

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Brett Pelling returning to the U.S. to resume training career

After spending the last 11 years raising his family in Australia, the trainer is itching to condition top colts again.

by Dave Briggs



Dave Landry

In 2006, after campaigning Rocknroll Hanover to the 2005 Horse of the Year title, Brett Pelling walked away from the game at the height of his career to raise his family in Australia.

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After an 11-year hiatus to his training career, Brett Pelling confirmed Friday night (Jan. 6) that he is back in the game.

Later this week, Pelling and his family will board a plane in Perth, Australia to begin the journey to New York City. Pelling, 58, who left the game and the United States at the top of the sport in January of 2006, said he plans to resume training horses as soon as possible, with the ultimate goal to condition top stakes colts again.

"I want to come back and train, do what I enjoyed, what I was good at, what I was known for... and that was training three-year-olds," Pelling said in an hour-long phone interview with HRU. "If they come, they come. If they don't, they don't. I do feel that the business, over time, has become more specialized and I see an avenue there. If you are a go-to person for three-year-olds and you can manage, race, compete, I think that's a good way to go. I don't care if I have six, eight, 10, 12, 14... that's what I'd like to do. If it doesn't happen, that's fine."

Trainer records are not particularly accurate and weren't kept before 1991, but when Pelling left at age 47 at the start of 2006, by some accounts he had earned more money as a trainer of standardbreds than anyone in history.

Why did he toss it all at the apex of his career to move some 11,500 miles away on the other side of the world? Well, for one, he didn't need the money. Second, he and his wife, Joanne, are both New Zealand natives with strong ties to Australia. So, the decision was partly about moving home. But, mainly, Brett said then and reiterated Friday that they did it mostly for their kids — Grace, then 12, and Jack, then 10. Brett and Joanne, wanted to give them a better education, a slower pace of life and have them be near Joanne's parents. Not long after settling in Australia, the couple welcomed a third child, Lilly, now 10.

Why come back to the game and the U.S. now?

"The family dynamic has changed," Brett said. "Our two oldest children are both in America and we have a small family. Unfortunately, my wife's parents both passed away last year, very close to each other, so they were a big part of our lives. With the oldest two children gone, we realized that it's really just us. We have a little girl that is 10, who really needs to be with her older siblings. We are not getting any younger ourselves, so it was just time."

"They say life is in 10-year blocks. This is a 10-year block."

Over the last 10 years, he has done some investing with his

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Dave Landry

Pelling has never been shy about sharing his thoughts on how to improve the game and he spoke pointedly about the role of catch-drivers.

brother-in-law, imported school buses into Australia from China, got into property management and took up cycling to the point that he and a group rode the Tour de France route.

"But I was always following the horses. They were never far away," Brett said, adding that he spoke regularly with his old boss, trainer Ross Croghan, and former top assistant Richard "Nifty" Norman.

"I was definitely checking on the computer and keeping tabs on everything. I kept in the swing of what was going on. I was also involved in the racing association (in Australia), to some extent," Brett said, adding he bought two yearlings last year and two the year before at the Standardbred Horse Sales Company sale in Harrisburg, PA.

"This is a bit of a two-year plan. I wanted to make sure I had something to kick it off with. I didn't stake them or make

any of the continuation payment, but there will be a couple of non-winners I can kick off and fool with."

His first U.S. visit

Brett first came to the U.S. in the early 1980s as a guide on a cargo plane full of horses. He worked for his father, trainer Brian Pelling, in California for a time, worked in Chicago for four years and then ended up in Florida working for Croghan.

In 1988, Brett went out on his own and marked his arrival on the scene by showing up at the Meadowlands with just two horses – Kiwi River N, an open-calibre pacing mare, and a \$20,000 claimer. That year, he had 41 claimed from him, but he finished '88 with 30 in his barn and was on his way.

Just one year after arriving in New Jersey, Brett finished fifth in the Meadowlands trainer standings. One year after that, in 1990, Brett won the trainer title with 117 victories at the Big M alone, 31 more than his next closest rival (he finished second in the money). It was the first of eight trainer titles he'd win (four by wins and money; three by wins only and one by money alone).

"I love the Meadowlands," Brett said. "I remember saying to my friends when I left, 'Whatever happens at these other places, don't forget to leave something on the side to race at

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the Meadowlands...' That product we get in the winter now is probably not as recognized as it was 10 years ago on the world stage, but it's still the Meadowlands. The Meadowlands is still the Holy Grail."

In his first go-round, Brett trained 20 horses that each topped \$1 million. The official USTA record shows that he racked up purse earnings well over \$51 million, but he says his total is much more than that because trainer statistics have only been kept since 1991 and he kept a personal record that included earnings Down Under before he stepped away from the game in 2006.

Eleven years after he trained his last horse, Brett still ranks eighth on the official all-time list of trainer earnings, behind Ron Burke (\$169,841,605), Jimmy Takter (\$113,228,622), Bob McIntosh (\$85,241,749), Erv Miller (\$74,913,325), Mark Ford (\$61,826,451), Noel Daley (\$58,185,406) and Casie Coleman (\$53,324,247).

Among his career highlights, Brett trained seven U.S. divisional champions, won four Little Brown Jugs (Armbro Operative, Shady Character, Astreos and Timesareachanging), four Meadowlands Pace titles (Davids Pass, Dream Away, The Panderosa and Rocknroll Hanover) and three North America Cups (Davids Pass, The Panderosa and Rocknroll Hanover).

Asked whether he should be in the Hall of Fame he said, "It should've happened 10 years ago, probably, given my list of accomplishments at the time."

About the only major event that has eluded Brett is the Hambletonian, and he nearly won it in 2002 with Like A Prayer, who was second, just a neck behind Chip Chip Hooray.

Winning the Hambletonian would be nice, but he said there's nothing, in particular, that he would like to win now.

"I'd like to say 'drive 1,000 winners', but I'm too old for that," he said, laughing. "We accomplished a lot in the business and I'm not crying wolf or anything, but we probably were held to a greater standard than those that didn't do a quarter of what we did. I've had a bit of time to reflect on all that and I don't know where it came from."

When Brett left 11 years ago, the industry's take on him essentially fell into two schools of thought – fabulous trainer or cheat. The majority were in the former category, but it was tough to ignore that some were skeptical of his methods, particularly since colleagues have said Brett was an early adopter of using sodium bicarbonate prior to testing being implemented which established fines and suspensions for excessive TCO2 levels.

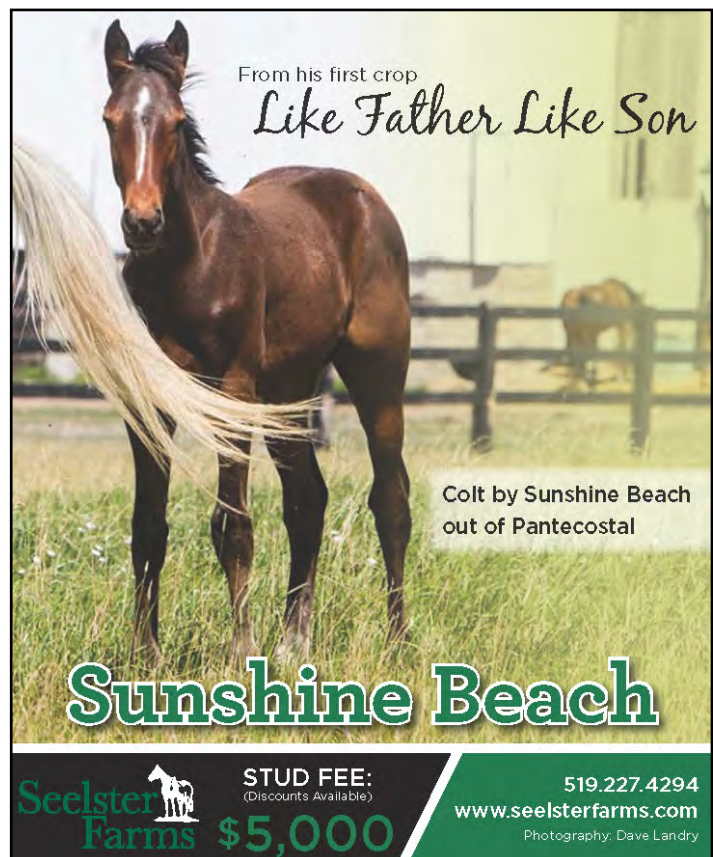
"As soon as they implemented the (TCO2) testing and everything... I just didn't want anyone calling me up and telling me that I got a positive. No one wants that," Brett said in a 2005 feature in *The Canadian Sportsman* in which colleagues were quoted as saying Brett stopped using sodium bicarbonate after TCO2 testing started.

In fairness, Brett's record is relatively clean. His biggest infraction is a much-scrutinized morphine positive on The Panderosa in 1999 at The Meadows that cost him 20 days and \$5,000.

In 2005, Brett told *The Sportsman* six other trainers received positives for morphine that week at The Meadows, all of them, except him, received 10-day suspensions. He also said The Panderosa tested positive for less than four nanograms (one-billionth of a gram) of morphine and that the acceptable limit in New Jersey at that time was 75 nanograms.

Brett did not have a positive test in five years of racing after that and said some of the negativity that hung over him had to do with professional jealousy and the fact he has never been shy about touting his accomplishments.

"We had a couple of controversial things, probably worked out to one-tenth of the things that other people have been



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Dave Landry

Pelling said he missed the horses the most over the last 11 years.

involved in. Was it personality, because we were invasive and we won what we won? I don't know," Brett said Friday. "It really doesn't matter to me at all because I can walk with my head held high."

No shrinking violet

There's no doubt Brett Pelling's personality didn't make him universally loved on his first go-round. He has a healthy ego and has never been shy about speaking up if he thinks he sees a wrong. It doesn't appear he has mellowed much in

that department in 11 years. Consider his take this week on catch drivers:

"I really thought drivers were the stars of the part, needed to be, but I've totally turned on that. I actually think drivers are an anchor to the sport," Brett said. "They don't give anything to the sport. Very few of them actually invest in the sport. If you had trainers routinely on TV or in the media, I think they would be far more insightful about what's going on with their animals than the drivers are."

Brett said the fee structure should be changed to give trainers seven per cent of the purse and drivers three per cent. He then went on to criticize modern driving techniques as being detrimental to the game.

"Another really massive peeve I have towards the U.S. and Canada is that I believe that they should bring in a rule that drivers must stay in the confines of the bike. These drivers laying out the back of the bike when you've got a 10-horse field, the horse behind him has to cover an extra yard. By the time you times that by 10, you wonder why horses don't win from sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth or tenth anymore because the fields are so spread out that you can't even get them all on the TV screen anymore.

"One of the big movements that's happening is public perception and when you've got drivers lying back, for whatever reason, you're basically impeding every single horse behind them."

Brett said in Australia, drivers are set back for lying back in the bike and he hopes that rule gets adopted in North America.

"I think it's a great rule, really, really well done. The bottom line is that if you win and you have a driver that's lying back and he wins by a head or a neck, he's taken down because that horse coming off his back would have beaten him. It's a very easy rule to enforce. I think the public would be used to it immediately and it just makes racing so much fairer. These races now when it's just a big drag race, with the guys laying flat back out, it doesn't work."

He said modern speed sulkies have also hurt the game.

"Someone asked me for one thing in the sport that I would roll back... I think every racetrack should have 10 Jerald (sulkies) in 10 different colors (that are coordinated with the post position color). Load them up and go. This whole thing with the bikes and the seats is just wrong and not good for horse racing."

Brett said, ultimately, he's just looking out for harness

racing's customers.

"This sport is all about gambling, it's not about making sure the drivers are happy or the trainers are happy, it's about gambling and knowing that these guys that bet their two bucks are getting a fair shake," he said.

Clearly, the man is still passionate about the sport, but has the game passed him by while he was in Australia?

"They've still got four legs and a tail and I'm still as anal as I ever was about everything," Brett said, laughing. "So, I won't be any different. I don't see that. It'll be fine.

"I started off with the three-year-olds as a bit of a fixer, like if something was wrong (people sent horses to me)," Brett said. "So, if I go back to being a bit of a fixer, when you've got a problem, that's okay."

He said he has missed the horses the most.

"I enjoy being around the horses. You get a lovely horse and when you're together there's no greater feeling. There is an accomplishment there, you are responsible for that animal," Brett said. "I miss that and I will be very happy to be a part of it again."

As for trading a quieter, more temperate life in Perth for the United States, he said he "definitely missed the action. In America, you can go and do anything whenever you want. Plus, I want to see this Trump thing go down, it'll be interesting times," Brett said, laughing. "I'm a real proponent for change and I hate the way it was done before. I'm quite fascinated on how this is all going to go down.

One thing is for sure: if Brett returns to operating a high-level stakes barn, it will inject some much-needed personality and variety into a game that has become too consolidated with a small number of top trainers.

If nothing else, like Trump, Brett Pelling should make things interesting.

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BETWEEN THE LINES



Driver changes cause chaos at Meadowlands

by Brett Sturman

An inexcusable disregard for the betting public occurred Saturday at the Meadowlands racetrack, where a combination of racetrack management and New Jersey Racing Commission judges failed to take proper action before the start of the Saturday evening card.

With \$51,782 wagered into the Pick 5 wager which spans races 1 through 5, the first race of the night was allowed to go off on schedule with no less than seven driver changes still in a status of 'To Be Announced' by the track for races in the Pick 5 sequence.

Due to a light snow that fell in the North Jersey region throughout the day and into the night, the track announced at a typical time in the 6 o'clock hour that drivers Andy Miller, Corey Callahan and Pat LaChance would be off all their drives. While the announcement that the three drivers would be off all drives came at a time when such an announcement is typically made, announcements for driver substitutions did not come until much later, presumably due to a shortage of other drivers available at the track.

After 7 p.m. and under 15 minutes until the first race post time, many driver changes were still to be determined. The two driver changes from race 1 had been made, but two out of three changes remained open in race 2. Many driver changes remained outstanding for races 3, 4 and 5 when events were about to spin into further chaos.

With minutes before the first race, the Meadowlands showed on its simulcast feed for the first time that the track's leading driver Brett Miller would also not be on his drives this night.

On Twitter, the Meadowlands Racetrack account issued a tweet at 7:13 "Brett Miller has just called off all his drives, too; so expect more driver changes to come." Just three minutes later another tweet was issued; this one with respect to the start of the first race of the night. At 7:16 "It [post time] is going to be delayed - the judges were just heading over to the grandstand now." And then at 7:22, the race somehow went off on time as scheduled (first race at the Meadowlands always has never gone off earlier than 7:20 this meet despite the scheduled time of 7:15).

The inexplicable action caused bettors with over \$50,000 wagered into the Pick 5 to have placed wagers under the

pretense of believing they would be receiving one set of drivers while ultimately they would be receiving a far less superior set of drivers; or at the very least not the drivers they had believed they were receiving when making the wager.

Somehow, there was minimal harm done in the first four races. Driver change from Corey Callahan to Greg Merton worked out in race 1 with 3-5 favorite City Pie, and the untimely change from Brett Miller to the suddenly emerging Drew Monti delivered in race 4 as Hillbilly Hanover came through at 2-1.

Race 5 however was a different story. K-lees Shakenbake was rated the 2-1 favorite in the morning line with Brett Miller slated to drive, and was replaced by the judges (again, after the first race of the night had already been run) by driver William Mann. Far from a Meadowlands regular, Mann had only 32 starts at the Meadowlands dating back to last January, in which he won two of them.

By any account this was a disastrous driving change and despite it, K-lees Shakenbake still went off as the 3-2 favorite. Unfortunately, the stone closer sat last on the inside through much of the race, swung three wide from 10th at the top of the stretch and did all he could to close for second. In the same race, two other horses had driver changes as well that weren't announced until sometime after the completion of the first race of the night. And with all the confusion, as one could imagine, the race was won by 30-1 longshot Stratocaster and capped off a \$3,300 payout in the Pick 5.

At press time, it remains unclear as to why post time for the first race wasn't delayed until all driver changes that were showing as 'To Be Announced' were actually made. By virtue of the fact that the Meadowlands didn't announce publicly that Brett Miller wouldn't be driving until after 7 p.m., it seems likely that they were unaware themselves and because of that didn't contact the judges with any advance notice. However, the tweet issued by the Meadowlands at 7:16 indicated that both track management and the judges had been in communication together about the late changes, which makes it even more unacceptable that the races were able to begin with so much ongoing confusion when a simple post delay to sort matters out would have resolved all questions.

What is known, for sure, is wagers were accepted from bettors that were based in some part on drivers who were never to race. There is bound to be enough blame to go around and wherever it falls, those who are entrusted to protect the public and the integrity of the races failed.

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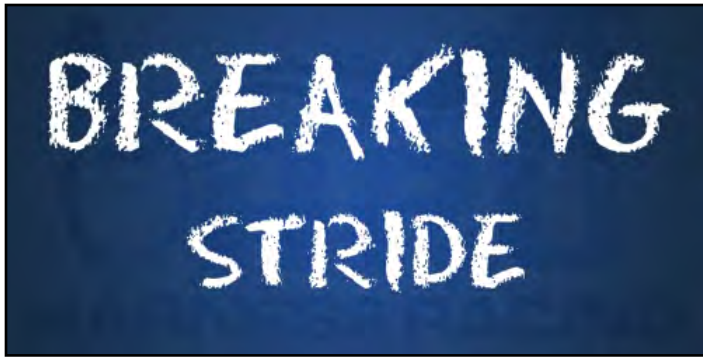
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Women Wanted

by Trey Nosrac

My ninth grade remedial science instructor, Mr. Hemplewhite, began my second tour of Introduction to Biology by repeating this axiom: the human population is split into two categories, male and female. Last week tested this theory. One of my Lyft customers was a six-foot, six inch tall transvestite named Monetta. He, or she, was very nice, but Monetta knew nothing about horse racing and wanted to talk politics.

He, or she, reminded me of one of those irksome topics that fixates me and prevents me from living a normal life – what keeps women away from gambling on horses (except on special days where ladies get to wear funny hats)?

According to Google, even if you filter out the LGBTQ communities, there are more women than men due to males getting killed in foreign wars and stress related deaths due to excessive alimony payments. I am sure that more women than men hop into my Lyft chariot. However, a very low percentage of women gamblers follow horse racing.

The whole thing does not make sense. Women seem to love horses. Every young girl seems to go through a horsey period. Women gamble; stick your head into any church bingo hall and you will see a sea of fuzzy blue heads crouched over a dozen bingo cards with the intensity of neurosurgeons. Peek into a casino and women are pushing buttons like telegraph operators sending news of an invading army.

Women are terrific at gossiping and second-guessing, two primary racetrack prerequisites. Women are just as likely to want to escape the house, spouse and kids. Women are capable of financial and mathematical computations; as evidenced by families like mine where males must swear a blood oath never to touch a checkbook.

The miniscule percentage of female horse racing fans is perplexing. I can usually fabricate a complex and compelling

theory for everything; the Middle East Crisis, nuclear fusion, Global Warming, male pattern baldness, The Donald's appeal, Pokemon Go, and the tattoo epidemic – but female non-participation remains problematical to me.



Research suggests that men gravitate towards casino table games and track betting. Women are attracted to games such as bingo and casino slots. Researchers have hypothesized that play pattern disparities exist because of inherent differences between the natures of men and women. Women are considered more social creatures.

After my next passenger, I will head to the harness track for some research.

.....

Okay, I'm back at work, which for me means sitting in a Prius, listening to Acoustic Jam on Sirius Radio, waiting for my iPad to blink and spur me into action. It also gives me time for data analysis.

Last night, between races five and six, I counted the race fans seated in the grandstands. The total was 267. Counting them was easy due to the fact that a majority of them appeared to be semi-comatose. I then counted the various genders, 240 men and 10 women (seven patrons were somewhat questionable, including a large person wrapped in a Serape and straw hat). I placed the data in my pocket.

Okay, let's see, 10 of 260 is...excuse me while I find the calculator app on my iPad. Okay, now, 10 out of 260...hmmm. Let's just estimate. Not many of the harness racing patrons were female. This exercise brings two questions to mind that have always plagued me – why do I have such difficulty with simple math, and where are the women?

I am an action guy. I have a two part plan to address this problem.

*Part One - The social issue that is keeping female attendance down will be tackled by posting on Facebook. I will filter so potential FB readers are local and I will present the post in the form of a list because people are suckers for lists. I will also use an alias for legal reasons.

Five Reasons WHY women should start attending the harness horse racetrack:

- 1) Virgin territory for man hunting. A great number of racetrack type men are single or divorced, about to be divorced, or pretend to be single or divorced.
- 2) Competition is suspect. Beautiful and elegant women are somewhat rare at the racetrack (except at funny hat events).
- 3) The races are a handy conversation topic. Should you, as a woman, engage a "railbird" male in conversation, you can avoid those annoying lulls of an hour or so that occur in normal social situations. A simple question asked through batted eyelashes like, "Which horse do you think will win this race?" will unleash 30 minutes of non-stop, semi-intelligible talk. After the horse loses, another 30 minutes of verbiage will be needed to explain why the race did not unfold as promised. One hour of conversation from just one race.
- 4) Many of the available men at a racetrack have free time. Aside from post time, we are flexible because few of us are gainfully employed. Quite a few racetrack veterans have retired long ago. Nevertheless, these gentlemen will have hours to lavish attention on women between racing

programs and any other therapeutic programs in which they are enrolled.

5) Security Guards are always on duty. I believe this is a state law at all racetracks.

Women, we need you at the racetrack. Racetrack men are a lot of things, but we are not chauvinists. Most of us can't even spell chauvinist. We sit alone in the racetrack grandstands and clubhouses, day after day, night after night, wasting our lives. It's fun at the racetrack. Grab a girlfriend. Grab some cash. Be a trailblazer.

*Part Two - The Trey Taxi To The Track. Each Wednesday and Friday that the harness track is open for live racing, the first female (or females) to flash onto my Lyft screen after 6 p.m. using the passenger name LADYLUCK will receive a free ride (up to 20 miles) to the local harness racetrack. When I drop you off at the racetrack, I will give you a free HOT TIP on the first race.

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Betting tales: good and bad

by Joel Kravet

(Editor's note: Joel Kravet grew up in the Bronx and began going to the races at Yonkers and Roosevelt Raceway in the early 1960s and became an avid handicapper. He later became a groom and later a standardbred breeder and owner. He lives in Manhattan and operates a successful business there and still owns harness horses.)

You must remember that the race secretary was king when harness racing used the A-B-C classification in the 1960s. The race secretary determined what class your horse raced in. If you raced in the C-1 paces and weren't competitive, you'd drop down to the C-2 class for a lower purse. If you won, you might be moved up to the tougher B-3 class.

Of course, the stables with the big-name trainers got

special consideration. Stanley Dancer and Billy Haughton could race Class B horses in the C-2 and C-3 events for their first few starts. Of course, Dancer and Haughton were the showcase trainers in harness racing then and they had sterling reputations. But they got some favors from race secretaries. That's the way the game worked then.

I was worked as a groom for very good trainer when I was younger. He was from the trainer/driver era, and he could do both jobs very well. He was a real horseman.

I remember once we had a pacing filly that was racing in the C-2 class and doing so-so. The trainer decided that he wouldn't race her one week.

"Let's give her a week off," he said. "She's a little tired."

We stabled at Roosevelt in those days even when we were racing at Yonkers. Roosevelt was such a better place for the horse and the people. Yonkers was just a concrete city. Few horses stabled there.

One morning we heard the racing office calling over the PA system for C-2 pacing mares to help fill a race at Yonkers. My boss still didn't want to race her, but when the race secretary called, he had to listen. After all, in those days everyone stabled at the tracks and it was the racing secretary who determined if you got stalls. Everyone wanted to stay on the good side of the racing secretary.

He told the trainer that he was one horse short of a full field asked him to put his mare in the C-2 race. So my boss relented and said, "Well, if you don't get anyone else, just put her in."

Naturally, they put her in and she draws post eight. Oh, swell. That's a killer on any half-mile track. But the trainer drove her well and got her in a good position by the three-quarter pole. But all the horses stopped in front of him and he had no place to go.

She was timed in 2:05.1, and qualifying time then was 2:05. So she had to qualify again. The trainer wasn't happy, to say the very least. He called the race secretary.

"Go look at the race," he said. "I wasn't holding her back. I just had no place to go."

The race secretary agreed and called the judges to ask if she could be excused from having to qualify again.

The judge told the race secretary, "You fill the races, and we'll watch them and make our rulings."

My boss sure wasn't happy. The qualifiers were held at Yonkers in the morning, which meant that we had to leave from Roosevelt at 6:30 a.m. to get to Yonkers to warm her up.

We got her warmed up and then it began raining cats and dogs. It was pouring. They cancelled the qualifiers. Oh, the boss was mad beyond belief. So he had to qualify her again before he could drop her into race at Yonkers. He trained her well and knew she was sharp. The layoff had done her good.

The day before she raced back at Yonkers, he said, "When they pass her, that's when they'll beat her." He was a good enough horseman to know she was ready.

I was the groom for this filly and I told my wife to withdraw all the money from my bank account – which was about \$1,400 in those days – to get ready to bet her. That was practically my life savings and my wife thought I was crazy. I told her to watch me very carefully when I led this mare onto the track before the race.

"If my hat is on, the bet is on," I told her. "If my hat is off, the bet is off."

Well, my hat was on when I led this mare onto the track. My wife was watching and a friend with her had his binoculars trained on me. They got their bets down. And the mare won.

We got a real nice payoff. Real nice. In an era when a \$10 payoff would put a smile on a bettor's smile, you can imagine how we were smiling.

In that era, almost all the betting money was in the win pool. So my \$1,400 didn't change the odds much. The win pools were huge then.

It's not that way now. There isn't much money bet at the track at all, but most of it seems to be in all the exotics, not the win pool. Of course, the tracks love that because the

takeout is much higher on the exotics than on the win pool.

What I did in betting on the horse I groomed was entirely legal. Some people at the track, however, weren't quite so scrupulous.

There were, of course, some horsemen who held horses back hoping to score big on a bet when the odds were sky high. Through the grapevine I heard a tale from perhaps 50 years ago about some guys who had a pretty good horse that they raced in the C-2 and C-3 classes.

They weren't really trying to win with him. Every once in a while he might pass some tired horses and get a minor check, but his lines were not impressive at all.

He was in one weekend and these guys decided to send him. So they wrote a check to cash for \$3,000. It had to be approved by the race secretary, which was done, and they took it to the grandstand office on Friday night and got \$3,000 in cash.

The problem is that these guys didn't have \$3,000 in their checking account. They probably didn't have \$300 among them. But they had confidence that the horse could win and payoff in boxcar figures. Then they could put some of their winnings in the checking account to cover that \$3,000 check.

(Remember, this was long before electronic banking and checks took several days to clear. There was a reason why they did this over the weekend.)

If the horse didn't win, they were in deep trouble because there was no way that they could cover that \$3,000. That's what I call real gambling.

Sure enough, the horse won and their bets returned about \$30,000 or \$40,000.

They quickly put the \$3,000 back in the bank to cover the check and no one knew the difference.

I heard this tale many years after it happened. Maybe it was embellished a bit; I don't know. Holding a horse back is illegal, of course, but they weren't the only ones who ever stiffed a horse to get better odds. That was an unfortunate reality in racing.

But those scams didn't always have happy endings and the judges in that era were always watchful for those things. And the penalties could be severe and virtually ruin a person's career. That's the way it should be.

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Meadowlands Friday handle tops \$3 million

The public pumped \$3,311,264 through the wagering windows on the 13-race card at the Meadowlands on Friday night (Jan. 6). The total represents a nearly 15 per cent increase over the corresponding date last year, which featured 14 races.

On the track, despite back-to-back wins as the favorite since returning to the Meadowlands, Crosbys Clam Bake was overshadowed in the wagering as stakes-winner Muscle Diamond was sent off as the 3-5 favorite in the \$18,000 trotting feature.

Crosbys Clam Bake would not be denied as the seven-year-old son of Kadabra—Pacific Elegance held off the late charge of the public's choice to win in gate-to-wire fashion for his third straight victory.

Jim Marohn, Jr. put Crosbys Clam Bake on the lead through an opening quarter of :27.2. He continued his march on top through a half mile in :55.4 and three-quarters in 1:25. Opulent Yankee loomed first over while giving Muscle Diamond and John Campbell a perfect second-over tow. Muscle Diamond kicked off his cover at the top of the stretch, but could not get to Crosbys Clam Bake in 1:53.3.

Andy Federico, Jr. trains Crosbys Clam Bake for owners Randy Bendis, Jack Piatt, and Tom Pollack.

"He's remarkable and has been so sharp all year," said Marohn. "He's just as good this January as he was this time last year. Andy does a great job with him and believe me, he's not as easy horse to manage. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to drive him."

Crosbys Clam Bake earned his 32nd career win and increased his lifetime bankroll to \$465,336.

Corey Callahan scored a grand slam including wins in the final three races of the night. Joe Bongiorno and Drew Monti each posted driving triples. Ron Burke won with all three of his starters.

— *Justin Horowitz / Meadowlands media relations*

Christine Czernyson wins January Davies Award

Christine Czernyson, who has helped lead an ovarian cancer awareness effort with assistance from horses Aldebaran Eagle and Side Bet Hanover, has been named the 2016 recipient of the January Davies Humanitarian Award

presented by the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

The award was created in 2008 by U.S. Harness Writers Association member Callie Davies-Gooch in memory of her daughter to recognize contributions beyond harness racing.

Czernyson and her husband, trainer Jonas Czernyson, have contributed more than \$4,000 to the [Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance](#) by donating a percentage of their earnings from Aldebaran Eagle's and Side Bet Hanover's purses. In addition, the horses wear ribbons in their manes with the names of nearly 80 women who are either ovarian cancer survivors or in tribute to women who have been taken from loved ones by the disease.

"Christine has done so much to bring attention to this cause," Davies-Gooch said. "She is one of the great ladies of harness racing and a great example of humanitarianism, providing not only financial assistance to ovarian cancer research and awareness but touching the lives of those affected by the disease through the personal connections incorporated into her efforts. When her name came before our board we felt she was the perfect choice for this award."

The cause hits close to home for Czernyson, who lost her aunt, Kathy Terrazas, to ovarian cancer. Furthermore, Duncan McPherson, who owns Aldebaran Eagle, lost his wife, Lyn, to the disease and is active in promoting ovarian cancer awareness programs in his homeland of Australia.

"This is totally humbling because it's not about me, it's about the women and families that fight with this disease on a daily basis and their struggles," Czernyson said. "If I can take up a fight for them, I'm willing to do so. For me personally, my aunt passed away from ovarian cancer. Watching her struggle with that disease was not an easy thing. The impact has lasted for years."

"When Duncan McPherson came into our stable, he had lost his wife Lyn to ovarian cancer. He is very active in Australia with ovarian cancer awareness. We just wanted to give something back to Duncan. But we wanted to honor not only his wife and my aunt, but the many other women who are fighting this disease. I don't think a lot of people realize, but one in 75 women will have ovarian cancer. That's a pretty staggering statistic."

The Czernysons started their awareness effort in 2015 with Aldebaran Eagle and extended it to Side Bet Hanover last year when the female trotter raced in the Hambletonian Oaks on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands. Sherry Pollex, the longtime girlfriend of last year's Hambletonian trophy presenter, NASCAR driver Martin Truex, is an ovarian

cancer survivor and [advocate for others fighting the disease](#). Pollex signed a teal ribbon, with teal being the color for ovarian cancer awareness, worn by Side Bet Hanover in the Oaks.

Side Bet Hanover and Aldebaran Eagle will continue to race for ovarian cancer awareness this year, although it will soon be on two different continents.

“Eagle will be leaving to go to Australia in March,” Czernyson said. “We have no doubt he will continue to soar for ovarian cancer down there as well. He’s going to race and then stand stud. Side Bet Hanover will carry on here after Eagle has made the trip to Australia.”

While raising money for ovarian cancer research and awareness has been an important aspect of Czernyson’s effort, the connections made with people affected by the disease has been even more priceless.

“We get a lot of messages whenever those two horses race,” Czernyson said. “I have quite a few women that we stay in contact with that have really fallen in love with this idea and the concept of it and giving them something to cheer for. They’re so appreciative for that. They can say ‘That horse is racing for me.’”

“That’s probably given us the biggest joy, just having that knowledge that it goes beyond the money and the horserace. It gives some personal meaning to it. It makes you realize what you’re doing is making a difference. But this isn’t about me or Jonas or the horses, it’s about the women and families affected by this disease. It’s really all about them.”

Czernyson will be honored at the “Night of Champions,” the Dan Patch Awards Banquet presented by Hoosier Park, which will take place on Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Planet Hollywood hotel/casino in Las Vegas.

— *U.S. Harness Writers Association*



The New Vocations team, pictured here with an equine friend (from left): Anna Ford, Winnie Morgan Nemeth and Dot Morgan.

USHWA President’s Award to New Vocations

The New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, designed to transition racehorses from their careers on the track into a productive “adoptive” program suitable for both the equine and her/his new “family,” has been selected for the United States Harness Writers Association’s President’s Award, as announced by the president of USHWA, harness racing’s leading media organization, Tim Bojarski.

Over 6,000 retired standardbred and thoroughbred racehorses have been placed by New Vocations since its founding in 1992. Many have gone on to be pleasure horses, and some have been re-educated to participate in other equine disciplines such as horse show competition. One New Vocations “graduate” even served as a “stand-in” when the movie about Seabiscuit, the champion racehorse, was made.

New Vocations has two farms in Ohio, Laurelville and Marysville; one in Hummelstown, PA; and one in Lexington, KY. The executive director of the New Vocations program is Dot Morgan, who won the 2012 Unsung Hero Award from USHWA, and its current standardbred program director is Dot’s daughter, Winnie Morgan Nemeth, a member of USHWA.

Bojarski notes, “New Vocations is a highly-motivated group of ‘horse people’ who aggressively re-home and re-train retired standardbred and thoroughbred racehorses. Their



plan is simple: determine the horse's demeanor, find the horse's best traits, and then teach the horse a skill that suits her or him best and will ensure that the animal will be productive forever in its new home.

"New Vocations is in the process of building the former Mereworth Farm in Lexington KY, consolidating the group's efforts and making the new facility the largest rehabilitation, retraining, re-homing and retirement facility in the nation. The group's standardbred division, led by Winnie Morgan Nemeth, does extraordinary work for our retired warriors of the track, and does that work with the horse's best interests uppermost in mind."

New Vocations will be honored at the "Night Of Champions," the Dan Patch Awards Banquet Presented by Hoosier Park, which will take place on Sunday, Feb. 26 at the Planet Hollywood hotel/casino in Las Vegas.

— *U.S. Harness Writers Association*

Southwind Frank book full and closed

Diamond Creek Farm is delighted to announce that champion trotter Southwind Frank is now booked full and closed for 2017.

Southwind Frank was immensely successful as a two-year-old, leading up to a victory in the 2015 Breeders Crown. He continued to shine in his three-year-old season, with wins in prestigious races such as the Beal, Colonial Trot and the Stanley Dancer. After an impressive career, in which he placed in the top three in 24 out of 26 starts, Southwind Frank now joins the stallion roster at Diamond Creek Farm in Pennsylvania. With a medical waiver in hand, Southwind Frank's progeny will be eligible to race at all tracks, including the Meadowlands, Tioga Downs, and Vernon Downs.

The roster of impressive mares already booked to the champion trotter include Strawberry Wine (Kadabra sister to Creatine), Gala Dream (dam of Father Patrick and Pastor Stephen), Cressida Hanover (dam of Glidemaster), Margie Seelster (dam of Pinkman), and Borrow And Spend (sister to Dejarmbro).

— *Diamond Creek*

Miami Valley sets handle record

A record handle, a handful of wins for Chris Page, and a 3,000th win for Jeff Nisonger were highlights of an exceptional Opening Night at Miami Valley Raceway on Friday (Jan. 6), despite frigid 8-degree temperatures. The prospects for a tremendous opening week seem real with a powerful 14-race Saturday night (Jan. 7) program on tap followed by three consecutive matinees which include the inaugural \$25,000 North American Drivers Challenge.

The \$531,410 Friday handle obliterated the old wagering standard as an enthusiastic live crowd was joined by a growing number of simulcast patrons across the country who are realizing that Miami Valley presents a viable betting product with full fields of competitive horses and one of the strongest drivers colonies in the land.

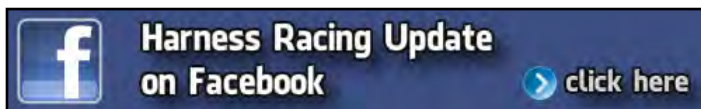
Chris Page notched five wins on the night to grab the early local dash derby lead. Perennially one of Ohio's top reinsmen, Page's first triumph came behind the trotter No Whip Chip (1:58.2, \$9.60 to win), owned by Deb Noble, the widow of the late great Chip Noble and trained by their daughter Meredith Noble. Page followed up with winning drives with pacers Lucky Lime (1:54.4, \$6.00), Friskie Adam (1:55.1, \$11.40), Cast No Shadow (1:54.4, \$7.00) and Lancaster Park (1:54.4, \$4.60). Kauffman added a pair of other wins to his feature race success, scoring a hat trick to open his 2017 season.

Jeff Nisonger notched his 3,000th career victory in the nightcap, steering Brookletssugarland from his own training stable to a nine-length romp in 1:56.4. Nisonger and owner Janie Hartley have long been fond of the now 10-year-old Personal Power mare who has 37 lifetime win circle visits and over \$200,000 in earnings. Nisonger, age 35, began his driving career at the turn of the century and enjoyed much success at Lebanon Raceway, where he won multiple meet driving titles, as well as being a sought-after driver on the Ohio county fair circuit.

— *Gregg Keidel / Miami Valley Raceway*

Meadowlands stakes program announced

The Meadowlands is pleased to announce an extensive 2017 stakes program with total purses in the neighborhood of \$12 million. Grand Circuit stakes represent the vast majority of that amount featuring the \$1.5 million Hambletonian and Oaks, \$1.25 million Fall Final Four, \$1.2 million TVG Championships, \$1 million Graduate Series and



\$750,000 Meadowlands Pace along with nearly \$1 million in New Jersey Sires Stakes purses.

"We are able to maintain the 2017 stakes program with the help of sponsors from within the business and we are grateful for their support. With the Breeders Crown at Hoosier this year we picked up the Fall Final Four to give those races a home and open the Fall Meet in November," said Meadowlands Chairman & CEO Jeff Gural.

The Saturday, Aug. 5 Hambletonian Day program (noon post time) worth over \$3.5 million in purses on harness racing's greatest day will include important stakes for every division. The \$1 million Hambletonian and \$300,000 Cane Pace provide fans the opportunity to see a leg of both the trotting and pacing triple crowns on the same card.

Leading up to the Hambletonian, the Tompkins-Geers stake for three-year-old trotting fillies and colts is coming to The Meadowlands on Saturday, July 22 to avail horsemen prepping for the Hambletonian and Oaks the option of one more start over the mile oval going into the big race.

Meadowlands Pace night is Saturday, July 15 this year and a full complement of important stakes on the undercard will support that \$750,000 race for sophomore pacing colts. The \$400,000 Hambletonian Maturity will serve as a co-feature. An early post time of 6:30 is scheduled for Pace night.

The \$1.25 million Freshman Fall Final Four returns to the Garden State where they began 27 years ago. The Valley Victory and Goldsmith Maid for trotters and Governor's Cup and Three Diamonds for pacers will join the \$1.2 TVG Free For All Championship Finals kicking off the 2017 Fall Meet with all finals scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 25

The \$200,000 Arthur Cutler Memorial Open Trot has been moved to Kentucky Derby Day, May 6. The Cutler winner will be awarded an invitation to compete in the 2017 Elitlopp which will be raced on Sunday, May 28, this year. Although the Cutler will have **no restrictions** regarding the use of trotting hobbles and/or Lasix, their use is prohibited in the Elitlopp and if their invitation to compete is accepted it must be done with that understanding. Swedish racing officials wish to make it known that there will be a direct flight to Solvalla for this year's race as was done in 2017.

The \$1 million Graduate Series for 4 year olds also begins on May 6 at the Meadowlands, travels to Mohawk Racetrack for leg two on June 3, then on to Tioga Downs for the June 11 third leg. Each leg of the Graduate will have a purse of \$75,000 or \$50,000 if raced in divisions. The \$250,000 finals will be raced at the Meadowlands on Pace elimination night,

July 8.

The 2017 Kindergarten series starts in early July and will again include two legs during the Freshman Festival meet in September at The Meadowlands. The \$150,000 finals are scheduled for November 3 and will be raced at Vernon Downs this year.

The Miss Versatility Series will have two legs at The Meadowlands to go along with Mohawk Racetrack and Tioga Downs. The \$100,000 final will remain a part of the Little Brown Jug card at Delaware, Ohio.

All of the conditions for Meadowlands administered stakes/finals have been written to award one per cent of the final purse to those horses that finish "out of the money".

The NJSS offers \$100,000 guaranteed finals to the sophomores in May and freshmen in July with two \$20,000 preliminary legs leading up to those events for each group.

The complete Meadowlands 2017 stakes schedule may be viewed [here](#) and the live racing/stakes calendar [here](#). The website also provides a "[Stakes Application](#)" page where you may download all the information on the 2017 events including nomination forms and conditions for all Meadowlands administered stakes. All purses listed are estimates unless denoted as guaranteed (G).

The Hambletonian and a few other Grand Circuit stakes on the Meadowlands calendar are administered by and the property of the [Hambletonian Society](#). All of the NJSS races are handled by the [NJ Sires Stakes offices](#). Payments on those stakes should be directed to those offices.

Trainers must be approved for nomination to Meadowlands stakes to be accepted. It's suggested that trainers submit a [racing application](#) before the February 15 deadline if you are planning to race at The Meadowlands in stakes or overnights in 2017.

Call the Racing Office at (201) 842-5130 with questions.

— *Nick Salvi / Meadowlands media relations*

Diamond Creek's Bowden voted to HHYF board

Adam Bowden, the innovative leader of Diamond Creek Farm, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF). The Maine native cut his harness racing teeth at Scarborough and Lewiston Downs in Maine, but he is now active on a far larger stage.

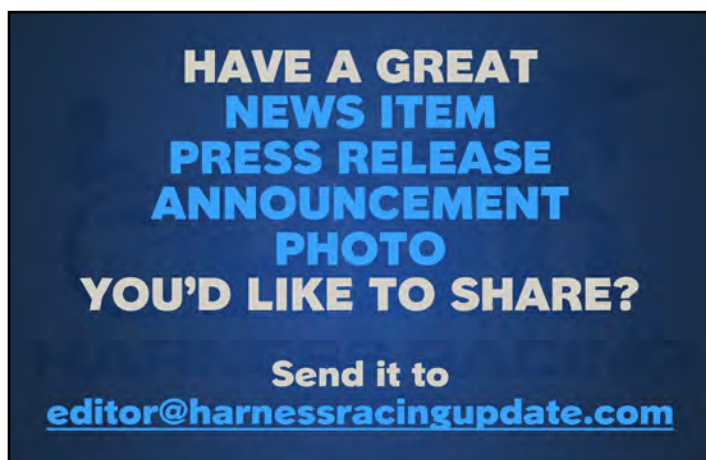
Bowden's involvement and support of HHYF are just part

of that larger picture, as he explains, "Not too long ago I was a kid growing up going to the track with my father and now that I am a dad with two young girls, I can only hope they inherit the same love and passion I have for the sport. Due to the opportunities that the Harness Horse Youth Foundation has developed, more and more young people have access to the sport we all know and love. I am told over and over that my generation is the future of the sport but I think we are the sport's present and the kids today represent the future. It is our job to expose them to it. No other organization does a better job. I am truly honored to be part of the future."

HHYF board president Marlys Pinske remarked, "I am very pleased that the board of Harness Horse Youth Foundation has chosen to appoint Adam Bowden as a member. In his capacity at Diamond Creek Farm, he has been an ardent benefactor of Harness Horse Youth Foundation."

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation is a charitable 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing young people and their families educational opportunities with harness horses, in order to foster the next generation of participants and fans. The Foundation has been making a difference in young people's lives since 1976, and its programs include interactive learning experiences with these versatile animals, scholarship programs, and creation and distribution of educational materials. For more information on opportunities through HHYF, or to support its mission, go to www.hhyf.org.

— Keith Gisser / HHYF



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RE: Without revealing your age

Dean Towers' column on what racing old timers used to say and experience ([Without revealing your age - Jan. 1](#)) brought back memories of betting at the "\$2 Win" windows. Want to bet place or show? Stand in line at seller windows for "\$2 Place" or "\$2 Show." More windows took bets for higher amounts. Have a ticket to cash? Go to another area of windows staffed by cashiers.

— Bob Absher / Forty Fort, PA

More responses to Towers

Thanks for a great year of the new Harness Racing Update. I enjoyed every issue and look forward to many more. I also try to patronize your advertisers.

This next comment is for Dean Towers and his article about how old your memories are. Well here are some of mine: In our family, the daily double meant an afternoon of racing at Delaware Park and then an evening of racing afterward at Brandywine Raceway. Speaking of which, some of my favorite memories were when they expanded from a half-mile to a 5/8 mile track. This was when they added opening windows for the grandstand and clubhouse. On nights the weather was good, one of the highlights was to see the windows retract into the roof and then be able to hear the hoof beats of the horses as they ran in the races. Also seeing some of the great horses and drivers in the signature race The Battle of The Brandywine. Being from the Philadelphia area, I also remember Liberty Bell Park and their signature race, The Colonial Trot. Most people most likely don't remember, but for a short time there also was harness racing at Atlantic City Race Course. And don't forget the great racing at Garden State Park. I also made it to Freehold the one year they ran the Breeders Crown. Unfortunately, I also have attended races at many other tracks we don't have anymore in my travels around the country. But for now I enjoy live racing at Harrah's and Pocono Downs and Freehold. Thanks for the articles over the past year. Have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

— John Chambers / Lansdowne, PA

NEW FOR 2017: ALL NOMINATIONS CLOSE FEBRUARY 15TH

PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP XXXIV

Three-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 17, 2017.**
\$1,000,000 Guaranteed Final Purse.

ARM BRO FLIGHT

Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 17, 2017.**
Purse \$240,000 E Final (\$175,000 A).

CANADIAN PACING DERBY

Three-year-olds and older open pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 2, 2017.**
Purse \$550,000 E Final (\$350,000 A).

CANADIAN TROTTING CLASSIC

Three-year-old open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 16, 2017.**
Purse \$650,000 E (\$400,000 A).

CASUAL BREEZE

Three-year-old filly trot.
Raced on **Friday, August 25, 2017.**
Purse \$160,000 E (\$60,000 A).

ELEGANT IMAGE

Three-year-old filly trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 16, 2017.**
Purse \$400,000 E (\$225,000 A).

ETERNAL CAMNATION

Two-year-old filly pace.
Raced on **Saturday, August 26, 2017.**
Purse \$210,000 E (\$60,000A).

FAN HANOVER

Three-year-old filly pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 17, 2017.**
Purse \$400,000 E (\$275,000 A).

GOODTIMES

Three-year-old open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 17, 2017.**
Purse \$265,000 E (\$125,000 A).

MAPLE LEAF TROT

Three-year-olds and older open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 16, 2017.**
Purse \$600,000 E Final (\$350,000 A).

METRO PACE

Two-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 23, 2017.**
Purse \$700,000 E Final (\$300,000 A).

MILTON

Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 16, 2017.**
Purse \$250,000 E Final (\$150,000 A).

NASSAGAWEYA

Two-year-old open pace.
Raced on **Saturday, August 26, 2017.**
Purse \$210,000 E (\$60,000 A).

PEACEFUL WAY

Two-year-old filly trot.
Final raced on **Monday, September 18, 2017.**
Purse \$350,000 E Final (\$175,000 A).

ROSES ARE RED

Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 17, 2017.**
Purse \$325,000 E Final (\$225,000 A).

SHES A GREAT LADY PACE

Two-year-old filly pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 23, 2017.**
Purse \$500,000 E Final (\$250,000 A).

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE

Three-year-old open pace.
Raced on **Saturday, June 3, 2017.**
Purse \$130,000 E (\$60,000 A).

WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL

Two-year-old open trot.
Final raced on **Monday, September 18, 2017.**
Purse \$350,000 E Final (\$175,000 A).

BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Ontario Sired Two-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Monday, August 7, 2017.**
Purse \$175,000 E Final (\$90,000 A).

BATTLE OF THE BELLES

Ontario Sired Two-year-old filly pace.
Final raced on **Monday, August 7, 2017.**
Purse \$120,000 E Final (\$60,000 A).

CONFEDERATION CUP

Four-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Sunday, May 21, 2017.**
Purse \$175,000 E (\$150,000 A).

BALANCED IMAGE

Ontario Sired Two-year-old trotting fillies & colts in 2017.
Final raced on **Saturday, August 26, 2017.**
Purse \$50,000 E (\$20,000 A).

DREAM OF GLORY

Ontario Sired Three-year-old trotting fillies & colts in 2017, non-winners of \$75,000 (fillies \$100,000) in 2016.
Final raced on **Saturday, August 5, 2017.**
Purse \$60,000 E (\$40,000 A).

KIN PACE

Ontario Sired Three-year-old pacing fillies in 2017, non-winners of \$50,000 in 2016.
Final raced on **Sunday, July 9, 2017.**
Purse \$60,000 E (\$40,000 A).

REMINDER: SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE

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More anachronisms

How about: "Let's go to the Meadowlands. They let you in for the last two races for free!"

– *Tom Fanning / Jackson, NJ*

Support for Pennacchio for USTA prez

Thank you for allowing time for discussion involving the upcoming election for the new USTA president.

The candidate I am supporting is Joe Pennacchio.

Joe has a long and storied history as a leader with vision in both the business world and harness racing industry.

While working for recent presidential appointee Carl Icahn, Joe brought incredible foresight and leadership to top positions, serving as CEO of an Icahn affiliate company for several years.

He said, "We're delighted to have Mr. Pennacchio on board and believe his successful track record as a leader and motivator will... achieve its potential."

An avid amateur driver with over 150 wins, Joe has traveled the world as an ambassador for harness racing. He has owned and bred harness horses for over 30 years, including Breeders Crown winner Yankee Slide.

As tireless president and executive director of the Florida Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association, he successfully led the efforts to defeat the attempt by track owners to "decouple" the track and casino operations, which would have ended harness racing in Florida.

I saw, first hand, how Mr. Pennacchio worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle—something very rare in today's political world.

This is a topic that threatens harness racing everywhere.

While other candidates have stated their qualifications, I note that they are involved in other business activities that would preclude them from focusing entirely on the needs required to successfully lead the USTA in the direction necessary to "keep up with the times." In other words, their work for the USTA would be divided with their other obligations.

With Joe Pennacchio now retired from any other business obligations, his attention will be "undivided" with an allegiance that will stretch no further than the USTA and its membership for the advancement of our grand sport.

There are no other candidates for this position that have the experience, dedication and enthusiasm of Joe Pennacchio.

Joe will bring the leadership, vision and foresight needed to insure a vibrant future for harness racing.

– *Dein Spriggs / president Florida Amateur Driving Club*

Milici story missing important fact

There is an important fact in this story that seems to be missing:

Tom Milici is a graduate, magna cum laude, of the Lou Pena school of training a standardbred.

If, as mentioned, one trainer at Yonkers knows what is happening, then MANY also know what is happening, and it must be fairly egregious if that cesspool known as Yonkers Raceway is willing to refuse his entries.

How the names Josh Marks and Tracy Brainard continue to be linked to the sport of harness racing is incredible given all of the suspensions and otherwise bad actions of these people.

None of this comes a surprise to me, as I've been watching these characters take over the game for the last 25 years. What is surprising is that a reporter could find at least one "anonymous" trainer to make a statement.

The fact that only one spoke out is interesting to me, as the money that the cheats "win" is coming directly out of the pockets of the trainers that never speak up. This is an old story that has been discussed at length before.

Whether or not Milici stays or goes matters not as there is always a new and willing and fresh "beard" to sign on and get paid.

The fact that I, as little more than a casual bettor of Yonkers had heard of the Marks, Brainard, Milici "trifecta" a long time ago, makes me wonder why it took so long and so many wins to try and purge the track of those three?

Don't worry though.

There is another "University of Lou" undergraduate who is studying hard and learning all of the lessons required to rob the public and otherwise undermine a sport that more resembles roller derby today than an honestly contested sport.

– *Vic Dante / Bloomfield, NJ*

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RACE RESULTS

HRU Race Results Criteria

The following race results are contained in
Harness Racing Update: U.S. and Canadian
races with a purse of \$15,000 and over,
plus stakes races \$10,000 and over

MEADOWLANDS report

Friday's Results:

1, M, \$18,000, T, N/W \$15,000 in Last 5 Starts AE: N/W \$65,000 in 2016/17 AE: N/W \$20,000 Last 4 Starts Drawn Outside, 27.2, 55.4, 1:25.0, 1:53.3, FT

1-Crosbys Clam Bake (g, 7, Kadabra--Pacific Elegance, by Donerail) O-Randall B Bendis & Jack B Piatt II & Thomas J Pollack. B-Edward H Lohmeyer & Patricia M Hogan. T-Andrew Federico Jr. D-Jim Marohn Jr, \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 121-32-22-15, \$465,336

2-Muscle Diamond (h, 5, Muscle Hill--Windylane Hanover, by Lindy Lane), \$40,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Charles E Keller III & Charles E Keller IV & E Daniel & Brett Douglas Bittle. B-Odds On Nourrir. T-Brett Bittle. D-John Campbell, \$4,500

3-B Yoyo (g, 7, Striking Sahbra--B Joyflo, by Enjoy Lavec) O-Bill K Lambos & Dionisios Liberatos. B-Ben F Robards. T-Richard Johnson. D-Joe Bongiorno, \$2,160

Calls: 1H, 1Q, 1Q, 2, 2H - Finish Order: Opulent Yankee, Worth The Money As, Canadian Wildcat, Aldebaran Eagle

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

7, M, \$16,000, P, Fillies & Mares N/W \$11,500 in Last 5 Starts AE: N/W \$16,000 in Last 5 Starts or \$125,000 Lifetime Drawn Outside, 26.2, 54.0, 1:22.1, 1:51.4, FT

1-Abbijade Hanover (m, 5, Dragon Again--Armbro Cachet, by Camluck), \$70,000 2013 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceemi LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Drew Monti, \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 49-7-10-8, \$103,098



ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

2-Truth And Liberty (m, 5, Total Truth--Jazzy Hall, by Cambest) O-Tracy F Moss. B-Only Money Inc & Theodore Gewertz & George Teague Jr Inc.. T-Robert Lounsbury. D-Kyle Dibenedetto, \$4,000

3-Icommandmyspirit (m, 7, Dragon Again--Artists Flower, by Real Artist) O-Cheryl L Costello. B-Cheryl L Costello. T-John Bavosi. D-Jim Marohn Jr, \$1,920

Calls: 10Q, 6Q, 6H, 2H, HD - Finish Order: Beautiful Lady, Nerida Franco N, Change The Rulz N, Uf Dragon's Queen, Ideal Nuggets, Inittowinafortune, Bullville Maggie

[To watch the race replay click here](#)



Harness Racing Update
on Facebook

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MIAMI VALLEY report

Friday's Results:

10, MVR, \$22,000, P, FILLIES & MARES OPEN I, 27.1, 56.2, 1:25.0, 1:53.3, GD

1-Noone To Depend On (m, 4, Santanna Blue Chip--Topsy Taters, by Camluck) O-Stephen E Herrick & Mark R Bogen. B-Dr Robert G & Joan M Boyce, CA. T-Kayne Kauffman. D-Kayne Kauffman, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 42-11-6-3, \$109,746



PREFERRED EQUINE
Mixed Sale Graduate

2-Lease Ness Monster (m, 6, Lease On Life--Sheza Hot Monster, by Mark Johnathan), \$2,000 2012 BHS O-Matthew W & David E Waltz. B-Larry J Smith. T-Matt Waltz. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr., \$5,500

3-American Girl (m, 8, Art's Chip--L Dees Lourdes, by Dragon Again), \$6,000 2010 HOOSIER O-Darla D Gaskin & Stanley L Rosenblatt. B-Gardner Farms LLC. T-Tyler George. D-Trace Tetrack, \$2,640
Calls: 8, 5, 2, 1, H - Finish Order: Cas Art Apparel, Aniston Seelster, Rock The Look, Pop The Tags, Apricot Sour, Safe From Terror

Replay unavailable

11, MVR, \$16,500, P, FILLIES & MARES OPEN II HCP (N/W \$8,000 LAST 4 DREW INSIDE), 27.2, 56.1, 1:25.1, 1:54.3, GD

1-Ryleigh's Lilly (m, 7, Western Hero--Fox Valley Chosen, by Incredible Finale) O-John E Barnard. B-University Of Illinois. T-Larry King. D-Trace Tetrack, \$8,250, Lifetime Record: 109-25-17-22, \$256,452

2-Yankee Moonshine (m, 4, Yankee Cruiser--Bootleg Yankee, by Allamerican Native), \$42,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Parent Racing Stable LLC. B-Charles E Keller III. T-Doug Hinklin. D-Greg Grismore, \$4,125

3-Lightning Ride (m, 4, Riverboat King--Teddy Ballgirl, by Kassa Branca) O-Carl L Atley. B-Dragon Tales Farm Inc. T-Danny Dubeansky. D-Michael Oosting, \$1,980
Calls: 10Q, 3T, 2, 1T, 1H - Finish Order: Avila Beach, Pipecreek Star, Invest In Art, Albanian Era, Make Three Wishes, Ida Sofia, Jackie's Rocket

Replay unavailable

Saturday's Results:

2, MVR, \$22,000, P, HORSES & GELDINGS OPEN HCP PP'S 6 & 7 ASSIGNED, 26.1, 54.0, 1:23.0, 1:53.0, GD

1-Meadowbrookthunder (g, 4, Rockin Image--Lake Hills Susie, by Sportsmaster), \$30,000 2014 HOOSIER O-Steven M & Peggy A Carter. B-Freeman Jay Bontrager. T-Save Carter. D-Trace Tetrack, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 34-8-2-3, \$78,803

2-Vague Traces (g, 5, Always A Virgin--Village Junior, by Camluck), \$11,000 2013 SHS-HBG O-Phil G Wiley. B-Bluestone Farms LLC. T-Lavern Hostetler. D-Andy Shetler, \$5,500

3-Jd's Macca Lodge (g, 5, Panspacificflight--Southwind Diana, by Artsplace) O-John E McGill & Brian K Carsey. B-Jacob L Miller. T-Walter Haynes Jr. D-Kayne Kauffman, \$2,640

Calls: 7, 5H, 4Q, 1, 1H - Finish Order: Mykindachip, My Buddy Ninkster, Hickory Icon, E R Rudy

Replay unavailable

RACE RESULTS

8, MVR, \$16,500, P, HORSES & GELDINGS OPEN II, 28.0, 57.1, 1:25.1, 1:53.3, GD

1-Fancy Creek Elusiv (g, 7, Sportsmaster--Elusive Image N, by Miles Mccool), \$7,000 2011 WALKER O-Todd A Rosenberg. B-Pb Racing Stables Inc. T-Jeffery Hollis. D-Chris Page, \$8,250, Lifetime Record: 131-31-30-16, \$586,527

2-A True Rock Star (g, 4, Rockin Image--Bikini Star, by Jenna's Beach Boy), \$18,000 2014 IN-PREM O-Eash Racing Stable Inc. B-Victory Hill Farm Inc. T-Don Eash. D-Andy Shetler, \$4,125

3-Achilles Blue Chip (h, 9, American Ideal--R L Annie H, by Dragon's Lair), \$30,000 2009 LEX-SEL O-Robert Silberberg. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. T-James Eaton. D-Trace Tetrack, \$1,980
Calls: 1, 1, 1, 1Q, H - Finish Order: Tyd Theglyde, Castle Flight, Royale Rose, Chipchompinchampin, Tempster Hanover, Jackson Wyatt

Replay unavailable

10, MVR, \$17,500, P, HORSES & GELDINGS CLAIMING \$30,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 27.3, 56.3, 1:24.4, 1:53.4, GD

1-One Lucky Dragon (g, 8, Dragon Again--Kiss My Lips, by Artsplace), \$90,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Parent Racing Stable LLC & Doug Hinklin. B-Roll The Dice Stable. T-Doug Hinklin. D-Greg Grismore, \$8,750, Lifetime Record: 144-21-21-16, \$209,281

2-Prince Bayard (g, 5, Cam's Card Shark--Princess Spruce, by Covert Action) O-Adam B Short. B-Melvin Robert Fuchs. T-Adam Short. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr., \$4,375

3-Giant Sculpture (g, 9, Village Jolt--Ice Sculpture, by Real Artist), \$6,500 2009 SHS-HBG O-River Roubaix. B-Arlene L & Jules J Siegel. T-Mark Headworth. D-Kayne Kauffman, \$2,100
Calls: 6, 3H, 4H, 3Q, 1Q - Finish Order: Stormy West, King Harvest, Roll On, Dashpedia, Rocknroll Jewel, Nothin Fancy

Replay unavailable

12, MVR, \$15,500, P, HORSES & GELDINGS CLAIMING \$20,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 28.0, 57.1, 1:25.3, 1:54.3, GD

1-Smiling Terror (g, 5, Western Terror--Asap Or Sooner, by Grinfromeartoear), \$7,000 2013 SHS-HBG O-Carl T Howard & Virgil V Morgan Jr. B-Bulletproof Enterprises. T-Virgil Morgan Jr. D-Josh Sutton, \$7,750, Lifetime Record: 58-12-4-4, \$91,614



**PREFERRED EQUINE
Yearling Sale Graduate**

2-Perrito Caliente (g, 10, Art Major--Maryland Beauty, by In The Pocket), \$40,000 2008 LEX-SEL O-Clinton B Lugar. B-Ross G Bonafield. T-Daniel Maier. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr., \$3,875

3-Rockstar Stride (g, 6, Rocknroll Hanover--Stienam's Place, by Artsplace), \$300,000 2012 LEX-SEL O-Robert D Newsome. B-Green Mountain Farms & Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par. T-Zach Tackett. D-Jeremy Smith, \$1,860
Calls: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 - Finish Order: Atoka Millionaire, Fridaynightflight, Rediscovery, Upfront Countryboy, And We'll See Ya, Caribbean Shooter, Gold Star Lambeau

Replay unavailable

THE MEADOWS report

Saturday's Results:

7, Mea, \$22,000, T, *PREFERRED HANDICAP* P.P.1-4 & 10 DRAWN; 5-8 DRAWN; 9 ASSIGNED, 28.0, 58.1, 1:26.2, 1:55.2, FT

1-Sixteen Mikes (g, 7, American Mike--Sweetsixteenkarets, by Revenue S) O-Robert J Key. B-Robert J Key. T-Rich Gillock. D-Tony Hall, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 109-19-15-12, \$218,234

2-Tsm Photo Bugger (g, 10, S J's Photo--Rewarding Wink, by Yankee Glide) O-Theodore A Tomson. B-Theodore A Tomson. T-Karen Fread. D-Mike Micallef, \$5,500

3-Nothinbutanallstar (g, 6, Allstar Hall--Gia Hall, by Garland Lobell) O-Lester Raber. B-Gary D Graber & Dale R Wittmer. T-Dirk Simpson. D-Brady Brown, \$2,640

Calls: 3, 3, H, HD, 1H - Finish Order: Valley Of Sin, Splitsville, Done Andover It, Maximum Credit, Classicality, Cantab Lindy, Tricky Nick

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

WOODBINE report

Saturday's Results:

3, Wdb, \$34,000, P, PREFERRED, 28, 56.3, 1:24, 1:52.1

1, Alexas Jackpot (b,g,7 - Million Dollar Cam-Michelles Jackpot-Artsplace) O-Marty Fine, Highland Thoroughbred FRM B-Jeffrey Snyder T-Marty Fine D-Sylvain Filion, \$17,000, Lifetime Record: 100-19-21-25, \$439,630

2-Nickle Bag (b,g,7 - Rocknroll Hanover-Buckle Bunni-Four Starzzz Shark) O-Linda & Harry Loyens B-Nicholas Malcolm T-William Robinson D-Trevor Henry

3-American Virgin (b,g,5 - Always A Virgin-Flyfly Judith-Presidential Ball) O-Bradley Grant B-Ohio State Ati T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas McNair

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

5, Wdb, \$20,000, P, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 5 RACES OR \$80,000 LIFETIME, 27.1, 56.2, 1:24.4, 1:53.3

1-Always A Hotshot (b,g,4 - Always A Virgin-Tms Miss Hot Shot-Under Siege) O-The Fine Whine Stable B-James Mulinix T-Roger Mayotte D-Roger Mayotte, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 16-8-1-1, \$83,900

2-Awesome (b,g,4 - Mach Three-Fancy A Dream-Camluck) O-Martin Scharf B-Norman & Julie Keyes T-Ryan Maxwell D-Randall Waples

3-Trashtonguetalker (b,g,5 - Arts Chip-The Panishing Girl-The Panderosa) O-Terry Leonard, Christopher Schick B-Maryann Plano T-Mike Weller D-Trevor Henry

[To watch the race replay click here](#)



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RACE RESULTS

7, Wdb, \$22,000, P, FILLIES & MARES, NW \$17,500 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$28,000 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: NW \$110,000 LIFETIME. AE: OPT. CLM. \$35,000, 27.1, 56.4, 1:25.1, 1:53.4

1-Sayitall Bb (br,m,6 - Tell All-Challo B B-Nobleland Sam) O-Travis Cullen B-Robert Bendel T-Travis Cullen D-Travis Cullen, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 72-25-13-7, \$718,916

2-Artistic Madison (b,m,6 - Artistic Fella-Michelles Raider-Keystone Raider) O-Aaron Waxman, Brenda Selwyn Waxman B-Dan Morrissey, William Wood T-David Menary D-Douglas McNair

3-Killean Finale (b,m,4 - Sportswriter-Pumped-Run The Table) O-Paul Tolmazoff B-Killean Acres T-Nick Gallucci D-Randall Waples

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

8, Wdb, \$22,000, P, NW \$14,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$25,000 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: OPT. CLM. \$45,000. AE: NW \$100,000 LIFETIME, 26.4, 55.3, 1:24, 1:52.3

1-Piston Broke (blk,g,8 - Shark Gesture-Rebid-Sportsmaster) O-Robert Don Fellows Arpad Szabo B-Ervin Miller Stable Inc T-Robert Don Fellows D-Richard Zeron, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 92-21-14-17, \$489,260

2-Three Of Clubs (b,h,6 - Mach Three-Cc Kloe-Precious Bunny) O-Gregg McNair, Keith Waples, Tony Lawrence B-Chuck Campbell T-Gregg McNair D-Douglas McNair

3-Mach On The Beach (b,g,5 - Mach Three-Shannon Deja Vu-Jennas Beach Boy) O-Ecurie Gaetan Bono Inc B-Rejean Lassonde T-Richard Moreau D-Sylvain Filion

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

10, Wdb, \$25,000, P, NW \$20,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$28,000 LAST 10 STARTS. OPT. CLM. \$55,000. AE: NW 8 RACES LIFETIME, 27.2, 57.1, 1:25.3, 1:53.4

1-Nirvana Seelster (b,g,6 - Camluck-No Strikes Against-Western Hanover) O-Bruce Davy B-Seelster Farms Inc T-William Budd D-Richard Zeron, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 115-24-15-21, \$534,506

2-Company Man (b,g,6 - American Ideal-Rita Hall-Blissfull Hall) O-Gerrie Tucker, Majs NY Inc B-Robert Unice T-Richard Moreau D-Sylvain Filion

3-Vegas Rocks (b,g,5 - Rocknroll Hanover-Stonebridge Hugs-Artsplace) O-Copley Stables, Jody Sanderson, Dean Larkin B-Angie Stiller T-Katie Gangell D-James MacDonald

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

12, Wdb, \$20,000, P, FILLIES & MARES, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 4 RACES OR \$97,000 LIFETIME, 27, 55.3, 1:24.2, 1:55.1

1-Hot Spot Hanover (b,m,4 - Well Said-Hottie Hanover-Real Desire) O-Karen Carroll B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Mike Bishop D-Ed Hensley, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 28-8-5-5, \$108,200

Hanover

ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY **HANOVER SHOE FARMS!**



PREFERRED EQUINE
Mixed Sale Graduate

2-Jimbelina (b,m,4 - Big Jim-Buddys Gal-Bettors Delight) O-Roland Trudel B-Karry Howard T-Rene Bourassa D-Sylvain Filion

3-Icthelight Hanover (b,m,4 - Big Jim-Ifyoucouldcwhati C-Artsplace) O-Holland Racing Stable B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Richard Zeron D-Richard Zeron

[To watch the race replay click here](#)

