



Sunday, April 22, 2012

Real Nice Storms Into Levy Final

By Lucas Marquardt

With 2011 Pacer of the Year **Foiled Again** (Dragon Again) taking the night off, **Real Nice** (Real Artist) stole the spotlight last night at Yonkers, winning still another leg of the George Morton Levy Series. In the process, he became the only horse to sweep all five preliminary rounds of the series.

The defending Levy champion, he is more and more looking like a legitimate threat to the Ron Burke-trained duo of Foiled Again and **Atochia** (Dragon Again).



Real Nice will come into the Levy final on a roll (Tom Berg photo)

the front and stayed there after posting fractions of :28.1, :56.4 and 1:24.3/ **Fitz's Z Tam** (Cole Muffler) was the hot horse in the wagering. Sent off at 4-5, he had to settle for second.

Art Z., who is trained by Jordan Rubin, won a Levy round for the third time this year.

The night's Levy action kicked off with a win by **Valentino** (Rocknroll Hanover), who rolled by five and had Cat Manzi in the bike. Race favorite **Nob Hill High** (Mcardle) had to settle for fourth.

Next up, **Razzle Dazzle** (Real Desire) overcame post seven to win 3 1/4 lengths over favorite **Flipper J** (Art Major).

Here are the final Levy point standings:

Horse	Points
1. Real Nice	375
2. Art Z	312
3. Foiled Again	275
4. Fitz's Z Tam	270
5. Strand Hanover	263
6. Atochia	245
7. Blatantly Good	242

"What can I say about him?" Real Nice's driver, Jason Bartlett, said. "To beat these horses five weeks in a row. He's so quick out of the gate that he's able to control the race, but I've also had him when he's raced very well off a helmet. He's been a pleasure to drive, and I hope we get some luck with the draw for the final."

Racing in the last of four Levy races on the card, Real Nice took his customary spot on the lead, covered the early going in :28, :57 and 1:25 and then had plenty left while winning by three quarters of a length over **Strand Hanover** (Modern Art).

In the 2011 Levy, Real Nice, who is trained by Richard Banca, pulled off an upset, winning at odds of 9-1 while the heavily favored Foiled Again was third. Last year, he won two Levy legs and was second the week before the final.

Real Nice's competition in Saturday's final will include Atochia, but he will not be coming in on a high note. He won three straight Levy legs but sat out last week and appeared to be a bit flat upon his return. Dead on the board at 2-1, the 7-year-old did not leave this time and, instead, took up sixth position with Yannick Gingras in the bike. He came second over, made a three-wide bid on the final turn and offered nothing better than a mild bid. He finished fourth, beaten 2 1/2 lengths.

This division was won by **Art Z** (Artiscape), who led every step of the way. Driven by Brett Miller, the 4-year-old got to

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Horse Dies in Meadowlands Race

By Bill Finley

Lets Getit Started (Cole Muffler) died during the running of last night's fourth race at the Meadowlands. According to track veterinarian Dr. Barbara Greene the 7-year-old gelding might have had a heart attack.

"We are saying suspected heart attack, but I don't know if it is that or that a large vessel ruptured," Dr. Greene said. "It's hard to tell. It was very sudden. We are sending the horse to the New Bolton Center for a post mortem. It is rare to have a harness horse do something like that. We are sending it for testing to see if we can find out more about what happened. With anything sudden like that, it more than likely has to involve the heart or a large vessel for them to drop like that."

In the race, a conditioned pace with a \$7,500 purse, Lets Getit Started could not make it to the gate and collapsed soon after the start. Trained by Jeff Webster, he was driven by Dan Noble.

"The other vet said he looked wobbly (at the start)," Dr. Greene said "The vets went over and looked at the animal and the animal was very pale, almost white in the gums. That tells me a bleeding incident happened or there was a severe arrhythmia. I hope to find out something because I'd like to know what happened."

Lets Getit Started was making his 135th career start and had 27 wins and earnings of \$532,230.

Crys Dream Is Seventh in European Debut

Making her first start outside of North America, **Crys Dream** (Taurus Dream) finished seventh in yesterday's Prix de l'Atlantique at Enghein, France. The race was worth 200,000 Euros and had 11 starters.

Crys Dream was sent off at 36-1. The race was supposed to be a prep for the April 29 Queen's Trophy in Sweden.

The winner was Main Wise As, a daughter of Yankee Glide.



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BRUSH and CRUSH
 Dean Towers

Balmoral Park's Handle Explodes

In 2012, Balmoral Park's nightly handle has risen close to 35%. Its average pick four handle in January and February of 2009 was \$8,534. In January and February of 2012 it averaged \$27,549 - an over 300% increase. Earlier this year, its low takeout pick 5 (with a carryover pool) approached a pool size of \$150,000 - that's Gulfstream Park levels.

For three days in April this year the handle was \$3.4 million. Comparing that to the same three cards last year at this time, the handle was \$2.4 million.

Balmoral Park is no longer a "B" Track. It now inhabits the same penthouse floor in harness racing that the Meadowlands and Woodbine do.

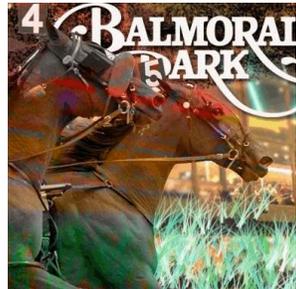
In 1998 Richard Thalheimer of the University of Louisville published a paper titled "An Economic Analysis of a Parimutuel Racetrack-Racebook." In the paper he concluded that pari-mutuel handle is mostly tied to price and field size; i.e. the contentiousness of the race itself. In

2008, this study was validated by a poll of everyday horse-players conducted by the Horseplayers Association of North America.

In a nutshell, those fancy surveys and studies from people with letters after their names says something simple: If you put on a good betting race (and promote it) at a fair price, you will raise your handle. It appears Balmoral Park got the memo.

"Competitive racing creates big average payouts and big pools which creates a great gambling product," said Balmoral's Michael Anotoniades. "This past year Balmoral offered some of the most competitive racing in North America. We average 33 per cent winning favorites which is not only the lowest in harness racing, it equals thoroughbred racetracks Oaklawn Park and Parx for the lowest in all of racing for the first quarter of 2012."

While some executives in racing believe that if favorites win less often, fewer people will win, hurting their overall customer experience, I believe this is categorically wrong. Harness racing is plagued with low priced winners, and with 25% takeout, low priced winners do two things: One, turn off real gamblers looking for an edge, and two, destroy the casual player over time because of high takeout and the increased rake due to breakage via low prices.



Most everyday bettors agree. Ray Schell is a fan of Balmoral because there is no real bias. It allows him to handicap a full race without looking at factors that drive prices down.

"Post position and trainer stats indicate no clear cut stand out. This is a major reason I stay away from Yonkers and the Meadows, for ex-

ample" he said.

And he's right. If you look at the colony of drivers at Balmoral, the lack of bias is apparent. There are six drivers between a 14% and 19% win percentage, over a large sample so far in 2012. Post position stats show similar, as well. At Balmoral you can do things the old fashioned way - bet the horse.

Low takeout has certainly made a difference, too. It is very difficult for lower takeout alone to succeed, because one track doing it with 25 or 30 other high takeout tracks racing at the same time defeats the purpose, but as a promotional vehicle it is superb.

"Low takeout, guaranteed pools and low minimums allowed players to last longer and gave them a better chance to win big," Michael noted.

Ray Schell agrees.

"Balmoral is a good gamblers track and with the new improvements in takeout, it just got better."

The low takeout pick 4's and 5's, and the promotion surrounding them, has begun to spin-off. The first races in the sequences have all seen a handle bump. The exacta pool on the initial race for the guaranteed pool this weekend approached \$70,000; higher than any pool on the entire card. It's catching on and bringing more and more players

to the mix.

"We like to think of ourselves as a gambling track, and we want everyone to know we are," said Michael.

That is a sea-change for harness racing. Far too often we're back in the 1980's with track press release after track press release extolling the virtues of a stakes series, or added money event, looking for mainstream sports column inches. That's fine to do, but it speaks to insiders and casual fans, not to our gambling customers. If the race does not have a competitive field worth betting, handle will be dismal no matter what the purse, who the drivers are, or which horse is or is not in the field. Our customers are driven by value - betting value.

This can be exemplified when we look at the Levy Series at Yonkers. It hosts the best older pacers in the world, and at a \$50,000 purse per leg, the money for horse owners and horsemen is fantastic. Every press release we saw the past few weeks was about the series. That's a slam dunk for huge handle, correct?

Last Saturday, the Pick 4 featuring Foiled Again, Blatantly Good and Real Nice paid \$4.95 for a dollar. A couple of hundred thousand in purses for four races and we have a \$5 payout for customers? Who wants to even spend five minutes looking at that sequence, other than as a fan?

Balmoral does not have slots, nor do they have the glitter of a high class stakes series to fall back on. Every press release from Balmoral is about the dynamics of the race itself as a betting affair. It's about free past performances, the sequence of races, a guarantee, a big pool, a deep field, and a potential big payout if you're smart enough to do your homework.

Ray Schell's words are worth repeating: "Balmoral is a good gamblers track"

If we card good races at a good price, we have a good gamblers track. And guess what? A good gamblers track attracts gamblers.

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Why They Don't Improve Technology for On-Track Wagers

The ease of Internet betting has certainly reduced the number of on-track wagers. I often even see people at the race track placing wagers via their smartphones, rather than making the trek to the windows. As no such technology exists, to my knowledge, directly linked to on-track wagering, these bets are surely also going to Internet wagering providers. The failure to improve the technology used in the way bets are placed at the track, signaled, to me, that "government" saw no chance for a return on the dollars invested in making upgrades.

But, could there be more to it? The major developer and provider of on-track based wagering technology and totalisator service, Amtote, has an interest in seeing dollars from on-track wagers decline. The Stronach Group which owns online based Xpressbet and a large share of HRTV also owns 100% of Amtote International. Would Amtote invest in improving the on-track betting experience when their parent company might suffer? If "government" is seeking more cost effective ways to collect wagers and increase revenues, won't they expect Amtote, the leading provider of on-track betting services, to develop and provide it?

It's still the 1990's, technology-wise, at my race
Kathy Ratcliff

(Editor's Note: Oaklawn Park introduced an APP this year that allowed patrons to make on-track wagers from their smartphones.)

Blame the Casinos; They Don't Promote Racing

I am a horse person and enjoy racing both thoroughbred and harness racing tracks. But it just amazes me that the horse racing is not promoted like the casinos are. I was shocked that at Dover Downs you have to ask how to get to the track! You then have to take an elevator to the 2nd or 3rd floor, walk through what looks like an employee entrance and then walk into a large but virtually empty grandstand. It was a nice night and I wanted to go out and watch the horses up close, but you really can't access it that way. They did have a restaurant but it wasn't as appealing as the restaurants in the casino.

I was in Florida and thought it would be fun to go to the races at Pompano. I remember not that long ago, they had a really nice restaurant in the clubhouse. Again we had to

walk through the glittery crowded casino and ask how to get to the track. I looked up and saw just a shell of a grandstand; it was not even being used. The few people there were sitting on benches and a little outdoor bleacher. As far as food, a hot dog stand. I was actually mad. Such a waste.

Mindy Pless

Slots=Fun

The reason people prefer slots to horses is very simple. The way things are set up now, slots are just way more fun. Think about it, when you place a bet on a horse you go up to a plain computer screen, pick a few numbers, and print out a little slip of paper. This is not very exciting for the average person. In the casino however, the machines have bright colors, lights, and literally all the bells and whistles. You place a bet on a fun, interactive, and visually attractive machine. Even if you lose, you probably still had fun doing it. If our betting machines were more like slots, a much greater number of people would want to play them simply to get the pleasure of using the machine.

Another problem is the way we display our pay outs. If you look at your little slip of paper and realize you won your bet, you wait 2-3 minutes in silence before some numbers get put up on a board. You then go put your ticket in a machine and get another little ticket. Compared to the way a casino works, this isn't much fun either. We need to rework the way we display our prices on the simulcast signal, and on track. When showing pay outs, why not make it fun?

Each payout should be made to feel like you just hit the jackpot. Imagine that instead of a list of prices, a giant logo with bright colors and sound effects came up saying "EXACTA!!!! \$50.00!!!!!" before minimizing to allow the other prices to take their turn. This would be much more exciting for people and it would create a fun atmosphere as you waited in suspense for your prices to come up. And for our conservative players, a list could be shown once all prices have been cycled through.

That is only half the battle though. When the winner puts their ticket in the machine, they need to get excited again. The machine needs to light up and make sounds. The player will feel like a winner, feel excited and will want to place another wager so they can feel that way again.

I believe we need to revolutionize the way we place bets in horse racing. Our betting machines must look and feel more like slots while still preserving the game of harness racing. Right now the casino is an arcade for adults and the track is the nursing home. That needs to change, and upgrading the betting process is one way to do that.
Bob Valvs

The Slots Players Will Never Convert

I am a native of Wilkes-Barre, PA, home of Pocono Downs. In the immediate years preceding Mohegan Sun's casino, you could shoot a cannon through the grandstand and not hit anyone during live racing. The simulcasting area attracted a somewhat larger crowd, but most of those

horseplayers were not playing the live races right outside the door, either.

With the onset of the casino, the place has become a first class, upscale operation, attracting a younger crowd, offering fancy restaurants and stores, valet parking, and shuttle busses to get to the casino building. The casino is open twenty four hours, seven days a week. The crowd is noticeably younger and more female than typical horseplayers. When you walk in, the race track itself is hard to find. You have to navigate the casino, and if you don't know where the track itself is, you have to ask directions. I felt lost when I first visited the new casino, trying to find the track, despite the fact I had spent years at Pocono Downs since it opened in 1965.

The reason people play slots is because it's easy and quick. It's instant gratification. Since they have no desire to learn the intricacies of horse racing, those folks will never be converted to racing, no matter what the track does. They simply have no interest. The tracks have to accept this. Instead, tracks need to cater to the remaining horseplayers who are out there instead of trying to win over the casino players.

Don Berman

At Least Slots Help Purses

Bill, If \$2,400 didn't "do anything for me," but "winning \$24 at the track" does, you should stay downstairs in the simulcast area. However, the money you spent upstairs on the slot machines put a lot more money into the purse pools - keeping harness racing thriving in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York - than the \$6 you'd bet to win \$24.

Part of gaming is the camaraderie, long extinct at race tracks. If you like standing around looking at empty seats for 20 minutes between races, then walking over to an automated teller before walking back out to the sounds of silence to root for \$24 . . . you, as your report accurately reports, are in the large minority. I can assure you most of the 100 people you saw watching the live action at Chester were horsemen. However, many more of the horsemen are upstairs playing slots or blackjack when they are not racing or preparing to race.

Dusty Nathan

Harrah's Didn't Like His Idea

This is another wonderful article from your publication. It reminded me of a suggestion I presented to an executive at Chester when I was (telephone) interviewing for a racing position there. I suggested that Harrah's do a series of betting tournaments in Atlantic City and Chester (and eventually nationally) pitting slot players against harness players. The details aren't important for this letter, but I think you can see where I am going. Since Harrah's offers both types of gambling in many of their facilities, I thought it would be a great marketing scheme and it would be a nice innovation. The person I was interviewing with had a real background in horses and horse racing, so I thought it made some sense to bring up my idea in the interview. That part of the interview elicited virtually no response, and

of course I never reached the live interview stage. I think most of the racino executives in this nation look at racing as a tax on their operations and hope that the sport passes away.

A year ago, I moved to the great State of Arizona. The (dog and thoroughbred) racetrack owners know how to make sure harness racing dies. There is no harness racing here (though the remains of a Phoenix harness track that was opened for a couple of years still stands in the suburbs of Phoenix). The dog and thoroughbred racetrack owners also own the OTB facilities and don't allow harness race betting. They have also managed to keep ADW's run by them or anybody out of the state. Oh, and I should mention that the OTB facilities that I have visited have made the old NYC OTB offices look like the Waldorf-Astoria. To me, it is obvious that in a few years, all of racing will be dead in the state.

Mark Landau

Stupid is Forever

Mr Finley: I think you may be overestimating people when you ask why they prefer slots. People are a lot dumber than most people think. It takes absolutely no brains to play casino games other than craps. One guy said he didn't bet on anything run by someone who eats or etc. Most don't seem to understand slots are programmed so that they can't lose. And there's no way you will ever educate these people who plays them. They don't want to think. As a comedian (Ron White. I think) said "stupid is forever"

Alan Sargent

How About Dumbing Down the Wagers?

Thanks for the realistic portrayal of the opinion of those that gamble on slots and not the horses. I think one of the biggest challenges we have is time. In the period in between races, my guess is someone can "wager" roughly 60 -75 times on a slot machine. That is pretty quick feedback on the wagered dollar, nickel, quarter or penny. Compare that with once every 20 minutes for the races. Consider that handicapping would take place in the time between races I can see how that would not be viewed as "fun" especially if you lose. Obviously, we can't send races off every couple of minutes, but I do think there is room to shorten the time between races or for that matter let's send the races off at the programmed "post time". I like to wager on Standardbreds, but nothing is more frustrating than having the timer say "zero minutes to post" and the actual race getting underway 5-10 minutes after that. This must be very frustrating for those that wager online that like to look at pools and wager late. How do you know when you will be shut out??

The only other suggestion I might have is if it is mindless wagering they want, let's try to give it to them. We could create wagers similar to roulette. They could place win bets on odd horses, even horses, the inner half, the outer half etc. There would be some handicapping involved (is the favorite odd or even?, are there more odd numbered

horses than even numbered? etc.) and a pari-mutuel payout for each selection would have to be calculated as opposed to fixed payout for roulette. I know this is something a bettor can do with the status quo (please give me \$2 to win on 2,4,6 and 8 which would cost \$8) but how about a simple \$2 win on even horses which would cost 2 bucks?

If we combine this with speeding up the time between races maybe we could attract a few more bettors and maybe a few of those will move from the mindless bets to the more "skilled" wagers. The question is "will it be enough?"

Glenn Schnackenberg

Speed Things Up

As a fan of harness racing and an avid gambler I would like to suggest a few tips on improving harness racing so it can draw more interest. As a fast paced society we are always looking for quick results. Many tracks offer races every 20 minutes. I would cut that to 12 minutes. People want quick results, hence they prefer slots vs. races.

I would expand the betting options...how about picking the entire order of finish from first to last as an example? These exotic wagers might bring about a payout that might bring in more interest. How about betting odds vs evens so that one not have to be a handicapper to play? Simplify the game for the layman...bet the top half of the field numbers vs bottom half.

One final tip I would recommend is to change or vary the distance of one mile in harness. Recently Yonkers Raceway had the 1 and 1/16th mile races and that helped level the field for outside post positions. I suggest variations from 1 mile to 1.375 miles, 1, 1 and 1/8, 1.25, 1.375 miles etc.
Vin Kirplani

A Marriage Between Slots and Horses

To me, it seems like slots and harness racing are dating and they need to get married! I own a few harness horses and also enjoy playing slots. So when I go to the track, before my specific race, I will kill some time by playing some slots. As luck would have it, just as post time for my race nears, my suddenly cold slot machine gets hot! So naturally, I have to leave it to go watch my horse race. That led me to think, could they build a slot machine that showed the video of the horse races on the slot machine and it allowed you to bet on the race with the credits in your slot machine? If you win, the credits would come back to the machine and obviously if you lost, it would take them out.

Such a machine would introduce the sport of racing to millions of slot players and if you made it simple to bet on a race from the slot machine, your track handle would increase as well. More importantly, you may convert a few slot players into horse players.

I'm sure the slot machine makers could do this very easily, especially in a test situation where they put a bank of machines somewhere in the casino and then monitor the statistics to see how many dollars were bet on the races in a day, week or month. If it's a success, then they could go

into full production and make these machines in mass.

Seems like a no brainer to me: you have slot players at a horse track and we need a way to marry them and this type of technology may just bring them together.

Dave Smith

5 Reasons Why People Like Slots Better

In response to your query, I feel your casino respondees say a great deal as to why they prefer casino action to horse racing.

1. We are living in a different age and time. Harness racing harkens back to a more peaceful, passive and bucolic time where people would actually enjoy the 20 minutes between races and would talk with the person beside them rather than text others who were miles away. It is the same reason that football has overtaken baseball as the national pastime.

2. Playing the slots is mindless, easy to do, requires no prior knowledge and is instant entertainment. The average person finds the plethora of numbers on a race program daunting.

3. There is little to no television coverage. "The medium is the message" and there is far more poker being shown on TV than harness racing, hence a huge increase in poker players.

4. Integrity issues abound. We hear negativity ad nauseam about drugs, corrupt trainers, and in-fighting between owners, politicians, and industry representatives. When a person pulls a lever he/she knows it is regulated and calibrated so there is no fear of fixing or not trying.

5. A chance for a big payoff. As you state, you hit a \$2,400 winner but the average person could not and does not get to do that at the track.

Rick Simonds

The Big Three Are...

I read about your trip to Chester with interest and amusement. You have to enjoy the folks who don't play the races because they don't understand it. We have to assume they think they understand slot machines. As for the "what is wrong" and "what can we do about it" I have my own laundry list that, with a few exceptions, matches much of what you have read since you started this fine publication. But the big three are:

- 1) Spend money on a professional marketing team, like the folks who changed NASCAR from a regional oddity to a sport that occupies prime time on major networks and produces celebrities who are household names.
- 2) Spend the necessary money for meaningful drug testing which leads to meaningful penalties for the criminals.
- 3) Fund a commissioner's office that can do things like bar racetracks who do not play well with others (e.g., competing race meets and post times); and ensure drivers and trainers who are barred from one track are barred from all tracks; and make racing rules standard; and evaluate judges for promotion and termination; and make as much information as possible available to bettors (aka, customers), and take the license from any track who is not doing

everything it can to promote the sport, etc.

Alas, the sport is filled with power hungry zealots so impressed with their own little fiefdoms that these three necessary requirements are unlikely to happen. So when racino managements finally convince state legislators to eliminate the harness racing albatross from around the throats of their otherwise profitable (and tax revenue generating) casino businesses the subsidies will be gone... and so will harness racing.

Gil Winston

Slots Have a Lower Takeout

The simple truth is you get more play for your money playing slots than the horses. Why is that? One of the main reasons is the takeout. In New York State, the takeout is about 17% for Yonkers. The slot takeout at Empire Casino is around 8%. Plus, there is more action with the slots. Every couple of seconds, you wait to see if you hit the jackpot. In harness racing, you wait about 17 minutes between races.

Me, I prefer video poker in Las Vegas!
William Daniti

He Likes To Stay Home

I do not play slot machines, but I bet on harness races and enjoy it. Also, I rarely go to the harness races, because I can bet on all of the races and see videos of them as they happen sitting at home. It saves me gas, and I do not have to go out in the cold or drive 30 miles to the nearest track. You cannot play slot machines from home. Maybe this is one reason why harness racing attendance is low.

Bob Fraser

Let's Make Racing Friendly Again

Great article and I am glad you braved the casino world to interview some of the patrons. I believe we need to do more "focus groups" with the gambling public that do not bet on standardbreds to find out where we should change our game.

Let's face it, slots are easy and the intermittent reward works well. The payoffs are consistent enough to keep us playing just like junkies coming back for another hit. Slot players often gamble away their winnings and then some, or at least that is what I have done. I think the slot machines have a built in payoff rate that is random and consistent at the same time. We stay with it in the hope of winning more and again.

Betting on horses is nothing like random and consistent even when you bet the favorites. There is just no guarantee. Anything can happen in a horse race and usually does, even when you read the program and check out all your usual and unusual angles on picking the winner.

I have been a 38 year veteran of the standardbred game. I started out as a gambler and loved it. I transformed to an owner and trainer and loved it. I now own and have a qualifying license and love it. Why? Because in the very beginning when I was a young gambler I made money (lost some

too). In those days I would play every angle I could think of. The one I loved the most was standing near the paddock and watching who came out to go to the windows. Over the years I learned who was who. I knew who owned which horses. I knew who was the wife of whom. I knew who was the trainer of what horse. If I saw them leave the paddock and hit the windows I knew they liked their horse.

I remember the night I followed a driver's wife to the \$50 dollar window and heard her bet her husband's ride a couple of times. I did the same and hit for about 800 bucks. This system served me well.

Why do I tell you this? It is not to brag. It is to point out the element of secrecy that exists at the track. I think over the years it has alienated bettors. It is hard to pick winners and it seems like there are a lot of games going on. When you see all the smiling owners in the winner's circle and you're ripping up tickets it is discouraging.

What would happen if at every track in the country every night we raced there was a "Think Tank" of trainers and drivers and even grooms that know the animals at the track handicapping with the patrons? No guarantee of success but at least a friendly face to ask what they think and to explain all that tiny dam print on the PPs.

Help the gambler to feel welcome and supported. Casinos are welcoming. They offer you a drink, a place to sit, and a smile. That never happens at the track.

Let's make it friendly again. Help people win and have a good time because that is what they want. They want to feel good about what they have done. If they can win that is good. If they can make a connection with a person at the track, that is good too.

Ron Rettig-Zucchi

He's Never Won Big at the Track

I too am a horse racing fan. My first time at the races was watching Albatross at the Provincial Cup.

Anyway, the real simple answer is that the slots provide a better opportunity to hit a big one with no effort involved. Your article stated that \$2400 was made at the slots. I don't believe that you can do that at the horses. Maybe the takeout is too great, maybe there is too much inside betting, but I have never, ever cashed for \$2400 at the races. It might be slim, but just one pull at the slots and I could be \$10,000 richer. For the average person the race program and subsequent betting is too hard to figure out. They have no clue or inclination to become a horse addict. Most people want to have fun without having to be a rocket scientist. Until horse racing, especially harness racing, figures out a way to make betting easier and make it more of reward for winning, I don't see how it can compete. There are so many other factors as well that I could go on forever. It seems harness racing has lost two generations of fans and it will be difficult to get them back .

Mark Schmenk

A Rocknroll Hanover Fan

In the fall at Harrisburg Rocknroll Hanover paid a price

for his zip code, as Mach Three, SBSW, Western Terror, Art Major, Yankee Cruiser and Badlands Hanover all saw their yearlings bring in higher averages than his did.

Meanwhile, as dark clouds have filled the sky over Ontario and Pennsylvania, Rocknroll's progeny have continued to perform at the highest level: thus far he's the leading money winning sire of 2012. It seems that every late winter and early spring series has more than a few good Rocknrolls in it, and the preferred and open ranks are also well populated with them. Put On A Show took our breath away with a last turn sweep in the F & M open at Woodbine last week; Rocklamation has been very good in the Matchmaker and the Overbid; Special T Rocks won the Clyde Hirt and finished second in the Exit 16W. Other solid 2012 performers are: Rockin Glass, Rockn Dream, Piece Of The Rock, Foreclosure N, Summer Camp, Rock To Glory, Synergy Seelster, The Summer Wind, Rockin Glass, Rock N Soul, Rollem Up, Buck Stops Here, Rock'em, Abelard Hanover, Rockin The House, Southwind Trini and Rocknroll Princess—all this during the difficult and less lucrative four month period that kicks off the year.

I wonder what will happen next year at Harrisburg when the wind has been sucked out of the sails of some of these sires stakes programs? Will it be easier for an accomplished stallion like Rocknroll to overcome his zip code and get paid what he's worth? Will we go back in time fifty years to a period when location didn't trump performance? There has been so much upheaval during the six months since the sales, and who knows how all of this will shake out in the end, but I suspect that six months from now some stallions that have been benefitting from their location will find themselves on a more level playing field with the Rocknrolls of the sport.

Joe FitzGerald

A Yonkers Fan

I loved getting to view the Yonkers TV Ad featured in HRU. Thank you, Bill, for your insightful letter and the advertisement link. That is probably the best ad for harness racing that I can remember. Wouldn't it be nice if the live footage of a race could incorporate some of those angles. It would be so much more exciting to watch. And harness racing definitely needs to be more exciting if its ever going to regrow a fan base.

Dot Morgan



4-21 Aby, Gothenburg

Race 5, V75-1. Volvo's Race – Mare Elite. \$61,200. 2,140 meters. 1:58.0 (mile rate)

Merger Blue Chip (m, 5, Cantab Hall-Caviar Please)

O-LGJ Invest AB & Ake Svanstedt AB. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. T&D-Ake Svanstedt, \$29,700, Lifetime Record: 27-10-7-3, \$319,000

Race 9, V75-5. Diamond Mare, Final. \$63,000. 2,140 meters. Volt start. 1:59.3 (mile rate)

Sensory As (m, 6, Self Possessed-Perla d'Hilly)

O-Sanda Racing Stable AB. B-Ann-Christin Lorentzon & J-E Magnusson. T-Ake Svanstedt. D-Anders Svanstedt, \$29,700, Lifetime Record: 47-7-7-7, \$115,000

Race 13. Molndal's Industrial Production Race – Stayers' Olympic Trot. \$29,200. 3,140 meters. 2:01.2 (mile rate)

Indigo Broline (g, 7, Yankee Glide-Armbro Smile)

O-Stall Fyra Hokare. B-Broline International AB. T&D-Ake Svanstedt, \$14,800, Lifetime Record: 29-14-5-1, \$176,000

Commander Crowe Wins Olympic Trot in Sweden

By Ethan Smith

With the qualification races completed and wild cards distributed to other worthy trotters, yesterday's Olympic Trot marked the beginning of high class racing in Sweden. Many of Europe's best participated for a purse of \$413,000 over a distance of 2,140 meters.

At the start, last year's winner and Elitloppet victor, Brioni (Timberland), briefly took control of the lead until the aggressively driven Commander Crowe (Juliano Star) seized the position after 600 meters. The Fabrice Souloy trainee faced no challenge from the star-studded field until Yarrah Boko (Coktail Jet) and Ulf Ohlsson came within one length with a first-over move around the final turn.

That was as close as anyone would get to the chestnut as the race leader accelerated down the home stretch to secure a convincing win. Yarrah Boko fended off a strong closing effort by Noras Bean (Super Arnie) for second. Joakim Lovgren was clearly disappointed with Brioni's uninspiring fifth place finish.

Commander Crowe banked \$223,000 for the victory and his career earnings stand at an incredible \$2.6 million. This was the 9-year-old's third start since finishing third in the Breeders' Crown at Woodbine behind San Pail and Rapide Lebel. He is slated to start next in the Oslo Grand Prix before heading to Solvalla for the Elitloppet.

Wishing Stone (Conway Hall), who won the 2010 Kentucky Futurity, faded in the stretch from second-over to finish eighth with trainer/driver Ake Svanstedt. The 5-year-old gained entry in to the race when French trotter Reve de Beylev opted to compete in the Prix de l'Atlantique instead.

4-21 Aby, Gothenburg

Race 7, V75-3. The Olympic Trot, Final. \$413,000. 2,140 meters. 1:56.1 (mile rate)

1) Commander Crowe (g, 9, Juliano Star-Somack)
O-Snogarps Gard AB & Parkkoken i Gbg AB. B-Petri Puro. T-Fabrice Souloy. D-Christophe Martens, \$223,000, Lifetime Record: 68-45-8-4, \$2,600,000

2) Yarrah Boko (h, 7, Coktail Jet-Big Blue Kitten)
O-Jan-Erik Andresen. B-Boko Stables Sweden. T-Trond

Anderssen. D-Ulf Ohlsson, \$104,000, Lifetime Record: 63-27-9-3, \$1,090,000
3) Noras Bean (h, 7, Super Arnie-Easy Bean) O-Stall Asunden HB. B-May Herlin. T-Ulf Stenstromer. D-Stefan Soderkvist, \$48,300, Lifetime Record: 55-13-16-8, \$1,060,000
To view the replay click [here](#)

FRANCE



Eleven starters met behind the gate for Enghien's feature race of the season - the Prix de l'Atlantique - including last year's winner Main Wise As (Yankee Glide), top mare Roxane Griff (Tenor de Baune), Royal Dream (Love You), who was victorious in the Prix de France and Prix de Lille this year at the distance, and Grand Criterium de Vitesse champion Santa Rosa France (Kaisy Dream).

Quaker Jet (Love You) jumped well to grab the lead. Shortly, however, he conceded the spot to Main Wise As and Sebastian Ernault. Roxane Griff challenged last year's winner in the stretch but was no match for Mike Lenders' 6-year-old. Quaker Jet trotted inside the mare to be third. An inauspicious start placed Royal Dream and Jean-Philippe Dubois toward the tail of the field, but the team managed a close fourth. The second straight victory in the 2,150 meter Prix de l'Atlantique boosted Main Wise As' career earnings to \$1.3 million.

Crys Dream (Taurus Dream) made her European debut in the Prix de l'Atlantique with Dominik Locqueneux in the bike. Although she recorded a seventh place finish, which on the surface might appear disheartening, more suitable races limited to 4-year-old mares such as the prestigious Queen Silvias Trophy in Sweden are on the horizon and ultimately the races we should look for her to produce her best performances this year.

—Ethan Smith

4-21 Enghien, Paris

Race 6. Prix de l'Atlantique. \$264,000. 2,150 meters. 1:57.3 (mile rate)

1) Main Wise As (h, 6, Yankee Glide-Desert Flower K) O-Ecurie Gerrits Recycling B.V. B-Fonds de Courses. T-Mike Lenders. D-Sebastian Ernault, \$132,000, Lifetime Earnings: \$1,340,000

2) Roxane Griff (m, 7, Tenor de Baune-Julia Mesloise) O&B-Ecurie Griff. T-Sebastien Guarato. D-Eric Raffin, \$66,000, Lifetime Earnings: \$1,630,000

3) Quaker Jet (h, 8, Love You-Jenny Jet) O,B,T&D-Jean Etienne Dubois, \$34,000, Lifetime Earnings: \$2,010,000

AUSTRALIA



4-21 Tabcorp Park Menangle

Race 5. Lawn Derby Stakes – NSW Derby Heat 2. \$25,000. 2,400 meters. 1:57.0 (mile rate)

Monarkmac (g, 3, McArdle-Arkareena) O-M Ryman & M Rafter. B- M Ryman & C Ryman. T&D-G Dixon, \$15,625, Lifetime Record: 19-9-2-3, \$67,300

To view replay click [here](#)

Race 7. Excel Stride Stakes – NSW Derby Heat 3. \$25,000. 2,400 meters. 1:58.3 (mile rate)

Ideal Scott (g, 3, American Ideal-Tuapeka Wings) O-J Twomey, J Devlin, P Hughes, & M Green. B-J Davie, D Cummings, and P Cummings. T-B Hughes. D-T MacFarlane, \$15,625, Lifetime Record: 16-8-3-2, \$437,000. To view the replay click [here](#)

Meadowlands Report



Saturday's Results:

1, M, \$59,200, Pace, SPRING SURVIVOR SERIES - FINAL 3 Year Olds N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$30,000 Lifetime as of 3/1/2012 Winners Over \$75,000 Lifetime Ineligible, 27.1, 54.3, 1:21.3, 1:50.3, FT

1-Breakin The Law (g, 3, Artiscap--Arl's Troublemaker, by Troublemaker), \$17,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Jjk Stables LLC & The Panhellenic Stb Corp. B-Winbak Farm. T-Ron Burke. D-David Miller, \$29,600, Lifetime Record: 15-11-2-0, \$90,139

2-One Through Ten (c, 3, Four Starzzz Shark--Gothic Lady, by Abercrombie), \$100,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Christina Takter & John D Fielding, CA & Brittany Farms. B-Brittany Farms & Brian P Monieson Revtrust. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Tim Tetrick, \$14,800

3-Winter Night (g, 3, Western Terror--Hot Grin, by Grinfromeartoe), \$1,500 2010 SHS-HBG O-Jason T Skinner & Susan Marie Ehlers. B-Perfect World Enterprises. T-Jason Skinner. D-Corey Callahan, \$7,104 Calls: 6H, 4T, 3H, 1, 2H

Finish Order: Take It Back Terry, Arts Ideal Hanover, Savannah Splendor, Rockndream

To view replay click [here](#)

Breakin The Law (Dave Miller, \$3.20) made it five straight and a lifetime best mark of 1:50.3 in the process with an impressive 2-1/2 length score. It was his eighth win in 10 tries this year. After gapping in fourth around turn one, Miller was able to close it up under some urging and grabbed live cover from One Through Ten (Tim Tetrick) past the half. Despite needing more encouragement around the final turn, Miller popped the plugs and "The Law" was broken after charging past One Through Ten who cleared pacesetting Arts Ideal Hanover (Ron Pierce). Winter Night (Corey Callahan) was out briefly at the half behind a struggling one, dropped back on the rail and closed with a late rally down the stretch for third.

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2, M, \$58,650, Trot, SPRING SURVIVOR SERIES - FINAL
3 Year Olds N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$30,000 Lifetime
as of 3/1/2012 Winners Over \$75,000 Lifetime Ineligible,
29.2, 57.3, 1:25.3, 1:55.1, FT

1-Top Billing (c, 3, Andover Hall--Ny Starlet, by Lindy Lane), \$22,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Jason E & Douglas W Allen. B-Windsong Stable. T-Julie Miller. D-David Miller, \$29,325, Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, \$43,075

2-Not Afraid (g, 3, SJ's Caviar--Beverly Crusher, by Balanced Image) O-Christina Takter & John D Fielding, CA & Goran N Anderberg, SD. B-Steve D Organ, CA. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Ron Pierce, \$14,662

3-Trouble (c, 3, Conway Hall--Anna Karin's Girl, by Mala-bar Man), \$65,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Andy Miller Stable Inc & George Brennan Inc. B-Stormi And Bruiser Stable. T-Julie Miller. D-Andy Miller, \$7,038

Calls: 5Q, 4H, NS, 2, 3T

Finish Order: On The Podium, Racintowardadream, Stars And Glides

To view replay click [here](#)

Top Billing (Dave Miller, \$2.40) got just that after a dominant 3-3/4 length victory in 1:55.1. It was his third straight win in as many starts. After sitting on hold in fourth, Miller attacked first over and quickly marched up to engage pace-setting Not Afraid (Ron Pierce). That rival two moved to command early and tried to take them as far as he could, but once Top Billing challenged at three quarters he was unable to fend him off and was left behind chasing in second. Top Billing's stablemate, Trouble (Andy Miller), who left for a spot, found himself in trouble after getting shuffled back to fifth at three quarters but was able to split rivals down the stretch and rally up for third.

6, M, \$25,000, Pace, Preferred, 27.3, 55.4, 1:23.1, 1:50.1, FT

Rockincam (h, 5, Cambest--Migraine, by Albert Albert) O/B-Stephen J Farrell. T-R. Nifty Norman. D-David Miller, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 30-16-3-4, \$360,475

To view replay click [here](#)

8, M, \$21,000, Pace, N/W \$18,000 in Last 5 Starts AE: N/W \$120,000 Lifetime Optional Claiming Price \$50,000, 27.1, 54.1, 1:22.0, 1:50.2, FT

A J Corbelli (g, 5, Rocknroll Hanover--Valabesta, by Cambest) O-Anatolia Racing Stb Inc & Michel Allard, CA. B-Anatolia Racing Stb Inc. T-Rene Allard. D-Simon Allard, \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 57-14-7-6, \$212,704

To view replay click [here](#)

Fred And Ginger (h, 5, Real Artist--Graceful Motion, by Beach Towel), \$65,000 2008 LEX-SEL O-Howard A Taylor & Robert M Feldman & Edwin J Gold & Jerry Silva. B-Ronald Mersky. T-Ron Burke. D-Matt Kakaley, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 48-13-8-5, \$693,834

To view replay click [here](#)

12, PcD, \$25,000, Trot, Winners Over \$25,000 Lifetime, 28.3, 56.2, 1:24.4, 1:54.4, SY

Lolique (g, 9, Tagliabue--Crystal Vic, by Mr Vic), \$6,000 2004 SHS-HBG O-Pamela E Wagner & Scott D Woogen. B-Jules J & Arlene L Siegel. T-John Wagner. D-Jim Morrill Jr, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 137-44-23-18, \$1,046,670

To view replay click [here](#)

Woodbine Report

Saturday's Results:

7, Wdb, PACE, \$25,000. 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 3 RACES OR \$100,000 (FM \$125,000) LIFETIME. 26.1, 54.3, 1:23.1, 1:37.1, 1:51.2, FT

Southwind Turbo (b,g,5 - Rocknroll Hanover-Tattoo Hanover-Abercrombie) O-Ronald Ash B-Southwind Farm,NJ (NJ) T-Justin Robson D-Randy Waples

Lifetime Record: 42-12-6-6, \$102,709

To view replay click [here](#)

9, Wdb, PACE, \$27,000. NW \$25,000 LAST 5 STARTS. 26.2, 55.3, 1:23.3, 1:37.1, 1:50.4, FT

Aracache Hanover (br,h,5 - Dragon Again-Armbr Cachet-Camluck) O-William L Switala, James J Martin B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc,PA (PA) T-R Gregg McNair D-Doug McNair

Lifetime Record: 60-17-11-10, \$1,102,037

To view replay click [here](#)

10, Wdb, PACE, \$30,000. NW 4 RACES OR \$205,000 LIFETIME. AE: 4 YEAR OLDS, CLAIMING \$80,000. 27, 56, 1:23.4, 1:37.2, 1:51.2, FT

Clic K (ch,g,4 - Shanghai Phil-Eclatante-Bullvons Dream) O-Bradley J Grant, Holland Racing Stable Inc B-Guy Corbeil,Mirabel,QC (QC) T-Ben Wallace D-Jody Jamieson

Lifetime Record: 34-14-5-6, \$129,109

To view replay click [here](#)

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Pocono Downs Report

Saturday's Results:

10, PcD, \$25,000, Pace, Winners Over \$25,000 Lifetime, 28.1, 56.2, 1:24.4, 1:51.4, SY

11, Wdb, PACE, \$50,000. OPEN. 26.1, 54.4, 1:23.1, 1:37, 1:51.1, FT

1-Brave Alex Semalu (b,g,5 - Yankee Cam-Signature Semalu-Beach Towel) O-J And T Silva Stables LLC, Martin Scharf, Bramdeo Singh, John C Polvinale B-Semalu Inc,Laval,QC (QC) T-Ryan Maxwell D-Randy Waples Lifetime Record: 55-17-10-7, \$328,678

2-Georgetown N (b,g,8 - Washington Vc-Touch Of Grace-Walton Hanover) O-Brenda K Selwyn Waxman, Isaac S Waxman B-Finash Bloodstock Ltd,NZ T-Isaac Waxman D-Jean Rene Plante

3-Ideal Choice (b,g,6 - Western Ideal-My Baby And Me-Presidential Ball) O-BNB Stable LLC B-Glenby Farms,FL (OH) T-Mike Weller D-Jody Jamieson

Winning Margin: NS
To view replay click [here](#)

Yonkers Report

Saturday's Results:

4, YR, \$20,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.2, 56.0, 1:24.2, 1:52.2, FT

Electric Oui (g, 5, Kilowatt--Oui Oui, by In The Pocket), \$1,300 2008 HOOSIER O-Thomas Ceraso Jr. B-Louis Schmucker. T-Jack Franklin. D-Eric Goodell, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 74-17-16-7, \$327,275

To view replay click [here](#)

5, YR, \$50,000, Pace, GEORGE MORTON LEVY SERIES HORSE & GELDING FREE FOR ALL 5TH PRELIMINARY 1ST DIVISION, 27.2, 55.2, 1:23.1, 1:51.0, FT

1-Valentino (h, 5, Rocknroll

Hanover--Schoolofcardknocks, by Cam's Card Shark), \$80,000 2008 SHS-HBG O-Kdm Stables Corp.. B-David A Meirs III & Hill View Enterprises. T-Nicholas Surick. D-Cat Manzi, \$25,000, Lifetime Record: 73-12-12-10, \$579,142

2-Power Of Tara N (g, 9, Live Or Die--Atomic Gold, by Sokys Atom) O-Harry von Knoblauch. B-R P Anicich, NZ. T-Peter Tritton. D-George Brennan, \$12,500

3-P H Jackpot (g, 8, Million Dollar Cam--Dvc Iblievenangles, by Life Sign), \$3,500 2005 NJ-CL O-Jennifer L Sabot. B-Delaware Valley College. T-Jennifer Sabot. D-Brian Sears, \$6,000

Calls: T, 1, 1H, 4, 5

Finish Order: Nob Hill High, Code Word, Roadside Delight, Silent Swing, Foreign Officer

To view replay click [here](#)

Valentino (Cat Manzi, \$5.50) retook at the quarter after leaving fast from his rail position and went down the road with an impressive five length score in a season best 1:51. It was his first win in 7 tries this year. Power Of Tara N (George Brennan) saved ground on the cones while in the three hole and rallied up for minor spoils. P H Jackpot (Brian Sears) lagged in seventh the whole way and came

on the scene late for third. The 6/5 favorite Nob Hill High (Jordan Stratton) finished fourth after a tough trip third over.

6, YR, \$50,000, Pace, GEORGE MORTON LEVY SERIES HORSE & GELDING FREE FOR ALL 5TH PRELIMINARY 2ND DIVISION, 27.3, 55.3, 1:23.1, 1:51.1, FT

1-Razzle Dazzle (g, 5, Real Desire--Town Feather, by Big Towner), \$32,000 2008 LEX-SEL O-Ira B Kristel.

B-Adam Victor & Son Stble LLC & Gate To Wire LTD & D'Elegance Stable Ix. T-Richard Silverman. D-Brian Sears, \$25,000, Lifetime Record: 39-10-6-5, \$369,059

2-Flipper J (h, 4, Art Major--Dolphins Can Talk, by Camluck), \$110,000 2009 LEX-SEL O-Francis H Azur. B-Black Horse Breeding. T-Kevin Mc Dermott. D-Cat Manzi, \$12,500

3-Dancin Yankee (h, 4, Yankee

Cruiser--Dancewiththebest, by Cambest), \$17,000 2009 OH-SEL O-Robert L Briley & Baron Racing Stable.

B-Elizabeth C Wagner. T-Josh Green. D-Jason Bartlett, \$6,000

Calls: 5T, 5, 1T, Q, 3Q

Finish Order: Southern Allie, Shoobee's Place, Boi, Dreamlands Art, Macraider N

To view replay click [here](#)



Razzle Dazzle (Tom Berg photo)

Razzle Dazzle (Brian Sears, \$7.70) left for a four hole tuck, then attacked first over to challenge 9/5 favorite Flipper J (Cat Manzi) past three quarters before wearing him down in the stretch and drawing clear by 3-1/4 lengths in

a dazzling 1:51.1. It was his first win in 4 starts. "Flipper" who flipped back out to regain command early from his rail position, took them as far as he could but could not fend off the top one's sustained bid turning for home. Dancin Yankee (Jason Bartlett) rallied up for third off a third over trip.

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7, YR, \$50,000, Pace, GEORGE MORTON LEVY SERIES HORSE & GELDING FREE FOR ALL 5TH PRELIMINARY 3RD DIVISION, 28.1, 56.4, 1:24.3, 1:52.2, FT

1-Art Z (g, 4, Artiscape--Celebrity Ball, by Presidential Ball) O-Richard M Lombardo. B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, CA & C S X Stables. T-Jordan Rubin. D-Brett Miller, \$25,000, Lifetime Record: 27-11-5-5, \$289,604

2-Fitz's Z Tam (g, 5, Cole Muffler--Broadway Rosemarie, by Broadway Express), \$20,000 2008 COTTON O-J&T Silva Stables, LLC & Martin Scharf. B-Brent W Johnson & Herbert R Anderson. T-Tyler Raymer. D-Brian Sears, \$12,500

3-Shark's Legacy (h, 5, Four Starzzz Shark--Four Starz Boo, by Western Hanover), \$25,000 2008 NJ-CL O-Joseph E Smith. B-F S Starzzzz Stables Inc. T-Tom Fanning. D-Jordan Stratton, \$6,000

Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1T, T

Finish Order: Atochia, Sea Venture, Shortstacked, Summer Camp, Jk Camelot

To view replay click [here](#)

Art Z (Brett Miller, \$8.90) was hustled right to the front, had things his own way and found more when asked to keep the 4/5 favorite Fitz's Z Tam (Brian Sears) at bay by three-quarters of a length in 1:52.2. It was his fourth win in 12 starts. Shark's Legacy (Jordan Stratton) sat a three hole trip and bested the rest for third as the longest shot on the board at 99-1.

8, YR, \$50,000, Pace, GEORGE MORTON LEVY SERIES HORSE & GELDING FREE FOR ALL 5TH PRELIMINARY 4TH DIVISION, 28.0, 57.0, 1:25.0, 1:52.2, FT

1-Real Nice (g, 7, Real Artist--Dreamland's Jo Jo, by Western Hanover), \$25,000 2006 SHS-HBG O-Beverly & Gary R Paganelli & Anthony C Scussel. B-Dreamland Farms. T-Richard Banca. D-Jason Bartlett, \$25,000, Lifetime Record: 111-37-13-20, \$1,099,189

2-Strand Hanover (h, 6, Modern Art--Suntan Cathy, by Beach Towel), \$52,000 2007 SHS-HBG O-Uncirculated Stable, CA & Brenda K Selwyn Waxman, CA. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Tony Alagna. D-Luc Ouellette, \$12,500

3-Clear Vision (g, 6, Western Hanover--Artistic Vision, by Artsplace), \$180,000 2007 LEX-SEL O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC & The Panhellenic Stb Corp & James A Koran. B-Steve H Stewart & Charles & Julie R & Francene Nash. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$6,000

Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1H, T

Finish Order: Power Of A Moment, Blatantly Good, River Shark, Reibercrombie, Urgent Action

To view replay click [here](#)

Real Nice (Jason Bartlett, \$2.70) made it five straight with another wire-to-wire effort. After rating a 29.0 second quarter off a 57.0 half, Real Nice had enough left in the tank to sprint home (27.2) and keep pocket-sitting Strand Hanover (Luc Ouellette) who took a shot up the inside at bay by three-quarters of a length in 1:52.2. Clear Vision (Yannick

Gingras) sat a three hole trip and held the rest safe.

9, YR, \$27,000, Pace, WINNERS OVER \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS HANDICAP POST POSITION 1 ASSIGNED POST POSITIONS 2-5 DRAWN POST POSITIONS 6-8 DRAWN, 27.2, 55.4, 1:23.4, 1:52.1, FT

Whackamole Hanover (h, 5, Cam's Card

Shark--Western Duel, by Western Hanover), \$40,000 2008 SHS-HBG O-David Rovine Stable LLC & Joel Benson & John A Fodera. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Tony Alagna. D-Yannick Gingras, \$13,500, Lifetime Record: 57-12-13-8, \$271,506

To view replay click [here](#)

10, YR, \$20,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.4, 57.2, 1:25.1, 1:53.1, FT

Art Two D Two (g, 5, Art Major--Shark Tail, by Cam's Card Shark) O-Oldford Farms LLC & Tyler L Buter.

B-Steven M Held & Dijo Racing Inc & Joseph Barbera & Michael Rich. T-Amber Buter. D-George Brennan, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 64-9-16-12, \$315,739

To view replay click [here](#)

11, YR, \$20,000, Pace, CLAIMING ALLOWANCE \$50,000 WINNERS OVER \$65,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS NOT ELIGIBLE. 3 YO 50%, 4 YO 25%, F&M 20%, 27.1, 56.3, 1:24.3, 1:53.0, FT

Winter Retreat A (g, 8, Armbro Operative--Summer Carnival, by Tuapeka Knight) O-Seth A Rosenberg & Noah J Daiell. B-Tarsao Investments Pty LTD, AS.

T-Dennis J Laterza. D-Yannick Gingras, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 90-27-17-19, \$240,330

To view replay click [here](#)

12, YR, \$23,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.2, 55.2, 1:24.2, 1:53.0, FT

Four Trumps A (h, 10, Trump Casino--Kiwi Blues, by Caesar Blue Chip) O-Larry D Stalbaum & Michael Sorentino Jr. B-W L & A E Lamb, AS. T-Kimberly Asher.

D-Larry Stalbaum, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 172-46-19-21, \$637,434

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Tonight's number: 3,901
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