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**Sunday, May 18, 2025**

Amanda Stephens

**Louprint (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr., winning at The Red Mile last fall) is an early favorite for the Pepsi North America Cup.**



## Assessing contenders and longshots as North America Cup draws closer



### **BETWEEN THE LINES** with **BRETT STURMAN**

by Brett Sturman

With eliminations for this year's Pepsi North America Cup now officially under three weeks away, all reasonably-viable contenders have now made their way back to the track to start their 3-year-old years. As one would expect this early in the season, the list of top 10 contenders published by Woodbine Mohawk Park mirrors how last year's 2-year-old season finished and for reference that list includes, in order, Louprint, Captain Optimistic, Fallout, Chantilly, Sipponsearoc, Crack Shot, Go Go Grasshopper, Swingtown, Fifth And Five, and Lite Up The World. But could there be any surprise lurking from lesser-known horses?

Before getting into some possible up and comers, last year's Breeders Crown winner Louprint has been the first to establish his position as the top-rated contender. Making his first start of the season two weeks ago in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes (PASS) at The Meadows, he went a massive mile from post 8. Floating away at the start, parked three-wide for part of the

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



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## HARNESS RACING UPDATE

### ABOUT HARNESS RACING UPDATE

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FROM

## LEXINGTON *Selected Yearling Sale*



\$51,282 PASS 3YO Filly Trot  
Divisional Winner

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Photo: Chris Gooden

first turn and then still parked two-wide until shortly before the second turn, he eventually went on to post a 1:49.3 mile at first asking on a track rated sloppy. He went wire-to-wire in 1:50.2 on Saturday afternoon (May 17) at Pocono in his PASS test as the heavy favorite in a small field of five.

A possible challenger worth noting is TH Kay C Crunch, who finished third in that same PASS event. He is North America Cup eligible and came to Pocono from Mohawk where he just missed last out in 1:50.4 to the #10 rated contender, Lite Up The World. Possibly a key race, third finisher from that same event Set Shot (also North America Cup eligible) came back to win next at Mohawk in 1:51.2. He won again on Saturday as part of an SBOA finals night at Mohawk; another worth keeping an eye on.

Courts On Fire is another one that you don't find yet amongst the assumed top contenders, but could be of interest. Having raced as a 2-year-old exclusively last year in New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) races through seven starts, he finished his freshman season with a big win as a 14-1 longshot in the \$304,000 NYSS final. In his lone start back to kick off 2025, he impressed at Mohawk. Being cautiously handled in that race last week, he angled late out of the 3-hole and sprinted home with a flying final eighth to miss by a length to the odds-on race favorite.

There are also a few horses with higher name recognition and if you wanted to split hairs could argue that they deserve to

be listed as top 10 contenders. I'd start in that category with American Son. He spent most of his season last year in Lexington and wrapped up that campaign relatively early, with his final start coming on Oct. 5, an International Stallion Stake he won in 1:49.4, one of his two sub-1:50 wins last year at The Red Mile.

My thought process is that if you have Louprint at #1 and Sipponsearoc at #5 (no argument on either), then American Son needs to be somewhere in that mix as he battled interchangeably with both of those throughout last year. American Son made his 2025 debut two weeks ago at The Meadowlands in a conditioned race that included older horses where he was a close-up third in 1:50.3 with a last quarter of :26.1. In that same race, moving even faster up the inside to be second was a horse named Sugar Man. That one, while not eligible to the North America Cup, is eligible to the Meadowlands Pace and is worth continuing to watch.

You could make a top tier case as well for Prince Hal Hanover, who showed an affinity last year for the Mohawk oval. Four of his 10 starts in 2024 came at the local track, and those races included a win in the Geers in his first lifetime race, and second place finishes in the Nassagaweya, and both the Metro eliminations and final, where he was bested only by Fallout in that \$1 million dollar event. He returned to the races two weeks ago in a PASS event at The Meadows where he nearly lasted from post 8 in a fast 1:49.1 mile. He also won on Saturday in a race that included



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# LEXINGTON

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\$126,912 ON SBOA 3YO Colt & Gelding Pace Final Winner

## **CRACK SHOT**

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*There are also a few horses with higher name recognition and if you wanted to split hairs could argue that they deserve to be listed as top 10 contenders. I'd start in that category with American Son. He spent most of his season last year in Lexington and wrapped up that campaign relatively early, with his final start coming on Oct. 5, an International Stallion Stake he won in 1:49.4, one of his two sub-1:50 wins last year at The Red Mile. My thought process is that if you have Louprint at #1 and Sipponsearoc at #5 (no argument on either), then American Son needs to be somewhere in that mix as he battled interchangeably with both of those throughout last year.*

the likes of among others, Go Go Grasshopper, which could certainly have further North America Cup implications.

Another one with name recognition is Papi's Pistol. He danced every big dance last year while racing a total of 14 times which seems like a ton these days as a 2-year-old. He was third in his Metro elimination last year in one of his two starts at Mohawk (the Metro final being the other) and he won the \$206,000 Kindergarten final at The Meadowlands the week after winning there in 1:49.3. Thus far in 2025, he has qualified twice at The Meadowlands where both have been respectable tries; the first


of which he was just a couple of lengths back behind Captain Optimistic and Fallout.

Then there are others who would need to make up more ground in a short time but could still be worth noting. That includes Dreamboat Hanover who was actually great in chasing home Louprint two races ago at The Meadows but perhaps bounced last out when finishing third at Pocono as the 1-9 favorite. Jon I Love Dat won first out this season at Tioga and while I wouldn't consider him a top contender, it would be a nice story to see a horse go from winning the Massachusetts Breeders Stake final to the North America Cup. Pants On Fire and Strangeronthebeach have similar profiles coming from trainer Brian Brown; both just getting their careers started but look promising early at Scioto and Hoosier. Last year's Matron champion Dandy Ideal sports two strong return qualifiers at Pocono. Surprising 1:48.4 winner last year, D A Love Boat, was in-to-go Saturday.

Lastly, in an apparent emerging theme of NBA-named horses, both Doncic and Nikola J remain North America Cup eligible. For publicity, how about getting these two into a match race on the undercard?

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## TALES FROM THE CURMUDGEON

with MURRAY BROWN

### At 29, Carter Pinske is still obsessed with harness racing

by Murray Brown

At the relatively young age of 29, Carter Pinske has found himself with as full a plate as anybody in the business regardless of their age or experience.

In addition to his familial duties as a husband to Makenna and the father of two young sons, he is in charge of the Southern Oaks Training Center in Sorrento, FL, the fairly recently acquired – and built Generations Farm in Versailles, KY – and a good-sized group of trainees which now numbers 40 in Kentucky, but consisted of 50 head while he was in Florida.

Dave Landry

**Karl, Carter and Makenna Pinske shopping for yearlings at the 2024 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.**



*Another Winner!*  
FROM

## LEXINGTON *Selected Yearling Sale*



\$40,322 PASS 3YO C&G  
Division Winner

**PRINCE HAL HANOVER**

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*“I’ve been obsessed with a love of horses for as long as I can remember. I cannot remember a time or instance when I felt that I might do anything else.”*

~ Carter Pinske

### *How are you able to manage that many responsibilities?*

“I suppose more than anything, with that many things to do, it keeps me out of trouble. I couldn’t do it all without good help, lots of not only good, but great help. At Southern Oaks, Grandma Marlys is an essential component. She has been an integral part of the operation ever since she and my grandfather Tim bought it from Jim Simpson.

“My dad Karl presents a huge help in running the business aspects of both the training centers and in an area where he is sometimes overlooked – visiting the farms, inspecting the yearlings, and in being a guiding force at the sales when we are bidding on and buying the pupils that we will be training.

“I like to believe that our help at the stable, taking care of the horses, is second to none. At Southern Oaks, we have a great core of people who have been with us from the time Tim and Marlys first acquired what was then called the Simpson Training Center.”

*My association with the Pinske’s of Plato, MN, began with your uncle Brian and through Brian with your grandfather Tim and his father who I knew as Grandpa Bob. Let’s start at the beginning. How did Grandpa Bob become involved with harness horses?*

“It started with my great grandfather, Bob, and his uncles, Bill and Clem. They traded work horses which they had used in the

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p,2,1:51.3f-'25 (\$136,065) ★ Dam: Heavenly Bride by Rock N Roll Heaven

\$40,322 PASS division winner in a life best of 1:51.3f.

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# LEXINGTON

*Selected Yearling Sale*



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Dave Landry  
Carter Pinske  
at the 2019  
Breeders  
Crown.



## When did you know that your life's work was going to be in harness racing?

"Probably from the first instance when I had the ability to think and make decisions. I've been obsessed with a love of horses for as long as I can remember. I cannot remember a time or instance when I felt that I might do anything else. I've been fortunate enough to have had four great teachers in my life — three from within my family and the fourth outside of it. I grew up learning from my uncle Brian and my grandfather Tim. In addition to both of them having been excellent horsemen, both were also exceptional human beings. They were great teachers who had a great deal of patience for a sometimes snout nosed kid who may have not known as much as he might have believed he did.

"Brian and I had a great affinity for each other. He loved having me around the stable and I loved being there. He told my mom, 'When he turns 15, I'm taking him with me.'

"Then of course, there is my dad, Karl. He is not only an exceptional human being, but in his own way, he is also a very good horseman. He would be the first to tell you that he does not fashion himself to be a horse trainer or the person to go to when I've got a problem with one of my horses. However, one thing he is blessed with when it comes to horses, is that he has an exceptional eye. So much so, that I would not consider bidding on any horse without what I felt was his blessing. When it comes to picking yearlings, we are a team.

"My fourth great teacher is Richard 'Nifty' Norman, the greatest horseman I have ever known. To a great extent, a significant

building business for budding harness horses. The three started racing them in the fairs in Minnesota as a hobby. Occasionally, they'd get some who were too good for the Minnesota fairs and they branched out. My grandparents, Tim and Marlys, would eventually race in Winnipeg and Lexington after high school graduation but returned home to raise their kids and help run the family business with his father. Bob would race summers in Minnesota and falls at the Meadows in PA, and would teach his trade to my uncle Brian who was in college at that time. At that time the "hobby" became a business as Brian went into harness racing whole hog, first in Illinois, running the stable, and becoming its full-time trainer and driver. Grandpa Tim was his farrier to start and a good one at that; a duty he continued at when running the stable himself.

"Brian and his then Grand Circuit stable had risen to a degree where it had become one of the bigger and more successful stables in North America. Then came his loss. It was horrible and totally unexpected, not only to his family, but also to just about everyone who had made his acquaintance. Of course, we all mourned, but we all realized that life had to go on. My grandfather and grandmother lifted themselves off the ground and persevered. Grandpa training and grandma running Southern Oaks. As luck would have it, we won the North America Cup that very year. I grew up in the family cabinetry business with my dad, and we raised, broke and trained horses at our farm in Minnesota."

## CONGRATULATIONS TARA HILLS-SIRED CHAMPIONS!



### GREEN GLIDER

1:54.0-'25 (\$122,764)

Green Manalishi S - Magical Glider

**\$136,513 ON SBOA Final winner for 3yotf's,**

**May 17 at Woodbine**

Owned by: Andrea Lea Racingstables Inc.

Trained by: Scott McEneny

Driven by: Bob McClure

Bred by: Glencairn Racing Stb Inc.

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amount of any success I've enjoyed in this business is due to Nifty and his kindness and patience. Nifty might tell you that he is in no way as good a horseman as Brett Pelling or Ross Croghan. He might very well be right. However, based on my life experience, which is the guidepost on which to base my knowledge, Nifty stands alone."

### *Can you talk further on your association with Nifty?*

"It began with Grandpa Tim. When Tim was running the racing stable, his norm was to usually ship the horses to Canada in preparation to baby race them. He preferred started them up there because he felt that those people would generally be more conservative in giving their babies a start. If he had some horses which were ready to race in New Jersey, New York or Pennsylvania he sent them to Nifty in New Jersey. Grandad and Nifty had developed a relationship and become good friends. I was lucky enough to become a beneficiary of their friendship. In addition to them being good mates, they also shared a philosophy on the way that horses should be trained and raced. Once again, this was something that I inherited."

### *What can you tell us about the makeup of your stable which appears to be significantly different than it was when your uncle and grandfather were in charge?*

"Yes, it is. Very much so. Brian and Tim's stables were made up almost exclusively of pacers. They might have two or three trotters hidden somewhere. But when it came time to race, they would usually disappear. I much prefer trotters. We still have a few pacers but the vast majority of those we have are trotters. Why, you might ask? Simply because I prefer them. I think that dad might have initially been reluctant to have such a big disparity of trotters over pacers. But I think we now pretty much think the same.

"Another area where the stable has become different, as are many other outfits, relates to the number of Kentucky eligibles. Of our 28 2-year-olds, only two are not eligible to Kentucky. Why? Because as the infamous bank robber Willie Sutton said when he was asked why he robbed banks, 'Because that is where the money is.' I realize that is a simplistic answer. Of course, there are other reasons. There is no better or more enjoyable place to race horses than The Red Mile. They have the program designed so that you can station yourself in Lexington and not have to ship too often or too far. You can design your year-round racing schedule where you really do not have to race anywhere but in the Commonwealth.

"The third biggest difference is in the ownership of a good many of the horses in the stable. It used to be our family owned all of the horses, or at least parts of all of them. That is still the case with roughly two thirds of them. The remaining third are owned by outside people who have entrusted their horses to us."

### *With regard to the size of the stable and the makeup of the Kentucky program, do you think there is a saturation point? And if so, what is it?*

"There certainly is and has to be. I think we are there or close to it in terms of stable size. Regarding the Kentucky program, I feel that it's coming. In looking at the next four crops on the way – 2-year-olds, yearlings, sucklings, and in utero – it may have already been reached. There will come a time where there will be so many divisions that the money offered will be cut down to the point where it hurts those competing. Right now, and for the immediate future, it's great. In terms of what I can handle, I think it varies between what I have in training at Southern Oaks in Florida and what I bring up to Kentucky to race. It's probably easier to manage the 50 head seemingly under one roof in Florida than it is to handle the 40 head we brought up north. The reason for this of course is shipping. If you are racing at more than one place, you face more situations than you would if you were at only one place. As far as the Kentucky program is concerned, I'm going to enjoy it as long as I am able to."

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p,2,1:50.2s (\$827,756)  
Big Jim - Shiraz Seelster by Bettors Delight  
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Trained by: Nick Gallucci  
Driven by: James Macdonald  
Bred by: Millar Farms  
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Dean Gillette

**Better Tak'em (Jordan Ross) winning an Indiana Sires Stakes event at age 2 in 2024.**



## MIDWEST CHRONICLES

with **JAMES PLATZ**

# Graber, Jr. fillies a formidable Indiana Sires Stakes trio

by James Platz

Last season, trainer Henry Graber, Jr. campaigned a trio of freshman trotting fillies that each managed to reach the winner's circle in Indiana Sires Stakes competition. Now sophomores, the trio are back in action and will be ready when the opening leg of sires stakes kicks off on Memorial Day (May 26) at Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino.

"All three of them grew up a little bit," said Graber, Jr. "They each got a little bigger, a little stronger. I think they all took a step forward."

Classical Jane has been the most visible of the three to date, making three starts in the Msnaughtbynature Series, scoring in the \$25,000 final on Friday (May 16). Bred by Steve Mast, the Swan For All—Class Angel 3-year-old, owned by Hillside Stables, Frank Baldachino, Beasty LLC and Backroad Stable, tripped the timer in 1:54.3, winning by more than seven lengths.

"I was pretty tickled," the trainer said. "I was very happy. We did a little shoeing adjustment, took some equipment off for this

start, and it seemed like it worked, so we'll see. We'll see what happens on Memorial Day; I'm looking forward to it."

As a freshman, Classical Jane made nine starts for her connections, finishing on the board five times. She peaked late in the season, claiming a pair of sires stakes divisions and finishing second in the \$250,000 Super Final. She finished the year with \$128,155 on her card and a mark of 1:55.4.

## CONGRATULATIONS TARA HILLS-SIRED CHAMPIONS!



### GALEN ERSO

1:55.0-'25 (\$272,374)

Green Manalishi S - Wygant Princess

**\$130,913 ON SBOA Final winner for 3yotc&g's,**

**May 17 at Woodbine**

Owned by: Bradley J Grant

Trained by: Gregg McNair

Bred by: Marcus Melander

Driven by: Doug McNair

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**Miracle Maven (John De Long) was also an Indiana Sires Stakes winner at Harrah's Hoosier Park in 2024.**

"You could feel she had it, but it just took her a little while to get it figured out," Graber, Jr. said of Classical Jane's speed. "Last year it took her a while to get rolling. She always did everything right, but we knew when we started qualifying that we're not going to see the best of her until the end of the year."

After her slow start last season, Graber, Jr. was glad to have the Msnaughtbynature Series before launching into sires stakes. After racing third in the opening leg, Classical Jane notched a win in the second leg before dominating Friday's final.

"After we qualified and saw that it might take a start or two, that's one reason we pushed to race in the series to get a few starts under her belt," he said. "I'm kind of glad we did, because, you know, you could see her first start, she was a little flat. When we pulled blood her liver was a little elevated, but I thought she needed a start more than that being the issue."

While Classical Jane surged to finish the 2024 season, Graber, Jr.'s other pupils, Miracle Maven and Better Tak'em, fizzled. Both fillies were sick heading into the Super Final and finished seventh and 10th in the finale. While it was a disappointing finish, both trotters excelled most of the season, and are back and primed to compete.

Miracle Maven turned out to be the most successful of the three last year. Bred by Noah Wickey, the Don't Let'em—Bad Babysitter lass recorded five wins from nine starts, three of those collected in sires stakes. Her only off-the-board performance came in the Super Final. Owned by the partnership of Hillside Stables, Baldachino, Beastly LLC and Eleven Star Stables, Miracle Maven banked \$150,020.

"A 2-year-old like that, it's just so hard to, once they're sick, trying to get them over it and still race," Graber, Jr. said.

After a pair of successful qualifiers at Hoosier Park, the first a 1:54.1 effort on May 7, Miracle Maven made her sophomore debut on May 17 in a \$20,000 Indiana Sires Stakes-eligible event that combined 3-year-old colts and fillies on track for the Memorial Day opening leg. He would have preferred to

*Another Winner!*

FROM

# LEXINGTON

*Selected Yearling Sale*



\$60,000 Garden State 3YO  
Colt & Gelding Trot Winner

**YANNICK G KEMP**

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Photo: Michael Lisa





race against fillies only, but also acknowledged Miracle Maven needed a start.

"It was either that, going for \$20,000, or a non-winners of like \$5,000, going against the aged horses, and we're going for \$8,500," he said. "I figured why not go for \$20,000, and I figured she would draw inside since she's a filly, but I guess she didn't get that kind of respect, but that's okay."

Graber, Jr. said that besides sires stakes, Miracle Maven is eligible to the open stakes at Hoosier Park in the fall, as well as the Moni Maker at Scioto Downs.

"Last year, I would have said no to a five-eighths, but she trained a lot better here this year," said Graber, Jr., whose pupils train over a half-mile oval. "She's a lot more sound this year. I shouldn't say she wasn't sound, she just always locked on a line last year, and we just did everything we could think of and nothing got her off of it. She was really aggressive last year, but this year she came back and she's two fingers."

Better Tak'em is the last of the trio to make it to the races in 2025. The Don't Let'em—Barmaid filly battled a bout of sickness that kept her from qualifying earlier. Steered by regular driver Jordan Ross, she was an eight-length winner on May 14, trotting home in :27.2 and hitting the wire in 1:57.1.

"Jordan told me he just gave her the reins and let her trot," Graber, Jr. said. "She finished really strong. I was very happy."

Last season, Better Tak'em finished first or second in seven of eight seasonal starts, with four wins. The Steve Mast-bred sophomore is owned by Graber, Jr., Eleven Star Stables and Indiana Stables LLC. With three sires stakes leg wins to her credit, the filly earned \$119,125 in 2024 despite breathing issues that were addressed in the offseason.

"We actually did throat surgery on her right around Christmas," Graber, Jr. said. "We discovered at the end of the year that her breathing was messed up. It was too late to do surgery before the final."

This year, Better Tak'em is also eligible to Hoosier Park's open stakes and the Moni Maker.

"She'll take any track," Graber, Jr. said. "It doesn't matter if it's a quarter mile track. She can take turns like it's a straightaway. I'm really looking forward to racing her on a smaller track. She'll have to be good enough to trot, you know, [1]:52 at Hoosier before she's even good enough to go over there."

To have one nice horse in a division is exciting. A stable with three contenders is special. Graber, Jr. credits the partnerships that have stepped up to buy quality racing stock, as well as the stable help that keeps the barn running.

"I'm very proud of my hardworking team and appreciative of my owners," he said. "This wouldn't be possible without either."

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## THE VIEW FROM WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

with **MELISSA KEITH**

# It's \$20 million, nearly 20,000 races and counting for Vic Puddy

by **Melissa Keith**

Trainer Victor "Vic" Puddy is approaching his 20,000th race as a trainer, and reached \$20 million in purse winnings on March 20 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The Mountain, ON horseman recorded his first training win on April 10, 1992 at Connaught Park, when Darrell Coville drove pacer Armbro Halifax to a 10-1 upset.

On Friday (May 16), Puddy was feeling optimistic about a new horse he had just acquired via Preferred Equine.

"We just got him," said the trainer, describing Soaring Now (p, 3, 1:48.1s; \$587,631), a 6-year-old son of Mach Three purchased for \$75,000 for partners Gordon MacDonald of Ottawa, ON, Christopher Boland of St. John's, NL, Howmac Farms Ltd. of Brookfield, PEI, and Limco Inc., Chateaugay, QC. "He hasn't even arrived yet.

"I haven't decided if he's coming to Toronto yet. I haven't decided to take him to Mohawk or Rideau. He was a winner Sunday [May 11 at Harrah's Philly], and he won the race before that, too [May 3 at The Meadowlands]."

Deciding among different options for the latest addition to his 28-horse stable is a regular process for the 60-year-old horseman.

"I'm at Manestreet [Stables, in Rockwood, ON]," he said. "Bill Manes is the owner. He's got six or seven different trainers here. There's a half-mile training track"

Puddy told HRU he usually keeps 15 or 16 horses at Manestreet, plus another 12 to 14 at Ottawa's Rideau Carleton Raceway.

"I was at Connaught Park and Rideau starting out, but I always had horses around my whole life," he said of his training career.

"It's probably been 40 years now."

His longevity in harness racing is partially inspired by a brother who lost the opportunity for a life in the sport.

"I lost a brother, Tim Puddy; he used to train and drive," Vic said. "He worked for Paul Barkley and Johnny Sheldon, probably at Blue Bonnets and Rideau. He was 12 years older than me. He drowned in a swimming pool."

Vic took a slightly different route to becoming a professional trainer.

"I had horses with my sister and her husband, but I was away playing ball a lot and kind of fell into it [owning and training]," he said. "I hung around a lot of people: Orl Coville, Lee Crozier, Bill Simser, and Norm Jones, at Rideau and Connaught Park."

"When I got going good, Barrie Murray from Shawville, QC, he used to give me a lot of horses to train, back in the day," Vic said. "He got me going pretty good. He still goes to Rideau Carleton. His brother is Bryan Murray, who was the GM of the Ottawa Senators, and Barry's son is Timmy Murray, who was a scout for many years and the GM of the Buffalo Sabres. I think he still has the odd horse racing in the states, I'm not sure."

Vic said maintaining partnerships is essential to his success.

"I've had the same owners for 30 years plus," he said. "Limco's been with me for over 30 years. Of course, some owners pass away, and some get sick and get out of the game."

The veteran trainer said he was looking forward to the 2025 stakes season, winning hopefully, more at Mohawk.

"We have some nice stakes horses this year," he said. "The 3-year-olds came back good: Rising Interest [2, 1:55.1s; \$65,433], Lady Cafe Au Lait [p, 2, 1:53.2s; \$56,303] in the SBOA final [last night, May 17] at Mohawk, Darlenes Angel [p, 2, 1:55.3s; \$27,585], who was second last week in her second start back, she's in Monday [May 19] night in the first [2025 Ontario Sires Stakes] Grassroots at Mohawk, Sadies Delight [p, 3, Q2:02f; \$7,427] is in at London Monday [May 19]. The 3-year-old trotting filly, Howmac Glider [3, 2:00.4f; \$10,601], she was second in London the other night. Bettors Zone [p, \$1,009] is at Rideau right now. He'll be there another start or two, and then go on to Toronto, hopefully."

Vic said he is training one Maritime-bred and four Ontario-bred 2-year-olds this season.

"We have a My MVP colt, a Big Jim colt, and a Cattlewash colt, and the Bulldog Hanover filly," he said.

*"When [the sport] gets in your blood, it's hard to stop. I just stayed around. I have great help and great owners, and that makes your job really easy."*

~ Vic Puddy

The latter, named Isle B Bulldogbeth, was a \$32,000 purchase at the 2024 Atlantic Classic Sale in Crapaud, PEI, becoming the first offspring of Bulldog Hanover sold in Canada.

"That's why I went," said Vic, in reference to the yearling sale. "I figured that she would go around that price."

Isle B Bulldogbeth is currently training at Rideau Carleton.

"She trained really good [Friday] morning," he told HRU. "She trained in 2:03. I've also got a Maritime-bred filly, Howmac Dixie, and she trained in 2:03. Now she's going to Brendan Mullen's. He lives in Tracadie, PEI."

Vic said his horses would be largely relocating to Manestreet Stables soon.

"There are less at Rideau, because they're going to close the backstretch soon," he said. "The 2-year-olds will be going soon, one to the Maritimes at the start of the week, and the other four going to Toronto in two or three weeks."

Losing stabling on the Ottawa track's backstretch poses a challenge for local owners and trainers, he added.

"I'm in the barn every day at Toronto, and Jenn, Andrea and Brittany Smiley run the barn in Ottawa," Vic said. "I was there last week... They do a good job. The backstretch [stabling] makes it easier for someone like me. It's just too bad, but the biggest problem is, a lot of [other local] places closed up their barns or sold them."

"They see enough of me now," he said with a laugh of the track in Campbellville, where his focus would be with the stakes season ramping up. "We'll have to race more Grand River, Georgian Downs, and also Mohawk."

Not a man to wax sentimental about developing raw talent, Vic said he was always happy to acquire a ready-made racehorse.

"My favorite part is when they start and they win, and they make money, especially when you own part of them, and most of them, I do," he said.

Watch for Soaring Now at Mohawk soon. Vic called the stallion "a Saturday night horse" for the big track, and a possibility for the 2025 Gold Cup and Saucer this summer at Red Shores Charlottetown.

While Vic has won two Gold Cup consolations (as trainer of Livinthebeachlife in 2023 and Two Step Boogie in 1998), he said the Gold Cup and Saucer remained the one race he wants to win above all others.

"When it gets in your blood, it's hard to stop," he said of his years in the sport. "I just stayed around. I have great help and great owners, and that makes your job really easy."

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# HRU BOARDCAST DIVISION

## Twos in Training



Ake Svanstedt and Heather Vitale.



Jaimi MacDonald and Mark Etsell.

## Ake Svanstedt and Mark Etsell in the spotlight

by Dave Briggs

We've added two more Twos in Training videos to the 2025 list this week. In New Jersey, Heather Vitale interviewed trainer Ake Svanstedt. In Ontario, Jaimi MacDonald interviewed trainer Mark Etsell.

The Svanstedt interview premiered on Saturday. You can [watch it on YouTube here](#).

The Etsell interview will premiere today (May 18) at 4 p.m. You can [watch it here after it premieres](#).

You can also watch both interviews on [HRU's special broadcast division page](#), which already features Twos in Training episodes with Marcus Melander, Tony Beaton, Dave Menary, Blake MacIntosh, Rob Fellows, Brett Pelling, Noel Daley, Andrew Harris, Steve Elliott, George Ducharme, Nancy Takter, Erv Miller, Ron Burke, John Butenschoen, Carter Pinske, Scott McEneny, Chris Beaver, Brian Brown and Dan Altmeyer and Mike Wilder.

Please [subscribe to HRU's YouTube channel](#) to never miss another episode of Twos in Training.

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## EUROPEAN REPORT

with **THOMAS HEDLUND**

### Field for Elitloppet grows to 14

by Thomas Hedlund

The field for Elitloppet is shaping up and Solvalla invited two horses late this week, one from Italy and one from France.

Cobra Killer Gar (Readly Express), trained by Erik Bondo will represent Italy and the 7-year-old gelding has dominated in his category in races in Paris and will enter Solvalla's track with four consecutive wins at Vincennes in 2025. He is really a dark horse for next Sunday's (May 25) Elitloppet.

French trotter Hussard du Landret (Bird Parker) is considerably more merited than his Italian opponent. The Benoit Robin-trained 8-year-old is used to the very big battles in Paris and he has claimed the \$400,000 Prix de Paris in 2024. An exciting start waits for this strong horse.

In Gävle's \$80,000 Prins Daniels race, upsetter **Global Etalon** (Brillantissime), trained by Fredrik Wallin, proved best over the mile. A third inside-trip and racing room at the top of the stretch meant that Global Etalon could finish quickly and disarm leading favorite Double Deceiver and first-over Kentucky River shortly before the wire.

Replay [here](#).

Wallin could not give a definitive answer whether he will race in Elitloppet next week. Global Etalon is 5 years old and fresh among horses he will (or will not) face at Solvalla.

Elitloppet invited horses can be found [here](#).

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### This week's fines and suspensions

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

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

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

[ARCI classification system](#)

[USTA's fines and suspensions for this week](#)

[Standardbred Canada's fines and suspensions for this week](#)

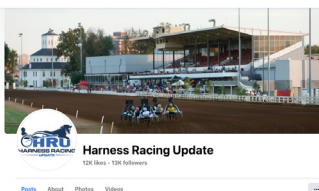
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## ALL OVER ONTARIO

with MATTHEW LOMON

# Fervent fan base celebrating century-and-a-half at Dresden

by Matthew Lomon

Sunday afternoons in Dresden, ON are meant to be spent at the racetrack.

While the exact date and time of each race day has fluctuated over the years, the community of 2,400's passion for the sport has not.

On Sunday (May 25), live harness racing returns to the quaint half-mile oval with the first program of its 11-day 2025 meet.

The first dash on Dresden Raceway's Opening Day, which leaves the gate at its season-standard 1 p.m. post time, will serve as the proverbial ribbon cutting on 150 years of racing in the southwestern Ontario town.

Ahead of the landmark occasion, track announcer Nathan Bain discussed harness racing's profound presence in the community, the Raceway's role in uplifting its enduring legacy, and what fans can look forward to in 2025.

"Dresden's been around for so long, and so many people began their careers here," Bain said. "We did a throwback Thursday recently when Apaches Fame set the track record for 2-year-old's [colt pacers] back in 1989. There have been a lot of great horsepeople and horses to spend time at Dresden Raceway over the years."

Bain, who is entering his third season as the voice of Dresden racing, has experienced the Dresden tradition first-hand, graduating from spectator to horseman to trackside host and backup announcer, to his current post in the race caller's booth.

"I've been going to Dresden since I was a little kid racing horses," he said. "It's very familiar to me, and I'm quite comfortable now knowing everybody. It feels like home."

The first call of the year, he added, is especially electrifying.

"It's exciting to hear the fans on the fence on Opening Day," Bain said. "There's always a lot of hype around it, so I'm really looking forward to it."

"I've gotten to know so many fans and horsepeople over my time here. It's such a dedicated group all around. Everyone keeps coming back year after year to support us, and it goes to show how much small community racing means to everyone."

The Dresden faithful will be rewarded handsomely throughout the nearly three-month season with a variety of special events and theme days, including the track's Father's Day card on June 15.

A smashing success year after year, this year's Father's Day slate will be even sweeter with the introduction of the Little Saratoga Pacing Series.

The event, open to maiden fillies and mares with lifetime earnings under \$5,000, replaces the Mark Austin Memorial Pacing Series, which ran under the same conditions since its inauguration in 2017.

"It's a great little series because we get to see a lot of young horses develop at Dresden, and it gives horses that can't compete in the Grassroots or Prospect type races a chance to make a little money and get their racing careers kicked off," Bain said. "It was a very popular day last year."

In addition to the dual Father's Day-Little Saratoga card, Bain cited the return of other fan favorite days in Harness the Hope (July 13), a breast cancer research, awareness, and support fundraising initiative, and Kids' Day on July 27.

"Those are both days we really look forward to," he said. "It's a wonderful group of ladies that comes out for Harness the Hope. Fans also get to see all the horses and all the grooms decked out in pink that day."

"Kids' Day is always exciting because we like to promote young people in the business. It's very important that we bring young fans to the track and make it enjoyable for them, too."

Eight Ontario Sires Stakes Prospect Series tilts will also land at Dresden over four race dates: June 8, July 20, July 27, and on closing day, Aug. 4.

Alongside the two Prospect Series contests, Dresden's final feature wraps up with its year-end staple, Black Heritage Day.

The annual event carries considerable historical significance in the community, as the Chatham-Kent region of Ontario is closely tied to the Underground Railroad and is home to the Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History.

*"It's exciting to hear the fans on the fence on [Dresden Raceway's] Opening Day. There's always a lot of hype around it, so I'm really looking forward to it."*

~ Nathan Bain

*“We have the same fans coming back every single year [at Dresden Raceway] and it just goes to show how dedicated they are. Hopefully, we can bring in some new fans as well. The crowds were very strong last year, and I think the most important thing is you see people come once and then they’re back every single week.”*

~ Nathan Bain

“Every year on our Closing Day card we celebrate Black Heritage Day,” Bain said. “I think this year is going to pull everyone together to celebrate it even more. It’s going to be a very special season.”

Closing Day at Dresden falls on the Civic Holiday, adding another layer to one of the Raceway’s most celebrated occasions.

On the track, fans can expect to see more familiar faces and some of the grassroots circuit’s top performers, including last year’s leading driver, Garrett Rooney.

After winning 36 races for nearly \$114,000 across 87 starts at Dresden last year, the Iona, ON-based reinsman told Bain that he will indeed be back in 2025.

“Obviously, people love the summer racing, and we have a great group of drivers,” Bain said. “Garrett Rooney, our leading driver, he’ll be returning this season, which is very exciting. Hopefully, we can put some nice cards together for the horsepeople and the horseplayers.”

Bain said he expects this year’s driving colony to be similar to that of Hiawatha Horse Park in neighboring Sarnia, ON.

If his hunch is correct, that will mean the return of drivers Nick Steward, Scott Wray, and Donald Rankin, Jr., each of whom finished top seven in last year’s standings.

Bain harbors hope that when all put together, Dresden’s commitment to delivering an atmosphere authentic to the track and its supporters, is reflected in the live racing experience.

“We have the same fans coming back every single year and it just goes to show how dedicated they are,” he said. “Hopefully, we can bring in some new fans as well. The crowds were very strong last year, and I think the most important thing is you see people come once and then they’re back every single week.”

“What really matters is that they’re enjoying the experience that Dresden Raceway offers. I think we forget just how important the on-track experience is and that’s why we try to do exciting events and draws during the day to keep people entertained throughout the card because we want them to come back every single week.”

Those who make it out to Dresden, even if only for one race day, can be assured everyone involved — staff and horsepeople

— are doing everything in their power to put on a good show.

“There are so many people that work tirelessly to make sure everything goes smoothly at Dresden,” Bain said. “We’ve got a great team that puts it all together every single week.”

“Without all the people that help and support Dresden Raceway, it wouldn’t be possible. We’re looking forward to celebrating 150 years of racing, and we’re grateful for everyone who has, and will continue to be a part of it with us.”

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## SUPERSTAR FEMALES OF HARNESS RACING

with VICTORIA M. HOWARD

# Harness racing opened up a whole new world for Angela Boan

by Victoria Howard

When Angela Boan was growing up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the then 21-year-old met her soon-to-be ex-husband whose family was involved in harness racing. Being a novice to the sport, Boan quickly fell in love with the animal and the game.

In 2001, Boan accompanied her husband to America where he was set to drive an Argentinian horse at Pompano Park in south Florida, but due to political problems, the horse was not allowed to be transported and could not be shipped.

“ [Caring for horses is] not an easy job, that’s for sure, and you have to love them; if you don’t, you shouldn’t be in it. Horses are not robots, but instead, they are living, breathing animals who really want to please you. Of course, there are some difficult ones who like to test the waters, but that comes with the territory.” ”

~ Angela Boan



Chris Gooden  
Angela Boan.

*“I’m excited to see what 2025 brings, and like a nervous mother, I will be standing in the paddock impatiently pacing back and forth until the race is over and my horse is back in his stall safe and sound.”*

~ Angela Boan

When the couple arrived in Florida, they were introduced to the owner of Kosmos Farm, and were offered jobs. Several years later, Boan’s father-in-law was involved in a tragic horse accident and suffered brain damage. Sadly, he succumbed to his injuries. To honor him, Boan and her then husband, used their entire savings to bring that horse, named Elaine T Cronos, to the United States to compete in the races.

“That was the beginning of my career working with standardbreds,” Boan said. “From there my husband and I built a small stable; owning and training our own horses.

“In 2010, we re-located to The Meadows Racetrack, located in Washington, PA, for we thought it would be a good place to settle down and raise a family. It was, and we remained there until 2014 when unfortunately, the stress of working alongside my husband 24/7, then bringing home our troubles from the barn, took its toll and we divorced.”

Couples and partners who work side-by-side every day can find it difficult and may lead to “everyday aggression.”

When training with her ex-husband, they had a horse named All Heart Gal, who opened up a whole new world to Boan.

“We traveled with her to New Jersey and Pennsylvania,” she said. “For the past 10 years I have worked intermittently at the Tim Twaddle stable, where I currently am employed today. I also worked for trainers Sarah Andrews, Mike Palone, Bruce Riegel and Dan Altmeyer, in the past. All these incredible trainers taught me something I take with me today.

“Presently there are around 25 to 30 horses in the Tim Twaddle barn, and we all work together as a team. Although I don’t personally own any horses, each horse I care for are like mine.”

Boan said her barn time begins early.

“We start our day between 5:30 and 6 by feeding breakfast, giving them hay and fresh water,” she said. “While they are enjoying their morning meal, I begin cleaning the stalls and

water buckets before getting the horses hooked up to train or jog.

“When the horse is finished exercising, I bathe him and put him away. Most of my horses are babies [2-year-olds] and are getting ready to qualify soon. They train often, educating and preparing them to do what they were born to do, race.

Boan said she enjoys being around the horses and feels honored that she gets to be with them every day, taking care and loving them.

“It’s not an easy job, that’s for sure, and you have to love them; if you don’t, you shouldn’t be in it,” she said. “Horses are not robots, but instead, they are living, breathing animals who really want to please you. Of course, there are some difficult ones who like to test the waters, but that comes with the territory.

“I have found that if you are kind and loving to them, they will reciprocate. And to me, there is nothing more gratifying then when a horse you have had since he was a baby, grows up and makes it to the races. It’s like watching your child compete.”

Boan said she gets anxious when her horses race, because anything can happen on the racetrack.

“Recently, The Meadows lost one of harness racing’s rising stars, Hunter Myers, which devastated our racetrack family. The only good thing – if there is any that came out of this tragedy – was seeing how horsemen came together from all across the country to honor Hunter. It is so heartwarming to see everyone step up and support Hunter’s fiancée, and baby boy.

“Although he will never be forgotten, for Hunter was one of the kindest, funniest men I know, he died doing what he lived and breathed, racing standardbreds.”

When Boan first went to work in Twaddle’s barn, she was a rider, before shifting to being a caretaker.

“This is not a job to me, but what I love to do, and Tim made me feel like one of his family ever since day one and continues doing so,” she said. “They say that if you do something you truly love, it’s not a job, and that is so true.”

Although she cares about all of her horses, Boan said there a couple that stand out.

“As far as my favorite horses, I would have to say it’s Darling Corey and Perfectime Hanover, but I love each and every one,” she said. “I’m excited to see what 2025 brings, and like a nervous mother, I will be standing in the paddock impatiently pacing back and forth until the race is over and my horse is back in his stall safe and sound.

“My plans for the future are to continue doing what I love to do the most and spending time with my grandchildren, Eliana, Gianna, and Lorenzo.”

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## Closing scenes

by Trey Nosrac

One of the most interesting stage and screen characters is Blanche DuBois, from Tennessee Williams' play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is a Southern belle struggling with the changing times and fading beauty. The play finds her flawed, fragile, and vulnerable, relocated to a cramped apartment with complex problems. In her famous final line of the play, "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers," the audience is troubled because we know the strangers will not be kind. Her deteriorating stability makes her future bleak.

In many ways, Blanche Dubois serves as an analogy for our sport. We had a good run that occurred decades ago, but today we are vulnerable. We have shrunk to a solid foothold in a few mid-western states and pockets of Canada. Each state depends on current legislation holding firm and favorable economic winds.

We tend to beat ourselves up when another harness racing venue disappears or wagering numbers decrease, and we ask why somebody didn't do something.

Do what?

Each state that lost its harness racing hoofprint is a different sad story. Each story involves politics and economics. Each state that continues to host harness racing has a political structure that allows it to be a viable sport.

For example, harness horse racing in Ohio is terrific and would be a good wager for the last state racing program standing. Ohio has constructed an outstanding, multilayered program for participants with solid purses. Revised Code (ORC) #3769.08 is the governmental path that led Ohio to its strong position. The Ohio Standardbred Development, established under the ORC, supports developing and promoting standardbred racing. Legislation, present and future, is where our survival becomes sticky. As we know, there are daily news reports about many national and state programs being slashed. Some legislation does not change but can lose funding. In Ohio, the legislation for harness horse racing does not have an expiration date. Still, the funding levels and distribution are subject to biennial adjustments through the state budgeting process that involves the governor and both houses of Congress.

Legislation depends on people. Over the last five years, significant scandals have involved bribery and corruption in the Ohio Statehouse. They involved the former Speaker of the Ohio House convicted in a \$60 million bribery scheme for a

*The future rolls forward. Where, or if, our beloved little sport fits into that future is yet to be determined. Maybe, just maybe, we can transition or rebuild an enjoyable niche sport that does not depend on the kindness of strangers.*

\$1.3 billion energy bailout. Other convictions and scams hit the airwaves: racketeering, accepting bribes, paying bribes, embezzlement, destroying evidence, ethics violations, public corruption, etc. A recent HBO special, *The Dark Money Game*, focuses on several misdeeds in Ohio government. Trailer [here](#).

Legislators, currently favorable to Ohio harness racing, hold our future in their often-slippery hands. Who knows what might happen if a powerful voice whispers the words decoupling or defunding to a few bendable ears?

Nobody knows what the future holds for our little sport over the next decade. Those who enjoy the fascinating game of raising and racing trotters and pacers keep hoping for the best and not having the rug pulled out. We try to remain optimistic despite troubling gambling indicators and a shrinking footprint. Almost daily, a portion of our harness racing minds feel a flicker of – "What if it all goes wrong? What if our contracts do not hold? What if intruders edge us out, and what if the money goes away?"

Should the pari-mutuel model falter and the purse subsidies stop, there will still be people who love this sport to the bottom of their bones and want it to continue in some form. The continuation of harness racing will not likely be a great business model or fiscal investment; the shift will be towards sports purists and hobbyists who use their money to play.

Over this summer, let's look into some scenarios and paths to travel in case of harness racing Armageddon. Some of these columns you may find ridiculous, and some may have a flicker of promise. After a lifetime of playing the harness racing game as it was, these new models and ideas will be hard to imagine. Be forewarned: reading post-apocalyptic resurrection suggestions will be uncomfortable because we will never be what we used to be.

The future rolls forward. Where, or if, our beloved little sport fits into that future is yet to be determined. Maybe, just maybe, we can transition or rebuild an enjoyable niche sport that does not depend on the kindness of strangers.

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## Periculum storms home to capture Cutler Memorial

by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager

**Periculum** made his 2025 debut a winning one, capturing Saturday's (May 17) Grade 3 \$158,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial for older trotters by a neck over Lexus Kody in 1:51.4 at The Meadowlands. Antognoni S finished third.

Periculum and driver Scott Zeron got away sixth as Sir Pinocchio led the field to the opening quarter in :28. Antognoni S, the 6-5 favorite, was already in motion from fourth and took over the top spot prior to reaching the half in :55.3.

At that point, Periculum was making his move from sixth and picked up cover from Lexus Cody as Antognoni S took the group to three-quarters in 1:23.3. Periculum rallied in the stretch, covering the last quarter in a race-best :27.4 to earn the victory.

The win was the 12th in 51 career starts for Periculum, a 6-year-old stallion who has earned \$1.35 million lifetime. Last season,

he won the Maple Leaf Trot and finished second in the MGM Yonkers International, Breeders Crown, and FanDuel Open Trot championship on his way to \$821,084 in purses.

Periculum entered the Cutler off one qualifier, a 1:53.1 score on May 2 at The Meadowlands.

"I don't think he's 100 per cent in form, obviously, but he got a nice trip and raced great," winning trainer Marcus Melander said. "When he gets a trip like that, he's very hard to beat. He likes to chase horses down. That's his best ability, to chase them down.

"I think he's even better this year. He just feels a lot stronger. He feels like he's been better and better every year. It will be very exciting to race him the rest of the season."

The triumph was Melander's third in the Cutler Memorial and the first for Zeron.

"It was a great first start; obviously a good trip," Zeron said. "I'm really happy with everything.

"He's just relaxed; he's relaxed the whole race. He conserves his energy, and when you call on him, he's there for you."

Periculum is a son of Muscle Hill—Amour Heiress owned by Brixton Medical Inc. and Holly Lane Stud East. He was bred by Order By Stable AB.

Sent off as the 9-5 second choice, Periculum paid \$5.60 to win.

The Cutler Memorial is named in memory of Arthur J. Cutler, the famed restaurateur and harness racing enthusiast who passed away at age 53 in 1997.



Lisa Photo

**Periculum (Scott Zeron) winning the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial on Saturday at The Meadowlands.**





## Canada's Horse of the Year Chantilly returns to win SBOA Stakes

by Mark McKelvie / Woodbine communications

**Chantilly**, the 2024 Canadian Horse of the Year, improved to a perfect 10-for-10 by winning her 3-year-old season debut in Saturday's (May 17) SBOA Stakes for Ontario sired sophomore pacing fillies at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

A homebred superstar for Millar Farms and trainer Nick Gallucci, Chantilly had to overcome 10 rivals and strong winds to take the top spot in the \$133,512 event.

"It's always less than ideal starting a great horse in crappy weather, but she's a pro," said Chantilly's driver James MacDonald. "When I moved her, she exploded and felt like she was going

to draw away and then the wind shoved me down and I almost grabbed [Millie May Hanover's] wheel.

"It was some tense moments there, but she's just a champion... we came unhooked and sometimes they'll drop the bit after that, but she just jumped forward again."

Chantilly got away fifth in the opening-quarter and was moved to the outside entering the backstretch. MacDonald ultimately just looped one rival and settled back in fourth while the leaders upfront kept things motoring through fractions of :26.4 and :54.3.

Wicked N Single took the field by three-quarters in 1:22.4 with Chantilly spotted third-over.

In the stretch, Chantilly rocketed off cover into a stiff headwind. The 1-9 favorite would get tight to a striking Millie May Hanover, before ultimately straightening out and kicking off to win in 1:52.

A daughter of Big Jim—Shiraz Seelster, Chantilly went right back to the winner's circle to start her 3-year-old season after going nine-for-nine as a rookie and earning multiple O'Brien Awards.

"She just seems a little bit bigger, little bit stronger," said trainer Gallucci. "Her hobbles are longer, head check longer and just seems maybe she's improved a little bit in all aspects from last year."



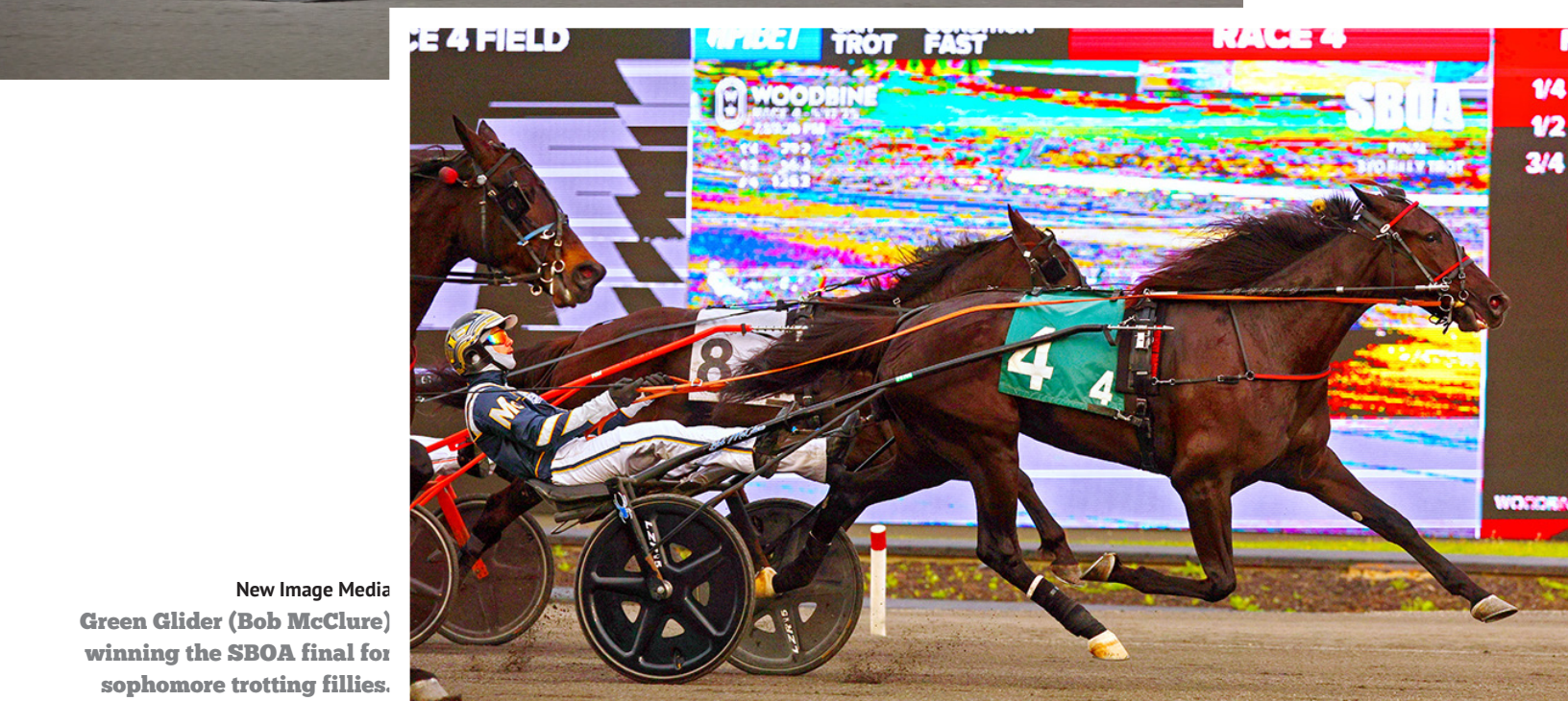
New Image Media

**Chantilly (James MacDonald) remained perfect through 10 career starts with a victory in the SBOA final for sophomore pacing fillies on Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park.**





New Image Media  
**Crack Shot (Doug McNair)** winning the SBOA final for sophomore pacing colts.



New Image Media  
**Green Glider (Bob McClure)** winning the SBOA final for sophomore trotting fillies.

Chantilly is eligible to the Pepsi North America Cup and is believed to be the first filly ever nominated to Canada's most prestigious harness race. The date for this year's Cup is June 14, the same date as the Fan Hanover Stakes for fillies.

"Either way she's going to be in a big event on that day in June," said Gallucci. "Right now, it's just week to week, just trying to get her as sharp as we can for next week, she's got an [Ontario Sires Stakes] Gold next Saturday and then we'll analyze the situation from there."

The top-four finishers from Saturday's SBOA Stakes was completed by Millie May Hanover, who was second by a half-length, Perfectly Chic and Lady Cafe Au Lait.

Chantilly paid \$2.10 to win.

The SBOA Filly Pace was one of four SBOA finals for Ontario sired 3-year-olds on Saturday's card at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

## CRACK SHOT WINS 3YOCF FINAL

Ontario Super Stakes champion, **Crack Shot** overpowered his rivals to win the \$126,912 SBOA final for 3-year-old pacing colts and geldings.

Driven by Doug McNair, Crack Shot was one of several to show early speed and would eventually drop in third coming out of the first turn. The Gregg McNair trainee didn't sit long and would rush towards the lead, clearing just after a :54.3 first-half.

Crack Shot would open up on nearest rival Fifth And Five at three-quarters and never looked back for a 3¾ length victory in 1:51.

Sterling Choice finished second, while Boxer Seelster and Time Passer completed the Superfecta.

A son of Bettors Delight, Crack Shot improved to two-for-two on the season and is now a seven-time winner from 10 starts for





New Image Media  
**Galen Erso**  
(Doug McNair)  
winning the  
SBOA final  
for sophomore  
trotting colts.

owners Gregg McNair, Dale Hunter, Frank Brundle and George Keer.

Crack Shot's victory was the latest victory for co-owner Hunter, the head coach of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) champion London Knights. The Knights captured their second consecutive OHL title on Thursday.

"It's been a busy week, but an enjoyable week when you win," said Hunter. "To win this race and to get to go to the Memorial Cup, I love it. It's all about sports, that's what is a joy about it, you don't know what's going to happen."

With the SBOA victory, Crack Shot remains as one of the leading contenders for this year's Pepsi North America Cup.

"It's hard to win," said Hunter. "There's a lot of good horses and for me it's teams, there's a lot of good teams in the hockey world. When you win, you've got to appreciate every moment."

Crack Shot's latest win puts him over \$300,000 in career earnings. He paid \$2.40 to win.

Team McNair had a big night at the office on Saturday, as Doug guided the Gregg-trained **Galen Erso** to victory in the \$130,913 SBOA Trot for 3-year-old colts and geldings.

A son of Green Manalishi S, Galen Erso had to grind first-up around the far turn and held off a late push from longshot Fast Snap to win in 1:55.

Chicago Hall was third, while Cousin Halifax was fourth.

Galen Erso was making his first start for new owner Brad Grant, after being sold by Marcus Melander. The son of Green Manalishi

S is now one-for-two this season and four-for-nine overall, with over \$270,000 earned.

Galen Erso paid \$3.10 to win.

The \$136,513 SBOA Filly Trot went to 8-5 second-choice **Green Glider** for driver Bob McClure and trainer Scott McEneny.

A daughter of Green Manalishi S, Green Glider showed plenty of determination by marching first-up from fifth around the far turn and powering down the lane to win by three-quarters-of-a-length in 1:54.

McClure was driving Green Glider for the first time Saturday, as regular driver Trevor Henry was out of town.

"I talked to Trevor before he left and he told me just how much he liked her and how nice she was and her lines just speak for themselves," said McClure. "I wasn't too worried about first up, I figured it was between me and Monalishi and the way mine's been finishing I didn't think she could get by me."

Sprite Seelster moved to the lead in the second-split and took the field by fractions of :56.3 and 1:25.3. Green Glider would wear down Sprite Seelster throughout the stretch drive for the score. Race favorite Monalishi, who sat second-over behind the eventual winner, just edged Sprite Seelster for second.

Green Glider is now two-for-three to start her 3-year-old season after winning twice in eight starts at age 2. Her SBOA final win takes her to \$122,764 earned for owners Andrea Lea Racingstables Inc.

A \$2 win ticket on Green Glider returned \$5.30.

Live racing resumes Monday evening at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Post time is 6:35 p.m.



# Pennsylvania

## SIRE STAKES REPORT

### Louprint repeats in Sire Stakes on speedy day at Pocono

by PHHA / Pocono



Curtis Salonick

**Louprint (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.) winning his Pennsylvania Sire Stakes test on Saturday at Pocono.**

The Standardbred sport's "glamour division" of 3-year-old pacing males came to Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania on Saturday afternoon (May 17), with over \$260,000 in stakes action among Pennsylvania Sire Stakes and Pennsylvania Stallion Series competition.

Last year's Dan Patch Award winner at 2, **Louprint**, now has two Sires victories in two seasonal starts after winning in 1:50.2. Driver Ron Wrenn, Jr. sent him right to the lead and put up relatively soft fractions of :27.3, :56.2, and 1:24.1 for this caliber of horse, but Twisted Destiny, winner of six straight over two years and faster winning his first PASS start than Louprint, was looming right on his back and then went to the Pocono Pike. But such was the measure of confidence Wrenn had in his horse and ability that he never looked to his left at the challenger, even as he gained fractionally into a :26.1 kicker; Twisted Destiny came up a half-length shy.

The victorious son of Sweet Lou, now a winner of \$778,460, is trained by Ron Burke for Burke Racing Stable LLC and Weaver Brussemi LLC, Phil Collura, and Lawrence Karr. You'll be reading more about many of those names later in this story.

The fastest Sires split, 1:49.3, was captured by the Captaintreacherous colt **Prince Hal Hanover**, third in the Sires in his seasonal bow. Here the sophomore hit the top after a :27.1 quarter and went on to stop the timer at intervals of :55.2 and 1:22.4 en route to a 2¾ length win. David Miller was driving for trainer Dr. Ian Moore and Prince Hal Hanover Stable as the "Prince" lowered his speed mark.

The Bettor's Wish colt **Wedlock Blue Chip** posted a mild 5-1 upset in the other Sires division, coming out late on the backstretch and gaining momentum after splits of :27, :56.1, and 1:23.1, stopping the clock in a lifetime best-equaling 1:51.3 a half-length ahead of 2024 PA Sires champion Papi's Rocket. David Miller and Polie Mallar were the driver/trainer team behind Wedlock Blue Chip for owners Richard Cortese and Donald Hawk.

To gain admittance to the Stallion Series winner's circle, you needed one of two credentials: you had to be a son of Sweet Lou, there were four of them, or Papi Rob Hanover, he racked up a triple.

**Lou's Albano**, a son of Sweet Lou, was the "bomber" of the afternoon at \$64.60, and he also posted the fastest StS clocking, taking a mark of 1:50.3 for driver Jason Bartlett and trainer Ron Burke. Two other victorious Sweet Lous were driven by the nephew-and-uncle combination of Ron Wrenn, Jr. and Peter Wrenn: the former getting a new mark of 1:50.4 on **Compensate Me** for the Burke Brigade, and the latter visiting the Pocono winner's circle for the first time since June 8, 1996 (you could look it up) after **Odds On Outlier**, trained by Melanie Wrenn, won in 1:51.4. The fourth Sweet Lou was the Tim Tetrack-driven **Waffle Blue Chip** for trainer Brett Pelling in a lifetime best 1:51.2.

Pelling came back to add two more Stallion Series wins with sons of Papi Rob Hanover: **I'm The One**, also driven by Tetrack, triumphed in 1:52, and **Beach Club Monty**, whom Scott Zeron guided to a 1:51 success. Completing the "Papi Rob" triumphant trio was **Makers Sense**, clocked in 1:52, with Andrew McCarthy driving for trainer Robert Cleary.

To summarize the horse men who had more than one winner on the day: Ron Burke trained six (all of which are part-owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC and five of which are part-owned by Weaver Brussemi LLC). David Miller won three races including two Sire Stakes, and Tyler Buter, who had zero wins through the first 13 races, took home the last three. Among trainers, Brett Pelling conditioned three Stallion Series winners. Doubles were produced by drivers Tim Tetrack and Ron Wrenn, Jr. and by trainer Roland "Polie" Mallar.

Sunday racing is back on the Pocono schedule, with first post at 6 p.m. Featured on today's (May 18) card will be three \$30,000 divisions of the Pennsylvania All-Stars series for 3-year-old trotting colts, with recent Pennsylvania Sire Stakes winner, The Fix Is In, being joined by three Stallion Series winners. There will also be a \$2,069.09 carryover into the last race High 5 pool. Free Pocono program pages are or will be available at [www.phha.org](http://www.phha.org).





## Ohio SIRE STAKES REPORT

# Ohio Sires Stakes season kicks off at Scioto

by Eldorado Scioto Downs

Eldorado Scioto Downs held the first Ohio Sires Stakes (OHSS) races of the year and Virgil Morgan, Jr. took three of the four divisions for 3-year-old filly pacers and trotters. **Dream Something** was the lone OHSS winner not trained by Morgan as she continued her win streak at Scioto making it two in a row, in a new lifetime mark of 1:53.3.

Mega Money (Aaron Merriman) took the early lead in the first race of the evening, tripping the beam in :27, while Dream Something, the 4-5 favorite, sat in the pocket. Shortly after the :56.4 half, Tyler Smith pulled Dream Something out of the pocket to challenge and by the 1:23.4 had cleared to the lead and won by a length. Mega Money was second with Travel Nurse (Brett Miller) getting up late down the lane to finish third.

Dream Something, by Uncle Peter out of the Glidemaster mare Travelin Dream, is owned by trainer Miles Wollam and Julie Ann Sweet. The filly now has seven wins in 11 lifetime starts and \$191,883 in earnings.

The other division of filly trotters went to **Aunt Laura** and Miller in 1:56.3. Triumph Over You (Dan Noble) took the early lead off the car, but Aunt Laura was quickly on the move and cleared by the :29 opening quarter. Leading at every other call, the field hit the half in :59.4 and three-quarters in 1:28 before the 3-1 third choice hit the wire a length the best.

Rose Run Allison (Chris Page) came up the passing lane to be second, with Chrome Trim (Merriman) coming up on the outside

to be third. Aunt Laura is also by Uncle Peter, out of the S J's Photo mare Tori Ann. Owned by Joyce McClelland Stable LLC, Aunt Laura's win pushed her lifetime earnings to \$261,750 and gave her win number four in 11 lifetime starts.

The two divisions of the 3-year-old filly pace, also went to Morgan trainees **Odds On Hialeah** in 1:50.3 and **Odds On Chesapeake** in 1:51.1.

Odds On Hialeah (Miller) got away fourth from post 7 while Queen of Fear (Tyler Smith) and Prolific Fire (Austin Hanners) battled to the :26.3 opening quarter. Shortly before the :55.2 half, Miller had the 3-5 favorite on the move and by the 1:22.1 third-quarter had taken over the lead. Rose Run Aimee (Noble) tracked her down to cut the lead down to a length by the finish. Downthejerseyshore (Page) got up from near the back of the pack to finish third.

Odds On Hialeah is owned by Let It Ride Stables and Odds On Racing. Friday's mile was the daughter of Lather Up's first start in 2025 after three qualifiers. The winner of last year's Sires Stakes championship for 2-year-old filly pacers now has eight wins in nine starts lifetime, with \$357,250 in earnings.

Another horse owned by Odds On Racing, Odds On Chesapeake, took the other 3-year-old filly pace division with Noble driving, leading at every call of :28, :57.3 and 1:24.4. Coming home the 3-5 race favorite by Downbytheseaside won by a head over Skywalker Sea (Hanners); The Word Is Out (Page) was third.

Odds On Chesapeake is just shy of eclipsing the \$200,000 earnings mark after the victory, now with \$197,200 earned in 12 lifetime starts with six wins.

Other Friday night action included three divisions of the Kevin Greenfield series for Ohio Sired colt trotters. Winners were: **Long Highway** (Sandy Beatty) in 1:56; **I Stand Alone AS** (Noble) in 1:55.3 and **RC Enterprise** (Noble) in 1:57.2.

The 90-day 2025 Eldorado Scioto Downs race meet runs through Sept. 13. Races will be held Tuesday-Saturday, with special holiday cards on Memorial Day and Labor Day. First post is at 5:45 p.m. each day except for Memorial Day (4 p.m.), June

19 (4 p.m.), July 4 (3:15 p.m.) and Sept. 12 which will have a 6:45 p.m. post to help accommodate horsemen attending the Ohio Selected Yearling Sale. More information about racing at Scioto can be found on the [Eldorado Scioto Downs website](#).



Brad Conrad

**Odds On Hialeah (Brett Miller)** was one of three Ohio Sires Stakes winners trained by Virgil Morgan, Jr. on Friday's card at Scioto Downs.



## Maryland

### SIRE STAKES REPORT

# Brooksforreal completes Maryland Sire Stakes sweep

by Rosecroft Raceway

Sent off the overwhelming 1-20 favorite, **Brooksforreal** made every pole a winning one en route to a 1:52.2 score in the \$95,000 Maryland Sire Stakes championship for 3-year-old male pacers, held Wednesday (May 14) at Rosecroft Raceway, and extended his winning streak to 12 races in the act.

Jared Moyer pushed forward with Brooksforreal to clear Classic Cougar (driven by William Carter) upon entering the first turn, and the Rusty's For Real—Brooks Range gelding rattled off splits of :27.3, :55.4 and 1:23.3 before accelerating away from his seven foes on the far turn. Moyer kept Brooksforreal to his task through the final sixteenth to maintain 2¾ lengths of clearance at the winning post over 50-1 shot Rusty's Lancelot (Eric Davis), who rallied up the open stretch to eclipse Classic Cougar for second.

Brooksforreal, a 12-time winner with \$228,002 in earnings, is trained by Stacey McLenaghan for Lucky Lilly Belle Stable. He paid \$2.10 to win.

McLanaghan and Lucky Lilly Belle Stable also accounted for the winner of the \$95,000 3-year-old male trot, as **Swervingmervin** and driver Fern Paquet, Jr. inherited the lead in mid-stretch lead when leader Yall Keep Dreaming broke stride. The Il Mago—Topsy Tiara ridgling, now a three-time winner with \$140,292 in earnings, won going away by 3¼ lengths in 1:56.1.

The \$95,000 3-year-old filly trot final saw Scott Woogen's **K J The Thirteenth** headed on the far turn by Y'all Know Me, only to battle back to spring an 18-1 upset and defeat 83-1 runner-up Casino Magic by 1¾ lengths in 1:57.3. Odds-on favorite Yall Just Love me finished fourth after beginning poorly and failing to sustain an extended rally off the home turn.

Paquet drove K J The Thirteenth, an Il Mago—My Kid Sister filly with five career wins and \$161,844 in the bank, for trainer Gary Messenger.

In the \$95,000 3-year-old filly pace, Winston Williams' homebred **Post Jolene** proved resolute in a 1:54.4 win over 1-2 favorite Woody's Girl, holding her ground in a protracted duel through the final three furlongs to prevail by a neck at 9-1. Jonathan Roberts drove the Nuclear Breeze—Positive Post filly, who has now banked \$70,860, to her second career win.

The 2025 winter-spring meet at Rosecroft concludes with a 13-race program today (May 18), featuring a \$7,097.84 carryover and a mandatory payout in the Jackpot Hi-5, offered in race 10. First post is noon.

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# ROAD TO GLORY

## Road to the Meadowlands Pace

The Meadowlands Pace is on Saturday (July 12)  
Rankings – Week 3 (of 10) – Thursday (May 15)

1. Louprint (\$758,499 – 1:48.4)  
Sweet Lou–Rockin Racer
2. Captain Optimistic (\$454,830 – 1:49)  
Captaintreacherous–Cinamony
3. Fallout (\$568,600 – 1:48.4)  
Captaintreacherous–Aria Hanover
4. Papi's Rocket (\$305,683 – 1:50.4)  
Papi Rob Hanover–Real Touch
5. Papis Pistol (\$184,867 – 1:49.3)  
Papi Rob Hanover–Bang Bang
6. Manolete (\$250,993 – 1:50.3)  
Cattleshaw–Glancewithme
7. American Son (\$176,815 – 1:49.3)  
American Ideal–Lady Captain
8. Making History (\$15,500 – 1:52.1)  
American History–Mystery Game
9. Prince Hal Hanover (\$292,255 – 1:51)  
Captaintreacherous–Percy Bluechip
10. Fusion (\$106,322 – 1:50.4)  
Always B Miki–Pure Country

*Dave Little / Meadowlands media relations*



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## HRU Upcoming Stakes

### Sunday, May 18

PP	Track	Race	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
✓	<a href="#">Saratoga</a>	NYSS, NY Excelsior Series	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	noon
✓	<a href="#">Northfield Park</a>	Buckeye Stallion Series	2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13	6 p.m.
✓	<a href="#">Pocono Downs</a>	PA All-Stars	7, 8, 10	6 p.m.
✓	<a href="#">Flamboro Downs</a>	Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup, Margaret Juravinski Memorial Invitational, OSS Grassroots	1, 3, 7, 8, 10	6:55 p.m.

### Monday, May 19

PP	Track	Race	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
✓	<a href="#">Woodbine Mohawk Park</a>	OSS Grassroots, Pop Up Series final	2, 6, 8, 9	6:35 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 20

PP	Track	Race	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
✓	<a href="#">Northfield Park</a>	Buckeye Stallion Series	2, 6, 8, 12, 14	6 p.m.



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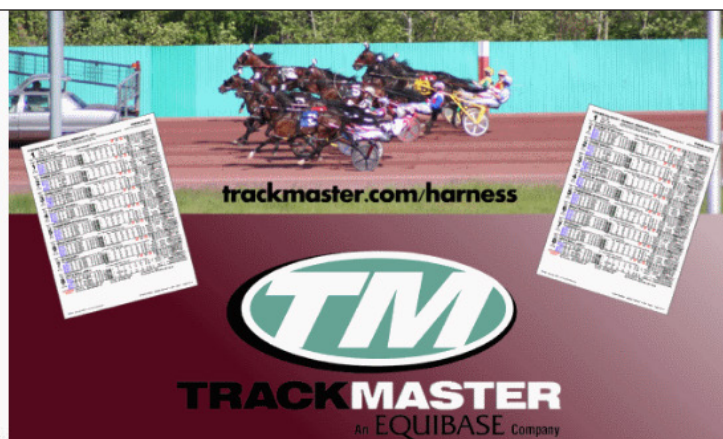
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# HRU NEWS

HARNESS RACING PRESS RELEASES, NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

[www.HarnessRacingUpdate.com](http://www.HarnessRacingUpdate.com)

## Favorites prevail in series finals at Hoosier Park

A pair of \$25,000 series finals highlighted a rain-soaked and weather plagued Friday (May 16) night at Harrah's Hoosier Park, with **Classical Jane** and **On To Norway** delivering dominant performances as heavy favorites in each. Later on the card, 2024 Breeders Crown champion **Coach Stefanos** scored his first victory of the year in the \$22,000 open pace.

The Msnaughtbynature for Indiana Sired trotting fillies and mares who are non-winners of two or \$25,000 lifetime as of March 15, saw 2024 ISS Super Final runner-up in the rookie filly trot, Classical Jane, sent off at 3-5 with Trace Tetrack in the bike.

Leaving from post 5, Tetrack hustled Classical Jane off the wings of the gate, getting away second on the first turn as second-choice Swan Jewel (driven by Marcus Miller) powered to the lead from the outside to cut the quarter in :28.1. Rollin Explosion (47-1, Peter Wrenn) was unable to find a seat on the first turn, moving to the lead before Tetrack moved Classical Jane to the top on the backstretch en route to the half in :57.1. Classical Jane began to assert herself on the final turn, opening up by 2½ lengths to three-quarters in 1:26.2.

The lead would only grow for Classical Jane in the lane, widening the margin to 7¼ lengths in a romp to score in a career best 1:54.3. Mclady Of Hearts (96-1, Kiwon Waldron) rallied for second, while Swan Jewel skimmed the cones to be third after traffic troubles in the final three-eighths-of-a-mile.

The victory was the second in three tries at age 3, and fourth in the career of the Henry Graber, Jr. trained Classical Jane. The daughter of Swan For All—Class Angel was bred by Steven Mast and now sports a career bankroll of \$148,095 for owners Hillside Stables, Frank Baldachino, Beastly LLC, and Backroad Stable.

In the male counterpart, On To Norway notched his fifth straight score as the 1-20 favorite in the Expresson final with driver John De Long.

The complexion of the race changed early as Ponda Rocky (Atlee Bender), who was also looking for the series sweep, jumped it off behind the gate as the second choice. De Long positioned On To Norway third on the first turn, as 38-1 shot Urgent Matters (Mike Oosting) trotted to the top through a quarter of :28. De

Long right-lined the favorite on the backstretch, working his way to the top at the half in :57.3 before powering clear by 2½ lengths at three-quarters in 1:26.4.

Turning for home, the race was for place as On To Norway and a motionless De Long trotted clear by 3½ lengths midway through the lane. Tarzan (Marcus Miller) would uncork a :27.1 late rally to close the gap to two on the wire, but it would be On To Norway who scored easily in 1:54.4. Urgent Matters held sway for the third position.

A winner in five of six in 2025 and unbeaten since joining the Ron Burke barn on April 17, On To Norway has won nine of 15 in his career. The gelded 3-year-old son of Muscle Massive—One Class Act is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Frank Baldachino and Black and White Stable and has earned \$67,962 lifetime.

In addition to the Series finals, a stout field of seven took to the track in the \$22,000 open pace with 2024 Breeders Crown Open Pace champion, Coach Stefanos, scoring his first victory of his 5-year-old campaign.

Due to a trio of scratches, Coach Stefanos left from post 5 with driver Marcus Miller, settling in fourth as Low Rider (Marvin Luna) raced to the top through a quarter of :27.4. Riding a three-race win streak at the top level, Low Rider continued to lead to the half in :55.2 when Coach Stefanos went on the offensive first-over. Coach Stefanos moved into second on the far turn, racing at the leader's wheel as 1-5 favorite Little Rocket Man (Mike Oosting) was chased along to catch cover from second-over at three-quarters in 1:22.2.

Coach Stefanos powered alongside Low Rider at the top of the stretch, grabbing a short lead at the eighth pole while Gorgeous Big Guy (Trace Tetrack) and Little Rocket Man pursued the lead duo. Surging with a :27 final quarter into a headwind, Coach Stefanos paced away by 1¼ lengths in deep stretch to score in 1:49.4 in the slop.

Trained by Erv Miller, Coach Stefanos is a 19-time career winner with just shy of \$1.3 million in career earnings for owners Kenneth Duffy, D&M Trading Li LLC, and John Stefanos.

Trace Tetrack led the card with five winners while John De Long had a triple and Marcus Miller had a double. Tyler George led all trainers with three wins while Ron Burke scored two victories.

*Jacob Rheinheimer / Harrah's Hoosier Park*

## Melander trainees take top two spots in the Bunker Hill Trot

Trainer Marcus Melander could not have had a better time in New England on Thursday (May 15) afternoon after watching his two entries finish first and second in the Grade 3 \$100,000 Bunker Hill Trot at Plainridge Park. The Hambletonian eligible **Variegated** (Chapter Seven—White Cheetah) out-trotted his stablemate Global Sensation (Chapter Seven—Fly Angel Fly) in deep stretch to win in 1:53.1 and take a new lifetime mark. The time was also just one-fifth of a second off the track and stakes record.

It was a mad dash off the gate as four horses competed three-deep in the first turn to determine the leader. Goo Goo Gone (driven by Aaron Merriman) was the first to clear, but then Variegated (Dexter Dunn) took the front momentarily before Karinchak (Mark MacDonald) finally settled on the point after they passed the quarter in :27.2. This left the fourth leaver, My Degenerate (Tyler Miller), out in the breeze fourth as they approached the half. My Degenerate kept on going and drew near Karinchak going by the five-eighths as a lively outer-flow had formed behind him with Global Sensation (Brett Beckwith) fourth-over and still eighth in the line-up.

As the race passed three-quarters in 1:24, My Degenerate and Karinchak continued to battle, while Variegated was poised to pounce from the pocket, and Global Sensation found room between horses and moved into fourth, right next to Variegated. At the top of the stretch, the dueling leaders began to tire while Global Sensation tipped four-wide around them, and Variegated found room along the pylons and shot through the gap. Both trotters then matched strides evenly heading for home before Variegated pulled away by a length and won in 1:53.1.

Variegated (\$9.60) pushed his lifetime earnings to \$273,345 for owner S R F Stable.

Dunn ended the day as the leading driver after scoring three wins on the card.

The Wicked Hi-5 pentafecta was hit in the sixth race and paid a huge dividend. The single unique combination of 2-4-7-9-3 returned an instant jackpot of \$8,684.90 for the 20-cent wager.

Racing resumes at Plainridge Park on Monday (May 19) at 4 p.m.

Free full past performance programs and race replays for all live racing days at Plainridge Park can be found at [plainridgeparkcasino.com](http://plainridgeparkcasino.com).

*Tim Bojarski / Plainridge Park*

## Louisville GB crushes in Big M feature

Using a powerful late kick, **Louisville GB** continued her winning ways Friday night (May 16) at The Meadowlands, taking the \$17,500 feature, a TrackMaster 89.4 for fillies and mares on the pace.

The Robert Cleary trained 5-year-old daughter of Sweet Lou—The Player Hanover won for the seventh time this year from just nine starts and now has 16 victories in 29 lifetime tries.

“He brings them ready,” said winning driver Tyler Buter of Cleary. “You have to try and put them in the right spot.”

And that’s exactly what Buter did.

Hers Hungry, Miss Dottie Mae, My August Moon A and Elektra A all barreled into the first turn, assuring a fast pace, as Buter kept the 2-5 favorite Louisville GB off the action, sitting seventh in the nine-horse field as My August Moon A had a narrow edge on a parked-out Elektra A at the quarter in a snappy :26.4.

Elektra A led at the half in :53.4 and three-quarters in 1:22 but was under siege from a first-over Pembroke Southie at both of those calls, setting the race up for a closer.

Louisville GB was in position to strike third-over and swung three-wide coming out of the far turn. With a full head of steam, Louisville GB was on even terms with new leader Pembroke Southie at the head of the stretch before striding clear to the wire to record a three-length win in 1:50, a clocking that lowered her previous lifetime best by one-and-two-fifth-seconds. Pembroke Southie was a determined second-place finisher. Hers Hungry was third.

“Robbie [Cleary] switched up her routine and kept her outside,” said Buter. “She was a lot calmer [than usual]. She let me do what I wanted with her and she exploded home. She’s great-gaited and can race on any size track.”

With the victory, Louisville GB lifted her lifetime earnings to just shy of \$80,000 for owner Ken Jacobs. She returned \$2.80 to win.

**FABULOUS FOSSILI TAKES CONTEST:** Karen Fossili finished the night with a bankroll of \$443.70 to win the fifth edition of the 2025 Meadowlands Monthly Handicapping Contest and walked away with the first prize of \$500 in the competition that offers \$1,000 in prize money.

Russ Slader’s bankroll of \$350 was good for second and a check for \$250. Finishing third was D. Gieck, who collected \$150 with a bankroll of \$244.20. Fourth went to Russ Slader, whose bankroll of \$150.00 earned him \$100.

By finishing 1-2, Fossili and Slader have now qualified for the year-end contest on Dec. 13, which has a prize pool of \$10,000.



**LUCKY 7 FOR WARKENTIN:** Track announcer Ken Warkentin treated his following to a big night at the windows, correctly selecting seven winners on top, featuring **Artist Best** in the seventh race, who returned \$43 to win.

TV co-host Dave Little, who finished the night with five of the last six on top, chipped in with six winners on the night, including Roma Amor in the 14th, who paid \$15.60.

**A LITTLE MORE:** Buter led the driver colony with four winners on the program... Ivan Llopez and Carl Tirella paced the trainers with a pair of victories each. ...A carryover of \$11,399 motivated players to pour \$62,453 of "new money" into the 10-cent Hi-5 pool in the 14th race. With 3-5 favorite Moneymakesherhappy failing to be in the top five, the winning combination of 4-3-8-6-7 returned \$859.75... All-source betting on the 14-race card totaled \$2,533,356.

*Dave Little / Meadowlands media relations*

## One Wicked Man lowers track record in Truro Stakes

Four divisions of the Donnie and George Turner Memorial Stakes for Atlantic-foaled 3-year-old pacers – two for the fillies and two for the colts and geldings – went postward on Thursday (May 15) at Truro Raceway and **One Wicked Man** was a step above the rest as he shaved a tick off of the track record for 3-year-old colt pacers.

One Wicked Man stepped up to the plate in the stakes division for sophomore males and he hit a home run with a record tied to his 7¾ length triumphant performance, collecting the lion's share of the \$13,460 purse.

Kenny Arsenault steered his student to victory from the rail position. The pair left and protected their pylon position, easing through the quarter in :27.4 and half in :57.3 with a 1½ length lead. After the half, One Wicked Man opened up on the field, reaching four lengths ahead at the 1:25.4 three quarters. Turning for home, One Wicked Man had five lengths on the field and he just kept on going to win by 7¾ lengths in 1:53.2. Evil Lou (Mike McGuigan) finished second over Dj Mustang (Myles Heffernan).

One Wicked Man (\$5.20) is owned by James Perrot. The sophomore son of McWicked–Alexander Valley won his first race in his first start of the year and now shows a record of 6-1-1 in nine career starts. He has \$46,509 banked. The 1:53.2 mark lowered the former track record from 1:53.3, which was shared by Southside Eddy and Fern Hill Gusto, who both set that mark in 2022.

The second division for pacing colts was won by **Rosetown Eclipse**, on a gate-to-wire trip with trainer Corey Macpherson at the lines.

Rosetown Eclipse followed a similar route to One Wicked Man and protected his pylon position. After securing the lead, he never faced an anxious moment with fractions set in :29.2, 1:01.2, and 1:30.4 before crossing the wire in victory in 1:59. The Tulsa King (Mcguigan) finished second over Like A King (Clare MacDonald).

Rosetown Stable, James Gorman, and Mike Gorman co-own the sophomore gelded son of Bet The Moon–Brody's Leona as he won his first race in his first try of the year. In 12 starts, Rosetown Eclipse has banked \$58,630 and returned with a record of 4-3-2. He paid \$4.60 to win.

**Woodmere Flojo** kicked off the action for the sophomore ladies and overcame an interference break at the start to win with Macpherson in the bike for Jamie Smith.

A miscue at the start left the field in a scramble and Woodmere Flojo regained stride and surged to claim the pocket position. The Smith student retained her position through the quarter mile markers in :28.3, 1:00, and 1:29.3 before popping in the stretch to win by a half-length in 1:59.1 over the pacesetter, Watch Me Shake It (Arsenault). Woodmere Honeymoon (Adam Merner) was third.

Gowiththeflo Racing owns the daughter of Arthur Blue Chip–Persistent as she scored for the second straight week, now retaining her perfect seasonal tally of two-for-two to date. Woodmere Flojo has posted a record of 5-3-3 in 13 starts with \$50,839 banked. She paid \$14.40 to win.

**Woodmere Betcha** closed out the stakes action with a win in the second division for fillies.

Piloted by Mike McGuigan for trainer Jamie Smith, Woodmere Betcha took back to fifth off the car and sat 6¾ lengths off the pacesetter Lorne Valley Liv (Arsenault) through the quarter in :28.4. With one quick burst of speed, Woodmere Betcha swept to the top and took command of the timer with the half set in :57.4 and three quarters in 1:26.1. Woodmere Betcha opened up in the lane and won by 3¼ lengths in 1:55.2. Lorne Valley Liv took second and Mindbodyandsoul (Paul Langille) was third.

The stable Woodmere Betcha owns the sophomore daughter of Bet The Moon–Very Ideal Hanover as she won her second race from four starts this year and fifth race from seven career starts. She now shows \$11,722 earned. Woodmere Betcha paid \$7.20 to win.

Live harness racing will resume at Truro Raceway on Friday (May 23) with post time at 6:30 p.m. ADT.

To view Thursday's harness racing results, click the following link: [Thursday Results - Truro Raceway](#).

*Standardbred Canada*

## 2025 Buckeye Stallion Series kicks off Sunday

My Hare Legend, the 2024 Buckeye Stallion Series 2-year-old filly pacing champion, is set to defend her title as a 3-year-old as the first leg of the 2025 Buckeye Stallion Series gets underway today (May 18) at MGM Northfield Park. The Bit of a Legend filly hit the board in seven of 11 starts in 2024, winning four and earning \$86,250.

The opening leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series features six divisions of 3-year-old filly pacers today followed by five divisions of 3-year-old filly trotters on Tuesday at Northfield Park. Each division carries a purse of \$20,000.

Trained by Logan Ebersole and driven by Justin Irvine, the Ronald Rust-owned My Hare Legend will be making her second start of the year today. The field includes several fillies off to hot starts in 2025 highlighted by Seaside Lover and Judge Me Again, both of which have hit the board in all three of their starts. Additionally, Survivin Fire has hit the board in four of five starts, including three victories.

Downbytheseaside features prominently as a sire with 13 offspring in the 49-pacer field. Five starters were sired by Catch The Fire.

Thirty-six trainers are represented with Ron Burke, Steve Carter, Jason McGinnis, and Dan O'Mara each with three starters. Five other trainers have two each.

Curious Georgie and Wild As You highlight Tuesday's 45-entry trotting slate, as both have hit the board in all four of their starts this year. Additionally, Sweet Rose has won both of her starts while Oh Hill No has hit the board in four of six starts, including three victories.

Popular sires in the field include Long Tom with nine as well as Marseille and What The Hill with eight each.

Twenty-seven trainers are represented with Chris Beaver leading the way with four starters. Four other trainers have three each.

The 16-race cards begin at 6 p.m. both today and Tuesday.

**Wes Mayberry / Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association**



## PEI association announce several series for the upcoming 2025 race season

The Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Industry Association (PEIHRIA) is pleased to announce several series for the upcoming 2025 race season.

Allstar Cresting returns as the title sponsor for the Allstar Cresting 3-Year-Old Open Trot Series. This series will run for three consecutive weeks beginning June 12th at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park. The series is a breed development fund initiative to encourage the breeding and retention of trotters in the Maritime provinces.

The Atlantic Invitational Series for Older Pacing Horses has 10 events across three Maritime provinces. The top eight money earning horses will participate in the \$50,000 Premier's Cup final, which will take place at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park on Oct. 12, 2025. The first event in the series is the Cecil Ladner Memorial which will be held at the Charlottetown Driving Park on June 7, 2025.

The Joe and Steven MacRae Memorial for open mares sponsored by MacRae's Backhoe and Trucking will return for its third season. The top eight money earning mares from the six qualifying events in the series will vie for the final which carries a purse of \$20,000 and will be held at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park on Oct. 12, 2025.

The Island Ocean Trot Challenge Series welcomes Burkie By The Bay Stables back for their second year as sponsor. The series will feature six invitational trot events held at both Red Shores at the Charlottetown Driving Park and Red Shores at Summerside Raceway locations. The final will be held Oct. 12, 2025, at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park. The series will kick off with the Andrew Perry Memorial at Summerside Raceway on July 13, 2025.

Red Shores at Summerside Raceway will host the first leg of the PEI Colt Stakes Graduate Series on May 25, 2025. Eligible horses will compete in two legs during the series and the top eight money earners will advance to a colt's final on Aug. 26, 2025, at Red Shores Summerside and a mare's final on Aug. 28, 2025, at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park. Title sponsors for the mares' events are JD Marine and Diving and Kays Wholesale will sponsor the colt events.

New for the 2025 season will be the addition of the MacDonald Family Memorial sponsored by the MacDonald family of Little Pond, PEI. This race is for 2-year-old pacing fillies who are 100 per cent Island owned, and are non-maritime sired or non-maritime foaled, and will be held on Aug. 8 at the Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park. The purse per division of this race will be \$8,000.

To view a full list of series conditions, please visit [www.peiharnessracing.ca](http://www.peiharnessracing.ca) under the 'Stake Schedule and Conditions' tab.

**PEIHRIA**