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Monday, October 10, 2016

1:46

Always B Miki sits atop the world with the fastest mile in harness racing history

by Dave Briggs



Nigel Sout

Always B Miki and David Miller recorded the fastest mile in harness racing history when they won the \$138,000 Allerage Farms open pace Saturday at Red Mile in 1:46.

Truth is, Always B Miki's connections were nervous Sunday before the pacer recorded the fastest mile in harness racing history with an epic 1:46 performance at Red Mile. Team Miki didn't doubt the five-year-old's phenomenal ability, or his two surgically repaired legs. The group was worried about the shadows stretching long across the crimson clay in the late afternoon autumn sun.

"He didn't warm up well," said trainer Jimmy Takter. "He was scared of shadows. I was so nervous before (the race) and I never get nervous like that, but I was."

Part-owner Bob Boni remembered Always B Miki had been scared of shadows when was younger, before the pacer was trained by Takter.

"Jimmy said, 'I'll put a shadow roll on him and I'm going to ask David (Miller) to score him down well up the backside,'" Boni said. "I was watching this race with another level of anticipation that I didn't have before then and, lo and behold, everything worked out great. That's just a little extra something. He hasn't raced in the daytime."

The mile came in a field of five contesting the \$138,000

In today's HRU

Screams and Tears	page 3
Broadway Donna wins Kentucky Filly Futurity	page 6
Stolen Glimpse surges to an upset; Racing Hill hangs on in Tattersalls divisions	page 7
Darlinonthebeach fastest in Glen Garnsey Memorial	page 8
Growing Pains	page 10

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Allerage Farms open pace. Always B Miki sat third in the early going as Shamballa and Scott Zeron led the field to the quarter in :26.1. Always B Miki took command after that and rolled through fractions of :52.2 and 1:19.4, the latter bringing a roar from the crowd.

"To hear the crowd when they announced 1:19.2, the crowd behind him cheering – that they wanted to see something like that – you can't bottle that, you can't repeat it, you duplicate it, you can't tell somebody what it is, you have to be there. It's just phenomenal," Boni said. "There's no better place in racing to win a big race than (Red Mile)."

Always B Miki came home in :26.1 to defeat Shamballa by one-and-a-quarter lengths and erase the previous race record of 1:46.4 shared by four horses – Somebeachsomewhere, He's Watching, Warrawee Needy and Holborn Hanover – and the 1:46.1 time-trial mark set in 1993 by Cambest.

"He felt good the whole way," Miller said. "I really thought maybe the three-quarters was a little too slow, but, he's an incredible horse and does incredible things and I couldn't be happier with him."

Boni – who shares ownership of Always B Miki with Bluewood Stable (William Jones, Jillian Luff, Mitchel Skolnick, Bluestone Farms and Kitty Hawk Stable (Boni and Stuart Hankin)), Roll The Dice Stable (Joseph Hurley) and Christina Takter – said Always B Miki, "had legitimate, quality horses out there on his back and, at the wire, he was pacing away. He fought them off through the stretch, but then when they get deep stretch that's when he always separates himself. He just keeps going."

Afterward, Boni stood beside Always B Miki's stall admiring the equine specimen.

"He looks great, acts great. It's just phenomenal. The job that Jimmy has done, I just can't say enough about the effort," Boni said.

Takter, who was crying a little in the winner's circle, could not say enough about Always B Miki.

"I get very attached to my horses," Takter said. "He's just a wonderful horse. He's the greatest horse I've ever been around in my life, and I've been around the best horses in the world, like Moni Maker and those horses. This horse is my number one horse that I've ever been around."

"He's a big horse, but you're not going to see everything inside. He has probably the best lungs ever, the biggest heart ever and the smartest horse ever. He never pulls. It's mechanical."

All this after having both his left and right hind long (P-1) pasterns surgically repaired with plates and screws by Dr. Patty Hogan in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

"He deserved this," Boni said of the world record. "With what he's been through, and tough luck here and there, he's never really had an opportunity to do this... and he got it today and it was great."

The victory pushed the Indiana-bred son of Always A Virgin out of Artstopper over \$1 million on the year and was his 27th victory in 50 career starts. Always B Miki, who will stand at stud at Diamond Creek Farms in Pennsylvania beginning in 2017, has earned \$2,296,368 lifetime.

"It's a wonderful creature, that one," Takter said, adding that he can only imagine how much faster Always B Miki might have gone on a warmer day.

"It was a great day, but if it would have been Thursday or Friday it would have been 1:45.2. It was so much faster, especially on Thursday. It was an extremely fast track here," Takter said.

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Nigel Sault

Marion Marauder (Scott Zeron) nipped Southwind Frank at the wire to win the Kentucky Futurity and Trotting Triple Crown.

Screams and Tears

When Marion Marauder edged out Southwind Frank (again) to win both the Kentucky Futurity and Trotting Triple Crown Sunday at Red Mile, it set off a range of emotions from the Wellwood and Keeling families and made 27-year-old Scott Zeron the youngest Triple Crown-winning driver in history.

by Dave Briggs

When the total board flashed OFFICIAL confirming Marion Marauder had won the Trotting Triple Crown by a head Sunday afternoon at Red Mile, Mike Keeling looked at his wife Paula Wellwood and their friend trainer Linda Toscano and her staff and the elation hit them all at once in the paddock at the historic Lexington, KY racetrack.

"We just kind of looked at each other and screamed all at once," Keeling said. "That was just the realization that it did happen."

Five hundred miles north in Stratford, ON, Jean Wellwood burst into tears watching the race at home, alone. Then the phone began to ring and the text messages started to pour in. The widow of widely-respected Hall of Fame horseman Bill Wellwood, and the principal owner of Marion Marauder, had stayed home from Kentucky to recover from a bad respiratory virus she picked up after Marion Marauder won the Yonkers Trot a month ago.

Jean wasn't the only one in Marion Marauder's team that was hurting. Her daughter, Paula – who shares Marion Marauder's training duties with Keeling – was injured by the

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Jay Wolf

Marion Marauder is the first horse to win the Trotting Triple Crown since 2006.

trotter at Mohawk on Sept. 17, the night of the \$522,150 Canadian Trotting Classic won by Bar Hopping.

"He pinned her and she had an accordion injury. Her ribs and ligaments were torn. She's been in really bad shape," Jean said.

Nothing like winning the 124th edition of the Kentucky Futurity – and the Triple Crown trophy that went with it due to the colt's wins in the Hambletonian and Yonkers Trot – to help nurse some wounds and lift some spirits lowered by sickness.

The well-timed victory over chief rival Southwind Frank was remarkably similar to Marion Marauder's Aug. 6 Hambletonian triumph at the Meadowlands.

Starting from the rail in the second tier in the field of 12, Marion Marauder was wide for the entire mile. His driver, Scott Zeron, managed to get cover from Bar Hopping while Blenheim trotted to the lead in :28.1. Love Matters was flushed first over heading to the half, carrying Southwind Frank and Bar Hopping on his back through a :56.2 half and a 1:25.1 third-quarter split.

Southwind Frank took command in the stretch, but Bar Hopping, with Marion Marauder alongside, were chasing him in the lane. Marion Marauder got up just inches before the wire to win for his 11th time in 26 starts this year.

"I had to have no game plan going into that race," Zeron said. "I had no clue what was going to happen; earlier there was a 12-horse field and the 11 and 12 got away 11th and 12th. I wasn't too optimistic, but the way it unfolded and Bar Hopping really pushed to get away up close, I just glued my horse to his helmet. We were able to get [Southwind] Frank out and it was a perfect train.

"I just had my eyes on (Southwind Frank) and (Bar Hopping). I didn't want to make a move too quickly because I knew we'd be sprinting really hard down the lane. I was

confident down the lane when I moved him over; probably watching the race, you might not have been as confident, but he dropped his head about two feet and just dug right through the wire. I was very confident he got up, but nobody else was, so thank God he got up. He was amazing."

Keeling and Jean Wellwood had high praise for their driver for navigating a talented field of 12 from the second tier.

"Scott made a ridiculously brilliant move off the gate and got himself backed away and to the outside to give him the opportunity," Keeling said. "Once that happened, my anxiety level went down a little bit. And then it was just a matter of getting some clearance and taking a run at them."


Jean said, "Scott is just so cool. He just knows Marauder so well. He speaks well, great, great guy. We couldn't have had any better driver and it's really his year."

"(Zeron is) young and smart and classy and just fits us," Keeling said. "He's always been composed. He's an old soul, I think. There's no moment that seems to overwhelm him. It was just a comfort level right from the start."

Marion Marauder won each leg of the Triple Crown by the slimmest of margins. He won the Hambletonian by a nose and the other two legs by a head.

"I think that's the mark of a good horse. Cam Fella was notorious for doing that, having a nose for the wire and they know how to win. You can't train that," Keeling said.

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Dave Landry

Devin Keeling and his grandmother Jean Wellwood are the proud owners of Marion Marauder.

Marion Marauder is the ninth horse to win the Trotting Triple Crown and the first since Glidemaster won it 10 years ago. Zeron, 27, became the youngest driver to win a Triple Crown.

"It is unbelievable what this horse can do because he's not the biggest horse in the race... but he just has that grit," said Jean, who shares Marion Marauder's ownership with Paula and Keeling's 19-year-old son, Devin Keeling, a football player for the McMaster University Marauders of Hamilton, ON, who has only had passing interest in horses until now despite the family's long, storied history in the business.

"(Devin) flew into Lexington airport and it happened to be Keeneland opening day around 1 o'clock. He said for 10 minutes he was staring out the window at all of these wonderful farms and he got off the plane and said, 'I love Lexington,'" Mike said, laughing.

But before Devin gets too enamored with the equine high life, his grandmother — who controls the money in the partnership — has a message for him.

"He can stay in university," Jean said, laughing. "But he did mention me in the winner's circle and said that he wished I was there. He's pretty special to me, so maybe grandma can throw him some money."

It is sweet karma that Jean watched the \$431,000 race unfold on her iPad nearly two years to the day that she sat at home and picked out and purchased the son of Muscle Hill out of Spellbound Hanover from the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale for \$37,000 from the Preferred Equine consignment.

"When I looked at that book at home and I said I'm going to buy this horse and called (Paula), I never thought that he would turn out the way he did," Jean said. "I thought he'd be a horse that would do well, but you never know, they come home with a halter on."

Even with Marion Marauder's success this season and a Triple Crown a possibility, the colt's connections hesitated about paying \$47,261 to supplement the trotter to the Kentucky Futurity.

"I was a little apprehensive getting the 11-hole and I put up a bit of money to supplement, not that he hadn't deserved it, but I started with William Wellwood with nothing. We didn't even have furniture," Jean said, laughing. "We only had a TV and a chair in the living room, a bed to sleep in and a table to eat off... so I've always looked at the business aspect of things and I thought, 'Am I crazy or what?' They talked me into it.

"It really is the icing on the cake. The Hambletonian was just my dream. And then to get this on top of it, it's just unbelievable. That's all I can say, it's unbelievable."

The victory increased Marion Marauder's bankroll to nearly \$1.5 million this year and a little more than \$1.75 million lifetime. Mike said the money isn't as important as the accomplishments.

"It's an amazing thing. The horse made history and we got to be a part of it," he said.

"You work hard in this business and you dream about these things, and you don't know if it can ever happen. So it just affirms that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing and we do it the right way and, you know, we're just so fortunate to have this horse come into our lives."

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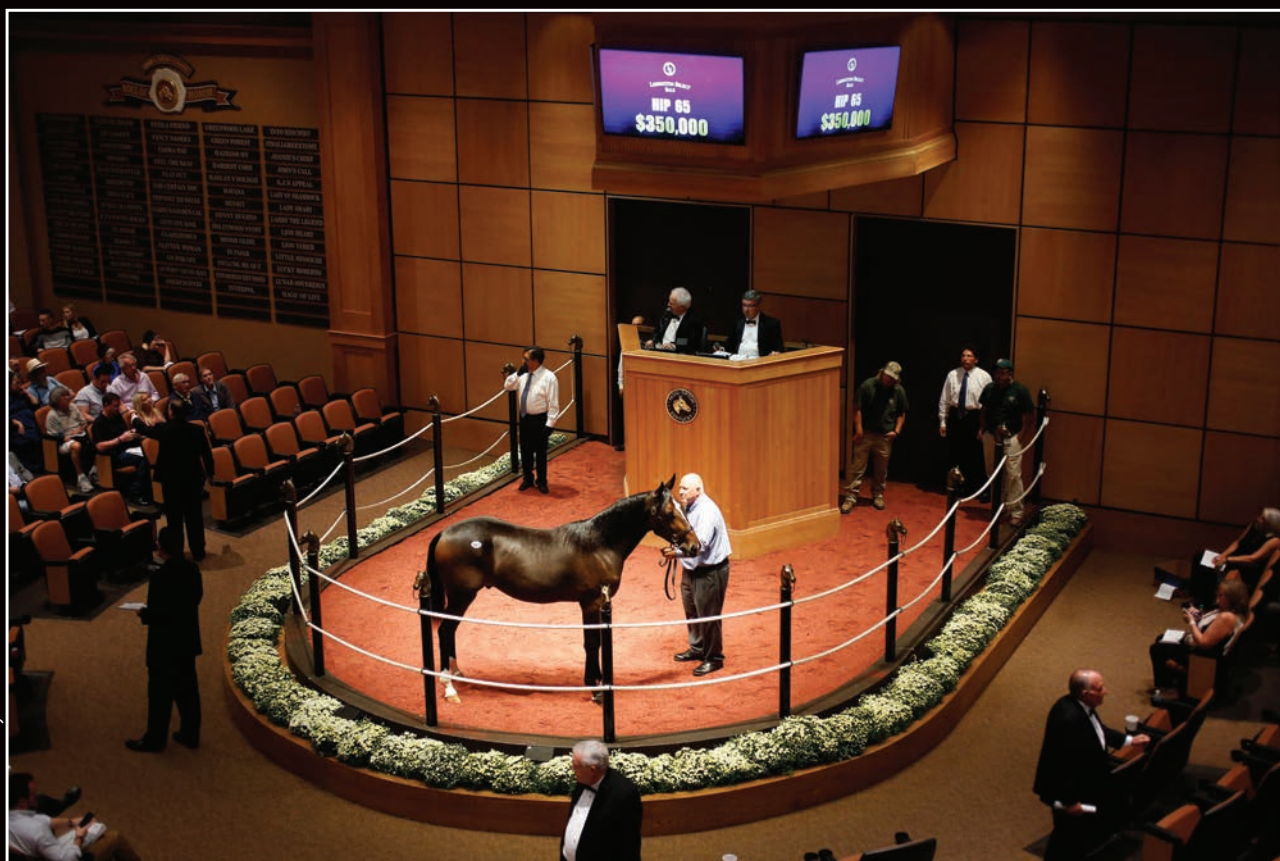


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Nigel Soult

Broadway Donna (David Miller) won the Kentucky Filly Futurity.

Broadway Donna wins Kentucky Filly Futurity

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

Winning her elimination, Broadway Donna returned to the track hours later to claim victory in the 51st edition of the \$312,000 Kentucky Filly Futurity on Sunday (Oct. 9) at Red Mile. Earlier on the card, Broadway Donna trotted a 1:51.1 to win the first of two eliminations for the Filly Futurity, paying \$7.00 to win.

Sitting fourth through a :27 quarter set by Southwind Hope, Broadway Donna moved first-over from fourth to brush to control before the half-mile. She was in front through a :55 half-mile and began kicking away from Southwind Hope, who was chasing in second and Spicedbourbongirl in third. Trotting to three-quarters in 1:23.1, Broadway Donna remained in front by open lengths through the stretch, coasting home while Earn Your Wings came down the center of the track for second and Flowers N Songs for third. Spicedbourbongirl finished fourth and Dream Child was fifth.

“She wasn’t at the top of her game last week,” her trainer Jim Campbell said. “Part of it was probably my fault; I should’ve pulled her hind shoes last week, but she warmed

up so good that I thought she was okay with them on. Dave (Miller) thought the track kind of stuck to her and wore her out more than anything, so I’ll take the blame for last week. I was just watching David and he was just letting her trot along. I was just hoping that she would bounce back and be like her old self, and if she was, the fractions wouldn’t bother me. David didn’t even look like he was asking her; she looked real strong all the way down the lane. I was paying more attention to David than I was the fractions.”

Owned by Vanersol In., Dancing In Thehall is trained by Ake Svanstedt and by Cantab Hall out of the Donerail mare Doin’ The Town. The filly pulled off a 47-1 upset in the second elimination, winning in 1:53.

Womans Will led the field through a :28 first quarter before losing the lead to Side Bet Hanover. Celebrity Eventsy pulled first-over from fifth with Wildflower on her back at the half-mile, timed in :55.4. Dancing In Thehall was trotting at the rail in sixth around the far turn while Side Bet Hanover progressed to three-quarters in front of Celebrity Eventsy, who stalled first-over in 1:24.4.

Side Bet Hanover drifted off the rail through the stretch, leaving room for Dancing In Thehall and driver Yannick Gingras to sweep up the rail while Wildflower, Gin And Lindy,

and Double Exposure tried to advance towards the center of the track. Side Bet Hanover tried to fight off Dancing In Thehall to her inside heading to the line, but Dancing In Thehall edged by. Double Exposure finished third, Gin And Lindy fourth, and Gracie Hanover fifth.

“(We) just tried to stay close to the rail and hope that something opened up,” Gingras said. “She felt really strong around the last turn, so I figured at that point I made the final, but all the way through the stretch she kept picking them off one by one.”

Dancing In Thehall paid \$96.80 to win.

In the second heat, Broadway Donna grabbed command before the half-mile and strolled to a 1:51.2 victory. Sent off the 3-5 favorite, Broadway Donna edged off the cones passing the quarter in :27.3 to take the top from Spicedbourbongirl. She trotted to the half-mile in :55.3 as Side Bet Hanover initiated a first-over bid into the turn, being tracked by Flowers N Songs. Side Bet Hanover matched strides with Spicedbourbongirl heading to three-quarters about two lengths off of Broadway Donna. Timed in 1:23.4, Broadway Donna kicked away in the stretch under wraps while Spicedbourbongirl chased for second and Flowers N Songs kicked off cover for third.

Broadway Donna, by Donato Hanover out of the Broadway Hall mare Broadway Schooner, won her 14th race in 20 starts, earning \$933,494 for owner Fashion Farms LLC. She returned \$3.20 to win.

“It was pretty much an identical trip (to the first heat),” Miller said. “She was just the same in the second heat as she was in the first.”

“(We) couldn’t be more proud of her today,” Campbell said. “She showed what she can really do, and for her to go two heats like she did today was just impressive. She’s an amazing filly. She started off on a good note; she was really good in her first start. And then in her second start she was sick. She bled a little bit in the Hambletonian Oaks, and we put her on Lasix, but it didn’t seem to kick in until today. She went out and did what we were hoping to see today. Mr. Segal will make the final decision on (racing her at four). I’m sure he’s leaning towards it, but as long as everything finishes up good this year, I’m sure he’d be in favor of that. They probably have a spot for her all reserved for whenever that time comes, but hopefully it’s not for a couple years.”



Nigel Soult

Stolen Glimpse (Brian Sears) pulled off the Tattersalls upset.

Stolen Glimpse surges to an upset; Racing Hill hangs on in Tattersalls divisions

by Ray Coto for Red Mile

Stolen Glimpse surged down the center of the track and by Western Fame, battling at the pylons to upset in the first of two divisions for the \$416,000 Tattersalls Pace in 1:49.2 Sunday (Oct. 9) at Red Mile. While Racing Hill took control at the quarter-mile and held command to win the other division of the Tattersalls in 1:49.4.

Check Six took control through a :26.4 opening quarter-mile, soon losing it to Western Fame down the backstretch. Western Fame led through a :54.1 half-mile before being challenged by Dr J Hanover into the far turn. Past three-quarters in 1:22.2, Dr J Hanover took a short lead from Western Fame, who fought back to take the lead midway through the stretch. Ambushed by Lindy Beach from second over, Dr J Hanover, Check Six, and Stolen Glimpse, Western Fame maintained control up until the wire, when Stolen Glimpse got his neck in front on the grandstand side.

Earning \$228,695 for owners Burke Racing Stable, Stable



Nigel Soult

Racing Hill (Brett Miller) held on his Tattersalls test.



45, Jerry & Theresa Silva Stables and Weaver Brusceci, Stolen Glimpse, by Art Major out of the Jate Lobell mare Jated Love, won his third race in 19 starts. Trained by Ron Burke and driven by Brian Sears, he returned \$41.40 to win.

"We played a little game today," Mickey Burke Jr. said, "We pulled his back shoes and the horse seemed to really respond to it, plus Brian (Sears) drove him perfectly."

"I think Brian just drove a perfect race," co-owner Silva said. "I didn't expect him to do as well as he did. But Ronnie (Burke) expected him to be a top horse at the beginning of the year, but then he sort of became an average horse, but today he showed he's much better than an average horse."

Racing Hill triumphed in quite a different fraction as he set fractions of :26.4, :55, and 1:23.2 before being confronted by Big Top Hanover from first-over. Lyons Snyder chased the two battling through the stretch from third while American Passport drifted towards the center of the track attempting to sweep by Racing Hill. Big Top Hanover cut into Racing Hill's lead through the stretch, but managed only to be a very close second.

By Roll With Joe out of the American Ideal mare Chasing Ideals, Racing Hill won his 11th race in 23 starts, amassing \$1,462,876 for owner Tom Hill. Trained by Tony Alagna and driven by Brett Miller, he paid \$3.80 to win.

"This is a tremendous colt, but to be honest, I have to start racing him a different way," Miller said. "I've been racing him very aggressively all year and the colt's just getting tired of doing all the work. I was kind of planning on not leaving today, but he drug me out of there and we ended up on the front. I just have to start taking better care of him. I have to start racing him from off the pace."



Nigel Soult

Darlinonthebeach (David Miller) who her Glen Garnsey division in 1:48.1.

Darlinonthebeach fastest in Glen Garnsey Memorial

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

Darlinonthebeach kicked off her cover at the top of the stretch and sprinted to a 1:48.1 victory to win the second of two divisions of the \$213,500 Glen Garnsey Memorial on Sunday (Oct. 9) at Red Mile.

Getting away fifth as Penpal cleared command in :26.2, Darlinonthebeach flushed Rock Me Baby first over at the half-mile, timed in :55. Blue Moon Stride, having brushed to the top after yielding to Penpal at the quarter-mile, was challenged by Rock Me Baby at three-quarters in 1:22.1. Darlinonthebeach tipped off her cover at the head of the stretch and drew away from the field on her way to the wire. Kiss Me Onthebeach closed down the center of the track to take second, while Penpal slid up the pylons for third.

A three-year-old filly by Somebeachsomewhere out of the Bettor's Delight mare Darlin's Delight, Darlinonthebeach won her 12th race in 28 starts, amassing \$830,823 for owner White Birch Farms. Trained by Nancy Johansson and driven by David Miller, she paid \$3.00.

"It worked out just the way I wanted it to there," Miller said. "We had a bit of a pace on the lead and she felt comfortable the whole way; felt like I had a lot of horse. She's an all-around professional; she's pretty handy and will do whatever you want to do. She was a bit of a bully earlier in the year and we've worked with her. She has learned how to race and she's a big strong horse who can carry her speed really good. I couldn't be happier for Marcus and Nancy and all the connections with her. I've always been a big fan of her; I've been high on her all season. It started out a little rough, but I kept telling them it was going to get better."

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Nigel Soult

Brett Miller drove Pure Country to a 1:48.2 win in the other Garnsey division.

Sent off the 1-2 favorite, Pure Country stalled in her first-over bid around the far turn before hitting her best stride and storming by pacesetter Call Me Queen Be to win the other division of the Glen Garnsey in 1:48.2.

Leading through splits of :27.1, :55, and 1:21.4, Call Me Queen Be held an uncontested lead. Pure Country was first-over but about two lengths off the lead at the top of the stretch, chasing Call Me Queen Be along with pocket-sitter Lakeisha Hall and Lindwood Beachgirl behind her. Pure Country drifted towards the center of the track as she edged past Call Me Queen Be to win.

Winning her 18th race in 28 starts, Pure Country, a 3-year-old filly by Somebeachsomewhere out of the Western Hanover mare Western Montana, has earned \$1,649,968 for owner Diamond Creek Racing. She's trained by Jimmy Takter, was driven by Brett Miller, and paid \$3.00 to win.

"She's a pure champion," Takter said. "It's not easy to stay at the highest (tier) throughout the year. She hasn't been undefeated, but at the same token, this has been a great, great group of 3-year-old fillies this year."

"She has been really good to us and we take it one race at a time," Adam Bowden of Diamond Creek Racing said. "We'll make a decision (on her career) when the season's over."



Nigel Soult

Flanagan Memory (Brian Sears) won the Allerage open trot in 1:51.2.

Flanagan Memory tops older trotters in Allerage at Red Mile

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

Flanagan Memory fanned off cover and trotted down the center of the track to take the \$101,000 Allerage Farms Open Trot in 1:51.2 on Sunday (Oct. 9) at Red Mile.

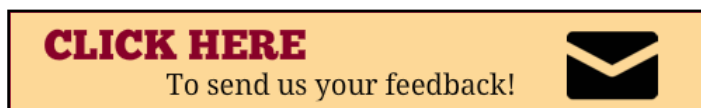
JL Cruze was sent to the lead, clearing early race-leader Musical Rhythm through a :27.2 opening quarter. After a :55 half, JL Cruze braced for the challenge of Obrigado into the far turn. They were stride for stride after a 1:24.1 third-quarter before JL Cruze reemerged to the lead.

Crazy Wow, tracking Obrigado from second over, edged three wide and trotted by JL Cruze to take the lead before Flanagan Memory and Brian Sears rushed down the course to grab command. Crazy Wow took second, while JL Cruze held third.

A six-year-old horse by Kadabra out of the Yankee Glide mare Classy Stacy, Flanagan Memory won his 18th race in 65 career tries, compiling \$1,163,070 for owners Liette Flanagan and trainer Rene Dion. He paid \$5.00 to win.

"I was real happy to be third over," winning driver Brian Sears said. "I was just hoping Mark (MacDonald on Obrigado) went out a little bit and didn't wait too long for Ake (Svanstedt on Centurion ATM) to make a decision. This horse loves to finish up in the last quarter, so we were in a good position."

"He has gotten better and better through the years. I was fortunate to drive him a year ago and win the (John) Cashman at the Meadowlands. He was a little disappointing in Canada a couple of weeks ago (in the Maple Leaf Trot), but I'm glad we're going in on a positive note; we have the International Trot coming up."



Prairie Sweetheart remains unbeaten with Allerage triumph

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

Circling by Frost Damage Blues and Lady Shadow as they battled around the far turn, Prairie Sweetheart (Matt Kakaley) advanced to the front and defeated her older rivals to win the \$112,500 Allerage Farms filly and mare pace in 1:49.1 on Sunday at Red Mile.

Lady Shadow set the pace, going fractions of :26.4 and :54.4 before receiving pressure from Frost Damage Blues, pulling first over from fourth, into the far turn. The two matched strides through a 1:22.2 third-quarter before Frost Damage Blues took the top.

Lady Shadow retreated at the pylons while Prairie Sweetheart moved three wide, powering by Frost Damage Blues at the eighth pole. Prairie Sweetheart finished in front of Bedroomconfessions and Venus Delight, who stormed down the center of the track to finish second and third, respectively.

Prairie Sweetheart, a three-year-old filly by Royal Millennium out of the Masterman mare Taylors Lady, remained undefeated in 12 starts with her lifetime-best win. She has earned \$155,024 for owner Let It Ride Stables Inc. and trainer Ross Croghan. Driven by Matt Kakaley, she paid \$14.80 to win.

"We recently purchased her," Ross Croghan said. "I got a call from a friend of mine up at Pocono, and he said 'I just saw a filly that looked fantastic.' I watched the replay, and I had to agree with him, so I watched her again the next week, and the next week, and I just thought this filly has something special.

"We actually purchased her the day before I was going to leave for the (Little Brown) Jug. I was going to be away for a month and I didn't want to be away from her for that amount of time, so I brought her with me.

"We gave her a qualifier here last week just to see how she was and Matty (Kakaley) said she was super and that there were two seconds up her sleeve if he ever wanted to use it. I spoke to the owners, and they're both here enjoying the week in Lexington, so they opted to pop up with the supplement and watch the race, and it worked out in our favor."

Growing Pains

Despite repeated attempts to attract the very best trotters from around the world, this year's International Trot at Yonkers is lacking star power.

by Tom Pedulla

When Yonkers Raceway officials decided to revive the International Trot in 2015 after a 20-year absence, they intended to bring together a star-studded field worthy of the \$1 million purse they offered. But as they look to the second edition of the once-prestigious race since it returned, clearly much work must be done to eventually achieve that goal.

The 10-horse field assembled for next Saturday's mile-and-a-quarter contest hardly represents a "Who's Who" of the trotting world. Conspicuous in their absence are Elitlopp winner Nuncio of Sweden and French stars Bold Eagle and Timoko. Bold Eagle took the Prix d'Amerique while Timoko was pointed in a different direction despite a valiant runner-up finish to Norway's Papagayo E. last year.

"It's very difficult to get horses out of Europe," said Steve Starr, the racing secretary at Yonkers. "It's not as easy as people think it is."

For whatever reason, money is not talking as loudly as many might have thought it would. With Papagayo E. unable to defend his title due to an injured suspensory ligament, fourth-place finisher Oasis Bi of Italy and seventh-place On Track Piraten of Sweden are the only returning starters. Another setback occurred when Yonkers, which has developed a strong relationship with France as a simulcasting partner, was unable to recruit any horse from that market.

"We tried to get at least half a dozen without success," Starr said. He worked closely with Klaus Koch, a multi-lingual agent currently based in Germany. Koch has an array of connections abroad.

Starr is convinced France will be well-represented in years to come.

"This was just a fluke that we weren't able to get a French horse," he said. "I don't think it's anything we have to worry about in the future."

Seven countries will be featured among the 10 starters. The United States has the largest contingent, comprised of Hannelore Hanover, the only mare that will take on the boys in the mile-and-a-quarter contest, the highly-regarded Resolve, and Obrigado, a late addition after Ringostarr Treb of Italy was withdrawn.



Sweden will have two starters go to the gate, the aforementioned On Track Piraten and Explosive de Vie. Flanagan Memory of Canada, Tano Bork of Denmark, Jonesy of Finland, Oasis Bi of Italy and B.B.S. Sugarlight of Norway complete the field. Italians may not be all that passionate about Oasis Bi, an accomplished eight-year-old that boasts \$1,544,094 in earnings. While he was bred in Italy, he was sold to Swedish connections as a yearling.

Hannelore Hanover will likely provide the most compelling storyline for U.S. fans as she attempts to defeat males in her first race at a half-mile track. An Indiana-bred that was purchased for \$32,000, she is winding down a brilliant four-year-old season in which she has swept 14 of 16 starts with a pair of second-place finishes. She has failed to crack the top three just twice in 38 career starts while earning \$1,201,685.

Mares have done remarkably well in the 37-year history of the International, first held at Roosevelt Raceway in 1959. Eight mares have combined for 11 victories.

Resolve, though, appears to be the strongest U.S. contender. He tops the field with \$1,610,638 in earnings. The five-year-old son of Muscle Hill owns a high-profile victory over Hannelore Hanover, having defeated her in the Maple Leaf Trot at Mohawk.

When Fredrik Solberg, the trainer of B.B.S. Sugarlight, was asked the contender he fears most, he immediately replied, "Resolve. He has a very, very good trainer and he is a good horse." Ake Svanstedt trains Resolve and will drive him.

Solberg said of the competition, "It may be easier than last year, but there are very good horses.

Starting position will be very important." B.B.S. Sugarlight showed his ability when he defeated Papagayo E. in April. A seven-year-old gelding, he has won 22 of 81 starts with 15 second-places finishes while banking \$913,689.

Oasis Bi, third behind Bold Eagle and Timoko in the Prix d'Amerique, also should be formidable. Stefan Pettersson said he knew he wanted to take another crack at the International as soon as last year's experience was over.

"We had a fantastic time," he said of the time he spent in New York City. "We saw things we were never going to see."

It helps, too, that Oasis Bi possesses a great mind to go with his trotting ability.

"I have a horse who can do anything," Pettersson said. "He's not nervous."

He said he was able to resume training with Oasis Bi one

week after they returned home from last year's International. He also noted, however, that the heavy travel can take a toll on certain horses, making trainers reluctant to ship in for the International.

"Some of them are afraid to take their horses on this trip," Pettersson said.

Perhaps for that reason, some of the foreign imports this year lack great credentials for a race that once attracted the best of the best. Jonesy has a relatively modest 10 victories in 45 starts. Explosive de Vie is eight-for-49. Tano Bork is a six-year-old gelding with \$219,518 in career earnings.

Then again, the revival of the International remains in its early stages.

"There is no way to go but up," Starr said. "I think that will happen. It may take five to seven years, but it's definitely going to reach up to the skies."

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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 May through October, publishing 3 days per week, and of course will add editions throughout the year as major news breaks.

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RACE RESULTS



THE RED MILE report

Sunday's Results:

2, Lex, \$112,500, P, ALLERAGE FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES FILLIES & MARES OPEN, 26.4, 54.4, 1:22.2, 1:49.1, FT

1-Prairie Sweetheart (f, 3, Royel Millennium--Taylors Lady, by Masterman) O-Let It Ride Stables Inc. B-Laurie Lee Poulin. T-Ross Croghan. D-Matt Kakaley, \$56,250, Lifetime Record: 12-12-0-0, \$155,024

2-Bedrooconfessions (m, 4, American Ideal--Turnoffthelights, by Jenna's Beach Boy) O-Riverview Racing LLC & Alagna Racing LLC. B-Riverview Farms & Tony P Alagna & Minisink Farms LLC. T-Tony Alagna. D-Scott Zeron, \$28,125

3-Venus Delight (m, 6, Bettor's Delight--Venus Killeen, by Run The Table), \$13,000 2011 LEX-SEL O-Bamond Racing LLC. B-Estate Of George F Hempt Trust. T-Jeffrey Bamond Jr.. D-Tim Tetrick, \$13,500 Calls: 1, 1, 1T, H, 1Q - Finish Order: Divine Caroline, Skippin By, Frost Damage Blues, Show Runner, Lady Shadow

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

3, Lex, \$105,500, P, TATTERSALLS THREE YEAR OLD FILLIES, 27.1, 55.0, 1:21.4, 1:48.2, FT

1-Pure Country (f, 3, Somebeachsomewhere--Western Montana, by Western Hanover) O-Diamond Creek Racing. B-Diamond Creek Farm LLC. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Brett Miller, \$52,750, Lifetime Record: 28-18-4-3, \$1,649,698



2-Call Me Queen Be (f, 3, Somebeachsomewhere--Preppy Party Girl, by Western Terror) O-Let It Ride Stables Inc & Mr Dana L Parham. B-John A Carver. T-Ross Croghan. D-Scott Zeron, \$26,375

3-Lakeisha Hall (f, 3, Third Straight--Lantana Hall, by Art Major) O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC & Jack B Piatt II. B-Walnut Hall Limited. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$12,660 Calls: 3H, 3, 2, 1, 1 - Finish Order: Right Stuff, Lindwood Beachgirl, Skinny Dipper, Ghost Runner

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HARNESS RACING
UPDATE

4, Lex, \$101,000, T, ALLERAGE FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OPEN, 27.2, 55.4, 1:24.1, 1:51.2, FT

1-Flanagan Memory (h, 6, Kadabra--Classy Stacy, by Yankee Glide) O-Liette Flanagan, CA & Rene Dion, CA. B-Michel Flanagan, CA. T-Rene Dion. D-Brian Sears, \$50,500, Lifetime Record: 65-18-5-10, \$1,163,070

2-Crazy Wow (h, 4, Crazyed--No Pan No Gain, by Mr Vic), \$10,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Our Horse Cents Stables & Jt45 & J&T Silva Stables, LLC & Deo Volente Farms LLC. B-Peter Pan Stables Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$25,250

3-Jl Cruze (g, 5, Crazyed--Topcat Hall, by Conway Hall), \$30,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-Wm Kenneth Wood & William J Dittmar Jr & Stephen J laquinta. B-Joanne M Morrison, CA & Glengate Farms, CA. T-Eric Ell. D-John Campbell, \$12,120

Calls: 6H, 4Q, 2H, Q, 1Q - Finish Order: Crescent Fashion, Il Sogno Dream, Obrigado, Centurion Atm, Musical Rhythm

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5, Lex, \$108,000, P, TATTERSALLS THREE YEAR OLD FILLIES, 26.2, 54.0, 1:22.1, 1:48.1, FT

1-Darlinonthebeach (f, 3, Somebeachsomewhere--Darlin's Delight, by Bettor's Delight) O-White Birch Farm. B-White Birch Farm. T-Nancy Johansson. D-David Miller, \$54,000, Lifetime Record: 28-12-8-4, \$830,823



2-Kiss Me Onthebeach (f, 3, Somebeachsomewhere--One Last Kiss, by Artsplace), \$85,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Bella Racing, LTD. B-Steve Jones. T-Chris Ryder. D-Marcus Miller, \$27,000

3-Penpal (f, 3, American Ideal--Copywriter, by Artsplace), \$65,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Patrick D Lachance & M & M Harness Racing LLC. B-Brittany Farms. T-Pat Lachance. D-Pat Lachance, \$12,960 Calls: 4, 4, 1, 1, 1H - Finish Order: Blue Moon Stride, Shezarealdeal, Dime A Dance, Rock Me Baby, Soft Idea

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



RACE RESULTS

6, Lex, \$208,000, P, AMERICAN IDEAL THREE YEAR OLD OPEN, 26.4, 54.1, 1:22.2, 1:49.2, FT

1-Stolen Glimpse (c, 3, Art Major--Jated Love, by Jate Lobell), \$100,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Stable 45 & J&T Silva Stables, LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC. B-Fair Winds Farm Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Brian Sears, \$104,000, Lifetime Record: 19-3-6-2, \$228,695

2-Western Fame (c, 3, Western Ideal--Shyaway, by Artiscap) O-Brittany Farms. B-Brittany Farms. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Mark Macdonald, \$52,000

3-Dr J Hanover (g, 3, Somebeachsomewhere--So Perfect, by Western Ideal), \$300,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Brittany Farms & Marvin Katz, CA & John Cancelliere & Dr J Partners. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Tony Alagna. D-Scott Zeron, \$24,960

Calls: 4T, 5, 2, 1, NK - Finish Order: Lindy Beach, Jj Flynn, Check Six, Manhattan Beach, Voracity, Spider Man Hanover

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

8, Lex, \$208,000, P, AMERICAN IDEAL THREE YEAR OLD OPEN, 27.1, 55.0, 1:23.2, 1:49.4, FT

1-Racing Hill (c, 3, Roll With Joe--Chasing Ideals, by American Ideal), \$22,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Tom Hill, UK. B-Tom Hill, UK. T-Tony Alagna. D-Brett Miller, \$104,000, Lifetime Record: 23-11-5-4, \$1,462,876

2-Big Top Hanover (c, 3, Western Ideal--Blind Ambition, by Art Major), \$67,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Jt45 & Weaver Brussemi LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Corey Callahan, \$52,000

3-Lyons Snyder (c, 3, Well Said--Armbro Cachet, by Camluck), \$130,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Jeffrey S Snyder & Geoffrey Lyons Mound, CA. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Yannick Gingras, \$24,960
Calls: 1, 1, Q, 1, HD - Finish Order: American Passport, Fine Diamond, Jk Will Power, Talk Show, Manny, Redneck Rally

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

9, Lex, \$138,000, P, ALLERAGE FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OPEN, 26.1, 52.2, 1:19.4, 1:46.0, FT

1-Always B Miki (h, 5, Always A Virgin--Artstopper, by Artsplace) O-Bluewood Stable & Roll The Dice Stable & Christina Takter. B-Roll The Dice Stable. T-Jimmy Takter. D-David Miller, \$69,000, Lifetime Record: 50-27-13-3, \$2,296,368

2-Shamballa (g, 6, Somebeachsomewhere--Bolero Takara, by Life Sign) O-Rick Zeron Stables, CA & Tao Racing LLC & Howard A Taylor & Cool Cat Racing, Inc. B-Gestionspauldeslauriers Inc, CA. T-Rick Zeron. D-Scott Zeron, \$34,500

3-All Bets Off (h, 5, Bettor's Delight--Armbro Penelope, by Dexter Nukes), \$7,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC & Frank D Baldachino & The Panhellenic Stb Corp. B-Robert A & Greg S Tucker. T-Ron Burke. D-Matt Kakaley, \$16,560
Calls: 2, 1, 1, 1, 1Q - Finish Order: Split The House, Dealt A Winner

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

10, Lex, \$46,800, T, THREE YEAR OLD FILLIES TOP 5 FINISHERS RETURN FOR RACE 14, 27.0, 55.0, 1:23.1, 1:51.1, FT

1-Broadway Donna (f, 3, Donato Hanover--Broadway Schooner, by Broadway Hall) O-Fashion Farms LLC. B-Fashion Farms LLC. T-Jim Campbell. D-David Miller, \$23,400, Lifetime Record: 20-14-2-1, \$933,494

2-Earn Your Wings (f, 3, Credit Winner--Southwind Serena, by Varenne), \$260,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Srf Stable. B-Steve H Stewart & Black Creek Farm & Andrea Lea Racingstables Inc, CA. T-Anette Lorentzon. D-Scott Zeron, \$11,700

3-Flowers N Songs (f, 3, Deweycheatumnhowe--Pleasure's Song, by Windsong's Legacy) O-Robert J Key. B-Robert J Key. T-Paul Reid. D-Douglas Mcnair, \$5,616

Calls: 3, 1, 3H, 5, 4Q - Finish Order: Spicedbourbongirl, Dream Child, Southwind Hope, Windowshopper, Unica Steed, Ginny Weasley

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

11, Lex, \$46,800, T, THREE YEAR OLD FILLIES TOP 5 FINISHERS RETURN FOR RACE 14, 28.0, 55.4, 1:24.4, 1:53.0, FT

1-Dancing In Thehall (f, 3, Cantab Hall--Doin' The Town, by Donerail), \$37,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Vanersol Inc.. B-Winbak Farm. T-Ake Svanstedt. D-Yannick Gingras, \$23,400, Lifetime Record: 21-3-5-3, \$131,043



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2-Side Bet Hanover (f, 3, Donato Hanover--Sea Level Hanover, by Muscles Yankee), \$55,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Srf Stable. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Jonas Czernyson. D-Corey Callahan, \$11,700

3-Double Exposure (f, 3, Donato Hanover--Kd Girl, by Self Possessed), \$50,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Brittany Farms & Melvin Hartman, CA. B-J&T Silva Stables, LLC. T-Tony Alagna. D-Scott Zeron, \$5,616

Calls: 3, 3, 4, 3T, NK - Finish Order: Gin And Lindy, Gracie Hanover, Wildflower, Miss Tezsla, Womans Will, Celebrity Eventsy

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RACE RESULTS

12, Lex, \$431,000, T, THREE YEAR OLD OPEN, 28.1, 56.2, 1:25.1, 1:52.3, FT

1-Marion Marauder (c, 3, Muscle Hill--Spellbound Hanover, by Donerail), \$37,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Marion J Wellwood, CA & Devin W Keeling, CA. B-William G Mulligan. T-Paula Wellwood. D-Scott Zeron, \$215,500, Lifetime Record: 26-11-7-3, \$1,755,268

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2-Southwind Frank (c, 3, Muscle Hill--Flawless Lindy, by Cantab Hall), \$100,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Southwind Frank Partners.

B-Southwind Farm. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$107,750

3-Bar Hopping (c, 3, Muscle Hill--Cocktail Hour, by Credit Winner), \$190,000 2014 SHS-HBG O-Christina Takter & Hatfield Stables & Marvin Katz, CA & Al J Libfeld, CA. B-Douglass B Hutchins. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Tim Tetrack, \$51,720

Calls: 4T, 6, 3Q, 2, HD - Finish Order: Waitlifter K, Love Matters, Winter Harbor, Milligan's School, Lagerfeld, Southern Cross, Blenheim, Sutton, Mavens Way

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

14, Lex, \$218,400, T, THREE YEAR OLD FILLIES TOP 5 FINISHERS FROM RACES 10 & 11, 27.3, 55.3, 1:23.4, 1:51.2, FT

1-Broadway Donna (f, 3, Donato Hanover--Broadway Schooner, by Broadway Hall) O-Fashion Farms LLC. B-Fashion Farms LLC. T-Jim Campbell. D-David Miller, \$109,200, Lifetime Record: 20-14-2-1, \$933,494

2-Spicedbourbongirl (f, 3, Cantab Hall--All In The Muscles, by Muscles Yankee), \$77,000 2014 LEX-SEL O-Jeff Gregory Inc & Jesmeral Stable. B-Mark M Moger & Andy Miller Stable Inc & Albert C Delia Jr. T-Jeff Gregory. D-Jeff Gregory, \$54,600

3-Flowers N Songs (f, 3, Deweycheatumnhowe--Pleasure's Song, by Windsong's Legacy) O-Robert J Key. B-Robert J Key. T-Paul Reid. D-Douglas Mcnair, \$26,208

Calls: 2H, 1, 1, 2, 2T - Finish Order: Gin And Lindy, Earn Your Wings, Dancing In Thehall, Side Bet Hanover, Double Exposure, Gracie Hanover, Dream Child

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