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# Book'em Danno leads Jersey-bred trifecta in Smoke Glacken Stakes

by Bill Finley

In the end, Steve McGarrett, played by Jack Lord, in the TV show *Hawaii Five-O* (1968-1980), always got his man. Each episode of the classic cop series ends pretty much the same way. McGarrett collars the latest villain, runs down the list of their crimes, and then says to his right-hand man Danny Williams, "Book'em, Danno!"

McGarrett never came out on the losing end. So, it's fitting that a group of six friends based on the Jersey Shore named a New Jersey-bred 2-year-old Book'em Danno. There will come a day when he loses a race, but it hasn't happened yet. Now 2-for-2 after beating open company in the \$100,000 Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth on Sept. 9, he looks like a New Jersey-bred bound for bigger and better things. By Bucchero, he won the 6-furlong stakes by 2 lengths and earned an 88 Beyer in the process.

"Besides getting married and having my kids, this was one of the most exciting things that's ever happened to me," said co-owner Jay Briscione. "The highs of this game are so high and the lows so low, so it's nice to be on the high side for once."

The Smoke Glacken turned into a shining moment for the New Jersey-bred program as state-bred Sea Streak finished second in what was his career debut. Ship to Shore, also a Jersey-bred, was third. The second and third-



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place finishers are both sons of Sea Wizard and are campaigned by Holly Crest Farm.

Book'em Danno, who is trained by Derek Ryan and owned by Atlantic Six Racing, began his career with a 9½-length win in a Jersey-bred maiden on Aug. 12. While Ryan liked the horse, he never expected him to blow away the competition the way he did.

"I figured he would run well first time out," Ryan said. "I expected him to be very close but I wasn't expecting him to win it as easy as he did. I don't crank them up for their first starts. A good horse will win anyway and he's a good horse."

In between races, Ryan worked Book'em Danno with a tough 5-year-old allowance horse in Counterfeitcurrency Aug. 27. The 2-year-old



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more than held his own as both horses worked in :47.40. It was then that Ryan figured he could not lose the Smoke Glacken.

“He improved a lot off his first race,” Ryan said. “I have an older horse who is a pretty decent work horse. After he worked with him, I said I don’t care who’s in that stakes. Unless they have Secretariat they aren’t going to beat him.”

Atlantic Six Racing LLC is made up of six friends who reside on the Jersey Shore. They are Frank Camassa, Jeff Resnikoff, Mark Rubenstein, James Rubenstein, Jim Scappi and Briscione. It was Mark Rubenstein who came up with the name Book'em Danno.

The friends had owned horses off and on for years but came back together to privately acquire Counterfeitcurrency, who has earned \$188,288. That gave them some money to play with and they started asking around about modest-priced prospects that might be available. Bloodstock agent Chris Graci put them in touch with breeders Greg Kilka and Christine Connelly of Bright View Farm.

They had a Bucchero yearling out of the unraced Ghostzapper mare named Adorabella that they were willing to sell. This was in August and just a few weeks earlier, Adorabella's first foal, a filly by Fast Anna named Girl Trouble, had broken her maiden at Monmouth. What no one knew at the time was that Girl Trouble would go on to win a pair of stakes races at Parx.

“At that time, Girl Trouble had broken her maiden but hadn’t done much else,” said Briscione. “But as Girl Trouble progressed, we got really excited.”

The dam Adorabella has become a big part of this story. She was bought by Kilka for just \$14,000 at the 2020 Keeneland January Sale. She has produced two stakes winners from her first two foals. The third foal is a Jersey-bred yearling by Classic Empire who sold as hip #3 for \$135,000 to LC Racing LLC at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic October sale.

Atlantic Six sent Book'em Danno and a New York-bred baby they also owned to Randy Rentz in South Carolina to be broken.

“Randy didn’t start breezing him until April,” Briscione said. “He also had our New York-bred. They breezed in company and he had a really good bottom underneath him when he got to Derek. Randy said they were nice horses, but you never know until you get into a race. But he had never done anything wrong. We actually thought he would be a little short for that first race, but he was very impressive. I never thought he would win by 9½ lengths and go in ‘4 and change.’ ”

The Book'em Danno team shipped him to Belmont Park and while he missed a start in the Oct. 1 Pilgrim Stakes, a “Win and You’re In” prep for the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf-G1, he stepped up to take the historic Futurity a week later. Originally scheduled for the turf at 6 furlongs and a “Win and You’re In” for the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint, it was moved to the main track. He romped home as the 2-5 favorite in 1:09.47.

Briscione wasn’t sure they should aim that high at this point in the colt’s career.

“We’ve talked about a lot of races,” he said. “I think his family is well suited to the grass. But we’re trying to be realistic and look for some low-hanging fruit. We don’t want to bang heads yet if we don’t have to. I would think something shorter. Girl Trouble never showed that she could go two turns. This horse runs well late, so it doesn’t appear that he’ll have that issue. But why risk it? We would like to pick off some sprint stakes. We will let him take us where he takes us and not get crazy.”

Long, short, dirt or grass, every option seems to be within reach. He’s done with Jersey-breds for the year and it looks like his next race could come in a graded stakes. A start in a Breeders’ Cup race is not out of the question. It’s not too early to get excited.

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## Wanamaker’s to host first New Jersey-bred sale

Lexington, Ky. – In partnership with the Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association of New Jersey, Wanamaker’s will be holding the first-ever New Jersey-Bred Sale on Thursday, Nov. 16. The auction will occur just a month after the conclusion of the 2023 Monmouth Park meet, where New Jersey-breds found immense success in both restricted and open races.

“We are excited to partner with Wanamaker’s on a New Jersey-bred mixed sale,” said Michael Campbell, executive director of Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association of New Jersey. “The New Jersey-bred program is gaining attention from

breeders and owners across the country. The partnership with Wanamaker’s is a great benefit to New Jersey breeders who can sell their horses without the stress and financial commitment of bringing them to the sales grounds. With a dozen New Jersey-breds earning over \$100,000 in purses during the 51-day Monmouth Park meet, now is a great time to be involved in the New Jersey-bred program.”

Entries will be open until Monday, Nov. 6, and the catalogue will be released Nov. 8. The entry fee for those looking to sell their New Jersey-bred will be \$300. The sale will be open to



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horses of all ages and all entries must be registered with the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. For more information on the buying and selling processes through Wanamaker's, please visit [www.wanamakers.com](http://www.wanamakers.com).

"We are delighted to announce our exciting partnership with the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, which promises to provide New Jersey breeders and owners with an exceptional selling experience and simultaneously extend the reach of New Jersey-breds throughout the nation," said Wanamaker's CEO Liza Hendriks.

About Wanamaker's: Wanamaker's hosts monthly online Thoroughbred auctions. The streamlined platform and timing of auctions at [wanamakers.com](http://wanamakers.com) provides an opportunity for industry participants to buy and sell at the right time with less hassle. In addition to an unwavering commitment to its customers, Wanamaker's is committed to the Thoroughbred industry and the lifeblood of the industry, the horse. To show this commitment, Wanamaker's contributes .1 percent of total sales to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and requires sellers to contribute .05 percent of their total sales to the TAA as well.

## Monmouth Park shows increase in average total handle and average on-track handle for third straight year as meet ends

Monmouth Park continued its upward trend by showing an increase in average total handle and average on-track handle for the third straight year, while Paco Lopez claimed his 10th riding title and Claudio Gonzalez was the leading trainer for the second straight summer as the 51-day meet came to a close on Sunday.

The average total handle was \$4,032,648 this year, an 11.4 percent increase over last year's average of \$3,620,719.

The on-track handle rose 15 percent to \$340,257 compared to the 2022 average of \$295,896.

In addition, the average field size of 7.71 was the largest since 2015.

"We are grateful to our fans, horsemen, stakeholders and especially Governor Murphy and the entire state legislature," said Dennis Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, operators of Monmouth Park. "To see our across-the-board numbers, year after year, continue to show large increases is a direct result of the purse supplement, the hard work of all our employees, and of course, the racing fans.

"We have witnessed a continued growth of not just the breeding program in New Jersey, but an overall attraction by nationwide horsemen to ensure Monmouth Park is on their summer calendar.

"Not only has the racing office done an amazing job working with our horsemen and ensuring the best possible product to

the racing fans, but the same can be said for all our employees. From group sales to admissions, from mutuels to marketing, and of course operations and accounting. I am so appreciative to have such amazing people all working together for the betterment of Monmouth Park.

"We will take this year as a success and continue to build on this next year and for many years to come."

The Grade 1, \$1-million TVG.com Haskell Stakes, Monmouth Park's showcase event, contributed to a record handle of \$21,359,642 for the 14-race card. Geaux Rocket Ride outfinished Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Mage to give Hall of Famer Richard Mandella his second Haskell win.

Lopez easily captured the Monmouth Park riding title for the ninth time in the past 11 years with 76 winners. His 10 overall titles are second only to Joe Bravo's 13 in track history.

Gonzalez backed up his first training title at the track in 2022 with an outstanding meet as the runaway winner this year. His 46 winners were more than double the total of his nearest competitor.

Klaravich Stables finished as the leading owner with 13 wins, including victories in the Grade 3 WinStar Matchmaker Stakes, Grade 3 Molly Pitcher Stakes and Grade 3 Eatontown Stakes.

Madison Olver and Luis Rivera Jr. tied for honors as the leading apprentice at the meet with 17 wins apiece. That was good for 10th place in the jockey standings.



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Jersey Girl Handicap winner Precious Avary (left) topped the New-Jersey-bred earners list at the recent Monmouth Park meet, with Charles Hesse III Handicap winner Great Navigator close behind.

## Top New Jersey-breds at 2023 Monmouth Park Meet

The following is a list of the top 15 highest-earning New Jersey-breds during the 51-day Monmouth Park meet from May 13-Sept. 10.

Horse	Breeder	Earnings
Precious Avary	Smith Farm & Stables	\$144,875
Great Navigator	Holly Crest Farm	144,687
Grouch	Headless Horsemen Racing LLC	131,093
Mia's Crusade	Dianne Boyken	123,750
Bel Pensiero	ARM Consulting	118,125
Book'em Danno	Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm	118,125
Carats Forever	Holly Crest Farm	117,563
Irish Meadow	Raymond W. Cornish	113,700
Speaking	Holly Crest Farm	111,000
Postino's Prophecy	Law Legacy Stables	106,780
Riding Pretty	Holly Crest Farm	105,500
Bustin Loose	Joseph & Gayle Ioia	98,687
Starstruck Notion	Kenneth Garcia	96,975
Running Right by U	Joseph & Gayle Ioia	95,368
Fixed Odds	Gina Lupton, FRI Farms, Les Salzman & Alaura Allen	94,468



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