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Grant buys three horses, including the sale toppler, as he and Wallace rebuild from fire
by Dave Briggs

Brad Grant said he has long had his eye on what turned out to be the sale toppler at Monday's January Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands. But when the Classy Lane fire in Puslinch, ON killed four of his horses - including near-millionaire pacer Apprentice Hanover - the owner from Milton, ON decided to see what he could do to help his trainer, Ben Wallace, get back on his feet.



Owner Brad Grant, who lost four horses in the Classy Lane fire, bought three horses, including the sale toppler, at Monday's January Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands.

Monday afternoon, Grant not only topped the sale by purchasing six-year-old trotting horse Lindy's Tru Grit for \$125,000, he also purchased four-year-old pacing mare A Plus for \$80,000 and three-year-old pacing colt Easy Lover Hanover for \$70,000.

"I wanted a top-end trotter and I think (Lindy's Tru Grit) was the best one in the sale, by far," Grant said. "I probably would have come down here looking for the trotter anyway, but... the other two weren't on the radar. They came on the radar after the fire.

"It's to get Ben back and going. We've known each other for 40 years. He's probably trained my horses for 20 or 25. So, it's to get him back up and running right away, get him some racehorses... I'm excited about it. I want top-end horses and I think all three of them will be."

Sale general manager David Reid praised Grant for stepping up, especially with the Canadian dollar trading below 70 cents U.S.

"Brad Grant has been a first-class individual the whole time since I started dealing with him," Reid said. "If we

could ever clone the Brad Grants of the world, our business would be a lot better. He stepped up and God bless him. (The fire) was definitely a tragedy. I spoke to him once or twice since he had the tragedy and I was happy to see him come down (to the sale). I've also been friends with Ben Wallace for a long time. It's good to see him get some quality stock back into his barn. I just wish it could happen to everyone up there."

Apart from Wallace, trainers Roger Mayotte, Chantal Mitchell, Kris Di Cenzo, Dan Lagace and Floyd Amos lost virtually every horse they train and most of their equipment in the Jan. 4 blaze, throwing them and their staff out of work.

Other than Apprentice Hanover, Grant lost a "nice three-year-old filly" and two other racehorses in the fire.

"Every one is a loss," he said. But losing Apprentice Hanover was particularly painful.

"I lost a great horse in Apprentice Hanover. I've had a lot of great comments from horsepeople that they thought this was going to be his year. Unfortunately, it didn't work out, but you get back up and you go back at it."

Both A Plus and Easy Lover Hanover were trained by Tony Alagna. Lindy's Tru Grit came from Julie Miller's barn. All three were consigned by Reid's Preferred Equine



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Three-year-old filly trot.
Purse \$150,000 E (\$75,000 A).

Confederation Cup XXXVIII

Four-year-old open pace.
Purse \$225,000 E (\$200,000 A).

Canadian Trotting Classic

Three-year-old open trot.
Purse \$700,000 E (\$425,000 A).



Governor's Cup

Two-year-old open pace.
Purse \$565,000 E (\$90,000 A).

Valley Victory

Two-year-old open trot.
Purse \$525,000 E (\$50,000 A).

Three Diamonds

Two-year-old filly pace.
Purse \$425,000 E (\$50,000 A).

Goldsmith Maid

Two-year-old filly trot.
Purse \$465,000 E (\$50,000 A).

Battle of Waterloo

Ontario Sired Two-year-old open pace.
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Marketing.

"I think all of them are quality horses... They've come from good barns," Grant said, indicating he expects Lindy's Tru Grit to race in Woodbine's preferred class and the two pacing horses will race right away in the lower classes in Toronto and, hopefully, work their way up.

"I actually thought I got away cheap on the trotter. I thought he would be a \$150,000 ticket," Grant said of the sale topper, a son of Cantab Hall out of True Diva who earned just shy of \$500,000 lifetime for his breeder, the Lindy Racing Stable of Enfield, CT and co-owner Robert Rudolph of Vineland, NJ.

A Plus, an American Ideal mare out of Has An Attitude, has earned over \$50,000 on the track and recorded a mark of 1:51 for the Alagna Racing LLC of Manalapan, NJ, In The Gym Partners of Staten Island, NY, Tangie Massey of Debary, FL and Joe Sbrocco of Brecksville, OH.

Easy Lover Hanover is a Somebeachsomewhere colt out of Easy Go Go that made just two pari-mutuel starts last year at two for Brittany Farms and Easy Lover Partners, both of Versailles, KY.

Grant said he hopes all three will be key to a Classy Lane recovery story that is already helping turn a tragedy into something "amazing."

"You want to beat each other on the racetrack and there's a lot of good camaraderie, but something like this is just amazing seeing the outpouring from everywhere, not just locally," Grant said of the Central Ontario Standardbred Association's [GoFundMe campaign](#) that had topped \$365,000 as of Monday night.

January Mixed Sale strong through the middle, but lacking superstars

by Dave Briggs

Monday's Tattersalls January Select Mixed Sale in the paddock at the Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey drew "a great crowd" and was "very strong through the middle," said sale general manager David Reid, but lacked star horses that posted eye-catching numbers.

In all, 258 horses, stallion shares and breedings went through the ring in the Big M paddock, grossing \$5,849,400 for an average of \$22,672.

The gross was down 6.6 per cent from the \$6,265,200 fetched at the sale in 2015 when 269 horses, stallion shares and breedings were sold and was off two per cent from the gross of \$5,971,500 reached in 2014 when 234 horses and items were auctioned.

This year's average was down 2.7 per cent compared to 2015's average of \$23,291 and off 11.2 per cent from the average of \$25,519 reached in 2014.

The vast majority of horses sold were racehorses. The 210 racehorses sold grossed \$5,331,800 for an average of \$25,390 that is down 11.2 per cent compared to a year ago. In 2015, 32 fewer racehorses were sold, but they grossed \$5,088,900 for an average of \$28,589.

"I think we have a reputation of selling ready-made racehorses. We didn't hit anything out of the park today, but I thought, as I predicted the other night, that we were very strong through the middle and it held up well," Reid said.

"Overall, I'm pleased, but I wish we had more horses on the top end. But they come when they come. It's not that we don't try to recruit them. It's just the environment we're in right now. They're just not as available as they used to be."



Lindy's Tru Grit topped the sale with a bid of \$125,000 by Brad Grant.

Reid's Preferred Equine Marketing was the leading consignor, selling 151 horses for a gross of \$4,051,300 and an average of \$26,830.

"I haven't really analyzed it, yet, but it seemed good. The Burke Racing Stable had 20-something horses consigned and I thought their horses sold pretty well. The Lindy

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consignment with their trotters sold well. Lindy's Tru Grit was the sale topper (at \$125,000 to Brad Grant - see main story). I was happy to see Dustin Jones do well. He had a champion Ontario horse come down here and he sold well, but not crazy," Reid said of Don't Rush, a winner of \$497,000 who was the only other horse to reach a six-figure sales price. The four-year-old son of Infinitif out of Color Me Pretty sold for \$100,000 to Josh Green of Milford, DE.

"I loved the look of him. I loved the size; he's just kind of a medium-small horse," Green said. "I just thought he was well made. I've bought some horses from Dustin Jones and he's a great trainer and does a nice job with them. It just seems like there is a lot of meat left on the bone. He helps me out with them. He's a good guy. He'll start out at Dover and we'll see how it goes from there. But he'll probably finish out the meet at Dover.

"I think the horse has been a pretty consistent horse. He loves to pass horses. He gets a little bit hot; I know that's the one issue they've had with him. He gets grabby behind the gate. Time will tell. My guess would be that he's one notch below (the top level). But he was great in Canada. In the four-year-old year, our big thing is to just try to protect them. They're all going to need a rest at some point."

The third-highest selling horse was Maestro Blue Chip, a son of Credit Winner out of Up Front Hotsey that sold to Richard Poillucci of North Easton, MA for \$90,000.

I was prepared to pay \$100,000 for the horse. That's

what I felt he'd be worth," Poillucci said of Maestro Blue Chip, who will be trained by Jim King, Jr.

"In (Maestro Blue Chip's) first start on Lasix he was :53.4," Poillucci said. "He came home a good mile. He's a long, fresh trotter. There's a series at Yonkers that I'm interested in. He shows the half-mile track, he shows the big track. He's young and fresh. Fresh horses are hard to come by."

Bob Boni's Northwood Bloodstock consigned Maestro Blue Chip. Northwood sold 90 horses at the sale for \$1,595,900, an average of \$17,732.

Boni said he thought he had a "good sale. I thought it was very solid, very strong. I can't say there were that many horses that were high-profile horses, but the middle and upper, I thought, was very, very solid."

Reid said, "considering that we didn't have any heavy hitters that the gross and the average held up very well. I think that's an encouraging sign... I'd be surprised if the people that made the purchases aren't as happy as the people that sold them. That's really our goal. We really want people to have success with what they buy here and we want to be able to represent our clients to get a fair market value for what we feel the horse is worth and wish everyone the best of luck on both sides.

"I really want to thank all the consignors and I really want to thank all the buyers... I was happy to see a great crowd. It had good energy right from the very beginning of the sale."

Meadowlands - January Mixed Sale (2016-01-18)

	# Sold	Gross	Average
All Horses	258	\$5,849,400	\$22,672
Racehorses	210	\$5,331,800	\$25,390
Pacers	141	\$3,397,900	\$24,099
Trotters	117	\$2,451,500	\$20,953
Males	171	\$4,018,000	\$23,497
Females	87	\$1,831,400	\$21,051
Pacing Males	87	\$2,129,400	\$24,476
Pacing Females	54	\$1,268,500	\$23,491
Trotting Males	84	\$1,888,600	\$22,483
Trotting Females	33	\$562,900	\$17,058
Yearlings	3	\$31,500	\$10,500
Broodmares & Prospects	12	\$160,700	\$13,392
Stallions & Shares	33	\$325,400	\$9,861
Horses Catalogued	298		
Outs	40		

Mixed Sale a boon to Meadowlands entry box
by Dave Briggs

The January Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands has been so beneficial to the track's entry box in recent weeks, management opted to keep Monday's entry box open until 9 a.m. Tuesday to accommodate buyers that might wish to drop horses in to race this weekend.

"We thought it made sense to leave the box open to have full fields, but also to accommodate the horsemen that buy the horses at the sale today," said Meadowlands chief executive officer Jason Settlemoir. "There's definitely a relationship between the sale and the horses that are racing here, especially when the sale is 15 feet from the race office."

Meadowlands race secretary Peter Koch said the track benefitted, somewhat, by sale horses racing there the last few weekends.

"There were definitely horses that raced that were trying to get good lines before the sale," Koch said. "But it works kind of both ways. If they raced a couple of weeks ago and they won then they didn't put those horses in again last weekend. They all wanted to go to the sale with a good line."

"Which is understandable," Settlemoir added.

DOVERREPORT

Monday's Results:

10, DD, \$27,500, P, DELAWARE Special Handicap Post Positions Assigned, 26.3, 54.2, 1:22.2, 1:51.1, FT

1-Bad Boy Matt (g, 6, Badlands Hanover--Mattercycle, by Matt's Scooter), \$22,000 2011 CAN-YS O-Legacy Racing Of De Inc & Reginald A Hazzard II. B-Craig I Turner, CA & Mhairi Kersel, CA. T-Wayne Givens. D-Allan Davis, \$13,750, Lifetime Record: 86-17-16-15, \$251,307
To watch the race replay click [here](#)

THE MEADOWSREPORT

Monday's Results:

8, Mea, \$20,000, P, F&M NL PREFERRED HANDICAP (P.P. 1-2 DRAWN, 3-6 DRAWN), 28.2, 57.1, 1:25.0, 1:54.0, GD

1-Set Me Up (m, 7, Shark Gesture--Moccasin Flight, by Run The Table) O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC. B-Gregory G Drew, CA. T-Ron Burke. D-Dave Palone, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 94-26-15-11, \$364,380
To watch the race replay click [here](#)

WOODBINEREPORT

Monday's Results:

1, WDB, \$20,000, T, LIFETIME DREAM - 2ND LEG - 4 & 5 YEAR OLD MARES. NON WINNERS \$100,000 LIFETIME AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2015. 28.1, 58.1, 1:27.2, 1:57.1

1-Domedomedome (b,m,5 - Deweycheatumnhowe-Mojo N The Morning - Angus Hall) O-Joanne Colville, Pamela J Schmidt B-Joanne Colville T/D-Jack Moiseyev, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 40-9-4-5, \$120,550

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

2, WDB, \$20,000, T, LIFETIME DREAM - 2ND LEG - 4 & 5 YEAR OLD MARES. NON WINNERS \$100,000 LIFETIME AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2015. 29.1, 59.2, 1:28.3, 1:58.1

1-Lady Ping (b,m,4 - Muscle Mass-Ping Putter-Yankee Paco) O-Dr Brett C Anderson, Dagfin E Henriksen, Kyle E Anderson B-Dr Brett C Anderson T/D-Dagfin E Henriksen, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 30-6-7-2, \$131,700

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

YONKERSREPORT

Sunday's Results:

1, YR, \$21,200, T, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 5 STARTS, I, 29.1, 1:27.1, 1:57.2, 2:28.0, FT

1-Money Maven (g, 7, Revenue S--The Raven, by Sierra Kosmos), \$2,200 2010 NJ-CL O-Kapildeo Singh. B-Perretti Farms. T-Julie Miller. D-Brian Sears, \$10,600, Lifetime Record: 124-17-24-13, \$223,067

8, YR, \$32,000, T, OPEN HANDICAP POST POSITIONS 1-6 ASSIGNED, 28.4, 59.0, 1:27.3, 1:55.4, FT

1-Not Afraid (g, 7, SJ's Caviar--Beverly Crusher, by Balanced Image) O-Christina Takter & John D Fielding, CA & Goran N Anderberg, SD. B-Steve D Organ, CA. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Daniel Dube, \$16,000, Lifetime Record: 105-30-21-17, \$730,314

2-Red Hot Herbie (g, 6, Here Comes Herbie--Six Red, by S J's Photo), \$25,000 2011 IN-PREM O-Allard Racing Inc, CA & Albert P Abdala III & Bruce A Soulsby & Michael Wm Reppucci. B-John A Schmucker. T-Rene Allard. D-Brian Sears, \$8,000

3-Tweet Me (m, 5, Andover Hall--Wishful Me, by Yankee Glide), \$60,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-Bridget T Mcneese. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Nicholas Devita. D-Pat Lachance, \$3,840

Calls: 1H, 1H, 1Q, 1T, H - Finish Order: Dot Dot Dot Dash, Zooming, Therapeutic

9, YR, \$20,000, T, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 5 STARTS, 28.3, 58.1, 1:27.1, 1:56.2, FT

1-Clementine Dream (m, 6, Infinitif--Catch Fortuna, by Speedy Crown), \$27,000 2011 LEX-SEL O-Racing Team Of America. B-Reve Avec Moi Dreamwithme, CA. T-Mark Harder. D-Jason Bartlett, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 67-14-10-11, \$189,900

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