

GREY LAG CAPTURES SARATOGA HANDICAP

Rancocas Stable's Chestnut Colt Proves His Mettle in Spa's Racing Season Inaugural.

EXTERMINATOR IS LAST

Famous Gelding Fails to Show Best Form, but Winner Proves Right to Crown.

DUST FLOWER IS VICTOR

Kentucky Filly Carries Off Flash Stakes—Many Notables Among 12,000 Present.

Special to The New York Times.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., Aug. 1.—Grey Lag today proved that he is the best handicap horse in America. To the tumult of 12,000 men and women in the club house and grandstand, the Rancocas stable's chestnut colt, under 130 pounds, won the Saratoga Handicap, the chief event of the splendid card which marked the inaugural of the Spa's racing season. Back of Grey Lag came four first-rate handicap performers, including the great Exterminator, which, however, was not in form today and finished last, being eased up when beaten.

The other chief feature of the program, the Flash Stakes for two-year-olds, was a triumph for the West, first place being taken by the chestnut filly, Dust Flower, owned by J. C. Milam of Kentucky. Mr. Milam thus duplicated his victory of a year ago, when, as trainer for Montfort Jones of Kentucky, he saddled the winner of the Flash, the fleet filly, Miss Joy.

The running of this stake today was signalized by the return to racing of the silks of Major August Belmont, Chairman of the Jockey Club, whose colors have not been seen for several years.

Major Belmont's chestnut colt Messenger finished a bangup third, Bud Fisher's colt Cartoonist being second.

Crowd Is Representative.

The throng that witnessed the racing was well up to expectations, although there will doubtless be many more visitors here by the end of the week. The clubhouse, grand stand, field stand and lawn were comfortably filled. Trains today from every point brought their quotas to swell the attendance. Many enthusiasts came by motor from near-by towns and from as far as Albany, forty miles distant, while others came from their country places in the resort districts surrounding Saratoga. Hundreds of machines were parked in military formation on the track grounds.

The throng was not only notable in point of size, but in its geographical representation. Every State in the East was on the roster, with, of course, a particularly heavy New York contingent. Kentucky had a big delegation, while there were horse admirers from States as far distant as Texas and California. Canada sent a considerable deputation. The crowd represented almost every class of society, from the multimillionaire to the semi-pauper. Great wealth and big business had their stronghold in the clubhouse and the boxes. Here were Paris gowns and jewels and brilliancy.

Prior to the running of the Saratoga Handicap, the paddock drew a multitude. Grey Lag, favorite in the betting at 7 to 10 and heavily backed, had the most admirers. Word had spread around the track that Exterminator had not shown satisfactory recent workouts and it was only the sportsmanship of his owner, Willis Sharpe Kilmer, that sent the famous gelding to the post. Nevertheless, Exterminator, always a popular horse, had his reception in the paddock, too. Prudery, Harry Payne Whitney's black filly, also came in for plenty of attention.

Devastation First Away.

The start for the race, which was over the mile and a quarter route, took place in front of the upper end of the grand stand and every one had an excellent view as the barrier went up, the horses getting off after a delay of but two minutes. Devastation was the first to show. Passing the grand stand the first time Prudery's head was in front, with Devastation second and Bon Homme third, these horses being heads apart. Grey Lag was last and was there at the first turn, being rated by Fator. Exterminator here led Grey Lag by half a length.

Straightened for the run in the back stretch, Prudery was still leading closely followed by Bon Homme and Devastation, with Grey Lag fourth and Exterminator last. Not two length separated the entire field. Half way down the back stretch Grey Lag and Exterminator both began to move up almost as a team on the outside.

"The race will be between the two top weight," went up the cry in the grand stand, referring to Grey Lag and Exterminator with his 137 pounds.

But a few strides more and it was seen that Exterminator was faltering. Grey Lag went on, but the gelding went back to last position and stayed there. Fator continued to move up with Grey Lag as the field swept around the first turn. Bon Homme was at this point leading by a length, with Prudery, Devastation and Grey Lag close behind. Devastation then began to fall back while Grey Lag continued to gain and looked a sure winner, unless Bon Homme managed to stick it out.

Grey Lag Passes Leader.

Turing into the stretch Grey Lag really like the genuinely great horse he is. Schuttinger on Bon Homme made a desperate effort to stand off the challenge of the champion, but Grey Lag went by the Xalapa Farms horse and the race was over. Nevertheless, Bon Homme hung on with the keenest gameness under the whip and battled it out to the wire, being beaten only half a length. Prudery, which ran a scintillating race, won 116 pounds as against 109 on Bon Homme, was third, a length and a half back of Bon Homme, while Devastation was another six lengths back. Exterminator was four lengths behind Devastation.

The race was run in 2:03 1-5 against 2:03 4-5 made by Yellowham last year. The Rancocas stable was enriched \$7,750 by Grey Lag's victory. Thirteen colts and fillies accepted the issue for the running of the Flash; eight horses being scratched, including the top weight, Martingale. Each of the entrants seemed to have his or her admirers in the paddock. In the betting R. T. Wilson's Wilderness, a filly starter, was best liked, being held favorite

at 3 to 1. This colt, however, got off badly and finished last. The winner, Dust Flower, paid the pleasant price of 15 to 1.

Wins by a Head.

For so large a field there was only a short wait at the barrier, three minutes, and Sun Mist, a stable mate of Exterminator dashed out to make the running. This filly was winging in front by a couple of lengths until the stretch was reached, when she decided she had done a day's work and stopped, finishing tenth. Dust Flower, off in second position, was prominent throughout, running second until straightened for the wire, when she came on under a good ride by Garner and managed to last to take the event by a head from the fast moving Cartoonist. Bud Fisher's colt had been in third position throughout the dash and he made a brilliant stretch run. Major Belmont's Messenger, after getting away none too well, and being in a tangle for a while, showed a fine effort, being a length behind the leaders at the wire.

The five and a half furlongs were covered in 1:06. Miss Joy's time last year was two-fifths of a second slower, but she carried 127 pounds, as against 110 for Dust Flower today. Mr. Milam collected \$3,925 by his filly's victory.

Metropolitan racegoers had a chance to see the jumpers in action again this afternoon, after a cessation of this kind of racing at Empire City. The Shillelah Steeplechase Handicap brought out a field of seven to go over the short course of two miles. Belle of Bryn Mawr dominated the running for the first mile and a half and then tired. Minata, owned by Mrs. F. Ambrose Clark, coming on to win easily by a length and a half, with two performers from the J. S. Cosden stable, Faunus and Hallavill, in the place and show positions. The race was worth \$2,500 to the winner.

Saratoga's Luck Holds.

Saratoga's luck held as to weather. While there were threatening clouds all afternoon no rain fell, and the track was in splendid condition. The scene for the opening day was, as a whole, gay, vivid, animated. It contained all the snap and brilliancy, the pulchritude and the chic which are popularly associated with the turf. The gayety and liveliness began with the club house, on the extreme right facing the track, and ran a sprightly career to the left, through the club house boxes and thence through the great sweep of the grand stand and into the field stand beyond.

The ground floor verandas of the clubhouse were, as usual, given over to masculinity. Here the clubhouse orators had sway and here most of the dominant figures of the American turf exchanged views as to the carded races and wrote their names on slips of paper underneath bets running into tens of thousands, to serve as a reminder to the memories of the layers of odds.

Above, on the upper verandas, women reigned. Here is the domain of Harry Stevens, caterer extraordinary and mine host plenipotentiary to New York's sporting public. Most of the sixty-five tables were occupied this afternoon and Mr. Stevens said all had been reserved for the season, and he could have had reservations for hundreds more if space permitted. Luncheon and afternoon tea and mineral water colored with potions of a decidedly non-Andersonian variety from silver flasks made life agreeable here from 1 o'clock on through the day.

Women Complete Picture.

Those foreign observers of American life who have so often joined in declaring that the American woman is the prettiest and best dressed of earth's sisterhood would have found numerous causes today to insist that their judgment was impeccable. Women blonde, brunette and titian; women piquant, placid and stately; women as diversified in type as the elements which make up the nation—all were there and all were turned out from the hands of their maids or themselves in perfect sartorial condition from the tips of their dainty satin shoes to the precisely proper curve of their hats as decreed by the mode. Lavender as a gown color had a slight edge, with white, black, green, burnt orange and pink also running.

Jewels there were, too, and jewels in profusion. Diamonds chiefly shone today at the Saratoga track, though emeralds and rubies were not entirely despised. Diamonds in rings and watches flashed here, there and everywhere, not only in the clubhouse and boxes, but in the grand stand as well. But let it be recorded that neither clubhouse nor boxes had a monopoly of feminine glory. The grand stand bore its share of pretty women, prettily dressed.

To the left of the clubhouse, facing the track, came the clubhouse boxes, and here was another debonair assemblage. Most of the boxes were occupied, and here were men, accompanied by the ladies of their families, known not only to the turf world, but to the realms of banking, finance, law, politics and vast affairs.

To the left again came the serried masses of the grandstand. Here were the real dyed-in-the-wool racing fans; here rose feminine shrieks as the horses battled through the stretch; here thundered masculine roars of encouragement to the racers; here were noise and excitement; here buzzed from tongue to tongue the sure-thing tip, the last-minute paddock information, the absolute authoritative "dope" direct from the feed box. Here men and women sprang on seats as the shout arose, "They're off!"—here enthusiasts balanced themselves on one toe to get a glimpse of another inch of the track in close finishes; here onlookers tumbled off seats or sprawled over one another in their frenzy; here, in short, was a genuine bit of bedlam.

In front of the grandstand stretched the lawn, and the lawn at Saratoga is a real lawn, made of grass and not of

Continued on Page Fifteen.

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Continued from Page Thirteen.

concrete, as are some of the so-called "lawns" at metropolitan tracks. The lawn was packed with hustling, jostling men between races, for here the "big ring" was established and here were scores of orallists accepting slips of paper calling for thousands, beyond thousands.

Among those at the races today were: Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. George D. Widener, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Riddle, Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont, Samuel Ross, W. A. Prime, Edward Murphy, James W. Fleming, William H. Anderson, Samuel Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Willette, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ambrose Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKee, William A. Pinkerton, Harry Payne Whitney, Lawrence Waterbury, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Jones, Montfort Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Milam, M. J. Winn, Thomas F. Costigan, Fred Fenchler, Thomas F. Monahan, F. J. Farrell, Stephen P. Pettit, H. W. Sage, Benjamin Block, Mr. and Mrs. Kay Spence, Thomas Welsh, A. J. Joyner, James Rowe, J. E. Madden, Edward F. Simms, Henry Oliver, James Hancock, G. A. Cochran, John A. Drake, W. G. Street, W. A. Leroy, James Shevlin, R. T. Wilson Jr., George H. Bull, J. Brandt Walker, A. B. Hancock, Morton L. Schwartz, Colonel R. H. Williams, Pierre Lorillard, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Sharp Kilmer, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Clark, Dr. R. W. McCully, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Barklie, Harry W. Smith, W. B. McKittridge, W. P. Burch, William Garth, James K. Maddux, John H. Madigan, Desha Breckenridge, C. J. Ryan, C. J. Quinn, P. Boland, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Folger, Leland Sterry and F. B. Conover.

Conditions Are Ideal.

Many complimentary words were voiced today over the body of the track and the splendid condition of the whole plant. The infield was a delight with its lake, spouting fountains, swans, emerald turf, hedges and trees. No less of a delight was the paddock, with its expanse of lawn interspersed with trees and flowering shrubbery. The flower beds near the clubhouse were gay with color, while the blue awning at the automobile entrance of the house offered another hue of the prism. Much of the woodwork of clubhouse boxes and grand stand has been freshly painted. The phrase "spick and span" seems to have been coined to describe the splendid condition of the Saratoga track. President R. I. Wilson of the Saratoga Association, Secretary McL. Erlocker and Superintendent William Clare had a great many nice things said to them during the afternoon.

The summaries:

FIRST RACE.

For three-year-olds and upward; claiming; purse \$1,000. Six furlongs.

Horse.	Wt.	Jockey.	Odds.	Fin.
Muskallonge	120	Kelsay	7-2	1 ⁴
Gladiator	120	Marinelli	11-5	2 ¹
Valor	108	Thomas	6-1	3 ²
Kirk Levington	110	Miller	7-2	4
Arrow of Gold	110	Carroll	7-1	5
Lackawanna	100	W. Poole	60-1	6
Ira Wilson	100	Merimee	60-1	7

Time—1:12 2-5.

Start good; won easily; place same. Muskallonge, ch. c., 4, by Meelick—Gay and Festive; owned by Bud Fisher and trained by A. B. Gordon.

SECOND RACE.

The Shillelah Steeplechase Handicap, for three-year-olds and upward; \$2,000 added. About two miles.

Horse.	Wt.	Jockey.	Odds.	Fin.
Minata	134	Kennedy	7-2	1 ¹ / ₂
*Faunus	135	Crawford	7-5	2 ⁵
*Hallavill	131	Williams	7-5	3 ¹⁰
B. of Bryn Mawr	141	Sims	3-1	4
Lytle	140	Klenick	10-1	5
Roi Craig	153	Powers	4-1	6
Grenadier	134	Barrett	15-1	7
*Cosden entry.	†	Lost rider.		

Time—4:23.

Start good; won easily; place driving. Minata, b. g., 6, by Mirador—Aminta; owned by Mrs. F. A. Clark and trained by T. J. Donohue.

THIRD RACE.

The Flash Stakes, for two-year-olds; guaranteed value \$5,000. Five and a half furlongs.

Horse.	Wt.	Jockey.	Odds.	Fin.
Dust Flower	110	Garner	15-1	1 ⁴
Cartoonist	110	Kelsay	10-1	2 ¹
Messenger	107	McAtee	10-1	3 ¹ / ₂
Shamrock	113	Kummer	30-1	4
Boys Believe Me	107	Wilson	10-1	5
Hell Gate	107	Taplin	80-1	6
Aladdin	110	Fator	5-1	7
Banter	113	Cannely	20-1	8
Better Luck	111 ¹ / ₂	Johnson	5-1	9
Sun Mist	104	Carroll	20-1	10
*Moonraker	107	Penman	5-1	11
*Spot Cash	110	Morris	5-1	12
Wilderness	109 ¹ / ₂	Miller	3-1	13

Time—1:06.

*Greentree-H. P. Whitney entry. Start good; won driving; place same. Dust Flower, ch. f., 2, by Peter Quince—Stickpin; owned and trained by J. Milam.

FOURTH RACE.

The Saratoga Handicap, for three-year-olds and upward; \$5,000 added. One mile and a quarter.

Horse.	Wt.	Jockey.	Odds.	Fin.
Grey Lag	130	Fator	7-10	1 ¹ / ₂
Bon Homme	109	Schuttinger	12-1	2 ¹ / ₂
Prudery	116	Morris	9-2	3 ⁰
Devastation	103	Marinelli	15-1	4
Exterminator	137	Johnson	5-1	5

Time—2:03 1-5.

Start good; won driving; place same. Grey Lag, ch. c., 4, by Star Shoot—Miss Minnie; owned by Rancocas Stable and trained by S. C. Hildreth.

FIFTH RACE.

For three-year-olds and upward; purse \$1,000. One mile.

Horse.	Wt.	Jockey.	Odds.	Fin.
Advocate	101	Bruening	4-1	1 ¹
Trevelyan	94	Bell	15-1	2 ¹ / ₂
Wellfinder	101	Merimee	15-1	3 ¹ / ₂
Rebuke	108	Kelsay	6-1	4
Adonis	112	Keogh	20-1	5
Tufter	113	Thomas	4-1	6
Bellsolar	101	Callahan	5-1	7
Crank	106	Parke	6-1	8

Time—1:58 3-5.

Start good; won driving; place same. Advocate, ch. c., 4, by Ballot—Inspiration; owned by H. H. Hewitt and trained by J. I. Smith.

SIXTH RACE.

For maiden two-year-olds; purse \$1,000. Five furlongs.

Horse.	Wt.	Jockey.	Odds.	Fin.
Comixa	112	Josiah	20-1	1 ⁴
Zev	115	Sande	2-1	2 ⁴
Betty Beall	112	Wilson	20-1	3 ²
How Fair	112	Kummer	8-1	4
Sunquest	112	Johnson	20-1	5
Eileen	112	Scoble	50-1	6
Ethens	112	Lang	20-1	7
Cape Clear	116	Taylor	30-1	8
Blue Peter	113	Penman	4-1	9
Crugie	112	Marinelli	30-1	10
Sequel	112	Moore	50-1	11
Diamond Dick	115	Kelsay	60-1	12
Glen Tilt	115	Morris	60-1	13
Great Luck	112	E. Poole	12-1	14
Pow Wow	114	Fairbrother	30-1	15
Better Times	115	McAtee	20-1	16
Virginus	115	Taplin	60-1	17
High Prince	115	Rice	50-1	18
Scotch Broom	115	Keogh	15-1	19
Big William	115	Cannely	50-1	20

Time—0:59 3-5.

Start good; won easily; place same. Comixa, br. f., 2, by Colin—The Minx II.; owned by E. B. McLean and trained by J. F. Schorr.

Weather cloudy; track fast.