

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016



Bold Eagle ready to fly in French classic

by Dean A. Hoffman

On Saturday evening, Jan. 24, 2009, I was making my way up the steps to the ballroom at the Hotel Terrass in the Montmartre section of Paris. I was en route to a cocktail party on the eve of the Prix d'Amerique, the great French trotting classic to be contested the next day.

Suddenly I heard someone calling my name. I turned and spotted Swedish trotting journalist Lars Dahlgren. I'd known him for many years.



Sensational French trotter Bold Eagle.

"Dean, there is a horse that you must watch tomorrow at Vincennes," he told me. "He's not in the Prix d'Amerique. He's only a four-year-old, but he's a French horse that has the speed to race with the best in America. His name is Ready Cash."

I took his advice to heart. Ready Cash was racing in the Prix Charles Tiercelin for four-year-olds. As I recall, Ready Cash stalked the leaders in the early stages of the 1-3/4 mile race. As the field began the uphill portion of the race on the backstretch, Ready Cash unleashed his speed.

In a flash, he was past the leaders. In a flash, the race was over. Only the minor spoils were in question once he got to the front.

I was duly impressed. I remembered his name and I returned to Paris for more Prix d'Ameriques and saw Ready Cash win France's greatest race twice. He fulfilled the promise Lars Dahlgren saw in him.

Like many of the best French stallions, Ready Cash burned the candle at both ends, racing and breeding in the same year. (Prix d'Amerique winner Cocktail Jet served a mare in France on Friday, then flew to Sweden and beat the best trotters in the world in the 1996 Elitlopp.)

Ready Cash's initial offspring quickly established themselves as having his quick speed and determination

and he now ranks among the top stallions in France. His offspring have found success elsewhere in Europe. In fact, his son Bold Eagle will be the likely favorite for this year's Prix d'Amerique, which will be contested on the final day of this month.

On Jan. 17, Bold Eagle made his rivals look ordinary in the stretch drive of the Prix de Belgique, the last major prep race for the Prix d'Amerique. Driver Franck Nivard settled him into a third-over spot as the trotters fought it out in the early stages of the race.

Nivard sat very confidently until the final turn and then eased Bold Eagle out into the clear. Once the field turned into the stretch, what Bold Eagle did defies belief. He sailed past his rivals - the best horses in France - like the proverbial freight train past a tramp. He displayed that same rapid turn of foot that made his sire such a sensation. Like father, like son.

Watching that race would make you think that the Prix d'Amerique (Jan. 31) would be a virtual walkover for Bold Eagle, but he is only a five-year-old, a mere infant in French trotting terms, and he may not have things his way in the big race. Plus, the French have a habit of using the prep races for the Prix d'Amerique as tighteners and try to



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Wakizashi Hanover

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Purse \$225,000 E (\$200,000 A).

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



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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.
Purse \$200,000 E Final (\$90,000 A).

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Ontario Sired Two-year-old filly pace.
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leave some gas in the tank. Don't overlook Timoko and last year's winner Up And Quick.

Bold Eagle is the product of a Franco-American blend of blood that has become so popular in Europe in recent decades. If you march back four generations in Ready Cash's male line, you come to Bonefish, the son of Nevele Pride that won the 1975 Hambletonian.

Ready Cash's second dam is by Workaholic, a Speedy Crown son that won the very first Breeders Crown ever contested in 1984.

Interestingly, the second dam of Bold Eagle is also by Workaholic. He stood at stud in New Jersey briefly before being exported to France in the late 1980s, where he was extraordinarily popular and successful.

The Prix d'Amerique was started by the French after World War I. Its name derives from the gratitude that they felt in the land of Lafayette for the role that America played in turning the tide in World War I.

That was very considerate of the French, but the conditions of the race are quite un-American. When asked to describe the Prix d'Amerique, my stock reply is, "It's a race with 18 trotters, starting without a starting gate and without assigned post positions. It's contested at about 1-5/8 miles over a track that is a little downhill and then a little uphill."

When North Americans hear that description, they look at me as if I just fell off the turnip truck. But it's true.

Also, the French adhere to the belief that the classic races are contested to determine the future of the breed. That is, breeders should select their stallions and mares from those that perform best in the classic events. No geldings are permitted in the Prix d'Amerique.

(American breeder/owner Barry Goldstein once contacted me about taking his superb gelding Arch Madness to the Prix d'Amerique, and also bringing his whole family to Paris to watch the great event. When I informed Barry that geldings were not permitted in the Prix d'Amerique, he fired back a simple email which read: "No geldings. No Goldsteins.")

All the great geldings from North America were not eligible. That meant no Prix d'Amerique quests over the decades for such greats as Greyhound, Pronto Don, Su Mac Lad, Savoir, San Pail and so many others.

(I should add that the French look with absolute horror on trotting hobbles. *Sacre bleu!*)

The last winner bred in North America was the amazon mare Moni Maker, the dominant trotter in the 1999 Prix d'Amerique.

In the 1930s, however, many American-bred exports found the winner's circle. Hazleton won in 1931-32 and the 1929 Hambletonian winner Walter Dear triumphed in 1934. The next year Muscletone, a heat winner in the '34 Hambletonian, became the only four-year-old ever to win the Prix d'Amerique, a distinction he still holds. DeSota, bred by Walnut Hall Farm, won in 1938-39.

After the end of World War II, Yank expatriates such as Mighty Ned (Volomite), Scotch Fez (Scotland), Nike Hanover (Star's Pride), Dart Hanover (Hoot Mon), and Delmonica Hanover (Speedy Count) won in Paris. Sea Cove, the mammoth son of Bonefish bred by Mac Cuddy in Ontario, also took the Prix d'Amerique in 1994.

Tom Tetrick's \$7,500 flier pays off with Over Friskie

by Mike Paradise

All the gambling in harness racing isn't just through a track's mutuel wagering system. Trainers and owners are continuously doing their speculating by purchasing yearlings, claiming horses or buying older pacers or trotters at the various sales.



Last November, Tom Tetrick paid \$7,500 for Over Friskie. This week Tom's brother, Trace Tetrick, drove the pacer to a dominant victory in a division of the Whizzer R White Series at Hawthorne. (Four Footed Photos)

Tom T. Tetrick, the oldest of the three brothers from Flora, IL, "took a chance" last November on the then lightly-raced three-year-old pacer Over Friskie, and if last

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week's romping victory at Hawthorne Race Course in an opening round of the Whizzer R White Series is any indication, the 37-year-old Tetrack may have hit the bullseye.

"We only paid around \$7,500 for the horse," said Tom. "He looked good when he came walking through. He was kind of growthy. He had the breeding and made only 10 or 12 career starts, so we took a chance on him."

Over Friskie is a son of Feelin Friskie out of the Matt's Scooter mare Scoot It Over. As a yearling he sold for \$42,000 at the Blooded Horse Sale in Ohio. The horse didn't compete as a freshman and made only a dozen starts as a three-year-old for the always-powerful Ron Burke Stable.

Tom's youngest sibling, Trace, came in from Ohio to drive Over Friskie in the \$7,000 opening series round when the pacer powered his way to the front on the backside and just kept extending his lead without any urging, winning by a whopping 15-and-a-half lengths.

While hand-driven to the wire, the horse still lowered his mark to 1:54.4 and put \$3,500 on his early season card for Auburn, IN owner Erwin Wickey. The horse figures to quickly pad his bankroll. He's in Wednesday's second series leg with Tom at the lines.

"Trace had a prior commitment so he won't be able to drive him in the second leg. He'll be back for the (Feb. 3) final.

"The day I qualified him at Hawthorne I thought he might be a nice horse. He qualified really, really well. He won by eight lengths in :57 with a :28 last quarter, and it was on an off-track. That was faster than any other horse qualifying that day.

"It was great seeing him draw off in this first series leg. I think he would have won the week before if we didn't hook wheels with another bike."

At a family get together Tom is easy to recognize from his two younger and more famous brothers. Both Tim (age 34) and Trace (29) stand 5-9 to 5-10, at 150-plus pounds. Tom comes in at 6-6, 180 pounds and no doubt is the No. 1 pick if relatives come over for a pick-up basketball game.

Chicago Circuit notes

With 45 horses entered, five divisions were necessary for the first round of the Whizzer R White for pacing colts and geldings who were non-winners of two races or \$10,000 as of Dec. 1, 2014 and five more are on tap this week. The non-winners of five Suburban Downs Series had a pair of opening round legs.

Hawthorne had its first \$1 million handle of the winter meet on Friday (Jan. 22) with the help of the weatherman and an 11-race card rather than its usual 10. For a change, instead of snow and single digit temperature readings, it was a clear and almost balmy (30 degrees) night of racing when \$1,008,120 was wagered.

At the half-way point of the five-week winter meet Casey Leonard was atop the driver's standings with 24 winners with Simon Allard, competing in Chicago for the first time, next with 17.

Declining Canadian dollar both a boon and problem for WEG

by Dave Briggs

When the Canadian dollar slipped below 70 cents U.S.

this week it was clear the widening gap between the currencies was going to have an impact on horse racing north of the border.

But Jamie Martin, the executive vice-president of racing for the Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG), said Thursday that it's not all bad news for Canada's premier racing outfit.



"We are an exporter of our wagering signal. The U.S. market is at least 60 per cent of our business and growing because of the exchange variance. A lot of our growth in the last year can be attributed to the variance in the exchange. So, that's a positive," Martin said.

"Americans betting into our pools have the advantage. They're betting more than a dollar when they bet a dollar when they're betting against Canadians... Our U.S. funds bet has been pretty level. As long as that happens and the dollar keeps going down, we're going to continue to grow. So our goal is to grow the U.S. dollar bet on our product. But, even if we can keep it even, we're going to have a variance of 15 to 20 per cent from last year."

On the flipside, Martin said it likely will make it more difficult to attract horses from the U.S. to race in Toronto, which could, ultimately, impact racing if a projected low horse supply leads to short fields that turn off bettors.

"It's going to put a lot of pressure on the supply side of the business," Martin said of the declining loonie. "We haven't seen that, yet, but I expect we will."

For the last few years, the Canadian dollar hovered near the 90-cent range. But back in the early 2000s, the Canadian dollar was lower than it is today. The difference then to now, Martin said, is the racing landscape was quite different.

"There was no Pennsylvania gaming program, there was no New York gaming program. There was really just us and the Meadowlands. Our purses were actually higher in 2002 than they are today because we were in the early days of our slot program. Our open went for \$60,000. Today it's \$34,000. When our open was \$60,000, even though we had a 63-cent dollar we were able to withstand that because there was nothing in Pennsylvania of significance or New York. So, that's changed now because they both have slots program."

Consequently, Ontario's Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) is no longer operating.

Martin said the lower Canadian dollar might also have an impact on WEG's stakes program.

"Our major stakes start closing February 15th. The stakes purses in U.S. dollars are quite a bit lower than last year," Martin said. "On the flip side, the payments into those races (for Americans) is also lower. We'll see if it has an impact.

We get a lot of support from U.S.-based owners... We think we'll be okay, but we'll find out. Certainly it's going to be a challenge on the supply side that could impact our wagering and our ability to deliver the number of cards we have to deliver."

Martin said WEG currently does not have a horse shortage and he hasn't seen a mass exodus of Canadian horses to the United States to chase the stronger U.S. dollar.

"I don't think we've seen an abundance of Canadian horsemen shipping their horses down here because of the dollar," said Meadowlands CEO Jason Settlemyre.

One of the possible reasons Canadian horsepeople have stayed home, for the most part, this winter is Woodbine still has a winter stakes program, while the Meadowlands isn't running winter stakes this year.

"We used to get more (Canadian horsepeople) when we had the series in the winter," said Meadowlands racing secretary Peter Koch. "I know some horses went from down here to up there."

Koch said the Meadowlands decided not to run winter stakes because, "we shifted from three to two days. So, we wanted to make sure that people could get in. If we were overloaded with late closers it would have been problematic. This is the first time we've really had to hustle horses since (many of the other tracks) closed (for the winter). We've cut a few stakes to save a little bit of purse money."

Rash of scratches at Pompano linked to drug withdrawal time changes

by Dave Briggs

Hall of Fame driver Wally Hennessey said a rash of judges scratches listed as PSN (or personal) over the last week at Pompano Park in Florida is due to a recent change in the state's drug protocol that adjusted the withdrawal times for a number of therapeutic medications.

Twenty-six horses have been scratched at the track over the last week with the PSN distinction - five on the Jan. 16 card, eight on Jan. 17, three on Jan. 18, seven on Jan. 19 and six on Jan. 20.

Hennessey said horsepeople were not given enough lead time about the changes and voluntarily scratched their horses to avoid the possibility of a positive test.

"Nobody's in trouble," Hennessey said. "It was the guys going to the judges themselves and saying, 'Scratch my horse. I just had him injected or I just gave him Clenbuterol.' The track itself has been more than helpful on it."

Director of racing Brett Revington declined to comment on the situation and on Saturday referred Harness Racing Update to Joe Pennacchio, president of the Florida Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association (FSBOA). Pennacchio did not respond to a request for comment prior to press time.

"They didn't say January 1st that this was going to come into effect the first of February or the 1st or March," Hennessey said. "These came into effect as you got the news. You're allowed to (use these medications), but the

withdrawal times were changed (by the state).

"The track's not happy about it because some of the races had four scratches."

Hennessey said some of the horsepeople aren't happy about having to scratch, either.

"Most of these guys rely on the income they're going to make week to week with their horses," he said.

Western Fair on cusp of an all-time record betting month

by Dave Briggs

The Raceway at The Western Fair District in London, ON is on pace for an all-time record betting month. Raceway manager Greg Blanchard said Saturday the half-mile oval is on pace to surpass \$6 million in handle for January and, with four scheduled cards left in the month, may even exceed \$7 million in total handle.



Greg Blanchard, the raceway manager at The Raceway at The Western Fair District

"We're at \$5.5 million now," Blanchard said. "If our Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday cards go well, we've got an outside shot at \$7 million for the month."

In December, over \$5.81 million was bet on Western Fair races, which was just off the \$5.88 million the track did in wagering in December of 2014, which Blanchard believes stands as the best betting month in the track's 55-year history.

Blanchard said the track owes its recent success to a combination of factors, including help from the Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) promoting Western Fair's signal through its HorsePlayer Interactive platform and on TVG.

"I believe in momentum. I think you get some momentum when you have a good run. I think it carries over. I think people are recognizing first and foremost that there is pool size here. That and then, of course, the high (dollar) exchange is helping. There's no question. It's a positive thing and that's like a bonus on top of it," Blanchard said.

"The key is now it's creating pool size and helping the brand. It's positive in that regard. So, hopefully we get to a day when the dollar gets corrected, but when that happens I think we've helped our brand along the way. Based on the feedback I get, I think bettors like the style of racing. Our guys race and I think they like, in general, the competitiveness of the fields and the field size and the variety of wagering options and the pool sizes. I think what's happening is there is becoming more of a recognition that the pools are back up. I'm hearing that from maybe some lapsed bettors that have noticed recently that these pools are a lot bigger than I thought they were. But it takes awhile to build your brand back up."

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Shades Of Bay wins Snowshoe, Double Olives takes Blizzard at Woodbine

The finals of the Blizzard and Snowshoe Series highlighted racing action Friday night (Jan. 22) at Woodbine Racetrack.

The \$45,200 Blizzard final for three and four-year-old pacing fillies and mares featured a field of nine, while a full-field of 10 three and four-year-old pacers competed in the \$47,200 Snowshoe final.

Rafa and Shades Of Bay entered the Snowshoe final both seeking a series sweep and the anticipated matchup lived up to the hype.



Phil Hudon drove Shades Of Bay (4-5) to victory in the \$47,200 Snowshoe final (*New Image Media*)

Driven by Sylvain Filion, Rafa (3-2), fired out from post three to grab the lead, while Shades Of Bay (4-5) and driver Phil Hudon left from post nine and found a spot in fourth. After posting an opening-quarter of :26.2, Rafa was quickly confronted by Shades Of Bay, who made a quick brush to the lead.

The two favorites sat one-two through middle-fractions of :55.4 and 1:24.3.

In the stretch, Filion tipped Rafa off the back of Hudon to set up a stretch duel. Rafa was able to get within less than a length of the lead, but Shades Of Bay would not be denied a series sweep and held off his rival to win by a length and a quarter in 1:52.2.

Shippen Out finished third, while Tylers Beach Boy was fourth.

A son of Art Major, Shades Of Bay is trained by Sean Mehlenbacher for owner Timothy Kim. The Snowshoe Series sweep improves the four-year-old to three for three in 2016 and six for seven since joining the Mehlenbacher barn.

Friday's Snowshoe victory was the second series victory for Shades Of Bay in less than a month. The Mehlenbacher trainee also won the Valedictory Series final on Boxing Day.

Shades Of Bay now has seven career victories and earnings exceeding \$92,000.

The runner-up finish by Rafa is the Richard Moreau trainee's first defeat after starting his career four for four.

A \$2 win ticket on Shades Of Bay returned \$3.80.

A week after capturing a second leg division as the favorite, Double Olives turned in another game effort to win the Blizzard final at 10-1.



Double Olives and Mike Saftic scored a 10-1 victory in the \$45,200 Blizzard final (*New Image Media*)

Driven by Mike Saftic, Double Olives was taken back in the early stages and got away eighth. Twin B Sweetheart, who was parked around the first turn, finally cleared to take command ahead of Cracklin Rosie, the 8/5 favourite, and Amazing Control entering the backstretch.

After posting a half of :55.2, Twin B Sweetheart relinquished the lead to Dontbruisecarrie and began to jam things up along the inside. Saftic was able to situate Double Olives third-over around the final turn, as Naughty Lady B closed in on the leader first up.

In the stretch, Naughty Lady B took over the top spot, but Double Olives came off cover and charged by her rival to score a length victory in 1:53. Naughty Lady B held on for second, while Bad As Leader and Cracklin Rosie rounded out the Superfecta.

A four-year-old daughter of Blissfull Hall, Double Olives is trained by Dave Matson for owners John Taylor and Jeffrey Ruch. The brown pacing mare entered Friday's final with a victory and runner-up finish in the preliminary legs.

Double Olives now has two wins from three starts this season and seven overall in her racing career. The Blizzard Series victory pushes her career bankroll to \$72,810.

A \$2 win ticket on Double Olives returned \$23.80.

Winter series action continues on Monday night (Jan. 25) with the \$44,200 Lifetime Dream final.

- Mark McKelvie (*WEG Communications*)

Snow storm cancels Saturday cards at Meadowlands, Yonkers, Freehold

Saturday's cards at the Meadowlands, Yonkers and Freehold were canceled well in advance of a blizzard packing hurricane-force winds that dumped as much as 3 feet of snow on the area.

The World Harness Handicapping Championship qualifying contest that was scheduled for Saturday night at the Meadowlands was also cancelled. The next qualifying event will be Feb. 27.

HARNESS RACING
UPDATE

O'Donnell wins Chisholm, Twinbrook named Van Bussel winners

Hall of Famer Bill O'Donnell was awarded the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association's (SBOA) highest honor Saturday night in Guelph, ON when he was named the recipient of the Lloyd Chisholm Achievement Award at the SBOA's annual awards dinner.

Meanwhile, Rob and Tammy McNiven's Twinbrook Farms of Embro, ON was named the winner of the Chris Van Bussel Memorial Award.

Established in honor of a founding father of the Ontario Sires Stakes program, the Lloyd Chisholm Achievement Award recognizes a member of the harness racing community for their ongoing meritorious service. Since settling in Ontario 15 years ago, O'Donnell has been actively involved in a variety of industry organizations and activities; just as much of a trailblazer in retirement as he was during a Hall of Fame driving career.

Since moving to Ontario, O'Donnell has given his time and talents to countless industry organizations and events. He currently serves as president of the Central Ontario Standardbred Association, vice-president of the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society, director of the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association, a member of the Standardbred Advisory Committee and has been a fixture at Clinton Raceway's Legends Day since its inception in 2001. In addition, the Guelph resident is guiding nine newcomers to the industry through the process of acquiring and training a yearling as part of the SBOA's New Owner Mentoring Program.

The Chris Van Bussel Memorial Award was established in memory of the Seelster Farms founder to recognize persons of integrity who have been of service to both the SBOA and the greater harness racing industry, criteria that perfectly sum up the 2015 recipient - Twinbrook Farms. As third generation members of one of the most respected families in Ontario harness racing, the McNivens have been focused on quality, integrity and service for almost 20 years and that focus paid significant dividends in 2015. Twinbrook Farms achieved a sales record last fall when Twin B Babe topped Day 3 at the Harrisburg Yearling Sale, hammered down for \$100,000. Two of the farm's other entries sold for \$100,000 and \$90,000, pushing their total for 11 yearlings to just over \$600,000 U.S. As they have done since taking over the family operation almost two decades ago, Rob and Tammy McNiven immediately reinvested in their business, bringing three mares home from Harrisburg to join their broodmare band.

- SBOA

Sweet Lou's book full and closed

Diamond Creek Farm announced this week that the book for world champion and "Pacer of the Year" Sweet Lou is now full and closed for the upcoming breeding season.

"He closed just as quickly this year as he did last year, during his first season at stud," said Diamond Creek owner Adam Bowden. "I think it speaks very well of the confidence breeders have in him, not only in regard to his sire potential, but in the enthusiasm that's expected from buyers

when his foals sell as yearlings."

Sweet Lou p,1:47f (\$3,478,894), by Yankee Cruiser-Sweet Future, is the only horse in history to pace six consecutive winning miles faster than 1:48. He was a world champion and Dan Patch champion as a two-year-old and was voted "Pacer of the Year" as a five-year-old in 2014. He has stood for a fee of \$7,500.

He booked full in 2015 - his first season at stud in the U.S. - and repeated the feat Down Under. Those mares from Australia and New Zealand included the three- and four-year-old champion Adore Me, a winner of A\$1,677,032 and 1:47.7 mile track record holder.

With this year's book including big names like I Luv The Nitelife, Somwherovrarainbow, Ginger And Fred, and the dam of the undefeated 2015 Dan Patch champion two-year-old filly Pure Country, Sweet Lou's popularity continues to shine.

"We'll start seeing his first foals any time now," Bowden said. "We look forward to welcoming the 'baby blazes' and expect them to be just as athletic and charismatic as their sire."

Breeders and fans may follow the sire career of the original "Great White Blaze" on Twitter @greatwhiteblaze.
- *Diamond Creek Farm*

Beware of unscrupulous horse agents

Standardbred Canada is reminding owners and participants to perform due diligence when making purchases after a prominent owner told it he was recently sold what turned out to be a fraudulent share in pacing stallion Somebeachsomewhere.

Allan Saul told Trot Insider that the horse trader from the Chicago area who sold him the share was familiar to him as someone who had discussed potential broodmare prospects from time to time. Standardbred Canada has not named the agent.

When the agent failed to deliver a copy of the stallion share, Saul said he became suspicious.

"So I started making some phone calls. First I called Hanover Shoe Farms and they told me that there's been no letter that's gone out at all in the last month for the selling of shares and then I knew something was off. Then I called the person he said I was buying the share from, Jerry Silva. And Jerry said I don't even own a Somebeachsomewhere share. So then I knew that something was wrong."

Saul told the agent that he wanted his deposit back and is willing to take him to court to do so. Above and beyond that, he wants other owners not to fall victim for the same scam. This is the first time in 45 years he's had a deal like this end up being fraudulent.

- *Standardbred Canada*

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Gural goes too far

Thanks for the latest issue of Harness Racing Update. I see not much has changed in regard to The Meadowlands. According to Dean Towers (Jan. 17 issue), Jeff Gural can do no wrong and is the salvation of harness racing. Well, I disagree.

While I appreciate some of the things he is trying to do, he goes too far where it comes to ruling people off his tracks. He is not the Racing Commission. If there are bad actors or consistent rule violators he should bring it up to the Racing Commission to determine the penalty. I am not a horse owner or trainer, but do own stock in several racetracks, casino companies. We are a highly-regulated industry and as a stock holder of racing companies I don't always agree with their rulings or when my companies race, but they are the people trusted by their respective governments in governing the industry.

If you don't like it, try to get changes made at the state level or leave the industry. By the way, one of my most successful companies both financially and in getting new young fans is Canterbury Park in Minnesota. They get large young fans and families to come out with good, different on-track activities and on-track handicapping seminars. They also have a great TV show for us off-track simulcast fans and do provide good pictures of the post parade and warm ups. Although this track is not a harness track, much could be learned from how they operate.

- Best wishes, John Chambers, Lansdowne, PA.

What's going on with Burke?

What has happened to the dominant Ron Burke barn (at the Meadowlands)? Could it be that (the track's) new drug-testing protocol has now leveled the playing field for all trainers? As an engineer, I'm schooled in statistics and understand standard deviation when applied to analyze items such as racing results. What I see is overwhelming winning results before the last quarter of 2015 and overwhelming poor performance since then. Either one of these results could be explained as Mr. Burke explained during the past 24 months, but taken together - numbers don't lie. There is no reasonable way to reconcile these results.

What is further disturbing is the apparent disinterest by those officials charged with oversight. One wonders who is minding the store. This is the same kind of apathy we have seen with the NFL prior to the disclosure of concussion

data as well as off-field spousal abuse. What I see here is a need for more qualified, trained and intelligent racing officials. So USTA, "DO YOU HEAR ME NOW?"

- David Perry

MEADOWLANDSREPORT

Friday's Results:

2, M, \$25,000, T, Open Handicap, 27.0, 55.0, 1:23.3, 1:52.1, FT

1-Opulent Yankee (g, 5, Muscles Yankee--Opulent Bluestone, by Conway Hall), \$4,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-Little E LLC & Arthur S Geiger & Jason M Settlemoir & David M Stolz. B-Little E LLC. T-Julie Miller. D-Andy Miller, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 37-9-11-5, \$200,023



THE MEADOWSREPORT

Friday's Results:

4, Mea, \$22,500, P, *ATTABOY DAN* MSOA HORSE OF THE YEAR MSOA PACER OF THE YEAR & OLDER H&G OF THE YEAR W/O \$10,000 LIFE/PREFERRED HANDICAP P.P. 1-6 DRAWN; 7-9 DRAWN, 28.0, 58.4, 1:28.1, 1:55.4, GD

1-Dew N Doughnuts (h, 6, Real Desire--Artbitration, by Artiscape) O-Thomas L Klosky Jr. B-Thomas L Klosky Jr. T-Norm Parker. D-Tony Hall, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 83-20-20-13, \$278,049

MIAMI VALLEYREPORT

Friday's Results:

11, MVR, \$20,000, P, FILLIES & MARES OPEN, 27.4, 56.1, 1:25.0, 1:53.3, FT

1-Buckeye Thea (m, 6, Dave Panlone--Gianna Girl, by Cambest) O-Richard P Paltani. B-Richard P Paltani. T-Save Carter. D-Josh Sutton, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 102-23-11-18, \$185,552

Saturday's Results:

11, MVR, \$20,000, P, HORSES & GELDINGS OPEN, 27.2, 55.3, 1:23.0, 1:51.2, FT

1-Fancy Creek Elusiv (g, 6, Sportsmaster--Elusive Image N, by Miles McCool), \$7,000 2011 WALKER O-Todd A Rosenberg. B-Pb Racing Stables Inc. T-Billy Farmer. D-Chris Page, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 95-21-22-12, \$461,337
Replay unavailable

WOODBINE REPORT

Friday's Results:

4, Wdb, \$45,200, P, BLIZZARD - FINAL - 3 & 4 YEAR OLD FILLIES & MARES. NON WINNERS 2 RACES OR \$30,000 LIFETIME AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2015. 26.3, 55.2, 1:24, 1:53

1-Double Olives (br,m,4 - Blissfull Hall-Up N Coming Artsplace) O-John P Taylor, Jeffery E Ruch B-Benjamin Wallace T-Dave Matson D-Michael Saftic, \$22,600, Lifetime Record: 19-7-2-1, \$72,810

2-Naughty Lady B (b,m,4 - No Pan Intended-Naughty Nettie G - Albert Albert) O/B-Stuart L Bolender T-Nathan Harding D-Sylvain Filion

3-Bad As Leader (br,f,3 - Badlands Hanover-Designated Leader-No Pan Intended) O/B-Bill G Manes, William G Cripps T-Victory Puddy D-Trevor Henry

7, Wdb, \$47,200, P, SNOWSHOE - FINAL - 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS. NON WINNERS 2 RACES OR \$30,000 LIFETIME AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2015. 26.2, 55.4, 1:24.3, 1:52.2

1-Shades Of Bay (b,h,4 - Art Major-Maid In Shade - Camluck) O-Timothy Kim B-Spring Haven Farm T-Sean Mehlenbacher D-Phillip Hudon, \$23,600, Lifetime Record: 17-7-2-4, \$92,704



PREFERRED EQUINE
Mixed Sale Graduate

2-Rafa (b,g,4 - Camluck-Arizona Beach-Jennas Beach Boy) O/B-Robin L Morley T-Richard Moreau D-Sylvain Filion

3-Shippen Out (b,g,4 - Badlands Hanover-Shippis Bikini-No Pan Intended) O-Red Rock Fraser Racing, Brenda A Mitchell B-Winbak Farm T-Mike Bishop D-James MacDonald

10, Wdb, \$30,000, P, FILLIES & MARES PREFERRED. 26, 55.1, 1:24.1, 1:51.4

1-Betit To Getit (b,m,6 - No Pan Intended-I Will Survive - Lease On Life) O-Billholland Racing B-Tara Hills Stud Ltd T/D-Richard Zeron, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 100-31-18-11, \$326,734

Saturday's Results:

9, Wdb, \$27,000, P, NW \$28,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: NW \$200,000 LIFETIME. AE: OPT. CLM. \$75,000. 27.2, 55.4, 1:23.3, 1:51

1-Nickle Bag (b,g,6 - Rocknroll Hanover-Buckle Bunni-Four Starzzz Shark) O-Linda J Loyens, Harry P Loyens B-Nicholas Malcolm T-William Robinson D-Trevor Henry, \$13,500, Lifetime Record: 109-21-24-19, \$490,130



PREFERRED EQUINE
Yearling Sale Graduate

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

YONKERS REPORT

Friday's Results:

6, YR, \$24,000, P, F&M PREFERRED HANDICAP POST POSITIONS 1-6 ASSIGNED, 28.1, 57.3, 1:26.0, 1:53.4, FT

1-Regil Elektra (m, 6, Mach Three--Top Time Notcher, by Topnotcher) O-Fred Monteleone Stbl LLC. B-Bruce M Wagg, CA. T-Keth Armer. D-Jason Bartlett, \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 74-23-14-5, \$453,454

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HRU Race Criteria

The race results contained in Harness Racing Update: North American races with a purse value of \$20,000 and over and American-bred and sired winners of significant races abroad. Stakes races with a purse value of \$60,000 and over are previewed in HRU.

FEEDBACK...

we want to hear from you!

HAVE SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

Send a Letter to the Editor of Harness Racing Update at:
editor@harnessracingupdate.com

HARNESS RACING UPDATE