

SARATOGA - September 2, 2026 - Race 3

MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT - Thoroughbred
(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). (If the Stewards consider it inadvisable to run this race on the turf course, this race will run at One Mile and Three Sixteenths on the Main Track). (Rail at 12 feet).

Distance: One And Three Sixteenth Miles On The Turf Current Track Record: (Deterministic - 1:50.50 - June 6, 2026)

Purse: \$115,000

Available Money: \$115,000

Value of Race: \$115,000 1st \$63,250, 2nd \$23,000, 3rd \$13,800, 4th \$6,900, 5th \$4,600, 6th \$1,725, 7th \$1,725

Weather: Cloudy, 69° Track: Yielding

Off at: 2:25 Start: Good for all except 1 Timing Method: Electronic

[Video Race Replay](#)

[GPS Race Chart](#)

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
26Jun26 ⁵ BAQ ²	5	Protect and Defend (Lezcano, Jose)	122 L	4	2	2 ¹	2 ^{1 1/2}	2 ¹	1 ³	1 ³	1.68*	3w 1st trn, edged clr
9Aug26 ² SAR ⁴	8	Pay the Piper (Prat, Flavien)	122 L b	7	7	6 ^{1 1/2}	6 ^{3 1/2}	6 ^{4 1/2}	3 ^{4 1/2}	2 ^{6 3/4}	2.30	4-5w uppr, 2nd best
14Aug26 ¹⁰ SAR ⁴	2	Duty (Santana, Jr., Ricardo)	126 L	2	1	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{1 1/2}	1 ^{1 1/2}	2 ^{1/2}	3 ^{3/4}	9.61	in hand ins, weakened
24Jul26 ¹⁰ SAR ²	6	Donnadoyawanna (Carmouche, Kendrick)	122 L b	5	5	4 ^{1/2}	5 ²	4 ^{1/2}	4 ¹²	4 ^{12 1/2}	4.58	chased 2p, weakened
23Aug26 ¹⁰ SAR ²	3	Evenly Alert (Castellano, Javier)	122 L b	3	6	7	7	7	5 ^{1/2}	5 ^{7 3/4}	7.34	chased 2-3w, tired
10Jul26 ¹ SAR ³	7	Pauillac (Franco, Manuel)	122 L b	6	4	5 ^{2 1/2}	3 ^{Head}	5 ^{1 1/2}	6 ¹⁵	6 ^{29 3/4}	9.00	3w 1st turn, faltered
14Aug26 ¹⁰ SAR ⁶	1	Ghost Driver (Harkie, Heman)	122 L b	1	3	3 ^{Head}	4 ^{Head}	3 ^{Head}	7	7	42.43	brush gate, eased home

Fractional Times: 23.39 48.57 1:14.22 1:38.72 Final Time: 1:56.26 Time from Gate: 2:00.53

Split Times: (25:18) (25:65) (24:50) (17:54)

Run-Up: 130 feet Temporary Rail: 12 feet

Winner: Protect and Defend, Gray or Roan Colt, by Munnings out of Hold Harmless, by Blame. Foaled Feb 03, 2023 in Kentucky.

Breeder: Stuart S. Janney, III LLC

Owner: Stuart S. Janney III

Trainer: McGaughey III, Claude

Scratched Horse(s): Cromwell (Main-Track-Only), Daunting (FR) (PrivVet-Illness), Hadrian's Wall (Main-Track-Only)

Total WPS Pool: \$302,034

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
5	Protect and Defend	5.36	3.00	2.36	\$1.00 Exacta	5-8	8.22	211,872
8	Pay the Piper		3.30	2.52	\$0.50 Trifecta	5-8-2	16.04	90,832
2	Duty			3.76	\$1.00 Pick 3	1-1-5 (3 correct)	121.57	59,026
					\$1.00 Daily Double	1-5	20.15	85,441
					\$0.10 Superfecta	5-8-2-6	6.76	49,683

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin
5	Protect and Defend	2	2 ^{Head}	2 ^{1 1/2}	2 ^{1 1/2}	1 ³	1 ³
8	Pay the Piper	7	6 ^{4 1/4}	6 ^{5 1/4}	6 ^{4 1/2}	3 ^{3 1/2}	2 ³
2	Duty	1	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{1 1/2}	1 ^{1 1/2}	2 ³	3 ^{9 3/4}
6	Donnadoyawanna	5	4 ^{1 1/4}	5 ^{3 1/4}	4 ^{2 1/2}	4 ⁸	4 ^{10 1/2}
3	Evenly Alert	6	7 ^{5 3/4}	7 ^{8 3/4}	7 ⁹	5 ²⁰	5 ²³
7	Pauillac	4	5 ^{1 3/4}	3 ³	5 ³	6 ^{20 1/2}	6 ^{30 3/4}
1	Ghost Driver	3	3 ¹	4 ³	3 ^{2 1/2}	7 ^{35 1/2}	7 ^{60 1/2}

Trainers: 5 - McGaughey III, Claude; 8 - Brown, Chad; 2 - Clement, Miguel; 6 - Pletcher, Todd; 3 - Rice, Linda; 7 - Brown, Chad; 1 - Noda, Orlando

Owners: 5 -Stuart S. Janney III; 8 - Flanagan Racing; 2 - Kinsman Stable; 6 -Mark D. Breen; 3 -Linda Rice; 7 - LaPenta, Robert V., Lawrence, William H. and CHP Racing; 1 -Orlando Noda;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

PROTECT AND DEFEND coaxed from the gate, raced three wide through the first turn, settled tracking the leader in closest aim from the two path, came under coaxing near the quarter pole and tipped four wide into upper stretch advancing to take command straightened away, edged clear under a drive and was kept to task to the finish. PAY THE PIPER chased two to three wide from near the rear of the field coming under encouragement with five-sixteenths to go, angled four to five wide into upper stretch, offered up a mild kick to be along well clear of the rest and second best. DUTY established the front and showed the way in hand along the inside coming under coaxing near the quarter pole, spun three wide into upper stretch and yielded the front straightened away, then weakened through to the finish. DONNADOYAWANNA coaxed from the start, chased just off the inside under a ride from three furlongs out, tipped three wide into upper stretch, weakened. EVENLY ALERT chased two to three wide under encouragement from the seven-sixteenths marker, angled three to four wide for home, tired. PAUILLAC three wide in pursuit, came under coaxing at the seven-sixteenths pole, angled four wide into upper stretch and faltered. GHOST DRIVER brushed the near side stall at the start, chased along the inside under a ride with seven-sixteenths to go, spun just off the inside into upper stretch and was eased home to the finish.