

STABLE TOUR

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The
November
Sale
NOVEMBER 7, 2023
NOMINATE NOW!



With George Weaver

George Weaver knows the difference a year makes.

“Everything is in perspective,” the trainer said. “Everything has evolved.”

And everything is better.

A year after Weaver’s wife, Cindy, suffered a severe brain injury, the Weaver barn is back in full force. They’ve won nine races from 35 starts for \$702,600 at Saratoga this summer. Crimson Advocate won the Group 2 Queen Mary at Royal Ascot, one of nine stakes wins for the stable this year. Cindy traveled to England to watch Crimson Advocate and is now at home, watching their horses run and offering insights to George, including how My Sweet Affair had warmed up a few weeks ago (she was right). And a Labrador Retriever puppy named Kingsley bounds around the barn.

Yeah, life is different.

Weaver walked his Horse Haven shedrows with The Special’s Sean Clancy Friday morning.

Pass The Champagne: The daughter of Flatter won the Grade 2 Ruffian in May. “Need I say more? She’s good, we were going to run her in the Ballerina, but she got sick. That happens in this game sometimes. Bad timing. We’re still trying to make the Breeders’ Cup Distaff with her. Maybe prep her in that race at Gulfstream or Keeneland. She’s always been super talented, and we were very happy she won the Ruffian this year, it was a well-deserved graded stake win. A pleasure to be around and a real pleasure to watch breeze, whew, ‘That’s what a good one looks like.’”

Sturdy: A \$200,000 yearling purchase, the bay colt has posted 10 breezes at Saratoga this summer. “Unstarted Mitole colt. And he is sturdy. Still figuring it out.”

Crimson Advocate: The daughter of Nyquist won a head bob at Royal Ascot June 21. “The champ. She’s high on our list of favorites right now. Going over there and getting the job done. When one does something like that for you, you look at them like, ‘You just did that for me?’ I sent her over to Patty Hogan (New Jersey veterinarian and rehab specialist) for a little bit, she’s an April baby, April 30 actually. Traveling-wise, it kind of knocked her down a little, backed her out of the tub, she didn’t have that good feeling to her. She came back great. She’s really doing good. We’re trying to make the Breeders’ Cup with her. I expect that we will, but I always say trying because I’m a horse trainer. Might just go straight in, I don’t want her to run huge off the bench and then regress. There are limited spots for 2-year-old fillies running on the grass. We’re looking forward to seeing what she can do this fall.”

Sacred Wish: A \$50,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale, the daughter of Not This Time nearly pulled off a shocker, finishing second in the CCA Oaks before fading to sev-

Tod Marks
Let’s Go Big Blue gave the Weaver barn one of its nine wins at the meet.



enth in the Alabama. “Another nice filly. Head scratcher last time in the Alabama. Same thing at Pimlico. I don’t know if it’s nerves. What’s that wrestling term? She just tapped out at the half-mile pole. Maybe she just came back too quick after running too big. Horses are fickle. She’s got a little bit of nerves from time to time. We’ll probably try her on the grass because she worked really well on the grass. She’s a sweetheart to be around.”

Amidst Waves: Two-year-old daughter of Midshipman ran her win streak to three with a score in the Bolton Landing. “Another one of our potential Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf Sprints. She’s 3-for-4 now and won nicely the other day. She was working with Crimson Advocate down there at Palm Beach Downs. Crimson was better than her on the dirt, but she kind of moved up. She was a little nervous early and she’s learned to be a racehorse since then. It’ll be interesting to see how the rest of their ‘23 goes.”

Miss Domina: A \$170,000 purchase from the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale, the 5-year-old daughter of Dominus has banked three wins in 14 starts. “We’ve had her for ages. She likes running at Saratoga. She ran well here last year and won a race here this year.”

Boston Strong Mama: Bred, owned and trained by Weaver, the 2-year-old daughter of Mshawish just missed by a head in her debut at Belmont Park July 8. “This is my horse right here. She’s a full-sister to the one who went down with Cindy. She’s named after Cindy since she spent a good portion of last year in Boston trying to come back. She’s in Sunday. She’s OK. I ran her against the boys

for maiden 40 first time out, she finished second. It’s been really hard getting spots for these horses. I’m running her a mile, I’m not sure that’s what she wants to do but we’ll find out Sunday.”

Riviere: The 3-year-old daughter of Bolt D’Oro finished fourth at Belmont and sixth here. “Scratched (Friday). Another horse who has suffered from off the turf. We ran her once off the turf and it was horrible. Looking to get in a grass race.”

Elite Prospect: Purchased as a yearling, the bay colt has posted three breezes over the Oklahoma this summer. “Nice Nyquist colt. Has not started. He’s more a fall horse. Probably run in October. He’s closely related to Elite Power. If he can be half as much horse as that one, we’ll be all right. Trying to take those little steps, one of these days I’ll get the urge to see what we’ve got. But not yet. Building a foundation.”

Arteta: A \$170,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale, the son of Take Charge Indy finished fifth here July 15. “Quick, quick horse who ran earlier in the meet. He got caught chasing and paid the price. Hopefully he’ll rebound this meet.”

Feltrinelli: A \$250,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Select Sale at Saratoga, the 2-year-old colt made his debut after the Stable Tour. “Running (Friday). Uncle Mo colt. Off the turf. We like him. This horse could be all right. I’ve always had the impression he was a little better on the grass, but we’ll see today.” He finished third.

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Stable Tour —

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Legends Can't Die: The gray/roan colt stood proud and tall in the back of his stall. "The white ghost. He won at Belmont the day Cindy got hurt. I'm in the hospital watching on my phone, first time out, it was a little bit of a ray of a nice moment on a horrible day."

No Nay Mets: The Irish-bred colt owns two stakes wins from three starts. "Another part of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint. We got scratched off the turf the other day, he might have been able to win that race, but I just wanted to keep my eyes on the ball for the Breeders' Cup. Even if he would have won it or handled it, if I come in the next day and he's busted up, I'd have been like, 'For what?' Colonial on Sept. 9 is the next thing on the horizon. They have a race at Keeneland if that didn't pan out."

Aggelos The Great: The New York-bred 2-year-old finished third in his debut here July 28. "Coach [Rick] Pitino's horse. Ran third early in the meet. Big, City Of Light colt. He's fast for a big horse."

Main Event: The Grade 3 winner has finished fifth twice here this summer. "Ran a couple of times in the three other than, set the pace and he's just not able to hold in the stretch as well as we were hoping. He won the Kent the day before my wife got hurt. Nice horse. Real classy, beautiful-moving Bernardini colt. I told those guys yesterday, 'OK, we were using speed and running that way last year but it's not working as well this year.' I think we'll take the blinkers off him."

Today's Flavor: Purchased for \$80,000 at the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred sale, the son of Lao-ban won four in a row this winter. "A real talented New York-bred, had a great winter. Caught a real salty allowance race here. Under pressure, on the lead, once again. The lead is great when it's the right way. When you're under pressure, it takes a really good horse to overcome that."

Good Lord Lorrie: The son of Hard Spun is 1-for-1 after a debut win here Aug. 12. "This is a 2-year-old we really like. Won first time out. He kind of teetered back and forth with his works and I thought he was going to be quicker with his gate work, so it took us longer to get to the races. Probably Kentucky Downs for him. He can run."

Cumberland: Son of Classic Empire has notched a second and third in four starts. "This horse has suffered from the turf season being screwed up. He never gets to run. I put him in for (today) just because he needs to run. He's a big heavy horse and he's not the most willing work horse. He benefits from running once a month."

Let's Go Big Blue: The New York-bred sold at Fasig-Tipton New York-bred sale for \$120,000 and came back to sell for \$200,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale in 2022.

Owned by Bill Parcels' August Dawn Farm, he was disqualified from a win in the Rick Violette Stakes last week. The gray gelding lounged in the round pen Friday morning. The two-time winner is in the fifth race Wednesday. "Coach's horse. He's been running well here. Initially when he got DQ'd, I thought it didn't look fair, I didn't see contact. I know there's a drift, but I don't really feel like Irad (Ortiz) lost momentum and in my heart, if I had to bet my life on it, his horse wasn't getting by, even if my horse stays straight. But the stewards aren't listening to my heart. If I was on the other end, obviously I'd be happy about it, take what you can get in this game, but I don't like taking horses down who are legitimately the best horses in the race. At the end of the day, we got the thrill of winning, we just didn't get paid. I'm kind of stuck now, that was his Derby. Straight 3-year-olds, New York-breds. He ran really big."

Brocknardini: A two-time Fasig-Tipton graduate, the daughter of Palace Malice won her debut here Aug. 2 for Thomas and Daryn Brockley. "Entered in the P. G. Johnson for Wednesday. Kind of a surprise. She really wasn't ready to run when we ran her. I tried to claim one the day before and he wasn't eligible to claim, so I thought run her and get him eligible to claim. She won, there you go. It reinforced my thought that fitness is overrated. If you're in the right spot with the right horse, don't worry about how fit you are, you'll win."

Let It Ride: The \$260,000 graduate from the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale hasn't run since a win at Aqueduct in April. "Can you believe they got that name? This is a nice horse. Just got beat by Scotland. Came back and broke his maiden at Aqueduct. I do like him. He just came back in. He's got a turn of foot. That's what I like."

Modica: The \$250,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July made his debut here. "Hard Spun horse who was fourth first time. We'll try to get him back in at the meet on the grass."

Please Advise: The bay colt won his debut at Belmont in June before missing in two stakes. "He ran fourth at Monmouth. I sent him over to Woodbine and he got a bad trip. Bought him for 20 grand because he was out of Randy Hill's old mare, Amansara, that family is good. I looked online, saw a picture as a short yearling. He's pigeon-toed but, hell, he's paid his way."

Noble Wave: The son of Noble Mission has finished fifth in all three tries. "Owned by the sweetest guy, Dr. Robinson. Watch the replay of his race at Monmouth."

Team Captain: The \$450,000 yearling breezed 3 furlongs here Aug. 21. "A relatively expensive Candy Ride colt who just came in. I like him. I don't know how far my string goes here, I might start giving you a Bruce Brown tour."

Theforcebewithyou: "This is a half-sister to Dorth Vader. She wasn't sweating in Florida, so they sent her up north." Weaver looks at a Rocket Ship Racing webbing. "OK, I know that's not me."