

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

# Another conversation with **Brett Pelling**

*On the cusp of his trainee Confederate likely being feted as the Horse of the Year, the trainer continues a discussion started four years ago, shortly after he returned to America.*



**TALES FROM THE CURMUDGEON**



with **MURRAY BROWN**

by Murray Brown

It has been nearly four years since I wrote a [profile of extraordinary trainer Brett Pelling](#). The exact date was June 14, 2020. Pelling had returned from a 10-year stay in Australia where to the surprise of most and the dismay of many, he had left the sport from which he had climbed to the top.

At the time, Pelling's belief was that he had left harness racing for good. He had achieved most of his goals. He had done most of what he wanted to do. It was time to allow his children to spend time with and get to know their grandparents.

Since then, the grandparents have passed and the kids have come back to America to seek their future. It was only natural that their parents would follow them.

Something not mentioned in that previous interview, but undoubtedly there, was that once this business of horse racing gets in your blood, it rarely, if ever, leaves. Simply put, he missed the sport and wanted to get back to it.



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# HARNESS RACING UPDATE

## ABOUT HARNESS RACING UPDATE

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# IN TODAY'S HRU

- Brown: Another conversation with Brett Pelling page 1
- Lomon: Trainer Ronnie Moawad is hitting on all cylinders page 10
- Cotolo: Enthusing Mr. Bruce, Part 2 page 15
- Nosrac: Horses and addiction page 17
- Sturman: A rarity in recent simulcast observations page 20
- The Meadowlands in 2023: It was a very good year page 22
- Engblom right back to work after big 2023 page 24
- HRU News page 25



**HOW MUCH DID YOU BET TODAY?**

**#BETONHARNESS**

**SHE IS QUITE SIMPLY ... SO MUCH MORE**

p, 1:49.1s -'23 (\$1,566,827)

One of the best distaff pacers in recent history, now eligible for her third O'Brien Award as the nation's best in her division.

**Other exceptional performers:**

- PROHIBITION LEGAL**  
p, 4, 1:50s -'23 (\$964,366);
- BRONX SEELSTER**  
p, 1:49.4f (\$931,405);
- BERNIE**  
p, 1:49f (\$665,018); etc.

**BIG JIM**

Western Ideal - Bold Pink - Big Towner  
p, 2, 1:49.1s (\$1,544,580)

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# ROCKYROAD HANOVER

P,1:46.2 (\$1,016,162)

CAPTAINREACHEROUS - ROMANTIC MOMENT BY AMERICAN IDEAL

WINNER OF THE CANE PACE (DEFEATING PERFECT STING)  
AND THE PROGRESS PACE (DEFEATING ABUCKABETT  
HANOVER AND CHARLIE MAY) AT 3

WINNER OF THE ROLL WITH JOE (DEFEATING CHARLIE  
MAY) AND SECOND IN THE GRADUATE FINAL, WILLIAM  
HAUGHTON MEMORIAL AND DAN PATCH (ALL TO  
BULLDOG HANOVER) AT 4

PROFICIENT ON A HALF AND 5/8TH MILE TRACK WINNING  
AN ELIMINATION OF THE JURAVINSKI MEMORIAL AT  
FLAMBORO IN 1:51 FLAT AND SECOND IN BOTH THE ADIOS  
ELIMINATION AND FINAL TIMED IN 1:48.3 AND 1:49

PACED 14 LAST QUARTERS IN 26 SECONDS OR FASTER (THE  
FASTEST BEING 24.4 FINISHING THIRD IN A LEG OF THE  
GRADUATE)

PACED 4 MILES IN 1:47 OR FASTER INCLUDING HIS RECORD  
TIME OF 1:46.2 WINNING THE ROLL WITH JOE (LAST  
QUARTER 25 FLAT)

BY THE LEADING SIRE CAPTAINREACHEROUS AND OUT  
OF MILLIONAIRESS ROMANTIC MOMENT P,3,1:50.1F  
(\$1,077,352)

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—TONY ALAGNA*



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*“ Until the proverbial rubber hits the road and their foals begin racing, you don’t really know how great a sire a horse will become. But as of now, I would be extremely surprised if Papi Rob [Hanover] isn’t that kind of stallion. He was a truly great horse. We saw how great on that ill-fated day at The Meadows when he played with his competition in 1.47, with a broken bone! But in my opinion, we never really got to see how great a horse he was. I would have loved to see him at Lexington that fall. I believe we would have seen true greatness on exhibit. ”*

~ Brett Pelling

*One of the questions I asked you in 2020 was ‘Why are you not yet in the Harness Racing Hall of Fame?’ I was certain that it was only a matter of time before that transpired. Since then, almost four years have passed and you still are on the outside looking in. I’ll ask the question again. Why are you not in the Hall of Fame?*

“The answer today is the same as the one I gave you in 2020, I have no idea. Without being accused of arrogance, I believe my credentials are as good as those of anybody else already enshrined, and in terms of trainers of important races and money winnings better than anybody not named Ronnie Burke. I’ll repeat what I said back then; there are several Europeans who are in the Hall, yet not one from Down Under. I find it difficult to conceive of there being a prejudice against us, but why else?

“It’s interesting and very appropriate that a dear friend and loyal owner of mine, Dave McDuffee is due to be installed this coming July. Dave has often spoken to me saying that he felt it was a travesty that I’m not in. There is no owner, none, that I believe to be more deserving of HOF membership than Dave. He should have been elected years ago. He is now in and I am, as you say, on the outside looking in. It is something over which I have no control, so I try not to allow it to bother me. I fully intend to be in Goshen this summer to help in Dave’s celebration.

*In conversations with McDuffee, he has often mentioned the high regard which you feel for his Papi Rob Hanover. He quoted you as saying that one of your goals for this past yearling season was to look at and play a hand in purchasing as many of the Papi Robs that appealed to you, as you were able to. How has that worked out?*

“I’m now training nine of them – five colts and four fillies. In just three words, I love them! It’s very early, but I haven’t found a single thing about even one of them that I don’t like. One of the several things that impresses me about them is their uniformity. For some time, I had a problem in identifying each



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2, 1:58.2s; 3, 1:53.1s; 1:50 (\$1,141,831)

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- Sire of 2023 O’Brien 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly Award Finalist, **Willys Home Run**, 2, 1:55.1s -'23 (\$523,935) (Winner of ONSS Super Final)

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**BOOK FULL**

Confederate - PA \$20,000 - NEW

Creatine - OH at Sugar Valley \$4,000

Downbytheseaside - OH at Sugar Valley \$17,500

Father Patrick - PA \$10,000

**BOOK FULL**

Gimpanzee - KY \$20,000

Marseille - OH at Sugar Valley \$3,000

Pebble Beach - OH at Sugar Valley \$7,500

**BOOK FULL**

Sweet Lou - PA \$20,000

**BOOK FULL**

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one. There are five of them that look almost exactly alike. They are a rich bay in color with very little, if any white. They are smart, they go straight, and are excellently gaited.

“I tried to look at all of his yearlings. To be somewhat frank, I feel he didn’t get near the book of mares that his racetrack rival, Tall Dark Stranger did. Some of it was because of their pedigrees. [Tall Dark Stranger] was the recipient of many of the mares by Somebeachsomewhere and his sons which obviously could not go to Papi Rob. Another factor was that Hanover was going to load up giving most of their top mares to Papi Rob. With the late news of [Tall Dark Stranger] coming to Hanover, some of the better mares which were previously destined for Papi Rob ended up with Tall Dark Stranger. The bottom line though is, with all truly great sires, if they are meant to be, they will be. If they are not destined for greatness, no number of top mares will enable them to get there.

“Until the proverbial rubber hits the road and their foals begin racing, you don’t really know how great a sire a horse will become. But as of now, I would be extremely surprised if Papi Rob isn’t that kind of stallion. He was a truly great horse. We saw how great on that ill-fated day at The Meadows when he played with his competition in 1.47, with a broken bone! But in my opinion, we never really got to see how great a horse he was. I would have loved to see him at Lexington that fall. I believe we would have seen true greatness on exhibit.”

**With Papi Rob Hanover beginning his stud career, you have another of your great pupils Confederate entering the stud barn. Which was the better horse?**

“That is an impossible question. They are two very different horses. The one thing they have most in common is greatness on the racetrack. [Papi Rob] was a tough, willing horse, maybe the smartest horse I have ever been around. Confederate was a perfect racehorse. He could and would do anything and everything you asked of him whenever you asked it. With both horses, I don’t believe we really saw their absolute best.”

**Tell us about your present racing stable. Do you still have 27, which you told us in 2020 was your ideal size?**

“Actually, the ideal size of my racing stable isn’t necessarily based on a number, but rather on the number which my anal personality can adequately oversee in a single stable. At White Birch Farm where I was when we spoke in 2020, my stable had 27 stalls, so that was my happy number. I’m now at Magical Acres where I have 34 stalls in my stable. So, my ideal number would probably be 34. I actually have 33 horses presently in training.”



Dave Landry  
Pelling in the cart at  
Woodbine Mohawk  
Park in 2022.

**How is the stable presently constituted?**

“Presently we have 33 horses in training at Magical Acres. They are all pacers. The only one older than 3 is our old warhorse Allywag Hanover. We are in what I would call a rebuilding year. The stars, with the exception of Allywag, have all gone to stud. We are equally divided among 2- and 3-year-olds, with 16 of each. Perhaps a headliner or two will show themselves among these.”



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“ Presently we have 33 horses in training at Magical Acres. They are all pacers. The only one older than 3 is our old warhorse Allywag Hanover. We are in what I would call a rebuilding year. The stars, with the exception of Allywag, have all gone to stud. We are equally divided among 2- and 3-year-olds, with 16 of each. Perhaps a headliner or two will show themselves among these. ”

~ Brett Pelling

### Why are you no longer at White Birch?

“I really don't remember. It likely relates to a personality conflict between me and its owner Joe Parisi, Jr. I'm now at Magical Acres which is a terrific training center, but White Birch was ideal. It had become home to me. It was actually quite close to home which made it perfect. The track and paddocks were ideal. But we have made Magical Acres comparable in quality. I'm quite satisfied being here.”

### Now that you are 65, how is life for you these days?

“On the whole, I would say pretty darn good. I still have the fire in my gut. I get up each morning looking for the day ahead. My immediate challenge is in hopefully helping Papi Rob Hanover in becoming the great stallion I hope he is destined to become. After that, we will have Confederate yearlings to choose, train and become the great horses I hope they will become. After that, who knows?”

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## 3-YEAR-OLDS

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\$250,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial 3YO Colt Trot  
\$225,000 Del Miller Memorial 3YO Filly Trot  
\$175,000 Mistletoe Shalee 3YO Filly Pace

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\$250,000 Finals

## OLDER HORSES

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\$300,000 John Cashman Memorial Trot	\$175,000 Crawford Farms Trot
\$275,000 Sam McKee Memorial Pace	\$150,000 Dr John R Steele Memorial Mare Trot
\$175,000 Dorothy Haughton Memorial Mare Pace	\$150,000 Perfect Sting Mare Pace
\$175,000 Lady Liberty Mare Pace	\$150,000 Six Pack Mare Trot
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Renee Mona Photography

**Ronnie Moawad driving Dandy's World to victory in October of 2023 at Northville Downs.**

**GRASSROOTS  
PERSPECTIVE**



with **CHRIS LOMON**

Both victories in his rookie campaign came courtesy of Rock A Hula Baby, a daughter of A Rocknroll Dance—I Had A Ball.

The milestone first win came at Northville Downs on Oct. 18, 2019, a 1-length triumph with Richard Ray in the race bike.

“It was an awesome feeling,” Moawad said. “Racing is more of a hobby for me, but I approach it as if it is a full-time job. So, to get that first win; a lot of hard work went into it. That was a very satisfying moment. It definitely took me back to my childhood days when I first discovered racing.”

A young Moawad was instantly captivated by what he saw on the racetrack.

## Trainer Ronnie Moawad is hitting on all cylinders

by Chris Lomon

Whether it's in the auto shop or on the racetrack, Ronnie Moawad brings attention to detail, a strong ethic and a winning attitude to whatever he does.

When he's not working as a full-time mechanic at his brother's garage, the 36-year-old Moawad is typically driving to various racetracks throughout the U.S. Midwest, looking for success as a standardbred trainer.

Does the Detroit native see any similarities between the differing interpretations of horsepower?

“As a mechanic, you are looking to make sure everything runs smoothly and that whatever needs to be addressed is done so that the car is performing at peak condition,” Moawad said. “With the horses, it's the same thing. You want them to be sound and healthy, and able to be at their best when they are on the racetrack.”

Moawad has fared well in both careers.

He launched the racing side in 2019, a year in which his starters went 2-2-2 from 15 races.



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“As a mechanic, you are looking to make sure everything runs smoothly and that whatever needs to be addressed is done so that the car is performing at peak condition. With the horses, it’s the same thing. You want them to be sound and healthy, and able to be at their best when they are on the racetrack.”

~ Ronnie Moawad

“When I was young, my father would go to Hazel Park,” Moawad said of the Michigan oval that closed in 2018 after 69 years of operation. “I would tag along with him a lot of the time. I just loved going, seeing all the horses up close and watching all the action. It was something that captured my attention right away.”

It also stayed with him.

“I was hooked since the first time I went,” Moawad said. “You never know how things will turn out later in life, but something told me I would be involved in some way at a certain point in time.”

With the help of Larry McCarty, a horseman his father had met in the 1970s, Moawad realized that long-held dream.

“I used to go out to Larry’s farm in the summertime and work with the horses,” Moawad said. “I was hooked. When my dad passed away, I ended up moving out to Webberville, to Larry’s farm, and he basically adopted me. We’ve worked together for years, and he’s taught me everything I know. He retired about two years ago, but I’m where I am because of what he taught me.”

One of the lessons learned was the need to have a discerning eye for picking out horses.

It appears Moawad earned top marks as an eager and open-minded student.

Dandys World, a 3-year-old son of World Of Rocknroll—More Diamonds, is a perfect example of what he learned from McCarty.

Originally sold for \$10,000 at the 2021 Land of Lincoln Sale, the gelding caught Moawad’s attention as he was perusing on Gait, the online horse sale website.



## NEW IN 2024! BEACH GLASS

p, 2, 1:51.1s; 3, 1:47.2 -'22 (\$1,189,416)

Somebeachsomewhere-Im With Her-Bettor’s Delight

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“ I’m a little guy, so when I go to Cleveland and win against the bigger trainers, it shows I can be competitive. ”

~ Ronnie Moawad

“I bought him in May for \$5,400,” Moawad said. “He’s big and black, and he’s out of a great sire. I took a risk. He had four starts in 2022 and didn’t hit the top three. I got him on the farm and turned him out. He was very shy, but we worked with him, and he’s turned around a bit. He’s made me just over \$22,000, so that makes me happy. Watching him develop and become more comfortable has been nice to see. I thought if I could figure him out, he could turn into a nice horse.”

When it came to working with Dandys World, he recalled other words of wisdom dispensed by McCarty.

“A horse has to have a good foot is one thing Larry would always tell me, to look at the way he stands,” Moawad said. “He taught me to be patient with the horses, to work with them, and to understand what each one needs.”

Moawad applied the latter approach to Ms Luck, a daughter of Camluck—Ms Clairol.

“It was in 2016, and I messaged the person who owned her at the time and said I was interested in buying her,” Moawad said. “I wanted to buy her because she was that horse for me, a horse that I had become attached to. So, I paid \$3,200 for her and drove to Iowa in my Ford Explorer to get her. I wound up blowing my transmission on the way back, but we made it home, safe and sound.”

Moawad handed the reins to different trainers throughout the rest of Ms Luck’s racing career, which concluded with 303 starts, 57 wins and \$236,983 in purse earnings.

“She was just a gutsy mare,” he said. “If you put her on the front end, it was rare that anyone would beat her. I’ve had luck with a few and she is definitely one of them.”

Overseeing a small stable – Moawad typically has one or two horses in his barn – doesn’t mean he can’t keep pace with higher-profile conditioners on certain occasions.

Going up against the bigger operations and coming out on the winning end is always a big thrill for Moawad.

“I’m a little guy, so when I go to Cleveland and win against the bigger trainers, it shows I can be competitive,” he said.

Being able to share his affinity for racing with his children, just like his father did with him, is deeply meaningful for Moawad.

“They love it,” Moawad said. “My son is always begging me to go. He’ll say, ‘I want to go to the horse track.’ If he isn’t with me

at the races, he’ll be watching it on the television, cheering us on, so that’s always exciting. Both my kids love the horses, so hopefully, they can take the reins when they are older.”

For now, Moawad will remain, as he always has, thrilled to be part of an industry that he first experienced nearly 30 years ago.

Goals, like his stable, are modest.

“I don’t do this for money, I do it because I enjoy it so much,” he said. “Sometimes, things work out, other times they don’t. I want to keep things simple, one or two horses. I just want to keep having fun with it and to be around the horses.”

No doubt something his father would be proud to know.

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## Enthusing Mr. Bruce, Part 2

*A further study in harness-fan recruitment.*

by Frank Cotolo

Part 1 is [here](#).

In the winter of 1978, Mr. Bruce and I were among a select group of Los Angeles citizens continuing to make Western Harness Racing (WHR) at Hollywood Park a staple of our evenings' entertainment. The regulars knew one another by names and/or faces. Some were celebrities. Others were media blue collar workers; writers and film technicians and makeup artists and so on. Altogether we were aces of the apron and guardians of the grandstands and we kept the place tidy for when the bigger crowds for thoroughbred racing returned. Suffice it to say that during any nine-race card there was nothing north of Prairie and La Brea separating us.

One evening while walking towards the admission entrance, Mr. Bruce was stopped by a stocky man dressed like a taxi driver with a flat cap.

"I've seen you guys around a lot," he said.

"We're usually here," Mr. Bruce said.

He reached into his jeans and handed Mr. Bruce a card encased in hard plastic. "Take this," he said, "and get yourself in free for the rest of the meet." And he walked away.

The card belonged to Roger Stein. Mr. Bruce said, "He's a trainer. And this is his personal ID card."

We saw Stein before. Mostly in the food court where we bought rounds of coffee and he bought slices of pizza. The next time he saw us he gave us a batch of free passes but never asked for his ID card back. Mr. Bruce and I paid better attention to his entries and earned well on his champion pacer Courageous Red.

It was not long until Mr. Bruce and I began to do what handicappers do best: disagree with our betting choices. He

was able to make confident cases for his bets after limited visits to WHR and by using what knowledge he obtained from a single book and whatever I shared with him about my New York harness adventures.

This was a time when exotics were static. The first two races offered the Daily Double; it made for punctual attendance because there was only one Double a night. There were exactas and trifectas (triples) but they were assigned to particular races. Mr. Bruce and I were betting partners when it came to exotics. We favored exactas because at California pari-mutuel tracks the base bet for exactas was \$5. It was cha-ching with every hit. They paid well and we always used only two horses and then nothing more than a box.

Our partnership was solid. One night when Mr. Bruce was ill, I wandered the apron alone and I hit a huge exacta early in the program. I left well before the last race and drove to his apartment with the best medicine a horse player can get; half of a \$5 exacta payoff. Stein's horse was one exacta element – as usual driven by Rick Kuebler – and the other exacta element was driven by an unknown-to-me Joe Hudon.

Mr. Bruce bought into the harness experience big that season. In no time he felt it was where he belonged. He picked up certain anomalies that assisted his handicapping. Like Mark Aubin driving winning horses in the last race on many nights. And Gene Vallandingham winning races after his horses looked

## Selling Monday



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exhausted in post parades. And like me he became a huge Shelly Goudreau fan (we were happy not to be present on the night of his fatal accident).

After regular visits it was as much about camaraderie as it was making money. Harness racing under the stars was our island far from the maddening Hollywood scene.

No one else I knew in Hollywood cared to join me and Mr. Bruce at WHR more than once; they all became bored after three races.

Stein remembered us and we talked over coffee and pizza while the sun sank and the pollution tainted a pretty sky the hour before post time.

The WHR meet came to an end and Mr. Bruce said, "Now what?"

I told him not to worry. All we had to do the following week was ride three freeways to attend harness racing. It meant investing at least an hour's ride to and from another racetrack; a five-eighths mile racetrack surrounded by land owned by the United States Military. No orange adorned the Los Alamitos Raceway grandstands but it was located in Orange County and deep in John Wayne territory.

Our routine changed. We left Hollywood early enough to stop at the Katella Deli (it is still standing on Katella Avenue in Los Alamitos proper). There we dined on Matzo Ball soup and then drove down the road and into the racetrack parking lot.

"Roger will be there," I told Mr. Bruce. "And the regular cast of horsemen."

"Good," said Mr. Bruce.

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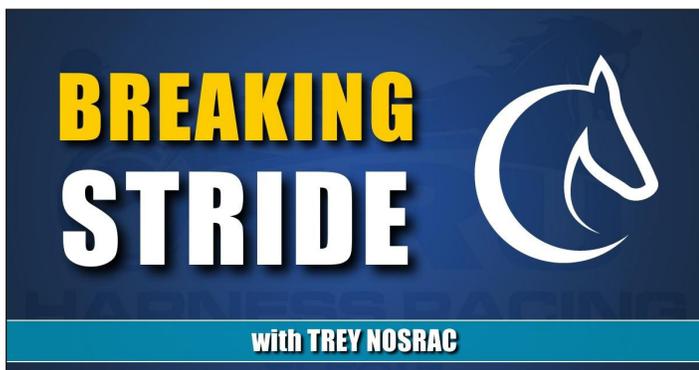
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## Horses and addiction

*A series introduction.*

by **Trey Nosrac**

The HRU editors have tolerated dabbling in contests, fiction, prose, book reviews, poetry, satire, playwriting, humor, scientific studies, serious essays, playful frolics, and outlandish concepts. Let's push the envelope a little further.

The demand for good employees in harness horse racing never ends. Finding and keeping responsible grooms, second trainers and barn workers is an ongoing problem. Good workers for racetrack backstretches and training centers have great value. The pay is better than ever, and the job can be rewarding. But the days can be long, and a scarcity of employees remains.

Addictions are complex, messy and rampant. The heartbreak and expense for people with an addiction, their families, friends, and society are immeasurable. Of course, our sport is not exempt. The horse racing industry has its share of addiction. Treatment programs for drug and alcohol dependency are expensive crapsshots with disheartening success rates.

The underlying theme of a series beginning next week is that both problems could benefit from a symbiotic relationship, helping people with addictions recover by working with horses in closely monitored mentoring programs. A situation like the one presented in the series could benefit people with a substance use disorder, rehabilitation facilities and stables.

If you ever sat in a quiet horse barn early in the morning listening to a horse rustle in the straw, you understand the positive mindfulness and relaxation some of us feel with horses. Many of us believe there is truth in Winston Churchill's old saying about the outside of horses being good for the inside of people.

Horses are mysterious creatures sensitive to the emotions and moods of humans. Horses can act as non-judgmental, non-verbal mirrors. Working with horses can be therapeutic for people

with low self-esteem or lacking confidence, especially younger people. Equine therapy offers people with a substance abuse disorder a possible route away from addiction. Our backstretches could allow those struggling to learn new skills to address a challenging point in recovery, the day a patient in recovery walks out into the world on wobbly legs, brains in turmoil, without a job on their horizon.

For thousands of years, horses have shown therapeutic value. In today's times, this wellness from horses uses a fancy name: equine-assisted psychotherapy. Studies demonstrate several benefits for addicted individuals: decreased anxiety, healthy sensory input, problem-solving, improved sense of control, agency, emotional regulation, and confidence. Studies show that horse therapy can be more effective than traditional talk therapy.

Working with horses is among the unique ways people struggling with addiction can develop new coping skills and insights into their behavior, especially if they are in a safe, monitored setting, removed from stress and triggers.

A series that concerns treatment options for addiction will begin next week. It will be presented in diary form from the point of view of a struggling addict. While semi-fictional, *The Diary of Bridgette M* is based on real addicts, similar programs, attendance at NA (Narcotics Anonymous) and AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings, interviews, and tested therapies.

# Selling Monday

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*For thousands of years, horses have shown therapeutic value. In today's times, this wellness from horses uses a fancy name: equine-assisted psychotherapy. Studies demonstrate several benefits for addicted individuals: decreased anxiety, healthy sensory input, problem-solving, improved sense of control, agency, emotional regulation, and confidence. Studies show that horse therapy can be more effective than traditional talk therapy.*

Every reader has unique eyes. The series may be a path to easing your problem with barn help or spur thoughts about a new outpatient program for a rehab administrator. You may read this through the eyes of a struggling addict or someone close to a person with an addiction. Maybe you are a philanthropic entrepreneur. Perhaps you are just curious. Hopefully, the series will be beneficial and shared outside our racing community.

A bright spot in the dark subject of addiction is that recent class action suits against large pharmaceutical companies have resulted in massive settlements with funding earmarked for state and local addiction programs and therapies. If you feel a program along these lines is feasible, Federal and state funding grants for programs to fight against addiction are plentiful.

This series is not a fairy tale with a happy ending. The road to recovery is long, messy, and fragile. As people with an addiction often say, there is no complete recovery, only remission, and sometimes caskets.

Next week, The Diary of Bridgette M., Part 1.

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## FINES & SUSPENSIONS

### THIS WEEK'S FINES AND SUSPENSIONS

HRU is providing links to publicly-available fines and suspension lists for convenience.

Readers are reminded that because a person's name appears on the list does not necessarily mean they are guilty of an offense. Many times, cases are not finalized and many of the accused are still entitled to due process.

Also, please note, for context, the first link is to the Association of Racing Commissioners International's classification system of drug penalties to give readers a sense of the difference between a Class 1 and a Class 4 positive.

- >> [ARCI classification system](#)
- >> [USTA's fines and suspensions for this week](#)
- >> [Standardbred Canada's fines and suspensions for this week](#)



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## A rarity in recent simulcast observations

by Brett Sturman

This first racing week of the new year brought with it something you don't often see as part of a harness race, a driver's objection. Inquiries for something other than a pylon or breaking violation are rare enough, but whenever there is a review for interference, it's almost always initiated by the judges.

But in race 10 at Northfield Park this past Wednesday (Jan. 3), a driver's objection was filed against Very Smart driven by Aaron Merriman, who had finished second. After a lengthy review approaching 10 minutes, judges did not alter the placings.

I remember years ago, driver Marcus Miller said in a tweet that drivers rarely file objections because they can never win them, adding that he's tried a few times prior where an infraction was obvious, and each time it was disallowed. To that point, if there was ever a time where an objection would lead to a result being overturned, this Northfield race would have seemingly been it.

In the race, going up the backstretch for the second time, Merriman who was sitting third at the time, moved off the rail

into the two-path. In the process, it at least gave the appearance that he pushed Seal Sniper from the two-path into the three-path. I thought for sure that's where the objection would have come from, but interestingly, it was announced that the objection was actually lodged by the driver of Upfront Stone, who as confusion ensued, found himself about four-wide.

The main issue, and something that almost all tracks need to vastly improve at, is giving the public an idea of what the judges are looking at. The Meadowlands, and Woodbine Mohawk Park, and I'm sure there are a couple others, show various camera angles during a judges review of a race. But in this example from Northfield, all the public saw was a static graphic that indicated there was an objection, without showing a single replay of any view whatsoever that judges were looking at. In a race where the total handle was \$163,208, how can the public not be informed as to what is going to lead to a final decision, one way or the other?

In any other sport the public will get 75 different slow motion camera angles that show precisely what a referee is looking at. So, for the wagering public in a harness race to not be given the slightest indication as to what is being reviewed is totally unacceptable. Even if it's true and that the judges simply won't overturn a result if they didn't initiate the review themselves, everyone should be entitled to see all available angles of the race review. What is shown during a judge's review of a race should be made a standard across all jurisdictions and tracks.

Speaking of another thing that should be universal, is how tracks handle this relatively new concept of a "countdown clock" to assist with post time drag. The idea is that as tracks display post time as 0 minutes even when actual post time may not be for another 10 or more minutes, a countdown clock graphic has been installed at many tracks to essentially say that now we really do mean it and post time is coming soon.

*But, with each track operating as its own fiefdom, they all treat [the countdown to the start of the race] vastly differently. For example, The Meadowlands starts its countdown at 180 seconds while others start it at 60 seconds. For some tracks, 60 seconds means time until the gate starts rolling, at others, 60 seconds means until the actual start of the race. Sometimes 60 seconds means nothing, and horses mull around for a little more after. Some tracks don't use it at all.*

But, with each track operating as its own fiefdom, they all treat it vastly differently. For example, The Meadowlands starts its countdown at 180 seconds while others start it at 60 seconds. For some tracks, 60 seconds means time until the gate starts rolling, at others, 60 seconds means until the actual start of the race. Sometimes 60 seconds means nothing, and horses mull around for a little more after. Some tracks don't use it at all.

If we come to accept post drag as something that's not going away, the countdown clock isn't an awful idea if it's consistent. However, unless you are intimately familiar with each track's post time process, it's easy to miss the start of the race. Because of the disproportionate amount of late money that comes into the pools and how it affects the odds, being able to know the specific seconds when a race will go off can be critical. Short of having to come up with a player's guide to each track's countdown clock logic, what if all tracks could universally agree on how the leadup to start of their races is conveyed?

Tying in with the last second starts of races is the hot topic of Computer Assisted Wagering (CAW). Sometimes wild, final-flash changes to the odds are often attributed to CAWs, where a high volume of wagers is placed in the final seconds based on where system algorithms believe there is an edge in the odds.

If that's not bad enough for your standard horse player, it's compounded in harness racing by the visual of where horses either have their nose on the starting gate ready to go, or adversely, if a horse is gapped off the gate. At Woodbine Mohawk Park for example, there's a terrific side camera angle heading into the stretch to start the race that perfectly shows the alignment of all horses.

In an example from Friday (Jan. 5), a horse from post 10 in race number 10 was shown at odds of 7-2 seconds before the start of the race. From the camera angle, not only was the 10's nose right on the gate, but the two horses immediately to the left of him were both off the gate by a length. On the final odds, that same horse was 5-2.

The CAWs are one thing. Even though they absolutely do drive late odds swings, you can debate how accurate their models actually are. But it's another to have to either pay a premium in odds if your horse is on the gate or have a horse with inflated odds but out of position. A consistent approach across all tracks to determine exactly when wagering stops would solve both issues.



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# New Jersey

## The Meadowlands in 2023: It was a very good year

by Dave Little / Meadowlands media relations

When you're the number one track in the sport, you figure to have your share of good things happen during the course of 12 months, but 2023 was exceptional on all fronts, even when one considers the high expectations that exist at The Meadowlands.

Handle numbers at the mile oval set records.

First of all, there were 60 race cards where betting exceeded the \$3-million plateau, meaning that two-thirds of the time, action went past that lofty level.

Also, after \$3,435,939 was bet on the 14-race program during Saturday's (Dec. 30) 2023 finale, it pushed the grand total for the year to \$274,765,520 wagered on Meadowlands' races over the 89 programs that were contested at the mile oval during the year, establishing a "Jeff Gural-Jason Settlemoir"-era record average nightly handle of \$3,087,253, eclipsing the previous best of \$3.00 million, which was established in 2021.

Gural took over The Big M in December of 2011.

"Our fans are the greatest," said Settlemoir, the track's chief operating officer and general manager. "The average handle of over \$3 million was the highest it's been here in decades. Our sincere thanks go out to Gov. [Phil] Murphy and the State Legislature of New Jersey for always going to bat for the racing industry, the horse people that support New Jersey racing, the Grand Circuit and Hambletonian Society, our employees and state employees. We appreciate everyone who played a role in our success during 2023."

Then Settlemoir paid tribute to a pair of late Meadowlands' favorites.

"And I'd like to give a special shoutout to the heavens to Sam McKee and Dave Brower," Settlemoir said. "Two super-talented guys who we lost way too soon. None of this happens without you."

**THE STARS CAME OUT:** There were three can't-miss nights of racing at The Big M during 2023, and the horses – as well as the fans – delivered.

First was July 15, Meadowlands Pace Night, when **Confederate** powered clear of his foes in 1:47 in the \$668,000 Meadowlands Pace, giving trainer Brett Pelling his record fifth Pace win. Driver Tim Tetrick ran his Pace win total to six, just one behind all-time leader John Campbell.

Handle on the card was \$5.6 million, the most wagered on Pace Night since 2006.

Lisa Photo

**Confederate (Tim Tetrick) winning the 2023 Meadowlands Pace. The race was one of the highlights of a successful year at the New Jersey track.**



Hambletonian Day, Aug. 5, saw **Tactical Approach** take the \$1-million Hambletonian by navigating the short route up the pylons in 1:50.3 for driver Scott Zeron and trainer Nancy Takter. For Zeron, his partnership with Tactical Approach had much to do with his winning the Dan Patch Driver of the Year Award. He has now driven the winners of three Hambletonians.

Betting on the program totaled \$7.8 million, up by \$150,000 over the year prior, and was by far the single-card best in the sport during 2023.

Finally, Fall Final Four/FanDuel Championships Night (Nov. 25) saw a dazzling performance by Dan Patch 2-year-old male trotter of the year **Karl** in the \$423,000 Valley Victory for Yannick Gingras and Takter in 1:52.1.

The total action of \$3.6 million established a new high for FF4/FDC Night.

**GINGRAS TOP DRIVER, BURKE TOP TRAINER:** It will come as a surprise to no Meadowlands follower that Gingras and Ron Burke topped the driver and trainer standings, respectively, at the mile oval during 2023.

Gingras led the pilots with 123 victories and was tops in earnings as well, with \$3.2 million. His win percentage of 20.6 was the highest in the colony of those who won at least seven races, a

list that is 33 names long.

Dave Miller was second with 111 wins and \$3.1 million in earnings.

A 44-year-old native of Quebec, Gingras also led all North American drivers in the overall earnings race with \$15.1 million.

Burke led the way in the trainer standings with 112 wins and \$2.9 million in earnings.

Tony Alagna was second in wins with 43, while Ake Svanstedt was the runner-up in money with \$2.15 million.

Overall, during 2023, Burke, a 44-year-old Pennsylvanian, once again stood at the top of the heap from a national trainer perspective with 1,158 wins, 5,053 starts and \$27.5 million in earnings, all career highs for the man with the all-time marks of more than 14,500 victories and \$320 million in earnings.

**A LITTLE MORE:** There were five drivers that won five races on a single Meadowlands card during the year. They were Jordan Stratton (on Jan. 28), Gingras (Feb. 24), Dexter Dunn (Apr. 28), Tetrick (July 15) and Zeron (Nov. 17).

On the training side, two conditioners managed to win four times on a single program. Burke did it twice (on Feb. 18 and Mar. 18) and Takter once (July 4).

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# Engblom right back to work after big 2023

by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager

After a busy 2023 that saw Per Engblom finish second in North America in wins and fifth in purses, the trainer got right back in action this weekend with 11 horses racing at The Meadowlands.

Engblom, a former Jimmy Takter assistant, saw his fifth year with his own stable end with 363 victories and \$6.09 million in earnings. Those figures doubled his previous highs in both categories, set in 2022.

In addition, Engblom captured the training title at MGM Yonkers Raceway, where he had 231 wins and \$3.83 million in purses. He was third in victories at Harrah's Philadelphia, where he was the 2022 leading trainer, and tied for third at The Meadowlands.

"It started out well and one thing led to another," Engblom said. "We got more horses in, and better horses came in. It just kind of kept rolling from that point."

Engblom amassed most of his wins and purses in overnights. His horses raced for \$50,000 or more only 82 times in 1,760 starts.

"We raced a lot, but those were the kinds of horses we had," Engblom said. "We had some stakes horses, too, that didn't race as much, but with the amount of raceway horses we had, we had to race them a lot. That's how we set it up and that's how they did good."

"We didn't have a standout horse. We didn't have one that really stepped up and showed to be our star. We just had a very solid bunch of horses. We had a lot of horses that made between \$75,000 and \$150,000, both stakes horses and raceway horses. Maybe that's what stood out [about the season], that we had so many of them. That's good because then I know the program is working. We just have to keep looking for that special horse."

Making 1,760 starts – the third most by any trainer in North America – was challenging, but Engblom credited those around him for helping make it possible.

"We have a great team; I'm fortunate that way," said Engblom, whose team includes his wife, Helene, and brother Petter. "I like to be hands-on at the barn every day, but my brother can step in and take over when I have to travel. I've got great help that knows what to do and will take care of it."

Engblom will begin this year with about 100 horses, including more than two dozen 2-year-olds.

"We did get more babies this year," Engblom said. "I try not to go crazy at the yearling sales. I try to buy horses that I like and spend the money I think they're worth. I might have liked to get a few more, but it was hard at Lexington because, like everybody else, we wanted to get the dual eligibles and you had to pay a premium. But that is a good sign for our business."

Among Engblom's starters that competed this weekend at The Meadowlands were pacing mares Tony's Mom and No Win No Feed A.

Tony's Mom, a 5-year-old, finished second at The Big M on Dec. 23, when she came home with a :26.1 last quarter. The 9-year-old No Win No Feed A will be making her third start for Engblom.

Engblom will watch how the two mares perform in their next several starts and determine whether either, or both, will go to the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series in a couple months at Yonkers. Tony's Mom hit the board in 13 of 19 races last year at Yonkers, winning eight.

"They're both in that [Matchmaker] category if they race well enough," Engblom said. "Tony's Mom has got the tactical speed and gets around there perfectly. She is so good gaited. She's solid."

"I think they both have ability. Tony's Mom has grown nicely for us. No Win No Feed is training well. I'm aiming for that with both of them, but we'll see. Time will tell."

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## Owner Steve Heimbecker admits fraud to live lavish lifestyle

In a story by Paige Desmond in Ontario's [Waterloo Region Record](#) published on Thursday (Jan. 4), owner Steve Heimbecker admitted to "multimillion-dollar fraud," according to Superior Court documents.

Through his mortgage company, Nestig Inc., Heimbecker and his wife, Joanna, were supposed to be making investments for owner Brad Grant and others, but instead were living a lavish lifestyle acquiring "substantial assets, including a 2020 Lamborghini, racehorses, 19 yearlings for \$2.3 million and a farm property in Puslinch, [ON]," according to the article.

Heimbecker's actions established "an overwhelming case of fraud," Justice Leonard Ricchetti said.

Grant, the 2022 Dan Patch Owner of the Year, brought the claim against Heimbecker and Nestig for breach of contract and breach of trust. According to Grant's lawyers "the principal, interest and fees owed are valued at about \$62 million."

The article outlines that the scheme was brought down by Heimbecker telling Grant that he was selling Nestig and therefore needed a noteworthy amount of money invested to ensure the sale happened. After investing \$51 million and not receiving satisfactory responses from Heimbecker about his investments, Grant became suspicious and in Oct. 2022 began the court action. According to Grant's lawyers, Heimbecker gave him checks worth \$28 million that bounced.

In November of 2022, Heimbecker subsequently filed for bankruptcy and "claimed \$21,000 in net income," according to court documents.

According to the United States Trotting Association's Pathway, Heimbecker currently owns five horses and previously owned 233, including Tactical Approach, Max Contract and It's A Me Mario.

Comments in response to the article allege that Grant was not Heimbecker's only victim. "Many people are losing their homes and life savings," said one response, in part.

## Stratton wins three at Big M

Jordan Stratton had the hot hand Friday night (Jan. 5) at The Meadowlands, as the 36-year-old pilot led the driver colony with three winners from his 12 starters on the card.

**Windsun Mojito**, a 5-year-old by He's Watching—Artistic Melody, gave Stratton his first winner of the night in the second race in 1:53.1 in a TrackMaster 74 fillies and mares pace. Jordan's brother Cory trained the winner, who returned \$4.60 to her backers as the 6-5 public choice.

"There was a speedball up front," said Jordan. "She came off cover and won pretty handily."

The amazing **Sgt Papa Daddy** recorded his third straight win at the \$7,500 claiming pace level in 1:52.3 for the brothers Stratton. The 10-year-old gelded son of Rockin Image—Little Tootsie returned \$2.40 as the 1-5 favorite in the seventh race.

"He's been around for a long time," said Jordan. "He's as sharp as can be. Cory has a great eye for claimers."

The sport's hottest claiming commodity was taken for a third straight race, this time by trainer Rob Harmon, and if he wins next week, that would be four straight victories in four different barns.

Jordan's third and final win of the night came with the Anette Lorentzon-trained **Some Chapter** in the 10th. The 7-year-old gelded son of Chapter Seven—Some Kinda Special scored in the featured mid-range conditioned trot in 1:54.2, paying \$3.80 as the 4-5 chalk.

"I was a little surprised at how heavy he was favored because he'd been off for more than a month," said Jordan. "But he has a history of racing at The Meadowlands and he loves to trot home."

It could have been a monster night for Jordan, who finished second four times on the card, which included missing a nose with Shinkansen in the third race and Plzdontlietome N in the 13th.

"Shinkansen got used hard out of the gate and got rough on the far turn," said Jordan. "I drove Plzdontlietome N like a 3-5 shot and it didn't work out."

Jordan, whose 220 wins were good for fourth in the Yonkers driver colony during 2023, also did some good work at The Big M last year, winning 49 races, which was ninth in the standings.

**A LITTLE MORE:** Pat Lachance and Tyler Miller each drove a pair to victory lane. Lachance matched Cory Stratton's two training victories. All-source handle on the 14-race card totaled \$3,228,629.

*Dave Little / Meadowlands media relations*

## The Raceway's 2023 award winners announced

The top performers from the 2023 season at The Raceway at Western Fair District have been announced and will all be honored during the annual Awards Night which takes place this year on Saturday (March 2).

Trotting mare Okeeheelee was the only multiple award winner from 2023, taking home both the Older Trotting Mare and Claiming Trotter of the Year Awards. The daughter of Il Sogno Dream—Phoenix Goal won seven times at the London oval during the season while banking just shy of \$42,000 for owner/trainer Jack Wray of London.

The father-daughter duo of Colonel and Cassidy Schneider teamed up for another stellar season in London and will take home the Owner of the Year and Trainer of the Year hardware respectively. Schneider-owned starters clicked for 33 wins during the meet while amassing just over \$194,000 in earnings. Cassidy led all trainers with 53 wins and just over \$322,000 in purse winnings to capture her second consecutive trainer's title.

Despite giving up his full-time driving status at The Raceway part way through the season, Tyler Borth captured another London driving title by virtue of his 192 trips to the winner's circle and \$1.183 million in earnings while sporting a sparkling .401 U.D.R.S. Borth finished second in the nation for wins behind reigning O'Brien Award winner James MacDonald.

The annual Awards Night celebration will once again take place at the Top Of The Fair restaurant. Tickets will go on sale soon and horse people can stay tuned to the track's website and social media channels for full details as they are announced.

Nominations are now being accepted for Caretaker of the Year. To nominate someone for the award, you are asked to email your submission and reasons why to [gblanchard@westernfairdistrict.com](mailto:gblanchard@westernfairdistrict.com), [sdoyle@westernfairdistrict.com](mailto:sdoyle@westernfairdistrict.com) or [aotoole@westernfairdistrict.com](mailto:aotoole@westernfairdistrict.com). Text messages or online messages will not be accepted.

To be eligible, a person must race primarily at The Raceway and have worked in a caretaker capacity for a minimum of three years. A voting committee will select the winner, based on nominations, which will be announced the night of the award ceremony along with other selected categories including overall Horse of the Year.

The horse awards are based on the highest earnings with a minimum of six starts at The Raceway during the calendar year while the claiming awards are based on the number of claiming wins at The Raceway during the same period. The complete list of this year's winners, including categories that will be announced the night of the event, are listed below:

### THE RACEWAY 2023 AWARD WINNERS

**3YOF Trotter** – April Duford

**3YOF Pacer** – Yoda Queen

**3YOC Trotter** – Acefortyfour Elvis

**3YOC Pacer** – Punchesinbunches

**Older Trotting Mare** – Okeeheelee

**Older Pacing Mare** – So Frisky

**Older Trotting Horse** – Bucktober

**Older Pacing Horse** – Cheddar Bay

**Claiming Pacer** – Big Bad Jenn

**Claiming Trotter** – Okeeheelee

**Rookie of the Year** – Just Ask Joe

**Trainer of the Year** – Cassidy Schneider

**Driver of the Year** – Tyler Borth

**Owner of the Year** – Colonel Schneider, Jr.

**Caretaker of the Year** – TBA

**Horsewoman of the Year** – TBA

**Overall Horse of the Year** – TBA

*The Raceway at WFD media*

## Breeders Book reprint for orders received after it sold out

Due to increased demand, the first run of the 2024 Breeders Book has sold out. As a result, the book is being reprinted for orders received after the supplies were depleted and are expected to be mailed out the week of Jan. 22. Orders are still being taken for the reprinted version.

For orders received by the Nov. 30, 2023 deadline, the books were mailed out on Dec. 14, 2023. Orders received after the deadline but before supplies ran out were mailed on Dec. 19, 2023.

Prices are \$30 to a U.S. shipping address, \$50 for Canadian and \$60 for international. Hoof Beats subscribers get a \$10 discount (\$20, \$40, \$50, respectively).

Orders can be made through MyAccount on the USTA website by clicking [here](#) or by calling Member Services at 877-800-8782. After logging into MyAccount, select "Click here to view products available from the USTA Store" to order the Breeders Book.

Anyone can set up a free MyAccount, not just U.S. Trotting Association members.

For everyone who has ordered a copy of the printed 2024 Breeders Book, a free, digital copy is immediately available through their MyAccount. In addition, for Hoof Beats subscribers who didn't order the print version and all USTA members, it will be available starting Jan. 22.

The Breeders Book is the most comprehensive source of breeding information in the harness racing industry. The book contains pedigrees for many North American stallions standing stud in 2024 as well as many 2023 statistical reports, including: Leading Money-Winning Broodmare Sires, Mares Bred reporting, Sire Stakes Money Winners, Leading Sires of 2- and 3-Year-Olds, Leading Money-Winning Sires, Leading Sires by Average Earnings and Leading Speed Sires.

There is also a 2023 Auction Report, which includes: Yearling Sales Statistics, Select Sale Sire, Comparison, Sire Averages for Lexington and Harrisburg sales, Top-Priced Yearlings, Leading Sires by Average Price, Compilation of Sires (sorted by gait then alphabetically) and a Compilation of Yearlings sold (alphabetically by dam).

*USTA communications department*

The daughter of Volstead was the only horse to win all five legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes. She dominated the Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship with a track record performance and won the Ohio State Fair Stakes as she earned \$373,925 in 2023.

Sugar Instead was bred by Elmer Miller.

Tennessee Tom and Sugar Instead will be honored at the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Annual Awards Banquet on Jan. 13, 2024, at the Marriott Columbus OSU in Columbus, OH. Tickets to the banquet are \$30 each and can be purchased by calling the OHHA office at 614-221-3650.

The 2023 Ohio Horse of the Year will be announced at the annual awards banquet.

*Frank Fraas / Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association*

## Tennessee Tom, Sugar Instead Ohio's top trotting freshmen for 2023

When the 2023 season started, Tennessee Tom was not in the Burke Racing Stable. After one of the stable's top prospects was injured, the search was on for a replacement.

Ron Burke turned to Mark Weaver who purchased a pair of young trotters, including Tennessee Tom who went on to be named Ohio's top 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter.

"The horse was ready to go when we got him," Burke said. "He turned out to be a killer."

Two weeks after buying Tennessee Tom, the son of Long Tom finished second in The Next Generation and then won three of the next four races.

Owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, Knox Services, and Hatfield Stable, Tennessee Tom hit the board in eight of nine starts, winning five including the Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship and the Ohio Fair Stakes, earning \$456,350. He was bred by Albert Miller.

Sugar Instead had a season that dreams are made of. An \$11,000 auction purchase, Sugar Instead rose to be queen of the freshman Ohio filly trotters as she was named the 2023 2-Year-Old Ohio Trotting Filly of the Year.

Purchased by Susan Sickle at the Blooded Horse Sale, Sugar Instead was sold to Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills before her first start. She won seven of 11 races. The only race she did not hit the board in was the Breeders Crown final when she made a break around the final turn.

"We couldn't be happier with the year she had," said trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr. "I really thought she had a shot in the Breeders Crown. She had trot, the earplugs were in and that would have been a tremendous year."





# RESULTS & REPLAYS



## PURSE CRITERIA FOR INCLUDED RACES

**Non-stakes races with a purse of \$15K+ | Stakes races with a purse of \$10K+**

**RACE RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY ARE PUBLISHED AS OF MIDNIGHT.  
ANY RESULTS MADE OFFICIAL AFTER MIDNIGHT ON THE USTA WEBSITE WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT**

## RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY

### HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT THE MEADOWS *report*

#### Friday's Results:

**8, Mea, \$19,200, Pace, \*\*OPEN HANDICAP\*\* P.P. 1-3 DRAWN, 4-5 DRAWN, 6 ASSIGNED, 26.2, 55.2, 1:23.0, 1:50.3, FT**

**1-Lunar (g, 6, Sweet Lou--Crescent City, by Rocknroll Hanover)** \$9,600, \$45,000 2019 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 24-12-5-2, \$105,259

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Phillip Collura & Knox Services Inc & J&T Silva- Purnel & Libby. B-Diamond Creek Farm LLC. T-Michael Burke.  
D-Dan Charlino.



## ANOTHER DIAMOND CREEK-BRED WINNER!



*Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!*

**LEXINGTON**  
*Selected Yearling Sale*

**2-Semi Tough (g, 8, Somebeachsomewhere--Jan It Jackson, by Badlands Hanover)** \$4,800, \$115,000 2017 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 147-32-20-22, \$1,129,110

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Frank D Baldachino & J&T Silva- Purnel & Libby & Weaver Brusceci LLC. B-Vieux Carre Farms LLC. T-Michael Burke.  
D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr..

**3-Chase H Hanover (g, 6, Captaintreacherous--Calgary Hanover, by Western Ideal)** \$2,304, \$30,000 2019 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 77-22-15-10, \$925,981

O-Odds On Racing & Carl T Howard. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Virgil Morgan Jr. D-Dave Palone.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1H, 1H - Finish Order: Macadoodleoo, Warrawee Veloce, Bereaved Hanover

### WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

#### Friday's Results:

**2, Wbs, \$17,000, Pace, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE (WINNERS FOR A PURSE OF \$9,000 OR LESS 2 RACES) OR \$7,500 (OS \$11,250) LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.3, 56.3, 1:27.0, 1:54.3**

**1-Captains Pick (b,g,4 - Captaintreacherous-Angels Delight-Rocknroll Hanover)** \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 15-1-5-1, \$34,000

O-Yolanda Fellows, Blair Corbeil, Mike Mcallister, Arpad Szabo B-30 Plus Stable T-Robert Kyle Fellows D-Sylvain Filion



## PREFERRED EQUINE

## Yearling Sale Graduate

**2-Quentin Quarantino (br,c,3 - Bettors Delight-Lady Crazy-Santanna Blue Chip)**

O-Gregg Mcnair, Grand Slam Stable B-Princeton Farms Inc T-Gregg Mcnair D-Douglas Mcnair

**3-Windsun Diego (b,g,4 - All Bets Off-Windsun Chanel-Sportswriter)**

O-Windsun Farm Inc B-Windsun Farm Inc T-Murray Brethour D-James Macdonald

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

## RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

5, Wbs, \$19,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$30,000 (OS \$45,000) LIFETIME, 28.0, 56.2, 1:24.4, 1:53.2

**1-Ultimate Speed (b,m,4 - Artspeak-Magic Of Brussels-Shadow Play)** \$9,500, Lifetime Record: 33-3-6-3, \$40,722

O-Nicholas Ahern B-Susan & John Clark T-Nicholas Ahern D-Phillippe Hudon



**PREFERRED EQUINE**

*Yearling Sale Graduate*

**2-Ethel** (b,m,5 - Sportswriter-Lets Rock N Roll-Rocknroll Hanover)

O-Patrick Barr B-Jeffrey Moore T-Patrick Barr D-Travis Cullen

**3-True That** (b,m,4 - All Bets Off-Moment Of Truth-Western Hanover)

O-Jeffrey Webster B-Ray Compari T-Joe Pereira D-Douglas Mcnair

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

6, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, NW \$4,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: NW 2 RACES LAST 10 STARTS, 27.4, 56.4, 1:25.4, 1:55.0

**1-Chulo (b,h,5 - What The Hill-Chula-Majestic Son)** \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 39-7-3-3, \$233,441

O-Daniel Sarafian, Stephen Klunowski, Kevin Mckinlay, Brandon Guerra B-Renee Spahr T-Carmen Auciello D-Sylvain Filion

**Preferred Equine**  **Online SALE GRADUATE**



**PREFERRED EQUINE**

*Mixed Sale Graduate*

**2-Dream Nation** (br,g,8 - Archangel-Mississippi Dream-Dream Vacation)

O-Les Ecuries Dorleans Inc, Ecurie Csl, Gestion C Levesque 2005inc, Marc Camirand B-Winbak Farm T-Marie Helene Dupont D-Louis-Philippe Roy

**3-Derf Hanover** (b,g,10 - Cantab Hall-Drink N Drive-Lindy Lane)

O-Triple S Equine B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Gerard Demers D-Trevor Henry

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

7, Wbs, \$24,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, NW \$14,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$32,500 LAST 10 STARTS, 27.1, 56.4, 1:24.4, 1:53.1

**1-Ms Quick Sand (br,m,5 - Always A Virgin-Sand Pleasure-Cambest)** \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 64-12-10-7, \$305,750

O-Ecurie Csl B-Lavon Miller T-Marie Helene Dupont D-Austin Sorrie

**2-Parisian Blue Chip** (b,m,9 - Bettors Delight-She Walks The Walk-Rocknroll Hanover)

O-Stephen Klunowski, David Mcdonald B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald

**3-Gias Surreal** (b,m,8 - So Surreal-Nancy Irene-Park Place)

O-James Graham, Edward Peron, Lee Winters B-Black Knight Stables T-Donald Lindsey D-Bob McClure

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

8, Wbs, \$17,000, Pace, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE (WINNERS FOR A PURSE OF \$9,000 OR LESS 2 RACES) OR \$7,500 (OS \$11,250) LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.4, 57.3, 1:26.1, 1:55.3

**1-Id Imagine (b,g,4 - Bettors Delight-Maid West-Western Hanover)** \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 17-2-2-5, \$25,246

O-Gordon Mason B-Winbak Farm T-Derick Anderson D-Phillippe Hudon



**Another WINBAK FARM Winner!**



**2-Dance On The Moon** (b,g,4 - Shadow Play-Willbebest-Cammibest)

O-2353829 Ontario Limited B-Ronald Muir T-Dean Nixon D-Jody Jamieson

**3-Lyons Brushmarks** (b,h,4 - Sportswriter-Paints Hall-Blissfull Hall)

O-John Lougheed, Dorien De Jong, Ed Laybourne B-Winbak Farm T-John Lougheed D-Travis Cullen

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

## RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

9, Wbs, \$21,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, 5 YR OLDS & YOUNGER, WINNERS OF 2 NOT MORE THAN 4 RACES OR \$56,250 (OS \$72,750) LIFE. AE: 4 & 5 YO CLAIMING \$50,000. AE: NW OF A RACE L10, 26.4, 55.2, 1:23.0, 1:51.0

**1-Powder Play (b,m,4 - Sportswriter-Laurels Lea-Western Terror)** \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 29-8-6-2, \$101,725  
O-Robert Woodburn B-Ray Compani T-Meg Crone D-Louis-Philippe Roy

TARA HILLS  
Stud

Another **SPORTSWRITER** Winner!

TARA HILLS  
Stud

**2-Elises Delight (b,m,4 - Bettors Delight-Slimsplace-Artsplace)**  
O-Jeffrey Gillis, Ellen Ott B-Jeffrey Gillis T-Jeffrey Gillis D-Douglas Mcnair

**3-Fear The Crush (b,m,4 - Fear The Dragon-Haute Couture-Badlands Hanover)**  
O-Allan Shelton B-Brenda Shelton T-Donald Lindsey D-James Macdonald

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

## RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY

### NORTHFIELD PARK *report*

#### Saturday's Results:

11, Nfld, \$18,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES OPEN HANDICAP, M, 27.2, 56.2, 1:24.1, 1:52.4, FT

**1-Fairiesdelight A (m, 8, Bettor's Delight--Awaywiththefairies, by Mach Three)** \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 107-21-18-11, \$154,024  
O-M T Stables Ontario Inc, CA. B-R A Cormack, AS. T-Braiden Rhoades. D-Aaron Merriman.

**2-Creme Delight (m, 5, Bettor's Delight--Creme Fraiche, by Western Hanover)** \$4,500, \$25,000 2020 ONT-SEL, Lifetime Record: 64-15-13-8, \$189,288  
O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Frank A Canzone & Lawrence R Karr. B-Susan M Zammit, CA. T-Michael Burke. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr..

**3-Think Of Galaxies (m, 6, So Surreal--Lightning D Dube, by Western Ideal)** \$2,160, Lifetime Record: 74-14-15-9, \$363,232  
O-Thestable Thinkofgalaxies, CA. B-Peter Kleinhans. T-Jason Mcginnis. D-Chris Lems.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 2T, 2T, 2H, Q, 2 - Finish Order: Waitforever N, Tobins Secret, Racing Glory, Smothastenesewisky, A Delightful Act N

### WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

#### Saturday's Results:

1, Wbs, \$18,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW \$15,100 (ON SIRE \$23,750) LIFETIME. AE: N/A \$540 P/S LAST 10 STARTS, 25.4, 55.1, 1:25.3, 1:53.4

**1-Brady Hanover (b,g,3 - Always B Miki-Bittersweet Terror-Western Terror)** \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-0, \$17,500  
O-Jack Darling Stables Ltd B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-John Darling D-Jody Jamieson

ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS

Hanover  
Greatest name in  
Harness Racing

**2-Sergeant Slaughter (b,g,4 - Big Jim-Minettas Moonbeam-Lusty Leader)**  
O-Kirk Thomas B-Krista Thomas T-Kirk Thomas D-Tyler Borth

**3-Odds On Kickoff (b,h,4 - Heston Blue Chip-Odds On Key West-Somebeachsomewhere)**  
O-Mardon Stables B-Odds On Nourrir T-Bruce Macdonald D-Bob McClure

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

2, Wbs, \$18,000, Pace, HORSES THAT HAVE STARTED FOR A PURSE OF \$15,000 OR LESS IN ONE OF LAST 3 STARTS. (STARTERS FOR A PURSE OF \$20,000 OR MORE IN LAST 2 STARTS N/E), 26.4, 55.3, 1:25.0, 1:52.4

**1-Hail Christian N (br,h,10 - Christian Cullen-Wicklow Heather N-Falcon Seelster)** \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 141-25-29-13, \$432,645  
O-Harcourt Lodge 1 B-T P & J E Fleming T-Paul Thomas Court D-James Macdonald

## RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

**2-Reactor Now A** (b,g,9 - Auckland Reactor N-Whos Sorry Now-Western Ideal)

O-Bradley Grant B-B C & V A Edward T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas Mcnair

**3-Lovemyrockinbird** (b,g,7 - Mystery Chase-Kill A Rockingbird-Rocknroll Hanover)

O-Limco Inc B-James Rhodes T-Victor Puddy D-Louis-Philippe

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

**3, Wbs, \$21,000, Pace**, CLAIMING HANDICAP \$50,000 TO \$60,000. ALLOWANCES FOR AGE, 27.1, 57.0, 1:26.1, 1:53.3

**1-Maskedman (b,g,5 - Shadow Play-Tempest Blue Chip-Bettors Delight)** \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 74-15-10-12, \$115,522

O-French Connection Racing, Gaston Bibeau B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Richard Moreau D-James Macdonald

## ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS



**2-Woodmere Fenn** (b,g,6 - Rollwithiharry-Four Starz Roe-Four Starzz Shark)

O-Scott West B-Woodmere Farms T-Scott West D-Tyler Jones

**3-Brookdale Miki** (b,g,4 - Always B Miki-La Playa Brava-Somebeachsomewhere)

O-Douglas & Douglas Polley B-David Willmot, Clay Harland Horner T-Benjamin Hollingsworth D-Bob McClure

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

**5, Wbs, \$28,000, Pace**, NW \$20,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR \$30,050 LAST 8 STARTS. AE: NW 10 RACES OR \$100,000 LIFETIME, 26.3, 55.3, 1:24.3, 1:51.2

**1-Donttouchmytruck (br,g,4 - Racing Hill-Age Of Consent-Real Desire)** \$14,000, Lifetime Record: 30-12-6-4, \$145,576

O-Judy Roegner B-Judy Roegner T-Anthony Montini D-Jody Jamieson

**2-Century Heineken** (b,g,6 - Bettors Delight-Brushstrokes-Real Artist)

O-Gregg Mcnair, Bradley Grant, Ross Family Farms Ltd B-Century Spring Farms T-Gregg Mcnair D-Douglas Mcnair

**3-Funatthebeach N** (b,g,10 - Somebeachsomewhere-Minnie Moose-Bettors Delight)

O-Mark Ford B-C J & B J Whitelock T-Jeffrey Gillis D-Trevor Henry

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

**6, Wbs, \$21,000, Pace**, WINNERS OF 2 BUT NOT MORE THAN 4 RACES OR \$45,000 (OS \$76,850) LIFETIME, 26.1, 55.2, 1:24.1, 1:52.2

**1-Stormalong (b,h,4 - Stay Hungry-Cut A Deal-Rocknroll Hanover)** \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 29-5-5-3, \$119,410

O-Bradley Grant B-Vieux Carre Farms Llc T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas Mcnair

## FROM THE FIRST CROP OF STAY HUNGRY



**2-Speaker Of Peace** (b,g,4 - Artspeak-Im All In-Cams Card Shark)

O-William McClure B-Winbak Farm T-William McClure D-Bob McClure

**3-Kaptain Karlos** (b,g,4 - Captaintreacherous-Robin Cruiser-Yankee Cruiser)

O-Tim Dickieson B-Pinske Stabkes T-Shane Arsenault D-Louis-Philippe Roy

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

**7, Wbs, \$19,000, Pace**, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$30,000 (OS \$45,000) LIFETIME, 27.0, 57.1, 1:27.0, 1:54.0

**1-Wry (b,g,4 - Artspeak-Hobe Sound-Somebeachsomewhere)** \$9,500, Lifetime Record: 25-3-4-6, \$65,600

O-Chris Matthews, Todd Williams, Jeff Bryan, Gary Lyons B-Steve Stewart T-Chris Matthews D-Douglas Mcnair

**2-All Bets On Tex** (b,g,4 - All Bets Off-Tampa Town-Big Towner)

O-Jeffrey Lilley, Blair Maclauchlan, Kent Livingston, Marc Gallant B-Karen Talbot T-Tyler Moore D-Tyler Moore

**3-Shreddar** (br,g,4 - Betterthancheddar-Heather Loves Ny-Big Jim)

O-Paul & Jayme Cameron, Arnolds Horse Shack B-Amanda & Brett Riley T-Paul Cameron D-Jody Jamieson

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

## RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

**8, Wbs, \$18,000, Pace**, NW \$8,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$19,050 LAST 8 STARTS. AE: N/A \$1,435 P/S IN 2023, 26.2, 56.3, 1:25.3, 1:53.2

**1-The Light Speed (b,g,6 - Moon Beam-Jayma-Camluck)** \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 105-46-32-7, \$338,054

O-Michel Nolette B-Michel Nolette T-Guy Gagnon D-Trevor Henry

**2-Legion Seelster** (br,g,8 - Sunshine Beach-Legacy-Art Major)

O-Gordon Mc Donald, Christopher Boland B-Seelster Farms Inc T-Victor Puddy D-Louis-Philippe Roy

**3-Flyingevenbetter N** (b,g,8 - Bettors Delight-Flying MrsWilliams-Falcon Seelster)

O-Bradley Grant B-L E & H R Williams T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas Mcnair

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

**9, Wbs, \$36,000, Pace**, PREFERRED, 26.3, 55.1, 1:23.2, 1:51.1

**1-Taurasi (b,g,5 - Racing Hill-Voluminous-Eleven A M)** \$18,000, Lifetime Record: 32-13-5-5, \$419,321

O-Bradley Grant, Alagna Racing Llc B-M T Pockets Stables T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas Mcnair

**2-Points North** (b,g,9 - Somebeachsomewhere-Northwest Hanover-Western Hanover)

O-Jim & David Winske B-Pinske Stables T-Carmen Auciello D-Sylvain Filion

**3-Covered Bridge** (b,g,8 - American Ideal-Stonebridge Kisses-Artiscape)

O-Mark Ford B-Winbak Farm T-Jeffrey Gillis D-James Macdonald

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

**11, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace**, NW \$4,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: NW OF A RACE LAST 10 STARTS. AE: N/A \$1375 P/S IN 2023, 27.3, 57.2, 1:25.1, 1:54.0

**1-Rockabilly Rebel N (b,g,7 - A Rocknroll Dance-Judy Jetson-Jeremes Jet)** \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 56-16-15-3, \$163,264

O-Bradley Grant, Ecurie Csl B-D L Vanderweg, G S Chmiel, P K Vanderweg T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas Mcnair

**2-Rockme Rollme** (b,g,8 - A Rocknroll Dance-Promysquous Lady-Pro Bono Best)

O-Albina Montini, Kwong Sum Low, Vincent Albanese, William Rogers B-Frederick Hertrich T-Anthony Montini D-James Macdonald

**3-Beyond Better** (b,g,7 - Bettors Delight-Somethincredible-Ponder)

O-Frank Brundle, Aaron Waxman B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc T-Carmen Auciello D-Louis-Philippe Roy

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶

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