

Filly Ramona Hill wins \$1 million Hambletonian, ties record

Tiz the Law wins Travers, likely Derby favorite in Kentucky

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York, Aug 9, (AP): Belmont winner Tiz the Law won the \$1 million Travers Stakes by 5-1/2 lengths at Saratoga, and heads to Kentucky for next month's Derby as the probable favorite.

Ridden by Manny Franco, Tiz the Law ran 1-1/4 miles in 2:00.65 on Saturday without fans in the grandstand during what is usually the Spa's biggest day of the summer. He paid \$3, \$2.40 and \$2.10.

The 3-year-old colt remains undefeated this year with four straight graded stakes victories for 82-year-old trainer Barclay Tagg.

"I've been doing this a long time and I've always wanted to win the Travers," Tagg said. "This has been in my head my whole life. And now it happened so it couldn't be better."

Tiz the Law became the first New York-bred in 138 years to win the Belmont Stakes on June 20 in the first leg of the rescheduled Triple Crown series. He began his racing career at Saratoga last summer and has six wins in seven starts.

"We saw a performance today that just blows me away," said Jack Knowlton, managing partner of Sackatoga

18-3/4-length victory in the Acorn at Belmont Park on June 20. Next up for her is the \$1.25 million Kentucky Oaks on Sept 4.

"She's rising straight to the top," said Jim Barnes, assistant to Baffert, who remained in California. "For what she's accomplished so far for such a lightly raced filly, we look forward to stretching her out and see what comes of that."

Gamine was one of two horses trained by Baffert that tested positive for lidocaine after winning a race at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas on May 2. She was disqualified by the track stewards and stripped of her purse earnings. Baffert received a 15-day suspension that he is appealing.

In East Rutherford, NJ, A filly winning the Hambletonian has been a rare sight in the 95-year history of trotting's biggest race.

Only 15 have accomplished the feat. Now owners Michelle and Al Crawford and Brad Grant have done it twice in the past three years.

Ramona Hill joined the list Saturday, scoring an impressive one-length victory while matching the stakes record set by her sire in 2009. Atlanta won in 2018 for the Crawfords and Grant.

"We haven't quite processed, I don't think we'll process for a long time," Michelle Crawford said. "To have these two fillies in our lives and to do the hard work and the breeding and the racing and selections in the yearling crop to get them to this point and then find out that they're good enough to go into these races and be competitive, is unbelievable — it's a great feeling."

Driven by Andrew McCarthy, the 3-year-old daughter of Muscle Hill covered the mile in 1:50.1 in equalling the record set by her father. The Tony Alagna-trained trotter paid \$2.80, \$2.10 and \$2.10 as the favorite in the field of 10 3-year-olds for the \$1 million race.

Ramona Hill made a late last-to-first move and posted the fastest time (1:51.2) in winning one of the two eliminations held last week.

Breaking from the No. 5 post position in the final, McCarthy moved earlier this week, taking the lead from Threeliftytwo near the end of the backstretch in winning for the third time in four starts in the coronavirus-delayed season.

It was the first win in the race for Alagna and McCarthy.

The Crawfords had a really big day. They also own a piece of Sorella, who won the \$600,000 Hambletonian Oaks for 3-year-old trotting fillies.

The Crawfords and Grant are partners with Robert Leblanc and In The Gym Partners in owning Ramona Hill.

Ready For Moni, who won the other elimination last weekend, held off Back Of The Neck to finish second.

Ready For Moni returned \$3.40 and \$2.40. Back Of The Neck paid \$2.40.

In the Oaks, driver Yannick Gingras scored his sixth win in seven years in this race. Favored Sorella won by 1-3/4-lengths to give trainer Nancy Takter her first win the race. Her father, Jimmy, won the race a record eight times, the last five times with Gingras driving.

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Stable. "We know we had a nice horse. We thought we had the best horse. To do what he did today, we're looking forward to going to Kentucky now."

Knowlton was part of the ownership group cheering on Tiz the Law by the fence near the finish line. Wearing masks, the group high-fived but didn't pay much heed to the sign advising people to keep their distance.

"I wish there were 50,000-plus people here to see this performance live," he said.

The Travers victory gave Tiz the Law 100 points in qualifying for the Kentucky Derby and he continues atop the leaderboard with 372.

Caracaro returned \$6.40 and \$4. Max Player, third in the Belmont, paid \$3.70 to show.

South Bend was fourth, followed by Country Grammer, Bob Baffert-trained Uncle Chuck and Shivaree.

Caracaro earned 40 Derby qualifying points, while Max Player picked up 20 and South Bend earned 10.

Tiz the Law was third in the early going before overtaking leader Uncle Chuck near the quarter pole. Franco sneaked a peek behind him before taking Tiz the Law three horses wide and then two horses wide before straightening into the upper stretch. Tiz the Law geared down near the sixteenth pole and cruised home.

"He gave me chills. When I pressed the button, he just took off," Franco said.

In the \$300,000 Test for 3-year-old fillies, Gamine defeated Venetian Harbor by seven lengths for Baffert. Up in Smoke finished third.

Gamine ran seven furlongs in 1:20.83, equaling the stakes record set by Lady Tak in 2003. She paid \$2.60 to win as the odds-on favorite.

Gamine was coming off an



In a photo provided by Lisa Photo, Ramona Hill, driven by Andrew McCarthy, wins the 95th Hambletonian horse race, at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, NJ on Aug 8. (AP)

Jaguars release 5, including Middleton

Browns' star WR Landry activated from injury list

CLEVELAND, Aug 9, (AP): Browns wide receiver Jarvis Landry was activated from the physically unable to perform list, clearing the way for him to practice in training camp following offseason hip surgery.

Landry has not missed a game in six NFL seasons. That streak has been in doubt after he underwent an extensive procedure to correct a hip issue that slowed him last season but didn't keep him off the field.

But Landry said months ago that he would be ready in August and the four-time Pro Bowler has kept his word.

One of the league's steadiest receivers, the 27-year-old Landry caught 83 passes for 1,174 yards and six touchdowns. He was one of the few positives in an otherwise disappointing 6-10 season for Cleveland.

The Browns also activated safety Karl Joseph (foot) and tight end Phar-

who signed the 26-year-old as a free agent in April. He spent the past four seasons with Oakland.

The Jacksonville Jaguars parted ways with five players Saturday, including third-year safety Doug Middleton, to reduce their roster to 80.

The team also waived running back Tavien Feaster, place-kicker Brandon Wright and offensive linemen Tyler Gauthier and Steven Nielsen. Feaster, Wright and Nielsen are rookies. The Jags also placed veteran defensive tackle Rodney Gunter on the non-football illness list.



Belgium's Wout Van Aert (right), sprints ahead of France's Julian Alaphilippe to win the Milan to San Remo cycling race, in San Remo, Italy, on Aug 8. (AP)

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aoh Brown (foot) from the PUP list on Saturday.

In addition, the team claimed cornerback M.J. Stewart off waivers. He played in 10 games last season for Tampa Bay and will give Cleveland some secondary depth.

The Browns are scheduled to begin full practices on Aug 14. To this point, the team has been limited to virtual meetings and walkthroughs in coach Kevin Stefanski's first camp due to COVID-19 protocols implemented by the league.

Joseph is expected to start at one safety spot this season for the Browns,



Tiz the Law, with Manny Franco up (center), leads the pack around the final turn on his way to win the Travers Stakes horse race at Saratoga on Aug 8 in Saratoga Springs, New York. (AP)

Harvick fends off Keselowski in OT for 5th Cup victory of season

Cindric withstands weather delay to win at Road America

BROOKLYN, Michigan, Aug 9, (AP): Kevin Harvick forced his way past Kyle Busch, then fended off hometown threat Brad Keselowski.

It takes a lot to beat Harvick these days — especially in Michigan.

Harvick raced to his fifth NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season, outlasting Keselowski in overtime Saturday in the opener of a weekend doubleheader at Michigan International Speedway. Harvick now has four victories at Michigan, including three in the last three years. He's been a big part of what is now a five-race winning streak for Ford at the Cup level at MIS.

"Just got challenged by a whole bunch of restarts at the end that made it

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kind of crazy," Harvick said. "But in the end it was a great day for us. Everybody did a great job, called a great race, and we capitalized on a fast car and put it in Victory Lane."

Keselowski was denied again in his home state. He's never won a Cup race at Michigan, but he'll have another chance Sunday. It would have been a tall order to overcome Harvick's dominant No. 4 car on this day. Harvick also won the race's first two stages.

"At no time did I think us or anybody else was better than the 4," Keselowski said.

Martin Truex Jr. finished third, followed by Ryan Blaney and Kyle Busch. Busch remained winless on the year with five races left in the regular season.

For the first two stages, the only yellow flags were for a competition caution and the stage endings. Then there were six cautions in the final stage and even a brief red flag for track cleaning.

The race, normally a 200-lap, 400-mile affair, was scheduled for 156 laps this time. It went to overtime after Christopher Bell made contact with Austin Dillon to bring out the final caution.

Starting this weekend, NASCAR is incorporating the "chose rule" into the restart procedure for all national series races except those held on road courses and superspeedways. As drivers approach a designated spot, they must commit to the inside or outside lane for the restart.

"I think it definitely gave some guys a chance that were kind of buried eighth or ninth," Harvick said. "You can take a chance and gain some track position. So



Kevin Harvick celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan on Aug 8. (AP)



Austin Cindric reacts at Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Xfinity Series auto race at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, on Aug 8. (AP)

I thought it went well and did exactly what everybody thought it would do."

On the final restart, both Harvick and Chase Elliott picked the outside, while Keselowski and Denny Hamlin went inside. Harvick and Keselowski raced side by side for a bit, but Harvick had a clear lead out of Turn 4, then held on for another lap to win.

Keselowski watched the replay to see if he could have done anything different in hindsight.

"I had like three ideas, and I watched the replay and none of them would have worked," Keselowski said. "At the moment, there was nothing I feel like I could have done differently other than just be a little faster or have a little more speed."

Harvick, the series points leader, won for the 54th time, pulling even with Lee Petty for 11th on the career list. He's

one victory behind rusty Wallace and two behind Busch.

For a brief moment, Busch was in front after one of the late restarts, but Harvick came up on the inside of him, and Busch's car became loose and fell back. At first, it looked as if there might have been very slight contact between the cars, but Harvick said that wasn't the case.

"I didn't know if I hit him or not but I saw the video and didn't touch him. I must have packed a bunch of air on his left rear," Harvick said. "I knew I needed to be right there. You have to take the chance when you have it and I needed that side draft down the front straightaway. I got within like an inch it looked like on the video."

Busch managed to finish in the top five despite that incident.

"I don't know whether he hit me or

just air. It was close enough that it disturbed my car obviously and made me have to get out of it real bad," he said.

It was the eighth straight top-five finish for Harvick, who has now matched Hamlin's series-leading total of five victories on the season.

In Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, Austin Cindric waited through a lightning delay and then won Saturday at Road America for his fourth victory in his last five Xfinity Series races.

Cindric led early on, fell off the pace after the weather delay, then charged back toward the front about two-thirds of the way through the race. He stayed ahead through two caution flags in the last six laps and beat A.J. Allmendinger by 1.318 seconds.

Cindric is the 11th different Xfinity Series winner at Road America in as many years.

After a caution flag came out with six laps left in the race, Justin Allgaier's Chevy went off track on the restart and hit a concrete structure, causing another stoppage. They started back up with two laps remaining, and Cindric held off Allmendinger the rest of the way to extend his lead in the Xfinity Series points race.

Chase Briscoe finished third. Kaz Grala was fourth, and Andy Lally fifth. Cindric bounced back from a tough finish July 25 at Kansas Speedway, where he settled for second place after Brandon Jones passed him on the final lap.

The Kansas race ended a string of three straight victories for Cindric that included a doubleheader sweep and a triumph at Texas. Cindric was declared the winner in Texas after Kyle Busch was disqualified when his car failed a post-race inspection.

Saturday's race had plenty of stops and starts, particularly early on. The opening stage that included the first 14 laps of the 45-lap event on Road America's 4.048-mile road course took over 2 1/2 hours to complete due to the lightning delay and three caution flags.

When the 93-minute lightning delay stopped, the race continued under wet-weather conditions that gave crew chiefs the option of installing rain tires. Nearly all the drivers switched to the rain tires before the restart, and many of them went back to their usual tires late in the second stage once the rain stopped.

The lightning delay happened when the race wasn't even one-quarter of the way over. Cindric had led all the way up to the delay, but Justin Haley overtook him as soon as the race resumed and won the first stage.

Cindric fell from the lead group at that point but surged back ahead in the third and final stage.

Matthews of Australia crosses third

Van Aert edges Alaphilippe to win Milan-San Remo

SAN REMO, Italy, Aug 9, (AP): Belgian rider Wout van Aert edged defending champion Julian Alaphilippe in a two-man sprint finish to win the Milan-San Remo classic on Saturday for the first "monument" victory of his rapidly developing career.

Alaphilippe attacked on the Poggio climb shortly before the end of the 305-kilometer (190-mile) route and Van Aert caught him on the descent.

The race — one of cycling's five single-day "monuments" — was originally scheduled for March.

It was the second win in a week for Van Aert, who also won the Strade Bianche race last weekend.

Van Aert, who rides for the Jumbo-Visma team, required 7 hours, 16 minutes to complete the lengthy

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route ending along the Italian Riviera.

Alaphilippe finished with the same time while Michael Matthews of Australia crossed third with the main pack, two seconds behind.

"It's unbelievable to win Milano-Sanremo after Strade Bianche. San Remo, I was at the limit. Alaphilippe attacked earlier than I expected and I couldn't hold his wheel so I had to go and chase him down," said Van Aert, a three-time cyclo-cross world champion and the winner of a stage in last year's Tour de France. "He played it very well. Luckily I just had enough power left to beat him on the line. It's a beautiful restart of the season for me."

The next "monument" race in the revised schedule is the grueling and hilly Lombardia next Saturday.