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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

Opening Day trip to Oak Grove



CONFESSIONS

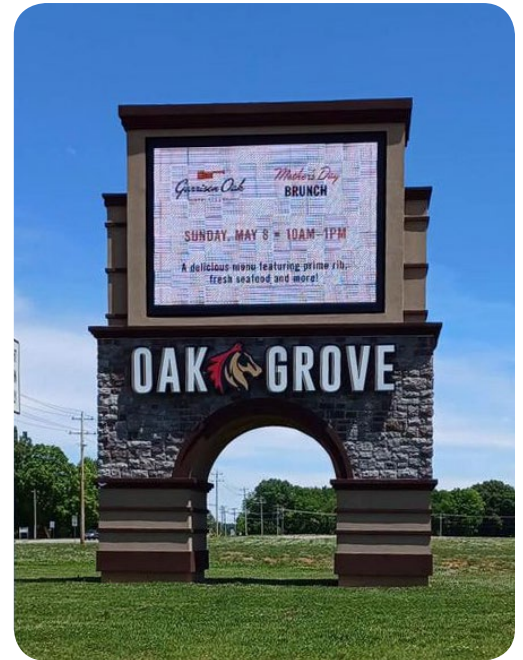
By Keith Gisser

Oak Grove in Kentucky races for just three months each year, which is a shame because it is a fun – albeit different – racetrack to hang out at. I made the eight-hour trip from Cleveland to catch the opening day card on May 8 and found a clean facility that welcomes children (and apparently, dogs), although not everything was perfect.

I arrived about 1:30 PM for 3:00 first post on May 8 and could not find a program. A very nice gentleman offered to get me one. He turned out to be track General Manager Darren VanDover. We had a great conversation – I expressed my disappointment in the Sunday/Monday schedule. He explained that they need Saturdays for their amphitheater concerts, which include Toto, Air Supply and Kansas this year. Certainly my kind of music, but that amphitheater obstructs the view of half of the backstretch – think county fair. He explained the reasoning, which I totally get – the track is attached to a casino.

Oak Grove does offer great camera work, featured on two giant screens and five large screens in the grandstand. But this is not your typical grandstand. It is more like a hotel banquet room, with round tables and seating for up to eight people at each. Grandstand admission and seating is free. So are picnic tables and the rocking chairs on the outdoor apron. I struck up a conversation with another gentleman whom it turns out is the assistant police chief of the town. He gave me some restaurant suggestions (G's Pancake House, now in its 50th year of operation, is a must and when we went, we found several horsemen enjoying breakfast, although there was no sign of Jack Rice).

That camera work is critical, as are the indoor screens and graphics because there is no toteboard. Not even a TV with odds outside. So you either stay in the air-conditioned grandstand or



KEITH GISSER PHOTO

Oak Grove has a large sign welcoming visitors to its Southwestern Kentucky location.

shuttle back and forth between watching post parades close up and then checking odds and will-pays indoors. With Churchill Downs operating the place, you would think they could fix this very easily. Unfortunately, the track is a bit short-staffed and I was unable to get back with GM VanDover to ask about that possibility, although now in its fourth year of racing, the track's management has clearly decided the toteboard is not needed.

The crowd appeared to be bigger than expected as staff rolled out several extra outdoor tables and chairs around race three. Oak Grove Mayor Theresa Jarvis led the first race post parade

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LIVE RACING IS BACK ON TRACK!

TUES - SAT 3:15PM

CAESARS REWARDS

ELDORADO GAMING SCOTTDOWN

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in a two-seat jog cart and while the pomp and ceremony was held to a minimum, it showed the importance of the community-track partnership.

Other than toteboard, my only real complaint was with the wagering setup. There are no live tellers or machines outdoors. A bank of eight self-service machines line the back wall of the grandstand, but again there are no live tellers. The machines are easy to use (except when a reader fails, as happened to me twice) and there is usually a staff member there to assist, but it was clear that a lot of fans were novices and the lines moved slowly. Having a few more attendants to help out the newbies would have gone a long way to make new patrons happy. Halfway through the card, Steve Bateson, the President of the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association, found two live tellers stationed in a hallway halfway between the grandstand and the no frills simulcasting room. The clerks were not well prepared, and while they reminded us to check our tickets each time, the number of mistakes made was disappointing. By the way, Bateson was at Oak Grove to drop off his young son Case, who will be driving there this meet. The 19-year-old pushed a couple longshots on the board during the opening two cards. As I mentioned, we were told there was a bit of labor shortage, but this mutuel situation needs to be fixed as the track heads into some of its very rich racing in late June and July.

As for the racing, it was remarkably competitive. Ultimately, that is what made the afternoon so enjoyable. With veteran Robin Burns calling the races, it was easy to figure out who was who from among a driving colony with very few colors I recognized (John MacDonald, Kevin Wallis and Fern Paquet Jr.). Burns did a great job as ringmaster. The 5/8 mile track scores eight across and Sunday's 10 races featured just one odds-on winner and four winners paying over \$10. The longest-priced winner

yielded \$21.60. Exactas, Trifectas and the 10-cent Superfectas mostly paid generously, as did both Daily Doubles. There is value to be found at this track.

All in all, I had a great time at Oak Grove and if it wasn't eight hours away (and a time zone away), I would visit again. I cashed enough to cover one night of hotel and Sunday dinner (granted at Denny's, but it was paid for with winnings). I will also be looking to play some simulcast from the oval. If I had to give Oak Grove an overall grade, I would say B, maybe B-, but there seems to be room and a desire for improvement. Maybe an Incomplete would be more appropriate.



KEITH GISSER

Racing fans that show up early at Oak Grove can snag a front-row rocker seat to watch the live racing.

Delayed start for 2021 Dan Patch Trotter of the Year Jujubee

By Ken Weingartner

Jujubee, who was the 2021 Dan Patch Award Trotter of the Year as well as being voted the sport's top 3-year-old male trotter, has seen his 4-year-old debut delayed, but owner Jon Erdner hopes his homebred star will be ready to return to action during the summer.

Last season, Jujubee won 14 of 18 races, finished worse than second only once, and earned \$948,791 to lead all male trotters in purses. Trained by Greg Wright Jr., the stallion qualified in mid-April at Spring Garden Ranch, where he won in 1:56 1/5, as he prepared for this year's campaign.

Jujubee was eligible to compete in the Graduate Series for 4-year-old trotters, which got underway May 7, as well as this weekend's Arthur J. Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands but was not entered in either event.

"He trained down pretty good during the spring, but Greg thought he was just a little bit off," Erdner said. "We had him looked at, and we didn't find too much, but it looked like there might have been some stress in one of his bones. So, we decided to give him some time. He should be back in July.

"I don't think (Jujubee) knows anything is wrong, but we're not taking any chances. Maybe we're a little bit overcautious, but you have to do what is right by the horse."

Jujubee was lightly raced at age 2, racing five times in conditioned events, and posting two wins, two seconds, and a third. Last year, his victories included the Breeders Crown, Kentucky Futurity, Phil Langley Memorial, and Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship.

Along the way, the son of Creatine-La Cantera became the first 3-year-old male trotter in history to win with two sub-1:50 miles, capturing the

Muscle Hill Trot in 1:49 4/5 at The Meadowlands and the Futurity in 1:49 3/5 at Lexington's Red Mile.

"You always like to set records and so forth, but we still have that ahead of us," Erdner said. "I think that when he's ready to go he will come back pretty well. He will be stronger and more mature. I think he can tackle some of the records he hasn't beaten yet."

Jujubee is eligible to a number of stakes during the second half of the Grand Circuit season, including the John Cashman Memorial in August, Maple Leaf Trot in September, and Breeders Crown in October.

"He's missing a few (stakes now) but he should be fresh for the end of the year," Erdner said. "He still has a career ahead of him yet. We'll hope for the best there."



NIKKI SHERMAN

Owner Jon Erdner is hoping to see his star trotter Jujubee return to the races by mid-summer.

Bulldog Hanover leads the charge in Flamboro's Juravinski Pace

By Jay Bergman

Sunday's C\$273,500 Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup will pit nine of the top 4-year-old pacers in training over the tight half-mile track surface at Flamboro Downs.

In one of three preliminary legs on May 15, Bulldog Hanover paced to a 1:49 3/5 track-record effort just a tick off the all-age mark set by the incomparable Somebeachsome-where. Bulldog Hanover, a son of Shadow Play, is looking to establish his credentials in 2022 early on for trainer and co-owner Jack Darling.

"He's the best horse I've ever had," said Darling of Bulldog Hanover. "I wasn't surprised with his effort the other day. It was faster than I'd like to have seen him go but he came out of it fine."

While Bulldog Hanover had raced on a half-mile track before, Darling has already cautioned that he won't again after this Sunday's outing. "This is the only half-mile track he's staked to this year," said Darling. "He got around it last week but there were points in the turn he got a bit wobbly."

While the naked eye may have not picked up the mentioned issue that clearly, obviously Bulldog Hanover, driven by Jody Jamieson, had more than enough speed to overcome a small speed bump and marched on effortlessly away from his rivals, scoring by a half-length over favored Lou's Pearlman.

Stepping out with such velocity in the first trip of the year may have been a surprise to some but Darling was not among those.

"I trained him in 1:55 at Classy Lane," said Darling of the preparation. "Then he qualified in 1:52 [April 30] at Flamboro, so I knew he'd be ready." In fact, Darling qualified him a second time a bit slower a week later over the half-mile track as well.

A winner in 10 of his 15 starts as a 3-year-old, Bulldog Hanover didn't disappoint his owner even when he lost.

"He went some big miles," said Darling. "Even the North America Cup race he still finished fourth when he didn't race his best." The favorite heading into the sport's richest race for sophomores, Bulldog Hanover succumbed to upset winner Desperate Man, a horse he'll meet again on Sunday.

"I still go back to try to figure out what happened that night," said Darling of the North America Cup. "I can think of two things that might have made the difference. First, I think he had to go a really tough trip in his elimination. The other thing was that the track was a little cuppy that night and he doesn't like that kind of surface."

Needless to say, Darling has put the loss behind him and is clearly focused not just on the racing future for Bulldog Hanover but breeding him as well.

"I think he'll breed about 80 horses this year," said Darling, who included that two of the mares are his. "It's worked out pretty well because the facility they take him to for collection is right around the corner."

Bulldog Hanover is expected to complete his stallion duty for the season by the end of this month.

The focus will be on racing this Sunday night and for Bulldog Hanover it best be given the incredible talent in the nine-horse grouping. Lou's Pearlman and driver Yannick Gingras will start from the pole-position, one inside of Bulldog Hanover.

"I like the draw," said Darling, "Anything on the inside is good here."

Lou's Pearlman hails from the Ron Burke stable and was last year's Little Brown Jug champion over the famed half-mile oval in Delaware, Ohio. He had trouble keeping pace with Bulldog Hanover during much of last week's



© Carter Gimblett

CARTER GIMBLETT

Bulldog Hanover set fast fractions and held off a late charge from Lou's Pearlman in their Juravinski elimination last Sunday (May 15).

trial but did rally nicely to cut into a large lead by his rival in the stretch. Whether that was Bulldog Hanover in relax-mode or Lou's Pearlman finding another gear is something we'll likely find out this Sunday.

Other elimination winners Rockyroad Hanover (post four) and Desperate Man (post eight) are likely to figure as closers this week, but that is by no means an issue as both came from off the pace in their individual elimination races. Rockyroad Hanover was able to avoid a breaking horse on the backstretch yet still had the composure to storm to victory in a 1:51 mile in what on paper may have been the weakest of the three stanzas. Desperate Man, a son of Shadow Play that shocked many with his North America Cup triumph last September, found the cover trip he needed and catapulted to victory in a 1:50 2/5 mile. Unfortunately for Desperate Man in the final he's drawn outside as opposed to the rail in his trial.

Desperate Man defeated Linedrive Hanover by just a head in his elimination and that was the first loss of the year after 10 straight wins for Linedrive Hanover, a son of Betting Line. Linedrive Hanover was used in the early stages in his trial and then had to come from behind Desperate Man in the stretch. For Sunday's final Linedrive Hanover landed post five.

Charlie May entered the Juravinski Memorial as one of the top threats but the Ohio-bred faltered on the front end after absorbing a ton of middle-half pressure in his elimination and faded to third. Charlie May has bounced back in the past and with post three is among the top contenders in the field.

Armor Seelster (post six), Century Heineken (post seven) and Dean B Hanover (post nine) round out the field for the Juravinski Memorial.

Post time for the Sunday program is 6:55 PM.

\$273,500 CHARLES JURAVINSKI MEMORIAL - RACE 10 - MAY 22

POST	HORSE	DRIVER	TRAINER	DRF MORNING LINE
1	Lou's Pearlman	Y.Gingras	R.Burke	4-1
2	Bulldog Hanover	J.Jamieson	J.Darling	9-5
3	Charlie May	D.Miller	S.Carter	7-2
4	Rockyroad Hanover	D.Dunn	T.Alagna	3-1
5	Linedrive Hanover	J.MacDonald	A.Beaton	8-1
6	Armor Seelster	S.Filion	G.Sasso	50-1
7	Century Heineken	D.McNair	R.McNair	50-1
8	Desperate Man	T.Henry	K.Cecchin	12-1
9	Dean B Hanover	J.Stratton	J.Gillis	50-1
AE	Second Bruiser	TBD	M.Kwietniowski	

CHARLES JURAVINSKI Memorial Cup

SUNDAY MAY 22, 2022 · POST TIME: 6:55 P.M.



Inaugural running of the Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup, Purse \$260,000
Inaugural running of the Margaret Juravinski Pace, Purse \$50,000
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A winner in a track an
Canadian record of 1:49.3h



DESPERATE MAN

A winner in p,3, 1:50.2h



ROCKYROAD HANOVER

A winner in p,3, 1:51h

**flamboro
downs** 

LIVE RACING:

Thursday & Saturday at 6:35 p.m.
Sunday's at 6:55 p.m.

Donzel Hanover has a chance to carry on Sebastian K's legacy



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [@BergmanJay](#)

While some always appear to root for the favorites, I find in harness racing it's much easier – and perhaps more satisfying – to root for the underdogs. Those that start at the bottom and have a long climb to the top deserve admiration for the effort and accolades if they are fortunate enough to overcome all obstacles.

The late Sebastian K was an underdog when he began a breeding career at Hanover Shoe Farms. With his speed and power on display at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in a world record 1:49 mile, one could see why breeders might want to seek him out as a stallion option. On the other side, a long and difficult path of attempting to stand a non-North American-bred stallion stood in the way of market success. Ultimately Sebastian K's legacy as a stallion was short-lived and now we're left with the hope that from a small group of horses it can live on in a manner to do the world champion some justice.

Trainer Clifton Green has been mining the yearling sales for some time looking for a potential star. He came across a son of Sebastian K that caught his eye and for \$20,000 and was able to buy Donzel Hanover at auction in the fall of 2020.

"He had a keen eye," Green said, recalling his impressions of the son of Sebastian K. "Sebastian K was a very fast horse and that's what I was looking to find."

For Green, who says he looks for horses in the \$20,000-35,000 range, Donzel Hanover was a good option from the third crop of Sebastian K, who in his first year hadn't exactly set the trotting world ablaze. While the stallion's third crop was much smaller, there was enough to choose from and Green may have found the best of the bunch.

If Donzel Hanover was meant to be the best, it was hard to believe that judging from last year's trials and errors on the racetrack.

"I thought he was a 1:54-1:55 trotter last year," said Green of Donzel Hanover, who managed to go winless in nine starts despite the obvious optimism. "I probably should have stopped with him earlier, but I just kept thinking he would straighten out."

Green saw that Donzel Hanover had a world of speed but unfortunately in race situations would find ways to make mistakes, frustrating the conditioner but at the same time indicating enough promise to look forward to a 3-year-old season.

"I'd say it was more mental with him than physical," said Green looking back on the 2-year-old season.

It's easy to be reflective now for the connections of Donzel Hanover as the 3-year-old gelding has emerged as a force in just five starts this season, with four wins and a second-place finish on May 12 at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Corey Callahan has sat behind Donzel Hanover in his last three outings and likes what he's seen so far. "The first start I drove him he had post eight and I was able to take him back off the pace," said Callahan. "He got a third-over trip and just trotted by them in the stretch."

On May 5 Callahan would see a different side of Donzel Hanover.

"He drew inside, and we left the gate well. He was kind of dragging me around the track," said Callahan, who was giving the horse all of the credit for cutting three consecutive 28-second quarters and arriving at the three-quarter pole in 1:24 2/5 without much competition. "But he just kept trotting and finished it off well."

The 1:53 2/5 effort by Donzel Hanover put him in a tie as the co-second fastest son or daughter of Sebastian K, with the Breeders Crown champion Next Level Stuff ranked as the fastest.

Callahan met with the owners after the race. "They were speechless,"



GRACE ZIMMERS PHOTO

Owner Steve Mullin (left) was smiling from ear to ear after watching Donzel Hanover win at Harrah's Philadelphia on May 5.

Callahan said. "They'd never had a horse that won four races in a row and never had a horse trot in 1:53."

Owners Ashley Burslem and Steve Mullen have, according to Green, been with him for the last eight years and they look to buy between five and six yearlings annually.

Following nine straight losses as a 2-year-old, Green finally got Donzel Hanover to learn the ropes and the results have been encouraging.

Most recently in his fifth start as a sophomore, Donzel Hanover found the going a bit tougher. In the field of six at Harrah's Philadelphia on May 12 was none other than Cool Papa Bell, a sophomore from the Jim Campbell stable with Grand Circuit aspirations. Callahan drove Donzel Hanover in the same fashion he had a week earlier, sending the horse to the front but this time doing a better job of cutting more sensible fractions. Donzel Hanover marched around the track through fractions of 28 1/5, 57 1/5 and 1:25 1/5 on a clear lead but then had no answer whatsoever when Cool Papa Bell rolled out of third on the final turn and stormed home to win going away in a 1:53 clocking.

"I thought he raced his best race last week," said Green about the second-place finish. "I think Cool Papa Bell is the kind of horse you'll see in the Breeders Crown."

More notable than the props given the race winner was the final quarter of the race smoked by Cool Papa Bell in 27 2/5. Of the 14 races carded at Harrah's Philadelphia on May 12, that final fraction was the fastest by far of the day. Donzel Hanover's 28 1/5 final quarter and his 1:53 2/5 final time were more than respectable numbers.

While Donzel Hanover has thus far in 2022 shown talent against 3-year-olds and some older foes, the big tests for him will come ahead in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes races. While Cool Papa Bell (a New York eligible) won't be in that grouping, there will be some formidable competition from many of the sport's leading trainers and more influential owners.

"I'm going to give him another start at Harrah's [Philadelphia]," said Green. "Then we'll send him to The Meadows for the first Sire Stakes."

June 4 is the date for what the trainer hopes is the first of many stakes appearances. Though Donzel Hanover is lightly staked, the trainer has hopes that perhaps in the long run his horse will prosper. "He's a sound horse that should continue to race."

For Green there weren't that many horses he's had that he was able to compare with Donzel Hanover, but one did come to mind.

"I had Wind of the North," Green said. "Windy was a very fast horse and more sensible than this one."

Hopefully over time Donzel Hanover will become an easier horse on himself and a more feared one among his rivals. If so he can leave a decent account of what Sebastian K's influence may have been on the sport had he lived longer.

Bella Bellini looks to keep the mare vibe going in Saturday's \$170,450 Cutler Memorial

By Ken Weingartner

In recent years, the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial for older trotters has belonged to the ladies. A mare has defeated the boys in three of the past four editions of the event, and four of seven going back to Bee A Magician's triumph in 2015. In the three years a female did not win the Cutler, none were entered.

Bella Bellini, last year's Dan Patch Award winner for best 3-year-old female trotter, and When Dovescry, who captured that honor in 2019, will carry the banner for the ladies in Saturday's \$170,450 Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands. Bella Bellini and driver Dexter Dunn will start from post two in the nine-horse field while When Dovescry and David Miller leave from post eight.

Lovedbythemasses, a 5-year-old gelding who has won six of seven races this season, is the 5-2 morning-line favorite. Six-year-old stallion Ecurie D, the Danish-born 2021 Breeders Crown Open Trot champion, is the 3-1 second choice in his 2022 debut.

Bella Bellini, second in her two starts this year, is third choice at 9-2. She heads to the Cutler off a neck setback to 5-year-old Next Level Stuff in a division of the Miss Versatility Series for trotting mares on May 6 and a runner-up finish behind Katie's Lucky Day in the opening round of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old female trotters last week at The Meadowlands.

In the Graduate, Bella Bellini trotted 1:50 2/5, but was unable to fend off Katie's Lucky Day, who stopped the clock in a career-best 1:50. It is the fastest mile of the season so far for a trotter.

"I can't win in 1:50 in May, so I'm going to have to go to 1:49 in May; that's where we're heading, I guess," David McDuffee, Bella Bellini's breeder and owner, said with a laugh. "It's great to have a horse that we think can go there.

"I've been very happy with her. How could you not be happy with her overall performance? If she keeps racing like that, she'll do OK. She's a pretty unique filly. I'm optimistic that she'll handle herself well going forward. Hopefully, we'll have some success."

Bella Bellini, trained by Nifty Norman, was winless in seven races as a 2-year-old but blossomed at 3 to win 11 of 19 starts and hit the board a total of 18 times. Her victories included the Hambletonian Oaks and Breeders Crown and she missed by a nose to Katie's Lucky Day in the Kentucky Filly Futurity. She totaled \$1.11 million in purses.

McDuffee planned to retire and breed the daughter of Bar Hopping-Bella Dolce but was persuaded to return Bella Bellini to the races this year after learning from Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural about the creation of Graduate Series events specifically for mares.

"The more I thought about it, I said, yeah, let's do it," McDuffee said. "I love racing. That's my game, so it wasn't a hard decision to make.

"We need to do something more for these 4-year-olds if you want to keep them going. It's a tough year for them just going from 3 to 4 and then having to race 5-, 6-, 7-year-olds, the best of the best. At least the Graduate Series is a step in the right direction. If we keep moving in the right direction, it will be easier to keep horses going."

Bella Bellini faces a difficult task Saturday. Although mares have fared well recently in the Cutler, only three 4-year-olds – all males – have won the event this century.

Ecurie D was an established star in Europe before heading to the U.S. last spring and taking up residence in the stable of Ake Svanstedt. He raced only twice in the States but won both times by 2-1/4 lengths. After winning the Breeders Crown, he was held out of the TVG Series championship for trotters in November.

"He didn't race because he was a little sore," Svanstedt said. "We thought it was better to help him and rest him so he could maybe have a good season this year. He had a good rest over the winter and came back good."

Ecurie D, who has won 17 of 23 career races and \$783,368, will make his seasonal debut off a 1:54 2/5 qualifier win on May 6 at The Meadowlands. He trotted his final quarter-mile in 26 4/5 and was never asked late.

"I was satisfied with him," said Svanstedt, a three-time winner of the Cutler. "It was not so fast, but he came home fast. It's tough horses in this race. It's no playing, he must be good. I hope he is ready to go. He feels like that when I train him."

Racing begins at 6:20 p.m. EDT at The Meadowlands and the Cutler Memorial is race eight on the 13-race card. Free Harness Eye past performances for the entire card can be downloaded [here](#) on Thursday evening.



AROUND THE FLYING TURNS

By Matt Rose

[@DRFHarnessMatt](#)

I'm officially one-for-one with my "horses to watch", so let's keep it rolling with a few to keep an eye on from this past week.

Reachthruthesky As - A trainer having more than one entry in a race is a pretty common occurrence, and we as gamblers have pretty much come to expect that they won't be hurting each other. The exact opposite happened in this past Saturday's feature for F&M pacers. Trainer Ron Burke had two horses entered, longshot Tiny Bit Of Sky and Reachthruthesky As, who has been a contender at the top level pretty much all season. Greg Grismore, driving the longshot, surprisingly moved early and rushed up to challenge the leader, effectively burning himself up while keeping his stablemate hopelessly pinned in. Reachthruthesky was crying out for room but driver Ronnie Wrenn, Jr never got clear, finishing a close-up fourth, while Grismore finished dead last. Frustrating to say the least for the connections and those who wagered on her. Interestingly, Reachthruthesky As is back in to go this Saturday, and Grismore is listed to drive.

Lyons Friends - Two starts back this pacer was a big price and held pretty well for a board spot after grinding first-over as the favorites were dominating up front. This past Sunday night he was sent off at 18/1 and driver Ryan Stahl fired him to the top before yielding to the pocket in a snappy opening quarter. He ended up getting shuffled as the leader was quitting in his face, but when he finally escaped at the top of the stretch Stahl called to him and he responded with a strong rally to finish third and he was gaining quickly on the top two. With his good speed at both ends of the mile he's definitely one to keep an eye on.

Guilty Desire - This talented trotter has always run hot and cold, and after a long and generally successful run with Nick Clegg he was sold to Keith Kash, Jr. and his connections. To say he has been a disappointment would be an understatement, as Kash just could not get him to respond, or even consistently stay trotting. After landing on the Judges list for repeated breaks, he qualified with trotting hobbles added and put in a solid effort, finishing second in 1:57 2/5 after cutting the mile. First-time hobbles is one of my favorite angles, so I was looking forward to taking a shot with him at a big price. He ended up finishing third this past Tuesday in a much-improved effort, and maybe a return to the winner's circle isn't far off.

Freedom Warrior - Unraced since last August and with only 27 lifetime starts this 5-year-old pacer obviously has problems, but when right he's got a big motor. This past Tuesday found him making his first start of the year coming off a sharp qualifier and the Jessica Millner trainee put in a big uncovered effort, ultimately finishing a close third, timed in 1:51 flat. If he can stay sound we could see big things from this guy.

Trainer Bill Rhoades tends to do a solid job playing the "claiming" game. Obviously classifying horses well and having leading drivers like Aaron Merriman in your corner helps the bottom line, and recently he's made a few great pickups. How about 5-year-old mare Tootsie Osborne? After being plucked out of a \$6,000 claiming race about two months ago she's going for her third straight Open Handicap win this Saturday. Talk about a quick return on his investment!

One race later on the Saturday card Wake N Bake is going for her third straight win after also being claimed for \$6,000. She's now in for double the base price tag and will be one of the favorites to win again.

Pacer Pet My Rock has been an "okay" horse in lower-level claiming events the last couple of seasons, but after debuting for Rhoades off a \$6,000 claim he set a life mark in a wire-to-wire win, and followed that up with an insane open-lengths score in a \$17,500 claimer, where he rushed up three-wide at the half to take command and bottomed out the field. He came back to earth a bit in his next start, finishing third after popping the pocket to challenge the leader, but will be one of the favorites in this Sunday's 13th race.

Where do these three horses rank on the list of all-time great claims? Probably not very high, but what owner or trainer doesn't dream about claiming a horse at the bottom level and winning the Open a few starts later? It's what keeps us in the game and keeps us coming back for more.



ON THE MARK

By Bob Marks [@BobMarks3](https://twitter.com/BobMarks3)

Looking forward to the 2-year-olds

Years back, I did an annual column entitled “Prognostications” in which I attempted to pick winners strictly on the basis of pedigree having virtually no knowledge of conformation. As it was, I did pretty well, especially with “crop” number five which included not only Niatross but his main rival Storm Damage.

That ended when I started doing it in reality for Boardwalk Associates, Perretti Farms, and a few private clients. Again, I did pretty well as some have attested. Now in these waning years, I’m once again watching from afar and seldom get a chance to actually see these horses up close.

Still, I follow regularly and every year there are ready-to-start youngsters I’ll follow for a variety of reasons which I’ll indicate below. In no way should they be considered “prognostications,” rather they are youngsters I will follow just to see how they wind up doing. For the record, I have not discussed individual progress with any of the trainers involved.

IN ITALIAN (CHAPTER SEVEN-HEMI BLUE CHIP)



DERICK GIWNER

In Italian sold for \$750,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg in 2021. She is owned by Howard Taylor and Brad Grant.

She has a tough road to follow being a \$750,000 sister to the wonderful Atlanta and one can pretty well count on the fingers of one hand the number of “full” sisters that displayed equal ability. However, there have been many lesser-endowed sisters to Atlanta-type Amazons who far and away exceeded their super sisters in the breeding shed. Having bred In Italian’s second dam Hustle N Muscle (Muscles Yankee-Vernon Blue Chip), I have a vested interest in following the career of In Italian. Unlike former large-sum yearling purchases Maverick or Detour Hanover, she

won’t suffer the indignity of not being as good as brother Greenshoe or Donato Hanover, respectively, if it turns out that way.

HANA TOO HANOVER (SWAN FOR ALL-HIGH SOBRIETY)

The \$175,000 full sister to the \$3,069,857 Hannelore Hanover occurs eight years after the mare was initially discarded, then retained by Hanover Shoe Farms. In the interim High Sobriety was bred to Muscle Hill and Walner. Neither of those foals have done much thus far. Hanna Too Hanover, via a return to Indiana stallion leader Swan For All, becomes a “full” sister to “Hannelore” with all those implications therein. Having bred the dam High Sobriety (Dream Vacation-Absolute Martini) I’ll follow this filly with interest.

DEFACEMENT (MUSCLE HILL- THATSNOTMYNAME)

Defacement is a \$500,000 yearling from Merrie Annabelle-winning Thatstnotmyname. She is the only Windsong’s Legacy filly from the commercially brilliant Graceful Touch. Thatstnotmyname herself has proven a commercial bonanza as three of her five foals have brought half a million at public auction. Have any won themselves out? Not yet! We’ll see if this colt can. Of course having bred the dam Thatstnotmyname, I have a vested interest.

RISING STAR DEO (LAZARUS-WORLDLY BEAUTY)

Like many Amazon-type race mares, Worldly Beauty has yet to produce one even remotely in her image. However, knowing that first-crop sires have been known to invigorate aging Amazons, Rising Star Deo has my attention. After all it took seven foals for Stienams Place to come up with Put On A Show and that was to the court of the first-crop sire Rocknroll Hanover. Lazarus N was well-received at the sales last year and it will be interesting to see how he does, and if he can positively impact Worldly Beauty. As Rising Star Deo brought \$155,000 in Lexington last year, his physical appearance was obviously acceptable.

BOURBON COURAGE (YOUKNOWYOU DO-LUV YOU ALL)

This colt fascinates me being the only \$50,000-plus yearling by the Indiana first-crop sire Youknowyoudo with the actual price being \$255,000. That number topped the Hoosier Classic Sale last year. Bourbon Courage is thus a half-brother to last year’s stellar 3-year-old Captain Corey, he by the partial pacing bred Googoo Gaagaa. Obviously Bourbon Courage was a “looker” as was Captain Corey, a \$150,000 yearling. We’re now hoping the modestly bred dam Luv You All (Angus Hall-Luv You Most) can catch lightning in a bottle two times in succession. We’ll see.

ALL STAR YANKEE (MY MVP-YANKEE BLONDIE)

Here’s a half-brother to perhaps the greatest trotting colt of these or any times, that being Muscle Hill. That alone would attract interest. As it is, Yankee Blondie has never produced anything else even remotely resembling the ability of Muscle Hill. That in itself is not the reason I’ll pay attention to All Star Yankee. It seems Yankee Blondie had a six-year drought between All Star Yankee – foaled in 2020 – and that one’s Cantab Hall half-brother Eddiction – foaled in 2014 – a \$300,000-plus yearling who failed to remotely approach his purchase price in earnings. Now suddenly we have an Ohio son of the reasonably successful My Mvp who has been known to sire regional goodies like Wolfgang and recent Miss Versatility winner Herculisa. All Star Yankee attracted a final bid of \$97,000 at Lexington Selected Sale last year. OK. I’m curious.

These are just a few of the 2-year-olds I’ll be watching as the season progresses. Hopefully they shine!

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USTA joins Final Stretch Alliance in effort to ban horse slaughter

On Tuesday (May 16), a diverse group of equine industry and animal welfare organizations that includes the U.S. Trotting Association announced “The Final Stretch Alliance to End Horse Slaughter” – a collaborative effort to permanently ban the slaughter of American horses.

“We strongly support congressional efforts to end the legal pipeline of U.S. horses being transported outside of the United States for slaughter and human consumption,” said USTA Executive Vice President Mike Tanner. “This loophole enables bad actors to take advantage of horses and horse owners in vulnerable situations who should not have to fear that selling or donating their horse might mean unintentionally placing them in the horsemeat pipeline. The existence of this loophole also stymies programs and organizations working to provide more suitable options for care of our retired Standardbreds.”

In an open letter to congressional leaders, including U.S. Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and U.S. Senators Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Mitch McConnell (Ky.), the alliance urged federal lawmakers to pass the Save America’s Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act (H.R.3355/S.2732) to permanently ban horse slaughter in the U.S. and end the export of American horses for slaughter in other countries. To read the letter, click [here](#).

The supporting members of the “Final Stretch Alliance to End Horse Slaughter” include: the U.S. Trotting Association, The Jockey Club, the Stronach Group, the Breeders’ Cup, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, The Jockey’s Guild, the New York Racing Association, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, the Maryland Horse Council, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®), the Animal Welfare Institute, the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

Despite congressional efforts that have effectively blocked the operation of horse slaughterhouses on U.S. soil since 2007, tens of thousands

of American horses continue to be shipped to Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses that supply other countries with horsemeat.

With the Thoroughbred Triple Crown underway and public attention on equine sports, equine industry and welfare groups are calling on federal lawmakers to take action during this critical moment by passing the SAFE Act to end this sad chapter in American history.

In the open letter, the groups highlight a **recent poll** indicating that an overwhelming majority of Americans (83 percent) oppose horse slaughter. The letter explains how, despite robust, innovative partnerships between equine industry and welfare groups to support horses transitioning between careers, the looming threat of the horse slaughter pipeline continues to significantly harm industry, enthusiasts, and adoption organizations:

“Racing industry groups have demonstrated real leadership in committing resources for aftercare and career transition programs; instituting, and enforcing track policies against sale to slaughter; and spearheading state and federal policies prohibiting horse slaughter. These programs are critical, but until the laws shut down the slaughter pipeline itself, no horse, no matter how beloved or decorated, will be truly safe.”

The SAFE Act would close this legal loophole to stop the funneling of American horses to slaughter for human consumption abroad. Introduced by a bipartisan group of federal lawmakers, the SAFE Act is currently sponsored by nearly half of the U.S. House of Representatives.

USTA introduces Standardbred Incentive Program

The U.S. Trotting Association announced the launch of the Standardbred Incentive Program (SIP) on Thursday to recognize horses who participate in disciplines other than racing and to provide awards for leading contestants.

READ MORE

-releases (USTA Communications)

New Jersey Assembly Speaker attends function at Gaitway Farm

New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin spent part of his Monday morning (May 16) at Gaitway Farm Training Center, where he toured the grounds, talked with horsemen and horsewomen, and even climbed into a double-seated jog cart for a trip around the farm’s one-mile track.

Speaker Coughlin’s visit, which included a fundraiser and brunch, was hosted by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey and TrotPAC. Speaker Coughlin’s support was vital to the five-year, \$100-million appropriation for the state’s horse racing industry that was approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Phil Murphy in 2019.

Prior to brunch, Speaker Coughlin watched horses jog and train on the farm’s multiple tracks as well as swim in the center’s pool. He also visited the Backstretch Community Assistance Program clinic run by Dr. Chris Samaha before joining trainer Julie Miller to jog 3-year-old New Jersey-bred female trotter Spendthemoneyhoney.

“I thought the event was very well received by Speaker Coughlin,” said Miller, who is an SBOANJ director. “He really enjoyed the hands-on experience of getting to jog a horse with me and I think he was impressed with the horse as a professional athlete. Getting to see them jog, getting to see them swim, feeding them carrots, it all made an impact. He got to see everything we do with the horses every day at a training center.”

Speaker Coughlin’s first visit to any equine facility in the state came in 2019 when he attended an SBOANJ event to support his re-election campaign at Fair Winds Farm and the Hogan Equine Clinic.

“These events are critical because they let Speaker Coughlin to see firsthand the impact and importance of our industry to the state,” SBOANJ President Mark Ford said. “Working with our legislators, and maintaining their trust and backing, is crucial as we strive to protect and enhance our future in the years to come.”

“I really want to thank Speaker Coughlin for spending time with us, listening to us, and enjoying his time with the horses.”

Speaker Coughlin, a Democrat representing the 19th Legislative District in Middlesex County, has served in the State Assembly since 2010. He is

in his third term as Assembly Speaker and is the first Democratic Assembly Speaker to ever serve three consecutive two-year terms.

Responsibilities of the Speaker include scheduling meetings and determining which bills will be considered

within the Assembly. The Speaker also leads the legislative sessions. As the Assembly Speaker, he is third in the line of succession to the governorship, following the Lieutenant Governor and State Senate President.

“This was the third time I’ve had one-on-one conversations with him, and he asks great questions,” Miller said. “I really enjoy that about him, and he is interested in the explanations.”

“I was really happy with Monday’s event and appreciate the generosity of the horsemen in supporting Speaker Coughlin. I’m proud of the way everyone has gotten on board to make sure we do all we can to keep this appropriation going for New Jersey.”

-release (SBOANJ)



KEN WEINGARTNER

New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin takes one out for a spin at Gaitway Farm with trainer Julie Miller.



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BY DERICK GIWNER

Jason Roth has a long family history in harness racing dating back to his grandfather Richard, who was a starter. The 40-year-old from Michigan now lives in Ohio and is part of the team at Scioto Downs.

After putting together a 16-race card, Jason took some time from his schedule to chat about his path in the sport, family life, the current and future of Scioto Downs, as well as racing in general.



CONRAD PHOTO

Jason Roth has been around horses and racing since he was a kid and now helps run the operations at Scioto Downs in Ohio.

SCIOTO DIRECTOR OF RACING JASON ROTH

How did you get started in harness racing?

I grew up in it – my dad's a trainer and my grandfather was a starter, so I'm a third-generation horseman. I've always been in the business.

You have 27 career drives and three wins, mostly at fair tracks. Do you miss that aspect of the sport?

No. I think I chose the right aspect of it. I wanted to be a trainer. I was leaving for college at Central Michigan and I told my dad I wasn't going to go and instead I would stay home and train horses. He told me no and to go to college. I could do the horses at any time but to get the education was the right choice.

You started at Scioto Downs in 2005. How did that come about?

I was graduating college and I had to find an internship. I called Jason Zielinski who was the marketing director at Scioto at the time and he gave me an internship. Basically all I did was hang numbers in the press box, I ran a video to the local news which showed a clip of our races, entries and results for the newspapers. That's how it started and I ended up never leaving.

You climbed the ladder pretty nicely, right?

I started working in the race office after that and shortly after I moved to the assistant racing secretary role behind Stacy Cahill.

How long have you been Director of Racing at Scioto?

Three years.

What kind of car do you drive?

Chevy Silverado or a Dodge Journey depending on what gas prices are like that week.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

Tacos; Chips.

Outside of Scioto, what is your favorite track to visit? Why?

Probably the Delaware County Fair and the Little Brown Jug just because of the atmosphere during that entire meet.

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

Unfortunately 90% of the time. I guess the track is on my mind 90% of the time. My entire family, Jess (fiancé Jessica Schroeder) is involved, my dad is involved, my kids love going to the track. Our lives pretty much revolve around the track and horses.

You mentioned Jessica Schroeder, another harness racing lifer who you've been engaged to for a decade. Are the two of you anti-marriage?

We are not anti-marriage. We are: things are good the way they are [laughing]. Nothing is going to change by a piece of paper. We have two great little boys and a nice house with 42 acres. That piece of paper won't change anything.

Does it make it easier being with someone who "gets" harness racing?

Yeah. My schedule is insane in the summers. She takes the brunt of it. Those 12 to 14-hour days, she takes care of the kids, the horses at our house, the dog. She knows the schedule and what my job entails; it's not easy.

You mentioned that Jessica takes care of the horses and that you have 42 acres. Do you own a lot of horses?

We have Starry Night Star, he's just a nice, old retired racehorse that my kids love to play with. And he's a babysitter as there are some guys who like to turn their horses out here for an extended amount of time, either in the fall after they are done racing or if they get hurt. Jess is very good with rehabbing horses and making sure they get the proper care. That is her side-thing to take care of those horses.

What is your favorite sport to watch? Team?

College Football – Michigan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Is it hard for a Michigan native who went to Central Michigan to live and work in Buckeye country in Ohio?

It wasn't this year. It had been rough the last 10 years but it was great getting the win this year.

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

I played intramural rugby at Central Michigan.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Passion.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

I take pride in putting together good races and when you get one like the Always B Miki/Wiggle It Jiggleit race [2016 Ewart Memorial at Scioto], I've watched it numerous times and it is still one of my favorite races. Watching them head-to-head all the way down the backside and in the stretch. Just getting a feeling of pride after a great race is the best for me.

Scioto had a big year in 2020 as the first track to re-open during the pandemic. How happy have you been with handle, etc. since?

It is still kind of growing. It is never going to be the 2020 pandemic era. It is definitely better than pre-pandemic. We are trying little things like the Pick 8 wager [\$25,000 guaranteed pool] and seeing if that can catch on. We are in a bad spot this year with our 3:15 post time; not much we can do about it. Since we still get a good live attendance, I'm hoping we can come back in 2023 with the new grandstand and have a solid performance.

You host a number of stakes at Scioto during the year. Which is your favorite?

The Jim Ewart Memorial by far. Just having those Grand Circuit horses. The last three years have been great races. McWicked came from sixth or seventh at the top of the stretch and all of the horses were within two lengths at the finish line.

Right now Scioto is in the midst of building a new grandstand. What is the target date for completion and how excited are you about the new facility?

The target date is May of next year. There are endless possibilities of what we can do with the new building. We've never had something new. The facility is 63 years old. We plan on renovating the clubhouse to match the new grandstand and put umbrellas on the patio.

Will the new building offer any special amenities?

We will be able to host parties on the VIP floor, which is basically the same floor that the Judges and announcer are on. They will have their own self service machines, bartender, tables, big screen TVs. On the grandstand level there will be box seats, I know a lot of owners like to have their own seat and space, so that's another amenity. We'll be able to bring back concerts, so that's always a possibility. Just having a new building where people can sit and watch the races will be nice.

Scioto is under the Caesars umbrella and often enough big casino companies are negatively looked upon by those in the industry. What has it been like from your perspective at Caesars?

Caesars has been great as far as Scioto Downs has been concerned, adding Joe Morris and Gabe [Prewitt]. Basically we've never spent more money in the time I've been at Scioto since Caesars has taken over ownership. We probably put \$600,000 into the backstretch last year and this year we are continuing to upgrade equipment. We have a new starting gate on order being built. We are definitely spending the money on the racing side. I know it is hard to see from the fan's perspective but they are letting us spend the money to upgrade the facility and try and make this product successful.

You were named as a USTA Director a couple of years back. How has that experience been?

Interesting. There are a lot of things in our sport that you would like to see changed and it just takes a little while for it to take hold.

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

Better post time management. Everyone complains about the drags. They do serve a purpose. We are trying to stay off other tracks and trying to get eyes pointed towards us but sometimes you just can't help it. If more tracks would work together and stay off each other that would go a long way for the wagering dollar.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

In Ohio, great. We have a great program, our stakes and overnight programs are both healthy and strong. We have people in our legislature and government who are very agricultural friendly.



Rendering of what the new grandstand and apron will look like at Scioto Downs in 2023.

When you think about Ohio, you think about all of the fairs. That has to help racing's case to stay strong in the state, no?

It does. The fairs are great but one of our big things is horse population. It does hurt the racetracks with the fairs taking horses away but it also gives an owners a place to race a horse that is not making money at the main racetracks. It goes both ways. The fairs are great but it also hurts some in terms of horse population.

Time for the stretch drive.

Best Horse you ever saw: Foiled Again, but Wiggle It Jiggleit and Always B Miki are up there.

Best Driver Ever: John Campbell.

Best Trainer Ever: Ron Burke. What he does with 300-head and knowing where they all fit in classes is amazing. He's the one guy who always enters a horse where they fit. He never enters them hoping you'll open up the class.

Lasix – Yes or No?: Yes.

Favorite TV Show?: I don't watch much TV...maybe Michigan football games.

Trotters or Pacers?: Pacers.



Hall of Famer Dr. J. Glen Brown passes

Woodbine Entertainment is saddened to learn of the passing of former board member and Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame member Dr. J. Glen Brown at age 88.

“Dr. Brown was an incredible builder who impacted all areas of our industry,” said Jim Lawson, CEO of Woodbine. “Woodbine was fortunate to be one of the groups that got to experience and benefit from Dr. Brown’s deep passion and knowledge for racing.”

Born in New Liskeard, Ontario in 1933, Dr. Brown graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1957 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgeon degree.

In 1958, Dr. Brown became farm manager and veterinarian for Elgin and Ted Armstrong’s ABC Farms and would eventually become General Manager, President and Chairman of the Board of the world-class breeding facility in Inglewood, Ont. He retired from the Armstrong Board in 2005 after nearly 47 years.

The son of James W. Brown, also a Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame member, Dr. Brown also carried on his father’s Glendale Farms breeding operation.

In 1981, Dr. Brown’s Fan Hanover brought him great success when she became the first and only filly to win the Little Brown Jug. Fan Hanover was named Harness Horse of the Year and her legacy is honoured each year with the Fan Hanover Stakes at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Dr. Brown held many principal roles throughout the harness racing industry, including serving as a member of the Ontario Racing Commission, president of the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society, director of the Ontario Harness Horse Association, president of The Classic Series Limited, director of The Hambletonian Society, president of the Kentucky Standardbred Sales Co., chair of the Ontario Agriculture and Horse Racing Coalition and trustee of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

In 1985, Dr. Brown was elected to the board of the Ontario Jockey Club (now Woodbine Entertainment) and spent most of his term as chair of the Standardbred committee. Dr. Brown retired from the board in 2009.

Dr. Brown was inducted to both the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame and U.S. Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 1995.

Dr. Brown is survived by daughter Lynne Hague (Bob), sons James Brown and Douglas Brown (Tammy), and grandchildren Jenna Hague, Alex Hague, William Brown and Christopher Brown.

As per Dr. Brown’s wishes, there will be no funeral service.

-release (Woodbine)

READER COMMENTS

We need more merchandise and ideas...

Here’s hoping the industry pays attention to your [Showing Your Pride article](#). I’m always on the lookout for shirts or caps with harness horse representation. Or ties in the old days when I actually worked for a living and actually wore ties.

Perhaps the industry could do something like our major team sports and offer a wide array listed on and available via one website—for individual drivers, trainers, or tracks. I’d love say, a Red Mile shirt, or an Andy and Julie Miller orange cap. Or anything with a Hambo winner. A Nancy Takter bobblehead would be cool. When you write these pieces, does anyone who might make a difference listen? Hope so. --D

Loved the Article. And I always wear my colors. But there is not much to choose from. All Sports have an array of ThrowBack and Old School enthusiasts. So if someone marketed ThrowBack/Old School Harness garments there would be interest. Even if us dinosaurs didn’t show an interest, a younger generation might. Here’s an example, a 20ish at the track sees a classy Roosevelt Raceway or Los Alamitos Harness garment and they say “Grandpa would love that, I’m gettin it for him”. That in itself promotes a connection between generations, and who knows, maybe grandpa’s old handicapping techniques become an interesting discussion. A talented graphic designer could do wonders for our sport. Just think new frontiers opening in Nevada, Arizona, Kentucky. A marketing boost is just what our sport could use, and the time is right for such a task. I know a talented graphic designer with a “can-do” attitude. Either way, the time is perfect for US (our sport) to move forward. --Nick Cantarella

At DRF Harness we strive to provide the best handicapping information in the sport. Each week we’ll use this space to bring you some of our handicappers’ best bets, value plays and horses to watch. Use this information as one of your tools when wagering or simply click on the link above and head to DRF Bets to wager now.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

RACE 5

(5) SPORTS FLIX gets to face bottom level foes tonight after a solid second-place effort from post eight a week ago against NW7500L5’s.

-Greg Reinhart



FRIDAY, MAY 20

RACE 12

(7) CHULO was parked every step in his 3-year-old debut at Miami Valley and actually held very well behind a good-looking foe in Caviar Gold. Yannick chose here over a Burke horse and I’m expecting good things.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 5

(10) CONTACT ZONE flashed speed racing against some of the best colts in the country last week. Maybe he can wire these at a price moving into the Auciello barn.

-Garnet Barnsdale



SATURDAY, MAY 21

RACE 3

(7) ATLANTA being stuck outside and likely coming away at the back isn’t ideal, but in the short field she only needs to be within four or five lengths of the leader at the head of the lane to blow past this group late.

-Giwner



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

DHP PPS HARNESS EYE PPS TRACKMASTER PPS FREE PPS

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

FIELD REVEALED FOR WESTERN FAIR'S CAMLUCK CLASSIC

The Raceway at Western Fair will play host to eight pacers with half-mile track credentials that set up for a memorable renewal of the \$150,000 Camluck Classic, sponsored by Seelster Farms.

The Grand Circuit event is back at the London, Ontario landmark after two years' absence, with a field certain to make up for lost time. Watch The Raceway's Monday, May 23 simulcast to see the Camluck Classic post position draw, and find out the identity of the remaining "Mystery Horse" who will round out the eight-horse field.

[READ MORE](#)

CHAPHEART CAPTURES NY SIRE STAKES EVENT AT BUFFALO

Chapheart was well-rated on the lead by trainer-driver Trond Smedshammer and collected a 2:00 3/5 victory in Wednesday afternoon's \$115,600 New York Sire Stakes contest for sophomore trotting colts and geldings at Buffalo Raceway.

[READ MORE](#)

FIRST SET OF 2022 MARYLAND SIRE STAKES CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Four \$75,000 Maryland Sire Stakes finals took place on Wednesday evening at Rosecroft Raceway. The races for trotters were held as non-wagering events prior to the start of the pari-mutuel card, and the tilts for pacers comprised the early double.

[READ MORE](#)

ALLYWAG HANOVER COMES OUT A WINNER IN FIRST 2022 QUALIFIER

The two Dan Patch award winners in the older pacing category in 2021 squared off in a Harrah's Philadelphia qualifier Tuesday morning, with Allywag Hanover, making his first trip behind the gate this season, defeating the mare Lyons Sentinel by three-quarters of a length in 1:53.

[READ MORE](#)

JOVIALITY S SHOWS HER BRILLIANCE IN NYSS BLOWOUT AT YONKERS

Joviality S, a New York Sire Stakes champion last year, began her sophomore campaign with a sparkling 1:53 2/5 victory in the first of a trio of \$56,000 NYSS flights for 3-year-old trotting fillies on Monday night (May 16) at Yonkers Raceway. Trainer Tony Alagna and owner Crawford Farms Racing won the other two divisions with Valentina Blu and La Vie En Blanc.

[READ MORE](#)

JONAS K S ROMPS IN PLAINRIDGE'S BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL TROT

Jonas K S, making just his second career start, led all the way in winning the inaugural \$100,000 Battle of Bunker Hill Trot for 3-year-old colts and geldings on Monday afternoon at Plainridge Park. The final time was 1:53, a track record clocking for a sophomore colt trotter.

[READ MORE](#)

2022 NEW YORK COUNTY FAIR RACING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund released the 2022 racing schedule for the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) County Fair Series. This year's season gets underway on July 4 at Goshen Historic Track. The County Fair Finals are scheduled for September 6 at Monticello.

The full schedule of race dates can be viewed [here](#).

The series will consist of 19 non-pari-mutuel harness racing events open to eligible 2- and 3-year-old New York-bred Standardbreds. The events provide young horses with the opportunity to earn as they learn while bringing harness racing to communities across the state.

"The county fair series is an exciting competition that we look forward to each year," said Ronald Ochrym, acting director, Division of Racing at New York State Gaming Commission. "We are proud to partner with each

county fair to provide outstanding harness racing competition to their towns. We look forward to seeing our loyal attendees and attracting new faces to this year's events."

Keep up to date with news by visiting www.nysirestakes.com.

-release (NYSS)

OHHA'S FRESHMAN FOCUS TO FEATURE TRAINER CHRIS BEAVER

This week's edition of the OHHA's Freshman Focus will feature trainer Chris Beaver. Freshman Focus will premier Thursday night at 7PM on the OHHA Facebook page.

Roger Huston sits down with Beaver to discuss his Ohio 2-year-olds currently in training.

Freshman Focus is also available on the OHHA YouTube channel.

Next week's show will feature trainer Todd Luther.

-release (OHHA)

HORSE RESCUE UNITED WINS MEADOWLANDS CHARITY CONTEST

This past Saturday night (May 14) the Meadowlands Racetrack held its 3rd Annual Charity Handicapping Contest. Nine local charitable organizations were selected to compete for their share of \$14,500.

Horse Rescue United took the lead after the 4th race when they hit on their \$2 across the board wager on Bayfield Beach. They racked up \$51 from that race and finished with a final bankroll of \$99.60. This was Horse Rescue United second win in the Meadowlands Charity Contest; the organization took home the top prize in the 2021 charity contest.

Coming in second with \$75.60 was the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of New Jersey with the Wayne Police Athletic League finishing third with \$67.20.

"This is tremendous," said Sue Cohen, the representative from Horse Rescue United. "This contest is so much fun and what makes the win extra special is that it helps so many horses under our care."

The full Charity Handicapping Contest standings are below:

Charity	Total	Donation
Horse Rescue United, Inc	\$99.60	\$5,000.00
Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of NJ	\$75.60	\$3,000.00
Wayne Police Athletic League	\$67.20	\$2,000.00
Horse Park of New Jersey	\$45.20	\$1,500.00
Act Now Foundation Inc.	\$39.40	\$1,000.00
North Jersey Friendship House	\$36.50	\$500.00
Homeless Animal Adoption League, Inc	\$26.00	\$500.00
CBH Care	\$25.40	\$500.00
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Hunterdon County	\$23.90	\$500.00

For the Charity Handicapping Contest, organizations had to select one (1) horse in nine designated Meadowlands live races. The organization amassed a mythical bankroll if their selection finished first, second or third in the designated race. Official \$2 WPS (Win, Place, Show) payoffs were added to the mythical bankroll. The organization with the highest bankroll was declared the winner.

"We want to have a positive impact on our community which is why we plan on running this promotion every year," said Jason Settlemoir, COO and GM of Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment. "Seeing these organizations bringing out family and friends and enjoying the races is exciting."

-edited release (Meadowlands)

SBOA FINALS ON TAP SATURDAY AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

Four \$100,000-plus finals of the SBOA/WEG stake for Ontario-sired 3-year-olds are scheduled for Saturday night at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Adare Castle is the heavy 6-5 morning-line favorite in the C\$151,575 final for filly trotters in race 2 and Silver Label gets the distinction in the fourth race C\$147,575 for the female pacers at 8-5.

The boys get going in race 7 with the C\$121,600 final for trotters. Duly Resolved (3-1) and Twin B Archie (5-2) were installed as the early choices. One race later C\$122,600 will be on the line as Stonebridge Helios (5-2) and Bob Loblaw (3-1) battle in the male pacing split.

A six-horse Free For All led by Jimmy Freight is also on the card.