seven starts — and his progress toward the Derby after a runner-up finish to Exaggerator in the Santa Anita Derby.

"Like Bob has said, he's no American Pharoah, but we don't know that yet," said the Hall of Fame jockey, who was second in last year's Derby aboard Firing Line.

"Maybe lightning can strike two years in a row, who knows? We'll see what happens."

Most important on Monday was the absence of



GARRY JONES — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky Derby hopeful Mor Spirit, ridden by jockey Gary Stevens, works out at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., Monday. The 142nd Kentucky Derby is Saturday, May 7.

lightning and any threatening weather on a mostly sunny morning. The track was in surprisingly great shape and gave the trio of Derby hopefuls something to work with.

Derby points leader Gun Runner, who has four wins with a fourth in the Grade 2 Kentucky Club Stakes at Churchill, ran four furlongs in 50.40. Creator, who enters sixth with 110 points after his Arkansas Derby victory nearly three weeks ago, covered the same distance in 50.60.

The performances were just what Asmussen wanted with five days remaining before the Derby, and he was thankful for the dry surface that made them possible.

"I've been very happy with how they've done here at Churchill," Asmussen said. "The best news of the morning was the condition of the track. To come out this morning and see how good a shape it was in was very pleasant. It definitely made the morning go well."

## LOCAL ROUNDUP

# Saratoga softball edges Troy in extras

### Staff Reports

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**TROY** » It took some bonus softball, but Saratoga Springs outdueled Troy 3-1 on Saturday in 10 innings Suburban Council softball action.

Isabel Jones knocked in the game-winning run with a single in the 10th inning, part of a 2-for-5 day at the dish. Madison Chandler was 2-for-4 with an RBI, while Kaeli Conroy was 3-for-5 with two singles, a double and a run scored.

Destiny Wierzbicki was 3-for-5 with a run scored to lead Troy. Hunter Levesque added a double in a 2-for-5 performance, while Jillian Picarillo was 2-for-4 with an RBI.

In the circle, Levesque struck out 18 Blue Streak hitters, For Saratoga, Kayleigh Reome earned the win after 5 2/3 innings of relief, striking out 10. Blue Streaks starter McKenzie Ebert tossed 5 1/3 innings.

### Latest NYS rankings

The Cohoes and Fort Ann High School softball teams are the highest ranked teams in the May 2 New York State Sportswriters Rankings released Monday night.

Cohoes (10-2) is ranked No. 2 in Class B with Fort Ann (9-0) ranked at No. 2 in Class D respectively.

South Glens Falls (11-0) is the top ranked Capital Region squad at No. 3 in Class A with Greenwich (10-0) also ranked in the third spot in Class C and Shenendehowa (13-1) is currently ranked at No. 4 in Class AA.

Three other teams are ranked in the top 20 in Class AA with Shaker (11-1) coming in at No. 10 followed by Columbia High (10-2) at No.

12 and Ballston Spa (11-2) currently ranked 18th.

In Class A Averill Park (8-6) is ranked No. 17 with Troy High (7-5) currently ranked No. 23.

In Class B, Ichabod Crane (9-1) enters at No. 7 followed by Hoosic Valley (9-1) at No. 15 and Schuylerville (7-2) is ranked 20th.

In Class C Duanesburg (10-3) is ranked at No. 10 followed closely by Maple Hill (11-1) at No. 11.

Salem (11-2) is the only other Section II school ranked in Class D at No. 11.

For the complete listing of Tuesday's latest rankings visit [www.newyorksports-writers.org](http://www.newyorksports-writers.org)

### Women's Lacrosse Liberty League

**PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK** » Skidmore juniors Tyler Phillips and Rachel Talanian were named Liberty League women's lacrosse Offensive and Defensive Performers of the Week on Monday.

Phillips, a midfielder, scored nine goals and provided an assist in the Thoroughbreds' two-game weekend. After scoring four goals in a 12-11 loss to RIT, Phillips responded with five goals and an assist in a 16-10 win over Rochester to help Skidmore earn a spot in the Liberty League Tournament.

Talanian picked up 15 groundballs, forced nine turnovers and won 10 draw controls and marked the best attackers from RIT and Rochester over the weekend.

Third-seeded Skidmore (6-3 Liberty League, 9-7 overall) will play second-seeded Union (9-1 Liberty League, 11-4 overall) at William Smith College on Friday in the first round.

### Men's Tennis

### Liberty League

**SINGLES PLAYER OF THE WEEK** » Kai Yuen Leung picked up his seventh Liberty League men's tennis Singles Performer of the Week honor on Monday.

Skidmore's top singles player defeated Division III's top-ranked player, Noah Farrell of Middlebury College, 6-2, 6-3, handing Farrell his first loss to a Division III opponent this season.

Leung also defeated RIT's Chandler Daub 6-1, 6-3.

On the season, Leung posted a 20-5 mark this season for the 20th-ranked

Thoroughbreds.

### Horse Racing

**SARATOGA** » The New York Racing Associated announced on Friday that tables in the Fourstardave Sports Bar will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, May 10 at 10 a.m., according to a press release.

A special drawing will also be held for the general public and for season ticket plan and pass holders, who are interested in purchasing one of the tables for Travers Day (Aug. 27).

Two-person tables will be available for \$20 on weekdays and \$30 on weekends. Four-person tables will be available for \$35 on weekdays and \$60 on weekends. Six-person tables will be available for \$50 on weekdays and \$90 on weekends. Table reservation fees do not include admission.

### Judo

**PHILADELPHIA** » Burnt Hills junior Quentin Cook and eighth-grader Alexa Michaelson both brought home a pair of medals from the 29th annual Liberty Bell Classic in Philadelphia over

the weekend.

Cook was a double gold medalist with victories in the men's 66kg weight class going 4-0 and collecting the \$250 first prize before going 3-0 to top the 66kg, under-21 division.

Michaelson captured the 13-14-year-olds, 48kg title and finished second among 15-16-year-olds.

Eric Skylar claimed gold in the 90kg, under-21 division before adding a silver in the men's 90kg weight class. Burnt Hills junior Mitch Paltiel was the fourth Jason Morris Judo Center double medalist with bronze medals in the 15-16-year-old, 81kg category and the 81kg under-21 division. Ruslan "Zurg" Izerkin won a silver medal in the 15-16-year-old, 66kg weight class to close out the JMJC medal count.

### Women's Basketball

**UALBANY** » For the second-straight year, the University at Albany women's basketball team will be recognized by the New York State Assembly and Senate on Tuesday.

The Great Danes will be honored at the 1 p.m. session of the Assembly and at the 3 p.m. Senate session.

"We could not be more proud of this team's amazing achievements," said University at Albany president Robert J. Jones, in a statement. "Their perseverance and excellence are truly an inspiration—and our women's basketball program is an invaluable asset to UAlbany."

UAlbany claimed its fifth-straight America East title to advance to a fifth-consecutive NCAA Tournament. In March, UAlbany earned its first ever tournament victory as a 12 seed when it upset fifth-seeded Florida, 61-59.

## Lacrosse

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School science teacher, did not return phone calls or an email asking for comment.

There are five regular season Suburban Council games remaining in the Saratoga Springs boys lacrosse schedule and one non-league contest against out-of-section opponent White Plains.

Saratoga Springs is 4-6 this season and 31-62 under Warner in his six years as varsity coach.

Warner is just the latest Saratoga Springs coach to be suspended in recent years.

In 2013, varsity boys basketball coach Jack Brock was put on temporary leave

## NFL

# Jets pick up option on DL Richardson

By Dennis Waszak Jr.  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** » The New York Jets exercised their fifth-year option on defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson on Monday, keeping him under contract with the team through the 2017 season.

The team also announced that it declined the option, as expected, on oft-injured cornerback Dee Milliner, meaning the 2013 first-round draft pick can become a free agent after this season.

Richardson has 16 1/2 career sacks and was the 2013

Defensive Rookie of the Year after being selected 13th overall, four spots after the Jets took Milliner and has been a dynamic player on the field.

But Richardson's immediate playing future is uncertain because he faces possible discipline from the NFL after being arrested in Missouri last July after driving his car up to 143 mph. He pleaded guilty in January to resisting arrest, which could subject him to a suspension under the league's personal conduct policy. The NFL is currently reviewing the case.

He was suspended the

first four games last season for violating the league's substance abuse policy, but finished with five sacks in 11 games.

Milliner has missed 27 games during his first three seasons because of injuries, a disappointing start to a career for which the Jets had high hopes. Rex Ryan, the coach when Milliner was drafted, projected the former Alabama star to be a solid starter right away.

He was up and down while starting 12 of 13 games as a rookie, but had a good final month and was selected the NFL's defensive rookie of the month in De-

cember 2013, when he had 13 passes defensed, including three interceptions, in five games.

But Milliner had a high ankle sprain during training camp the following summer, and tore an Achilles tendon in Week 6 of that season — limiting him to just three games. He spent the first eight games last season on the injured reserve-designated to return list after needing surgery in training camp to repair a torn wrist ligament. Milliner played no snaps on defense last season after rejoining the team, and will compete for a backup spot this summer.