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Young Dubliner makes Hunt Cup history

by Joe Clancy Jr.

Glyndon, Md. (April 26)—
Take that, traditionalists.

A year after watching Virginia owner/rider Michael Hoffman make off with the Maryland Hunt Cup, the home team went home emptyhanded again as Bill and Renee Lickle's Young Dubliner (Ire) stormed off with a wire-to-wire win in America's oldest, richest and most challenging timber race.

That's right. Young Dubliner—born in Ireland, owned by Delawareans, ridden by an Irishman and trained in South Carolina by a Pennsylvanian—won the \$65,000 Hunt Cup. In course record time of 8:25 $\frac{3}{4}$.

His trainer—the only person on the team with Maryland connections—accepted the trophy while wearing a miniskirt and a pearl choker (a Hunt Cup first for sure).

"My middle name is Stewart so I had to win this," said Kathy Neilson after winning her Hunt Cup debut. Neilson, 35, carries the genes (and the name) of Hunt Cup glory. Her great-grandfather Redmond Stewart Sr. won the race in 1904. Her grandfather Redmond Stewart Jr. owned winners Ben Nevis II and Haffaday. Neilson's father Paddy rode in the Hunt Cup 21 times (winning three). Neilson's



Young Dubliner (Ire) and rider Brian Moran clear the 13th fence en route to wire-to-wire victory in course record time (8:25 $\frac{3}{4}$).

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aunt Ann Stewart trained Hunt Cup winners Ivory Poacher (1993) and Swayo (2000). Neilson's sister Sanna rode to Hunt Cup wins in 1991 and 1993.

Young Dubliner (Brian Moran) didn't know any of that, but still did the family tree proud. The 13-year-old son of legendary European steeplechase sire Strong Gale galloped immediately to the front in the field of six, which was quickly cut to four when Maipo and Wood Whistle tangled at the third fence. Approaching the 4-foot-9 fence, Maipo stepped to his left and pitched jockey Polly Gundry out of the saddle before leaving the ground. Wood Whistle (Blair Waterman) had no chance, and fell over his rival on landing.

Both jockeys wound up in Greater Baltimore Medical Center with injuries, while the horses galloped off.

Young Dubliner and Moran never saw the fall, and would have been difficult to catch by any horse. Still, the spill took away two of the race's main contenders and left the third—2000 winner Swayo—all but alone in the fight to catch up.

Leaping boldly, Young Dubliner led Swayo (Joe Gillet) by two lengths at the race's halfway point (the 12th fence). The only horse in the field with Hunt Cup experience, Swayo looked to be in a perfect stalking position as the horses scaled the monstrous

13th and headed into the race's third mile.

Young Dubliner stretched the stalker with huge leaps at the 17th and 18th fences, powering away from both like a hurdler and giving Moran confidence.

"I knew Joe was behind me, but he was a good bit off. I just wanted to keep my horse to his job, keep him paying attention and he kept galloping," said Moran. "I knew he would stay, stay, stay and I just wanted to stretch [Swayo] and make it testing rather than a sprint. My horse is not a sprinter."

Swayo drew even after the 20th and looked like a winner as the two crossed Tufton Avenue and headed for the stretch. Moran, who fell off Reputed Dancer at the road crossing in 1994, helped Young Dubliner summon more energy and the Irish-bred drew off to a 15-length romp while breaking Buck Jakes's 1995 course standard by five seconds. Stone Buster (Woods Winants) was a distant third while Ocean Liner (Burley Cocks) was pulled up on the backstretch.

Moran admitted to being cautious at the road. "I was worried about getting across, and figured I could go for home once I did," he said. "I made up for [1994]."

Neilson had visions of losing. "Swayo came upsides of him and I thought that's it—here comes the course winner,"

Polly Gundry came unseated when her mount Maipo nearly refused the third fence. Then Wood Whistle, Blair Waterman aboard, fell and landed on top of Gundry. The riders' injuries, though serious, were not considered to be life-threatening.



JAYSZYMANSKI

Trainer Kathy Neilson greets jockey Brian Moran after the race. Moran flew in from Ireland to ride Young Dubliner.

said Neilson. "Our horse's enthusiasm is not as strong once a horse goes by him, but he's a battler and he had more in the tank."

Moran, who trains an eight-horse point-to-point string in Ireland, flew across the Atlantic four times in a week to ride Young Dubliner.

"Kathy called me a week before the Grand National—rang me up and asked me if I wanted to ride in the races," he said. "She named the horse and I said I'll ride him. I knew

the horse in Ireland. He won chases for [top trainer] Enda Bolger. I saw him win at Dundalk one day—he jumps and stays, jumps and stays."

Accepting his fourth Hunt Cup ride, the imported jockey was impressed with the Grand National effort, a second to Sam Sullivan, and expected even more from Young Dubliner in the Hunt Cup.

"I really fancied him today on his run last week," said the jockey, whose stable won two Irish point-to-points on Hunt



CARY EUWER (2)

Cup day. "Another mile, he'd love it." No doubt about that.

The Lickles have owned steeplechase horses for nearly 30 years (stakes horses like Victorian Hill, 1997 champion Correggio-Ire and Grade 1 winner Mario-Ire, among others), but have scaled back their interests over the past four seasons.

Young Dubliner, part of a late-1990s import program organized by the Lickles and Irish trainer Tom Taaffe, started his U.S. career with Ricky Hendriks and won twice over timber (a walkover and a two-horse race) in 1998. The long, tall, dark bay lost both of his 1999 starts, and moved to Janet Elliot's barn in 2000. Two more losses, including a narrow defeat to Atomistic at the Colonial Cup, followed as the options dwindled.

Brought back by Elliot in the spring of 2001, Young Dubliner fell at Charlotte and was a well-beaten fourth at

Nashville. Looking to cut their losses, the Lickles advertised Young Dubliner in the June 15, 2001 edition of *Steeplechase Times*. In black and white, the listing read "Young Dubliner. 12-year-old Irish-bred bay gelding by leading sire Strong Gale. \$15,000 or best offer. Winner and stakes-placed over timber in U.S. Seven wins in Ireland. Excellent point-to-point or foxhunter prospect."

There were no takers, and hardly any interest. "I tried to sell him—nobody wanted him," said Bill Lickle, whose previous two tries at Hunt Cup ownership ended in a fall and a pull-up. "Janet was cutting back, he wasn't doing so well and it seemed like the thing to do. I sent him to Kathy and she said let's see what happens."

Young Dubliner responded to Neilson's care by making three starts—each one a little better—last fall. The horse who wouldn't sell closed the

year with an upset win over Sam Sullivan in a cross-country steeplechase featuring a variety of obstacles at the International Gold Cup in October.

"The glimmer in my eye came last fall, just the fact that he cleared the six-foot brush on that funny course at the Gold Cup led me to believe that he could jump a big fence," said Neilson. "I said then 'let's go for the Hunt Cup next year.' Mr. Lickle wasn't sure what to think, but he went along with the idea."

Neilson changed her horse's schooling tactics, mapped out a racing schedule to maximize fitness and freshness, and sought advice.

"I talked to my aunt, my sister, my dad," she said. "I knew he needed two races to get fit so we gave him a point-to-point at Elkridge-Harford [April 6] and he was second in the Grand National [April 20]. That was our test, whether he

was going to be able to jump straight up and down fences. He did it in stride and he did it easily. He just floated around there."

NOTES

Gundry, a top English amateur brought over for the ride on Maipo, suffered a broken jaw in the fall from Maipo. Waterman suffered a concussion. . . Young Dubliner is the first foreign-bred horse to win the Hunt Cup since Tom Bob, also an Irish-bred, won in 1991. ♣

MARYLAND HUNT CUP (Glyndon, April 27), abt. 4 miles over timber, 5 & up. Purse \$65,000. Time: 8:25 $\frac{3}{4}$ (ncr). 1-William C. Lickle's Young Dubliner (Ire) (dk.b./br.g, 13, by Strong Gale—Desert Maid, by Proverb; bred by W. Roche in Ireland); trainer Katherine Neilson; rider Brian Moran. 2-Move Up Stable's Swayo; trainer Ann Stewart; rider J.D. Gillet. 3-Foxbrook Farm's Stone Buster; Louis Neilson III; Garet Winants. Also ran: Ocean Liner (pulled up), Wood Whistle (fell), Maipo (fell).

Sam Sullivan, Wood Whistle make triumphant return at Grand National

by Joe Clancy Jr.

Trainer Tom Voss started his 2002 season with a sweep of the two open timber races at the My Lady's Manor meeting in his hometown of Monk-

ton. A week later (April 20), Voss sent his silver, black and yellow horse van to Butler for the Grand National meeting.

And won both races again.

Sam Sullivan, owned by Voss's wife Mimi, started the double with a victory in the \$30,000 Grand National timber stakes. Known forever as a key prep for the Maryland Hunt Cup one week later, the race is a tough assignment in itself at a speedy three miles over stiff, vertical fences.

A 9-year-old gray (nearly white now), Sam Sullivan handled the assignment with style. Ridden by Blair Waterman, the winner powered past Swayo, Make Me a Champ and Young Dubliner while winning by three lengths and giving Voss his fourth consec-

utive triumph (the others came with Welter Weight) in the race.

The victory added another chapter to a stellar timber career that happened by accident.

As a yearling, Sam Sullivan was purchased from breeder Vic Divivo to accompany a Voss homebred youngster who turned out to be hurdle stakes winner Teb's Bend.

First, the horses grew up together. Next, they were named together. Sam Sullivan is named for a close friend of Tom Voss's distant relative Frank Voss (who lived much earlier than the famed equine artist of the same name). Sam Sullivan and Frank Voss were schoolmates at the University of Virginia. After a year of college, they joined the Confederate Army and fought in the

Civil War. Frank Voss died in a battle at Teb's Bend along the Green River in Tennessee.

Back to the horses, who are still side by side in the Voss



Mimi Voss is the proud owner of timber star Sam Sullivan.



Tom Voss has won the Grand National four times in a row.

barn. The stablemates started racing in 1997, with Teb's Bend winning three times over hurdles (once at Saratoga and once in a \$75,000 stakes). Sam Sullivan went another direction, and broke his hurdle maiden for an \$8,000 claiming price. The son of Temperence Hill and the Restless Native mare Cretian Queen seemed destined for timber, and made his debut over the boards with a win in 1998.

Brought along slowly, Sam Sullivan won one of two starts the following year and went three-for-three in 2000. Last season, he won two of four starts (including a second straight Radnor Hunt Cup).

With the retirement of Welter Weight, Sam Sullivan looked like the stable's Maryland Hunt Cup hopeful, and the Grand National proved his readiness though the owner helped make the final decision not to run.

"I get a wreck watching all of them run, but I'm really a wreck watching Sam or Frank [Teb's Bend] run," said Mimi Voss. "Thomas asked me how I would feel if something happened to Sam in the Hunt Cup, and I said 'you don't have to run him, I don't need to win that race.' Animals are just like people so it's nice to take care of them. He's part of the family."

Besides, the Voss stable found another Hunt Cup challenger on Grand National day.

Forty-eight minutes after Sam Sullivan's Grand National romp, Phoenix Stable's Wood Whistle improved to two-for-two this year with an easy win in the \$15,000 Benjamin Murray Memorial allowance timber. Also ridden by Waterman, Wood Whistle flew around the three-mile course while looking bolder (if a little less precise) than Sam Sullivan. The 8-year-old son of Baederwood rallied past the highly regarded Matchless to win by five lengths.

Waterman, who started working for Voss last fall and brought Wood Whistle and a few other horses with her, just came along for the ride—on two standout horses.



Top: Sam Sullivan (Blair Waterman) affirmed his talent in the Grand National. Right: Wood Whistle (Blair Waterman, left) earned a chance at the Hunt Cup by defeating Matchless (Joe Gillet) in the Benjamin Murray Memorial.



"It's absolutely why I went there and it couldn't have worked out any better so far. My goal was Maryland timber racing and here I am. It's worked out really well; I'm extremely lucky to be on those kind of horses," said Waterman, who graduated from the University of Virginia with a history degree last year. "I had an amazing day. I don't think they come very often but I guess that's what happens when you ride really nice horses. I pretty much rode the exact same race on both of them and both of them were brilliant."

Sam Sullivan and Wood Whistle both appeared ready to run in the Hunt Cup. Both horses were entered, but the final decision didn't come until late in the week when the nod went to Wood Whistle.

"The Grand National fences didn't back him off. He was

pretty flawless," Waterman said of Wood Whistle.

Of course, all of the planning went for naught at the third fence of the Hunt Cup as Wood Whistle was brought down by Maipo and Waterman left the course by ambulance with a concussion. She was back riding horses a week later and was expected to return to racing in early May. ✦

GRAND NATIONAL (Butler, April 20)

Grand National Steeplechase, about 3 miles over timber, 5 & up. Purse \$30,000. Time: 6:01½. 1-Mrs. Thomas H. Voss's Sam Sullivan (gr./ro.g. 9, by Temperence Hill—Cretian Queen, by Restless Native. Bred by Victor Divivo in Md.); trainer Thomas H. Voss; rid-

er Blair Waterman. 2-William C. Lickle's Young Dubliner (Ire); Katherine Neilson; Brian Moran. 3-Irvin S. Naylor's Make Me a Champ; F. Bruce Miller; Ashley Bealby. Also ran: Swayo, Ocean Liner, Stage Radiance, Deceptive Stroke (fell).

Benjamin H. Murray Memorial, about 3 miles over timber for non-winners of two sanctioned races over timber, 5 & up. Purse \$15,000. Time: 6:02¼. 1-Phoenix Stable's Wood Whistle (b.g. 8, Baederwood—Breathless Wind, by Hagley; bred by Barbara C. Graham in Md.); trainer Thomas H. Voss; rider Blair Waterman. 2-Mrs. John R.S. Fisher's Matchless; Jack Fisher; J.D. Gillet. 3-Irvin S. Naylor's It's Only a Game; William Meister; Ashley Bealby. Also ran: Narrow River, Mr Rokeby (fell), Mortar Board (pulled up), Will Prevail (fell), Hyrah (pulled up), Lil Starvin Marvin (fell), Master Magoo (fell).

Ironfist tightens his hold on My Lady's Manor

by Joe Clancy Jr.



John Rush Streett Memorial was a coming-out party for Wood Whistle, shown jumping between Oliver Owl and Silver Spoon.

Eight is great. Figure eight. Elite eight. Eight is enough.

And eight is great. Timber star Ironfist extended his winning streak to that lofty perch with a gutsy triumph in the \$20,000 My Lady's Manor open timber race at Monkton on April 13.

The eight-pack began with four wins in 2000, continued with three more last season and rolled through another superb effort in the 2002 Manor—the horse's third straight win in the historic race.

Owned by locals Harry and Dorian Filbert and trained just over the hill by Tom Voss, Ironfist looked comfortable over the sprawling course—taking an easy early lead, jumping flawlessly and saving enough energy to turn back a game Maipo by a head in the stretch.

"He owns the place," said Ironfist's jockey Roger Horgan. "It was a hell of a good race but it's the same old story with my horse—he will not quit. He finds a way to put his nose in front every time."

Just about.

The last time Ironfist lost, Horgan was riding horses He's Got Rhythm and Bates Back Again.

The 9-year-old Maryland-bred had to overcome more than other horses to win this year's Manor, thanks to a winter of injury and uncertainty. During an otherwise routine training exercise, Ironfist jammed a piece of a corn stalk—yes, corn stalk—into his



My Lady's Manor contenders make the leap, from left: Patrician Power (Geoffrey Brutscher), runner-up Maipo (Polly Gundry), winner Ironfist (Roger Horgan), Company Eight (Chris Read), Stone Buster (Woods Winants), third-placed Dr. Ramsay (Blair Waterman).

knee. Two surgeries and three weeks at New Bolton Center cost the burly chestnut several-hundred pounds and plenty of training.

"He came back from New Bolton and looked like a Cambodian and if it wasn't for MJ's round-the-clock care he wouldn't have been where he was," Horgan said of Voss assistant MJ Kirwan, whose other star timber pupil was Maryland Hunt Cup winner Welter Weight.

Ironfist returned to work, gingerly, and prepped for the Manor with a fourth-place finish in a four-horse (all Voss-trained) flat race at Elkridge-Harford point-to-point a week before the Manor. Though

somewhat thinner than in past years, Ironfist left little doubt of his quality in becoming the Manor's third three-time winner (with Winton and Sam Son of a Gun) in 92 runnings.

"He was picture perfect again," said Horgan. "He doesn't make mistakes when it counts and he won't let a horse go by him. That's what makes him as prolific as he is."

The Voss stable sat out the first four weeks of the National Steeplechase Association season, but dove into week five with a vengeance. Voss horses won three of six starts on April 13 at Atlanta and Monkton.

Newcomer Wood Whistle kept the run going with a

powerful win in the \$10,000 John Rush Streett maiden timber at the Manor. An 8-year-old, Wood Whistle came to the Voss barn with jockey/exercise rider Blair Waterman who in turn leased the son of Baed-erwood to longtime Voss client Phoenix Stable for the spring season.

Wood Whistle didn't disappoint his new connections, and carried Waterman to a four and a half-length score over Hyrah (Woods Winants) and Prior Approval (Blake Curry). Waterman called Wood Whistle her "child," but wasn't over-confident coming to the Manor.

"I was really worried all week; he was off his feed and



Ivorgorian (Mason Lampton, left) captured the John D. Schapiro Memorial by a nose bob over Holzmann (Anne Hambleton).

he's never off his feed," she said. "I told Mr. Voss that I didn't think [the horse] was right. He's said he's the trainer, the horse is fine and not to worry about. So I didn't and I'm glad."

The Manor card was extended to include a \$7,500 fox-

hunter timber race in memory of John Schapiro, who would have appreciated the finish. Pre-season talk centered on the course's difficulty for unproven race horses and riders, but seven foxhunters put on a superb show over an altered Manor course.

In the stretch, series regulars Ivorgorian (Mason Lampton) and Holzmann (Anne Hambleton) hooked up for another tilt. This time, Ivorgorian got the nod, winning by a nose. A 10-year-old former Jack Fisher steeplechaser, Ivorgorian won his third series race—all photo finishes—for owner/rider Lampton and trainer Dot Smithwick.

"I'm either a nose ahead or a hundred lengths back," said Lampton. "Ivorgorian likes to get his picture taken."

The course wasn't a problem for any of the foxhunters.

"I thought it rode really well," said Lampton. "It was just a little bit bigger than what we're normally riding over, the size wasn't that different. The horses jumped as well as any of the other races on the card, and it was so much fun to ride over. It's a rider's course—made for foxhunters."

Ivorgorian and Holzmann are essentially the same horse. Both raced over hurdles and timber with trainer Jack Fisher, ran out of conditions, were sold to amateur riders and found new careers.

"They've found their niche, and they do it well," said Lampton. "The horses and the races have allowed people like me to get back into steeplechasing, which is a good

thing. I see more and more people giving this a try and it's good for the game." ❦

MY LADY'S MANOR (Monkton, April 13)

My Lady's Manor Steeplechase, about 3 miles over timber, 5 & up. Time: 5:58. Purse \$20,000. 1-John H. Filbert III's IRONFIST (ch.g., 9, Iron—Miss List, by List; bred by Oatland Farm in Md.); trainer Thomas H. Voss; rider Roger A. Horgan. 2-Arcadia Stable's Maipo; Charles Fenwick Jr.; Polly Gundry. 3-Cary W. Jackson's Dr. Ramsey; Jack Fisher; Blair Waterman. Also ran: Stone Buster, Company Eight, Narrow River, Patricia Power (pulled up).

John Rush Streett Memorial, about 3 miles over timber, 5 & up, non-winners over timber. Purse \$10,000. Time: 5:54. 1-Phoenix Stable's Wood Whistle (b.g. 8, Baed-erwood—Breathless Wind, by Hagley; bred by Barbara C. Graham in Md.); trainer Thomas H. Voss; rider Blair Waterman. 2-Irvin S. Naylor's Hyrah; Louis Neilson III; Garet Winants. 3-Sho-Men Stable's Prior Approval; Eileen Dixon; Blake Curry. Also ran: Master Magoo, It's Only a Game, Trade Off, Kebo Valley, Oliver Owl, Spoonfulofsugar (lost rider), Silver Spoon (NZ) (fell), Mortar Board (pulled up).

John D. Schapiro Memorial, foxhunter's chase, about 3 miles over timber, 5 & up. Purse \$7,500. Time: 6:15. 1-Mason Lampton's Ivorgorian (ch.g. 10, Sir Ivor Again—Cosmahgorian, by Gregorian; bred by Hal C.B. Clagett in Md.); trainer Dorothy Smithwick; rider owner. 2-Stone Valley Farm's Holzmann; Lilith Boucher; Anne Hambleton. 3-Van der Woude Stable's Lone Mountain; Sara Hogan; Matt van der Woude. Also ran: Hello Hal, Kiblah, Nimble Nim, Hot It Up (pulled up).

It's open season at point-to-points

by Joe Clancy Jr.

Predictably, Maryland's point-to-point season included a little bit of everything. Breeders' Cup Steeplechase-NSA1 winner Quel Senor (Fr) made an appearance.

So did timber champions Ironfist and Thor Thors. And don't forget Snickers, Zoolander and Lieutenant (not Captain) Bodgit.

The point-to-points are for everyone, and everything.

The Howard County-Iron Bridge meet started the schedule with a 10-race card on March 23 at Glenelg. Move Up Stable's Silver Spoon (NZ) (Charlie Fenwick III) took the featured Howard County Hunt Cup over timber. Trained by Ann Stewart, New Zealand import Silver Spoon outran stablemate Swayo (Joe Gillet) by a length. Costly Fun (Sheila Fisher) finished third, but won

the foxhunter division in a combined race.

Trainer Sanna Neilson dusted off Irv Naylor's Walkin n' Memphis, and won the Alda Clark Plate novice timber race for jockey Jody Petty. On the timber trail at the start of 2001, Walkin n' Memphis stayed a hurdler and put together a \$20,000 season that included a win and a bang-up fourth in the Legacy Cup

Stakes at Shawan Downs in October.

In 2002 the races are timber, however, and Walkin n' Memphis didn't disappoint. The son of Go and Go (Ire) cruised to a seven-length win over Anzac Cove.

Howard County raised the stakes this season with a \$5,000 winner-take-all flat race restricted to horses owned by hunt club members or Howard



Silver Spoon (#4) won the Howard County Cup and Costly Fun (#1) took the hunter chase timber. Horse in background is Swayo.

County residents. The entry box attracted eight horses including 2001 NSA 3-year-old champion Geaux Beau in the silks of Contrarian Stable and hurdle winner Poplar from Kennard Warfield.

The rest of the field was made up of flat horses, and Donald Reuwer's Battletown sped to a win over Geaux Beau for trainer John Salzman.

Battletown (Blake Curry) handled the final turn with grace and sprinted through the uphill stretch to win by six lengths and get the big payday.

Other flat races went to Quel Senior (Cyril Murphy) and I Try Harder (Anthony Aguirre).

The new North American Point-to-Point Association's grass-roots racing effort was a part of Maryland's spring circuit and got the ball rolling with several races at Howard County. Collen Murk booted home Just Plain Texas in the Founders Cup senior field masters chase for foxhunters. The popular race attracted nine entries, and helped NAPPA start its program.

Juniors were also part of the program at Howard County as French Revolution (Rosi Napravnik), American Girl (Ellen Halle), Carrot Top (Alyssa Kaufman) and Glory's Gold (Eden Riegel) scored victories.

Maryland's popular hunt club relay challenge began at Howard County, and Green Spring Valley's team of My Say So (Barbie Horneffer), Make Us Laugh (Lisa Wheeler) and Iron Orebid (Andrea Seefeldt) came away with the victory.

New to the circuit this year was the Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point run over the new Shawan Downs race course in Cockeysville on March 30.

Top timber horses took the spotlight, with Dolly Fisher's Matchless (Joe Gillet) prevailing in a field of five in the Green Spring Valley Hunt Cup, run in memory of Frank A. Bonsal. Like so many steeplechasers, Matchless began life as something different (he sold for \$290,000 as a yearling) but has steadily climbed the timber ladder under the care of trainer Jack Fisher. The son of Lyphard won a \$15,000 allowance timber last spring, and used the Green Spring race as a prep for bigger things—Matchless finished second to Wood Whistle at the Grand National and was bound for the Virginia Gold Cup.

Another timber horse with bigger things on his agenda, Arcadia Stable's Maipo, used Green Spring as a ladder. Trained by Charlie Fenwick, Maipo (Polly Gundry) sprinted away from Will Prevail (Sarah Stein) to win by less



Don Reuwer's Battletown, ridden by Howard County local Blake Curry, earned \$10,000 in winning the new Waverly flat race.



Last year's Breeders' Cup Steeplechase-NSA1 winner Quel Senior (Cyril Murphy) won the two-mile Meriwether flat race.



Irv Naylor's Walkin' n' Memphis (Jody Petty) cruised to an eight-length score in the Alda Clark Plate novice timber.

than a length in the Grace Miller Whedbee Memorial ladies timber race.

Gundry, a top English amateur, was aboard in a get-acquainted trip. Two weeks later, Maipo battled Ironfist at My Lady's Manor and came up a head short in a tight photo finish.

Eight horses went to the post in the Daniel Brewster Memorial novice timber, and produced a photo finish between Spoonfullofsugar and Homage. Winsome Stable's Spoonfullofsugar (Danielle Brewster) got the nod by a nose over Homage (Gundry) with Rosbrian (Ire) (Blake Curry) third.

The victory was a family affair. The race director at Shawan, Danielle Brewster is a granddaughter of Daniel Brewster and Winsome Stable is made up of her uncles Tommy Smith and Walter Brewster. To top it off, Danielle rode in her grandmother Ottalie Cochran's silks.

"I really wanted to ride at Shawan because I've been so involved in the project, so it was fun to do it," said Danielle. "I want to get back to being involved and have been thinking about riding for a while."

The partnership with Spoonfullofsugar, trained by Jack Fisher, was eventful.

"I was going out there to have fun and get around, but he was difficult in the paddock and at the start," the jockey said. "He dropped me at the start, but I hung on to him and got back on. Once we got going he was perfect. He didn't miss a fence and I didn't have to do very much. It was a lot of fun."

In the Worthington Bowl heavyweight timber, Lindsay Dryden's Right About Now (NZ) (Dyson Dryden) stormed home in front of 1996 Maryland Hunt Cup winner Hello Hal (Jason Griswold) and Hot It Up (Michael Finney). Carrying 190 pounds, the horses put on quite a show with the New Zealand-bred winner scoring by seven lengths for trainer Ann Stewart.

Juniors were also in action as ex-steeplechaser JJ Hansel

(Willie White) scored in the Stuart Janney Jr. Memorial field masters chase for horses. In the pony division, American Girl (Ellen Halle) duplicated her Howard County success with another win.

On the flat, Timbrooke Filbert drove April Showers to a win over Shiloh in the large pony division while Little Nicky (Meredith Almony) won the small/medium division.

Trainer Tom Voss opened his Atlanta Hall Farm to another Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point on April 6 and fittingly won the Edward Voss Memorial with Sam Sullivan. Owned by Mimi Voss, the winner carried Blair Waterman to a three-length win over Swayo and five others including eventual Maryland Hunt Cup winner Young Dubliner.

Voss also took the two-mile open flat race with The Fields Stable's Equistar. Ridden by Celeste Prouty, the winner outran stablemates Teb's Bend, Honor Me Always and Ironfist in a four-horse race.

The home team was held to two wins, however, as Irv Naylor's Khachaturian (Roger Horgan) won the George Clement Memorial novice timber. The winner, a son of Turkoman, defeated Will Prevail (Sarah Stein) by four lengths. Walkin n' Memphis was third.

Horgan picked up his second win of the day when Betty Bird's Bridger stormed past Mr. Fater and Gullible to win the Chase Me one-mile open flat. Trained by John Bosley, the 8-year-old, a \$535,000 Keeneland July yearling, carried superb bloodlines (A.P. Indy—Wakona, by Fappiano) to the win.

Among the youngsters, Little Nicky won the small pony division of the Paddy Smithwick Memorial with another stellar effort for Meredith Almony. Shiloh (Chelsea Secor) turned the tables on April Showers in the large pony division and French Revolution (Rosi Napravnik) won the horse division by a head over Bering Land Bridge.

A day after Elkridge-Harford, thanks to some date shuffling, Davidsonville's Marl-

borough Hunt Races lasted most of the day with a crowded program and a slew of races on the flat, over hurdles and over timber.

The big winner on the day was Green Stripe Stable's Thor Thors. The 2001 NSA timber champion opened his campaign with a second consecutive win in the \$5,000 John Murray Begg Memorial open timber race. Trained by Alicia Murphy, the winner (who enjoyed a walkover in 2001) had to work a little harder after hooking up with two game rivals.

Thor Thors (Michael Traurig) led most of the race, but was passed briefly by Morning Mass and Dusty Corners late. Thor Thors came on again to win by a nose over Morning Mass in a tuneup for the \$25,000 Queen's Cup at Charlotte, N.C., three weeks later.

Virginia trainer Doug Fout won three races on the day—taking the \$1,000 maiden hurdle with EMO Stable's Lord Presto. The New Zealander (Rob Massey) battled past Concerto Grosso (Blythe Miller) late to win by less than a length. Fout and Massey came right back to win the \$1,000 novice timber with Fetzer. Owned by the trainer's mother Eve Fout, Fetzer outran Complete Verdict (Woods Winants) to get the win.

Completing the triple, Fout saddled New Zealand import Baksheesh (Massey) to take a division of the \$1,000 open flat by a neck over stakes horse Greek Hero (Matt McCarron).

Fout's triple was a sign of things to come, because he did the same thing at the Middleburg Spring Races in Virginia on April 20.

"I try not to run any of them if I don't think they can finish in the first three, but any time you win more than one in a day you're doing well," he said. "I've got a nice group of horses right now."

Kinross Farm's He's a Dreamer (McCarron) also won a \$1,000 flat race, outrunning Boomtown (Roger Horgan) by a length. Both flat races were full of prepping NSA horses

including stakes winner Najm and allowance horse Exzar.

Like the open horses, maiden flat runners overflowed the entry box and the race was split in two \$500 divisions. Kay Jeffords's Thegooddieyoung (Jody Petty), a 4-year-old son of Lear Fan with Lonesome Glory in his pedigree, rolled to a two and a half-length win for trainer Bruce Miller. Look for the newcomer in a hurdle race near you soon. Contrarian Stable's Naughty Prince (Will Mann) won the second division for trainer Ricky Hendriks. A half-brother to NSA hurdle stakes winner Tres Touche, Naughty Prince scored by two and a half lengths and—like Thegooddieyoung—should be a hurdler soon.

Marlborough's \$1,000 maiden hurdle went to Polaris Stable's Preemptive Strike, who outfinished Tab by a neck in the two-mile race. Trained by Paul Rowland and ridden by Jody Petty, the winner followed up that quality effort with a narrow loss to Steadfastness in a \$20,000 maiden hurdle at the Middleburg Spring Races.

Another flat race, this one for amateur riders in the ARCA program, went to Jill Waterman's Chilean import Rio Bio Bio. Trained by Chip Miller, the winner carried Geoff Brutscher to victory behind NSA stakes horse Quel Senior (Fr), who was later disqualified for going off course.

In the pony races, Lieutenant Bodgit (Jessica Rice) scored by seven lengths in the large division while Garfield (Hampton Addis) won the medium race.

Summer (Rice) captured the small division. NSA hurdlers Tropical Sun (Chris Gracie) and Jetalito (Rice) battled in the junior horse race, with Tropical Sun winning by five lengths.

In the hunt team relay, Green Spring's trio of Uncle Uno (Becky Naylor), Make Us Laugh (Lisa Wheeler) and Work In Progress (Barbara Horneffer) downed Potomac and Marlborough.



MARYLAND FUND STAKES RECAPS

Include



Jennings Handicap

\$100,000-guaranteed, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., registered Maryland-breds, 3 & up, Pimlico Race Course, April 20.

B.h., 1997, by Broad Brush—Illeria, by Stop the Music. Bred and owned by Robert E. Meyerhoff; trained by Grover G. Delp. Foaled at Fitzhugh Farm, Phoenix, Md.

Lifetime

starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings			
17	10	(7)	1	(1)	3	(2)	\$1,592,560

(through April 20)

2000: 1st \$75,000 **Vincent A. Moscarelli Memorial S**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., 3-year-olds, Delaware, Aug. 12. **2001:** 1st \$125,000 **Whirlaway H**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., 4 & up, Fair Grounds, Feb. 11; \$500,000 **New Orleans H-G2**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., 4 & up, Fair Grounds, March 4; \$100,000 **Jennings H**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., registered Md.-breds, 3 & up, Pimlico, April 21; \$750,000 **Pimlico Special H-G1**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., 3 & up, Pimlico, May 12; \$500,000 **Massachusetts H-G2**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., 3 & up, Suffolk, June 2. **2002:** 1st \$100,000 **Jennings H**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., registered Md.-breds, 3 & up, Pimlico, April 20.

Include, 2001 Maryland-bred horse of the year, delivered as hoped in the Jennings Stakes on Maryland Spring Challenge Day (April 20), scoring by nine lengths in his first appearance since last November.

Reserved behind the early pace set by Twilight Prince and Concerned Minister, Include moved up four-wide on the outside and took command near the three-eighths pole, then drew off under steady urging from jockey Mario Pino.

The ultra-game Lightning Paces, though no match for Include in class, held on for second, two lengths in front of First Amendment. The rear guard consisted of (in order of finish) Bada Bam Bada Boom, Al Khaaser, Concerned Minister and Twilight Prince.

Coupled as an entry with stablemate Concerned Minister,

Include went off at odds of 2-5 and carried high weight of 123 pounds, giving between five and 12 pounds to each of his six rivals. His time for the mile and an eighth was 1:49.97.

Owned and bred by Robert E. Meyerhoff and trained by Grover G. (Bud) Delp, Include has now earned \$1,592,560 from 17 career starts. The 5-year-old son of Broad Brush was widely feted at the (April 17) Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Annual Awards Dinner, where his dam Illeria was recognized as the 2001 broodmare of the year.

Illeria (by Stop the Music) is continuing the tradition with a 2002 Broad Brush filly foaled March 9. She was bred back to Broad Brush.

Madame X Ski



Caesar's Wish Stakes

\$75,000-guaranteed, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., registered Maryland-bred 3-year-old fillies, Pimlico Race Course, April 20.

B.f., 1999, by Polish Numbers—Miss Rudy T., by Lord Gaylord. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Victor Ives; owned by Susan and John Moore; trained by James A. Jerkens. Foaled at Dance Forth Farm, Chestertown, Md.

Lifetime

starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings			
8	3	(1)	2	(2)	1	(1)	\$144,210

(through April 20)

2001: 2nd **Maryland Million Lassie S**. **2002:** 1st **Caesar's Wish S**, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., registered Md.-bred 3-year-old fillies, Pimlico, April 20; 2nd **Busanda S**; 3rd **Bourbonette Breeders' Cup S**.

Anyone could have bought Miss Rudy T., barren, at the 1993 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic February Mixed sale, where she sold on a bid of \$1,300.

But only a few people did.

After that sale, Miss Rudy T. became the property of Maryland veterinarian Tom Bowman, his wife Chris, and Victor Ives, who works at the Bowmans' Roland Farm in Chesapeake City, Md.

Before her unexpected death at age 16 in 1999, Miss Rudy T. (by Lord Gaylord) would establish a legacy that borders on the sublime.

Herself a creditable though far from brilliant race horse, Miss Rudy T. raced for four seasons, winning or placing in 13 of 32 starts and earning \$78,566. Her only stakes achievement was a second in the inaugural (1986) Maryland Million Oaks, won by Smart 'n Quick.

For the Bowman/Ives partnership, Miss Rudy T. produced three stakes horses—all by Northview Stallion Station stallion Polish Numbers—within a five-year span.

First came Tenski, a grass-loving filly who proved the epitome of class in a well-plotted career that comprised only 11 starts. Voted 1998 Maryland-bred horse of the year, Tenski (\$524,710) won the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup Stakes-G1 at Keeneland and annexed two graded stakes at Saratoga during her memorable 3-year-old campaign. Tenski raced for Richard Golden, who bought her privately as a weanling. (Now a member of the broodmare band at Golden's Sycamore Hall Farm in Chesapeake City, Md., Tenski produced her first foal, a Kris S. filly, in 2000. She has a yearling filly by Coronado's Quest, a Red Ransom filly by her side, and was bred this year to Thunder Gulch.)

Miss Rudy T.'s 1998 colt Mr. Numbers won or placed in three of five starts, including a third in last year's Liberty Bell Stakes.

Now it's Madame X Ski's turn in the limelight. Based upon the stellar record of her older sister, Madame X Ski brought \$150,000 at the 2000 Saratoga Yearling sale. She has campaigned throughout her career for her purchasers at that sale, Susan and John

Moore, and trainer Jimmy Jerkens.

The Caesar's Wish Stakes on Maryland Spring Challenge Day (April 20) showcased a frontrunner, though hard-fought, victory by Madame X Ski, who held off a strong bid by runner-up Tamayo and scored by a neck as odds-on favorite.

True Sensation, heroine of the 2001 Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes, finished third, nearly six lengths back. Next in order of finish were Nanden, 2001 Maryland-bred 2-year-old filly champion Touch Love and Out of the Bag. Madame X Ski stopped the timer, after a mile and a sixteenth, in 1:44.91.

Madame X Ski broke her maiden at Saratoga last August in her second start and returned to finish in a dead heat with Bronze Abe for second in the Maryland Million Lassie won by Night Breeze. She was stakes-placed in her only two starts this season leading up to the Caesar's Wish, which consisted of a close second in Aqueduct's Busanda Stakes (January 27) and a third in the \$150,000 Bourbonette Breeders' Cup Stakes at Turfway Park on March 23.

No Pressure



Star de Naskra Stakes

\$60,000-guaranteed, 6 fur., registered Maryland-bred 3-year-olds, Pimlico Race Course, April 20.

Dk.b./br.c., 1999, by Press Card—Shorcount, by Oh Say. Bred by Barbara Cross Graham; owned by Louis J. Ulman; trained by Dale Capuano. Foaled at Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md.

Lifetime

starts	1st	2nd	3rd	earnings	
4	2	(1)	2	0	\$60,960

(through April 20)

2002: 1st \$60,000 **Star de Naskra S**, 6 fur., registered Md.-bred 3-year-olds, Pimlico, April 20.

No Pressure required strong-armed handling from jockey Jeremy Rose in the closing stages of the Maryland Spring Challenge Day (April 20) event for state-bred 3-year-olds, the six-furlong Star de Naskra Stakes.

Still, the son of Press Card has lived up to his name

throughout his brief career—since trainer Dale Capuano has seldom had reason to doubt his wisdom in buying him, for \$5,000, at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling sale.

No Pressure, owned by Maryland Racing Commission chairman Louis J. Ulman, bested six rivals to win the Star de Naskra in his stakes debut. Dispatched as 2.4-1 second favorite behind Private Opening, who was attempting a three-race win streak, No Pressure stalked pacesetter Captain Chessie and was all out to shake off that rival before drawing clear by a length.

Captain Chessie crossed the wire four and a half lengths to the good of Quarter Ton of Fun, who was followed (in order of finish) by Medieval Trick, Private Opening, Huber Woods and In the Cups. Final time for the six furlongs was 1:10.73.

Unraced at 2, No Pressure has finished first or second in each of his four starts this season, all at six furlongs. He won at second asking, scoring by six lengths in a maiden special weight at Laurel on March 2, and came back to finish a close second in allowance company at Pimlico on April 4 before the Star de Naskra.

No Pressure was the first of two Spring Challenge Day winners for Press Card, who launched his career at Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md., but now stands in Australia.

No Pressure is the latest of numerous stakes winners bred by Middleburg, Va., horse-woman Barbara Cross Graham, from a female family that goes back to a mare named Short Winded (a 1965 daughter of the *Nasrullah stallion Harvest Singing.)

Short Winded is the granddam of Algar (\$573,116), who twice carried Graham's colors to victory in the Maryland Million Classic (1997 and '98), and Rollodka (\$559,669), whom Graham bred but did not race for the majority of his career. Short Winded's great-granddaughter Gin Talking (a graded stakes winner of \$329,210 whom Graham bred

and sold for \$40,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling sale) was Maryland-bred horse of the year in 2000.

Another of Short Winded's grandsons, Wood Whistle (by Baederwood) won the Benjamin H. Murray Memorial timber race at Maryland's Grand National meet on the same afternoon as the Star de Naskra. (It was the second victory in a row for the Phoenix Stable-owned, Tom Voss-trained Wood Whistle, who captured the John Rush Street Memorial maiden timber at My Lady's Manor the previous week.)

No Pressure's dam Shorcount (by Oh Say) is a winning half-sister to Algar. Shorcount produced No Pressure as her third foal. Because Shorcount had difficulty conceiving, Graham subsequently gave the mare to her veterinarian and his wife, Tom and Genie Paisley. Shorcount does not have a current 2-year-old or yearling, but foaled this year to Comic Strip and was bred back to Afternoon Deelites.

Shiny Sheet



Geisha Handicap

\$100,000-guaranteed, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., registered Maryland-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up. Pimlico Race Course, April 20.

B.f., 1998, by Press Card—Miss Otis, by One For All. Bred by Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Rathbun; owned by Mrs. Henry T. Rathbun; trained by Charles H. Hadry Sr. Foaled at Country Life Farm, Bel Air, Md.

starts	LifETIME			earnings
	1st	2nd	3rd	
7	3 (1)	1	2	\$99,820

(through April 20)

2002: 1st \$100,000 Geisha H, 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi., registered Md.-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up, Pimlico, April 20.

Shiny Sheet may be a late bloomer, but her blossoming has been a wonder to behold. The 4-year-old filly, who races for her breeders, Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Rathbun, rose from obscurity to local fame with a three-race win streak culminating in the \$100,000 Geisha Handicap on Maryland Spring Challenge Day (April 20).

The whirlwind was unleashed on March 6, when

trainer Charlie Hadry sent Shiny Sheet out to score by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths in maiden special weight company at Laurel Park—in her fifth career start.

Put to the test in an allowance race at Laurel three weeks later, with the distance stretched from six furlongs to a mile and a sixteenth, Shiny Sheet affirmed her talent by posting a frontrunning, seven and a half-length victory.

Still, she was making a giant step up in class in the Geisha, where she faced the likes of proven stakes winners Case of the Blues, Your Out and Winter Leaf. Apparently undaunted, Shiny Sheet allowed recent Conniver Stakes heroine Winter Leaf to set the early pace, then got up to triumph by a half-length. Winter Leaf held on for second, a length in front of extreme longshot Stanza.

Completing the field, in order of finish, were Your Out, Case of the Blues, Brig, Crossing Denali, Magic Stream and Hunka Hunka Lori Z.

Shiny Sheet paid \$14.20 as third choice in the betting, and completed the mile and a sixteenth in 1:44.56.

Shiny Sheet continues a long and rewarding saga for her breeders, the Rathbuns, who keep five broodmares at their farm near Middleburg, Va. The Rathbuns have owned five generations of Shiny Sheet's family, beginning with the Double Jay mare Rugosa, a foal of 1967 whom they purchased from Mrs. John W. Hanes.

From each generation of Rugosa's descendants, the Rathbuns have bred at least one stakes winner. Rugosa's daughter Worrysome Thing (a foal of 1974, by Cyane) won the 1977 Anne Arundel Handicap and later produced three stakes horses, including General Strike (\$140,402, J. Rine Strohecker Memorial S, etc.).

Worrysome Thing's daughter Puzzlement (1981, by Tentam) won or placed in eight of 31 starts, earning \$22,557. But she produced as her first foal, in 1987, graded stakes winner

Miss Otis (\$326,615, Noble Damsel S-G3, 3rd Chrysanthemum H, etc.)

Miss Otis (by One For All) is the dam of Shiny Sheet.

Henry Rathbun, who notes that he and his wife are equal partners in all their horse dealings, said that they were the first to buy a share in the Fappiano stallion Press Card upon the horse's arrival at Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md., where they have enjoyed a "long and happy" association.

Press Card, sire of two Spring Challenge Day winners—Shiny Sheet and No Pressure—left Country Life several years ago and now stands in Australia. The Rathbuns continue to own shares in Country Life stallions Allen's Prospect and Citidancer.

Miss Otis was bred this season to Country Life's young stallion Unbridled Jet, after having slipped her 2002 foal by Holy Bull. She has a yearling colt by Cape Town and a 2-year-old colt, Bulloits, by Holy Bull.

Maryland's top 20 earners in 2002

(through May 2)

1. Magic Weisner . . . \$136,000
2. First Amendment 101,780
3. Rosthern 95,640
4. Shiny Sheet 94,570
5. Deer Run 89,590
6. Duckhorn 88,304
7. He's a Knockout . . . 84,000
8. Winter Leaf 81,740
9. Madame X Ski 76,980
10. For Love and Honor . . 69,970
11. Paloma Parilla 61,200
12. No Pressure 60,960
13. Include 60,000
14. P Day 58,790
15. Guillotine 54,852
16. Case of the Blues . . . 54,600
17. Sheila's Prospect . . . 54,199
18. Lightning Paces . . . 52,520
19. Feathers 51,694
20. Amber Comet 51,460

MHBA Annual Awards Dinner

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association's annual Awards Dinner took place April 17 at the Improv comedy club in downtown Baltimore.

Presented by Fasig-Tipton Inc., the festivities included a buffet dinner and entertainment, along with presentation of awards for 2001 Maryland-bred champions.

A special tribute went to Marguerite (Marge) Finney Dance, who was employed by the Maryland Horse Breeders for 34 years until her retirement on December 31, 2001.

Dance performed many services for the organization, and was the highly respected copy editor for *The Maryland Horse* and *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*. »



William K. Boniface presented Yearling Show premium awards to Chip Reed (far right), who received \$13,000 as exhibitor of top-earner Heavyweight Champ; Nancy Alberts (\$2,000) for Magic Weisner; and Morris Balser (\$1,000) for War Native.



Charles McGinnes (far right) receives award from Bob Manfuso as breeder of 2-year-old filly champion Touch Love. From left are Skeedattle II partners Lou Rehak and Willie White, who campaigned Touch Love to an undefeated season.



Mrs. Richard C. duPont was honored as breeder and owner of champion older female Shine Again, who counted Saratoga's Grade 1 Ballerina Handicap among her five victories last season. Richie Blue made the presentation.



Saratoga Games, champion 3-year-old male, has a large retinue, including trainer Tony Dutrow (far left) and his wife Kim (third from left), and co-owners Howard Bender, Sondra Bender, Arlene Kushner, Al Akman, Marion Akman. Presenter Don Litz is second from right, next to co-breeder Redmond Finney.



Nancy Alberts savored the lime-light thanks to Magic Weisner, the champion 2-year-old male whom she bred, owns and trains. Jim Steele presented the trophies.



Champion sprinter Disco Rico was celebrated by his late breeder C. Oliver Goldsmith's daughter Robin Evans (left) and son Robert Goldsmith, along with trainer Lori Testerman (right). Presenter was Judy DiNatale.



David Wade, breeder of champion 3-year-old filly Sparkling Number, is joined by wife Maureen, son Steven and daughter Kristin in accepting trophy from Ann Merryman (far right).



Pons family members lined up to receive Allen's Prospect's stallion of the year award from Allen Murray (third from left). From left are Mike, Joe, Mary Jo, Josh and Ellen Pons.



Valerie Stevens (right) and Dr. Jim Chicklo of Valley Racing Stable, co-breeders of champion turf runner One Eyed Joker, are pictured on stage with presenter Glennie Martin.



Breeders of the year Sondra and Howard Bender (third from right and far right) are joined by (from left) Mike Pons, Larry Murray, Deepak Ohri, Allen Murray and Janice Murray.



Redmond Finney (center) presented Bob Manfuso (right) the award for steeplechase champion Tres Touche, bred by his late father John Manfuso. Owner trophy went to Contrarian Stables's Malcolm Commer.



Marge Finney Dance, bowing out after a career that spanned five decades with the MHBA, was extolled by her former boss, retired *Maryland Horse* editor Snowden Carter.