Can races be made more exciting once again?

Single-file racing with little movement does not make for a bright future for harness racing.

by Brett Sturman

If you were to watch a sampling of standard overnight races from days gone by to today, it's almost like watching a different sport. Gone today is much of the mid-race movement and action. Even the famed "Meadowlands shuffle" of not too long ago where there'd be so many lead changes that a horse could go from first to last, is a thing of the past.

Today, for the most part, races are run easier. At a couple of tracks in particular, it's nearly standard for there to be no horses pulled to the outside flow until after the half-mile. Last Monday's preferred trot race at Woodbine Mohawk, along with comments from both horsepeople and fans couldn't have personified the issue any better.

In the $36,000 race featuring the track's best trotters, not a single horse in the field of eight left the pylons until the stretch. It was unusual even by current track standards such that track announcer Ken Middleton noted as they went past the half-mile, "Nobody's moved a muscle from the backfield." Growing more incredulous in tone nearing the final turn, Middleton said, "Not a horse has moved and they're almost at three-quarters." As the unchallenged front runner Amigo Volo won the race (how could he not by that point), Middleton concluded in what sounded like a contradiction which we'll get into, "Amigo Volo stole one there, they gift wrapped it for Amigo Volo." Replay here.

What ensued on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) was a lengthy and heated back and forth exchange of about 30 comments. I'll just quote the start of it, the initial comment by a user named BradA, and the first response by Canadian Hall of Fame inductee, the great Blair Burgess.

BradA said, "Watch the single file racing. No right lines anywhere before the three-quarters at the preferred level. Totally unacceptable." Blair Burgess' response was as follows: "Ridiculous complaint. This is the top-level trot on the grounds and the best two horses earned the 1-2 position before the quarter. No one is required to pull on those horses and why should they? To sacrifice any chance of earning the small prize they are left racing for? WTF?"
Standing his second season at Southwind Farms of NJ

2024 Stud fee: $10,000 • Multiple Foal Discounts Available

ÉCURIE D babies are arriving!

His foals are exceptionally well conformed, very athletic, with lots of leg!

ÉCURIE D

1:49.1 ($1,516,807)
Infinitif – Too Soon – Muscles Yankee
Two-time World Champion (U.S. & Europe)

FILLY from Annapolis
(Half sister to World Champion IT’S ACADEMIC)

COLT from Bellezza IT

COLT from Indeed Smart

Écurie D babies are arriving!

His foals are exceptionally well conformed, very athletic, with lots of leg!

ÉCURIE D

1:49.1 ($1,516,807)
Infinitif – Too Soon – Muscles Yankee
Two-time World Champion (U.S. & Europe)

FILLY from Annapolis
(Half sister to World Champion IT’S ACADEMIC)

COLT from Bellezza IT

COLT from Indeed Smart

Standing his second season at Southwind Farms of NJ

2024 Stud fee: $10,000 • Multiple Foal Discounts Available

For bookings or breedings contact Mike Klau or Laura Young at Southwind Farms, 609-737-9067 or 917-930-2709.
IN TODAY’S HRU

• Sturman: Can races be made more exciting once again? page 1

• Hamilton: Just Believe and Merlin make magic at New Zealand’s Cambridge Raceway page 7

• Briggs: John Campbell’s first Hambletonian memory came at Greenwood cheering on local legends page 13

• Platz: Unwanted trotter A Blue Million streaking at Harrah’s Hoosier Park page 15

• Brown: Reflections on a life that’s been anything but Boring page 17

• Keith: “People can’t afford to go work with the horses” page 21

• Twos in Training: Heather Vitale makes 2024 debut, interviews trainer Andrew Harris page 24

• Milbert: Push for a racino in Illinois page 25

• Heyden: It’s been how long? page 27

• Hedlund: Go On Boy, last year’s Elitloppet runner-up, is ready for this year’s race page 29

• Nosrac: The Diary of Bridgette M., Part 14 page 30

• HRU News page 32

• Feedback: Remembering the day Benoit Cote raced Delmonica Hanover in Montreal page 36

ABOUT HARRNESS RACING UPDATE
Harness Racing Update is owned by HRU Publications of Millwood, NY and will publish Fridays and Sundays from fall through late spring. HRU will add Wednesday editions early summer through fall, publishing 3 days per week, and will add editions throughout the year as major news breaks.
Editor: Dave Briggs
Associate Editor: Debbie Little
Editorial Designer: Sieu Truong
Post Production: Dave Landry
Technology Services: Brian Fuller
Graphic Design, Ads & Placement: Lisa Bihuniak
Advertising Sales: Wilma Van Vaerenbergh
Results & Stats Editors: Lisa Duong & Lucy Duong
Founder: Bill Finley
Contributors: Claus Andersen, Garnet Barnsdale, Tim Bojarksi, Murray Brown, Jerry Connors, Frank Cotolo, Paul Delean, Bill Finley, Joe FitzGerald, Dean Gillette, Adam Hamilton, Thomas Hedlund, Bill Heller, Bob Heyden, Dean Hoffman, Victoria Howard, Melissa Keith, Dave Landry, Lauren Lee, Dave Little, Debbie Little, Chris Lomon, David Mattia, Trey Nosrac, Tom Pedulla, Andrea Pietrzak, James Platz, Bob Roberts, Sandra Snyder, Brett Sturman, Jay Wolf & more (view all contributors here).

GET IN TOUCH WITH HRU
PO Box 230 | Millwood, NY | 10546 | Telephone: (226) 374-9999
Editor/News Stories: editor@harnessracingupdate.com
Advertising: advertising@harnessracingupdate.com
Customer Service: customerservice@harnessracingupdate.com
Advertising info & rates: please contact Wilma

Harness Racing is Back!
Create Your Own Stable
FREE to enter
Cash prizes - TOP PRIZE $2,000
Entries are due April 20, 2024
One entry per person

Scan with your phone camera or go to www.ohha.com/fantasystable.html for details and registration

Owners of a standardbred that raced in the past two years are not eligible. Fractional ownership of less than 5% does not preclude participation.
LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES
86th Annual Standardbred Yearling Sale
November 4 - 6 In Harrisburg

Great Sale For SELLERS!
De Kooning topped the 2023 Harrisburg Yearling Sale at $600,000, also the top price for any trotting colt sold in 2023.

Great Sale For BUYERS!
Canada’s “Horse of the Year’ Sylvia Hanover was among six 2023 Dan Patch and O’Brien Award winning Harrisburg Yearling Sale grads.

YEARLING ENTRIES CLOSE MAY 1 – CALL TODAY! (717) 637-8931

Plan to join us!
HARRISBURG
Standardbred Horse Sales Company
YEARLINGS NOV. 4-6 | MIXED NOV. 7-8 | (717) 637-8931 | theblackbook.com
Photos: Triscari Web/Video/Marketing, Amanda Stephens
Believing that drivers are influenced outside of their own understanding and creativity, [owner Eric] Cherry has a scenario in mind in which drivers shouldn’t be able to see the tote board prior to races. In his estimation, drivers should drive the race and give their horse the best show, not letting betting trends and opinions decide how they drive.

I’m not advocating for it but simply pondering the impact it would have on the way the races are run. If instead of the top 5 being paid which has been the long-held standard, what if only the top 3 horses got paid? Would there still be no movement until the latter race stages if you knew it was either a top 3 finish or bust?

Coming back to commentary from the Woodbine Mohawk Park race in question, one of my announcing pet-peesves is when announcers state that a driver stole a quarter, or a driver has put the field to sleep or some variation of that. Is the driver really ‘stealing’ anything if everyone else is letting them do it? Similarly, I don’t know how many times during a Meadowlands race I hear "no right lines being pulled." I appreciate the announcer calling it out, but what kind of commentary does that say for the style of the races?

This comes back to the appeal of the amateur races at The Meadowlands. Some of the bigger bettors have problems with these races for the total opposite reason. In those races, there’s actually “too much” unpredictability, but most regular fans enjoy them and the races are well received in the wagering.

As with the amateur races, stakes races driven by the professionals are featured with the race flows, movement and excitement that all races used to contain. Racing would be well-served to find ways to move back towards that.
Need a last minute breeding?

No need to go through a 3rd party... go straight to the source!

Breedings Available:
- Always B Miki
- Bettor’s Wish
- Captain Crunch
- Creatine
- Father Patrick
- Marseille
- Pebble Beach

TEXT US NOW!
516-404-0939
Harness Racing Update

Just Believe and Merlin make magic at New Zealand’s Cambridge Raceway

by Adam Hamilton

If they weren’t already, now the world is really taking notice of Down Under trotting.
And it’s largely due to the amazing deeds of globe-trotting gelding Just Believe.

The 8-year-old scored arguably his greatest win yet when he sat parked outside the leader and beat a world-class field in the inaugural $600,000 TAB Trot at Cambridge in New Zealand’s North Island on Friday (April 12) night.

In what was widely considered the strongest field of trotters assembled in Australia or New Zealand since the southern hemisphere, since 1997 (more on why soon), Just Believe made the ultimate statement and silenced some doubters who were questioning whether age was finally catching-up with him.

"It’s moments like this you live for and it’s why we’re in this game," driver and co-trainer Greg Sugars said. "He’s given us some great moments over the years, so many of them, but this really is up with any of them. This was such a great field, so much depth.

"It’s well documented it’s the strongest field of trotters we’ve had in this part of the field for a long, long time. And he’s been able to come across, at his first start in New Zealand, and sit outside them and win. You run out of things to say about a horse like him.

"He’s been super special to us [Sugars and wife Jess Tubbs, who trains Just Believe]. More than that, he’s just a special horse to have around... and do anything with. To think he’s been to Sweden [in 2023] and done what he did and now come across here and won such a great race... he’s just amazing."

Just Believe won a legion of fans globally during a brave three-race Swedish campaign in May/June, last year.
"I've used onGait to buy and sell horses for years. They have proved crucial to my operation and have changed the game for the better."
—Hall Of Famer Jimmy Takter

"onGait is a convenient, user-friendly website with worldwide reach for the buyer and seller. It's the first place I shop!"
—Julie Miller

"I love onGait! Being a believer in free markets, onGait auctions fit the bill. Always available - 24/7/365. As a seller, I've always been paid within 3 days."
—Dana Parham, Odds On Racing, Bottom Line Stable

"onGait is indispensable to me. I sell when I want. Get paid fast and Maurice is always available with any questions I have or to give advice on maximizing the sale. Highly recommend"
—Chris Ryder

“onGait is my go-to place to sell. If I start an auction on Monday, I have my money by Friday. Usually, it is more than I expect. I have been in this business most of my life and often the buyers are people that I never heard of before. Amazing!”
—Howard Taylor

"I’ve sold over 50 horses with onGait and I’m consistently impressed with the quality & quantity of bidders. I love the transparency of the transactions and most importantly, I love that the winning bidder can wire the money into my account the very same day. Easiest way to sell your horse for top dollar with bidders from all over North America."
—Greg Luther, Black Magic Racing Stable

Buy & Sell Anytime.
No Computer? No Problem.
Call 561–706-4839.
The Swedes desperately wanted him to return for another tilt at Elitloppet late next month, but it’s not happening. “No, he’s not going back,” managing owner Malcolm Wells said. “It’s something we put lots of thought into and he’s going to stay on and [race] in some other big New Zealand races instead. Sweden is a huge commitment, a massive commitment in fact, for Greg and Jess with their big stable at home.”

It’s no secret Sweden is a costly exercise too. Despite the generous work of Harness Racing Australia and the Solvalla track, it’s still a financial challenge because of the money Sugars would lose by not driving back in Australia at the time.

So, the Kiwis will have Just Believe to contend with for another two or three feature races in coming weeks. “Yeah, he’s staying here,” Sugars said. “His next [race] is in a couple of weeks.”

Just Believe’s win was his 29th from 73 starts with another 22 placings.

It took him to second on the Australasian all-time prize money list with $1,386,523. Only the mighty Lyell Creek has more at $2,256,724.

When Just Believe prepared to return to racing last year, after his Swedish trip, Sugars declared he was better for the trip. His record says that with 13 starts since with 11 wins and two fantastic seconds.

Along with the TAB Trot win, he’s also won the past two Inter Dominion finals along with the 2023 Great Southern Star, a race he finished a close second in earlier this year behind glamour European import Callmethebreeze.

“I won’t hide the fact it’s nice to turn the tables on him [Callmethebreeze] tonight and get one back,” Sugars said. “In saying that, he’s a fantastic horse and they’re going to have so many more great clashes... it’s great for the sport.”

Callmethebreeze blasted to the front from the gate and dictated the terms in front. He looked to be travelling best on the home bend, but Sugars felt otherwise. “No, I thought I had them turning for him,” Sugars said. “My guy was still cruising and I know how much he finds when you ask.”

Amazingly, Sugars didn’t even pull the ear plugs. “Once I had them, I let him go to the line as comfortably as I could,” he said. “He did the rest.”

Callmethebreeze, who fought on superbly for second, heads back to Australia for a spell with driver Nathan Jack eyeing-off more chances to beat Just Believe later in the year. “He just had a couple of little niggles going into [the race] and the camp wasn’t 100 per cent happy, so to go so well is a credit,” Jack said. “Just Believe is a mighty horse and all credit to him, but I’m looking forward to racing him again. They’re building a great rivalry.”

For so long New Zealand has boasted better trotters than Australia, but it was an Aussie dominance in the TAB Trot with the four Aussie raiders filling the top four placings. Brilliant mare Queen Elida was third and the emerging Arcee Phoenix fourth.

“It’s well documented it’s the strongest field of trotters we’ve had in this part of the field for a long, long time. And [Just Believe’s] been able to come across, at his first start in New Zealand, and sit outside them and win. You run out of things to say about a horse like him.”

~ Greg Sugars

“To come in such an exciting new race at this stage of my career, in my twilight, is really special and in a different way. I love sharing it with Scotty [Phelan], my co-trainer. He’s done all the work with Merlin. It’s his win.”

~ Barry Purdon
One list and one check keeps your horses eligible to these top events.

2-year-old Events
Breeders Crown®
The Elevation
Kentuckiana St. Mgmt. Pace
Kentuckiana St. Mgmt. Trot
Madison County
Matron Series
Peter Haughton
Jim Doherty (Filly)

3-year-olds and Up
Breeders Crown®
*incl. MARES payment
Caesars Trotting Classic
Dan Patch
Dayton Pacing Derby
Dayton Trotting Derby
Dayton Distaff & Oaks Derbies

2-year-old Events
Breeders Crown®
The Elevation
Kentuckiana St. Mgmt. Pace
Kentuckiana St. Mgmt. Trot
Madison County
Matron Series
Peter Haughton
Jim Doherty (Filly)

3-year-olds and Up
Breeders Crown®
*incl. MARES payment
Caesars Trotting Classic
Dan Patch
Dayton Pacing Derby
Dayton Trotting Derby
Dayton Distaff & Oaks Derbies

The Hambletonian Society and Breeders Crown
109 South Main St, Ste 18, Cranbury, NJ 08512
609-371-2211, Fax 609-371-8890 • Hambletonian.com

Visit our website for complete conditions, race dates and payment forms!
Renowned Aussie trotter owner, breeder and advocate Duncan McPherson — of Aldebaran Park fame — was beaming after the race.

“What a race,” McPherson said. “What a group of horses. I’ve been all over the world for the best races and these horses are absolutely world class, I’m telling you. The world is watching our trotters now.”

One of New Zealand’s greatest horsemen of all-time Barry Purdon added yet another chapter to his remarkable career with Merlin’s win in Cambridge’s other feature last Friday night, the $1 million Race By Grins.

The emerging 4-year-old, superbly driven by young gun Zachary Butcher, ran down fellow leader, fellow 4-year-old and favorite Don’t Stop Dreaming and smashed the New Zealand national record time in the process.

It marked the start of an exciting new era for New Zealand pacing with the 4-year-olds upstaging their older rivals.

Purdon, who has dominated mega races like the Inter Dominion, Miracle Mile, Hunter and New Zealand Cups, said Merlin’s win ranked up with any of them.

“To come in such an exciting new race at this stage of my career, in my twilight, is really special and in a different way,” Purdon said. “I love sharing it with Scotty [Phelan], my co-trainer. He’s done all the work with Merlin. It’s his win.

“Scotty’s been with us for so long. He’s like family and this is a moment to treasure.”

The personal flavor ran even deeper for Purdon.

“Merlin’s owned by Dean Shannon and he’s been one of our best and most loyal owners for so long,” Purdon said. “To get a horse like Merlin together is everything Dean deserves.

“I’ve had some great horses through my career but Merlin has now shown he’s right up with them and he’s still got years ahead of him. He’s just starting out in these big races.”

Merlin boasts 18 wins from just 26 starts and $1,145,620.
PROMOTE YOUR STALLIONS TO REACH HARNESS RACING’S LARGEST ONLINE AUDIENCE

Harness Racing Update is the only harness racing publication that provides thorough and provocative coverage of the sport, including news and information on all North American racing jurisdictions. No publication does a better job covering the breeding and sales news so vital to your bottom line.

BOOK YOUR AD SPACE TODAY!
Call or email Wilma:
hruadsales@gmail.com
(519) 476-5571

www.HarnessRacingUpdate.com
John Campbell’s first Hambletonian memory came at Greenwood cheering on local legends

The six-time Hambletonian-winning driver was just 19 when he and fellow horsepeople crowded around a radio at the Toronto track to listen to Bill and Jack Herbert’s filly Sing Away Herbert contest the 1974 race at DuQuoin.

by Dave Briggs

John Campbell’s first Hambletonian memory is particularly vivid. He was 19 in the summer of 1974 when he and a group crowded around a radio in the backstretch at Toronto’s Greenwood Raceway to cheer on local horsemen Bill and Jack Herbert who had filly Sing Away Herbert in the race at DuQuoin.

“There was a group of us at the end of the shedrow, sitting around in chairs and the radio broadcast was coming on,” Campbell said. “There was a lot of interest. Obviously, we were all rooting for her and that was really my first memory of the Hambletonian.”

Though that race is best known as the first time Billy Haughton won a Hambletonian when he steered Christopher T to a straight-heats victory, Sing Away Herbert fared well in the $160,510 event delayed two days by rain. She was third in her heat, won by Christopher T, and fifth in the final.

Campbell, who regularly spent summers at Greenwood helping his father, Jack, and grandfather, Dunc, race horses, said he certainly knew about the Hambletonian before then due to the trade magazines that came to the family farm in rural Ontario. But since the family only raced pacers, trotting stakes seemed more like a distant dream.

It wasn’t until he listened to local legends taking on the big boys in the biggest trotting race in the world that John’s interest in the Hambletonian was piqued.

John would go on to drive six horses to victory in the Hambletonian – the most by any driver in the race’s 98-year history. When he retired, he took the reins of the Hambletonian Society as its CEO.

Yet, he never had a chance to see the Hambletonian in person at DuQuoin.

“‘I never gained enough traction catch-driving to get an offer to go in ’79 or ’80 and then it came to The Meadowlands in 1981 and I didn’t have anything in it the first year and I was hurt anyway,’ John said. ‘I didn’t even drive that day and watched from the driver’s lounge to see Shiaway St. Pat win.’

That day provided another great memory for John – cheering on his great friend Ray Remmen, who drove his trainee to victory.

“That was just so great,” John said. “I was just cheering really hard for him the whole day and certainly in the race-off. We had a really nice party after that one.”


But it was the one with Tagliabue that resonated most in the Campbell family. John drove the horse to victory for his brother, Jim, Tagliabue’s trainer. No one took more enjoyment from that triumph than their father, Jack.

“It was a great day for my dad,” John said. “Kelvin Harrison really summed it up the best... after the races were over and I’d showered and I was in the locker room having a beer and Harrison said, ‘Congratulations on the Hambo.’ I said, ‘Yeah, I’m really happy and it’s great for Jim.’ He said, ‘Yeah, good for Jim, but great for Jack.’ Red and dad were buddies for years and that kind of summed up the day. It was really good for Jim and I, but it was great for my dad.”

As for a favorite Hambletonian he didn’t win, John said the 1989 dead heat between Probe and Park Avenue Joe stands out.

“The dead heat was one of the most exciting races I ever watched,” John said. “All of us were in the drivers’ room at The Meadowlands watching that and couldn’t believe how close it was and we called it one way and they kept replaying it over and over and over before they put up the dead heat and everybody had a different opinion every time they saw it on who won.

“So, that was kind of neat, just how excited everybody in the whole drivers’ room was for that. It wasn’t like the race was over and everybody just came back and started getting ready for the next one. Everybody stayed in there and watched that replay over and over until they put that dead heat up.”
PREPARING FOR THE 100TH HAMBLETONIAN

What's the point behind another trip down Hambletonian memory lane? The great race will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025.

“We formed a committee last year, in the summer of '23, the 100th Hambletonian Committee, with various people in the industry that have been involved in the Hambletonian or media,” John said. “The Harness Racing Museum is going to be very heavily involved, as is The Meadowlands. So, we've formed that committee and we've met a couple of times and discussed fundraising initiatives. We're actually in the process of applying for some grants.

“So, that's well underway and it will be mentioned a certain amount prior to this year's Hambletonian, but then once this 99th is over then we're going to really ramp up a campaign to make people aware that the 100th is coming in 2025.

“There's been a lot of ideas put out by the committee. We've got an extensive list and, to tell you the truth, most of them look like they would be worthwhile. We can't do them all, just because of resources, human and financial, but there's been a number of really good initiatives brought up by the committee. We haven't narrowed them down as of yet, so I really don't want to comment on what we are or are not going to do, but we're certainly cognizant of how big a deal it is and how big an event it is and we want to maximize that.

"It's the 100th, so you have to be aware of the history of the race and the longevity of the race and just what it has meant to the trotting world since it started. So, honoring some past champions is a big part of that, but I think getting the word out outside the industry to people that, 'Hey, this race has been going on for 100 years and it's a really big deal and we have every reason to believe it will go on for another 100 years.' I think it's a two-part thing – getting exposure and the word out about the 100th outside the industry, but also being cognizant and honoring the history of it and the past champions and the people that have contributed to the success of the race over the years.”
Unwanted trotter A Blue Million streaking at Harrah’s Hoosier Park

by James Platz

A pedigree page can make or break a yearling before the young horse even enters the sales ring. If prospective buyers don’t see ample production, or observe bloodlines they don’t favor, a yearling is quickly passed over. Sophomore trotter A Blue Million suffered this fate as a yearling. The unwanted gelding went on to a successful fair season in 2023 and is now three-for-three at Harrah’s Hoosier Park, most recently scoring a 1:56.1 triumph in the second leg of The Cardinal series held April 10.

“He was a little bit small, but nobody would have known because nobody asked to have him out,” said his breeder, Roman Stoll. “He didn’t have bad conformation, but he wasn’t perfect either.”

Stoll consigned A Blue Million to the 2022 Hoosier Classic sale under the banner of his farm, Rollin Acres. The gelding is from the second crop of Swan In A Million, brother to Indiana’s perennial leading trotting sire, Swan For All. Swan In A Million’s first crop did not have a breakout debut. Strike one against the colt. His dam, Yankee Glide mare Ipo Blue Chip, had three previous foals with very little production. Strike two.

“I had a Pilgrim’s Chuckie filly that didn’t race, a Swan For All that had just started racing good and died, and a Helpisontheway colt that was training down good and had an injury,” said Stoll. “It looked like a dead-end road for the mare, so I sold her. Not the most promising page as far as production at the yearling sale.”

To make matters worse, A Blue Million was cataloged as Hip #410 in the two-day sale, selling next to last. On the second day of the Hoosier Classic desperation can set in for buyers, but even then, there were no interested parties coming to the aisle. Strike three.

“I had the best yearling sale I ever had with that crop of yearlings,” Stoll said of the 2022 consignment. “He was never asked to be
out of the stall. Nobody wanted to see him. The thing with this trotter is that the pedigree is there. The mother had a 2-year-old record of 1:56. She made a quarter million. In all honesty, why not? But there were the two or three in front of this one that didn’t go, and you’ve got a Swan In A Million, so you’ve got a cheap colt.”

As the sale began to wind down, reality set in. Stoll’s son, Jeremy, admitted the painful truth.

“He told me, ‘Dad, nobody is going to buy that yearling,’” the breeder said. “I said, ‘I know, but we had a good sale, and we always sell ours. If you buy him, you’re on your own.’”

Jeremy purchased the gelding for $4,500, and his uncle Steve (Roman’s brother), bought in on the young trotter.

Entrusted to Leander Schwartz as a freshman, A Blue Million raced exclusively on the Indiana fair circuit. He made 17 starts throughout the summer and into the early fall. Driven primarily by Michael Detweiler, the trotter earned his first win at Kentland, coming in his seventh attempt. The only horse to not break stride in the race, A Blue Million won by just over 27 lengths. He would collect another win and qualify for the Governor’s Cup final in August, but made multiple breaks and finished sixth.

The freshman was plagued by breaks early in the season, but he finished strong in his final five starts of 2023. A Blue Million finished first or second in each of the attempts, registering three wins. He captured the second series final, held Oct. 7 at Frankfort, driven for the first time by fair circuit veteran Mike Peterson.

“I picked up the drive at Frankfort in the second championship in the fall,” said Peterson. “I won with him out of the 8-hole that day in 2:02.3, which is a huge mile. That was definitely impressive that day.”

Banking just under $15,000 racing on the fairs, A Blue Million fit the conditions for The Cardinal series (non-winners of 1 pari-mutuel race lifetime and under $20,000 in lifetime earnings). Before entering the series, the trotter qualified twice for Detweiler. The sophomore finished second in the initial effort, but closed out the mile with a :26.3 last quarter. He would win the second qualifier and his seasonal debut in the Donnie Conrad Memorial. With Peterson returning to the bike, the duo claimed victory by 7½-lengths in 1:55.4.

In the opening round of The Cardinal, held April 3, Peterson pushed his charge from fourth at the quarter to the lead before finishing a length and a quarter in front, stopping the clock in 1:58.1 over a good surface. Wednesday night (April 10) A Blue Million left the gate seventh in the field of eight before Peterson moved first up. The gelding advanced to second as the field reached three quarters over the rain-soaked and sloppy track. Splashing home in :26.4, favorite A Blue Million tripped the timer in 1:56.1, three parts of a length ahead of second choice Hudson Swan.

“It was hurricane conditions,” Peterson said of the performance. “It was a nasty, nasty night. He came first up and got home in :26.4. That was an impressive mile for a green horse. He’s just a nice horse. He acts like a good feeling horse. He’s got a good head on his shoulders. He likes to finish, but he does it both ways.”

Now perfect in three seasonal starts, the 3-year-old has earned $17,500 for his connections, and is among the favorites to capture the $20,000 final, slated for Wednesday (April 17). Peterson will steer the gelding from post 3 in the night’s 12th race. Roman is quick to put A Blue Million’s success in perspective, but he is also reminded of a similar scenario that played out in the past.

“I remind my son that you can’t expect this with every $4,500 yearling,” he said. “I’m thrilled. I had almost the identical thing happen 15 years ago with Dakota’s Final. I sold him for $2,500 and he made a quarter million and got me $12,000 in breeders awards.”

Dakota’s Final hit the board in 14 of 16 starts at 3, winning five times during the 2010 season and accumulating $225,913. Perhaps history can repeat itself once again.
Reflections on a life that's been anything but Boring

A conversation with Chris Boring.

by Murray Brown

Standardbred breeder owner and Michigan native Samuel Abdoo says, “Chris Boring is the greatest, nicest human being ever.” Although some may not agree with the all encompassment of that statement, there is likely no one who will not agree with the thought process and the experience expressed by it. Simply put, one would have to travel a long time both in and out of harness racing to find Chris Boring’s equivalent.

Most people, myself included, think about Boring as being a Michigan native. He actually is a Hoosier born and raised. His father Leon and his paternal grandfather John come from Shelbyville, IN.

What brought the Borings to Michigan one might ask?

“Dad was a harness trainer and had the opportunity to come work for Al Linehan in Michigan,” Chris said. “Mr. Linehan was known as the proprietor of one of the top stables in the state. Therein lies the story of the first truly top horse that our family was privileged to train. Al had gone to Two Gaits Farm in Indiana and purchased a Hal Dale weanling for the then incredible price of $5,000. ‘Five thousand for a weanling?’ I thought to myself. ‘That’s crazy!’

“This was 1949 and that price was unheard of for a weanling. But that price turned out to be a great bargain. He became a terrific race horse. He took a record of 1:58.4 at a time when not too many horses went that fast. In addition to what Walter Mcklyo earned racing, Al sold him to Bob Parkinson for $32,500. I recall thinking that I was unable to envision that much money, let alone paying that much for a horse. I was just a kid, eight years old. It was during those formative years where I met my very best friend, Tommy Merriman. Now over 70 years later we are still the best of friends and we still speak almost every day.”

Your first great horse and the horse that many old timers, like yours truly, associate when thinking of you was True Duane.

“Actually, it was my dad who trained True Duane. I was just his chauffer. I was privileged to drive him for dad.”

How did your dad acquire this great giant killer?

“Mr. Oldfield sent dad to Lexington to look at the horse and to buy him if he liked him. Dad bought him for $5,000. After the sale, Phil Tully approached dad and offered him a profit. Phil said that he had intended to buy the colt but had stepped outside when he was selling. Dad called Mr. Oldfield who told him to disregard the profit and bring the colt home.”
Among the many feats accomplished by True Duane one stands out. He was one of the very few horses to ever defeat the mighty Bret Hanover. Not only did he beat Bret, but Bret was a seasoned performer at 4 and True Duane was only 3.

"True Duane was one of a class of 3-year-olds that was headed by the great Romeo Hanover. For most of the season we were mostly getting our heads handed to us racing for second money against Romeo. The week before the big season ending races in California, we were racing in New York. I believe it was The Messenger. Mr. Oldfield had supplemented True Duane to the race for $15,000. George Sholty driving Romeo parked me as well as he should have when driving the best horse. We only got a small piece of the purse finishing fifth. I was somewhat downcast. I had expected to do better. After the race, Mr. Oldfield surprised me. ‘We are putting True Duane on a plane and flying him to California to race in the American Pacing Classics out there.’ I thought to myself, ‘Doesn’t he know we will be in against Bret Hanover?’ But he’s the boss. He pays the bills.

"In the race, True Duane felt good. Bret was cutting the pace. My horse felt as though he had a lot left. They were going at a mile and an eighth distance. I dared to hope that I had a chance to win. I sensed that Bret might be faltering a bit. I shook loose and we went right on by. The feeling was indescribable. We had just beaten the horse that many people considered to be the greatest pacer ever. I still get goosebumps when I think of it. I remember after the race there was a reception put on by the track. I was still so nervous that I spilled a drink all over Doug Ackerman. Doug, being the gentleman that he was, just laughed.

"Here’s another story about Doug. I was walking by his shedrow one day and Doug seemed to be staring into space while a horse was in the crossties. I asked him what he was doing. ‘Just trying to figure out how to make this horse better,’ he said."

Your next top horse was Colt Fortysix.

"He was originally a Hanover, I forget the name, but Mike Shapira changed his name. We bought him at Harrisburg for $80,000. That might sound like a lot of money, but $80,000 back then for a well-bred Albatross colt was probably in the lower strata of what well-bred Albatross colts were bringing. He was a big gangly colt, somewhat plain in appearance, with a set of questionable hocks. I remembered Jimmy Doherty having a half-brother to him that was a pretty decent pacer. He trained alright at 2, but I sensed that something was bothering him, maybe it was his hocks. I suggested to Mike Shapira that it might be best to quit with him and give him a chance to come back at 3.

"The next year, at first it appeared to be more of the same. I kept raising his head thinking that might be the solution. Finally, maybe in frustration, I lowered his head as much as I could.

Then came Albert Albert.

"We also bought Albert Albert at Harrisburg. The price was $40,000. He was a beautiful horse. If he had any faults, I don’t know what they were. He also had a different name. Mike Shapira liked to name his own horses. (Editor’s note: Shapira was in advertising and is credited with the slogan “In Harness Racing, it all comes down to the Breeders Crown.”) [Albert Albert] wasn’t a particularly good training horse, but there was something about him that I liked. I really couldn’t pin my finger on what it was. That winter we were visiting with Archie McNeil. I mentioned the colt to him. [McNeil said] ‘If you like him, he’ll turn out okay. The Abercrombies don’t like to train, they like to race.’

He became a new horse. I guess the freedom to move his head as he wanted to was what he wanted. It took me awhile to realize it, but I finally did. That season he set the world record at Springfield and then of course he won the Little Brown Jug."
The week before the Fox Stake I thought I'd train [Albert Albert] really well and give him a good tightener for the two heats coming the next week. The fastest I could get him to go was 2:07. Needless to say, I was disappointed. In the Fox he would surely have to beat 1:55. Wouldn't you know in the Fox he set two world records winning the fastest heat in 1:52.4. The next week he won the very last Kentucky Pacing Derby at Louisville Downs. Archie [McNeil], you were right. The Abercrombies liked to race."

~ Chris Boring

You have had a strong friendship with Chuck Sylvester through the years. I believe Chuck introduced you at your Hall of Fame installation.

"Yes, and Yes. I first knew Chuck back here in Michigan. Chuck's dad owned a few trotters. Chuck was going to Bowling Green University when his dad suddenly passed away. Chuck quit school and took charge of the horses. He didn't particularly come from a horse background. He was mostly self-taught. But he learned exceptionally well. He is a great diagnostician. He was as good at anticipating oncoming soreness as any other person I've known.

"I first started going to Spring Garden Ranch and Chuckie asked me about it. I told him it was great and that he ought to come down as well. He did. With an interlude between he is still there at 85 training his own stable of young horses. I spoke with him last week. He said that for the first time this year, he wouldn't be coming north with the horses this year. He will stay down with his daughters and their families. He had a bit of a heart issue last summer. He thought it best that he send his stable to someone else."

The track at Spring Garden was perfect for getting young horses ready to race. The then-new Simpson Training Center, now owned by the Pinskes, was just a half hour or so away. The track that the Burkes now own and where they train was just about 20 minutes northwest of us.

You used to train in Florida at Spring Garden Ranch. How long has it been since you were in Florida?

"I suppose it's at least 10 years or so. I miss it tremendously. I loved it down there. I guess I mostly miss the warm sunny weather. It sure beats the cold weather and dark, dreary days up here."

~ Chris Boring
Speaking of the Hall of Fame, how about that?

"It was and is an incredibly great honor. Gordon Waterstone called to tell me about it. I was amazed. The whole weekend at Goshen was one that I cherish. The only downer was that my late wife Joyce, to whom I had been married for 65 years, was too ill to attend and share the joy."

During your long time in the sport, you’ve known and encountered most of the greats in harness racing of the last century.

"Yes, I have been privileged to watch the best of the best. There are many, likely too many to recount. But one maybe stands out perhaps from the others. That would be Bill Haughton. I look upon him as being the most accomplished horseman of my lifetime. When it came to horses, there was nothing he could or would not do and do well. I think he worked harder and played harder, enjoying this game of life more than anybody ever. What a monumental life he lived. It was a terrible tragedy that he was taken from us so early."

How about the drivers of today? How do they compare to your peers?

"They are different as is the entire sport. Drivers adapt. The sport is more speed oriented today, so they drive accordingly. I thought that the generation that included John Campbell, Bill O’Donnell, Mike Lachance, Ronnie Pierce and a sometime overlooked favorite of mine, Bill Gale, couldn’t be replaced. But look at guys like Dexter Dunn, the McCarthy brothers, Tim Tetrick, the venerable David Miller and another generation of stars on their way.

"Most everything is different today, especially the breed. Yearlings of today are significantly different from those of just a generation ago. You would have to look far and wide at a select yearling sale today to find a type of yearling that even remotely resembles Colt Fortysix."

What is your life like these days?

"I’m quite happy with my life and very grateful for the opportunity to have lived as long as I have. I still go and watch my nephew Brian’s horses train each morning. When the weather warms up I might even jog a few. I still follow racing avidly and try to keep abreast of what is happening in the sport. Other than horses and racing, my main interest, is in watching college basketball. It’s now over for the season, but I look forward to the fall."

---

**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]

>> [USTAs fines and suspensions for this week]

>> [Standardbred Canada’s fines and suspensions for this week]
“People can’t afford to go work with the horses”

The story of why caretaker Kris Lamont left the game.

by Melissa Keith

Kris Lamont loves horses, and horses love him. He’s an experienced Ontario standardbred caretaker who now lives in Nova Scotia, works at a bank, and catch-paddocks at Truro Raceway.

The “Standardbred Jobs in Ontario” Facebook group has over 45,000 members. There are posts about employment opportunities, but also comments from would-be grooms, explaining why they can’t apply. Lamont’s story covers the common reasons why he and others have left full-time positions as caretakers, particularly in the years after the Ontario Slots at Racetracks Program ended.

Lamont said he had an early advantage because his family lived in rural Ontario.

“So, I learned, growing up, how to drive a team of horses,” he said. “My father taught me; my grandfather taught me; friends of ours would teach me. I learned how to brush a horse, how to pick a hoof, right from day one. I don’t know that I ever had formal lessons in anything.”

There was a learning curve that took him to some of the top stables in the business, but Lamont said he started out with a good foundation.

“I’ve been around horses my whole life,” he said. “Mostly it was the big draft horses. We had them: We showed what we call a ‘commercial horse,’ which is a Clyde[sdale]–Hackney cross.”

He said he learned about standardbreds during summers driving teams on Mackinac Island in Northern Michigan. There are no cars on the island, only horse-drawn transportation. Local harness horseman James Fullerton had gone there, “and a few of the rest of us found out about it,” Lamont said. “People sold horses up there to these guys that had the commercial horses and hackney horses. So, I found out about this job back in 1998, and it became my summer job... I was driving horses 24-7.

“I had quite a few adventures. I had this team from Ontario originally... They were kind of between a haflinger and a percheron, and they were red roan. Beautiful, gorgeous horses, but complete idiots... They had a really short attention span. We called them ‘the squirrels’ because they were afraid of everything:"

Lamont returned to Ontario and began working at a bank.

“Our neighbor, two houses down, was ‘Doc’ [Dr. Norm] Amos, and he was big into horses; he had [1999 O’Brien Horse of the Year] Odies Fame [p, 3, 1:52.0s; $1,410,720],” Lamont said. “Doc was a great old guy who by that point was in his 70s or 80s... He would want to go to the different tracks.”
So, they traveled together, with Lamont driving the veterinarian. When Lamont saw an advertisement seeking help with yearling prep at nearby Seelster Farms, he applied. He stayed to help during breeding and foaling seasons, also doing general farm work.

“There were fine details that I learned there…” he said. “I learned things about how to handle stallions, which I’d never dealt with before.”

Then Lamont attended a banquet for commercial horsemen and met family friend Jim McKague there. “He had some horses racing at the time,” Lamont said. “I got chatting with him at the banquet, and he was like, ‘Listen, I’ve got one getting close to qualifying in London. You live not too far away. Are you interested in coming to help me out?’ And I said, ‘Yeah, absolutely.’”

The younger horseman was learning that his skills were in demand.

In London, Lamont saw an ad from another trainer looking to hire grooms.

“I thought, well, I need work right now,” he said. “I have this work [with McKague], but it’s not real consistent. Maybe I can do this. I really like this racehorse thing.”

He made the call to Scott Barr and was hired.

The learning curve took off again.

“I had harnessed a horse before, but my harness came in multiple pieces,” Lamont said. “It was much heavier. I had never really dealt with leg bandages or a lot of the stuff that a racehorse has, or the way that they’re taken care of… It was a different world. I can’t say enough about Scott; he was a fantastic teacher and a really great guy.”

Lamont said he began jogging horses for Barr, working with higher-class racehorses like 2006 O’Brien 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year Luck Of Michelle (p, 2, 1:53.1s; $824,404).

“I learned so much and I got to travel all over Ontario,” he said. “At the same time, I was traveling around with Doc Amos. I’d take him to the tracks, get to go to his barn, see his horses training… I learned a lot from him about the industry and horses in general… I’m a 25-year-old hanging out with this 80-something-year-old, and it just worked.”

The younger horseman was making observations about the industry that hold true today.

“What absolutely crossed my mind is, I don’t know how a person would get into this industry,” Lamont told HRU. “I spent my whole life living 40 minutes from Hanover Raceway, and I didn’t actually go to Hanover Raceway until I was an adult… The very first time I ever went to the track was actually Windsor Raceway, with a friend of mine when I was living in Windsor… At that point, I knew nothing about the industry and didn’t even clue in that my friends were into it.”

Accidents led to Lamont leaving his role as a caretaker.

“I worked for Scott full time until I was injured, and he was down on horses,” Lamont said. “Basically, I sprained my ankle really bad, and he had two horses [hurt and unable to race]. How I got injured is, I was third-lining a yearling, sitting on the side of the jog cart… I kind of had my foot on the crossbar of the jog cart, and it slipped into the wheel.”

Lamont said he became aware of “the health and safety aspect” of hands-on jobs in racing.

Although he had another full-time job outside the industry, people would call him to ask for help.

“There wasn’t a lot of money flowing,” he said. “I was working pretty basic lower-income jobs, so it was either don’t take vacation, or I would take vacation to go work for a horseman for a week.”

Sometimes he barely slept, just napping a few hours between his two jobs.

~ Kris Lamont
Lamont remembered how he first connected with four-time O'Brien Trainer of the Year Casie Coleman, for whom he worked about six months.

"I was friends with Casie on Facebook," he said. "I obviously had experience within the industry, but limited full-time experience... Like she has a thousand times over, she advertised on Facebook: 'Hey, I need the help.' She was stabled at Classy Lane. This was the final year that she was in Ontario full time."

Lamont said Coleman initially assigned him four yearlings and a racehorse to look after, later adding a second racehorse.

"We had a lot of people come through the barn," he said. "She's going to be as picky as she can be, but you get what you get... She definitely hired a lot of people who maybe didn't work out, or didn't know that much, and you sink or swim. You learn it or you don't."

Then a full-time groom, Lamont said the cost of living made it difficult.

"I was working for Casie, one of the top trainers, who treated us really well," he said. "We were making the wages, but we're not making huge money here."

He told HRU that he ended up leaving for a security job at a mine in northern Ontario.

"I couldn't say no to the money," Lamont said. "It was too much money."

The compromises required in a caretaker's career were taking their toll, said Lamont.

"My truck was basically breaking down," he said. "I started off living at a friend's place when I first moved into the area, and then I moved... I ended up house-sitting for the people who owned Classy Lane for the winter... I wasn't making enough money to be able to afford a place on my own."

Despite his passion for working with racehorses, Lamont said he was concerned about what his future might be like if he stayed in the job.

"When the opportunity came for more money and better prospects, how do I say no?" he said. "I looked around me at the time, and I see a lot of 50-, 60-year-old grooms. Their bodies are broken. They're looking like they're in pain every day. Their clothes are tattered. They look rough. And they're just eking out this living. They're just getting by. As much as I enjoy my work as a groom, I didn't know that I could turn that into becoming a trainer."

While acknowledging that many grooms aspire to become trainers or drivers, Lamont said that wasn't a goal for him.

"I didn't know if I could pick out a yearling like Casie Coleman," he said. "I didn't know if I could think about how to fix something like Tanya Mitchell or Chantal Mitchell. I didn't know if I had those skills. Sure, I could develop them over the years, but time was kind of sliding by me pretty quickly, and I wasn't getting ahead... I still wanted to be involved in the horse industry, but maybe I'd just go out and make a bunch of money in another industry and be an owner."

Later, Lamont became a security guard at Woodbine Racetrack and Mohawk.

"I always preferred to work at Mohawk, unless it was winter racing, which was at Woodbine back then," he said.

There was a commonality with racing.

"They couldn't find people," he said.

The logistics of managing a racing stable and retaining valuable caretakers have only become tougher, given the cost of living. Lamont's current career in banking has made him acutely aware of the fact that fewer young people have the chance to pursue a racing dream today.

"People can't afford to go work with the horses," he said. "But I'd argue that a lot of us could never afford it."

"Depending on how you hustle, you might make pretty good wages between working with the horses and other stuff... but we have to bear in mind... the living wage that you need to make is somewhere between $23 and $26 [Can.] an hour, depending on where you live. That's a living wage, not poverty line. If you're not making that, you're going to struggling."

Lamont said that work-life balance was another consideration, with younger workers unwilling to tolerate some attitudes of the past.

"The generation today is definitely a different generation than before, but you can't exactly blame that generation..." he said. "They saw what happened to their parents."

Looking back, he said better allocation of tasks promoted retention of grooms.

"I think it's a matter of teamwork," he said. "When you have a good team that works really well together, and that's my experience at Chantal Mitchell's barn, and Scott Barr did this right as well. If we had a particularly late night where we were racing at Mohawk... and Mohawk would finish at one o'clock in the morning, I didn't have to be at work at 6:30 [a.m.], I could show up at 7:30. With Chantall, I've seen it that some of her staff don't go to the races at night... Every barn is going to have to do what's best for that barn."

While Lamont now paddocks horses for enjoyment, he said full-time caretakers need care, for their health and that of the industry.

"We have to be realistic about the fact that you can't expect everybody to work seven days a week," Lamont said. "We need to understand that these shifts where you come in the morning, do the barns, come home for a quick nap, go and race until two in the morning, and then start all over again, you're burning people out."
Heather Vitale makes 2024 debut, interviews trainer Andrew Harris

In her first Twos in Training episode of 2024, Heather Vitale interviews trainer Andrew Harris in New Jersey about training horses for Bill Pollock and Bruce Areman.

by Dave Briggs

Twos in Training host Heather Vitale has made her 2024 debut interviewing trainer Andrew Harris in New Jersey. Vitale spoke to Harris about training for Bill Pollock and Bruce Areman, the men that purchased over $6 million worth of yearlings in 2023.

The video debuted on Saturday (April 13) on our YouTube channel here. Subscribe today, so you don’t miss an episode.

All 2024 Twos in Training videos are also available at HRU here.

Special thanks to Standardbred Horse Sales Company for sponsoring the video.

HRU has many more 2024 Twos in Training videos in the works from Florida, New Jersey and Ontario featuring the talented Vitale, Heather Wilder and Jaimi MacDonald. More will debut very soon.
Push for a racino in Illinois

After years of waiting on Hawthorne to build a racino, Illinois horsepeople are pushing for another plan.

by Neil Milbert

Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association president Jeff Davis and executive director Tony Somone were at the state capital in Springfield last week trying to persuade state legislators to pass a bill during the spring session that was introduced by State Senator Pat Joyce to deny Hawthorne Race Course the power to veto any attempt to build a harness racino within 35 miles of the track.

The boundary was established as part of a sweeping 2019 gambling expansion law that empowered Hawthorne and Arlington International Racecourse in the Chicago metropolitan area and downstate Fairmount Park to build on-site casinos and divert a portion of the revenue for purses. It also allowed for a combination harness track/casino to be constructed in any of seven Cook County townships in southwest suburban Chicago.

“Our industry was so optimistic that the number of foals bred in Illinois skyrocketed the following year by 50 per cent,” Davis said to leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives on Thursday (April 11).

“But today, nearly five years later, while every other type of casino authorized in the 2019 bill has begun operations in some form, the horse racing industry is still waiting.”

The IHHA president pointed out that Arlington “is gone, and Hawthorne is now responsible for supporting two breeds of racing, [and] many of our horsemen have left for greener pastures to states that already have racinos and where there are better racing opportunities.”

Davis also said, “The great news is that Illinois can still join that group of successful horse racing states. But we need the promise of the 2019 bill to be realized with a new harness race track.

“Hawthorne has been promising regulators, legislators and our members for several years now that they are on the verge of a big announcement. In 2022 and 2023 at the race dates hearing, they told the racing board they would begin construction [at Hawthorne] by the end of the year.

“It is now April 2024. There is no evidence of any progress on Hawthorne’s part. Hawthorne has been unable to secure funding for its existing facility yet we are being asked to believe they will be able to secure funding for an additional location.”

“...The industry slowly withers” a sub-head concluded.

In 2020 interior demolition work began in preparation for construction of the casino, but that project stalled because of a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and high interest rates.

Meanwhile, in spite of the disarray in the interior, racing has continued. This year the Hawthorne harness meeting that began last Sept. 9 ended on Feb. 12. The thoroughbred meeting got underway on March 23 and will continue through Oct. 13 after which the standardbreds are scheduled to return for an Oct. 19-Dec. 30 meeting. The bottom line for 2024 is a combined total of 49 programs for the harness horses and 62 for the thoroughbreds.

“Horse racing isn’t the only loser in this scenario,” Davis told the legislative leaders in addressing the status quo. “According to a recent study, The Rebuild Illinois Capital Program has been negatively impacted to the tune of $78 million. While legislators believed they were fixing the Illinois horse racing industry — in fact — the industry is worse off today than in 2019.

“So, on behalf of all the members of the Illinois Harness Horsemen’s Association we are calling for immediate repeal of the exclusive veto power that was given to Hawthorne in the 2019 legislation.”

Somone had this to say about the bill, “It’s a single sentence that would enable somebody else to come in and build. We hope Hawthorne can do it but we’re at a point where we don’t know what else we can do. If Hawthorne can’t do it, we want to give somebody else the opportunity. Five years ago, I didn’t think we’d have to fight to get on a level with Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania [where tracks have casino gambling pumping money into purses].”

A front-page banner story by Robert McCoppin in the Friday (April 12) Chicago Tribune dramatized the plight of the harness racing industry. “...The industry slowly withers” a sub-head concluded.

 Asked for an update on the situation by the Tribune's McCoppin, Hawthorne issued the following statement:
"We remain fully committed to develop a new harness track to complement racing at Hawthorne as was intended by the legislation. We are the only Illinois business with the proven experience and wherewithal to do so. Our $400 million redevelopment of Hawthorne is the most significant investment ever made in the Illinois racing industry and is the beginning of an exciting new future for the tens of thousands of jobs we support across the state."

In 2019 Carey partnered with video gaming magnate Rick Heidner for a proposed new harness track/casino outside the 35-mile boundary and they were awarded a Dec. 6-29, 2020 meeting by the racing board. However, a Tribune story alleged that a bank that had funded Heidner had organized crime connections and Gov. J.B. Pritzker reacted by refusing to sell the state land that was to be used for the track and the racing board revoked the dates. Heidner was subsequently exonerated by the gaming board but by then it was too late to restart the project.

At last fall's racing board hearings for 2024 dates, Carey said, “We have completed preliminary market diligence for a stand-alone harness track and racino and will continue to move that forward once financing for the casino development at Hawthorne is completed. We have to do our own racino first.”

Earlier last year Greenway Entertainment Group proposed an end to Hawthorne's veto power, telling the Illinois Senate Executive Committee that this would enable its investors to build a $300 million harness racino on an 80-acre site inside the 35-mile boundary in Richton Park but nothing has materialized.

According to members of the Hawthorne management team, they were never approached about any fully-funded racino ventures inside the boundary.

Carey has rejected suggestions that he open a temporary casino at his track, emulating casinos in Chicago, Waukegan and Rockford that were legalized by the 2019 gambling expansion bill.

When asked to weigh in on the 35-mile controversy Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association president Chris Block told the Tribune: “We’d love to see the harness guys have their own track and we could run at our track. But this doesn’t help us get a racino built at Hawthorne.”

The unseen culprit in the ongoing controversy is Churchill Downs, Inc., the corporation that owned Arlington. When the late Dick Duchossois — who rebuilt tradition-rich Arlington into what Architectural Digest described as “the world’s most beautiful racetrack” after its grandstand and clubhouse were destroyed by fire in 1985 — merged the track with CDI in 2000 he did so because he believed joining with the most iconic track in North America would ensure the continuation of world class racing at Arlington.

For nearly two decades Arlington and its CDI overlords lobbied for legislative approval to make the track into a racino. But then shortly before the passage of the gambling expansion act that could have made it a reality, CDI purchased a 61 per cent interest in Rivers Casino. It is the state’s most profitable casino and is located about a 20-minute drive from Arlington.

When the expansion act was passed CDI did a sudden and stunning about face and announced it was selling the track property for development. The Chicago Bears bought the 326-acre site for $197.2 million in February 2023 with the stipulation that there would be no racing or casino gambling at the track, thereby wiping out two nearby competitors for betting at Rivers Casino.

Faced with a higher-than-expected property tax bill, the NFL team tore down the opulent track to reduce the assessed value of the property. The original plan to make a state-of-the-art football stadium the centerpiece of a development with housing and retail businesses is in limbo and the Bears now are focusing on trying to put their proposed stadium on Chicago lakefront property near their current home Soldier Field.

“Let’s not forget the true devils, Arlington and CDI, who have left Illinois racing in this predicament,” said ITHA executive secretary Dave McCaffrey, a standardbred owner and former IHHA president. “And let’s also take a look at [the thoroughbred track] Fairmount Park. They said they were going to spend $60-70 million to make it a casino but they haven’t done a thing down there.

~ ITHA executive secretary Dave McCaffrey

"It has been frustrating to live through the delays at Hawthorne and Hawthorne has a little criticism coming but compared to Churchill and Fairmount, the people at Hawthorne are the flat-out saints of Illinois racing. Without Hawthorne there would be no thoroughbred or harness racing [in the Chicago metropolitan area]."
It's been how long?

And a look at my Hall of Fame horse ballot.

by Bob Heyden

Can you believe it's been 50 years since a colt went through the Old Glory Sale at Yonkers for $15,000? That son of Albatross named BG's Bunny would later be the sports first 1:54 flat 3-year-old pacer, doing so in a 1977 Meadowlands Pace elim. A couple years earlier at the same sale $2,500 was the hammer-down price for Kash Minbar, who in 1978 would become the first 1:56.1 trotter in Meadowlands' history for the trotting master, Jimmy Cruise.

Thirty-eight years ago, Manfred Hanover became the first horse to tie for 2:00 miles for a trotter with 25 and he broke it nine days later. Greyhound's record had stood nearly five decades. Manfred Hanover was as unusual a trotter as we've ever seen. He chugged Gatorade for one. He competed at the highest levels for Mark Jordan, Patsy Rapone and Walt Szczepanski. He would race a couple of times a week. He once won a Su Mac Lad leg, ventured to Yonkers to take their feature, then came back to win the Su Mac Lad final in an eight-day period. The Su Mac Lad was the free-for-all event for trotters during the winter back then. Manfred hailed from Clare, MI.

Twenty-five years have passed — this September will mark the anniversary — since history's first 1:49 flat mile on the half-miler in Delaware, OH by Jet Laag. Luc Ouellette drove for Linda Toscano. Three years earlier a couple of fast miles went to Stand Forever and Jenna's Beach Boy on the half, but Jet Laag managed to shave 3/5ths and then 2/5ths to establish the new mark.

It's been 24 years since an April colt named Mr Muscleman was foaled. He's now 24 and a main attraction at Kentucky Horse Park. He went well over $3 million for his career and was a fan favorite. He hailed from the very first crop of Muscles Yankee, and apparently the buyers were a little gun shy at first. How else could this fella slip through the cracks to the tune of $2,000?

It's been 20 years since:

- Windsong's Legacy joined the Trond Smedshammer barn in 2004 and proceeded to change the sport? Not only did Windsong's Legacy win the Triple Crown with his trainer also driving – the last time it was done – but he also sired Chapter Seven who then sired Walner. Triple Crown winning sires not named Windsong's Legacy all lived well into their 20s and beyond. Windsong's Legacy unfortunately passed at age 7 in 2008.

- Lou Meittinis passed away, on Aug. 3 at 61. In 2004 Lou trained a barnful of good ones, headlined by Hot Hitter, the 1979 Jug winner and then new single season earnings record holder at 826G, as well as Turn The Tide and Icarus Lobell. His son Jimmy took the 2000 Kentucky Futurity by open lengths with Credit Winner, a year after handling the 2YOFT champion Dream Of Joy.

- Ake Svanstedt won Elitloppet with Gidde Palema. A decade later he started his stellar career in North America with Sebastian K, who broke the world record with a 1:49 romp at Pocono Downs.

- A 25-year-old Aaron Merriman won his 1,000th career race driving Harmony Oaks Rowdy at Northfield Park. It's safe to say he hasn’t missed many days since.

- Donato Hanover was born on May 3. He was Hip #23 at Harrisburg in the same sale Foiled Again went through in 2005 (Hip #520). Donato was from the first crop of Andover Hall and went on to a spectacular career that ended up some loose change shy of $3 million. He had 19-straight wins from his second start until his last two, the 2007 Breeders Crown elim and final where he finished second and third, respectively.

- Foiled Again was born on May 8, tattoo #4B3970. Consigned in 2004 by Boxwood Farms for Barbara Matthews, he could be seen in Exhibition Hall, row C, stall 53, back then. He was raised at the Cream Ridge Training Center, in Crosswicks, NJ. The first colt and second foal of In A Safe Place, made $7.6 million which is a career record.

It’s been 14 years since we lost Shiaway St Pat at 32. The first New Jersey Hambletonian winner (1981) was knocking around for most of the next half dozen years after winning the Classic with Ray Remmen in front of a national TV audience. The Meadowlands brought him back home and he lived out his life as a celebrity of sorts.

It’s been 10 years since Walner was foaled on April 12. The Southwind Farms standout has electrified the racing world both on and off the track since. Little known and mostly forgotten was that his two starts as a sophomore before retiring to injury, were the two fastest 3YO trotting miles (1:50.3 and 1:50.2) of 2017.
IT'S HALL OF FAME NOMINEE TIME

My ballot on the race mares:

1. Shartin N — The dominant mare for three seasons and still the fastest in 1:46.4. The 2019 HOY did it all here and is a no-brainer.
2. Put On A Show — She appears in both the racing and broodmare sections. She clears the bar on both for me. She set a Breeders Crown world record in 1:47.3, and reset the 2- and 3-year-old female earnings record until I Luv The Nitelife upped it.
4. Darlin's Delight — She made $2.9 million without a Breeders Crown! That is unreal. She was a star every year on the track along with her childhood buddy My Little Dragon.
5. Ariana G — Not sure when she's going in, but she is going in.
6. Pure Country — She quietly took down divisional honors at 2, 3, and 4 for pacing mares which is unprecedented. She had two Breeders Crown wins and was unblemished at 2. There's lots to like.
7. Buck I St Pat — She suffers from the passage of time. She was a three-time (2008-10) Dan Patch winner with well over $2 million.
8. Check Me Out — If not for some very untimely interference in the 2011 Hambletonian Oaks, it would have put her past $2 million and made her other black type stand out even more to me.

MY BALLOT ON THE RACEHORSES:

1. Bettor's Wish — Lifetime he was 24-for-44 with some sparkling non-victories too. He maintained his form at both 3 and 4. Bettor's Delight's first siring son superstar? Maybe. But as a racehorse? Spectacular.
2. Mister Big — Who wins at double the percentage from 2 and 3 to then 4, 5, and 6? Mister Big hit at 23 per cent at 2 and 3 and then at 47 per cent after for $4 million.
3. Marion Marauder — He is not only the last Triple Crown winner, he is the richest Triple Crown winner ever on either gait.
4. Nuncio — He came so close to winning the 2014 Triple Crown. He won 59 per cent at 2 and 3 and an amazing 72.2 per cent after with $3.6 million. The only issue is seeing it, since a lot of damage was done overseas.
5. Won The West — He had four-straight $600G seasons. That wins the day. He had $3.9 million for his career.
6. Glidemaster — He was the 2006 Triple Crown winner and set a 3YO money record and a Hambletonian mark of 1:51.1. The reason he's not in my top five is Majestic Son, who beat him 4-for-5 lifetime.
7. Vivid Photo — Plenty of money, but 129 losses. He lived a Hambletonian fairy tale and was the first to reach $1.5 million.
8. San Pail — The only $3 million winner lifetime who won at better than 50 per cent higher after 2 and 3. He was 19 per cent (10-for-52) and 2 and 3 and 69 per cent (42-for-62) after.
9. All Bets Off — Three million for his career and he earned ever dime, with four straight years of at least 20 starts against the best older pacers in training.
10. Market Share — The only trotter to have a $2 million season followed up with a $1 million (2012-13).
Go On Boy, last year’s Elitloppet runner-up, is ready for this year’s race

by Thomas Hedlund

Idao de Tillard, Francesco Zet, Hohneck, Joviality and A Fair Day will get company from last year’s Elitloppet runner-up for this year’s race.

Go On Boy (Password), trained and driven by Romain Derieux in France is well known for his ability to finish strongly in races and he has proven that a five-eighth’s-mile track suits him well.

Three French bred trotters are thus invited to Solvalla and the track’s sports general Anders Malmrot has really done a great job finding the best available horses for the big mile race.

However, the situation around the Prix d’Amérique winner Idao de Tillard is shaky at this moment. He would normally start next weekend, but problems with his throat forced trainer Thierry Duvaldestin to treat the horse with medicine and Idao de Tillard will miss an important preparation race before his adventure up north.

STRONG WINNER READY FOR PARALYMPIATRAVET

The second elimination for the $320,000 Paralympiatravet was held at Bergsåker racetrack on Saturday (April 13) afternoon and the winner Kentucky River (Father Patrick) impressed in a solid first over victory.

Favorite Mellby Jinx hit the lead directly after the start and Kentucky River could take it easy as third on the inside during the first quarter of a mile. Eventually, Örjan Kihlström opted for position first over with Kentucky River and the stretch duel between the two front horses was spectacular. The 6-year-old Father Patrick son disarmed the favorite, 50 meters before the wire and Kentucky River is now ready for the final of the Paralympiatravet on May 4.

Kentucky River won in a mile rate of 1:55.1 over 1.3 miles. Onas Prince won last week’s elimination.

JOIN OUR GROWING AUDIENCE TODAY!

Harness Racing Update is the only harness racing publication that provides thorough and provocative coverage of the sport from across North America - all delivered to you within hours of the horses crossing the finish line.

HRU is the industry’s leading information source for owners, breeders, drivers, trainers, racing executives and fans.

HRU is published in PDF format and distributed by Internet link, via email, to industry professionals around the world, allowing them to keep up with everything that is going on in harness racing.

HRU covers it all – race news, results and entries, commentary from some of the sport’s best writers, sales results, video replays, major stakes handicapping, letters from readers and so much more.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR FREE
The Diary of Bridgette M., Part 14

by Trey Nosrac

Series introduction is here.
Part 1 is here.
Part 2 is here.
Part 3 is here.
Part 4 is here.
Part 5 is here.
Part 6 is here.
Part 7 is here.
Part 8 is here.
Part 9 is here.
Part 10 is here.
Part 11 is here.
Part 12 is here.
Part 13 is here.

MONDAY

Over the past eight years, I have done a lot of damage due to my addiction. I swear that I never meant any harm to anybody. You would think I am a monster if I wrote down all the wrong things I did, the people I cheated, and the scams I ran. You would say, 'How could anyone do that?' Where is her willpower or common sense?

My answer is you will never be inside of my brain or the brain of any severe addict. We get to a point where the pull is so strong that we need drugs not just to get high but not to get sick. Imagine the sickest five minutes you've ever spent in your life. That's what is going to happen if we don't hook up. And the clock is ticking for users. Why, when I get clean, do I go back? I cannot explain.

I can understand how Paul torpedoed his future in a sport he loved in two words: drug money. Today, for the first time, Paul tiptoed around his past transgressions. He admitted to "giving some stuff" to a couple of horses when he desperately needed money. He quickly got caught, but getting caught and getting a bad reputation was the best thing for drug money. The reason, and this happens on the streets as well, is that we spend money on drugs and then cut them way down and resell them. It's an old game for the bottom dwellers. The buyer doesn't get a full boost; they complain, and then you, as the seller, act mad that somebody cheated on you, and round and round it goes.

Paul said that most of what he moved in the racing and the human drug world was watered-down and sometimes just fake nothingness. When pressed if a horse didn't fire, he always said he had to cut it in the horse world to avoid a bad test result on the horse. I believe him. In the drug world, you do what you have to do. Little makes sense, is fair, or keeps us from running a million miles an hour in circles chasing the dragon's tail.

TUESDAY

He bought the horses online from a horse auction this afternoon. A trailer will haul the remaining three horses for Red Flags Flying Farm from the sales arena to the farm this evening. Paul texted to let me know he would not be at the NA meeting tonight because he needed to meet the shipping truck. We are excited. The guys agree that new yearlings are one of the best things about this sport, a day when each horse has a clean slate.

WEDNESDAY

Hectic day. The three horses climbed down from the trailer. Paul said two did well, but the middle one went wild. Here is some simple but crazy math. For over two weeks, I took care of Annie, one horse. Today, I began caring for four fillies, which felt like 20 times the work and confusion. A lot was happening simultaneously; Annie was jogging, two fillies were getting used to wearing gear, and one was in a paddock. She stepped on my toe as I walked her out. Paul and Bart, in and out, it was like all hell exploded; it was fun. My toe is killing me, but I'm looking forward to tomorrow.

THURSDAY

Bart did not show up this morning. Paul said if Bart went on a bender, he would probably not show up tomorrow. Bart not being at the barn was a problem because the schedule for the rest of the week said: BREAK NEW FILLIES TO CART. Breaking a harness horse is a two-person job, but it is probably better with three. Now, we only have two people, and I am worthless. Or so I thought.

My day was holding a lead line while Paul walked behind the cart. We were very quiet. Eventually, Paul slid into the cart's seat, and I walked next to each horse as an insurance policy. After an entire lap around the track, Paul motioned for me to sit next to him above the fender of the cart and ride sort of side-saddle.
My answer is you will never be inside of my brain or the brain of any severe addict. We get to a point where the pull is so strong that we need drugs not just to get high but not to get sick. Imagine the sickest five minutes you’ve ever spent in your life. That’s what is going to happen if we don’t hook up. And the clock is ticking for users. Why, when I get clean, do I go back? I cannot explain.

Seated behind a real horse was interesting as heck. I could almost feel the young fillies thinking, learning, and feeling safer by the minute. Paul was patient for a big, burly guy who looked like a mountain man. He never wrestled with the fillies. When they made a fuss, he just waited and murmured instructions. I considered the day a success. If Bart is a no-show tomorrow, I was anxious to help Paul teach the fillies more.

FRIDAY
The report on Bart was not good. He was in jail. The story we got from the vet who came to inspect the fillies — Paul wanted to go over them — was that Bart left the Roadhouse in Centerville on his motorized bicycle and crashed into a parked car. When the police arrived, he was incoherent and belligerent, so they took him to jail.

Today, Bart meets with social services before being released. This news inspired Paul, the vet, and me to debate whether or not Bart would receive another DWI for driving a bike while drunk.

The vet, whose name is Harris, googled it on his phone, and the answer is complicated and depends on the state laws. Possible bad news for Bart is that the vet looked up which states can give a DUI for intoxicated cycling and the list was California, Colorado, Florida, and (gulp) Pennsylvania.

Bart’s AWOL and DWI put me back in the side saddle holding the rope, which was an instant replay of yesterday. You know what I like? When one of the fillies keeps her mind on business, I love the rhythmic, clop, clop sound. The clopping makes me spellbound and I want to get off the uncomfortable passenger seat and climb into the driver’s seat. Wishing to drive is surprising because when I arrived at the farm on the first day of the therapy, the thought of me sitting behind one of these monsters was science fiction. Things change, I hope.
Lit De Rose earns millionaire status with Matchmaker Series victory

Lit De Rose became the sport's newest millionaire when she captured her $40,000 division of the final preliminary leg of the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers Raceway on Friday (April 12) night for trainer/driver Patrick Lachance. The 9-year-old daughter of Leader Bayama scored her fourth victory of the year, posting a final time of 1:53.2.

Racine Bell pulled off a mild upset of Lit De Rose in round four, and driver Jason Bartlett appeared intent on a repeat performance as he blasted from post 7 to the lead at the outset. Delitfulcatherin N and Jordan Stratton managed to squeeze into a tuck behind the leader on the first turn, and Lachance let that one settle before making his move. Lit De Rose brushed before the :27.3 opening quarter for control and then utilized her advantage to march to fractions of :56.2 and 1:25.1 for the middle half.

Dougs Babe A, with Dexter Dunn, moved on the third turn with speed to challenge uncovered, followed by Jive Dancing A and Easy To Please in the outer flow. Lachance appeared unconcerned with the outside tier as Lit De Rose kept to business and confidently kicked home in :28.1 to secure her 50th career victory. Dougs Babe A was determined and gamely nipped Racine Bell in the battle for the place spot, while Jive Dancing A was along for fourth.

Bred and owned by Guy Corbeil, Lit De Rose likely goes into the April 22 final as the favorite to capture the Blue Chip Matchmaker title. Lit De Rose returned $4.20 to win, leading a $7.50 exacta, $49.20 triple and $11.70 superfecta for 10 cents.

Coachellabound N, with driver Yannick Gingras, made the most of the pole position by getting control and not looking back to capture the first $40,000 section. The 6-year-old daughter of Sweet Lou was a winner for the first time while competing in all the preliminary legs and assured a spot in the final with the triumph.

Coachellabound N had the lead through a :56.4 half and didn’t get much resistance, pacing three-quarters in 1:25.1 while True Blue Hanover and Scott Zeron moved to the outside first-over, followed by Man Dontforget Me. Neither from the outer tier advanced within threatening distance of the leader, and that gave pocket-sitting Karma Seelster ample room to try to go by the leader. Gingras put Coachellabound N to a moderate drive, and the Ricky Bucci-trained mare responded to draw clear in a 1:53.3 mile for her third win of the season. Karma Seelster held down the place spot, with Tony’s Mom shading a fast-closing Man DontForget Me for the third spot.

Owned by Flatland Racing, Coachellabound N returned $3.90 to win and keyed a $8.10 exacta, $20.20 triple and $5.75 superfecta for a 10-cent wager.

Unofficially, the eight finalists for the $125,000-added Blue Chip Matchmaker Series final are:
- Lit De Rose (312 points)
- Dougs Babe A (249 points)
- Coachellabound N (238 points)
- Delitfulcatherin N (230 points)
- Incaseyoudidn’tknow (220 points)
- Mikala (212 points)
- Karma Seelster (204 points)
- Tony’s Mom (175 points)

MGM Yonkers Raceway is pleased to announce the Empire Terrace Dining Room will be open for a la carte dining on April 22 for the card that includes the MGM Borgata Pacing Series and Blue Chip Matchmaker Series finals. Dining service is available from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. (EDT), and the bar is open from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. (EDT). Call 914-457-2627 for reservations or details.

The final preliminary leg of the MGM Borgata Series takes place on Monday (April 15) with a trio of $50,000 flights, and the second round of the John Brennan Trotting Series comes up on Wednesday (April 17) with five $25,000 groupings.

Live racing is held at MGM Yonkers Raceway on a Monday-Friday basis with post time each night at 7 p.m. (EDT).
SOA of NY Empire Terrace dinner promotion for stakes owners

On Monday (April 22), the SOA of NY will pay for an a la carte dinner only (no alcohol) up to four people per horse, where an owner is present and an owner is a SOA of NY member. We will also take care of the 20 per cent gratuity. A cash bar will be available. Empire Terrace will open at 6:30 p.m., where dinner will be served till 10:30 p.m. and the bar will remain open till 11:30 p.m. An owner must RSVP with our office by noon on Friday (April 19) by calling 914-968-3599 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or emailing us at soaofny@gmail.com, so you can be added to our guest list. To see if you are a SOA of NY member or wish to become a member, please visit our website at https://www.soaofny.com/

For all others wishing to go to the Empire Terrace, there will be an a la carte dinner menu. A cash bar will also be available. No reservations are required but those interested can call the race office at 914-457-2627 for more details.

SOA of NY

‘Rocket,’ ‘Paige’ complete TrackMaster sweeps at Big M

On a Friday night at The Meadowlands that required a lot of hat-holding, where wind gusts surged as high as 33 miles an hour. Just A Rocket Man and Paige Perfect completed three-race sweeps of their respective TrackMaster Series for pacers.

‘The Rocket,’ who won the first two legs of the series for those with a rating of 71 or less after unhurried beginnings, was explosive from the start this time around, quickly making the top before completing the first turn, and was able to establish a sleepy early pace, hitting the quarter in :29 and half in :57.

“He’s super sharp right now,” said winning driver Braxten Boyd.

“And some great trips have helped the last couple of weeks. The wind kind of helped me get that cheap :29 first quarter, and after that, I thought it’d be tough to catch him.”

Just A Rocket Man was able to maintain calm after the half, reaching three-quarters in 1:25.3 while never being pressed on the point, and that left a :27 final quarter in his gas tank to complete an easier-than-it-looked-in-the-chart neck score in 1:52.3, a new lifetime best for the 6-year-old gelded son of He’s Watching—JustanotherDay. Baileys Rock N was second with Native Chief third.

“I couldn’t be happier for my friend [trainer] Brian [Quevedo],” said Boyd. “He just got his license and has been working very hard.”

Owned by the 20-year-old Quevedo, Just A Rocket Man returned $5.80 to win as the 9-5 favorite. He now has 16 wins from 110 lifetime starts.

Paige Perfect, off consecutive preliminary wins from well back after starting from post 10, was kept a little closer to the action from post 3 in the final for fillies and mares who had a rating of 73.5 or less. The 4-year-old daughter of Always B Miki—Miss Jones got up at the wire to score by a nose in 1:52.3, a lifetime best.

Sitting fourth along the rail as Rags To Riches cut out the quarter in :27.2 and half in :56.1, Paige Perfect picked up cover from Miss Italia as that one vacated the 3-hole with three-eighths-of-a-mile to go as Rags To Riches took them past three-quarters in 1:25.3.

Through the stretch, Miss Italia moved to the lead, but Paige Perfect had just enough time to get past that foe after tipping off cover with a strong rally in deep stretch to record her third victory in as many 2024 starts. Our Shell Belle rallied for third.

“If I got away as far back as the first two starts, then something went very wrong,” said winning driver Marcus Miller with a laugh.

“I definitely wanted to be closer tonight. As far as the trip, I thought everything went as well as it could have. I was able to let David [Miller, driving Miss Italia] tow me and I needed all of the stretch to get there. But one thing she’s good at is pacing through the lane. She feels fresh. Her final quarter was :26.3, and that shows me she has a lot of ability.”

After scoring at odds of 23-1 and 11-1 in the first two legs, Paige Perfect was sent to the gate as the 3-5 favorite and returned $3.40 to win for trainer Bruce Saunders and owner Julie R. Nash.

A LITTLE MORE: The 20-cent Pick-5 got a jolt in its opening leg with a 36-1 winner, leading to a payoff of $10,804.44. A carryover of just over $8,000 led to more than $30,000 in “new money” being wagered into the 20-cent Pick-6 for a total pool of $39,847, but five winning favorites and a 2-1 shot later, those who collected walked away with just $103.76. David Miller led the driver colony with three victories on the night. All-source handle totaled $3,250,330 on the 14-race program, the 24th time this year from 28 race cards that betting bettered the $3-million barrier.

Carrera Hanover wins fifth straight in The Meadows’ series opener

Carrera Hanover turned back a pair of late challengers to win his fifth straight in Friday’s (April 12) Terry Altmeyer Memorial Trot at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows. Father Mike captured the other $12,500 opening-leg split in the series for 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters.
The event honors the memory of Terry Altmeyer, a stalwart of both Meadows racing and the Pennsylvania Fairs.

Carrera Hanover most recently took the final of a series that included 4-year-olds and was sent off the 2-5 favorite as a result. The Bar Hopping—Cankeysto gelding controlled the fractions from post 7 but was threatened in the lane by Vanguard outside and Korkscrew in the Lightning Lane. He dug in for Ridge Warren and downed Korkscrew by half-a-length in 1:58.2 over a sloppy surface. Vanguard finished third.

J.L. Adams trains Carrera Hanover for Martin Valentic and McKenna Adams.

Father Mike also zipped to the point but had little trouble holding the lead throughout for Jeremy Indof, scoring in 1:57.3. Kill A Word, off at 99-1, was second, 6-3/4 lengths back, while Nail Driver completed the ticket. Richard Perfido conditions the Father Patrick—Ready Any Time gelding for Scott Leaf, Michael Ternisky and Gerald Fielding.

Elsewhere on Friday’s card, Emerald’s Legacy shot the Lightning Lane to take the $19,200 open handicap trot in 1:54 for Dave Palone, trainer Scott Betts and owners Tim Betts, Nick Catalano, Keith Pippi and Shanamphilanklou. The 5-year-old Father Patrick—Devilish Emerald gelding now boasts a career bankroll of $231,457. Early leader Jeffery P was second, beaten 1-1/2 lengths, with Killer Instinct third.

Palone collected four wins on the 12-race card.

Evan Pattak for The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

Plainridge Park 2024 racing season gets underway Monday

Live harness racing returns to Massachusetts on Monday (April 15) at 4 p.m. when Plainridge Park kicks off their 2024 season with the best horses, drivers and trainers from New England reconvening for the next eight months over the lightning fast 5/8th’s mile oval. The meet runs through Friday (Nov. 29).

The 110-day racing schedule for 2024 starts with a Monday-Tuesday-Thursday rotation from April through September, except for Tuesday (July 23), which is dark. There is also a special 2 p.m. matinee card on Sunday (July 21) for Spirit of Massachusetts Day.

Racing expands to four days a week for the rest of the meet when Friday is added on Sept. 20, with the exception of the track being dark on Thursday (Nov. 28) in observance of Thanksgiving. That race day will be contested on Wednesday (Nov. 27).

Post time for all race days from April through August is 4 p.m., except for Sunday (July 23). In September and October post time rolls back to 2 p.m. and in November, it moves back one more time to 1 p.m.

Participating horse people will notice some big changes and improvements when they enter the paddock for the first time this year as many upgrades and improvements have been made. These include a complete renovation of the paddock office and driver's lounge that includes new HVAC in both. There were also bathroom renovations done to both the men's and ladies' facilities, with the ladies being expanded to include two stalls and a shower area. The paddock itself received a fresh coat of paint on the outside, new interior walls, new windows with screens and new overhead entry doors.

As far as the action on the track goes, all the top Plainridge drivers will be returning this year.

Bruce Ranger, who led everyone for wins in 2023 with 152 and Matty “Ice” Ahearn, who finished second to Ranger with 148, will return to battle for the top spot once again. Both surpassed $2 million in earnings at Plainridge last year and are the only two drivers to ever surpass that mark in a single meet.

Also looking for a driving title will be last year’s third place dash finisher (122 wins) Brett Beckwith, who has been on a tear since January. After falling just one vote shy of being named the United States Harness Writers Association’s 2023 National Rising Star as a result of his career year, Beckwith has shown his drive to claim that honor in 2024.

Right now, Beckwith sits second for dash wins among all drivers in North America with 180, just 22 behind perennial leader Aaron Merriman (202). Beckwith has already banked in excess of $1.2 million in purses this year and is on course to break all his personal single season numbers. Plus, the 21-year-old Beckwith is only 20 wins shy of his 1,000th career victory.

Nick Graffam, Kevin Switzer, Jr., Jimmy Hardy and Jay Randall will also be back along with the rest of the Plainridge driver colony.

On the training side, Jimmy Nickerson, who was last year’s leading trainer with 77 wins and over $1 million in earnings for the second year in a row, will be looking to defend his title with a large stable of horses that has within it, a lot of new faces. His main rival looks to be conditioner Mark Beckwith (Brett’s father), who is also campaigning a large and powerful stable. Beckwith is currently the 12th leading percentage trainer in North America, boasting a .417 UTR on the strength of his strong winter/spring campaign, primarily at Saratoga Raceway.

Besides horses who have been racing elsewhere over the winter leading up to this meet, Plainridge will also benefit from a lot of fresh stock in the early portion of the session as 104 horses just qualified at The Ridge this past week in preparation for making their first starts of the year during opening week.

The 2024 meet will once again be offering its richest slate of stake races — not only in the history of the track, but also the state of Massachusetts — as an estimated $3.71 million will be up for grabs during the year.

There will be a total of eight Grand Circuit races offering a combined bounty of $710,000.
First on the schedule is the $100,000 Paul Revere Open Pace for 3-year-olds which will be held on Thursday (May 2). Then on Thursday (May 16), the $100,000 Battle Of Bunker Hill Open Trot will return.

On Sunday (July 21) it’s the $250,000 Spirit Of Massachusetts Trot and $100,000 Clara Barton Distaff Pace. Both of these races have rewritten track records several times since their inception and have enticed some of the best open-class competitors from across North America to compete at Plainridge.

Then on Monday (Oct. 7) it’s the Reynolds Stake for 3-year-old pacers, which will be contested by gender. The Tar Heel is the $40,000 colt and gelding division and The Leta Long is the $40,000 filly division.

Held on the same day, the $40,000 Colonial Trot for 3-year-old trotters is the companion stake to the Reynolds and will also be contested by gender with the filly division going as the $40,000 Colonial Oaks.

Then the fall classic $3 million (est) Massachusetts Sire Stakes start on Monday (Sept. 23) and features three preliminary legs before culminating on Thursday (Oct. 24), when eight $150,000 (est) finals will be contested.

Here is a complete schedule for this year’s Massachusetts Sire Stakes:
- Monday (Sept. 23) — 3-year-olds (first leg)
- Tuesday (Sept. 24) — 2-year-olds (first leg)
- Monday (Sept. 30) — 3-year-olds (second leg)
- Tuesday (Oct. 1) — 2-year-olds (second leg)
- Monday (Oct. 14) — 2-year-olds (third leg)
- Tuesday (Oct. 15) — 3-year-olds (third leg)
- Thursday (Oct. 24) — 2- and 3-year-old finals

These stake races were made possible by the continued support of the Race Horse Development Fund and the local horsemen and women of the Harness Horseman’s Association of New England.

This year’s betting menu includes an early and late daily double, exactas and trifectas available in every race, superfectas available in every race (except Wicked Hi-5 races), Wicked Hi-5 Pentafecta in the sixth and ninth race, Pick-3 in race three and race six and Pick-4 in race four. Minimum wagers are as follows: Daily double ($2), Exacta ($2), Pick-3 ($1), Pick-4 (50 cents), Trifecta ($2), Superfecta (20 cents) and Wicked Hi-5 (20 cents).

Once again, fans will be able to download free full past performance programs from the Plainridge Park website at plainridgeparkcasino.com/racing, where they can also find more information pertaining to the upcoming meet.

Tim Bojarski for Plainridge Park
Remembering the day Benoit Cote raced Delmonica Hanover in Montreal

(Editor’s note: This email was sent to Murray Brown by Tom Charters after Brown’s HRU column about Benoit Cote. It is reprinted with Charters’ permission).

Thanks for your wonderful column about Benoit Cote. I will never forget that race in Montreal when he drove Delmonica [Hanover].

I had gone to the paddock with Bernie Dufour that day — Delmonica’s caretaker most of her career. I was rubbing Spitfire that summer. It was the first time I ever met and saw Benoit drive and I recall that when he climbed on the bike going to the racetrack he clicked his heels together to get the dirt off his boots which I thought was pretty cool. I guess it was indicative of his “neat as a pin” approach to life that you referenced. Funny, sometimes it’s the little things you remember.

I also remember that particular race as vividly as I can remember few other races of Delmonica’s. Going down the backstretch, Delmonica was sitting second behind Stanley [Dancer] who [was] cutting the mile with the very fast Speedy Carlene. Killbuck Mary (Dick Buxton) was first over, trapping Delmonica. Benoit took a big hold of Delmonica, and surprisingly gave Buxton a huge hole. Dick probably couldn’t believe his good fortune and took the bait. Benoit immediately then pulled his right line and pinned Mary and Dick on the rail. It was a brilliant move that these days would probably get a driver days from the judges, or at least incurred the wrath of the management at The Meadowlands. Delmonica and Benoit went on to run down Speedy Carlene and set the world record.

Over the years, I got to know Ben fairly well through Mr. [Aime] Choquette. The last time I saw him was when [my wife] Sue and I attended Aime’s 100th birthday party in Sherbrooke in 2014. He was the only other person that I recognized in the room and it was a wonderful reunion.

Tom Charters

Gural: What we should learn from golf and women’s basketball

I find it interesting whenever a columnist comes up with an idea as to how to increase interest in our product. For the first time in my life, I watched a women’s basketball game because of one player, Caitlin Clark, who created a huge amount of buzz for the sport. Incredibly over 19 million people watched the women’s NCAA basketball final because of her, which is more people [than] who watched the men’s final, the NBA Finals or the World Series. One superstar was able to completely transform the sport of women’s basketball.

We do the exact opposite by making sure any superstars we have retire after their 3-year-old season. If that wasn’t bad enough, we then drag out the races for five hours to make it almost impossible for anyone to watch a full card of racing. I learned the hard way when I built The Meadowlands that by trying to do everything right it is simply impossible to get customers...
to come to your facility without having the right product. The simple reality is that we are totally relying on subsidies from slot machines and that is unlikely to change anytime soon.

As far as the comment last week about my decision to not allow certain people to race at The Meadowlands and how it will hurt the breeders is quite offensive since I doubt anyone has done more to help the breeders than I have. Without The Meadowlands I am not sure the breeding industry would even exist as I built a beautiful new facility that caters to owners and yet very few of them come because it is so much easier to watch on TV.

I appreciate all the suggestions people have, but the reality is in order to get people to come you need a product that they want to see. I wish I had the answer. I think my idea to force our best horses to race an extra year was a good one but obviously the breeders disagreed. Hopefully getting our product on TV will help. I’m glad we are able to continue to increase the exposure and I just wish we had a better product to present.

Jeff Gural / owner The Meadowlands racetrack

Horner: Thanks to Adam Bowden

Congratulations and thanks to Adam Bowden for taking on the leadership of the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge. This is the most significant linkage the industry has to the communities where we have our most significant event. Every sport and consumer-facing major business has a charitable arm essential to generating community goodwill. Adam will do a great job.

Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld deserve the highest commendation for initiating, personally supporting, and growing the Challenge since its inception. Thanks to Marvin and Al.

Clay Horner / Toronto, ON

In response to John Chambers’ letter

RE: John Chambers’ last letter.

As a former driver and trainer, I have a deep understanding of driving strategies. Yet, as a bettor, I feel disheartened when the favorite underperforms without any explanation from the driver about the cause of the poor performance. I believe that like in other sports, winners and losers should be briefly interviewed to provide details about the race. Why did a 20-1 win and a 1-5 lose? This essential information is critical for developing betting strategies for future races.

Marc Abramson / Buffalo Grove, IL
CAL EXPO report

Friday’s Results:

4, CalX, $20,000, Pace, California Sire Stakes Four Year Old Fillies, 29.1, 59.0, 1:28.2, 1:56.1, FT

1-Gotubydashorthairs (m, 4, Wind Me Up--The Bearded Lady, by Mach Three) $10,000, Lifetime Record: 17-10-4-1, $141,087

2-Made Of Misschief (m, 4, Vios--Miss Stacee, by Artsplace) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 21-4-5-3, $48,165

3-Cenalta Token (m, 4, Mystery Chase--Cenalta Artistry, by Allamerican Merlin) $2,400, Lifetime Record: 48-5-9-9, $75,520

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 3H, 3, 3H, 1T, NS - Finish Order: Wild Blue Wonder, Stevies Girl, Hot N Fancy, Cenalta Memories

HARRAH’S HOOSIER PARK report

Friday’s Results:

2, HoP, $12,500, Pace, “THE MARK FRANSEN MEMORIAL” Non Winners of 2 (IS and 3yo 3) Ext PM Races Races or $30,000 LT up to & inc. 3/15/24 (Leg 2)  (purse reflects $12,500 from SBDF), 27.0, 57.2, 1:25.1, 1:52.2, GD

1-Where’s Drogon (c, 3, Freaky Feet Pete--Nationalize, by Camluck) $6,250, $11,000 2022 NIYSS, Lifetime Record: 18-6-4-0, $48,357

2-Packedwithluck (g, 3, Luck Be Withyou--Pacabel Hanover, by Somebeachsomewhere) $3,125, $5,500 2022 NIYSS, Lifetime Record: 17-4-6-3, $25,768

3-Swiss Cotton (g, 3, Tellitlikeitis--Some Cotton, by Jate Lobeli) $1,500, $27,000 2022 Hoosier, Lifetime Record: 15-2-4-2, $24,012

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 1H, 2, 5H, 4H, 4T - Finish Order: Warrior For Truth, Er Griffin, Skyway Checkmate

4, HoP, $10,000, Pace, “THE JERRY LANDESS MEMORIAL” Non Winners of 1 Ext PM Race Lifetime (W/O $20,000 LT NE) AE: N/W of $8,500 LT (all elig up to and inc. 3/15/24)-IN SIRED (purse reflects $8000 from SBDF), 28.1, 58.2, 1:27.2, 1:54.2, GD

1-Er Rambo (g, 3, Jk Endofanera--Rock Ann Rolling, by Rocknroll Hanover) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 19-2-5-3, $28,140

2-High Ho Hez Silver (g, 3, Luck Be Withyou--Bc’s Jesse, by Park Place) $2,500, $15,000 2022 ILL-CL, Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-0, $6,400

3-Jbs Cuppa Jo (g, 3, Straight Shooting--Jovanna, by Lcb) $1,200, Lifetime Record: 3-0-0-2, $2,850

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 2, 1H, 2H, 3, HD - Finish Order: Gw Stryker, Cal Boy, Bluebird Time, Graceful Pete
5, **HoP, $16,000, Pace.** "**THE SGT. EMIL FOLEY**" Open 3, 26.4, 55.1, 1:24.2, 1:52.0, GD  
1-Downbytheocean (g, 5, Downbytheseaside--Mamas Little Angel, by Rocknroll Hanover) $8,000, $26,000 2020 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 44-13-6-10, $130,255  
2-Captain Sleaze (g, 6, A Rocknroll Dance--Da Sleazy One, by Sportsmaster) $4,000, Lifetime Record: 87-13-15-17, $284,970  
3-Ike's Dream (g, 4, Bettor's Delight--Some Renditions, by Somebeachsomewhere) $1,920, $55,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 34-7-6-3, $84,301  

*Replay Unavailable* - Calls: 1H, 1H, 2, 2, NK - Finish Order: Alwaysstellithetruth, Major Attribute, Hello Sweetie Boy, Er Rocky, Buckeyebollinger N

7, **HoP, $10,000, Pace.** "**THE JERRY LANDESS MEMORIAL**" Non Winners of 1 Ext PM Race Lifetime (W/O $20,000 LT NE) AE: N/W of $8,500 LT (all elig up to and inc. 3/15/24) IN SIRED (purse reflects $8,000 from SBDF). 27.4, 57.1, 1:26.4, 1:33.2, GD  
1-Shooting In Place (c, 3, Straight Shooting--Helen's Place Girl, by Park Place) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 5-3-0-0, $14,725  
2-Jackie Boy (g, 3, Always A Virgin--Rockin Miracle, by Rockin Image) $2,500, Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-0, $15,255  
3-Captain Tell (g, 3, Tellitlikeitis--Captain's Play, by Captaintreacherous) $1,200, $65,000 2022 Hoosier, Lifetime Record: 11-2-0-2, $16,920  

*Replay Unavailable* - Calls: 2H, 1H, HD, H, T - Finish Order: Straight Up Rye, True To The Heart, Meadowbrook Chrome, Pfc Kc Wintin

8, **HoP, $16,000, Pace.** Claiming Handicap $30,000 - $40,000 (W/A) (enter in the $1,000's), 26.0, 56.3, 1:25.2, 1:53.0, GD  
1-Truffle Dog (g, 7, Sunshine Beach--Heathers Delight, by The Panderosa) $8,000, Lifetime Record: 97-10-17-18, $201,771  
2-Machdavid (g, 8, Mach Three--Early Dismissal, by Village Jiffy) $4,000, Lifetime Record: 85-15-11-11, $164,667  
3-Thunder Country (g, 5, Rockin Image--Happy Feet Too, by Art Major) $1,920, $10,000 2020 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 78-12-12-9, $273,195  

*Replay Unavailable* - Calls: 4Q, 2H, HD, 1, Q - Finish Order: Gamblin Mo, Aussie Scooter A, Shock Wave, Big Chief Arrow, Outlaw Aceofspades

10, **HoP, $12,500, Pace.** "**THE MARK FRANSEN MEMORIAL**" Non Winners of 2 (Is and Jyo 3) Ext PM Races or $30,000 LT up to & inc. 3/15/24 (Leg 2), 28.3, 58.1, 1:26 3, 1:53.1, GD  
1-Sabonis (c, 3, Tellitlikeitis--Gypsy Bellevue, by Roll With Joe) $6,250, $9,000 2022 MIDW-M, Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-1, $21,700  
2-Endofstory (g, 3, Lazarus N--Olivette Hanover, by Western Hanover) $3,125, $19,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-1, $14,125  
3-So Into You (g, 3, Rockin Image--So Long My Love, by American Ideal) $1,500, $28,000 2022 Hoosier, Lifetime Record: 13-3-3-3, $31,978  

*Replay Unavailable* - Calls: 6, 6, 7H, 3H, 3Q - Finish Order: Dustin Theothers, Bettor Stay Hungry, Grand Champ

12, **HoP, $16,000, Pace.** "**THE SGT. EMIL FOLEY**" Open 3, 27.0, 55.4, 1:24.0, 1:51.1, GD  
1-Odds On Blockchain (g, 5, Jk Endofanera--Have Rock Willroll, by Rockin Image) $8,000, $32,000 2020 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 50-12-10-7, $160,211  
2-Er Rookie (g, 5, Hypnotic Blue Chip--Rock Ann Rolling, by Rocknroll Hanover) $4,000, Lifetime Record: 67-7-7-8, $69,655  
3-Ultra Image (g, 5, Rockin Image--Angel From Above, by Bettor's Delight) $1,920, $14,000 2020 MICHIANA, Lifetime Record: 50-13-9-8, $149,810  

*Replay Unavailable* - Calls: 3H, 4, 2, HD, 1 - Finish Order: Lotsa Knock Us, True Blue Lindy, Six Again, Quixote, Mac doodledoo
**RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY (CONTINUED)**

13, HoP, $22,000, Pace, **"THE LOUIS GOSSETT,JR MEMORIAL"** Open (pp's 5-6 drawn), 26.1, 56.0, 1:25.1, 1:51.2, GD

1-Little Rocket Man (g, 8, Rockin Image--Gt Miss Royal, by Pilgrims Punch) $11,000, $18,000 2017 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 99-55-15-8, $1,120,049

2-Crooked Smile (g, 7, Panther Hanover--Amilewidesmile, by Grfinformeartoar) $5,500, Lifetime Record: 117-29-24-15, $427,796

3-Yourwishisgranted (g, 3, Jk Endofanera--Onawahs Hanover, by The Panderosa) $2,640, $22,000 2020 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 66-12-8-16, $293,615

*Replay Unavailable* - Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1H - Finish Order: Spring Inhis Step A, Howard Hughes N, Rip Wheeler

---

**HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT THE MEADOWS report**

Friday's Results:

1, Mea, $19,200, Trot, **"OPEN HANDICAP"** Pp: 1-4 DRAWN, 5-6 DRAWN, 28.2, 57.2, 1:25.2, 1:54.0, GD

1-Emerald's Legacy (g, 5, Father Patrick--Devilish Emerald, by Broadway Hall) $9,600, Lifetime Record: 45-19-7-5, $231,457

2-Jeffrey P (g, 9, Full Count--Betty Jean, by S J's Photo) $4,800, $14,000 2016 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 141-46-26-13, $492,028

3-Killer Instinct (g, 6, Southwind Frank--Wheely Quick, by Conway Hall) $2,304, $15,000 2019 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 119-37-30-16, $369,673

►► Replay ►► Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1H - Finish Order: Stay Close, Swan Legacy, Trix And Stones

8, Mea, $12,500, Trot, **"TERRY ALTMEYER MEMORIAL"** 1ST LEG FOR 3YO C & G NW 3 EXT PM RACES OR $30,000 LIFE UP TO AND INCLUDING 03/01/2024 (PA Sired or Owned) (w/o $50,000 Life As Of 03/01/2024 NE), 273, 57.3, 1:26.3, 1:57.3, SY

1-Father Mike (g, 3, Father Patrick--Ready Any Time, by Kadabra) $6,250, $25,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 14-3-4-1, $23,554

►► Replay ►► Calls: 1, H, 1H, 4, 6T - Finish Order: Contango Hanover, Swanstead, Vaquero Blue Chip, Pro Forma Hanover, Andy B Worthy, Frank The Tank

10, Mea, $12,500, Trot, **"TERRY ALTMEYER MEMORIAL"** 1ST LEG FOR 3YO C & G NW 3 EXT PM RACES OR $30,000 LIFE UP TO AND INCLUDING 03/01/2024 (PA Sired or Owned) (w/o $50,000 Life As Of 03/01/2024 NE), 29.0, 59.4, 1:28.4, 1:58.2, SY

1-Carrera Hanover (g, 3, Bar Hopping--Cankeysto, by Cantab Hall) $6,250, $37,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 13-5-3-2, $68,895

►► Replay ►► Calls: 1H, 1H, 2, 2 - Finish Order: Splendid, Bird In Hand, Yen Hanover, My Bar Tab, Terrific Tim, Blockchain

---

**ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS**

2-Kill A Word (g, 3, Father Patrick--Twice A Night, by Donato Hanover) $3,125, $12,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 15-1-1-4, $22,062

3-Nail Driver (g, 3, Father Patrick--Livininthefastlane, by Donato Hanover) $1,500, $55,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 15-1-0-3, $15,860Z

►► Replay ►► Calls: 1, H, 1H, 4, 6T - Finish Order: Contango Hanover, Swanstead, Vaquero Blue Chip, Pro Forma Hanover, Andy B Worthy, Frank The Tank

**ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS**

2-Korkscrew (g, 3, Swan For All--Keystone Sadie, by Yankee Glide) $3,125, $65,000 2022 Hoosier, Lifetime Record: 14-2-1-3, $21,528

3-Vanguard (g, 3, Greenshoe--Sabrina Deo, by Muscle Hill) $1,500, $35,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 9-2-1-3, $23,444

►► Replay ►► Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 2 - Finish Order: Splendid, Bird In Hand, Yen Hanover, My Bar Tab, Terrific Tim, Blockchain
WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK report

Friday's Results:

1, Wbs, $17,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE (WINNERS FOR A PURSE OF $9,000 OR LESS 2 RACES) OR $7,500 (OS $11,250) LIFETIME WITH ALLOWANCES, 29.2, 57.4, 1:28.3, 1:57.4
1-Mikis Duchess (b,f,3 - Always B Miki-Frog Pond Princess-Sportswriter) $8,500, Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, $15,750
O-Frank Brundle, Camille Marie Brundle  B-Frank Brundle  T-Gregg McNair  D-Douglas McNair

2-Jacinda (b,f,3 - All Bets Off-Life Book-Shadow Play)
O-William Johnstone, William Gillan  B-Jack Darling Stables Ltd  T-Joe Pereira  D-Jody Jamieson

3-Razzin Jazz (b,f,3 - Racing Hill-Jazz Sensation-Well Said)
O-Gino Toscani  B-Steiner Stock Farm  T-Ashley Lendvoy  D-Tyler Jones

2, Wbs, $18,000, Trot, ONTARIO Sired Spring Series Trot: Ontario Sired 3 Year Olds & Geldings, NW $30,000 in 2023. NO ALLOWANCES. 1st Leg, 28.1, 57.4, 1:27.1, 1:57.4
1-Convoy Hall (b,g,3 - Muscle Mass-Constance Hall-Striking Sahbra) $9,000, Lifetime Record: 5-5-0-0, $44,000
O-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, Douglas John McIntosh, Randi Liepa, Beverley Snobelen  B-Alan Leavitt  T-Robert McIntosh  D-Sylvain Filion

3-Tamworth Boy (b,c,3 - All Bets Off-Sunset Filly-Dragon Again)
O-George & Greg Hunt  B-George & Greg Hunt  T-Murray Brethour  D-Jody Jamieson

6, Wbs, $25,000, Trot, Canadian Sired Graduate Series Trot: Canadian Sired 4 Year Olds. 1st Leg, 28.1, 57.0, 1:26.2, 1:55.3
1-Ghostly Casper (b,h,4 - Resolve-Cool Creek Breeze-Angus Hall) $12,500, Lifetime Record: 30-5-9-5, $633,679
O-Benoit Baillargeon, Teresa Davidson, Santo & Nunzio Vena  B-Diane Ingham  T-Benoit Baillargeon  D-Tyler Borth

2-Like Chaos (b,g,4 - Lookslideachonddale-Misty Breeze-Credit Winner)
O-Bruce Richardson, Joseph Coffey  B-Larry Miller  T-Bruce Richardson  D-Trevor Henry

3-Tuscan Prince (b,g,4 - Kadabra-Tosca-Muscle Mass)
O-Determination  B-Harbor Racing Stable Ltd  T-Luc Blais  D-Louis-Philippe Roy
RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

7. Wbs, $15,000, Trot, NW $4,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: OPT. CLM. $25,000. AE: N/A $1,575 P/S IN 2023-24 OR N/A $1,400 P/S LAST 5 STARTS, 27.3, 57.4
   1-Kruise On Dover (br,g,4 - Dover Dan-Keystone Sadie-Yankee Glide) $8,500, Lifetime Record: 30-5-3-4, $62,923
   2-Mister Magic (b,g,9 - Kadabra-Daylon Mistress-Duke Of York)
      O-Auciello Stables  B-Herb Liverman  T-Carmen Auciello  D-Jonathan Drury
   3-Villefranche As (b,m,8 - Conway Hall-Merci It-Daguet Rapide)
      O-Howard & Joshua Kaufman  B-Aci Stutteri Ab  T-Mark Goddard  D-Louis-Philippe Roy
   ►► Replay ►►

8. Wbs, $18,000, Pace, ONTARIO Sired Spring Series Pace: ONTARIO Sired 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings, NW $30,000 in 2023. No Allowances. 1st Leg
   1-Gigitygigitygigty (b,g,3 - Sportswriter-Ive Got Stamina-Sunfire Blue Chip) $9,000, Lifetime Record: 12-2-1-0, $21,518
      O-R A W Equine Inc, S&R Racing Stable Inc  B-R A W Equine Inc  T-Rene Dion  D-Tyler Borth

   Another SPORTSWRITE Winner!

TARA HILLS Stud

2-Jmr Speak Away (b,g,3 - Artspeak-Moms Bella-Quik Pulse Mindale)
   3-Brookdale J Mac (b,g,3 - Hes Watching-Bettors Chance-Bettors Delight)
      O-Douglass & Douglas Polley  B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc  T-Benjamin Hollingsworth  D-Sylvain Filion
   ►► Replay ►►

9. Wbs, $25,000, Pace, Canadian Sired Graduate Series Pace: Canadian Sired 4 Year Old Mares. 1st Leg
   1-Talk Curdy To Me (br,m,4 - Betterthancheddar-Keepers Destiny-Intrepid Seelster) $12,500, Lifetime Record: 29-9-7-6, $213,487
      O-Pollack Racing Llc  B-Dariene Hayes, Merlin Howes  T-David Menary  D-James Macdonald

   Yearling Sale Graduate

PREFFERED EQUINE

2-Powder Play (b,m,4 - Sportswriter-Laurels Lea-Western Terror)
   O-Robert Woodburn  B-Ray Compari  T-Meg Crone  D-Jody Jamieson
   3-Lady Get Lucky (br,m,4 - Hes Watching-Lay Lady Lay-Up The Credit)
      O-1posse2stevessbrothersstb, Todd Williams  B-1posse2stevessbrothersstb  T-Chris Matthews  D-Douglas McNair
   ►► Replay ►►

10. Wbs, $18,000, Pace, ONTARIO Sired Spring Series Pace: ONTARIO Sired 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings, NW $30,000 in 2023. No Allowances. 1st Leg
   1-Warraweeforlaura (b,g,3 - All Bets Off-Allegory-A Rockroll Dance) $9,000, Lifetime Record: 8-3-1-0, $32,450
      O-Frank Baker Jr, Tyler Borth, William Stevenson  B-Ray Compari  T-Frank Baker  D-Tyler Borth

   Yearling Sale Graduate

PREFFERED EQUINE

2-Your Party (b,c,3 - Stag Party-Not Enough-Grinfromeartoear)
   O-Uptownpets Com Stable Inc  B-Winbak Farm  T-Martin Lachance  D-Martin Lachance
   3-Price Control (br,g,3 - Control The Moment-Shadow World-Shadow Play)
      O-Jean Tourigny, Serge Beaudry, Roland TrudelBen Mudry  T-Jean Tourigny  D-Louis-Philippe Roy
   ►► Replay ►►
YONKERS RACEWAY report

Friday's Results:

1. YR, $22,000, Pace, F&M WINNERS OVER $30,000 LS STARTS. AE: OPT. CLMG ALLOW $125,000 AE: F&M NW $20,000 LAST 5 STARTS DRAW INSIDE, 27.2, 36.5, 1:00.4, FT


2. YR, $32,000, Pace, F&M WINNERS OVER $30,000 LS STARTS. AE: OPT. CLMG ALLOW $125,000 AE: F&M NW $20,000 LAST 5 STARTS DRAW INSIDE, 27.2, 36.5, 1:00.4, FT


3-Game Of Shadows (m, 6, Shadow Play--Cheyenne Ava, by Camluck) $1,920, $21,000 2019 LONDON, Lifetime Record: 95-15-11-22, $262,754

4, YR, $19,000, Pace, F&M NW $15,000 IN LAST 5 STARTS. AE: WINNERS IN LAST START OF THE BASE CLASS 'NW $10,000 LS' AE: 3-5 YO F&M NW 8 P-M RACES LT AE: OPT. CLMG ALLOW $30,000, 27.4, 56.2, 1.24.3, 1.53.2, FT
1-Pembroke Southie (m, 4, Always B Miki--Uf Dragon's Queen, by Dragon Again) $9,500, $25,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 42-8-4-9, $119,144

Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!

2-Ultimate Speed (m, 4, Artspeak--Magic Of Brussels, by Shadow Play) $4,750, $6,500 2021 ONT-SEL, Lifetime Record: 43-7-9-4, $78,059

3-Favorite Beach (m, 4, Sunshine Beach--Lets Head Out West, by Art Major) $2,280, Lifetime Record: 37-7-10-6, $166,560

5, YR, $40,000, Pace, BLUE CHIP MATCHMAKER LEG #5, 27.4, 56.4, 1:25.1, 1:53.3, FT
1-Coochellabout N (m, 6, Sweet Lou--We Love To Party, by Faker Left) $20,000, Lifetime Record: 52-17-7-5, $254,180

Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!

2-Karma Seelster (m, 7, Sportswriter--Kiddie Cocktail, by Better's Delight) $10,000, $127,000 2018 LONDON, Lifetime Record: 101-24-26-19, $988,551

3-Tony's Mom (m, 5, Heston Blue Chip--Donna Lee, by Real Artist) $4,800, Lifetime Record: 59-18-14-7, $305,206

7, YR, $16,000, Trot, NW $10,656 IN THE LAST 5 STARTS. WINNERS OF THE BASE CLASS 'NW $10,000 LS' IN THE LAST START. AE: WINNERS IN THE BASE CLASS 'NW $7,500 LS' AE: OPT. CLMG ALLOW $20,000, 28.2, 57.3, 1:26.1, 1:56.1, FT
1-Pariso (m, 4, Creative--Wingbat, by Windsong's Legacy) $8,000, $23,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 38-15-6-1, $126,361

Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!

2-Fix A Drink (g, 7, Angus Hall--Tara Emerald, by Balanced Image) $4,000, Lifetime Record: 79-20-16-8, $98,020Z

3-Swiss House Onfire (g, 7, Muscle Hill--Brooklyn, by Conway Hall) $1,920, $35,000 2018 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 116-14-13-16, $277,975

9, YR, $40,000, Pace, BLUE CHIP MATCHMAKER LEG #5, 27.3, 56.2, 1:25.1, 1:53.2, FT
1-Lit De Rose (m, 9, Leader Bayama--Intense, by Shanghai Phil) $20,000, Lifetime Record: 138-50-28-19, $1,018,007

2-Dougs Babe A (m, 7, Western Terror--Dougs Courage, by Courage Under Fire) $10,000, Lifetime Record: 82-20-11-13, $387,854
**RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY (CONTINUED)**

3-Racine Bell (m, 7, So Surreal--Ty's Artist, by Real Artist) $4,800, $9,000 2018 BHS, Lifetime Record: 102:38-26-16, $1,200,299

**10, YR, $19,000, Trot, NW $15,000 IN THE LAST 5 STARTS. AE: WINNERS IN THE START OF THE BASE CLASS ‘NW $10,000 LS’. AE: 3-5 YO NW OF 8 PM RACES**

LT AE: OPT. CLMG ALLOW $30,000, 28.1, 57.4, 1:27.0, 1:56.1, FT

1-Jula Muscle Pack (h, 6, Muscle Hill--Bright Baby Blues, by Andover Hall) $9,500, $150,000 2019 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 77-14-8-13, $322,601

2-Vinny De Vie (g, 7, Muscle Hill--So You De Vie, by Yankee Glide) $4,750, $70,000 2018 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 118-21-16-11, $287,136

2-Dude Included (g, 7, Class Included--Celebrity Faith, by Yankee Glide) $8,000, $19,000 2018 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 75-13-21-9, $313,021

2-American Fashion (m, 5, Crescent Fashion--American Breeze, by American Winner) $4,000, $4,700 2020 MICHIANA, Lifetime Record: 51-7-12-1, $97,110

**RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY**

**HARRAH'S HOOSIER PARK report**

Saturday’s Results:

2, HoP, $16,000, Trot, Claiming Handicap $30,000-$40,000 (W/A) (enter in the $1,000’s), 273.3, 56.4, 1:25.4, 1:54.1, FT

1-Dude Included (g, 7, Class Included--Celebrity Faith, by Yankee Glide) $8,000, $19,000 2018 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 75-13-21-9, $313,021

3-Dans Credit (g, 5, Dover Dan--Nonna On Wheels, by Explosive Matter) $1,920, Lifetime Record: 44-11-9-7, $130,510

4, HoP, $16,000, Trot, Open 3, 27.4, 57.3, 1:27.1, 1:54.3, FT

1-Talent Scout (g, 4, Swan For All--Prettysyndey Ridge, by Tom Ridge) $8,000, $14,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 38-14-6-3, $507,962

**HRU Foal Of The Week**

send us your best foal photos & details

Harness Racing Update | Results - Page 8
RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

4. Hof, $16,000, Trot, Open 3, 27.4, 57.3, 1:27.1, 1:54.3, FT
1-Talent Scout (g, 4, Swan For All--Prettsydney Ridge, by Tom Ridge) $8,000, $14,000 2021 LEX-SEL; Lifetime Record: 38-14-6-3, $507,962

Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!

2-Toy's For You (g, 8, Airzoom Lindy--Tarport Lauren, by Credit Winner) $4,000, $9,700 2017 MICHIANA; Lifetime Record: 110-26-23-9, $298,334

3-Swingfortheedges (g, 6, Swan For All--Sunday Yankee, by Muscles Yankee) $1,920, $100,000 2019 SHS-HBG; Lifetime Record: 49-17-12-9, $745,214

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1 - Finish Order: Sliy Little Fox, I Know My Chip, Pinewood Hanover, All Star Swan, Niner Fromda Diner, Reckless Reviver

8, Hof, $22,000, Trot, Open 1 / Open 2, 26.2, 55.2, 1:23.4, 1:52.2, FT
1-Muscle Dynasty (g, 6, Muscle Hill--Miss Liv, by Kadabra) $11,000, $55,000 2019 LEX-SEL; Lifetime Record: 77-21-10-9, $379,168

Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!

2-Flagman (g, 7, Guccio--Magic Lindy, by Kadabra) $5,500, $14,000 2018 HOOSIER; Lifetime Record: 98-29-18-14, $418,759

3-Famous Father (g, 5, Father Patrick--Hollywood Hill, by Muscle Hill) $2,640, Lifetime Record: 72-15-9-14, $280,918

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 9, 3H, 2, NS, NS - Finish Order: Tug And Coop, Renegade Gypsy, Brookview Bolt, Goomster, Ponda Jet

HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT THE MEADOWS report

Saturday's Results:

1, Mea, $19,200, Pace. "OPEN HANDICAP" PP. 1-4 DRAWN, 5-6 DRAWN, 27.2, 55.3, 1:23.1, 1:51.2, FT
1-Risenshine Seaside (g, 5, Downbytheseadise--Vivid Shine, by Dragon Again) $9,600, $29,000 2020 OH-SEL; Lifetime Record: 53-19-5-10, $315,193

2-Liteningonthebeach (g, 4, Downbytheseadise--Peanutbettor Shake, by Bettor's Delight) $4,800, $72,000 2021 OH-SEL; Lifetime Record: 32-15-7-3, $256,214

3-Whitecookie (g, 7, Windfall Blue Chip--Teamtress, by Team Hanover) $2,304, Lifetime Record: 121-30-21-11, $344,743

Replay: Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1H, H - Finish Order: Louie The Horse N, Patrikhepiranha A, The Ideal Dancer A

Harness Racing Update on Twitter
@HARNESSUPDATE
MEADOWLANDS report

Saturday's Results:

5, M, $18,000, Trot, N/W $14,000 (4YO $15,501) Last 4 Starts or in 2024 AE: N/W 8 (F&M 9) Ext. PM Races Life (N/W $10,000 in Last 4 Starts or TM Rating 85 or Less as of 4/9 Drawn Inside), 27.3, 55.3, 1:24.2, 1:52.2, FT

1-Outside The Fire (g, 5, Cantab Hall--Light The Flame, by Andover Hall) $8,280, $35,000 2020 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 55-17-6-7, $270,033

2-Delayed Hanover (h, 6, Southwind Frank--Don’t Wait Up, by Credit Winner) $3,780, $230,000 2019 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 64-15-10-10, $610,406

3-Oh Look Magic (g, 4, Lookslikethechendale--Miami Magic, by Kadabra) $1,620, Lifetime Record: 27-7-4-5, $192,656

6, M, $17,000, Pace, Claims Handicap $25,000 - $40,000 Post Positions Drawn According to Base Price, 27.1, 56.0, 1:24.0, 1:52.1, FT

1-Ynotthishes (g, 6, Dominant Hanover--Breezin On Bye, by Modern Art) $8,500, Lifetime Record: 123-19-16-17, $141,923

2-Revolver N (g, 10, Auckland Reactor N--Penny Lane, by Vance Hanover) $5,312, Lifetime Record: 100-14-12-14, $185,911

3-Alta Blues A (g, 8, Alta Christiano--Child From The Sea, by Aстрос) $2,550, Lifetime Record: 79-19-12-6, $165,753

8, M, $17,000, Pace, Mares, N/W $12,500 in Last 4 Starts AE: TMR 86.5 or Less as of 4/9 AE: N/W 7 Ext. PM Races Life (2nd Tier State Bred Wins N/C) (N/W $7,500 (N/W L2 $8,250) L4 or TMR 83.5 or Less Drawn Inside, 26.4, 54.3, 1:23.0, 1:51.1, FT

1-Miss Chantilly N (m, 6, Captaintreacherous--Better Rose, by Bettor’s Delight) $7,990, Lifetime Record: 58-12-6-13, $143,891

2-Zanatta (m, 4, Stay Hungry--Major Dancer, by Art Major) $3,740, $115,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 31-6-7-5, $617,572

3-Absolute Power (m, 4, Sweet Lou--Power Pack Hanover, by Somebeachsomewhere) $1,530, Lifetime Record: 36-3-10-3, $115,334

9, M, $20,000, PLAY MEADOWLANDS SERIES - FINAL N/W $7,601 in Last 4 Starts CD (Points Leaders), 27.0, 55.1, 1:23.1, 1:50.1, FT

1-Jack’s Shadow N (g, 10, Shadow Play--Let’s Go Cullen, by Christian Cullen) $9,200, Lifetime Record: 145-39-17-19, $364,715

2-Caveman A (g, 8, Somebeachsomewhere--Our Copper Art, by Art Major) $4,200, Lifetime Record: 94-24-15-14, $212,770

3-Stonebridge Reef (h, 6, Somebeachsomewhere--Rock N Soul, by Rocknroll Hanover) $1,800, $200,000 2019 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 76-13-22-13, $262,297

Harness Racing Update | Results - Page 10
10. M, $20,000, Pace, 6 Year Olds & Under Winners of 5 But Not More Than 8 (N/W L2 or 4YO 9) Extended PM Races Life AE: N/W 5 Extended PM Races Life May Enter and Draw Inside, 28.0, 56.1, 1:23.0, 1:49.2, FT

1-Binge On Yankee (g, 4, Stay Hungry--Bootleg Yankee, by Allamerican Native) $9,400, $95,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 31-8-8-7, $119,689 O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Bradley J Grant, CA & Lawrence R Karr & Weaver Bruscei LLC. B-Charles E Keller III. T-Ron Burke. D-David Miller.

Another Lexington Selected Grad Winner!
FROM THE FIRST CROP OF STAY HUNGRY!

2-HunthintheLastdolar (g, 4, Huntsville--Eighthundrdarbill, by Bettor's Delight) $4,400, $60,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 24-8-4-3, $493,793 O-E Five Racing & John D Fielding, CA. B-Crawford Farms LLC. T-Per Engblom. D-Yannick Gingras.


12. M, $18,000, Pace, N/W $14,000 (N/W L2 $15,400) Last 4 Starts AE: TMR 90.3 or Less as of 4/9 AE: Winners Base Class N/W $10,000 or Less in 1 of Last 2 Starts, 27.2, 56.0, 1:25.3, 1:50.2, FT


2-Big Skewy N (g, 7, Sportswriter--Serenas Whisper, by Mach Three) $3,780, Lifetime Record: 75-14-10-12, $100,477 O-Arhythm LLC. B-J P & Mrs P C & Mrs M E Green, NZ. T-Scott Blackler. D-Yannick Gingras.

3-Rockin On Venus (h, 6, Rockin Image--Venus Killion, by Run The Table) $1,620, Lifetime Record: 80-20-14-10, $315,280 O-Pollack Racing LLC. B-Emerald Highlands Farm. T-Jeff Cullipher. D-Todd McCarthy.

NORTHFIELD PARK report

Saturday's Results:
11. Nfd, $18,500, Pace, GUARANTEED $10,000 PICK 4 STARTS HERE FILLIES & MARES OPEN HANDICAP, M, 272, 57.3, 1:25.3, 1:54.2, FT

Preliminary Results: Northfield Pak had not made results official via USTA at publication time


2-Lydeo (m, 5, Sweet Lou--Show The World, by Western Ideal) $4,625, $23,000 2020 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 56-11-20-6, $252,327 O-Randall B Beins & Reed Broadway & Pollack Racing LLC. B-Deo Volente Farms LLC. T-Randy Beins. D-Chris Lems.


POCONO DOWNS AT MOHEGAN PENNSYLVANIA report

Saturday's Results:
1. PctD, $20,000, Pace, "Booby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 6 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr Old Colts & Geldings NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 1st division of 6, 272, 55.3, 1:23.4, 1:53.0, GD

1-Reggie The Fourth (g, 3, Huntsville--Ruthie J Killeen, by Dayton Frontier) $10,000, Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, $12,400 O-Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC. B-Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC. T-Travis Alexander. D-Matt Kakaley.
2-Texas Holdem (g, 3, Huntsville--That's How We Roll, by Art Major) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 4-0-1-1, $8,760

3-Pompeo (g, 3, Captaintreacherous--Condoleezza, by Yankee Cruiser) $2,400, $45,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 8-1-2-2, $22,750

►► Replay ►► Calls: H, 1-Q, 1-Q, 3, 6 - Finish Order: Mornin Captain, Bettor Make A Wish, Easy Lou, Ny Jim

3, PcD, $20,000, Pace, "Bobby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 8 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Fillies NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 1st division of 4, 273, 58.0, 1:25.3, 1:54.3, GD

1-Beautiful Roz (f, 3, Always B Miki--Pleasant Beauty, by Art Major) $10,000, $260,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-1, $27,680

2-Sweet Illusion (f, 3, Sweet Lou--Rose Run Skyler, by The Panderosa) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 2-0-1-0, $5,000

3-Viki Hill (f, 3, Always B Miki--Look Cheap, by Geartogear) $2,400, Lifetime Record: 1-0-0-1, $2,400
O-Tom Hill, UK  B-Tom Hill, UK  T-Chris Ryder  D-Simon Allard.


4, PcD, $20,000, Pace, "Bobby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 6 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Colts & Geldings NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 2nd division of 6, 272, 55.3, 1:23.1, 1:51.4, GD

1-Captain Caveman (g, 3, Captaintreacherous--Rocknroll Vision, by Rocknroll Hanover) $10,000, $90,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 6-3-0-1, $27,440

2-Sweet Beach Life (g, 3, Sweet Lou--Life Is A Beach, by Somebeachsomewhere) $5,000, $87,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 9-2-2-1, $37,460
O-A Sweet Beach Life Stable  B-Sargent Stables LLC  T-Travis Alexander  D-Matt Kakaley.

3-Port Royal Hanover (c, 3, Captaintreacherous--Panera Hanover, by Rocknroll Hanover) $2,400, $170,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 2-0-0-1, $3,400
O-Douglas S Overhiser  B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc  T-Ev Miller  D-Marcus Miller.


5, PcD, $16,500, Pace, Claiming Handicap $30,000-40,000 Post Position by Price, 28.0, 57.1, 1:24.4, 1:54.1, GD

1-Gentlemanjim li le (g, 10, Kokikolt--Artist Control, by Real Artist) $8,250, Lifetime Record: 117-28-25-12, $226,489

2-Nob Hill Flash (g, 7, Nob Hill High--Pat's Flash, by Memphis Flash) $4,125, Lifetime Record: 105-14-29-17, $194,962

3-De Los Cielos Dee (g, 8, Captaintreacherous--Lisjune, by Camluck) $1,980, $140,000 2017 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 142-31-13-12, $720,558


6, PcD, $20,000, Pace, "Bobby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 6 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Colts & Geldings NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 3rd division of 6, 26.4, 57.0, 1:24.2, 1:53.0, FT

1-Supplemental Fee (c, 3, Courtly Choice--Miss Poppycock, by Mach Three) $10,000, Lifetime Record: 11-2-4-2, $63,382
O-Blake C Macintosh, CA & Tim J Klemencic, CA & Ozzie W Mackay, CA & Tim J Dickieson, CA  B-30 Plus Stable, CA  T-Blake Macintosh  D-Simon Allard.

3-Cruzin America (g, 3, American Ideal--Cruzin Tohe Dance, by Yankee Cruiser) $5,000, $90,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 2-0-1-1, $7,400
O-Symmetry Stables LLC  B-Anvil And Lace Farm & Steve R Thoke  T-Travis Alexander  D-Matt Kakaley.
3-Ain't Nostop Time  (c, 3, Lazarus N--Artsopper, by Artsplace) $2,400, Lifetime Record: 13-4-2-1, $37,500


7, PD, $20,000, Pace, "Bobby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 8 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Fillies NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 2nd division of 4, 27.3, 57.2, 1:26.0, 1:56.0, FT
1-Varsity Blue Chip  (f, 3, Captaintreacherous--Obvious Blue Chip, by Roll With Joe) $10,000, $150,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 7-5-0-0, $39,120

2-Costa Diva  (f, 3, Roll With Joe--String Bikini, by Rocknroll Hanover) $5,000, $13,000 2022 GOSHEN, Lifetime Record: 7-0-3-0, $18,795

1-Southwind Celsius  (c, 3, Captain Crunch--Cut And Paste, by Well Said) $5,000, $90,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 6-1-0-0, $9,100

8, PD, $20,000, Pace, "Bobby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 6 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Colts & Geldings NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 4th division of 6, 28.0, 57.0, 1:24.3, 1:52.2, FT
1-Southwind Celsius  (c, 3, Captain Crunch--Cut And Paste, by Well Said) $5,000, $90,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 6-1-0-0, $9,100

2-Tin Cup Chalice  (g, 3, Huntsville--Fox Valley Lena, by Yankee Skyscraper) $2,400, $15,000 2022 GOSHEN, Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-0, $15,220

3-Hurrikane Justin  (g, 3, Huntsville--Upper Hand, by American Ideal) $1,600, $67,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 10-0-0-0, $9,500

9, PD, $15,000, Pace, Claiming Handicap $20,000-25,000 Post Position by Price, 27.4, $7.4, 1:25.2, 1:54.3, FT
1-Regal Escape  (g, 8, Real Desire--Handicap Escapa, by Artiscape) $7,500, $17,000 2017 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 167-21-24-24, $155,592

3-Perfect Promises  (g, 4, Tellurites--Miss Liz, by Bettor's Delight) $1,800, $26,000 2021 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 27-4-4-5, $33,985

10, PD, $20,000, Pace, "Bobby Weiss Series" L.C. No. 6 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Colts & Geldings NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 5th division of 6, 28.1, 58.0, 1:25.3, 1:53.2, FT
1-Bonaparte  (g, 3, Bettor's Wish--Treacherous Reign, by Captaintreacherous) $10,000, $125,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-2, $42,445
2- Target Aquired (g, 3, Betting Line--Norinoro Hanover, by Somebeachsomewhere) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 2:1-1-0, $11,000
O-Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC  B-Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC  T-Travis Alexander  D-Matt Kakaley.

3- Rochester Flash (c, 3, Stay Hungry--Double Creme, by Albert Albert) $2,400, $80,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 10:0-0-2, $20,221

Calls: HD, 1Q, T, 1H, T - Finish Order: Always B Gibby, Captain Hansen, Manalou, Lounar Eclipse

11, P/D, $20,000, Pace, " Bobby Weiss Series " L.C. No. 8 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Fillies NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 3rd division of 4, 27.4, 58.0, 1:25.3, 1:55.1, FT

1- Clairedelouf (f, 3, Sweet Lou--Claireabell, by Jereme's Jet) $10,000, $35,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 6:1-0-2, $13,000

2- Shutupanddrive (f, 3, Bettor's Delight--Shutthefrontdoor, by Well Said) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 13:2-4-2, $32,273

3- Paladio (f, 3, American Ideal--Apple Patty, by Art Major) $2,400, Lifetime Record: 3:0-0-2, $6,550
O-Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC  B-Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC  T- Travis Alexander  D-Matt Kakaley.

Calls: 1Q, 1Q, 2, 1Q, 3T - Finish Order: Papaya Hanover, Tacos And Tequila, Mighty Mackie

12, P/D, $20,000, Pace, " Bobby Weiss Series " L.C. No. 6 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Colts & Geldings NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 6th division of 6, 27.2, 57.1, 1:24.3, 1:52.1, FT

1- Howlenthedivils (g, 3, American Ideal--Arielle Lynn, by Somebeachsomewhere) $10,000, $75,000 2022 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 10:2-1-2, $56,381
O-Symmetry Stables LLC  B-Crawford Farms LLC  T- Travis Alexander  D-Matt Kakaley.

13, P/C, $16,500, Pace, Claiming Handicap $30,000-40,000 Post Position by Price, 27.1, 56.1, 1:24.0, 1:53.1, FT

1- Tam Major A (h, 10, Art Major--Magic Z Tam, by Camluck) $8,250, Lifetime Record: 138:35-26-20, $482,946

2- Setting Sun (g, 5, Always A Virgin--Light Up, by Artplace) $4,125, $8,000 2020 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 75:11-11-10, $130,447

3- Lyons Spirit (g, 4, Captaintreacherous--Southwind Serenity, by Real Desire) $1,980, $60,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 38-9-3-5, $87,982

Calls: 7, 4T, 3, 2H, NK - Finish Order: Twig, Chiefs Beach, Franco Totem N, Island special major, Outwit Outrun

14, P/D, $20,000, Pace, " Bobby Weiss Series " L.C. No. 8 - 2nd Leg 3 Yr. Old Fillies NW 2 Ext. PM Races or $30,000 Lifetime as of & including 2/1/24 4th division of 4, 28.3, 58.0, 1:25.4, 1:54.2, FT

1- Whassup Hanover (f, 3, Captaintreacherous--Well What's New, by Well Said) $10,000, $17,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 10:6-2-0, $50,640

Calls: HD, 1Q, T, 1H, T - Finish Order: Always B Gibby, Captain Hansen, Manalou, Lounar Eclipse

Another Winner Bred by Hanover Shoe Farms

2- Petrol Queen (f, 3, Roll With Joe--Fatima Tk, by Rock N Roll Heaven) $5,000, Lifetime Record: 9:3-1-1, $42,256
RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

3-Showboat Hanover (f, 3, Betting Line--Someheartsomewhere, by Mach Three) $2,400, $16,000 2022 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 19-8-4-4, $53,958

16, PeD, $17,000, Trot, Winners of 4 but not more than 7 Ext. PM Races Lifetime AE: NW $90,000 Lifetime PA Preferred, 28.2, 57.2, 1:27.0, 1:56.4, FT
1-Fashion Ken (h, 5, Donato Hanover--Broadway Idole, by Broadway Hall) $8,500, Lifetime Record: 41-9-5-5, $64,647
O-Nicole Bovay Gurtner, CA B-Fashion Farms LLC T-T-Pierre Bovay D-Pierre Bovay.

PREFERRED EQUINE

2-Kobe B (g, 4, Father Patrick--Classic Yankee, by Muscles Yankee) $4,250, $14,000 2021 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 40-4-8-9, $141,476
O-Jose Cervantes B-Crawford Farms LLC T-Jill Roland D-Braxten Boyd.

3-Miss Principle (m, 5, Bar Hopping--Dancing On Stage, by Broadway Hall) $2,040, $21,000 2020 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 64-4-9-10, $114,514
O-Bruce R Schadel B-Fashion Farms LLC T-Bruce Schadel D-Anthony Napolitano.

SARATOGA HARNESS report

Saturday’s Results:

6, Sta, $15,000, Pace, Winners Over / Open Handicap W/O Posts 1-4 Open Posts 5 & 6, 27.1, 55.2, 1:23.4, 1:54.0, FT
1-Little Willy (g, 6, Up The Credit--Jo And Maria, by Bettor’s Delight) $7,500, Lifetime Record: 93-19-21-12, $196,247
O-Mark D Beckwith B-Mike Michael Timpano, CA T-Mark Beckwith D-Brett Beckwith.

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK report

Saturday’s Results:

2, Wbs, $25,000, Pace, CANADIAN SIRED GRADUATE SERIES PACE: CANADIAN SIRED 4 YEAR OLDS. 1ST LEG, 27.3, 56.0, 1:25.4, 1:52.0
1-Write Me A Rose (b,h,4 - Sportswriter-Caribbean Rose N-Bettors Delight) $12,500, Lifetime Record: 30-8-3-2, $400,228
O-Windermere Stable Llc B-Windermere Stable Llc T-Robert Kyle Fellows D-Douglas Mcnair
2-Angostura Hanover (b,m,4 - Betting Line-Armbro Amorett-Artsplace)
O-Dr Peter Johnston, Craig Watkins B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Richard Moreau D-James Macdonald

3-Settm A Precedent (br,m,6 - Sunshine Beach-Magic Of Brussels-Shadow Play)
O-Martin Kuepfer B-Mike & Anne Shunock,John & Susan Clark T-Donald Lindsey D-Bob Mcclure

4, Wbs, $24,000, Pace, NW $18,250 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW $29,850 LAST 10 STARTS, 25.4, 54.0, 1:22.1, 1:50.3
1-Hp Momentum (brg,5 - Control The Moment-Amenable Hanover-Dragon Again) $12,000, Lifetime Record: $2-11-8-16, $230,662
O-Imagine Stable B-Claude Hamel T-Shayne Barrington D-Trevor Henry

5, Wbs, $18,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, NW $8,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW $18,250 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: NW 6 RACES LIFETIME OR NW $52,250 IN 2023-24. AE: OPT. CLM, $50,000, 270, 56.2, 1:24.3, 1:52.1
1-Chiefs Dream Girl (b,m,6 - Sunshine Beach-Todaysyourluckyday-Western Ideal) $9,000, Lifetime Record: 108-15-14-11, $278,071
O-High Stakes Inc B-Joanne Colville T-Jack Moiseyev D-Todd Ratchford

6, Wbs, $19,000, Pace, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGERS, NW 2 RACES OR $30,000 (OS $45,000) LIFETIME. AE: N/A $505 P/S LAST 5 STARTS, 28.0, 56.3, 1:25.2, 1:53.0
1-Always A Thrill (b,g,3 - Bettors Delight-Somethinincredible-Ponder) $9,500, Lifetime Record: 9-2-2-1, $87,758
O-Robert Mcintosh Stables Inc, Tyrene Valley Farm, Mardon Stables B-Robert McIntosh Stable Inc T-Robert Mcintosh D-James Macdonald

7, Wbs, $21,000, Pace, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, WINNERS OF 2 BUT NOT MORE THAN 4 RACES OR $47,000 (OS $67,500) LIFETIME, 27.3, 55.2, 1:23.1, 1:50.4
1-Southwind Sambucca (b,g,4 - American Ideal-Sisters Delight-Bettors Delight) $10,500, Lifetime Record: 36-6-5-5, $65,352
O-Gordon Mc Donald, Christopher Boland B-Southwind Farms Llc T-Victor Puddy D-Louis-Philippe Roy

2-Kaptain Karlos (b,g,4 - Captaintreacherous-Robin Cruiser-Yankee Cruiser)
O-Tim Dickieson B-Pinske Stables T-Blake Macintosh D-Jody Jamieson
3-Brookdale Johnny (b,g,4 - Rock In Heaven-Brookdale Gia-Shadow Play)  
O-Douglas & Douglas Polley  B-Douglas & Douglas Polley  T-Benjamin Hollingsworth  D-Sylvain Filion  
►► Replay ►►

8, Wbs, $23,000, Pace, WINNERS OF 4 BUT NOT MORE THAN 7 RACES OR $80,000 (OS $125,500) LIFETIME, 26.4, 57.0, 1:24.3, 1:51.1  
1-Hungry Man (b,h,4 - Stay Hungry-Big Mcdaile-Mcdaile) $11,500, Lifetime Record: 37-8-5-5, $182,138  
O-Bradley Grant  B-Steve Jones  T-Richard Moreau  D-Douglas Mcnair  

FROM THE FIRST CROP OF STAY HUNGRY

2-Nazare (b,g,4 - Sweet Lou-Butchie Beach-Somebeachsomewhere)  
O-Burke Racing Stable Lic, Weaver Bruscemi Lic  B-Fair Winds Farm Inc  T-David Menary  D-Louis-Philippey Roy  
3-Larceny (b,g,4 - Always B Miki-Somebeachsomewhere-Somebeachsomewhere)  
O-Stephen Kluinowski  B-Diamond Creek Farm Llc  T-Carmen Auciello  D-James Macdonald  
►► Replay ►►

9, Wbs, $32,000, Pace, PREFERRED 2, 27.0, 54.3, 1:23.0, 1:50.0  
1-Emmetts Buddy (brg,5 - In The Irons-Logicallyinclined-Shark Gesture) $16,000, Lifetime Record: 53-20-9-6, $292,719  
O-Arthur Rey  B-Arthur Rey  T-Michael Kwietniowski  D-Tyler Roth  
2-Jabberwocky (b,g,5 - Has Watching-Art Sale-Artsplace)  
O-Rick Zeron Stables, James Walker, John Donato, Earn It To Burn It Stable  B-Am Bloodstock Inc  T-Richard Zeron  D-Louis-Philippr Roy  
3-Whichwaytothebeach (b,g,6 - Somebeachsomewhere-Swinging Beauty-Art Major)  
O-Gino Toscani  B-Steiner Stock Farm  T-Garry Merner  D-Sylvain Filion  
►► Replay ►►

10, Wbs, $15,000, Pace, NW $5,500 LAST 5 STARTS OR $11,500 LAST 10 STARTS (W/O $21,000 LAST 10 STARTS N/E); AE: N/A $1,335 P/S IN 2023-24, 27.0, 54.3, 1:23.1, 1:51.2  
1-Bayfield Beach (b,g,6 - Somebeachsomewhere-Db Blue Chip-Art Major) $7,500, Lifetime Record: 111-20-14-14, $523,243  
O-Gordon Mc Donald, Christopher Boland, Howmac Farms Ltd, Limico Inc  B-Schooner Li Stable  T-Victor Puddy  D-Louis-Philippr Roy  
2-Control The Power (b,g,6 - Control The Moment-Power Outage-Camluck)  
O-David Snowden  B-David Snowden  T-David Snowden  D-Douglas Mcnair  
3-Toronto (brg,6 - Always B Miki-See You At Peelers-Bettors Delight)  
O-Ed & Ashleigh Hensley  B-Diamond Creek Farm Llc  T-Ashleigh Hensley  D-Jonathan Drury  
►► Replay ►►

11, Wbs, $18,000, Pace, NW $8,850 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW $21,250 LAST 10 STARTS; AE: NW $5,000 IN 2023-24, 25.4, 54.1, 1:22.3, 1:51.4  
1-Codename Cigar Box (brg,6 - Custard The Dragon-Art Amour-Artsplace) $9,000, Lifetime Record: 115-31-18-18  
O-Paul Sanders, A1stable, Ronald Cullen  B-Surdale Farms Ltd  T-Jodie Cullen  D-Travis Cullen  
2-Highlandbeachbest (b,h,6 - Somebeachsomewhere-Rockn Highland-Rocknroll Hanover)  
O-Highland Thoroughbred Fmr  B-Highland Thoroughbred Fmr  T-Robert Kyle Fellows  D-James Macdonald  
3-Highlandbeachlover (b,g,8 - Somebeachsomewhere-Rockn Highland-Rocknroll Hanover)  
O-Stephen Kluinowski, Robert Burgess, Lawrence Fox, Daniel Sarafian  B-Highland Thoroughbred Fmr  T-Carmen Auciello  D-Jonathan Drury  
►► Replay ►►