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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

[@harnesseveguy](#)

Bear with me for a minute as I tell a story. While it may not appear to be about harness racing at the outset, I promise that it will get there if you give it a minute or two of your time.

My wife has been wanting outdoor furniture for some time and as Mother's Day was approaching I suggested we go to the store and look at the options. I wasn't so sure I wanted to spend the money but what harm could there be in looking around and checking out the merchandise.

This isn't the tale of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, but in retrospect maybe it could've been. The first store had furniture that was maybe too soft and expensive. The second store was affordable but too hard. The third store turned out to be just right for so many reasons, though at the time we were shopping it certainly wasn't clear we would eventually purchase furniture.

As I have a habit to do, on this day I was wearing harness racing apparel, specifically a Yonkers Raceway windbreaker since it is good in the rain. Whether it is my favorite Diamond Creek Farm hat, a DRF T-shirt, Meadowlands jacket, Breeders Crown polo, I tend to show my love of the sport in what I wear and often people will come up to me to ask about it. With the older generation I'm usually trying to change preconceived notions of corruption and with those 50 and younger they typically find the idea that writing about horse racing as a job is quite interesting (at least I think so).

Back to the store where my wife and I were test-driving various couches and chairs for the perfect fit. We were approached by a sales



DENVER NUGGETS TWITTER

Two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic was seen on ABC network wearing a Tetricks Racing hat and shirt.

associate named Karen to inquire if we needed help. We said "not right now" but as salespeople do, she returned a couple of times while we were in the store to check on our progress. When we finally had some questions, Karen returned and noticed my jacket.

Keep in mind that Long Island is hardly the hotbed of harness racing it was more than 30 years ago when Roosevelt Raceway closed in 1988. Yet somehow Karen was a former horsewomen originally from Illinois. She told me she first got her license in 1971 and while USTA records don't exist for drivers before 1977, Pathway does show she drove a few times in 1979.

Karen was dropping names of people she met or worked for that I've only seen memorialized

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LIVE RACING IS BACK ON TRACK!

TUES - SAT 3:15PM

CAESARS REWARDS.

ELDORADO GAMING SCOTTDOWNS

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Best Bets & Analysis

NYSS returns Monday at Yonkers; Vernon back racing Saturday; Sir Charles Of Sky tops Blooded Horse Sale

Comments? Questions? Email the Editor DGiwner@DRF.com



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as stakes races; like Glen Garnsey, who she said used to have a horse named Ginny's Gene in the late 1960's when he made over \$100,000 and that she was racing as a 14-year-old in 1978. She mentioned working for Tom Tetrick, the patriarch of two of the best drivers in the sport in Tim and Trace.

The unlikely encounter with Karen was truly a pleasure. We lamented in the demise of Pompano Park and she showed me a picture of her horse in the winner's circle at Quad City Downs. I of course showed her a picture of me driving in a race and told her about my various roles in the sport from chart-calling to announcing. It truly made the shopping experience more enjoyable for someone who simply doesn't like it...or spending money.

The smallest things can trigger the neurons in my brain to begin firing when it comes to writing and I immediately thought there must be a column here. Certainly there was something to be learned from my meeting with Karen. My takeaway was that as participants in harness racing who depend on it for our livelihood, it is our responsibility to show our pride by wearing merchandise – TetrickRacinggear.com, Hambletonianshop.com, Siegelmanstable.com, etc. We should be proud of the sport and want people to ask questions about it if they see us wearing the apparel. We should do everything we can to promote any interest.

While it is a far cry from my wearing a Hambletonian hat in Target, two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic wearing Tetrick Racing gear on national television or Kendall Jenner wearing a Siegelman Stables hat in public, is another great way for harness racing as a whole to expand its horizons. Jokic's decision to wear a hat and shirt was organic since he loves the sport, and that's great. What about Ms. Jenner, who has 32 million twitter followers and wait for it...236 million Instagram followers. Did she wake up one morning and decide to wear a Siegelman Racing hat?

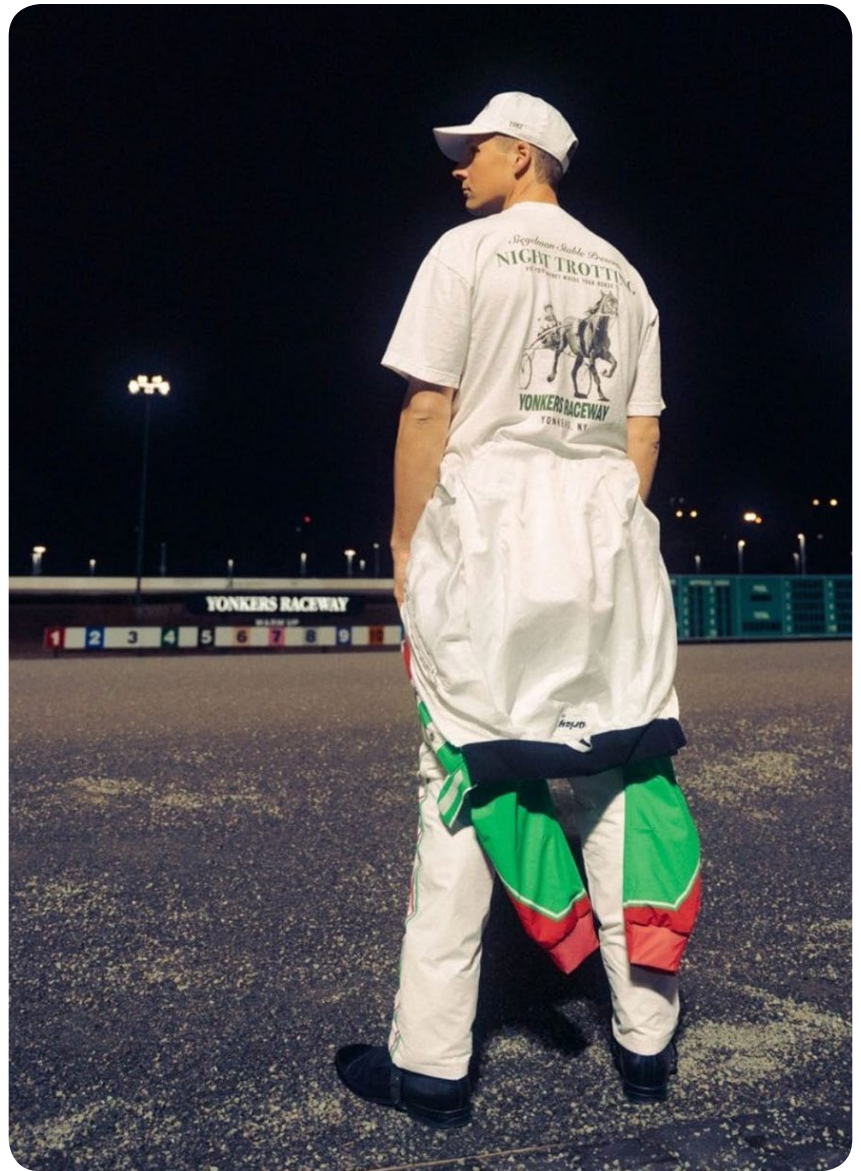
"I actually think she may have," said Max Siegelman, creator of the Siegelman Racing brand, on Jenner's choice to wear the hat. "I can't give all the secrets away, but I've been in the media, marketing and entertainment businesses for a number of years and have been able to create and keep great relationships across a ton of industries. I finally have something that is special to me and can tell that story to different types of people. The brand has a story, meaning and is designed to be part of the fashion scene and not to be looked at as 'stable merch'."

Max Siegelman took his dad Robbie's passion for harness racing in a new route. Rather than working on the farm or at the track as a trainer like his dad, Max chose streetwear and fashion to spread the harness racing message while also giving back in the form of charity like his dad.

"My dad's passion of training racehorses was only part of his stable since the 80's. He also created youth programs for underprivileged communities, special needs, and veterans. Equine therapy essentially, without outright calling it that. That's the real story," said Siegelman, who donates a portion of all proceeds from his merchandise to equine therapy programs around the world.

Whether Siegelman's collection of hats, jackets, shirts and more can create buzz for the sport through celebrities is still to be determined. While he called it a "slow build" in terms of adding exposure, Siegelman said interest has been strong.

"If I could open up my Instagram DM's and show you the names that all of sudden want a piece of the collections or have interest in racing, it is pretty wild," said Siegelman. "I want to shine a light on all the good that is in the horse racing community. The people, the beautiful horses,



ERICK HERCULES/SIEGELMAN STABLES

Yonker Raceway's 2021 leading driver Jordan Stratton took part in a photo shoot for the Siegelman Stable racing brand.

the stories, the passion and of course what is beyond the track and races."

We all have a role to play in creating a public perception of harness racing that is positive. If individually we aren't going to promote ourselves and the industry in general, who will? So whether you want to brand your own merchandise, wear a Siegelman Stables hat, a Scioto Downs T-shirt, a Hambletonian polo or even a Yonkers Raceway jacket like I did, stand proud and if someone approaches you outside of the track tell them what a great place it is and invite them to come visit.

By the way, since I sort of left the issue hanging, we bought the furniture from Karen and got a nice horseman's discount from her in the process. At least I'm calling it the horseman's discount. I'd like to think we made a connection that mattered and hopefully if you wear some harness racing merchandise you'll make one too.

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JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [BergmanJay](#)

Blame the public, not the horse

Past performances are printed in black and white. Make no mistake, when it comes to analyzing the backgrounds of harness horses nothing is as easy as black and white. There is a ton of gray between these lines and quite often time and age change the actual meaning of a horse's perceived ability and actual ability.

It was fascinating to listen to post-race analysis following 2021 Horse of the Year Test Of Faith's first go-round on Saturday night (May 7) at The Meadowlands. Far from the high crimes and misdemeanor category some had suggested, Test Of Faith to my eyes and mind raced pretty much as expected while up against older rivals for the first time in her career.

If you were among those who backed Test Of Faith at 6-5 and expected the defending Horse of the Year to come back a winner despite starting from an outside post in her first pari-mutuel race after only one (hard to count the Harrah's Philadelphia mile) decent qualifying mile, you might see it otherwise.

From my perspective bettors go with what they see on paper and quite often they accept morning lines or race-time odds as something they clearly are not. The odds board, whether advanced by a single individual (oddsmaker) or the sum of all wagers (final odds) should not sway a person from a deep look at actual past performances. I often believe players are swayed by public opinion with an emphasis put on the favorite.

What made Test Of Faith the 6-5 favorite was her historic past performances and not her current form. This is something that requires a deeper look into an individual horse-type as opposed to simply a horse that dominated her class as a 2 and 3-year-old. To anyone that wished to look back on Test Of Faith's past performances that made her last year's champion, there were enough hints that landing post nine in the field of 10 for her 2022 debut, there were no guarantees she would leave the gate. Some have argued that the new "no tuck" rules that have been implemented at The Meadowlands this year was a major deterrent to driver David Miller, who perhaps only took back because there wouldn't likely be a place for him to tuck without being forced to drive up for the lead. For argument's sake, the implication that Test Of Faith should have been more forwardly placed is in my mind the fixation that as the public choice the horse belongs on the front end. While some horses may do their best racing on the front, Test Of Faith seems to relish passing horses in the stretch with an explosive burst few horses can match. Miller's understanding of the horse he was steering last Saturday is precisely why he drove her from off the pace to the chagrin of chalk players.

Ironically when a favorite loses in its first start of the season there will always be finger pointing and some have suggested bigger paydays down the road as the cause of Test Of Faith's fourth-place finish in her season's debut. What this analysis suggests is that it's a given that Test Of Faith will prove to be the best in a division of horses that she hasn't had to race against in previous years. While this week's first round of the Graduate will pit her against fellow 4-year-olds, last week's Open Mares event had her matched against some proven horses from North America and Down Under.

In last week's field was Blue Chip Matchmaker final runner-up Racine Bell, a horse that was among the leaders in the Open Pacing Mare division last year and was expected to dominate when she returned to racing this season as a 5-year-old. Concerned about how good she would return, Jason Bartlett raced her from behind in her season's debut on February 12 at The Meadowlands and the So Surreal-sired mare was a strong winner in 1:50 3/5 as a 4-1 offering. The price was likely the result of a qualifier raced at Saratoga that was nearly seven seconds slower than her pari-mutuel victory.

Two races later for Racine Bell found Bartlett putting her on the front end at Yonkers as the 1-5 favorite with the results a disappointing second-place finish.

Two weeks later Bartlett would guide Racine Bell in the first leg of the Blue Chip Matchmaker and despite going off as the favorite he elected to sit in from third and wait for an opportunity to arrive in the stretch. Fortunately, without a passing lane, room still developed on the inside but only enough for her to finish second, a nose behind the winner Dragon Roll.

To me the decision Bartlett made that night and likely the one Dave Miller made with Test Of Faith were similar. Bartlett had admitted to me that he wasn't sure how Racine Bell would react if he sent her to the front a second straight time after a first defeat. In Miller's case you have a horse coming off two qualifiers that were good efforts but hardly up to the racing speed she would need to go. While a 26 second final quarter is something Test Of Faith is familiar with, having to pass all nine horses in the process was too tall an order, even for her.

There are likely to be many who follow up on Test of Faith this Saturday at The Meadowlands where she starts from post two and faces just 4-year-old rivals. Win or lose it is not likely to reveal that much about how Test of Faith will handle older foes the entire year. As many horsemen have suggested, it's a major transition for both pacers and trotters when put up against older foes for the first time.

Perhaps more important to those looking to bet on or against Test of Faith in the weeks and months to come is the question of whether she's going to need to rely on a "trip" to win each week or whether she can go to the front and consistently cut out a mile against this group of horses. This is an analysis that will require watching the mare closely and observing how she reacts when put to the test.

We all wish it was as easy as black and white, but when it comes to a formal review of a champion's ability often it's more important to look for the weaknesses and find situations to bet against them, as opposed to assuming that just because they were the best at 2 and 3 that they will naturally be the best against older foes. Either way, those looking to point fingers at Test Of Faith's first race of the year need look no further than the odds board as the culprit and not the horse.



DERICK GIWINER

Test Of Faith, shown dominating at The Red Mile in 2021, was handled patiently at 6-5 in her first start as a 4-year-old at The Meadowlands and closed for fourth.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BREEDERS

The Breeders Crown No. 37 Yearling Payment of \$150.00 for foals of 2021 is due on May 15, 2022.

This payment makes yearlings by the following stallions eligible to race in the Breeders Crown as 2-year-olds in 2023 and 3-year-olds in 2024, subject to the conditions and payments in those years.

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AMERICAN IDEAL	COURTLY CHOICE	LATHER UP	PANTHER HANOVER	SWAN IN A MILLION
ANDOVER HALL	CREATINE	LAZARUS N	PET ROCK	SWEET LOU
ANDOVERSURE	CREDIT WINNER	LIONHUNTER	PILOT DISCRETION	TACTICAL LANDING
ARCHANGEL	DE LA CREME	LIS MARA	POSSESS THE WILL	TELLITLIKEITIS
ARTISCAPE	DEVIUS MAN	LONG TOM	PRESTIDIGITATOR	THE BANK
ARTSPEAK	DOVER DAN	LOOKSLIKEACHPNDALE	RACING HILL	THINKING OUT LOUD
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BECKHAM'S Z TAM	DUDE'S THE MAN	LUCK BE WITHYOU	REAL DESIRE	TRIXTON
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BIT OF A LEGEND	GLIDEMASTER	MR WIGGLES	SEBASTIAN K	WHATAWORKOUT
BOLT THE DUER	GREENSHOE	MUSCLE HILL	SHADOW PLAY	WHEELING N DEALIN
BOSTON RED ROCKS	HELPISONTHEWAY	MUSCLE MASS	SIX PACK	YANKEE CRUISER
BREAK THE BANK K	HE'S WATCHING	MUSCLE MASSIVE	SO SURREAL	YOU KNOW YOU DO
CANTAB FASHION	HESTON BLUE CHIP	MUSCLE UP THE GOAL	SOUTHWIND FRANK	
CANTAB HALL	HOLIDAY ROAD	MUSICAL RHYTHM	SPORTSWRITER	
CAPTAIN CRUNCH	HUNTSVILLE	MY MVP	STAG PARTY	

127 stallions as of
December 31, 2020

The above list is subject to omissions and corrections

Foals of 2021 by the above stallions will be eligible to the open division (for 3-year-olds and older) of the Breeders Crown in 2024 and to the Breeders Crown open division in subsequent years upon payment of the advertised fees for the specific year's open event. Owners of eligible 3-year-olds will have the option of entering either or both the 3-year-old and the open event by making the 3-year-old payment due February 15, 2024. Conditions for Breeders Crown No. 37 are available from The Hambletonian Society website: www.hambletonian.com or in the 2022 USTA Stakes/Futurities Nomination Booklet.

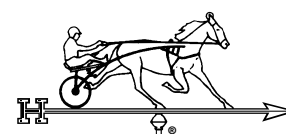


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RAY'S RUMBLINGS

By Ray Cotolo @RayCotolo

In gambling, it's all about your edge

Gambling is a brutal pursuit. If it wasn't for the possibility of winning a disgusting sum of money, I don't know why anyone would take it on as a pastime. But people also make those ships in a bottle, and I feel like that might be a more infuriating pastime.

Whatever event you're gambling on, it's a balancing of what you know and handling what you know, because many times what you know will be proven wrong more than it's correct. And it's already an uphill climb to learn enough to have a strong opinion on whatever you're gambling. The standard saying is that it takes about 10 years of consistent work to get good at something, meaning I should now be really good at gambling and should not have lost \$2,000 last year. Which I totally didn't.

If I did, it was because I lost focus on my edge. An edge in gambling is by no means a revolutionary idea and I'm sure it's been written six feet under. But in a pari-mutuel game, an edge can be the determining factor between high profits or a washout, since your money is purely against everyone else's.

Last year, I fell into the trap of the gambler's hubris. On one hand, I did give myself a slight edge by choosing a focus for my betting; I stuck to Flat and National Hunt racing in the U. K. My newfound success in this foreign land led me to begin feeling unstoppable, that my opinion was the touch of Midas spitting from my mouth. If only that were the case then I'd have all this gold to pawn instead of just draining money from my bank account.

I found myself trying to nail every single race I handicapped, which sometimes amounted to 20 to 25 in a day. That might not be a lot to some, and I am damn impressed if that's you reading. But for me, I was running an engine full throttle from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., essentially working a full-time job with the thought in my mind that just hitting \$120 in profit on the day would beat a nine-to-five. At this point, I lost my edge. Sure, I caught certain opportunities here and there, but the numerous other punts I needlessly took flushed all the value away from those scores. All of this to say, one edge I have is in picking my spots and not trying to master every

event. And if I want to make money doing this, I will have to stick to that.

However, writing about edges in gambling is tricky. Conceptually, I find it fundamental to the whole process because it goes hand-in-hand with money management and the bank of knowledge we build from years of engaging with whatever we bet. At the same time, not everyone's edge can or should be the same. Because at the end of the day, I am competing for your dollars and you are competing for mine, unless we're on the same horses, then we are brothers in arms storming into the ocean.

As an example, last year I did particularly well at The Meadowlands because I watched a lot of racing from both there and Harrah's Philadelphia. My edge became that I could spot several details that the program could not explain, such as the strength of a certain class at Harrah's Philly based off the horses I remember competing or also just the visual performances of horses in their respective races. All of this became information that technically everyone had access to, but an interpretation that only I could access. Now we may look for similar things in races, like who went a troubled trip or who was loaded with pace, etc., but my edge versus anyone else's comes from an understanding of how to apply that information; something that comes just from years of trial and error. I may be able to teach some people how I watch races and utilize the info I gather from them, but at the end of the day I am the only one functioning off my own logos. And anyone who has worked with me in the sport agrees that I do this.

Not all edges are created equally, either. Many people can catch a replay of a horse's troubled trip, but if it's obvious, that horse will go as a short price. Similarly, we all know Dexter Dunn is a good driver, anyone theoretically has an edge betting him since he wins at 21% at The Meadowlands. But if we all know this, again, how valuable is this information?

Maybe it is valuable. If you catch Dexter and he wins at 11-1, that's potentially 24 more dollars in your pocket than mine. And that's ultimately the point. An edge can be absolutely anything from finding a trainer who is performing really well to devoutly following a circuit and knowing every horse down to its hock. But I cannot tell you a specific edge beyond anecdotes of my own successes.

These are things we all learn on our spiritual journey as gamblers. We all find our little tricks that work for us and try to aim those shots where best fired. But we only learn these tricks from watching tons of racing, losing stupid amounts of money and regrouping to have learned something from our actions. After all, if there wasn't some promise of a massive score on the other side of the mountain, I would simply just pack my camp and walk back into town. Forget climbing that mountain, I could figure out how to put a ship into a bottle.

Dreamonhigh, Manon tally in PA Sire Stakes at Philadelphia

The Pennsylvania-sired state program returned to Harrah's Philadelphia on Wednesday, with two divisions of Sire Stakes and four divisions of Stallion Series competition for 3-year-old trotting fillies.

The second division, worth \$67,591, proved the faster of the two, with the Bar Hopping filly Manon rallying gamely into a 27 3/5 last quarter to upend pace-setter Mon Cheval by a neck in a career-best 1:53 3/5 for trainer Lucas Wallin and Harbor Racing Stable LLC.

Tim Tetrick hustled Manon to command before the 27 3/5 opening split. Mon Cheval waited off of that one's cover, then went on up to take the lead in front of the stands before putting up mid-race fractions of 57 and 1:26. The last quarter, especially the stretch fight, was a terrific contest, with Manon able to summon enough from the pocket to defeat her game adversary in just her third lifetime start, taking her second win in her undefeated 2022.

In the division worth \$67,191, driver Joe Bongiorno got the Andover Hall filly Dreamonhigh quickly to the front. Nearing the 28 3/5 quarter, favored Mimi Ocean Hanover, off heroics in Pocono's Weiss Series, moved up and took over the racetrack before the 57 second half. The front two maintained those positions through a 1:26 three-quarters, with A Perfect Helen moving up to challenge.

At headstretch the favorite lost her composure, and Dreamonhigh shot right up the inside lane, beating out A Perfect Helen by 1 3/4 lengths to take her seasonal debut in 1:54 4/5. The Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion at two, Dreamonhigh looks ready for another solid campaign for trainer Jennifer Bongiorno and K A T Stables LLC.



GRACE ZIMMERS

Manon fended off Mon Cheval to win a PASS on Wednesday.

In the Stallion Series races, driver Yannick Gingras (in blue and black colors), trainer Domenico Cecere, and sire Cantab Hall had two winner's circle visits. Monimovesmountains broke her maiden in her section, stepping home in 57 2/5 to win in 1:56 2/5 for Moni Maker Stable, while I'll Have A Lindy, five-for-eight last year, joined her barnmate in making her 2022 bow successful, also coming the last

half in 57 2/5 to win in 1:56 for owners Greathorse.

The other two StS races saw successful teamings of Philly's leading driver Tim Tetrick and sire Father Patrick. The fastest of all the Stallion Series races went to Vogue, who moved to the lead early and then also tacked on a 57 2/5 back-half in lowering her mark to 1:55 3/5 in her first seasonal start for trainer Per Engblom and the partnership of Engblom Stable LLC., Wiesman Farms LLC., Joyce McClelland, and R A W Equine Inc.

The other section went to Senorita Paricutin, who brushed to the lead late on the backstretch and went on to fashion a 1:56 3/5 triumph. Anette Lorentzon trains the filly, who has now won half her ten career starts, for Anvil & Lace Farm.

-press release (PHHA/Harrah's Philadelphia)

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Graduate series switches to the mares at The Meadowlands

By Jay Bergman

Bella Bellini, last year's Dan Patch Award winner as top sophomore trotting filly, made her 2022 return in a division of the Miss Versatility on May 6 at The Meadowlands and was a fast-closing second to Next Level Stuff.

"She raced better than I expected," said Nifty Norman, who trains the 4-year-old daughter of Bar Hopping. "She's wearing less equipment than she did last year. She is sounder and stronger than a year ago."

Bella Bellini drew the rail in the sole \$40,000 Graduate series leg for 4-year-old trotting mares and will retain regular pilot Dexter Dunn while pitted against a standout group of mares that includes a pair of Ohio-breds.

"Herculisa is a very nice horse," said Norman in deference to last week's 12-1 upsetter over Atlanta in the Miss Versatility. Fortunately for Norman, Herculisa landed post seven in Saturday's contest, though she remains a solid threat given her explosive stretch speed that saw her catapult to victory over the \$3 million winner Atlanta in a blistering 25 4/5 final quarter.

Bella Bellini trotted home rather strongly on her own, hitting high speed late with a 26 second final fraction while missing by just a neck.

"I think she could be a different type of horse this year," said Norman of Bella Bellini. "I think she'll be strong enough to go to the front and cut the miles."

Though her obvious strength was extreme closing speed and that worked last year where she was first or second in 17 of 19 starts, Norman knows that the competition will be more contentious and Bella Bellini will need a new wrinkle if she hopes to dominate at this level.

In addition to the Ohio-bred Herculisa, Katie's Lucky Day, a 9-time winner in 2021, enjoyed her biggest day defeating Bella Bellini in the Kentucky Futurity for fillies last October at The Red Mile by a nose in a career-best 1:50 4/5 clocking. The Todd Luther-trained daughter of Uncle Peter is thus far winless in three tries this year but raced creditably in her mile track return, just a nose behind Bella Bellini in third in the Miss Versatility. Katie's Lucky Day drew post five.

Two divisions of the Graduate for pacing mares, each going for \$25,000, help add depth to a solid Saturday night program at The Meadowlands, with one division likely a bit more top-heavy than the other. Test Of Faith, last year's Horse of the Year, makes her second start in 2022 from post two in the 11th race second division, but trainer Brian Brown is hoping his more seasoned Oakwoodanabella IR may be ready shipping east.

"She definitely got in the tougher division," said Brown, while happy with the rail draw. "She's versatile and can do whatever you want."

The Irish-bred Oakwoodanabella IR came to Brown's stable last July and made an immediate impact, finishing on the board in all eight starts including a pair of second-place finishes behind Test Of Faith.

"It wasn't ideal getting her up to speed in such a short time," said Brown of last year's effort to catch up with the daughter of Foreclosure N while others she faced had far more seasoning. "I think the time off served her well."

Oakwoodanabella IR was a 1:49 4/5 winner against Open filly and mare company at Hoosier Park in her last start on May 7.

Norman didn't sound as optimistic as Brown with his entry in this division, Grace Hill.

"It's going to be tough to beat Test Of Faith after the way she looked last week," said Norman. Grace Hill has finished second in both of her starts this year but draws post seven in the tougher Graduate division.

Mikala, a daughter of Always B Miki from a full sister to Captaint-reacherous, showed plenty of stakes ability last season racing primarily in Pennsylvania. Since returning to the track as a 4-year-old Mikala has been most impressive racing against a few rivals in the New Jersey Maturity, an event she swept. George Brennan guided Mikala to a 1:49 4/5 career-best on April 30 and the mare seems primed for the step up on Saturday. Mikala starts from the pole among nine in the first \$25,000 division carded as race nine.

Easy To Please (post five) was rock-solid finishing third in the Blue Chip Matchmaker final and faces her own age and sex for the first time in 2022 in this division. With \$117K banked this year Easy To Please will be making her 10th start of the year.



NIKKI SHERMAN

Bella Bellini came up just short in her 2022 debut and she'll butt heads with Miss Versatility winner Herculisa this Saturday.

Hot Mess Express conversely makes her season's debut from post nine in this division. The Indiana champion owns a 1:48 3/5 personal best over the Meadowlands surface taken last year.

Norman also sends out a pair in Saturday's \$40,000 Open pace (race 10) with Jacks Legend N (post four) and Let It Ride N (post six) facing just five others in the tenth race.

"I got Jack's Legend N after the Borgata," said Norman. "He went a tough trip in that race and obviously needed some time."

As for Let It Ride N, a horse that has been on the board in 10 of 11 starts this year, Norman didn't mince his words. "He really wasn't good last time," Norman said. "He wasn't on the bit at any point in the mile. He's a horse that races better fresh and that's why we gave him the week off."

Let It Ride N, a 1:48 3/5 winner at The Meadowlands on April 23, will get a new driver in Brian Sears as Dexter Dunn opted for Jack's Legend N in his Norman debut.

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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [@AtTheTrack7](#)

Plenty to look forward to this summer

The biggest day of the year for thoroughbred racing, Kentucky Derby Day is in the books, producing record-breaking handle across the board. Although there will plenty of more huge races this year, like the Breeders' Cup, the Kentucky Derby is at the top of the mountain of thoroughbred racing. Now, it's harness racing's turn.

No, I am not saying harness racing will have a day like Kentucky Derby Day where over \$273 million was wagered, but each year when the Derby passes, we know that in the world of harness racing we are at the doorstep of the best part of the racing season. The baby races at The Meadowlands are fast approaching, as is their Championship season of great stakes action, so while the Derby may be a wrap, races like The Meadowlands Pace, Hambletonian and Little Brown Jug still await.

While the New Jersey Sire Stakes and Graduate series began this past weekend, the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial always signaled the beginning of the best racing each year, at least for me. Previously a Kentucky Derby Day tradition, the Cutler has been moved to a later spot on the calendar, this year to be contested on May 21, no doubt hoping to entice some of the best trotters in the country to kick off their campaigns in that very race. As of the last sustaining payment, 20 trotters were still eligible for the Cutler, although four are yet to step onto the track this year.

The North America Cup returns to its customary place on the racing calendar, kicking off the 3-year-old pacing season, with eliminations set for June 11. The Messenger Stakes at Yonkers kicks off the pacing Triple Crown, with the Final set for July 1, which comes eight days before The Meadowlands Pace eliminations. As always the action for the 3-year-old pacers is hot and heavy with no less than seven of the best races of the year on the calendar between June 11 and August 20, so horsemen will have to decide which spots will be the right spots for their horses.

The 3-year-old colt trotters have already seen their Grand Circuit season kick off with the Dexter Cup this past Saturday at Freehold. Races like the Goodtimes, the Yonkers Trot, the Zweig Memorial and

the Stanley Dancer will pave the road to the Hambletonian on August 6 at The Meadowlands, the "Kentucky Derby of harness racing."

Of course the aged pacers and the aged mare pacers have already finished knocking heads at Yonkers in the MGM Borgata and Blue Chip Matchmaker Pacing series, but certainly the best is still yet to come. My favorite race each year for the older pacers has always been the William Houghton Memorial. It provides the perfect complement to The Meadowlands Pace and sometimes even steals the show on Pace night. Similarly to the sophomore pacers, there is some real crowding of the stakes calendar in early July. On June 25, there is the final leg of the Graduate Pacing Series before the \$250,000 Final on Meadowlands Pace elimination night, which is sandwiched between the Roll With Joe for open pacers, which takes place on July 2, and the William Houghton Memorial on Meadowlands Pace night on July 16. The Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial, Sam McKee Memorial and Dan Patch soon follow, making the older pacing division must-see TV from June 25 through August 12 as there are no less than seven grand circuit events within the division during that period of time.

The older trotters have a bit more space in between some of their races as the Cutler kicks off the year on May 21, a pair of Graduate legs are sprinkled in June and then the action really picks up with the Crawford Farms Trot on July 2, the Graduate Final on July 9, the Hambletonian Maturity set for Pace night (July 16), the Spirit of Massachusetts on July 24 and the John Cashman Memorial on Hambletonian Day, August 6. The Maple Leaf Trot wraps up the summer on Labor Day weekend.

Each year, this is an exciting time for me. The cream of the crop when it comes to Standardbreds head to the racetrack and the future stars make their very first appearance in the highly anticipated baby races at The Meadowlands. We never know what the stakes season will bring in harness racing, but we can almost always count on brilliant racing, dominant performances, photo-finishes and of course, world records. While the thoroughbred industry has its huge day on the first Saturday in May, Standardbred racing embarks on several monstrous months.

In years' past horses like See You At Peelers took us on a wild winning streak. A freakishly fast cross-bred standardbred named Googoo Gaagaa captured the imagination with his breathtaking speed. Wiggle It Jiggleit became a household name around the country, something we don't see in harness racing too often. What does 2022 have in store for us? I'm not sure, but as the late, great Sam McKee used to say, "strap-in, things are about to get a little bit Western," because the 2022 stakes season for the sport of harness racing is here!

WEG/SBOA, Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup elims highlight weekend Canadian action

Stakes racing is in full swing this weekend in Canada as Woodbine Mohawk Park will host SBOA/WEG eliminations for 3-year-olds on Friday and Saturday while Flamboro Downs will welcome the best 4-year-old pacers in the sport north of the border on Sunday for the newly enshrined Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup eliminations (formerly Confederation Cup).

The boys are in the spotlight Friday and 2021 Ontario Sire Stakes Super Final 2-year-old trotting winner Twin B Archie will try to start his year off right from post 6 in the third race with regular pilot James MacDonald in the bike for trainer Scott McEnemy. Pacing Super Final winner Bob Loblaw starts in the next race. Sylvain Filion gets the call from post 5 for co-owner/trainer Ken Middleton Jr. The eighth race division for pacers includes Super Final runner-up Magical Arthur and Stonebridge Helios.

The biggest star on the Friday card is arguably in the second trot elimination (race 6) where Duly Resolved starts from post 1 with Paul MacDonell as the 2-1 morning-line chalk. The John Bax trainee finished second in his Super Final as well as the Mohawk Million and Wellwood Memorial.

Adare Castle is far and away the standout trotting filly competing on Saturday. She goes from post five in the first race for the team of driver James MacDonald and trainer Mark Etsell. The Muscle Masssired filly won seven of nine starts (with two seconds) in 2021 while earning triple that of the 14 other fillies entered in the two eliminations. The pacing fillies did not require elims and seven will compete in a prep on the card.

Post time for both Mohawk Park cards is 7:00 PM.

The Juravinski Memorial entries became available right at press time and are listed to the right. Post time for the Sunday card at Flamboro is 6:55 PM.

1ST JURAVINSKI ELIMINATION - RACE 2

POST	HORSE	LISTED DRIVER	MORNING LINE
1	Century Heineken	D.McNair	2-1
2	Twin B Heart Throb	B.McDonald	6-1
3	Rockyroad Hanover	D.Dunn	7-5
4	Highlandbeachbest	J.Stratton	4-1
5	Armor Seelster	J.Jamieson	3-1
6	Woodmere Stealdeal	J.Drury	10-1

2ND JURAVINSKI ELIMINATION - RACE 5

POST	HORSE	LISTED DRIVER	MORNING LINE
1	Desperate Man	T.Henry	7-5
2	Virgo	D.McNair	4-1
3	American Courage	M.Kakaley	3-1
4	Charlie May	D.Dunn	2-1
5	Second Bruiser	J.McDonald	8-1
6	Whichwaytothebeach	L.Roy	10-1
7	Linedrive Hanover	J.McDonald	9-2

3RD JURAVINSKI ELIMINATION - RACE 7

POST	HORSE	LISTED DRIVER	MORNING LINE
1	Lou's Pearlman	Y.Gingras	2-1
2	Powertrain	S.Filion	3-1
3	Commanding Officer	A.Sorrie	6-1
4	Control Heaven	L.Roy	8-1
5	Hellabalou	J.McDonald	4-1
6	Bulldog Hanover	J.Jamieson	6-5
7	Dean B Hanover	J.Stratton	10-1



Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup

Sunday May 22, 2022

Post Time: 6:55pm

- * Inaugural running of the Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup, Purse \$260,000
- * Inaugural running of the Margaret Juravinski Pace, Purse \$50,000
- * OSS opening leg of the Grassroots Series for three-year-old pacing colts

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BY DERICK GIWNER

Driver/trainer Dan Daley is in his sixth decade of participation in Harness Racing and is still putting in 15-hour days and nights. The 63-year-old, who splits his time between upstate New York and Florida, has a barn of 16 including a potential budding star trotting filly named Yanaba.

With the birds chirping in the background of the stable area at Vernon Downs as he waited for his approved time to hit the track due to an outbreak of Equine Herpes in his barn, Daley was gracious enough to sit down with me to discuss his journey in the sport, Yanaba and her schedule, and racing in general.



DRIVER/TRAINER DAN DALEY

How did you get started in harness racing?

By the time I was 13 I was too big to be a jockey and I jogged my first horse when I was 14 and said this is what I'm going to do the rest of my life.

I spent eight years as a groom and tried to learn something from everyone I worked for. I worked for Billy Haughton and nine months for Sören Nordin, who was the greatest trainer I ever dealt with. Then I went on my own and bought some cheap ones.

Was anyone in your family involved before you?

No, we had riding horses but that's it.

You mentioned Billy Haughton and Sören Nordin, who most helped you start your career?

Billy Haughton was just such a great guy and that kind of person really helps. Soren I just learned so much from so quickly that I just felt 'I can do this'.

What kind of car do you drive?

Ford pickup, because I can't afford a Chevy [laughing]. There was a \$40,000 difference between buying two Chevys versus two Fords.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

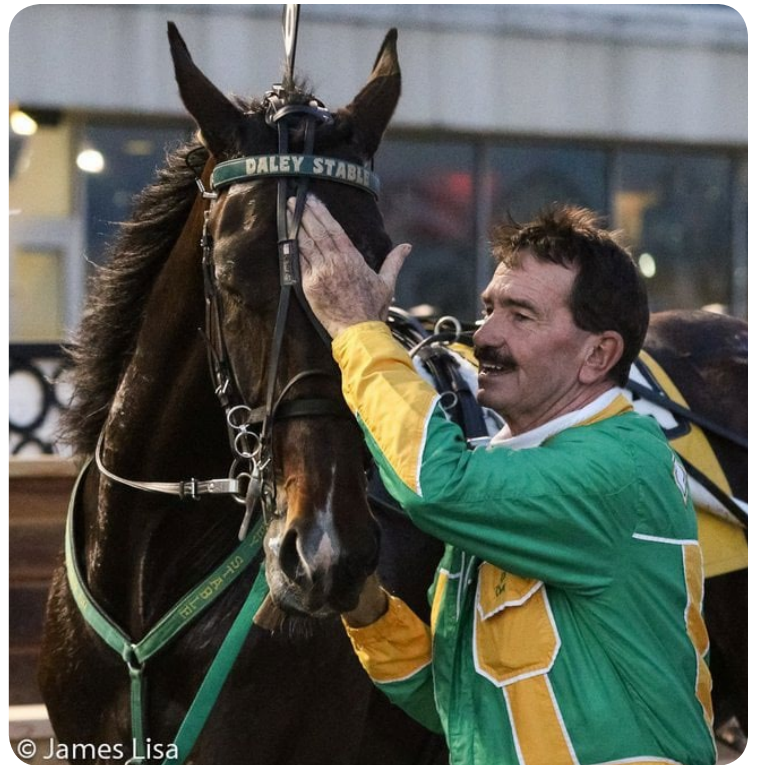
Lobster; Animal Crackers.

What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

Saratoga because I grew up 10 miles from there.

What is your favorite big event in racing? Why?

The Hambletonian. It is the biggest dance. Even if you don't win, just to be in it is pretty big.



Dan Daley, pictured with Yanaba, has 915 wins as a trainer and 1,306 as a driver in a career that began in 1979.

JAMES LISA/LISA PHOTO

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

24/7. Even when you're sleeping you wake up remembering something you were dreaming about horses. Maybe it was something you have to do or something you were hoping to do.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of racing?

Go to the Grand Prix jumping or jumping my own horse. The greatest sport I ever played was Polo.

What is your favorite sport?

Horse racing.

What is one thing about you most fans/bettors don't know?

That if it involves anything with horses, I like it, will watch it or try to do it.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Awesome.

You have over 1,300 wins as a driver and over 900 as a trainer. What do those numbers mean to you?

I always wanted to be good at it and the numbers mean that I at least accomplished something.

You're a rare breed in that you still drive most of your horses. Do you think you lose anything by not using a catch-driver?

Not with the 2-year-olds at all because I know my horses and train most of them myself. It probably matters in the big dances at The Meadowlands because none of those guys are going to turn me loose [yield the lead] as easy as a regular they see every day. That's why I put Scott [Zeron] up on Yanaba because I needed him to get used to her and like her as much as I did, and for the big dances we'll go that way.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



LISA PHOTO

Scott Zeron took over the lines behind Yanaba for her most recent start and Daley plans for him to drive her on the Grand Circuit in 2022.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12](#)

You mentioned potential standout 3-year-old Trixton filly Yanaba. How good is she?

I think she's as good as any of the top fillies. We have to get lucky but she's that type of filly. I thought that last year too and a bone bruise stopped her. Sometimes little things can hurt.

How disappointing was it to miss the May 6 opening New Jersey Sire Stakes leg due to the Equine Herpes breakout at Vernon where you train?

It really hurt because she was even sharper for that race than she was two weeks earlier [won in 1:53 2/5 at The Meadowlands]. It was a good time to tangle with those good ones because most were making their first starts and she already raced. Not that I had her tuned up or trained her hard, but she was ready.

Will you be forced to miss the second leg as well? If so, what does her schedule look like going forward?

Yes, I'm out until May 25. I've been going back and forth on her schedule. She has some races in Kentucky because she is a Kentucky sire, but I don't want to ship out there early. We can ship and race for \$100,000 but I want her sharp for Hambletonian Day, so I have to be careful with her. She's a classy animal but I don't want to overdo it going in.

Is she eligible to the Del Miller?

No, I didn't keep her eligible to that because it is really expensive. She's eligible to the Zweig and I thought she'd have enough money from the Sire Stakes because it is a top money-earners race. It is going to be hard to have enough money now but they still have a consolation for \$35,000. I'm sure I can race her in an overnight at The Meadowlands the week before the Oaks eliminations and not pound her like they have to in some of the big ones.

You mentioned that YOU are out until May 25. Was it your barn that had the outbreak?

I'm the only one that is in a full quarantine. Yes, I had two that died two days apart, a brother and a sister. They were all vaccinated, which is

supposed to stop them from dying. My whole barn was shut down. The vet was just here and everyone else looks tremendous.

If there is a bright side, at least Yanaba came out ok, right?

Yeah. She was right in the middle of them, four stalls apart on both ends, but you can't start moving horses around once you have sickness. Someone said to me they would've gotten her off the track, but you don't want to do that and maybe spread it to a farm. It is a nasty disease.

Are you a better driver or trainer?

I'm probably a better trainer but a really good trainer can win races even if you drive them bad.

How many horses do you have in your barn?

16. I finally cut down from 28 to 30. I'm getting old.

How old are you?

63.

Are you going to keep training as long as you can or is retirement in your future?

I'm going to do it until I fall off the jog cart dead [laughing].

Is there a race you haven't won that you'd still like to win?

The Hambletonian or Oaks.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

Probably winning the Breeders Crown from the 10-hole with my first good horse Master Lavec in 1999. He was a great horse.

Which is the best horse you've ever trained?

I guess it is between Master Lavec or RC Royalty. Diamond Goal was also good but he got hurt. He would've been a nice horse. I've been lucky to have good horses, and I'm a bargain shopper so that is hard to do sometimes.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 14](#)

ON THE BACKSTRETCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Why have you decided to specialize in NY Breds?

I like New York. I grew up around Saratoga. Vernon is the best to train young horses because it is easy to make speed and easy to keep them sounder, especially with baby trotters. I'll go outside once in a while if the price is right.

Do you breed any?

We have one mare, Yanaba's mother. I bought her back from Crawford Farms when they had a mare reduction . . . she's been back and forth in my life three or four times.

You raced quite a bit at Pompano. Do you have any thoughts on the track's closure?

It really stinks. I think we got a bad deal there. My son is actually in the House of Representatives [in Florida] and he had the whole House on our side to stop what was going on and somebody in the Senate put the slams to it. It's political bullsh**.

Are you proud of your son Dan's role in trying to save the sport in Florida?

He did everything he could but it was just a little late. We've been battling for 10 years. He's a really good kid. He tried hard and is still trying. He's a lawyer and he's been filing papers to get the license to maybe be transferred somewhere else so we can still race in Florida.

If you had the power to change one thing in the sport, what would it be?

Stop the gas guys [those using illegal medications]. They have to keep at it. Everyone wants the easy route but most times nothing is easy about training horses.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

Some days I think it will last long enough for me. We need more young people involved but it is hard to find people who want to work seven days a week. That's why my son went to school to be a lawyer because I was working seven days a week when he was young. Even when he was really young he would go help his mother on his days off. Sometimes it is tough. I used to be able to go 18 hours a day. Now I go about 15 hours and it is enough.

If you weren't involved in harness racing, what would you be doing?

Some other equestrian horse thing because it is all about the horses for me.

Time for the stretch drive...

Best Horse You Ever Saw?: I was up in Canada one time watching the eliminations for the North America Cup and I saw a horse that I thought looked off in his left front. He then went out to win and looked unbelievable. That was Somebeachsomewhere. The sign of a great horse is when they are at 80% and still crushes his competitors. On the trotting side, I was really impressed by Walner.

Best Driver Ever?: Billy Haughton. He could drive anything. He came to Saratoga the first year I was on my own and drove a \$5,000 claimer for me that I bought for \$2,500 and put a new lifetime mark on him.

Favorite horse in your barn?: Yanaba.

Lasix – Yes or No?: Yeah. If your horse is bleeding they need it and I'd hate to see some of these guys using other stuff instead.

Favorite TV Show?: Fox News.

Trotters or Pacers?: Trotters for sure.

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THURSDAY, MAY 12

RACE 5

(5) DRAMA ACT is back in action tonight for the first time since winning the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series final on April 25. It looks like she meets up with a group here that she should be able to wire.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, MAY 13

RACE 12

(1) FASHION SCHOONER went off the favorite versus Venerable last week and now lures Tetrick off the sharp winner (6) PEYTON HANOVER. The sky is the limit for this daughter of Walner-Broadway Schooner.

-Derick Giwner

MEADOWLANDS
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

RACE 6

There isn't much doubt that (1) DULY RESOLVED is best in here and he should kick off his sophomore campaign with a chalky win.

-Garnet Barnsdale

WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 14

RACE 6

(6) BETTORS DONTTELL exits stakes company, which is important, but not nearly as much as the addition of Lasix. He's coming off a race where he was clearly flat and medication being added tells me that was likely the reason.

-Giwner

MEADOWLANDS
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park (THU)	Analysis	Mohawk Park (FRI)	Analysis
Meadowlands (FRI)	Analysis	Mohawk Park (SAT)	Analysis
Yonkers (FRI)	Analysis	Meadowlands (SAT)	Analysis

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

NEW YORK SIRE STAKES SEASON KICKS OFF MONDAY AT YONKERS

The New York Sire Stakes season for this year begins on Monday night (May 16) at Yonkers Raceway with three \$50,000 divisions for 3-year-old trotting fillies.

In the first of those flights (race four), Joviality S, the defending New York Sire Stakes champion, will take on Little Pink Lies.

[READ MORE](#)

NIKI HILL IMPRESSIVE IN TUESDAY PHILLY QUALIFIER

The 3-year-old pacing filly Niki Hill, last year's divisional champion, was a strong-finishing winner in her qualifier on Tuesday morning at Harrah's Philadelphia, with two-time divisional champion Lyons Sentinel a rapidly-closing second in her first trip behind the starting gate this year in another qualifier.

[READ MORE](#)

LIVE RACING TO RESUME AT VERNON ON SATURDAY

Vernon Downs will offer a 13-race card on Saturday, May 14 using the horses stabled at the track in an effort to provide the opportunity for the Vernon horsemen to earn some purse money after a long, lean winter of not racing. A double draw for Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14 was offered and completed on Monday, resulting in a number of races that were condensed to a single card.

[READ MORE](#)

MIKE COLE DRIVES 2,000TH WINNER MONDAY AT HARRINGTON

Driver Mike Cole notched his 2,000th career win Monday at Harrington Raceway aboard Teton Sunset (\$17.40) in the second dash on the 13-race card.

[READ MORE](#)

CADILLAC BAYAMA FETCHES \$134,000 AT PEO MIXED SALE

Both racehorses and breedings for the current season were popular attractions at the May 9 Preferred Equine Online Mixed Sale.

Leading the way in racehorse sales at \$134,000 was the 4-year-old stakes winning son of Sunshine Beach, Cadillac Bayama p,3,1:52, who in the past two weeks finished second in both of his starts in the upper classes at Woodbine, timed in 1:50 3/5 and 1:50 2/5.

[READ MORE](#)

SCIOTO ADDS GUARANTEED PICK 8 WAGER TO THE MENU

Live racing returns to Eldorado Scioto Downs Thursday, May 12 at 3:15 p.m. The first draw is now complete and of note is a new Pick-8 wager, starting in race 2, with a guaranteed pool of \$25,000 for eight-of-eight, backed by a partnership between Scioto Downs and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA).

[READ MORE](#)

ROY WINS THE 2022 ONTARIO REGIONAL DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Louis-Philippe Roy punched his ticket to the 2022 National Driving Championship after capturing the Ontario Regional Driving Championship at The Raceway at Western Fair District on Wednesday (May 11).

[READ MORE](#)

RICHARD BANCA, LOUIS GRASSO PLEAD GUILTY

It was officially announced by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York on May 11 that trainer Richard Banca and veterinarian Louis Grasso pleaded guilty in the federal doping case.

To read the complete press release, click [here](#).

SIR CHARLES OF SKY TOPS BLOODED HORSE SALE

Horsemen eagerly came to the Champions Center in Springfield, Ohio on May 10 seeking racehorses and breeding stock.

Burke Racing Stable brought an especially strong consignment that included both the sale-topper and the runner-up. Leading the way at \$55,000 was the 4-year-old Charley Barley gelding Sir Charles Of Sky, who was racing competitively in the upper conditions at Northfield Park. The classy pacer was purchased by Mulligan Stables of Delaware for trainer Jason Johnson.

Runner-up honors went to Luc Rocks, a handsome 4-year-old son of Rockin Image who was racing equally competitive at the Meadows. He was purchased by J.R. Ryan for \$52,000 and will continue to race at The Meadows under trainer Dean Collins. Also from the Burke consignment was Sawyer's Desire, a 5-year-old winner of \$317,000 lifetime that went to the Foulk Stables of Springfield, Ohio on a \$46,000 bid.

Emerald Highlands Farm brought a nice consignment of promising young horses. Among those was the gorgeous roan mare Colorful Virgin, a full sister to Jugette winner Color's A Virgin that Galliers Racing purchased for \$48,000 to race at Scioto Downs. Sarah Andrews of Pennsylvania bought the striking gray maiden pacer Wogarithm for \$30,000 and winning conditioned claimer Woodmere Alvin went to Ronald MacDonald of Ontario for \$30,000.

Winterwood Farm, agt, sold the noteworthy Chapter Seven broodmare Princess Bride for \$25,000. In-foal to Nothing But Class, the half-sister to Trolley 7, 1:51 4/5s (\$510,888) was purchased by Ervin Wickey of Indiana. Dunroven Farm sent a handsome pair of yearlings from the last crop of Conway Hall led by Winning Point, who was purchased by Steve Oldford for \$16,000.

The Summer Blooded Horse Sale will be held Tuesday, August 23. This sale includes a black-type yearling session in addition to several hundred racehorses. The black-type yearling session closes July 5. Mixed entries will be taken until full. Visit www.bloodedhorse.com to enter.

-edited release (Blooded Horse Sale)

\$6,348 PICK 5 CARRYOVER AT NORTHFIELD SATURDAY

MGM Northfield Park has announced a \$20,000 guaranteed Pick-5 total pool for Saturday's (May 14) race card. Beginning in race six, the \$20,000 guarantee includes a carryover of \$6,348.

The guarantee is being offered as part of the Strategic Wagering Program through the United States Trotting Association. Free Harness Eye past performances will be posted [here](#). Saturday's post time is 6 p.m.

-edited release (Northfield)

INITIAL ROAD TO THE NORTH AMERICA CUP RELEASED

Woodbine Entertainment today (5/12) released the initial "Road to the Pepsi North America Cup" rankings for the 39th edition of Canada's most prestigious harness race.

The \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup is just over 5 weeks away (Saturday, June 18) and decisions already loom for the connections of the 48 eligible 3-year-old pacers.

[READ MORE](#)

PLANS COMING TOGETHER FOR VINCENT DELANEY MEMORIAL WEEK

The Vincent Delaney Memorial Committee is pleased to release the preliminary itinerary for the racing weekend. In the past, the VDM Committee and Oakwood Stud have graciously hosted tours for the foreign visitors to show them more of the country on their trip. Transportation will be provided to all activities. Plans for 2022 include:

8/9: Dublin, Ireland - Horse and Carriage tour of Dublin City Centre, Historical Horse Market in Smithfield, Visit to a Traditional Irish Pub

8/10: Tour of the Irish National Stud, Tour of Oakwood Stud

8/11: Dublin to Wales

8/12: Wales - Tour of Snowdonia Mountains

8/13: Wales - Elimination races at Tir Prince Raceway

8/14: Wales - Ladies Day and Finals Day at Tir Prince Raceway

Foreign visitors for the weekend interested in joining the tour group plans are encouraged to contact Derek at derek@oakwoodstud.ie.