NINTH RACE
Saratoga
JULY 18, 2026

7 FURLONGS. (1.20[2]) MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT. Purse $115,000 (UP TO $20,010 NYSBFOA) FOR MAIDENS, THREE YEARS OLD AND UPWARD. Three Year Olds, 122 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs. (Non-Starters For A Claiming Price Of $55,000 Or Less In The Last 5 Starts Preferred).

Value of Race: $115,000 Winner $63,250; second $23,000; third $13,800; fourth $6,900; fifth $4,600; sixth $863; seventh $863; eighth $863; ninth $861. Mutuel Pool $839,738.00 Exacta Pool $600,929.00 Trifecta Pool $257,774.00 Superfecta Pool $119,528.00

Last Raced	Horse	M/Eqt.	A.	Wt	PP	St	¼	½	Str	Fin	Jockey	Odds $1
23Aug25 6Sar5	Stimulate	L	3	122	2	7	2hd	21½	1½	12¾	Alvarado J	2.79
31May26 8CD3	Gadget Play	L	3	122	8	1	11	1hd	2½	21	Santana R Jr	4.04
5Jun26 3Sar2	Criteria	L	3	122	1	4	4½	3hd	31½	3nk	Ortiz J L	3.26
19Jun26 5BAQ3	Mo the Merrier	L	3	122	4	6	3½	41½	45	44¾	Elliott C	5.46
	Ize a Runner	L	3	122	7	9	9	9	61	52½	Davis D	13.57
5Jun26 1Sar7	Dark Assault	L	3	122	3	5	61	6½	51	62¾	Lezcano J	33.11
5Jun26 3Sar4	Noble Edition	L b	3	122	9	3	7½	72½	74	79¼	Franco M	4.68
29Nov25 7CD2	Stirring Words		3	122	5	8	83½	8½	85	85½	Rodriguez J	23.05
19Jun26 5BAQ5	Ovechkin	L b	3	122	6	2	51½	5hd	9	9	Zayas E J	39.58

OFF AT 5:27 Start Good For All But STIRRING WORDS. Won driving. Track sloppy (Sealed).

TIME :22[2], :45[2], 1:10[1], 1:23[1] (:22.50, :45.47, 1:10.21, 1:23.33)

$2 Mutuel Prices:

3 – STIMULATE	**7.58**	**4.52**	**3.24**
9 – GADGET PLAY		**4.06**	**3.34**
1 – CRITERIA			**3.12**

$1 EXACTA 3–9 PAID $18.86 50 CENT TRIFECTA 3–9–1 PAID $36.55 10 CENT SUPERFECTA 3–9–1–5 PAID $19.87

Gr/ro. c, (Mar), by Tapit – Elate, by Medaglia d'Oro. Trainer Mott William I. Bred by Claiborne Farm & Adele B Dilschneider (Ky).

STIMULATE got bumped after the break by CRITERIA, chased four paths off the inside down the backstretch and then four wide through the turn advancing on the leader to knock heads midway, swung six wide into upper stretch placed to a drive, seized command just inside the three-sixteenths marker and edged clear under a drive to score. GADGET PLAY established the front from the get go and showed the way three paths off the rail down the backstretch, tucked to the two path into the turn and came under increasing pressure from the top one through that bend and came under coaxing nearing the quarter pole in response, spun three wide into upper stretch, got collared just inside three-sixteenths to go and ran on willingly to safely preserve the place honors. CRITERIA came out slightly after the start and bumped STIMULATE, chased just off the inside under a light hold until put to urging with five-sixteenths remaining, tipped three wide into upper stretch and kept on to the finish. MO THE MERRIER chased five paths off the inside down the backstretch and then three wide through the turn coaxed along from the five-sixteenths pole, went seven wide into upper stretch, shied out under a left handed crop straightened away, then kept on to the wire. IZE A RUNNER shied out at the start in reaction to OVECHKIN breaking outwards, chased seven paths off the inside down the backstretch, tucked briefly three then two wide near the half mile pole and then tipped back out four wide through the remainder of the turn coaxed along from the seven-sixteenths pole, went eight to nine wide into upper stretch and improved position to the finish. DARK ASSAULT coaxed from the gate, chased three paths off the rail down the backstretch, tucked inside half a mile from home, came under encouragement with three furlongs to go, continued in the inside route into upper stretch and weakened. NOBLE EDITION chased five then four wide, came under urging briefly three wide at the three-eighths marker, angled five wide for home and tired in the stretch. STIRRING WORDS brushed the near side stall at the start, chased three wide coming under a ride midway on the turn, tipped four wide into upper stretch, made no impact. OVECHKIN broke out at the start and was corrected before making contact with IZE A RUNNER, chased six then five wide under a drive from the seven-sixteenths pole, went eight to nine wide into upper stretch and faltered in the stretch.

Owners– 1, Claiborne Farm and Dilschneider Adele B; 2, Spendthrift Farm LLC; 3, Klaravich Stables Inc; 4, Harold Lerner LLC Nehoc Stables AWC Stables and Team Stallion Racing Stable; 5, Broman Chester Sr; 6, Phipps Stable; 7, Wathnan Racing; 8, Lael Stables; 9, Lewis R Lee and Lewis Lexi J

Trainers– 1, Mott William I; 2, Stall Albert M Jr; 3, Brown Chad C; 4, McPeek Kenneth G; 5, Brown Chad C; 6, McGaughey III Claude R; 7, Cox Brad H; 8, DeVaux Cherie; 9, Hennig Mark

Scratched– Sidearm (05Jul26 4Sar5)

$1 Pick Three (1–2–3) Paid $22.23; Pick Three Pool $131,175.
50 CENT Pick Four (1/6–1/5/7–1/2/7/8–2/3) Paid $24.01; Pick Four Pool $251,755.
50 CENT Pick Five (3–1/6–1/5/7–1/2/7/8–2/3) 5 Correct Paid $83.56; Pick Five Pool $497,613.
$1 Daily Double (2–3) Paid $5.28; Daily Double Pool $119,025.