

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016



Blindness didn't stop Hennessey from having one of his best years in the game

by Dave Briggs

Dan Hennessey has no idea how he avoided an accident and pulled off the highway safely. The trainer just remembers the panic setting in as he sat along the road alone, frightened and suddenly completely blind somewhere in the middle of North Carolina about 500 miles from his home in Coconut Creek, FL.



Cancer cost trainer Dan Hennessey sight in his left eye in 2002 and a detached retina in his right eye left him completely blind in 2014. (Ann MacNeill)

"It was pretty rough. I can tell you that. There was a lot of emotion because I didn't know what it was," Hennessey said.

It was late October of 2014, about a week before Hennessey's 60th birthday. The trainer was making his annual trek back to Pompano Park after a summer racing

at Saratoga Harness when he lost sight in his right - and only working - eye.

"It was just like somebody pulled a curtain over my eye," said Hennessey, who lost his left eye to cancer in 2002 when the radiation used to eliminate the melanoma also destroyed the optic nerve.

So one can only imagine Hennessey's mental state as he sat on the side of the road, fumbling for his iPhone. Unable to dial a number, Hennessey used Siri to call his brother, Hall of Fame driver Wally Hennessey, for help.

"Thank God for technology and being able to talk to the phone and say, 'Call Wally.' He reached me and I knew somebody in Georgia that could help," Wally said.

A few hours later, Dan and Wally's mutual friend, Billy Griffin - a horseman with an air conditioning business in Savannah, GA - arrived to rescue Dan and take him to hospital.

"If (Griffin) wasn't there I don't know what I would have done. I was right in the middle of nowhere," Dan said.

An ophthalmologist in Savannah discovered Dan's retina had detached. Immediate surgery was required, but the recovery would require Dan to remain in Georgia for at least two months. That's when Griffin offered to drive Dan



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more than five hours back to Florida where the surgery was performed the next day.

So began a 15-month ordeal with Dan left blind, for the most part. Incredibly, he not only managed to continue to train his stable of a dozen horses, with help, but 2015 ended up being one of his best years in the business. In 2015, Dan posted the best single-season UTRS (.433) of his career and had his most wins (60) and money (\$376,5043) in five years thanks to the exploits of horses such as Godiva Seelster (14 wins in 26 starts, \$110,875 in 2015), Gold Star Briana (a perfect seven-for-seven, \$61,538), Verdi (11 for 28, \$54,190) and Count Speed (\$66,552). Dan also led all Pompano trainers (with more than 50 starts) in UTRS with a .426 and finished third in the track's trainer standings in both earnings (\$276,129) and wins (46), despite going up against trainers with bigger stables.

Dan did it all with little, or no, sight. Not that it was easy.

"It kind of turned everything upside down because I really can't go on the track much anymore," said Dan, who struggled through the winter of 2014-15 with limited sight after the surgeon reattached the retina with silicone.

In March, when the ophthalmologist replaced the silicone with an air bubble, there were complications.

"It bled and hemorrhaged and from that I was blind, totally, for about six weeks," Dan said. "I had another surgery after that. That didn't take. The retina detached again. I had to have another surgery after that... I was legally blind right up until my last appointment, which was

three weeks ago. I've had considerable improvement. I still don't see well, but a lot better than I did... But the silicone is still in there to hold everything in place."

That means Dan's ordeal is far from over. At some point the silicone will have to come out.

Not that Dan is complaining.

"Everything's for a reason. I'm dealing with it and I'm happy. I feel fine in every other respect. I'm getting by with it," he said. "But you can close your eyes and walk across the room and you can open them up again. When you walk across the room and you can't open them up again, it's not a good feeling by any means."

As for the horses, Dan said he couldn't have continued to work without the help of Wally and caretaker Raia Walgreen.

"Her and Wally are my eyes. If there's something to point out I'll go and look at it with my hands. See if there's a bump or a cut."

Wally said there's no way his brother could have continued to train horses without having a lifetime in the game.

"Instinctively, because this is what he's done his whole life, it just comes naturally to him," Wally said. "He does need his vision, but the things he's doing, he's almost like a machine. He's done it his whole life and all he does is turn on the machine."

Though his limited sight is much worse at night, Dan still goes to the races to help get his horses ready.

"I still bang away. I don't warm up or anything anymore,

An advertisement for the horse American Ideal. The top half features the horse's name "AMERICAN IDEAL" in large white serif font. Below it, a smaller text block reads "SIRE OF 19 1407 1186 American Jewel SET 4 WORLD RECORDS AT 2 & 3 CAREER WINNER OF \$1,840,565". The bottom half shows a photo of the horse, a dark brown pacer, wearing blinkers and pulling a sulky with a driver in a green and yellow uniform. The horse is in motion on a track. At the bottom, the text "AND HIS BEST IS YET TO COME!" is written in white on a dark background.

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but I'm in the paddock helping out and making sure everything goes okay," he said.

Away from the track, Dan said he's incredibly thankful to have a strong support team.

"Wally and his wife, Barb, have been fantastic," Dan said. "Barb bent over backwards taking care of me and feeding me. Wally runs me all over the place. But the biggest godsend is my youngest son, Jacob... He's only nine, but he was there on the weekends and after school. I am divorced, but Jacob was there to get whatever I wanted and needed."

Wally said it was important to help his brother maintain a measure of independence.

"He's like the rest of us, if you lose your independence you lose everything. He didn't want to lose it, so he's pretty tough that way. He's a lot tougher than I would be, I think. But you never know until you're put into that situation," Wally said.

Fellow horsepeople are helping out, too, Wally said. The Saratoga horsepeople held a fundraising benefit for Dan this summer to help offset some of the costs of his medical bills that insurance does not cover.

Despite significant challenges, Dan said he didn't even think about giving up the horses. It's a work ethic he said was forged in a working class family of nine children raised in Prince Edward Island.

"I think what really helped me more than anything else is being able to get back to the horses," Dan said. "When I was completely blind, if I went to the track somebody had to take me by the hand for me to get to the barn... As far as declaring the horses in, I've got to get somebody else to do it for me or verbally put them in. I was always a big reader and I can't read anymore.

"But, I'm still kicking."

The horses, he said, have been the best medicine.

Now that his sight has returned, somewhat, Dan can't resist occasionally sneaking out on the track.

"I'll go out the odd time with a quiet horse late in the day when there's not a lot of activity," he said, "but that's about it. I'm in the barn mostly all the time now."

All things considered, Dan Hennessey counts himself lucky.

Aaron Merriman: Driving like a man possessed
by Bob Roberts

He's yet to take his bow as North America's 2015 dash champion (that's March 6 in Ft. Lauderdale), but Aaron Merriman's full court press in driver colors continues into the New Year.

Four mornings a week, Merriman, usually fueled only by coffee, gets behind the wheel of his black Cadillac for a long-distance afternoon of racing at The Meadows in suburban Pittsburgh, quickly followed by an evening of racing at Northfield Park in suburban Cleveland.

It's 270 miles, roundtrip, and four hours of driving, not counting an additional 25 race miles in sets of sulkies that he valet parks in the barn area of both tracks.

Merriman's journeys are furious as furious can be. They are not always pretty and certainly not perfect. Winning 874

aces last year - the seventh highest championship total in harness history - has not fully satisfied the 37-year-old native Buckeye who lives a mile from Northfield's stable gate.



Aaron Merriman (Mark Hall / USTA)

"I thought about cutting back this year, maybe even taking a cruise, but my will to win has me maintaining the same schedule," said Merriman. "I guess I'm a grinder. I just keep going."

Earlier this week, on a sunny but cold Tuesday, Merriman toiled through a frustrating afternoon at The Meadows. He won only the last of

13 drives, then scrambled to his car for the return trip to Northfield for nine more scheduled dashes.

"The drivers at both tracks, most of them my friends, think I'm crazy doing what I'm doing," said Merriman. "Only one of them has tried driving double-duty and he quit after three days."

Addicted to victory? Certainly dedicated to it.

Merriman is comfortable in his road-weary Cadillac, which has an odometer reading of 150,000 miles in a little more

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Wakizashi Hanover

winner of the 2015 Pepsi North America Cup. Photo by New Image Media.

Nominations close February 16, 2016!



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Casual Breeze

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

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than 24 months and will be traded in for a new one at the end of the year.

Just a few minutes into the drive to Northfield, Merriman sets up shop in the car like he's managing an old Radio Shack electronics store, complete with snacks.

His cell phone, needing a transfusion, is plugged in. Next, he positions an iPad on the console between the front seats and types in an internet address that affords him the closed-circuit broadcast of Northfield's races.

His eyes are on the road, but there are occasional peeks at the iPad screen to watch the action at Northfield. Merriman offers color commentary on the races, especially if a winner is a horse he would have driven had he been there or had the horse run in a later race.

Finally, there is dinner. With the street lights of Washington, PA substituting for candle light, Merriman reaches into a plastic bag and pulls out a Styrofoam cup. He pulls off the cover to reveal his meal. It's chunks of tuna fish, which he repeatedly splashes with hot sauce before quickly emptying the cup.

"My doctor says I'm healthy," he says. "I could eat better, but all my vitals are good."

So should his financials. Merriman drove in 4,204 races last year (no one else reached 3,500), and his mounts banked \$7.4 million, putting Merriman in the Top 10 on the North America money list.

The reward in dollars is a testament to how well Merriman has rebounded from five years ago when he literally broke his neck trying to become North America's sultan of the sulky.

Leading all drivers by more than 100 winners, Merriman suffered catastrophic injuries in a spill in June of 2010 in a race at The Meadows. It left him with fractures in his neck, both wrists and an elbow.

"Horses were running over me," he said. "At first, the doctors told me it would take me a year to get back. I returned to driving in four months. I love driving horses, not sitting on the sidelines."

Merriman believes his style of driving is what has propelled him into the national spotlight.

"I'm very aggressive," he said. "I leave with a lot of horses. That's because position means so much in this game. Speed doesn't carry as well at The Meadows as it does at Northfield, so you have to rate, or finesse some of the horses."

Winning the 2015 dash crown has been extremely satisfying for Merriman.

"It is something I've wanted for a long time," he said. "After the accident in 2010 and then finishing second in 2014, I pretty much made racing my whole life to chase the title."

Merriman has registered more than 4,000 winners at Northfield, making him the track's all-time winningest driver, an accomplishment that landed him on Northfield's Wall of Fame in 2014. He was and still is the Wall's youngest member ever, at 36.

Tote problems, late scratches and a shoeing issue, as well as a drive in the 15th and last race on The Meadows card, had Merriman fighting the clock and traffic on I-79

north of Pittsburgh, Tuesday night. He had committed to driving in Northfield's sixth race and time was running out to make the post parade.

Unless the same problems that compromised The Meadows' post time schedule popped up to slow down Northfield's card, Merriman wouldn't make his date with Goodtime Matt, his sixth race date.

A heavy foot on his Caddy's gas pedal was Merriman's only remedy.

"I'm always pressed for time," he said. "I've had my share of speeding tickets. Actually, I've had countless tickets. Did you know you don't get points (on your license) for tickets on the Ohio Turnpike?"

Merriman was finally within shouting distance of Northfield when the fifth race was made official. He reached into the backseat and fumbled for his colors.

Quickly recognized at the stable gate by a guard who is familiar with his pants-on-fire approach to nights at Northfield, Merriman arrived at the paddock in time to take a seat behind Goodtime Matt, the sixth race's even-money favorite.

Merriman won the race, but not Aaron Merriman, who had the lead in the stretch, only to be nailed in the shadow of the wire by Q Cobra Jet, driven by Jason Merriman, no relation.

Despite his 2-for-22 Tuesday, Aaron Merriman went to bed with 80 winners through the first 26 days of 2016. His long days and nights of trotting and pacing have already earned him a 32-winner lead in new national dash.

More miles and more tuna in a cup are sure to follow.

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Auciello surpasses \$10 million mark

Trainer Carmen Auciello celebrated a career milestone Thursday night (Jan. 28) at Woodbine Racetrack.



Carmen Auciello is recognized for his accomplishment by Bill McLinchey, senior manger of racing for the Woodbine Entertainment Group. (New Image Media)

The 35-year-old conditioner from Stouffville, ON sent out four-year-old pacing mare Twin B Sweetheart to victory in the fourth race and surpassed \$10 million in career earnings with the victory.

Auciello's stable has earned over \$200,000 in the first month of 2016. Last season, the trainer put up career high numbers with 194 victories and over \$2.7 million in earnings.

He was the top trainer of the 2015 Mohawk Racetrack meet and overall on the Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) circuit in 2014.

- Mark McKelvie - WEG Communications

Business booming at the Meadowlands

The winter meet at the Meadowlands has offered handicappers some of the most attractive wagering opportunities of the season. A look at the numbers so far in 2016 show that this year has provided some of the most competitive races not only in harness racing, but also when compared to the major thoroughbred tracks.

Post-time wagering favorites have won just one-third of the races at the Meadowlands so far in 2016, winning 28 of 85 races contested. That 33-per cent strike rate, a major factor that determines racing competitiveness, is actually lower than the winning favorite percentage at five of the premier thoroughbred tracks in the country - Santa Anita, Laurel Park and Fair Grounds (35 per cent), Gulfstream Park (36 per cent), and Aqueduct (38 per cent).

"It is obvious we are getting some thoroughbred players to cross over right now," said Meadowlands CEO/GM Jason M. Settlemyer. "Thirty-three per cent winning favorites this year compares favorably with all the great thoroughbred tracks. We went head to head with NFL football, Winter Storm Jonas and a billion dollar Powerball drawing and still averaged \$3,018,024 per night in total handle and \$213,036 in per race handle in January."

The nightly average handle of more than \$3 million

makes the Meadowlands the most popular nighttime wagering product of any breed. Additionally, the Meadowlands consistently offers the largest wagering pools and field sizes in harness racing. For example, the average exacta pool is \$61,448 and trifecta pool is \$45,040. These two factors are major drivers of handle amongst serious horseplayers.

"Our field sizes of 9.68 horses a race, our large exotic pools and our great finishes have demonstrated that competitive harness racing can still captivate the night time gambling audience," said Settlemyer. "After football concludes in two weeks, we think a segment of players that watch football and play fantasy sports will start watching and playing The Meadowlands."

Those interested players have easy access to the Meadowlands product thanks to a successful partnership with TVG, known as America's Horse Racing Network. Racing at the Meadowlands is featured prominently on the television network that is available in more than 30 million homes nationwide and accepts wagers on the Meadowlands via its advance deposit wagering platform.

Free deluxe program pages for the late Pick Four every racing night with an average pool size of \$65,034 are complimentary and available courtesy of Track Master at ustrotting.com and playmeadowlands.com.

Live racing takes place Friday and Saturday nights with 14-race programs beginning at 6:35 p.m.

For more information, visit playmeadowlands.com.

- Justin Horowitz, Meadowlands media relations manager

Winbak wants you to name Captaintreacherous foal

Winbak Farm was proud to welcome the first ever son of Captaintreacherous, p, 2, 1:49.2; 3, 1:47.1 (\$3,148,657), on Jan. 18. The colt's dam is Restive Hanover, p, 2, 1:52; 3, 1:51.4 (\$941,971).



Restive Hanover and her unnamed Captaintreacherous colt
(Winbak Farms)

Cheesman at Elizabeth.lewis-house@winbakfarm.com by March 1.

- Winbak

In order to celebrate the first colt born of 2016, Winbak Farm has decided to hold a naming contest. The winner of the contest will be shipped a Winbak Farm hat.

Those submitting names are requested to follow the USTA naming guidelines [posted here](#).

Any name suggestions should be emailed to Elizabeth

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Cobalt hearing in Maine in progress

Henry Jennings, the acting executive director of the Maine Harness Racing Commission, said via email this week that hearings are in progress to determine whether horsepeople Randy Bickmore, Drew Campbell, Steven Vafiades and Patricia Switzer violated Maine's CMR 01-026, Chapter 11 rule due to elevated levels of cobalt found in the blood samples taken from horses following races in March April and May, 2015 at Scarborough Downs.

Jennings wrote the initial Jan. 22 hearing concluded the "expert testimony" portion of the hearing process, "but did not have time to continue on to the 'deliberations' portion, which should be scheduled soon."

As of press time, the next hearing date had not been released publicly.

Mike Taylor named 2015 Caretaker Of The Year

Mike Taylor, a native of Harrington, DE, has been named the recipient of the 2015 Caretaker of the Year Award sponsored by Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park (HRRNP) in conjunction with the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA).



Mike Taylor and Wiggle It Jiggleit
(Mark Hall / USTA)

Taylor, 32, works in the George Teague Jr. Stable and became a well-known person in the sport in 2015 as the caretaker of the Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit. Taylor, who is known in the stable and throughout the harness industry as "Big Mike," has worked for Teague for more than 10 years.

"I'm at a loss for words. This is a great honor and I am most appreciative," said Taylor. "I knew about this award but I really didn't think I was going to win it. I thank everyone who supported me."

All caretakers in North America are eligible for the award, with nomination letters submitted detailing the skills and special qualities of the caretaker. A seven-member panel - all of whom were former caretakers themselves - chose Taylor as the winner. As winner of the HRRNP Caretaker of the Year Award, Taylor will receive a cash prize of \$500, transportation, hotel accommodations and two tickets to the USHWA annual Dan Patch Awards banquet on March 6 at the Hyatt Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he will be presented a trophy.

Taylor, who learned the business from his father, the late Ricky Jones, is a former football player at Delaware State University. He is physically and figuratively a large presence in the winner's circle, in which he stood 22 times with Wiggle It Jiggleit during his Horse of the Year campaign.

"Taylor is the quintessential 'Gentle Giant,' one person wrote in a nomination letter. "While he looks like a lineman for the Chicago Bears, he is actually soft-spoken, considerate and generous. His humor and playful

disposition make him a favorite in paddocks across the country."

Several nominators noted the contrast between Taylor's calm demeanor to that of the rambunctious gelding when standing in the winner's circle.

"He prevented little children from being maimed and kept overzealous fans from being trampled when WIJI got too exuberant following his many victories," one nominator wrote.

"Wiggle It Jiggleit didn't like getting his picture taken in the winner's circle," Taylor said with a laugh. "I think a lot of people knew him from that."

- *Gordon Waterstone for USHWA*

Delaware legislature honors Wiggle It Jiggleit

The Delaware legislature paid tribute to 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit Tuesday afternoon (Jan. 26) with ceremonies in the House of Representatives and Senate.

Wiggle It Jiggleit's owner, George Teague Jr. of Harrington, and trainer Clyde Francis of Houston, were joined by the horse's driver, Montrell Teague (Harrington) and groom Mike Taylor (Harrington).

The festivities started on a capacity-filled Senate floor where legislators and visitors watched a replay of Wiggle It Jiggleit's 2015 Little Brown Jug victory from Delaware, OH, which is widely recognized as one of the most memorable races of all-time. Many of the legislators were awe-stricken by the remarkable race and vocalized their congratulations and pride in having a Delaware horse gain national acclaim and subsequent attention and exposure across North America.

A tribute was read and presented by Senators Gary Simpson and Patricia Blevins, noting the many accomplishments of Wiggle It Jiggleit, that included 22 victories and more than \$2 million earned in a historic season.

The Teague crew then immediately went to the House chamber and were introduced by Representative Bobby Outten and Dan Short, who honored the connections of Wiggle It Jiggleit. Owner George Teague expressed his gratitude at the podium on the House floor.

"This is truly an honor," said Teague, who also trained 2004 Horse of the Year Rainbow Blue. "We got extremely lucky to have a horse like this and it's been a fun ride. We appreciate the recognition."

Teague and crew then visited the Honorable Governor Jack Markell's office and were met with congratulations by the Governor.

Wiggle It Jiggleit is expected to return to racing in the spring of 2016 and will receive his Horse of the Year honors at the United States Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Awards banquet on March 6 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

- *Matt Sparacino, publicity director, Harrington Raceway*

Domedomedome cruises to Lifetime Dream Series sweep

Domedomedome completed her domination of the Lifetime Dream Series with a 1:55.4 victory Monday night (Jan. 25) at Woodbine Racetrack.



Domedomedome and Jack Moiseyev winning the Lifetime Dream final at Woodbine (New Image Media)

A field of 10 four and five-year-old trotting mares lined up for the \$44,200 Lifetime Dream Series final, but all eyes were on five-year-old Domedomedome.

The Jack Moiseyev trainee entered the final off victories of four-and-a-quarter and three-and-a-quarter lengths in the preliminary rounds and the public sent her off as the 2-5 favourite.

Driven by Moiseyev, Domedomedome was able to get away second behind Giona, who once again flashed her gate speed to grab command and post an opening-quarter of :27.3.

Moiseyev wasted little time circling to the front in the second-quarter and his trotting mare marched by the half in :58.3. Lady Ping, who was also aiming for a series sweep, trotted along fifth in the early stages and picked up cover to sit second-over around the final turn.

Domedomedome trotted by the three-quarter pole in 1:27.2 and created a bit of separation on her rivals at the top of the lane. Lady Ping did not fire off cover, but Aspen California, who was third-over, showed good trot in an attempt to catch the favorite in the stretch.

However, Moiseyev had Domedomedome on cruise control and the daughter of Deweycheatumnhowe trotted home comfortably in :28.2 to win by a length-and-a-half over Aspen California. I Jasmin, who came first up, finished third, while Lady Ping was fourth.

Domedomedome is owned by Joanne Colville and Pamela Schmidt. The five-year-old trotting mare now has three wins from four starts this season and 10 overall in her career.

The victory pushed her career earnings to \$142,650. She paid \$2.90 to win.

- Mark McKelvie - WEG Communications

HOF stallion breeding auction

The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is pleased to announce an exceptional roster of stallions for the 2016 breeding auction. Stallions standing their first year include Sebastian K, Coraggioso, Flex The Muscle, Class Included and Thinking Out Loud.

By state and gait Ohio's trotting sires are Break The Bank K, Coraggioso, Flex The Muscle and Stormin Normand. The pacing gait is represented by Dragon Again, McArdle, Mister Big, Powerful Toy, Shark Gesture, Three Olives, Western Vintage, We Will See and Yankee Cruiser.

New York trotting sires available for services are Crazyed, Deweycheatumnhowe, Lucky Chucky, Manningly and Mutineer. The pacing sires are Heston Blue Chip, So Surreal and Third Straight.

Pennsylvania provides trotters Detour Hanover, Sebastian K and Winning Mister. The pacing gait is represented by A Rocknroll Dance, Philos Hanover and Well Said.

Ontario is represented by trotting sires Angus Hall, Glidemaster and Holiday Road and pacing stallions Badlands Hanover, Big Jim and Thinking Out Loud.

Maryland trotter Charlie De Vie is available, while Rusty's For Real and Totally Western are pacing stallions offered.

Indiana offers trotters Class Included and Encore Encore and pacers Always A Virgin and Real Desire.

Delaware provides trotter CR Commando and pacing sire Dream Away.

Income raised by the auction, over \$640,000 over the past 17 years, supports the Museum's General Operating Fund. It helps to ensure quality services, special exhibitions, traveling exhibits, promotional support and educational programming for children and adults. Our efforts also help to encourage new owners and fans!

For additional information on the auction, to donate breedings, or to receive a complete list of stallions and conditions for bidding, please contact Joanne Young at (845) 294-6330, development@harnessmuseum.com. Bids must be postmarked by Feb. 13, 2016. It would be helpful to call or email Joanne to let her know that your bid is in the mail.

Flex The Muscle to stand in Ohio

The Arden Homestead Stable of Delhi, NY and Crystal Springs Farm of Millersburg, OH announce that Flex The Muscle will stand 2016 stallion duty at Crystal Springs Farm.

A foal of 2007 with lifetime earnings of \$937,460 and a winning record of 1:52.4f, Flex The Muscle was foaled and raised at Silver Linden Farms in Woodburn, IN and sold at the 2008 Standardbred Horse Sales Company's yearling sale for \$140,000. Sired by Muscles Yankee from the mare Alix Hall by Conway Hall, Flex The Muscle chalked up 32 wins and hit the tote board in 46 per cent of his 176 starts. In addition, he won two of his four lifetime starts Racing Under Saddle with a record of 1:59.2m and won \$19,750 in addition to his \$937,460 purse earnings.

During his racing career Flex The Muscle showed both stakes speed and raceway durability with 13 stakes wins at

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Yonkers Raceway - Saturday, September 26, 2015 - Race 5 - Page 5 of 12

ages two and three and 19 wins as an older trotter. At age three, he won the Dexter Cup, the New Jersey Sires Stakes final, the Charles Smith Memorial, the Galt Memorial and the Old Oaken Buckette setting a new track record at that time for three-year-old trotters at Delaware, OH.

Flex The Muscle stands for a fee of \$2,000 with multiple breeding discounts with shipped semen available. Inquiries should be made to Ray Yoder at Crystal Springs Farm, 4351 State Rte 557, Millersburg, OH 44654 or by telephone: (330) 231-2776, or to Peter Gerry at (609) 865-0137.

Musclesprincetonian to stand in Indiana

Musclesprincetonian, a son of Muscle Hill from Breeders Crown champion mare Broadway Schooner, will stand his inaugural season for \$2,500 at the Schwartz Boarding Farm in Berne, IN.

From an active family, the strapping five-year-old is a half-brother to this year's Dan Patch two-year-old trotting filly champion Broadway Donna 2, 1:53.3 (\$531,286).

His introduction to the lucrative Indiana program represents a great opportunity to book a mare to a royally-bred son of arguably the hottest trotting sire of the decade.

The first foal from the multiple stakes winning mare Broadway Schooner 3, 1:53.3 (\$885,933), she won the Hambletonian Oaks, a heat of the Kentucky Futurity and the Breeders Crown at 3, earning her Dan Patch award honors in 2009.

Broke and baby-raced by Jim Campbell, the successful conditioner noted, "As the first colt from that good mare we were excited about Musclesprincetonian. He was good gaited, had a great attitude and was well-mannered. Training down and baby racing he did everything right and only wore a set of trotting boots. He has a long barrel and stands about 15 and a half hands. He is a nice horse and built like a trotter."

Although lightly raced on the Grand Circuit, Musclesprincetonian did compete against some of the top colts of his freshman season, including Trixton, Nuncio and E L Titan. He took a qualifying mark of 1:56.3 at Lexington at age two, and won at Pocono in 1:55.3f at 3.

Talented mid-western reinsman Tyler Buter, who also trained and drove the horse stated that "he was the cleanest gaited trotter I ever sat behind. You could drive him with two fingers and race him any way you wanted... on the front end or off cover."

Able to get around any sized track, as a four-year-old he was race timed in 1:57.2h at Yonkers. In 12 starts at four he was seven times in the top three and earned \$69,280 lifetime.

Contact Schwartz Boarding Farm at (260) 589-2037 for a breeding contract. Discounts will be offered for multiple bookings and quality mares. Sons and daughters of Musclesprincetonian will also be eligible to the Breeders Crown.

- Chris Tully for Schwartz Boarding Farm

DOVERREPORT

Monday's Results:

8, DD, \$27,500, P, DELAWARE Special Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 5 Drawn Post Positions 6 & 7 Drawn, 26.3, 55.3, 1:23.4, 1:52.0, FT

1-Mustang Art (g, 9, Artiscape--Paula Seelster, by Camluck) O-Max R Walton & Gregory H Papaleo. B-Almost Doesnt Count Stb, CA. T-James Mc Guire. D-Marcus Miller, \$13,750, Lifetime Record: 237-41-44-37, \$683,772

10, DD, \$30,000, P, Open Preferred Handicap Post Positions 1 & 5 Assigned, 26.4, 55.1, 1:23.0, 1:51.0, FT

1-Dapper Dude (h, 7, The Panderosa--Dress To Suggest, by Camluck) O-Richard Poillucci. B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, CA & Al McIntosh Holdings Inc, CA. T-Jim King Jr. D-Victor Kirby, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 93-21-19-15, \$897,900

2-Major Uptrend (g, 5, Somebeachsomewhere--Tricky Tooshie, by Rumpus Hanover), \$177,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-Howard A Taylor. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Douglas Lewis. D-Corey Callahan, \$7,500

3-Bushwacker (g, 5, Rocknroll Hanover--Dolphins Can Talk, by Camluck), \$135,000 2012 LEX-SEL O-Henderson Farms. B-Black Horse Breeding. T-Chris Ryder. D-Tim Tetrack, \$3,600

Calls: 4H, 4H, 4Q, 1Q, NK - Finish Order: Adventure Bound, Speed Again

Tuesday's Results:

10, DD, \$20,000, P, FILLIES/MARES Winners Over \$12,001 in Last 6 Starts or \$50,000 Lifetime / Open Handicap Post Position No. 8 Assigned, 26.4, 56.2, 1:24.1, 1:52.1, FT

1-Hearts N Flowers (m, 7, Artiscape--Hasty Dewar, by Cambest), \$12,000 2010 MORRIS O-Bay Pond Racing Stable. B-Winbak Farm. T-Wayne Givens. D-Allan Davis, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 102-21-20-16, \$286,596

Wednesday's Results:

10, DD, \$20,000, T, Winners Over \$12,000 in Last 6 Starts or \$50,000 Lifetime / Open Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 3 Drawn & 4 thru 7 Drawn Post Position No. 8 Assigned, 26.4, 54.4, 1:23.4, 1:53.4, FT

1-Bluebird Reverend (g, 4, Swan For All--Little Revenue, by Revenue S), \$21,000 2013 HOOSIER O-Robert S Reeser & Denise L Dennis & John J Johannsen & Holly H Case. B-Daryl D Miller. T-Robert Reeser. D-Montrell Teague, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 34-10-10-5, \$280,214

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.

THE MEADOWSREPORT

Monday's Results:

8, Mea, \$22,500, P, *F&M NOT LIST/PREFERRED HANDICAP* P.P. 1-4 DRAWN, 5 & 6 DRAWN, 7 ASSIGNED, 26.3, 57.4, 1:26.0, 1:54.1, FT

1-Tipitina (m, 6, Rocknroll Hanover--Hi Ho Molly, by Hi Ho Silverheel's), \$30,000 2011 SHS-HBG O-Rags To Riches Of Pa LLC. B-Alan M Kirschenbaum & Steven L Katz. T-Mark Goldberg. D-Eric Goodell, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 62-16-11-4, \$212,969

Tuesday's Results:

8, Mea, \$22,500, T, F&M WINNERS OVER / PREFERRED HANDICAP (P.P. 1-5 DRAWN, 6 ASSIGNED, AND 7-8 DRAWN), 28.0, 58.3, 1:26.4, 1:56.2, GD

1-Scented Roses (m, 4, Cantab Hall--Scent Of A Woman, by Worthy Bowl), \$42,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Burke Racing Stable LLC. B-Winbak Farm. T-Ron Burke. D-Dave Palone, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 26-9-3-4, \$139,014

Wednesday's Results:

8, Mea, \$22,500, T, *W/O \$10,000 LIFE/PREFERRED HANDICAP* (P.P. 1-5 DRAWN, 6-8 DRAWN), 27.4, 58.0, 1:26.0, 1:55.2, FT

1-Cantab Lindy (g, 8, Cantab Hall--Lindy N Caviar, by SJ's Caviar) O-Brent M Davis. B-K R Breeding LLC. T-Brent Davis. D-Jim Pantaleano, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 116-28-18-16, \$306,070

MIAMI VALLEYREPORT

Sunday's Results:

10, MVR, \$20,000, T, OPEN HCP PP'S 1-2 DRAWN: PP 9 ASSIGNED, 27.2, 56.3, 1:25.3, 1:57.1, GD

1-Penn (g, 6, Master Glide--Photo Queen, by S J's Photo), \$4,000 2011 LEX-SEL O-Barkley Counts. B-Brittany Farms. T-Bobby Brower. D-Josh Sutton, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 65-30-11-8, \$231,294

Another **BRITTANY FARMS** Bred Winner!

WOODBINEREPORT

Monday's Results:

5, Wdb, \$44,200, T, LIFETIME DREAM - FINAL - 4 & 5 YEAR OLD MARES. NON WINNERS \$100,000 LIFETIME AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2015. 27.3, 58.3, 1:27.2, 1:55.4

1-Domedome (b,m,5 - Deweycheatumhowe-Mojon The Morning-Angus Hall) O-Joanne Colville, Pamela J Schmidt B-Joanne Colville T/D-Jack Moiseyev
2-Aspen California (b,m,4 - Kadabra-Day For Night - Donerail) O-Glat Koshier Racing B-Al Libfield, Marvin Katz T/D-Anthony MacDonald
3-I Jasmin (br,m,5 - Muscle Mass-Orillia Seelster-Eager Seelster) O-Trevor L Melnyk B-Ming Siu T-Anna Glide D-Douglas McNair

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