

## Rarick finds success in France

Former Turf writer Gina Rarick has only been training in France professionally for a little more than 18 months, but the American-born former *International Herald Tribune* editor has proven as adept with horses as she was with a pen.

From just a seven-horse stable of relatively inexpensive stock, Rarick saddled three consecutive handicap winners in the span of nine days during September. She is the first American-born female to have her professional trainer's license in France.

Rarick, 45, accomplished the trio with Turfani, Hard Way, and Skid Solo.

She trains Turfani for American owner Alan Kennedy. Rarick acquired the four-year-old Danetime filly privately for \$1,627 following her three-year-old campaign. The filly has since gone on to earn \$16,091, including \$12,521 from her win on September 17 at Chantilly.

Rarick bred Hard Way in partnership with Denis Grandin and trains the four-year-old Ultimately Lucky gelding for the Tronco/Collins partnership. Winless in his first eight starts, Hard Way won on September 19 at Craon West to bank his owners \$13,232 while earning Rarick a breeder incentive check.

Skid Solo was the last of the three winners, capturing a handicap on September 25 at Maisons-Laffitte for owner Sue Haynes-Kellitt. Rarick paid \$26,000 for the Bahamian Bounty gelding as a two-year-old, and he has gone on to win \$31,456 for his new connections.

"Words fail me," Rarick said. "I



Former writer Gina Rarick

just can't explain how I feel at this moment; I am so pleased for my staff and faithful owners."

Rarick grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm and began her journalism career at the Milwaukee *Journal* when signing on as a newsroom clerk on a lark after she dropped out of college while pursuing a music degree.

"I immediately loved the environment of deadlines, casual clothes, swearing, and throwing telephones," Rarick said.

Rarick went on to freelance for community papers before joining the Milwaukee *Sentinel* as a reporter. Her big break came in 1989 when Knight-Ridder hired her for its financial news division in Chicago. Five years later, she was at the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris, a move that eventually led to her Turf writing career.

"One of the first things I did [in Paris] was join a local riding club," Rarick said. "By 1999, after having moved to Maisons-Laffitte [just outside Paris] to an address oppo-

site a training establishment, I started writing on major horse races as a sideline for the *International Herald Tribune*."

Rarick took a two-week France Galop training course and obtained her amateur license in 2002. Despite just two wins from 88 starts as an amateur trainer, Rarick had the courage and confidence to quit the *International Herald Tribune* and obtain her professional trainer's license.

"I don't have the expertise to choose a good yearling, but I do have the eye to judge a horse in training," Rarick said. "My policy is to buy lightly raced two- or three-year-olds that are proven to stand up to training."

Rarick anticipates that building her business will take some time and that a stakes-caliber horse is the final piece of the initial puzzle.

"The major difficulty is I don't have any top-class horses in my yard yet," Rarick said. "I have been getting good results with cheap horses, which is a blessing and a curse. It's easier to get new owners into the game when they don't have to spend a lot to get started, but then they're reluctant to spend more on better stock."

Rarick does not regret leaving Turf writing full time, and she still stays active in the craft by writing for the New York *Times*' The Rail blog, a collection of Turf writers and horsepeople who post to the *Times*' website during the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup World Championships.—*John Gilmore*

## Top broodmare Whisked dies

Whisked, a Group 1 winner in her native Australia who went on to become that country's Broodmare of the Year in 1999 as dam of two-time champion Tie the Knot, died on September 20 because of complications while foaling.

The 22-year-old mare by Whiskey Road out of That Is A Shame, by Kaoru Star, died at Darley's breeding operation in Denman while foaling a filly by Strategic. The chestnut filly was sent to a foster mare at Darley's Cootamundra stud.

Whisked, who was bred and co-owned by Sandy Tait and co-owned by his sister, Jill Nivison, produced 12 other foals, including eight starters, seven of which reached the winner's enclosure.

Her most prominent foal was Tie the Knot, a Nassipour gelding trained by Guy Walter who won from 1,200 meters (5.97 furlongs) to 3,200 meters (15.91 furlongs) while earning 13 Group 1 victories—one less than the record-setting 14 earned by Kingston Town (Aus)—as well as honors as Australia's champion older horse of 2000 and champion stayer of 1999.



Tie the Knot, by Nassipour out of Whisked

While Tie the Knot cannot carry on the legacy of Whisked, another of her sons, stakes winner Dream Ballad, by Singspiel (Ire), stands at Erin Park Stud in New South Wales.

Three-year-old Hood, by Shamardal, is the most recent of Whisked's offspring to begin training. Hood, a gelding trained by Walter, won a barrier trial in August at Hawkesbury.

Whisked posted three wins, four seconds, and four thirds in 11 career starts, including the 1990 The Thousand Guineas (Aus-G1) and two other group stakes wins, while earning \$382,588.

"It's the end of an era, and people tend to forget she was a great race-mare," Tait told [www.racenews.com.au](http://www.racenews.com.au). "The fact that she was able to produce one better than herself [Tie the Knot] was quite remarkable."—*Myra Lewyn*

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