



Sunday, December 8, 2013

The Battle for Pacer of the Year...The Captain, or Foiled Again?

The voting for pacer of the year is likely to be very close, and between two worthy candidates, Captaintreacherous and Foiled Again. Who should win? Our Dean Towers and Garnet Barnsdale take opposing viewpoints.

Foiled, Again

by Garnet Barnsdale

Only a few weeks ago the Dan Patch award for Pacer of the Year for 2013 seemed past the wire and back in the paddock courtesy of at the time a near flawless season for Captaintreacherous. Thanks to a wicked surge at the end of the season by the great aged pacer Foiled Again and a stretch fade by The Captain though, the award isn't going to make it back to The Captain's barn.



Foiled Again in the TVG Pace

Lisa Photo

The 2013 Pacer of the Year is the remarkable 9 year old pacing gelding Foiled Again, and here's why: Foiled Again closed out 2013

with a resounding bang, putting together a string of races that became instant classics the moment he crossed the wire, starting with a remarkable effort plowing through the wet red clay in the Breeders Crown Aged Pace final at Pocono Downs on October 19th. With speed typically holding up most of the night despite the rainy conditions, Foiled Again appeared in a tough spot shortly after the start as noted gate blasters Golden Receiver and Bolt The Duer headed for the front immediately with multiple world-record holder Pet Rock floating up on the outside as they hit the quarter in a sharp 25.3. Foiled Again had gotten away 5th from the 2-hole and regular pilot Yannick Gingras knew the way the track was playing that trying to trip his Dragon Again gelding out from midpack wouldn't be the wisest choice. So drive on he did, right to the top in a wicked 53.4 - fastest half of the night and in doing so gave perfect cover to Pet Rock, his main rival. After fighting off several challengers and tripping the teletimer in 121.4 for 3/4, Foiled Again and Gingras were going to have to face a fresh Pet Rock up the Pocono passing lane in the stretch.

When I think of Foiled Again's disdainful drive down the Pocono stretch to Breeders Crown glory I am reminded of a snippet from the movie "Miracle" in which Herb Brooks tells the U.S. Olympic hockey team "Not.Tonight." prior to the pivotal matchup vs. the mighty Soviets.

(Continued on page 2)

Captaintreacherous is a Worthy Pacer of the Year

by Dean Towers

Last Saturday night all eyes were on the Meadowlands racetrack. Bee a Magician - the slim leader in the Hambletonian Poll over Captaintreacherous - was taking to the track in the Nadia Lobell. Captaintreacherous was the 7-2 shot in the

TVG Free For All, hoping to become the first three year old since Niatross to win a major stakes race



against older foes. Horse of the Year would be decided.

A funny thing happened, though. The Captain - with a good chance to be horse of the year - is now suddenly relegated to a battle for "Pacer of the Year". Something smells rotten in Denmark. I'm not buying it.

(Continued on page 3)

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TROTTERS OWNER'S CLUB in the new Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment grandstand will be open during every live racing night as well as Kentucky Derby Day. Those who own a membership to Trotters will always have first priority for seating. In the event that space is available, New Jersey licensed owners, trainers and drivers can reserve a spot for any racing night other than the blackout dates listed below:

Saturday, November 30, 2013
TVG FFA Championships/Fall Final Four

Saturday, May 3, 2014
Kentucky Derby Day

Saturday, July 12, 2014
Meadowlands Pace Night

Saturday, July 26, 2014
Hambletonian Oaks Elimination Night

Saturday, August 2, 2014
Hambletonian Day

These "blackout dates" are members-only and there will be no charge for food for members on these dates.

On all other racing nights, when space is available, a New Jersey licensed owner, trainer or driver can reserve a spot at Trotters, including up to three guests. The price structure per-person for non-members in Trotters is as follows for the buffet:

Thursday Night - \$19.95

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Saturday Night - \$39.95

Those that are members of Trotters receive a \$5 discount on all nights for all in their party, up to three guests. In addition, all Trotters customers will be given a free program upon arrival. Owners that are spending their evening in Trotters and have purchased a buffet, when their horse wins, will be offered a free buffet for two in Trotters for their next visit.

"I am hopeful that providing our owners with an opportunity to spend their evening in a venue like Trotters will give them an incentive to come and watch their horse race," said Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural. "Trotters provides the perfect atmosphere for owners to enjoy watching their horse race with family members and friends."



Non-members are encouraged to see the hostess of Trotters to inquire about availability while members can contact Marianne Rotella at 201.842.5059 to reserve their priority seating. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are preferred.

- Foiled Again continued -

Despite having provided his main rival with a perfect trip, Foiled Again was not to be denied. That's the stuff great and deserving champions are made of. "Not tonight" indeed.

After twice finishing second to Pet Rock at Hoosier Park in the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby and at Balmoral in the American National off typically tough trips, Foiled Again shipped to The New Meadowlands for a clash of the titans in the highly-anticipated initial edition of the \$512,000 TVG Free For All Pace. Not only would Foiled Again meet his arch-rival Pet Rock along with numerous other world record holders like Warawee Needy, Bolt The Duer as well as the iron-tough veteran Golden Receiver, he would also be facing the sport's glamour boy, 3YO pacing sensation Captaintreacherous winner of The North America Cup, Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace, Hempt, Tatersalls and winner of 13 of 15 starts and close more than \$2 million.



Ron Burke has made all the right moves with Foiled Again

The Captain's connections had maintained all year that racing their 3YO champ vs. his elders in this year-end event was one of their main goals and he appeared primed to challenge the elder statesman having been freshened since his 149.0 Am-Nat win and brought into

the TVG with an ultra-sharp 149.3 qualifier win over the new Big M oval. Not only was Foiled Again facing this fresh youngster, but points leader Pet Rock had also taken a bit of a breather and accepted a bye into the final. He too was a fresh and dangerous challenger.

Foiled Again, however would be no easy mark and may have held the upper hand having raced over the new surface in the TVG elim the week before winning in 149.3. Bettors appeared to favor the fresh challengers though as Pet Rock and Captaintreacherous took all of the early action and the bulk of the wagering support until late when Foiled again narrowly closed as 2nd-choice to Pet Rock who was seemingly favored by not only the public, but also most public handicappers. Apparently Foiled again doesn't read (I'm not going to type "can't" because at this point I wouldn't put it past him!) the experts pre-race picks. If the Breeders Crown was the "Not. Tonight" race, then this mile dash seemed like an instant replay- only 42 days later. Once again Gingras moved Foiled Again to the top going to the half in a testy 53.1 on a brisk night where he took over command from perennial front-ender Golden Receiver, himself a noted cold-weather specialist. Soon however, Foiled would face a stern challenge from the fresh Pet Rock who was also towing The Captain into a perfect second-over spot as they hit $\frac{3}{4}$ in 122.0. As they peeled off the home turn and The Captain launched his expected bid, Foiled Again began to inch away from Pet Rock and brace for the challenge the entire crowd both live and watching via

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simulcast had expected - except The Captain began to spin his wheels despite benefitting from what appeared to be a golden trip. There would be one last challenge to fend off as the perfectly-pocketed Golden Receiver was sliding up the pylons and cutting into the deficit quickly.

The venerable Receiver could come no closer than a neck, however as Gingras need only wave the whip nearing the wire, finally thrusting his right arm triumphantly to the sky just before he and the great gelding reached the wire. It was another tremendous performance that belied Foiled Again's age and any inherent wear and tear that 198 tough miles against the sport's best competitors may have caused.

Owner/Trainer Ron Burke has become SO accustomed to watching Foiled Again gut out wins that he said he knew the race was in the bag even as Golden Receiver appeared to be gaining. "Halfway down the lane I quit watching him because I knew he had it won," Burke said. "I started looking for my other horses in the race. He's not going to let a horse go by in the last 100 yards. He's just a great horse."

With this Big M tour-de-force he not only finished his season off with an exclamation mark by demolishing the sophomore darling of the sport who faded to finish 6th, he also exterminated perhaps the only "ghost in his closet" once and for all - the seemingly widely-held opinion that he had a dislike for The Meadowlands mile oval and was much more effective on smaller tracks due to his "handy" racing style. There was a bottom line to this race: Foiled Again served up his opponents a 53.1 first half and dared them to come and get him, yet despite a much slower second frame of 56.1 they were not up to the task. The warrior was at his absolute best when it counted most.

Following the TVG win, Foiled Again blew up social media like never seen before following a harness race. Here is a sampling of tweets that appeared on Twitter that heaped praise on the champ:

"Foiled Again is the greatest horse ever to look through a bridle! Insane!"

- *trainer Casie Coleman.*

"Foiled Again is all heart in TVG Pace Final victory"

- *DRF Harness*

"Most amazing about Foiled Again - he didn't reach \$1 Million until his 90th start in October of his 5YO season. Now at \$6,030,968. Amazing."

- *Meadowlands Director of Racing Darin Zocali*

"FOILED AGAIN ties GOLDEN RECEIVER on the sub-1:50 list. Both have 20 sub-1:50 victories. Speed and toughness personified."

- *WEG Track Announcer Ken Middleton*

In 2013, Foiled Again not only made the second highest number of starts of his career - 29 - he also topped \$1 million in earnings for the 3rd consecutive year and the \$1.4 million he carved out the hard way by knocking heads with the

sport's fastest horse also made him harness racing's first \$6 million man. If those statistics don't hit you over the head like a cast iron frying pan slung by your angry wife, try this one out for size: At NINE years old Foiled Again not only took a new life's mark of 148.0 (in a Ben Franklin elimination at Pocono), he also paced four miles under 148.0 including an excellent third in Warawee Needy's all-time world record equalling 146.4 mile at The Meadowlands in July AND he paced 17 sub-150.0 miles. He boasts a remarkable race record of 76-49-27 from 198 starts and 6,039,210 in earnings - staggering numbers for a horse that has done it the hard way, earning most of it in the aged ranks. Have I mentioned that he's NINE years old?

There you have it, folks. I give you the sport's only \$6 million man and inaugural victor of the TVG Free For All Pace, Foiled Again as 2013 USTA Pacer of the Year. You can use whatever tired old cliché you like: "Warrior", "The Energizer Bunny", "A Fine Wine". Fact is, any and all apply to this amazing competitor and when it counted most he dug deep and brought his A+ game to the racetrack. That's why this is his award. It's a no-brainer.

By the way...he's a nine-year old - have I mentioned that yet?

- **Captaintreacherous continued** -

I realize we all get a little giddy when we see an old warhorse like Foiled Again win a big race that every one of us just watched. This is a game of "what have you done for me lately", and it probably explains why when a site like Standardbred Canada runs a "who is the greatest trotter of all time" poll after San Pail is voted Horse of the Year, he wins in a landslide, beating Varenne, Nevele Pride, Mack Lobell, and Greyhound. It's just the way it is.



Captaintreacherous has had a big year...but big enough to be named Pacer of the Year?

But this is "Pacer of the Year" not "Pacer of the Minute". With apologies to one of my favorite horses of all time (I ranked him the third best harness horse of the century a few weeks ago in Harness Racing Update, after all), this vote should go to the Captain. Captaintreacherous began the year with many observers wondering if he had the chops to handle highly ranked horses. He had lost the Breeders Crown Final as a two year old, and speculation that the Somebeachsomewheres were colts and fillies who were precocious at two, but who may not excel at three was heard in some quarters. He was no slam dunk.

That was put to rest quickly.

He won the \$1M North America Cup handily. That's a "grade one" and probably the most sought-after three-year-old race in modern harness racing. He didn't take a

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breather like so many do after that race. He took the "grade one" Hempt, from no man's land. His ("grade one") Meadowlands Pace victory was a training mile. By July 13th, he had built up a three year old resume that many colts in harness racing history could not build in a year.

He then added the Cane, Tattersalls, Blue Grass and Breeders Crown, as well as other events. It was a "take that" year.

I know what you may be saying. "Towers, he didn't race much. Those wins had to be won by someone". I'll give you the group might've not been the best, but you tell me, if things were so horrible, why was his only "grade one" loss the Battle of the Brandywine, where it took a World Record to beat him? Was his 147.1 easy win off a 52.3 half at the Red Mile chopped liver? We're not talking a 150 pacer here who beat up on 12 claimers, folks. Even his most talked about loss to Dedi's Dragon wasn't too bad either. He was a sick horse, but he fought to the end and lost by a tiny margin in 150.4. The older horses, including Pet Rock and Foiled Again, raced a race later and went 150.3. To pace 150.4 while sick and count that as unimpressive is poppycock.

What is most impressive to me, and why he is worthy of Pacer of the Year (as if the above wasn't enough), is that he did something that is very hard to do in the three year old pacing division: Last through the Breeders Crown. Some people asked me why I did not add Donato Hanover to my list of the "Top Horses of the Decade". Well, one reason was because he could not finish off his year. He lost the Breeders Crown elimination and final at three. Deweycheatumnhowe couldn't win the Crown either.

What about other pacers? Well Said, a great pacer, could not close out the year in his Crown. Rock n Roll Hanover had a spell during the year (it was rumored he did not like the hot weather) where he did not race well. Art Major finished the year great, but didn't start it well. Even the ultra-talented Rock n Roll Heaven finished the year on a roll, but could not win the North America Cup elimination and final, due to a rumored sickness.

The Captain did something fairly remarkable. He raced tough as nails every week and racked up win after win after win. He was not befallen in a drought period for not liking hot weather, allergies, lameness, or anything else that affects so many. He just showed up at the gate and won, right through to the Breeders Crown.

Who are some other horses in the iron-tough three-year-old division who accomplished that during the last 10 years? Well, Rainbow Blue did. So did Muscle Hill. And so did the Captain's dad, Somebeachsomewhere.

That's some pretty good company.

Some people want to use a couple of things against the Captain: His loss in the TVG and the fact he "skipped" the Jug. C'mon now, that's reaching. If you consider the Jug a top grade one type race in this day and age you are in a slimming minority (not to mention, if you held it against Somebeachsomewhere in 2008 I bet you feel a little silly). And how can you hold a race like the TVG against a three year old when there's never been such a race to even judge

modern three year old colt pacers by?

Now is the time I should go on and on dissecting Foiled Again's year from his win loss record, comparing him to other older horses and their record, other Pacer of the Year votes, or say myriad things to further my case by "tearing down" the veteran pacers' 2013 year. I won't be critical of Foiled Again. I love Foiled Again and he is a wonderful pacer.

And I don't think I need to.

The Captain's year was fast, magical, efficient, lucrative, tough, brilliant, durable and impressive. When looked at from a lens of not what happened last week, but what happened throughout 2013, it can stand on its own four hooves. He's your Pacer of the Year.

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Former Riding Horse Don Dinero Turns Into a Winner on the Racetrack

By Christie DeBernardis

Swedish native Jenny Melander is making her lifelong dream of come true with the help of an unlikely ally. Currently a resident of Pennsylvania, Melander always wanted to run her own training operation, as well as, getting her driver's license, and she has finally achieved that goal with an assist from her riding horse Don Dinero (Revenue).

"He absolutely is [the inspiration to start training and driving]," Melander said. "Taking my own driving license is all thanks to him. I knew I had a horse I could trust enough not to do anything stupid with me and take care of me. He is not going to make me a millionaire or anything, but I could learn on him and get the experience I needed."

Trainer John Duer started training Don Dinero, a Peninsula Farm homebred, but decided to stop his training early in his two-year-old year.

"He quit with him that early because he had problems with his shoulder, was already a gelding, and just wasn't going good enough," Melander said. "He didn't really care for being a racehorse at all."

Duer gave the bay to an older gentleman and Melander was contacted by that man to help break Don as a riding horse.

"I went over there once a week and I thought he was great from the get go, but his owner did not." Melander remarked. "The two of them never really got along and he

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told me he wanted to get rid of him, so I decided to take him."

Little did she know at the time it was beginning of a beautiful friendship. Don excelled at any discipline Melander threw at him including western pleasure, jumping, pleasure driving, and barrel racing. He brought home countless



Don and Melander competing at the National Standardbred Show in 2012.

Christie DeBernardis

ribbons and trophies from the show ring and Melander found he was an great trail riding horse.

"He has done it all pretty much," Melander commented. "He absolutely loves trail riding the most and loves to be the boss going first over everything."

Melander never had any intentions of turning Don back into a racehorse. She began to get involved in the

Racing Under Saddle, started by Helene Gregory, a friend of Melander and wife of driver Jeff Gregory.

"Coming from Sweden, I knew a lot about the monte (racing under saddle) and we always trained under saddle back home," Melander said. "I just thought it would be an awesome thing to do. I love to ride and compete."

Melander felt the best way for her to train and get fit as a monte rider was to do training miles under saddle, so of course she turned to her trusty pal Don. Unfortunately Don was so used to being a riding horse he would constantly make breaks to the canter during their training sessions, so Melander decided to fix this by jogging him in the jog cart. This training took a turn, not even Melander expected.

"He was my riding horse for three or four years and I never thought of bringing him back to racing," Melander said. "He will be my pet until he dies. Once I started training him it was all in the back of my head that I was just doing it to get him ready for the monte races. He just kept getting better and never did anything wrong, so I thought okay I guess I will qualify him. I was just as surprised as anybody."

Don was a six-year-old maiden when he returned to racing and made five starts that year with no wins before he pulled a chest muscle and was taken out of training for two months. He returned with a vengeance winning his first three starts this year at age seven and has made money in almost every start since then, with Melander driving for many of them.

Don makes his next start Monday at Chester with Yannick Gingras in the bike, as he steps up to the non-winners of \$5,000 for the first time.

"As long as he keeps enjoying it and stays sound we will keep racing and when he is not competitive anymore he will go back to being a riding horse," Melander said.

Melander continues to take Don trail riding whenever he can as part of his training and describes it as "taking a kid to the candy store". She finds trail riding to be a useful training tool and does it with several of her horses as either a calming or conditioning method.

"I take a lot of my racehorses out on the trails for different reasons," Melander commented. "We have a lot of hills here in Pennsylvania and they are really great for training racehorses."

Melander came to the U.S. from Sweden in 1998 during a summer break from school to work with sales yearlings at Hunterton Farm in Kentucky. She was supposed to return home at the end of the summer, but instead went to Florida to work as a groom for Per Eriksson.

Eriksson later returned to Sweden and his operation was taken over by Jonas Czerynson. Melander married him and helped build his operation. When the two split, she returned to school at Rider University where she finished her degree in education.

Melander could not stay away from harness racing though and after graduation she went to work for Erv Miller as second trainer and ran his New Jersey operation for three years. After that she spent two years as second trainer for Mark Harder and then held the same position for John Butenschoen when she moved to Pennsylvania.

In May of this year Melander finally began to work on her dream and went out on her own with the help of her boyfriend Marty Noonan. They started with her loyal companion Don and another horse she had named Wisenheimer.

"I wanted to go out on my own for a while, but being a girl in this business is very hard," Melander said. "It is hard with no owners to back you up, but once Wisenheimer was going well enough and won two legs of the Super Bowl that really helped."

Melander and Noonan started by claiming some horses and did very well with them. They currently have 13 horses in their barn, five of their own and the rest for other owners.

"It is a dream come true," Melander remarked. "We work very long hours, but that is nothing new. If you are going to be successful in the sport you have to work hard. I really am living the dream. This is something I have wanted to do my whole life and now I am finally doing it."

Marcus Miller Lights Up The Meadowlands

Just 12-1 in the morning line, Bolder won last night's fifth race at the Meadowlands, paying \$187. He was driven by Marcus Miller for trainer Julius Czermann Jr.

Boulder was shipping in from Yonkers where he was eighth and last in his previous start.

The gelded son of Cheyenne Rei won by a half length over Hypnotic Blue Chip, who was making his first start since Jan. 10. An earner of \$1.73 million, Hypnotic Blue Chip was bred the last two years and his first crop will hit the races in 2015.

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Sweet Lou Wins Saturday 37G Open Handicap Pace

BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, December 7, 2013--Double-millionaire Sweet Lou (George Brennan) made a successful local debut Saturday night, winning Yonkers Raceway's \$37,000 Open Handicap Pace.



Sweet Lou (Mayra Escamilla photo)

Ordered outside his seven rivals (though inside one notch after a defection), 3-5 choice "Lou" worked around Sapphire City (Eric Carlson), making the before a quick :26.3 opening quarter. It was a rated 30-second quarter (:56.3) with Ardyne Ace (Larry Stalbaum) moving from fifth. That one offered

minimal grief in and out of a 1:24.3 three-quarters, with Sweet Lou taking a couple of lengths into the lane, The people's preference then held the gang at bay, whipping Sapphire City by a length in 1:52...snappy :27.2 final quarter.

Third went to a three-hole Lumberjack Willie (catch-driver Jordan Stratton), with Pan from Nantucket (Eric Goodell) and Ardyne Ace rounded out the payees.

For Sweet Lou, a 4-year-old son of Yankee Cruiser co-owned (as Burke Racing) by (trainer) Ron Burke, Weaver Brussemi, Lawrence Karr and Philip Collura, he returned \$3.30 for his fourth win in 23 seasonal starts. The exacta (two wagering favorites) paid \$10.60, with the triple returning \$49.

It should be noted that Sweet Lou's only half-mile experience prior to Saturday was the 2012 Little Brown Jug, when he won his heat before finishing second in the final. It is surmised he's going to join the Burke contingent in next season's George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series.

was particularly piqued by his comment "A Rocknroll Dance has an interesting pedigree....." made while highlighting some of the great champions linked to Western Hanover.

A Rocknroll Dance, a multiple world champion and winner of more than \$2.4 million, is the product of a popular thoroughbred breeding theory known as the Rasmussen Theory of breeding. This occurs when an outstanding female is inbred or linebred on both sides of the pedigree. As we can all agree that Wendymae Hanover is an outstanding female, and her appearance in A Rocknroll Dance's pedigree is 4x2, this qualifies as the Rasmussen Factor (RF factor). Strangely, we do not see this much in our breed. Most of the inbreeding and linebreeding is through male lines, particularly amongst trotters. The RF factor is touted to have predictive value for the success of thoroughbreds at the race track and at stud. Obviously, A Rocknroll Dance was a great racehorse, now, time will tell if the Rasmussen Factor will propel him to greatness at stud. I certainly hope so.

Paul V. Marino, VMD

Breeder, A Rocknroll Dance

Patrick Lacey's Success Story

It was interesting to see Patrick Lacey's name come up again, in the story about Foiled Again. Few people probably remember that he also claimed a horse during his 4-year-old year (just like a certain somebody who was sold at 4) who went on to be a multiple world champion – at the opposite gait from which he was claimed!

A foal of 1978, Crown Wood was a Speedy Crown gelding out of a Carlisle mare named Sugar Frosting – and if that mare's name rings a bell, it may be because of her Speedy Somolli foal of 1981, Baltic Speed 3, 1:56 (\$1,271,764).

Crown Wood did not race at 2 and won three times on the trot at 3, fastest a 2:03.4 triumph at Brandywine. He was tried once on the trot at four, then converted to the pace, a gait to which he took quite well, with 9 wins in 20 starts and earnings of \$54,370. He showed enough promise that Lacey claimed him out of a \$22,000 race in September 1982, then sold part interest to Theodore Richter midway through 1983 ... when Crown Wood was put back on the trot, and got even better. He won over \$100,000 in each of 1983, 1984, and 1985, and he set double-gaited world records for geldings over mile tracks (3:57.3) and half-mile tracks (4:00.2).

His best year came in 1984, when he won \$238,430 and was triumphant in the \$100,000 American Trotting Championship at Roosevelt for driver Joe Marsh Jr., with the beaten field (in order) containing a few names veterans may know: Babe Kosmos, Bobbo, Quick Trip, Shane T Hanover, Duenna, TV Yankee, and Neil Hanover.

His ATC victory earned him a berth in the following week's \$250,000 Roosevelt International, where he finished third in Lutin D'Isigny's world record 2:30h for 1 ¼ miles, just a neck behind place finisher The Onion.

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FEEDBACK!

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Looking at the Breeding of A Rocknroll Dance

Dean Hoffman's "Bits on Breeding" article was informative and a nice tribute to the great sire Western Hanover, who is now the most productive sire in the standardbred industry. I

So Mr. Lacey has had a horse who traveled in the rarified air before – and for his interests.

Jerry Connors

(Editor's Note: Patrick Lacey is the former owner of Foiled Again and sold him for \$62,500)

The Big M Has Become the Little M

I enjoy reading the Harness Racing Update very much. I was at the new Meadowlands facility last weekend and was disappointed by how small and crowded it is. I sent an email to the Meadowlands email comment box, the text is pasted below. Does anyone else feel this way?

The new facility is beautiful. There is one big problem and that is the lack of indoor seating. I understand the old Meadowlands was too large but the new facility goes to the opposite end of the spectrum and is far too small. When visiting last weekend with my 12 year old daughter to watch the TVG finals there were no seats available even though we arrived early. The traffic flow and parking isn't much better.

I have great respect for Mr. Gural's efforts to keep harness racing in the Meadowlands but the current venue is too small and crowded to be enjoyable during the winter months.

Best Regards,
James Murphy

The Industry Should Listen to Dean Towers

Dean Towers column in HRU Saturday, December 7, (a day that still lives in infamy for some of us 71 years later) 2013, was a column of untold importance to the denizens of harness racing. Dean writes about the integrity of sports who rely on betting to survive. Unfortunately, I've been around/in/close to this game for too many years to think that anything positive will come of it.

Dean didn't take it far enough to realize what solution would be the 'fix' that all horse racing needs; judges who are not part and parcel of the sport itself.

Judges in California come from Thoroughbreds, Quarters, Standardreds, mules, zebras, and people with 'inside' connections. OK, so we don't race zebras in California. Some of the bettors will dispute that. If you want to be a judge in California you have to have 'qualifications' set by the state, aided and abetted by the people in the horse racing industry who would like a job that didn't require getting up at 4 every morning.

Until states that have pari-mutuel racing throw out those old qualifications and set their sights on naming indisputably honest people, with high integrity thrown in, as judges, we won't have the bettors we need to survive without slots.

Additionally, Bill Finley's column today ranks high on my list of 'must reads.' No doubt he has hit the nail on the head with what is needed for end-of-the-year racing.

Whether you like her or not, Hillary Clinton was correct, 'it takes a village' to get big things done. And it will take the entire harness industry to fix harness racing.

Richard Colby

STATS CORNER

Top 2013 Pacing Sires (All Ages)

Stats courtesy of USTA

Sire	Foals	Starters	Earnings
Bettor's Delight	985	486	\$14,944,418
Rocknroll Hanover	755	419	\$14,289,760
Art Major	813	377	\$11,808,379
Dragon Again	1087	390	\$11,264,022
Somebeachsomewhere	242	198	\$10,892,043
Western Ideal	894	319	\$10,676,728
Mach Three	779	389	\$9,817,562
Western Terror	683	380	\$8,326,492
American Ideal	407	283	\$7,837,069
Camluck	1591	394	\$7,449,251

Top 2013 Trotting Stallions (All Ages)

Sire	Foals	Starters	Earnings
Cantab Hall	555	229	\$8,281,859
Andover Hall	745	184	\$7,590,731
Kadabra	647	254	\$7,369,696
Credit Winner	873	228	\$7,085,045
Donato Hanover	317	152	\$5,964,068
Muscles Yankee	1275	206	\$5,711,977
Yankee Glide	1124	225	\$5,435,011
Angus Hall	1308	313	\$5,106,391
Conway Hall	1159	246	\$5,085,725
SJ's Caviar	851	210	\$3,964,462

Meadowlands Report

2, M, \$48,878, P, REYNOLDS - THE TAR HEEL 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings, 27.1, 54.1, 1:22.4, 1:51.4, FT

1-Twilight Bonfire (c, 3, The Panderosa--Firelight Dancer, by Cam Fella) O-Robert J Key. B-Robert J Key. T-Paul Reid. D-Tim Tetrick, \$24,439, Lifetime Record: 37-7-6-7, \$891,090

2-Rockin Amadeus (c, 3, Rocknroll Hanover--Kikikat, by Real Artist) O-Lothlorien, CA. B-Lothlorien, CA. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Ron Pierce, \$12,219

3-Magic Tricks (g, 3, The Panderosa--I C U Tricks, by Camluck) O-Clifford N Grundy & Patrick J Gregory. B-Clifford N Grundy. T-Mike Watson. D-David Miller, \$5,865 Calls: 2H, 1Q, 1H, 2, NK

Finish Order: Mindset, Artist Night, Rocky Mountain Guy
To view the replay click [here](#)

Meadowlands (Race 2): Post time favorite Twilight Bonfire (Tim Tetrick) had some traffic to contend with going into the first turn, but moved to the outside just before the 1/4 pole (:27.1) from the 4 hole and steadily gained ground to take the lead shortly before the 1/2 (:54.1). 2012 Breeders Crown winner Rockin Amadeus (Ron Pierce) rode out the rest of the mile in the pocket, but made his move too late as Tim Tetrick took his first win of the night (1:51.4)

6, M, \$20,000, P, B-1/A-2 Handicap 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings Post Positions Drawn According to Class, 27.4, 55.0, 1:22.4, 1:51.0, FT

Eddie Sweat (c, 3, Allamerican Native--Popcorn Penny, by Dragon's Lair), \$10,000 2011 ADIOS O-Lasalle Racing Group LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Aaron Lambert. D-Ron Pierce, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 34-7-8-1, \$144,636
To view the replay click [here](#)

11, M, \$25,000, P, A-2/A-1 Handicap Post Positions Drawn According to Class, 26.4, 54.0, 1:22.3, 1:51.0, FT

Fat Mans Alley (g, 5, Rocknroll Hanover--Roller Cam, by Cambest), \$110,000 2009 SHS-HBG O-Bamond Racing LLC. B-David Goodrow Stable, CA. T-Pj Fraley. D-Tim Tetrick, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 84-15-12-17, \$296,586
To view the replay click [here](#)

Yonkers Report

2, YR, \$22,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.4, 56.4, 1:25.3, 2:00.2, FT

Muscleshooter (g, 3, Sand Shooter--Audacity, by Art's Conquest), \$20,000 2011 HOOSIER O-David R Hamm. B-Jonas Graber. T-Allan Johnson. D-Jason Bartlett, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 35-9-5-7, \$134,927
To view the replay click [here](#)

4, YR, \$22,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 26.2, 57.0, 1:24.4, 1:59.2, FT

Valentino (h, 6, 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-Nick Surick. D-Cat Manzi, \$8,250, Lifetime Record: 111-21-13-14, \$701,082
To view the replay click [here](#)

5, YR, \$22,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.0, 56.4, 1:25.3, 2:01.1, FT

Hypnotist (g, 9, Astreos--Elanthropist, by Cam Fella) O-Ettore Annunziata. B-Roger F Mayotte, CA & Ross Warriner, CA & Stavros Kourgiantakis. T-Ettore Annunziata. D-Jason Bartlett, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 210-35-32-18, \$659,979
To view the replay click [here](#)

6, YR, \$37,000, P, OPEN HANDICAP POST POSITIONS 1&2 ASSIGNED POST POSITIONS 3-6 DRAWN POST POSITIONS 7&8 ASSIGNED, 26.3, 56.3, 1:24.3, 1:52.0, FT
1-Sweet Lou (h, 4, Yankee Cruiser--Sweet Future, by Falcons Future), \$38,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Lawrence R Karr & Phillip Collura. B-Birnam Wood Farms. T-Ron Burke. D-George Brennan, \$18,500, Lifetime Record: 55-22-8-9, \$2,117,461

2-Sapphire City (g, 5, Metropolitan--Spectre Almahurst, by Justin Passing), \$27,000 2009 BRDS-SEL O-Centaur Stable & Jordon M Sklut. B-John P Hurtgen. T-Paul Blumenfeld. D-Eric Carlson, \$9,250

3-Lumberjack Willie (g, 6, Lumber Hanover--Le Mora, by Cambest), \$4,000 2008 BHS O-Thomas Ceraso Jr. B-Ernie C Young & Jerry Andrews. T-Jack Franklin. D-Jordan Stratton, \$4,440
Calls: 1H, 1T, 1T, 2, 1 - Finish Order: Pan From Nantucket, Ardyne Ace, P H Supercam, China Grill, Keystone Velocity
To view the replay click [here](#)

7, YR, \$22,000, P, NON-WINNERS \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.0, 54.3, 1:23.1, 1:59.1, FT

American Rage (g, 5, American Ideal--Raging Heart, by Artsplace), \$32,000 2009 LEX-SEL O-F Bellino & Sons LLC. B-Moni Market Breeders & Rex A King & Eugene W Thayer. T-Tony Osullivan. D-Mark Macdonald, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 91-22-20-10, \$506,851
To view the replay click [here](#)

8, YR, \$30,000, P, WINNERS OVER \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.3, 57.1, 1:25.0, 1:53.1, FT

1-Real Special (g, 5, Real Desire--Treasure The Best, by Cambest), \$50,000 2009 LEX-SEL O-Kyle R Gibbs. B-Brittany Farms. T-Alicia Gray. D-Matt Kakaley, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 90-25-14-16, \$342,552

2-Flem N Em N (g, 8, Courage Under Fire--Equus Franco, by Falcon Seelster) O-Bamond Racing LLC. B-Spreydon Lodge LTD, NZ. T-Pj Fraley. D-Jason Bartlett, \$7,500

3-Blatantly Best (c, 3, Cambest--Garish, by Life Sign), \$9,000 2011 LEX-SEL O-Bradley J Grant, CA. B-Denim Stable. T-Larry Remmen. D-Eric Goodell, \$3,600
Calls: 1H, 2, 1H, 2Q, 1Q - Finish Order: Bj's Guy, Take It Back Terry, Rollwithitharry, Electric Shooter, I Fought Dalaw
To view the replay click [here](#)

9, YR, \$25,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.4, 57.1, 1:24.4, 1:52.3, FT

Outrageous Art (h, 6, Artsplace--Righteous Renee, by Western Ideal), \$50,000 2008 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Yannick Gingras & Joseph Di Scala Jr. B-Diamond Creek Farm LLC. T-Ron Burke. D-George Brennan, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 114-34-13-7, \$392,406
To view the replay click [here](#)

10, YR, \$22,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.0, 56.0, 1:25.1, 2:01.3, FT

Nob Hill High (h, 7, McArdle--Anniecrombie, by Abercrombie) O-Robert A Mondillo & Donald E Robinson. B-Robert A Mondillo & Donald E Robinson. T-Bruce Saunders. D-Daniel Dube, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 190-33-31-38, \$987,943
To view the replay click [here](#)

11, YR, \$25,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.4, 57.4, 1:26.2, 1:54.3, FT

All Stienam (g, 4, Tell All--Odds On Stienam, by Western Hanover), \$27,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Vip Internet Stable LLC & Baron Racing Stable. B-Robert B Burgess, CA & Poole Farms, CA. T-Gary Green. D-Jim Pantaleano, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 49-10-10-3, \$169,698 To view the replay click [here](#)

12, YR, \$25,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 27.0, 56.1, 1:24.0, 1:53.4, FT

E Z Noah (g, 4, Western Terror--Her Mattjesty, by Matt's Scooter), \$40,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Vip Internet Stable LLC & Baron Racing Stable. B-Seize The Day Industries. T-Gary Green. D-Jim Pantaleano, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 55-11-12-6, \$283,385 To view the replay click [here](#)

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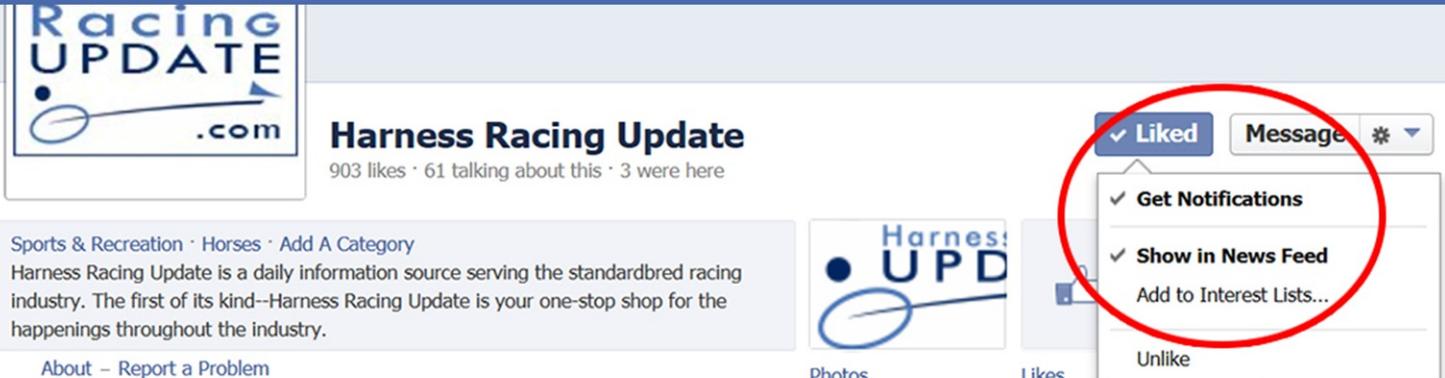
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