

**Monday, February 26, 2018**

# Hannelore Hanover dominant in Horse of the Year race

*The older trotting mare and world record holder received three Dan Patch Awards Sunday night in Orlando – Horse of the Year, Trotter of the Year and Older Female Trotter of the Year. Downbytheseaside was voted Pacer of the Year.*

story by Ken Weingartner (USTA media relations manager) | quotes by Dave Briggs



Dave Landry

**It was a banner year for Driver of the Year Yannick Gingras (left) and Ron Burke, trainer of Horse of the Year and Trotter of the Year Hannelore Hanover.**

The connections of Hannelore Hanover need to make room for several more trophies.

Hannelore Hanover, who last year at age 5 produced the fastest mile in history by a female trotter and defeated male rivals in both the Breeders Crown and Maple Leaf Trot, received three Dan Patch Awards on Sunday, including the



**Winbak Farm**  
*Congratulates*

**THE 2017 USHWA  
DAN PATCH  
AWARD WINNERS**

With a special acknowledgement to  
**Blazin Britches**, who is sired by  
Winbak of NY's **Rock N Roll Heaven**

**Best of luck to all in the 2018 racing season!**

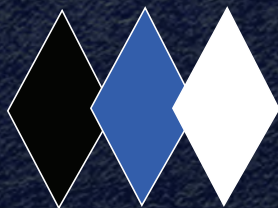
---

**Dedicated to Putting You in the Winner's Circle!**  
Garrett Bell, Winbak Farm General Manager  
410.885.3059 / stallions@winbakfarm.com  
[www.winbakfarm.com](http://www.winbakfarm.com) / f / t

night's grand prize, Horse of the Year.

In addition to being named Horse of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association, Hannelore Hanover got trophies for Trotter of the Year and best older female trotter during the Dan Patch Awards banquet at Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, FL.





# Diamond Creek Farm

## *A Cut Above*

*Proud to have bred, raised, and campaigned*  
**2 DAN PATCH AWARD CHAMPIONS**



### **LOST IN TIME**

2-Year-Old Pacing  
Colt of the Year

By Diamond Creek stallion  
**A Rocknroll Dance**



### **PURE COUNTRY**

Aged Pacing Mare

Record setter and only  
pacing mare ever to win  
divisional honors at 2, 3, & 4

[www.DiamondCreekFarm.com](http://www.DiamondCreekFarm.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA** Phone: 717-638-7100

email: [diamondcreek2@gmail.com](mailto:diamondcreek2@gmail.com)





Dave Landry

**Hannelore Hanover (shown setting a 1:49.2 world record for trotting mares at Red Mile with Yannick Gingras at the controls) has been voted the overwhelming choice for 2017 Horse of the Year and Trotter of the Year.**

Hannelore Hanover was named Horse of the Year on 95 ballots, outdistancing 3-year-old filly trotter Ariana G, with 15 votes, and 2-year-old filly trotter Manchego, with 12. Downbytheseaside, a 3-year-old colt who was named Pacer of the Year, had eight votes for Horse of the Year.

In balloting for Trotter of the Year, Hannelore Hanover had 100 votes, while Ariana G had 16 and Manchego 15.

Earlier this month, Hannelore Hanover received the O'Brien Award for Canada's Horse of the Year in addition to getting her second consecutive award as best trotting mare.

Hannelore Hanover is the first trotting mare to be named the Dan Patch Award Horse of the Year since Moni Maker in 1999. She is the first Horse of the Year Award winner for trainer Ron Burke.

"It's huge, we've never got that award before," said Mickey Burke, Jr. "We do a lot, we're fortunate, there's no question about that, but it's still nice to get the recognition."

Burke, Jr. called Hannelore Hanover "amazing," but he still wasn't sure she could win the Horse of the Year award over Manchego, Ariana G and Downbytheseaside.

"(Hannelore Hanover) had a hell of a year, but you had an undefeated trotting filly (Manchego), you had Ariana G who

A graphic featuring a dark, industrial-style background. On the left, a horse is visible in a stable. On the right, the words "He's Killing It" are written in a large, stylized, metallic font. At the bottom, there is a table of earnings data.

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER STARTER of	
\$70,515	\$19.6 MILLION in PERFORMER EARNINGS





Dave Landry

**Downbytheseaside (with trainer Brian Brown) was named the 2017 Pacer of the Year.**

was coming back again... and it's a vote! You never know what can go with that and what people were thinking," Mickey Burke, Jr. said. "Did I think she had it? Yeah, but in the meantime, you're sitting there thinking that anything can happen in this sport.

"Every time she went out last year, she beat some of the best male trotters. You're going back to Moni Maker since we've seen a horse been doing what she's been doing. Now, she's trotted faster than Moni Maker, so she's special. I keep saying it, but I don't know what other word to use. It's so amazing to be involved with a horse like that."

Hannelore Hanover, a daughter of Swan For All out of the mare High Sobriety, won 10 of 17 races last season and earned \$1.04 million. She became the fastest female trotter in history when she won the Allerage Farms Open Trot in 1:49.2 at Lexington's Red Mile and was the first mare to beat the boys in the Breeders Crown Open Trot since Moni Maker in 1998.

Other wins included the Maple Leaf Trot and Armbro Flight Stakes. She is owned by the Burke Racing Stable, the partnership of Mark Weaver and Mike Bruscemi, Frank Baldachino, and J&T Silva Stables. Yannick Gingras was her regular driver.

**TOP PERFORMERS INCLUDE:**

**CRAZY WOW**  
3, 1:51.1s (\$2,269,135)  
winner of \$670,771 in 2017  
Major stakes winner in 2017  
2nd in \$526,250 Breeders Crown

**JL CRUZE**  
4, 1:49.4 (\$1,285,419)  
winner of \$389,902 in 2017  
\$242,500 Spirit Final winner at PRCf

**GURAL HANOVER**  
1:51-'17 (\$943,617)

**LINDY THE GREAT**  
2, 1:55.3, 3, 1:52.1-'17 (\$351,727)  
\$307,977 earned in 2017  
Finished 2nd in the \$527,500  
2017 Breeders Crown

**SHAKE IT OFF LINDY**  
2, 1:55, 3, 1:54h-'17 (\$220,576)  
\$105,125 Old Oak Bucket  
in a life best of 1:54h

Downbytheseaside was named Pacer of the Year with 93 votes. Youaremycandygirl, a filly who was a 2-year-old last year, finished second with 23 votes while 3-year-old colt Fear The Dragon was third with seven. A total of eight pacers received at least one vote.

Retired to stallion duty at the end of last season, Downbytheseaside finished his 3-year-old campaign with a four-race win streak on his way to leading the sport with \$1.60 million in purses. The colt's victories included the Messenger Stakes, Progress Pace, Carl Milstein Memorial, and Art Rooney Pace.

He was trained by Brian Brown and owned by Country Club Acres, Joe Sbrocco, Richard Lombardo, and Diamond Creek Racing. Chris Page, Brian Sears, and David Miller all guided the horse to stakes wins.

"Just to win his division and then to turn around and win Pacer of the Year too, it's pretty special," Brown said.

"It's so special for those owners. They aren't just the owners, they are friends. When we went through all the adversity, there was never one of them that ever questioned anything. I would tell them what we found out, what we're going to do to fix it and we went on from there. There was never any downside to this horse. We'd be disappointed when he didn't race well, but we all worked to fix it and we all enjoyed him when he was going well.

"Early in the year, he wasn't 100 per cent, but we think it was more him not focused. Then, he got pretty good. Then, he had a couple of bumps, mainly in September. His feet were killing him, he had a liver infection. When we got all of that in order, he was actually better his last four starts than any other part of the year.

"I have to compliment all my drivers. David Miller started him out. He went with who he thought was best. We were fine with it. Brian Sears, he got this horse to relax to where you could make a racehorse out of him. Then Chris Page came along, and horse was in fantastic shape, and Chris put him in all the right spots. It worked out great for all of us."

Other honorees Sunday included Brown, for Trainer of the Year and Good Guy Award winner; Gingras for Driver of the Year; Bruce Trogon's Emerald Highlands Farm for Owner of the Year; and Hanover Shoe Farms for Breeder of the Year.

"To me, the trainer award should be the stable award, because it's all of us. It's not me, it's all of us," Brown said, adding he was touched by the response from the people in the room at the Dan Patch banquet.

"To me, it's the respect that you gain from all of these people in the room, including the writers. You know, I received an award in Ohio similar to this and got a standing

ovation. When I went up tonight, I had to stand there and wait for everybody to quit applauding so I could speak. That is what touches you," Brown said. "The people that have written me letters... in this day and age with cellphones, you text or Facebook, these people actually took the time to write me a letter congratulating me on my year. That's what is the special part. Then, I have all this family that gets to join in on all of this. So, it's kind of a whole experience – the good horse, the people, the family, and all the other horsemen here."

Horses recognized in addition to Hannelore Hanover and Downbytheseaside were divisional champions Manchego, 2-year-old female trotter; Fourth Dimension, 2-year-old male trotter; Ariana G, 3-year-old female trotter; What The Hill, 3-year-old male trotter; Marion Marauder, older male trotter; Youaremycandygirl, 2-year-old female pacer; Lost In Time, 2-year-old male pacer; Blazin Britches, 3-year-old female pacer; Pure Country, older female pacer; and Keystone Velocity, older male pacer.

[Additional information about the divisional champions.](#)

**CLICK HERE**  
To Share This Story



**FIRST ONTARIO  
FOALS ARRIVE**  
in  
**2018**

2, Q1:57, 3, 1:52.2 (\$1,063,059)  
Brh 2005 (15.2h)  
Credit Winner – Mary Lou Hall by Mr Lavee

Stud Fee: **\$4,000** Cdn.

**TARA HILLS**  
*Stud*

www.TaraHills.com  
T: (877) 828-6057 | F: (905) 985-7440  
E: tarahill@on.aibn.com



# Thanks

We would like to thank all who voted **Bruce Trogdon's Emerald Highlands Farm** to be the **Dan Patch Owner Of The Year** in 2017. Obviously, Dan Patch Trainer Of the Year **Brian Brown** and his entire team had a little something to do with that. Particularly...

**Rick Groves** (groom for the multiple Grand Circuit stakes and North America Cup champion *Fear The Dragon* and for Indiana Sire Stakes 2YO Colt Pace champion *Always Bet De Grey*),

**Kim Carothers** (groom for **Dan Patch 3YO Filly Pacer of the Year** and Breeders Crown champion *Blazin Britches*),

**Carrie Cameron** (groom for Indiana Sire Stakes 2YO Filly Pace Champion *Always Woggy*), and **Sydney Rain Williams** (groom for Arden Downs stake winner *Whatstroublnurocky*).

Special thanks to our primary stable and "Britches" regular driver, superstar **Trace Tetrick** and to "Dragon's" regular driver - the incomparable **David Miller** (who also put the mark on Britches), plus **Peter Wrenn** for "Grey."



Of course the biggest thanks goes to the real superstars - our horses themselves. No one could be prouder of them than the entire staff at our farm, who all had a hand in raising them. We are extremely proud that

*All were born and raised at*

**EMERALD**  **HIGHLANDS**

10164 Dunham Road, Mount Vernon OH 43050  
Bruce Trogdon, Owner • Mobile: 330-620-2407 • [bruce@emeraldhighlands.com](mailto:bruce@emeraldhighlands.com)

*Photos: Chris Gooden, Dean Gillette, Linscott*



## Major rule changes in Ontario

AGCO CEO Jean Major talks about changes to drug violations in Ontario, the WEG/Gural integrity rule and the ongoing work to overhaul the province's racing rules.

by Dave Briggs

Horses with class I, II, III or TCO2 positives may still be suspended from racing in Ontario for 90 days, but that suspension is no longer automatic and will be determined on a case-by-case basis, said the head of the sport's regulator in the province. It's all part of a number of rule revisions that will officially go into effect some time in April.

Jean Major, the CEO of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) which also oversees the province's alcohol, casino and gaming industries, said the automatic 90-day suspension has been in Ontario's rules for 10 years and "was well-intentioned as a general deterrent" but was also time consuming and expensive "and really didn't move the needle on what was intended through this particular suspension."

The AGCO is currently undergoing a major modernization of its rule and when consulting the industry on potential changes, the automatic 90-day suspension of horses was one of the top five responses from over 600 submissions.

"I would argue it was nearly unanimous, which is rare in this business, with the desire to have it replaced with something else and that's the essence of what we did here," Major said.

That said, Major stressed the number of Class I or II positive tests is minimal. Of all the positive tests – which in and of themselves are minimal compared to the number of horses tested – only 12 per cent were of the most serious Class I, II or TCO2 variety, Major said.

The official recommendation to suspend horses on a case-by-base basis came from the AGCO's Equine Drug Program Working Group that met five times between May and November of 2017 and focused on "ways to improve the process on how drug issues are managed, and in a way that is aligned with our approach to regulation.

"The three areas they focused on were: the automatic 90-day suspension for the horse, how to modernize the process as to how these (violations) are dealt with – with a specific distinction on the class of drugs – and the last one was on the actual suspensions and monetary penalties in general, as to whether or not they were appropriate or needed to be revised. The bulk of the recommendations focused largely on process-related issues," Major said.

Major said the group comprised some 20 people from all three racing breeds in Ontario, including participants, racetrack representatives, veterinarians and people working



Dave Landry

**Jean Major, the CEO of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), is spearheading a major upgrade of racing rules in the province.**

Now Accepting  
**ENTRIES!**

Saturday, October 13 &  
Sunday, October 14, 2018

**LONDON**  
*Selected*  
YEARLING SALE

Metroland Media Agriplex at  
Western Fair District, London, Ontario

ENTRY DEADLINE:  
**APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>**

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

A collaboration between  
FCYS  
Forest City Standardbred Sales Inc. and  
STANDARD-BRED  
Standardbred Canada.



# Triple Threat

3 years; 3 Champions; 3 Indiana-sired Horses



Wiggle It Jiggleit  
2015



Always B Miki  
2016



Hannelore Hanover  
2017

## Horse of the Year

Isn't it time you take a look at a  
champion-producing program like Indiana?



[in.gov/hrc/sb.htm](http://in.gov/hrc/sb.htm)



at the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA).

The working group also suggested offering settlement options in equine drug violation cases to deal with cases faster. The AGCO has decided, in some cases, to offer a “lesser monetary penalty and/or suspension” in exchange for the licensee admitting to the violation and not being able to appeal the ruling.

Major said the settlement process has been adopted on the liquor and casino side of the AGCO's business and is designed to save money and process cases faster.

“On the liquor side of our business, within a year, we reduced all of the minor-related offences by about 95 per cent. It's a huge savings,” Major said.

“The objective behind the settlements is to streamline that process. We're not saying that there will be no repercussions or sanctions for those lesser types of violations, but we don't spend months and months going through an expensive hearing process, both for the horsepeople as well as for the Commission, but rather go through a process that gets to the issue very quickly and gets a settlement very quickly,” Major said. “We aren't removing the rights of appeals, but we're just saying here's our case, this is what we found, do you have any mitigating circumstances that would then go towards penalty or sanction? That gives an opportunity for the licensee to give their side of the story very quickly, then we offer a settlement. Someone could get a warning to a suspension or to a monetary penalty, but it avoids the lengthy, costly process of a hearing.”

Major said the AGCO would maintain the right to not offer a settlement – most likely for the most serious violations – but the vast majority of cases would qualify for a settlement.

“Eighty-eight per cent of the positives were from therapeutic type of medications, so Class III – not including TC02 – Class IV and V. So 88 per cent are what we consider, most of the time, errors and not expressly with the intent of trying to cheat. So we are dealing with a small minority for the more serious Class I, Class II and TC02 cases, but we spend about as much time dealing with the 88 per cent as we do with the 12 per cent of more serious cases,” Major said.

The AGCO will also adopt a centralized expert evaluation group for drug violations rather than have them reviewed by race officials.

“It is to have the decision-making process, when these positives come forward, centralized through a head office specifically trained on the Equine Drug Program and have access to not only legal, but also veterinary expertise in making their decisions in reviewing the evidence and making decisions quickly... as opposed to having it done at all the

racetracks by a whole bunch of different judges or stewards,” Major said.

“With the chemistry arguments or physiology kind of arguments, it's very technical and you need a panel of experts that can review these and make an informed decision more quickly and more consistently.”

The AGCO will also strive to improve its transparency on drug violations by publishing that information on its website.

“This year we'll be rolling out the pilot we had for the judges' reports, making them public, and that's going to go for all of the tracks in 2018 and that would include, of course, the positive test information,” Major said.

He said TC02 levels for horses would not be published, yet.

“I need to study that a bit more,” Major said. “There may be unintended consequences of doing so and I think we need a bit more time to think that one through.”

The AGCO is also working on a long list of other rule updates, Major said.

“We also have a working group on health and safety and I do want to push the bar here on education, training and awareness, not necessarily as part of the sanctions process, but just generally. Again, it's just intended to improve compliance across the industry,” Major said.

“We will be doing a clean-up and housekeeping of the rules of racing in time to be aligned with the racing season

CHAMPION 2 & 3-YEAR-OLD  
Winner in 8 of 9 starts at 2 | Major winner at 3

CONTROL THE MOMENT

p.2, 1:49.4s, 3, 1:48.2 (\$1,227,832) • Brc 2013 (15.3h)  
Well Said - Lifeslittreasure by Life Sign • Stud Fee: \$6,000 Cdn.



for this year... The first step is cleaning up your process. The second step is looking at your penalty structure. In this particular case that includes a very comprehensive education, training and awareness strategy. The last step is your compliance enforcement strategy and you focus on the highest risk areas and individuals in the industry.”

Major said the rule upgrade process “is a big project” that will take most of 2018 and, in some cases, part of 2019 to complete.

“I’m very optimistic,” Major said. “I’m very grateful for all the personal sacrifices that people have made for the working groups. They have full-time jobs and they are busy otherwise, but they were committed to it and spent a lot of time giving us advice. When there were disagreements, we worked them out in a very professional manner, so it was a good model for us to follow as we go along. The nature of this regulatory model requires flexibility, because the risks change year over year and we need to have a model that’s flexible to address those risks. The best way to do that is to have an open dialogue with the industry.

**CLICK HERE**  
To Share This Story



## AGCO’s take on WEG/Gural rule

Major confirmed the AGCO had some issues with the proposed WEG/Gural integrity rule ([full story here](#)) aimed at penalizing horse owners and asked that the rule be put off until 2019.

“There were some issues with respect to... not so much what they are trying to accomplish – because I don’t disagree with them at all with what they are trying to do – it’s a question of how,” Major said. “There are portions of what they are trying to do that conflicted with our rules, so we either had to change the rules or Woodbine had to alter its program. But I didn’t want to lose sight, and neither did Woodbine, on what they were trying to accomplish. So we needed more time to have a discussion about that.

“In the current format that they have I don’t think it would work with the rules we have. There are due process issues that would be difficult to overcome in the current structure of their program, but I remain hopeful in some way of getting to where we both want to end up, which is improving the integrity of the business.

“We are working at a staff level, kicking around some ideas of how we could get there.”

## HARNESS RACING UPDATE

### About Harness Racing Update

Harness Racing Update is owned by HRU Publications of Millwood, NY and will publish Fridays and Sundays November through April. HRU will add Saturday editions in late-May through October, publishing 3 days per week, and of course will add editions throughout the year as major news breaks.

**Editor:** Dave Briggs

**Production:** Brian Fuller

**Graphic Design, Ads & Placement:** Lisa Bihuniak

**Advertising Sales:** Wilma Van Vaerenbergh | [contact for ad sales/questions](#)

**Results & Stats Editor:** Lisa Duong

**Founder:** Bill Finley

**Contributors:** Claus Andersen, Karen Briggs, Jerry Connors, The Curmudgeon, Paul Delean, Bill Finley, Joe FitzGerald, Dean Gillette, Ron Gurfein, Bob Heyden, Dean Hoffman, Dave Landry, Lauren Lee, Dave Little, Chris Lomon, David Mattia, Trey Nosrac, Tom Pedulla, James Platz, Bob Roberts, Sandra Snyder, Brett Sturman, Dean Towers, Jay Wolf

### Get in touch with HRU

PO Box 230 | Millwood, NY | 10546 | Telephone: (226) 374-9999

Editor/News Stories: [editor@harnessracingupdate.com](mailto:editor@harnessracingupdate.com)

Advertising: [advertising@harnessracingupdate.com](mailto:advertising@harnessracingupdate.com)

Customer Service: [customerservice@harnessracingupdate.com](mailto:customerservice@harnessracingupdate.com)

### Advertising info & rates:

If you are interested in advertising with us [please contact Wilma](#)

FROM PROVEN SIRE  
& MATERNAL LINES

The richest and fastest  
son of WELL SAID  
out of stakes winner  
LIFESLILTREASURE  
p. 1:51.2s (\$415,417).

CONTROL  
THE MOMENT

p.2. 1:49.4s. 3. 1:48.2 (\$1,227,832) • Brc 2013 (115.3h)  
Well Said - Lifesliltreasure by Life Sign • Stud Fee: \$6,000 Cdn.



From *champion* Harness Horses  
to *celebrated* Horse people!  
**The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame has it all!**



From High Wheel sulkies to Hambletonian, and beyond!  
Your Museum proudly displays the largest collection of Standardbred history,  
art and artifacts dating from harness racing's beginnings to modern times.

Visit us and see why the Harness Racing Museum is an  
award-winning institution AND a fun place to visit!



**Free Admission • Open Every Day**  
Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame • 240 Main Street  
Goshen, New York • [HarnessMuseum.com](http://HarnessMuseum.com) • (845) 294-6330

The **Best** is  
Yet to Come



**TARA HILLS**  
*stud*  
[www.TaraHills.com](http://www.TaraHills.com)

**FIRST FOALS ARRIVE  
IN ONTARIO IN 2018**

**CONTROL  
THE MOMENT**

p.2, 1:49.4s, 3, 1:48.2 (\$1,227,832) • Brz 2013 (15.3h)  
Well Said • Lifeslittreasure by Life Sign • Stud Fee: \$6,000 Cdn.



**FOLLOW HRU ON TWITTER**  
**@HARNESSUPDATE**  
**CLICK HERE**



**Harness Racing Update  
on Facebook**  
**➤ click here**

**HAVE A GREAT  
NEWS ITEM  
PRESS RELEASE  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
PHOTO  
YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?**

Send it to  
[editor@harnessracingupdate.com](mailto:editor@harnessracingupdate.com)



**ADD YOUR  
VOICE TO  
OURS AND  
JOIN TODAY!**

[www.waterhayoatsalliance.com](http://www.waterhayoatsalliance.com)

