

SARATOGA - September 1, 2011 - Race 8

STAKES Island Whirl S. Black Type - Thoroughbred

FOR THREE YEARS OLD AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NOT WON A GRADED SWEEPSTAKES IN 2010-2011. No nomination fee. \$1000 to enter, starters to receive a \$750 rebate. A supplemental nomination fee of \$200 may be made at any point prior to entry. The Purse to be divided 60% to the owner of the winner, 20% to second, 10% to third, 6% to fourth, and 4% to fifth. Three year olds 119 lbs. Older 123. Non- winners of a sweepstakes since March 1, 2011 allowed 2 lbs. Four races 4 lbs. (Maiden, claiming, starter, and restricted allowance races not considered in allowances). A presentation will be made to the winning owner. Closed Friday, August 26, 2011 with 11 Nominations.

Seven Furlongs On The Dirt **Track Record:** (Darby Creek Road - 1:20.40 - August 8, 1978)

Purse: \$75,000 Guaranteed

Available Money: \$75,000

Value of Race: \$72,000 1st \$45,000, 2nd \$15,000, 3rd \$7,500, 4th \$4,500

Weather: Cloudy **Track:** Fast

Off at: 4:53 **Start:** Good for all



[Video Race Replay](#)

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
30Jul11 ⁷ SAR ¹	6	Dark Thunder (Velazquez, John)	119	L b	4	3	3 ³	2 ^{Head}	1 ^{1 1/2}	1 ^{5 3/4}	0.80*	3w, rated until 3/16pl
7Aug11 ¹⁰ SAR ⁷	4	Bank Merger (Leparoux, Julien)	119	L	3	2	2 ^{1/2}	3 ³	3 ²	2 ^{Head}	1.80	pressed btwn until 1/8
1Jul11 ³ BEL ¹	1	Avenging Spirit (Lezcano, Jose)	119	L	1	1	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	2 ^{Head}	3 ^{1 1/4}	4.30	vie w/ duo,rouse 5/16p
22Jul11 ⁸ SAR ⁷	2	Congressional Page (Dominguez, Ramon)	121	L	2	4	4	4	4	4	8.10	4w into lane, outrun

Fractional Times: 22.61 45.00 1:09.91

Final Time: 1:23.43

Split Times: (22:39) (24:91) (13:52)

Run-Up: 24 feet

Winner: Dark Thunder, Bay Gelding, by Trippi out of My Secret Brook, by Montbrook. Foaled Feb 10, 2007 in Florida.

Breeder: Montgomery Farm & Craig L. Wheeler. **Winning Owner:** Joseph Bernardini

Scratched Horse(s): Litigation Risk (Trainer), Rule by Night (Trainer)

Total WPS Pool: \$253,453

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
6	Dark Thunder	3.60	2.20	\$2.00 Exacta	6-4	6.90	229,282
4	Bank Merger		2.80	\$2.00 Pick 3	8-5-6 (3 correct)	205.00	87,177
1	Avenging Spirit			\$2.00 Daily Double	5-6	56.50	64,842

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin
6	Dark Thunder	3	3 ¹	2 ^{Head}	1 ^{1 1/2}	1 ^{5 3/4}
4	Bank Merger	2	2 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Head}	3 ^{1 1/2}	2 ^{5 3/4}
1	Avenging Spirit	1	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	2 ^{1 1/2}	3 ^{5 3/4}
2	Congressional Page	4	4 ⁴	4 ^{3 1/4}	4 ^{3 1/2}	4 ⁷

Trainers: 6 - Pletcher, Todd; 4 - bin Suroor, Saeed; 1 - Barbara, Robert; 2 - Trombetta, Michael

Owners: 6 -Joseph Bernardini; 4 - Godolphin Racing LLC; 1 -Joseph Bucci; 2 -R. Larry Johnson;

Footnotes

DARK THUNDER away in good order, gave chase from the three path, gradually moved up on the turn to increase the pressure, with the rider still holding something in reserve all the while, remained under confident handling before released from a firm hold in the vicinity of the three-sixteenths pole, showed instant acceleration to kick clear of the two other front runners by the eighth pole, and drew off, kept busy to the end. BANK MERGER pressed the issue from between opponents until the eighth pole, was asked for some run to keep up the pressure leaving the half mile pole, lost contact with the winner with a furlong remaining, but showed good determination to wrest away place honors from AVENGING SPIRIT. AVENGING SPIRIT raced along the inside, argued for command, under constant coaxing from the pilot, was set down coming to the five-sixteenths pole, with the top one poised as a dangerous threat in the three path at this juncture, had no answer once that rival made his bid, getting out finished for second as well. CONGRESSIONAL PAGE four wide into the lane, was always outrun.

Denotes a Keeneland Sales Graduate