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**Comments? Questions?
Email the Editor DGwinner@DRF.com**



BARBARA LIVINGSTON PHOTO

Rich Strike (far right) winning the 2022 Kentucky Derby.



AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [@AtTheTrack7](https://twitter.com/AtTheTrack7)

We are in the midst of thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown and it appears that the sport is facing a potential crossroads. Meanwhile, for years, many in the standardbred racing industry, myself included, have pointed to the Triple Crown of thoroughbred racing as something harness racing should strive to imitate.

We understand that standardbred racing's Triple Crown will probably never see the cover of a Sports Illustrated magazine. That type of goal or expectation would be unrealistic. However, there are a meaningful number of people that follow or wager on harness racing who could not name all of the races that comprise the Pacing or Trotting Triple Crown. In thoroughbred racing, that's just

not the case. But now thoroughbred is facing a new dilemma that harness racing does not face. Thoroughbred racehorses are not racing enough.

In years' past that wasn't really a concern for the Triple Crown. Sure, some of the also-rans from the Kentucky Derby would bypass the Preakness, but the Derby winner would show up in Baltimore. But in 2022, for the first time since 1985, a Kentucky Derby winner opted to pass on the Preakness, not because of injury, but rather by choice.

In 1985, Spend A Buck won the Kentucky Derby and skipped the Preakness to run in the Jersey Derby at Garden State Park. Why? At that time, Garden State Park offered a bonus to any horse that swept its 3-year-old stakes and the Kentucky Derby.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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A win in the Jersey Derby would be worth \$2.6 million for Spend A Buck, whereas a win in the Preakness would be worth only \$300,000 at that time.

Spend A Buck had 2.6 million reasons to skip the Preakness. According to Eric Reed, trainer of 2022 Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike, they only had one reason. They were sticking to their plan which was always to skip the Preakness and run in the Belmont. Winning the Kentucky Derby didn't change anything.

As you can imagine, this has created quite a stir in thoroughbred racing, especially on social media. For two weeks now the question has been asked, should the Triple Crown be changed to accommodate the fact that horses are racing less?

Rich Strike aside, thoroughbred racing has a problem. Simply put, they are breeding horses to be fast early in their career but who ultimately are not as durable. Generally speaking, they do not run as often, nor do they run as far into their careers as they used to. This has been a byproduct of horses retiring early in their career for lucrative stallion deals and producing horses that run less and less. After all, why run the risk of racing your horse at age 4 and 5, when you can retire him at 3 and cash a \$50 million check? There is no risk of injury or his star losing some of its shine if his performances diminish.

Does every thoroughbred fall into this category? Of course not. There is a stakes-caliber horse named Sir Alfred James that has run 10 times already this year. There are blue-collar horses running every two or three weeks. But there are fewer and fewer of them, as evidenced by the shrinking field sizes in thoroughbred racing. The issue is most notable at the top level, when the "stars" of the sport spend months away from the races. That is what is at the crux of the Triple Crown issue.

My perspective is simple. Other sports have certainly made changes over the years and moved away from tradition. But in all of those cases it is because the athletes have gotten faster, better and stronger, not weaker, and if you make changes from a place of weakness you are destined for failure.

Harness racing does not have the same issue. Perhaps the best horses are not racing quite as much as they did 15 years ago, but it is not a glaring issue. There are so many stakes races now for most of the divisions in harness racing that horses are campaigned with a particular schedule in mind. Racing in random Open events just isn't as necessary as it used to be because there are so many opportunities for stakes-caliber horses. So, the best horses are starting later in the season, but they are still racing plenty and certainly no pacer or trotter is skipping a leg of the Triple Crown because the connections are concerned about too much racing. The harness racing Triple Crown issue is actually an easier one to fix than thoroughbred racing because it does not require a fundamental change to how horses are being bred. It just comes down to building a brand around the Triple Crown and having it gain notoriety. Is that easy?

No, but it is far simpler than trying to improve the breed.

Harness racing is in a situation it does not often find itself in. They have an advantage over thoroughbred racing. Standardbreds race and they stand up well to the racing. The breed is faster than ever and it is just as durable and strong. We have seen harness racing promote specific horses because they were either iron-horses or captured the imagination, like Foiled Again and Wiggle It Jigglet. Stars on the racetrack can sell.

When it comes to the Triple Crown, it has become more elusive than thoroughbred racing's version. The Pacing Triple Crown, which is comprised of the Cane Pace, the Messenger Stakes and the Little Brown Jug has only been captured 10 times and it has not happened since No Pan Intended in 2003. The Trotting Triple Crown has been even more elusive historically, as only nine trotters have ever won the Hambletonian, Yonkers Trot and Kentucky Futurity in the same season, although three horses have accomplished this in the last 18 years, most recently Marion Marauder in 2016.

Perhaps harness racing will always be the Triple-A baseball league to the major league of thoroughbred racing. It was a sport created within county fairs whereas thoroughbred racing was created when legitimate royalty would want to race their fastest horses against one another. But in 2022, harness racing is in the gambling business and it has to try and capture as many gambling dollars as it can, and the fact that its horses race more often is an area where they have an advantage.

For example, in two weeks the Metropolitan Handicap (the Met Mile), one of the most historic races in thoroughbred racing and a race deemed a "stallion-making" race will be contested at Belmont Park. The headliner of that race is a horse named Flightline. Never heard of him? I am not surprised. He has literally raced three times. He broke his maiden at Santa Anita last April followed by an allowance race at Del Mar over four months later in September. He won his only stakes race the day after Christmas. He hasn't been seen since. So why is he the star of the show? Well, he doesn't just win races, he annihilates the field. He is an immense talent and undefeated in three races, but like so many of thoroughbred racing's stars, he simply doesn't race that often.

So, a horse that is a product of breeding horses to be "brilliant" and not durable is the headline of a "stallion-making" race; ironic. His sire, Tapit, is a world-class stallion. He has produced incredibly talented horses, but many of them, from my perspective, cannot run often, and Tapit himself battled soundness issues through his brief six-race career.

There are many areas in which thoroughbred racing has a leg-up on harness racing, but not when it comes to having their stars on the racetrack. The combination of trainers running their horses less, owners retiring horses as soon as possible to cash-in on monster breeding deals and then breeding those horses has sent thoroughbred racing down a path of less racing. Whether more racing can translate to betting handle for harness racing is something that should be explored. Harness Racing: Where the Stars Race!

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Linedrive Hanover proves that good things come to those who wait



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [@BergmanJay](#)

Casie Coleman never saw it coming. The part-owner and often trainer of Linedrive Hanover thought her 4-year-old gelding had a chance to win the inaugural Charles Juravinski Memorial on May 22 at Flamboro Downs but never imagined the way the race would go or for that matter how the son of Betting Line would break the track record.

"I thought there would be speed from the outside," Coleman said on May 23, reflecting on the race. "I was hoping with the better draw he'd be able to get away maybe fourth or fifth and race off a hotly contested pace."

It was easy to understand why Coleman would have expected her horse to be a closer in the race. Through a majority of 2022, essentially his first season of competitive racing, Linedrive Hanover has done his best work from off the pace while passing each test and moving up the class ladder.

"Last week [in the eliminations] he had to stop and start a few times coming from off the pace," said Coleman. "Still, he was closing late and was a winner a few steps past the wire."

In the Juravinski final driver James McDonald made the call at the start to send Linedrive Hanover to the front. "It didn't surprise me that James left the gate," said Coleman. "What surprised me was how quick he crossed over to the lead and that he was able to go just 27 seconds in the first quarter."

Linedrive Hanover went wire-to-wire defeating some of the best 4-year-olds in training quite handily while pacing to a 1:49 career best over the half-mile track, breaking the legendary Somebeachsomewhere's track record.

"I think going (1):49 was pretty amazing considering that he got down to the quarter in just 27 seconds," said Coleman, looking back at the clocking. "Also, it was pretty cold out there by the time he raced last night [about 11:00 p.m.]. I know when Somebeachsomewhere set the record he did it during the day in the middle of the summer."

Of course, Somebeachsomewhere was also a 3-year-old at the time, so we'll give him some slack for losing the track standard some years later.

What's interesting about Linedrive Hanover's incredible rise since January is the road traveled to get here. Coleman, who owns a significant share of his sire Betting Line, was obviously in the market for yearlings from the first crop of her one-time superstar on the track back in the fall of 2019.

"I remember that he was my pick of all the horses I saw at Hanover Shoe," said Coleman. "I know we paid \$340,000 for Dean B Hanover, but I would have paid whatever was necessary to get Linedrive."

Just \$75,000 was required for Linedrive Hanover, who entered training in Florida and from the outset was every bit as special as Coleman had expected him to be.

Linedrive Hanover did everything right and Coleman and the owners paid him into all the major stakes for freshmen in 2020 anticipating the colt would be a player along the Grand Circuit. Jonathan Drury guided Linedrive Hanover to a strong-closing second in his first baby race in late June and then came back with an explosive effort a week later going a 1:53 2/5 mile and winning by the length of the stretch.

"I was actually pretty upset with Jonathan after that race," said Coleman. "We don't usually go those kinds of miles in baby races at Mohawk. It's not like the Meadowlands."



CARTER GIMBLETT

Linedrive Hanover set a track record at Flamboro Downs on Sunday, May 22.



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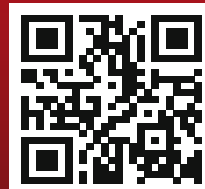
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Linedrive Hanover paced a 53 4/5 final half, the kind of fractions that get noticed. “Jonathan told me that he did it so easily that he had no idea how fast he was actually going,” said Coleman.

Yet one race into the season the juvenile hopes for Linedrive Hanover were dashed. “After his first race he was sore, and we couldn’t find the issue. We did a bone scan and found that he had a bone bruise to a hind ankle that required six months rest,” said Coleman.

Linedrive Hanover returned ready for action and had the connections contemplating a successful sophomore season, but that never quite got off the ground. Following a qualifier in Florida, Linedrive Hanover was sent to Pocono where Matt Kakaley would substitute for David Miller in a qualifier. Despite an “off” track Linedrive Hanover won his qualifier convincingly in 1:54 4/5. “Matt thought he was an absolute killer,” Coleman said, recalling the day.

Bad luck would once again rear its ugly head with Linedrive Hanover coming up sore, this time a bone bruise to the tibia. “That’s like a one in a million injury,” Coleman said. “The good thing about both injuries though is that they usually don’t bother them in the future.”

Coleman had to make a decision once Linedrive Hanover had recovered and that was where the horse should go. “It was either keep him in Florida with me and maybe race at Pompano a few times or have him stay north and race at Woodbine Mohawk Park,” Coleman said. “Since he was essentially an unraced 4-year-old I thought we’d be better leaving him in Ontario.”

The decision put Linedrive Hanover with trainer Anthony Beaton, who Coleman trusted for obvious reasons. “He ran my operation in Ontario for about a dozen years while Andrew Harris was in charge Stateside,” said Coleman.

The trust in Beaton paid off as he knew what Coleman wanted to see and patiently brought Linedrive Hanover along this winter with incredible results. Prior to entering the two weeks at Flamboro, Linedrive Hanover (now a gelding) had won 10 straight races, all over the 7/8 mile track. Until the May 15 elimination he had never once raced on a half-mile track.

What was rather interesting about the 11 starts in 2022 prior to Sunday’s Juravinski mile is that Linedrive Hanover was never on the front end once at the quarter. James McDonald kept him from off the pace and gained more confidence with each race, inevitably moving him earlier in the mile with the same winning results.

“I didn’t know he could leave the gate like that,” said Coleman, obviously surprised herself by the performance.

To me Linedrive Hanover’s breathtaking burst of speed was reminiscent of the kind of brush-and-crush miles that Its Fritz put in in the Winter-Spring of 1983 as a 4-year-old with a minimal amount of racing experience.

Linedrive Hanover will get to take on 4-year-olds once again when the Graduate series second leg moves to Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 4.

“We didn’t stake him like we did when he was 2 and 3,” said Coleman. “It’s hard when you’re trying to figure out how to stake an unraced horse, but we did put him into the Canadian Pacing Derby, The Breeders Crown and the Graduate. I think the only race he might have in the U.S. would be the Graduate final.”

For Coleman, who categorically rarely hangs on to horses with such little experience after the age of 3, making an exception to that rule appears to be paying off big-time right now. On the flip side, the rise of Betting Line’s stock as a stallion may have been totally different had this version of Linedrive Hanover been on display over the last two years. Now Betting Line has moved from Pennsylvania to Ontario where he is standing his first year in the province.

“He got every opportunity with some good mares at Hanover,” said Coleman of Betting Line. “It’s going to be a bit tougher for him in Ontario because he’s not getting the same number of mares now.”

Yet ever the optimist, Coleman pointed to Betting Line’s now famous stallion Bettor’s Delight that suffered somewhat in anonymity during his early years as a stallion. “Bettors Delight’s first few years he wasn’t very well received,” said Coleman. “Look at him now.”

For racing fans getting a look at Linedrive Hanover, who Coleman gelded following his second injury, is something we can get excited about in the weeks, months and hopefully years to come.

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Fast and talented field set for battle in \$150K Camluck Classic

By Derick Gwerner

Give credit where it is due. Officials at The Raceway at Western Fair did a stellar job putting together the field for Friday's (May 27) C\$150,000 Camluck Classic. Following a two-year pandemic-related absence, the race for older pacers returns with a field of talented horses who excel at winning and posting fast miles on half-mile tracks.

While his pari-mutuel win percentage is only 20% over a number of half-mile tracks, Jimmy Freight certainly owns the experience necessary to handle the tighter turns as he ships into the London area from his usual locale as the King of the Free-For-All ranks at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The Richard Moreau-trained 7-year-old returned from a two-year break from the track for stallion duty late in 2021 and has gone on quite a run lately, winning five straight races including equaling his career best of 1:48 1/5.

"He's better than ever," said regular driver Louis-Philippe Roy. "He retired sound and came back sound with a little more weight than he used to have. That might have explained the need for a few starts to get back to his racing form. Now he's just more muscles and more power."

While Jimmy Freight lacks a Grand Circuit stakes win over a half-mile track, he has finished second – 2019 Battle of Lake Erie (Northfield); 2019 Confederation Cup (Flamboro); 2018 Messenger (Yonkers); 2018 Milstein (Northfield) – a number of times over various surfaces. Roy, who has been in the bike for the majority of his starts for owner Adriano Sorella, knows he has a versatile horse who can handle anything.

"I have the most versatile horse in the field that can race from anywhere and that can also fly around the turns," said Roy. "He should adapt to whatever he needs on Friday."

Jimmy Freight starts from post five, perhaps a key position just to the inside of Ocean Rock and on the gate, as opposed to This Is The Plan in the second tier. Both horses own North American records over half-mile tracks.

This Is The Plan is the fastest horse ever to compete on a half-mile track by virtue of his 2021 Battle of Lake Erie victory at Northfield Park in 1:47 3/5. Yannick Gingras was in the bike that night and for most of the 7-year-old's starts over the last few years, but due to a conflict with the New Jersey Sire Stakes at The Meadowlands that same evening, he'll give over the lines to Trevor Henry for trainer Ron Burke.

"He was actually very good," said Gingras about the horse's second-place finish at The Meadowlands on May 21 timed in 1:47 3/5, his first start since the MGM Borgata final on April 25. "Off a month, we couldn't ask for more."

Ocean Rock owns a pair of North American records. He ranks as the co-fastest (1:51 1/5) gelding to win over a half as a 2-year-old and the co-fastest 4-year-old over the same-size surface with a 1:48 1/5 final clocking set last year in the Charna at Northfield Park. The Ohio-bred from the team of trainer Christi and driver Dan Noble will be making his first start of 2022 off a trio of qualifiers, the last of which was a 20-plus length 1:51 2/5 win at Scioto Downs on May 14.

"He trained better this morning than before he left and I thought he was ready to rock before he left," said Noble, who is not heading to



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Jimmy Freight brings a five-race winning streak to Western Fair on Friday night.

Canada and had just gotten a report on the horse Tuesday (May 24) afternoon. "The outside post helps him on the small track with the tight turns because on the inside it can get too tight leaving out of there."

Noble has enlisted Jody Jamieson to drive his Breeders Crown-winning 5-year-old.

In addition to This Is The Plan, who went a very difficult mile parked the entire way, a number of MGM Borgata Series competitors form the Camluck Classic field. Among them include winner Funatthebeach N (post four), fourth-place finalist Tattoo Artist (post three), leg winner Poseidon Seelster (post one), and multi-leg participant American History (post seven). Tattoo Artist and American History are also two of the three co-track-record holders at Yonkers Raceway (1:49 3/5).

Hi-level conditioned horse Twin B Tuffenuff, an earner of nearly \$600,000 lifetime, rounds out the field from post two.

With such a fast and talented field signed on, the only thing preventing the removal of Evenin Of Pleasure's 1:50 3/5 track record set in 2016 could be an early weather forecast calling for 70% chance of precipitation.

Rain or shine the first of 11 races is set to start at 6:50 (EDT) and the Camluck Classic will go behind the gate as the finale. The card features a number of wagering opportunities including a pair of guaranteed Pick 4 and Pick 5.

\$150,000 CAMLUCK CLASSIC - RACE 11 - FRIDAY AT WESTERN FAIR

PP	Horse	Driver	Trainer	M/L
1	Poseidon Seelster	B McClure	D Lindsey	3-1
2	Twin B Tuffenuff	T Moore	I Moore	4-1
3	Tattoo Artist	Ja Macdonald	I Moore	9-5
4	Funatthebeach N	J Stratton	J Gillis	6-1
5	Jimmy Freight	L Roy	R Moreau	6-5
6	Ocean Rock	J Jamieson	C Pokornowski	8-1
7	American History	T Cullen	R Moreau	10-1
8	This Is The Plan	Trev Henry	R Burke	2-1

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WESTERN FAIR ANALYSIS

By Derick Givner

The marquee night of the year at The Raceway at Western Fair is slated for Friday (May 27) and the track has pulled out all the stops with five guaranteed wagers - an early Pick 4/Pick 5 for \$7,500; late versions with a \$10,000 promised pool; and a \$10,000 guaranteed Super Hi-5 in the Camluck Classic. Post time is 6:50 (EDT).

Below we tackle the \$10,000 late Pick 4 that starts in race 8 and ends with the \$150,000 featured Camluck Classic.



START OF \$10K GTD PICK 4 - RACE 8: \$22,200 OSS GRASSROOTS

(2) MARYKEEPONBURNIN was extremely fast off the gate and actually two-moved to the front last time at Mohawk. She then faced some stretch traffic and was just even when finally clear. With breaking issues seemingly behind her, she could sprint off early and be in prime position to win. (8) WARRAWEE XPAT lands in the second tier, which could be perfect if she can line up behind #2 since the #1 hasn't impressed me much with her early speed. In both her second-place finishes to start the year she faced older foes. (1) RAPTORS WON might be the best horse in the field from the little bit I've seen of her on the big track. I'll lean against her here but respect her ability.

RACE 9: \$15,000 PREFERRED TROT

If this race was contested over a larger track I would certainly single (4) COOL MUSCLE, but there is no guarantee he makes the top here and if he doesn't I'm not sure if he can win first-over. He finished willingly last time in his first start since November when he was facing Preferred company at Mohawk and Jamieson takes over tonight, so improvement is expected. (2) ESQUIRE is a logical player coming in from Mohawk off a win and is almost certain to make the top around the typically-sluggish-early #1. (6) PHOENIX might be the fastest horse in the field but the post isn't ideal and he'll need a touch of luck.

RACE 10: \$50,000 FOREST CITY PACE

Only two of these mares seem viable on paper and I'd use a heavy lean in terms of how much you bet on (2) GIAS SURREAL over (6) SO MUCH MORE. The former has a HUGE advantage in terms of half-mile track experience and is razor sharp while facing slightly better foes south of the border. The latter has been a cash machine for years and seems highly likely to be firing off the gate with \$50K on the line this week.

RACE 11: \$150,000 CAMLUCK CLASSIC

Without a doubt the top pick is (6) OCEAN ROCK. He's coming off a trio of qualifiers with his last being a blowout in 1:51 2/5 and according to regular driver Dan Noble (Jody Jamieson drives tonight), he's as good as he was at the end of 2021 when he won the Breeders Crown. With blazing early speed he should be trying to wire the field, but on the off chance the pace is crazy, (8) THIS IS THE PLAN seems like the perfect back-up option. He returned from a four-week rest with a stellar effort at The Meadowlands and from the second-tier should be able to watch the dust settle and potentially pounce. (3) TATTOO ARTIST is as fast as any of these and will certainly be firing hard on a track that favors speed. (5) JIMMY FREIGHT finds himself in a tricky spot from my perspective as the morning-line chalk. He'll certainly be used hard and sitting second likely if he leaves, or coming from perhaps too far back if he doesn't. Neither scenario is ideal if he offers a short pace.

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Stakes-filled card on tap Sunday at Harrah's Philadelphia

By Jay Bergman

Driver Jason Bartlett hopes Racine Bell will get her act straight, literally, in time for Sunday's \$100,000 Betsy Ross Invitational pace at Harrah's Philadelphia. The Ross, along with the \$100,000 Commodore Barry, \$100,000 Maxie Lee and the first leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes program for 3-year-old fillies featuring the sophomore debut of Niki Hill, highlight an extraordinary 15-race program.

"She's been bearing out on me," said Bartlett of Racine Bell. "She did it in the final of the Blue Chip Matchmaker and I think she would have won if not for that." Racine Bell landed the pole position in Sunday's Betsy Ross and faces a solid field of eight including Matchmaker champion Drama Act as well as an international collection of elite talent.

"I'm hoping some equipment changes will make the difference," said Bartlett while on his way to Buffalo Wednesday, where he captured a pair of New York Sire Stakes for sophomore pacing fillies. "As for the post position, it's great but she's got such explosive speed it really wouldn't matter."

Already with \$212k on her card this season, Racine Bell meets a talented field with Drama Act (post 2), Amazing Dream N (post 3), and the 1:49 winner from last week's Meadowlands Open event Watch Me Now N (post 8) in the field.

"I was hoping that she would get a cover trip last week," said Linda Toscano, who trains Amazing Dream N. "Still, she raced very well and held her own in a 26 last quarter."

For Toscano, the arrival of Amazing Dream N, who has won two of her three starts in North America after a career earning \$1 million Down Under, has worked out fabulously well thus far. "It's been great. Since there was no change in ownership, I was able to talk to the horsemen who took care of her down there. They've helped in getting her acclimated," Toscano said. "She was at a point where she was racing against the boys a lot."

Amazing Dream N, a 6-year-old by Bettor's Delight, will be driven by Todd McCarthy.

Toscano believes American Dealer N (post 3) will give it his all in the Commodore Barry, carded as race 13.

"He's just a sweetheart," Toscano said. "He's a little guy but has a big stride and always tries."

American Dealer N competed in the Borgata series at Yonkers then returned to The Meadowlands where he was a solid second against Open company on May 14 versus Ignatius A in a 1:48 3/5 mile.

While Ignatius A landed post 8 for the Commodore Barry, fellow import Nandolo N drew post 4 and his regular pilot Jason Bartlett is hoping things start trending in a positive way for the gutty Shane Tritton-trained veteran.

"He got a little sick towards the end of the Borgata series," Bartlett said. "It was a good thing they didn't race him in the final preliminary, but I could tell the way he raced in the final he was still not 100 percent healthy."

Nandolo N took four weeks off and then returned at The Meadowlands last week where the race didn't go exactly as planned. "I tried to float out of there for a spot, but it didn't work out and he got parked," said Bartlett of the trip that took place on May 21 and Nicholas Beach scored the fastest mile of the year in 1:47.

Speaking of Nicholas Beach, last year's Commodore Barry winner looks to be in a great spot to repeat the performance on Sunday for Team Bongiorno. The 6-year-old son of Somebeachsomewhere drew post 2 after a vicious wire-to-wire effort produced a new lifetime mark at The Meadowlands. A winner in three of his last four starts, Nicholas Beach starts



LISA PHOTO

Racine Bell has been bearing out in recent weeks costing her the opportunity to shine in her races.

outside Workin Ona Mystery, the only horse with a victory over him in the last month.

Trainer Ron Burke appears to have finally gotten Workin Ona Mystery on the right track as the Captaintreacherous-sired veteran seems to have his speed and confidence back. In 2021 Workin Ona Mystery won just once in 15 tries but already in 2022 has three wins to his credit. Tim Tetrick drives Workin Ona Mystery from the pole position.

While Back Of The Neck turned down his invitation to race in the Elitlopp this weekend, his connections elected to race close to home in the \$100,000 Maxie Lee Invitational trot. Back of The Neck landed post 3 in a field of eight going as race 12 on the card. A 5-year-old son of Ready Cash, Back Of The Neck picks up Scott Zeron in the bike. When the pair were last together, Back of The Neck finished a fast-closing second in the Breeders Crown overcoming post 10 in October at The Meadowlands.

Amigo Volo, one of two horses that competed in the 2021 Maxie Lee and finished behind Manchego, returns for trainer Nifty Norman after a four-month break from the action. Amigo Volo qualified here (Harrah's Philadelphia) on Tuesday with a solid 1:53 4/5 mile for driver Dexter Dunn, who will be in the bike Sunday from post 5.

Lovedbythemasses (post 7) is the other veteran returning for the Lee and perhaps this year will be different. Already a winner six times in eight starts in 2022, Lovedbythemasses trotted his mile in 1:49 4/5 last week but that was only good for a fourth-place finish to Ecurie D in the Cutler Memorial.

A mare won the Lee last year and if there's going to be a repeat on that front it will have to come in the form of When Dovescry, the lone mare in the group. When Dovescry not only needs to beat the boys, but she must overcome the draw as well having landed post 8. Despite the obvious adversity, When Dovescry was a fast-closing sixth trotting her final quarter in 26 seconds in the Cutler and may be primed for a big mile.

In addition to Niki Hill's seasonal debut, the other Pennsylvania Sire Stakes event figures to be hotly contested, with the Tony Alagna-trained pair of Don't Fence Me In (post 1) and Queen Of Success (post 5) surrounding this year's fastest 3-year-old pacing filly Treacherous Dragon (post 4) in the eighth-race first \$68,116 division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes.

First post is listed for 12:40 p.m. on Sunday's Harrah's Philadelphia's stakes extravaganza.



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Redén has strong trio in Sunday's Elitloppet at Solvalla

By Greg Reinhart

The 15 entrants are set and the eliminations have been drawn for Sunday's (May 29) Elitloppet at Solvalla Racecourse in Stockholm, Sweden. This year's Elitloppet is the richest trotting race in the world, with a purse of over \$1.6 million between the heats and the final.

Trainer Daniel Redén will send out three horses in the Elitloppet, starting with defending champion Don Fanucci Zet, who had the misfortune of drawing post eight in his elimination for the second straight year. He was able to overcome that assignment a year ago by finishing second in his heat before he captured the final. This year, Don Fanucci Zet, a 6-year-old stallion by Hard Livin, is undefeated in two starts, winning his prep races at Bollnäs and Umåker.

"He's a fantastic horse. He has shown that he likes two heats very well. He has no cracks in his armor," said driver Orjan Kihlström in a [Solvalla podcast](#) last week.



SOLVALLA TWITTER

Don Fanucci Zet won the 2021 Elitloppet and will look to be adorned with flowers again after this year's edition.

According to pre-race odds, Don Fanucci Zet's biggest competition in the "Green" elimination will come from France's Etonnant, the winner of the Group 1 Grand Critérium de Vitesse de la Côte d'Azur at Cagnes-sur-Mer on March 13. That race is conducted from behind a starting gate and over the distance of a mile, same as the Elitloppet. Etonnant, who will also start outside in post seven, is an 8-year-old son of 2014 and 2017 Elitloppet champion Timoko and will be driven by Anthony Barrier for owner-trainer Richard Westerink.

North America's lone representative, Canada's Perfetto, drew post four in the Green elimination for trainer-driver Dagfin Henriksen. A 7-year-old gelding by Majestic Son owned by Gerald Haggerty, Perfetto has won two straight O'Brien Awards as Canada's top older trotter and comes into the Elitloppet with a record of 2-4-1 from nine attempts at the top level at Woodbine Mohawk Park in 2022.

Redén's other two charges, Hail Mary and Snowstorm Hanover, got posts four and one, respectively, in the second elimination. Hail Mary, who is slightly favored over Don Fanucci Zet in the event, is a 6-year-old Googoo Gaagaa stallion, and his dam, the Victory Dream mare Dreams, is a sister to the great Moni Maker. Hail Mary was moved into Redén's barn this year after competing previously for Robert Bergh and captured his lone prep race at Rättvik on May 6. Erik Adielsson landed the drive on Hail Mary after Orjan Kihlström opted to stay with Don Fanucci Zet.

"Daniel has done a fantastic job with the horse. He's a completely different horse now. It's going to be a lot of fun to see," said Hail Mary's owner Mehdi Yazdanpanah in an article published by [Sweden's Aftonbladet](#). "Anything can happen, there is so little that is required for the whole weekend to go to hell, but I have a good feeling. I'm happy with the draw, super happy with the driver Erik Adielsson. I think it will be a success."

As for Snowstorm Hanover, he will be driven by Magnus Djuse from the pole position. An 8-year-old Muscle Massive stallion bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, Snowstorm Hanover won the 2016 Matron and Valley Victory and the 2017 Kentucky Futurity in the United States for Matt Kakaley and Ron Burke. He was then purchased by Stefan Melander (Stall TZ) and exported.

"He is a bit headstrong but very nice to drive. He is getting better and better, maybe he can surprise. He has gained self-confidence," said Djuse in a [Sport Bladet](#) story after Snowstorm Hanover's most recent win at Solvalla on May 11.

Another main contender in the Blue elimination is Vivid Wise AS, but he starts outside in post seven. An 8-year-old by Yankee Glide, Vivid Wise AS won the Group 1 Prix de France on February 13 at Vincennes and also took the Group 1 Prix de L'Atlantique on April 23 at Enghien. He was second to Etonnant in the Grand Critérium de Vitesse de la Côte d'Azur. Matthieu Abrivard will drive Vivid Wise AS for trainer Alessandro Gocciadoro, who also has Vernissage Grif in the first elimination.

Also, while he missed out on racing his own Back Of The Neck in the Elitloppet, Ake Svanstedt has picked up the drive on Who's Who for trainer Pasi Aikio in the second elimination. Who's Who, an 8-year-old by Maharajah, enters the Elitloppet after winning the Group 1 Paralympiatrikavet at Åby on May 7, and he drew post three.

The top four finishers from both eliminations will advance to the final, with the winners drawing for posts one and two, the second-place finishers for three and four, and so on. The first elimination is slated to take place at 9:28 a.m. (EDT) on Sunday, followed by the second elimination at 9:55. The final is set to begin at 11:45 a.m.

GREEN ELIMINATION

PP	Horse	Driver	Odds*
1	Önas Prince	Per Nordström	11.00
2	Brother Bill	Jorma Kontio	15.00
3	Cokstile	Christoffer Eriksson	8.00
4	Perfetto	Dagfin Henriksen	75.00
5	Click Bait	Ulf Ohlsson	35.00
6	Vernissage Grif	Alessandro Gocciadoro	30.00
7	Etonnant	Anthony Barrier	10.00
8	Don Fanucci Zet	Örjan Kihlström	3.75

BLUE ELIMINATION

PP	Horse	Driver	Odds*
1	Snowstorm Hanover	Magnus A Djuse	35.00
2	Admiral As	Per Lennartsson	15.00
3	Who's Who	Åke Svanstedt	8.00
4	Hail Mary	Erik Adielsson	3.75
5	Night Brodde	Conrad Lugauer	50.00
6	Mister F Daag	Robin Bakker	30.00
7	Vivid Wise As	Matthieu Abrivard	10.00

*Listed odds are from Bet365 to win the Elitloppet as of May 25 and courtesy [NicerOdds](#)

Follow

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B A Superhero looks to prove himself in NJSS final at Big M

By Ken Weingartner

B A Superhero is already a super man to owner Patty Key.

Bred by Key's husband, Bob, who passed away in January 2021, the colt will test his powers against nine rivals in Friday's (May 27) \$240,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes championship for 3-year-old male trotters at The Meadowlands. B A Superhero won a first-round preliminary division of the series on May 6 and finished third in a second-round split on May 13.

He is 5-1 on the final's morning line, leaving from post five with Tim Tetrick driving for trainer Lucas Wallin.

"He's gorgeous," Key said about B A Superhero, who is owned by the family's Winning Key Inc. in western Pennsylvania. "I told Lucas that all you need is a red cape on him. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this beautiful colt. I love him."

Key's connection to B A Superhero runs deep. He is a son of Muscle Hill out of the Keys' standout homebred mare Win Missy B. As a 2-year-old, Win Missy B's victories included the Peaceful Way and Goldsmith Maid, and she finished second to Dan Patch Award-winner Check Me Out in the Breeders Crown. The following year, Win Missy B captured the Kentucky Filly Futurity and was second to Personal Style in the Hambletonian Oaks and Maven in the Breeders Crown.

For her career, Win Missy B won 19 of 46 races and just shy of \$1.6 million.

"She gave us a lot of thrills during her racing career," Key said. "Bob loved every minute of it. It came out of the blue; we didn't think much of her at first. Then, all of a sudden, she put it all together. We had a lot of fun watching her. And it's been wonderful to see one of her babies develop like this. Lucas has done a beautiful job with him."

B A Superhero has hit the board in 10 of 12 career races, winning four. Last year, he won a division of the W.N. Reynolds Memorial at The Meadowlands and finished second and third in his two Grand Circuit starts at Lexington's Red Mile in October. He did not race again at 2 because of sickness.

"He showed a lot of potential last year and I think he's going to be all right this year as well," trainer Wallin said. "He came back really good. He grew and put on a lot of muscle. He's a pretty big, heavy horse, and he can handle his gait better this year. He's much smoother gaited. That's a big plus of course."

"He needs to show a little more speed, but the way we train, he should just get better and better with time if he stays healthy."

B A Superhero is one of nine Hambletonian-eligible trotters in the NJSS final. The others are Dexter Cup winner Brave By Design, Classic Hill, Looks Like Moni, Periculum, Pretender, Tachyon, Temporal Hanover, and Testing Testing.

Temporal Hanover, trained by Marcus Melander, won both of his NJSS preliminary-round starts. Winners of one preliminary division were Periculum, also trained by Melander, and the Nancy Takter-trained duo of Pretender and Looks Like Moni. Pretender, starting from post two with driver Yannick Gingras, is the 3-1 morning-line favorite followed by Temporal Hanover, leaving from post seven with Brian Sears, at 7-2.

"It feels like there are four or five horses that could win the race," Wallin said. "That's going to be exciting. We'll see a little bit more where (B A Superhero) stands."

Key agreed.

"He's got stiff competition in there," she said. "He's going to have to prove himself. We'll see how he does."

B A Superhero is one of 11 3-year-olds racing for Key this year. At the end of the season, she plans to exit from the racing side of the sport to focus on a boutique-type breeding operation. Key knew nothing about horses prior to meeting her husband of 38 years, Bob, who for decades was one of the sport's prominent breeders and owners.

Bob Key co-bred and owned 1993 Hambletonian champion American Winner. He won a Breeders Crown in the inaugural year of the event, 1984, as a member of the ownership group of 2-year-old female pacer



LISA PHOTO

B A Superhero starts from post five in one of two \$240,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes finals at The Meadowlands on Friday.

Amneris, and captured a second Crown in 2010 with his homebred 3-year-old male trotter Break The Bank K. He finished second in the Breeders Crown on seven occasions.

"I figure this is my last hurrah with my husband," Patty Key said. "If he's looking down from heaven, I just hope this makes him proud. It was a very hard decision to not be in the racing business anymore, but without Bob in it, you kind of lose the heart. He was the catalyst behind the racing. He brought us all into it. Without him, it's not the same."

"But I never want to leave the business. I love the Standardbreds. I love them immensely. I didn't know anything about horses until I met Bob. When we bought the farm and we started breeding, that's when I fell in love with them. I love the foals and working out in the fields with them. That's what I want to do. That's a lot of fun for me."

A horse like B A Superhero, though, could cause second thoughts.

"He may keep me in the racing," Key said with a laugh. "I've been with Bob for all these years doing all this, so it's hard to think of going cold turkey. Sometimes, you say you want to sell them and then one like this comes along, and maybe you change your mind."

The New Jersey Sire Stakes championship for the 3-year-old male trotters is one of four NJSS finals on Friday at The Meadowlands. At 5 p.m. (EDT), prior to the start of the regular card at 6:20 p.m., there will be \$100,000 non-betting events for the pacers.

The final for 3-year-old male trotters is race nine on the main 13-race card.

Two races earlier is the \$240,000 final for 3-year-old female trotters. Fashion Schooner, the season's fastest filly trotter with a mark of 1:52, is the 5-2 morning-line favorite from post six for trainer Jim Campbell. Venerable, the Nifty Norman-trained returning Dan Patch Award winner, is the 3-1 second choice from post nine. All 10 of the finalists are eligible to the Hambletonian Oaks.

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BY DERICK GIWNER

Trevor Henry has been driving standardbreds for just over 30 years and accumulated more than 7,250 wins. At just 51 years old and still at the top of his game versus the best drivers in Ontario, the native of Fergus should easily eclipse 9,000 and perhaps approach the elite 10,000 win club.

Henry has driven horses to over \$1 million in earnings in every year since 2003 and currently steers Canada's 2021 Horse of the Year Desperate Man. The laid-back horseman sat down with us to discuss that top horse, his life in the sport and why we need to make some changes to make sure harness racing improves its stature in the entertainment world.



DRIVER TREVOR HENRY

How did you get started in harness racing?

My dad [Ross], it was a family business. He drove a bit. He mostly trained and at one time we had about 70 horses. He got into it because a friend of his, Bill Cass, had horses.

What other family is (has been) involved in the sport?

My brother Wayne trained some horses. My brother Brian used to be a blacksmith. My brother George is kind of retired now but he always trained and drove horses. My brother Paul raced horses, too, but he's deceased now.

Was Harness Racing always in your plans?

Originally my dad wanted me to be a veterinarian. At the time, the teachers in school went on strike so I got started with the horses and never went back.

So all's well that ends well?

I guess; can't change it now.

Who most helped you start your career?

Early on I got started at Billy Budd's farm and he kind of helped me along quite a bit. There were a lot of people along the road that helped me but originally him and my dad.

What kind of car do you drive?

A truck.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

Wieners and beans; Bud Light.

What is your favorite track to race at?

Probably Hanover because it is where I started and my hometown track.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Trevor Henry won the C\$1 million North America Cup in 2021.

Speaking of Hanover, they are going to honor you on July 23 since you have won the most races and driving titles there. Is that humbling?

It is a little. I don't get too hung up on that stuff but I've been going there since I was a kid, so it is nice.

What is your favorite big event in racing?

The North America Cup is nice but I've always wanted to win the Hambletonian. I like driving trotters so I'd like to win it once. I was in with Alarm Detector but never won it. We finished sixth and didn't get money.

Do you have any horses this year that could take you to the Hambletonian?

Shane Weber has a colt [Mercurio] that is eligible to it. He is coming along slowly. He might get me there but I don't know if he has a chance to win it. I finished second with him the other day at Mohawk.

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

Quite a bit because I train in the morning. My wife and I have six or seven here. It gives us something to do in the morning. We do pretty good and it serves as a little extra income.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of racing?

Fishing. That's probably the only time racing is not on my mind [laughing].

How often do you go fishing?

Maybe once or twice a month.

What is your favorite sport? Team?

Hockey – Tampa Bay Lightning.

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

That I'm a pretty laid-back guy.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Exciting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Trevor Henry has driven Desperate Man in every start of his career and helped the 4-year-old son of Shadow Play to earn over \$1 million.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12](#)

You have over 7,200 wins as a driver. What does that number mean to you?

It is just a number. I more look at how many races I've driven in and think that I should know what the hell I'm doing by now. If I don't I'm pretty stupid.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

Winning the North America Cup (2021) with Desperate Man because they are pretty close friends of mine. It was pretty special.

Which is the best horse you've ever driven?

I've driven a lot of good ones but it may be Desperate Man. I've driven Nirvana Seelster and Hey Livvy, she pretty nice too. They gave me a piece of her just to drive her. Nobody wanted to drive her when she started. She's a handful.

Which was your favorite horse to drive?

Probably Desperate Man. He's so easy to drive. He's lazy, doesn't pull, he's relaxed, and fast.

How good is 4-year-old pacer Desperate Man?

I think he's as good as any of the others and one of the best. He's a pretty nice horse.

Desperate Man is coming off a second behind Linedrive Hanover in the Juravinski in track-record time. Were you a bit surprised that you got into the pocket so easily?

I couldn't believe that it was that easy. I thought I was going to leave out of there and either get parked the whole way or be second-over because someone on the inside would be parked. Even Charlie May, I thought he would leave. It was just a funny race. It sure didn't go the way I thought.

Do you think the Juravinski performance earned him more respect in the division?

Yeah. I know he had the eight-hole and I don't know what the final odds were, but I saw at one time he was 22-1 or something. He's a better horse than that. I don't understand why he doesn't get more credit with what he's done. I don't know what else he has to prove. The only reason he got beat the other night is post position. I'm sure if he draws inside he probably goes in 1:48 2/5 or 3/5.

Assuming he has races in the U.S. will you go down to drive Desperate Man?

For sure I'll be there to drive him. He has a race in September at Hoosier but they are mostly going to keep him home in Canada. He made a million in Ontario last year and they want him to be a good horse for years to come. He has the Breeders Crown and another big race at Mohawk, plus they have the Free-For-All races.

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

I'd get rid of the delaying of races. I'd love to see them [the races] go off when posted. In hockey they took the lines away and made it faster. There are no whistles and stopping the game. It's fast. In the casino everything is fast; spin the wheel and it is done. In this game they just drag it and drag it. At some point you get sick of sitting there. At a hockey game you are in and out in three hours. With this game it takes six hours.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

I don't know. Some of these tracks, it is very depressing. Last night I showed up at Flamboro. When I would go as a kid there used to be 10,000 people there on a night like that and now we are lucky to get 500.

How do we get more people back?

Run the races faster and offer cheaper prices. You can't afford to pay \$8 a beer if they are going to keep you there for six hours. You have to be realistic.

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

Maybe run a fishing charter.

Time for the stretch drive:

Best Horse Ever: Mack Lobell.

Best Trainer: My dad.

Favorite horse in your barn: Lexus Kody.

Lasix – Yes or No?: Yes.

Favorite TV Show?: Seinfeld.

Trotters or Pacers?: Trotters.

Gotthegreenlight lowers track record in NY Sire Stakes victory



Bill Burke

Gotthegreenlight (5) just got his nose up at the wire to best American Ticket in a track record mile.

By Greg Reinhart

Gotthegreenlight obliterated the Buffalo Raceway track record for a 3-year-old pacing filly of 1:53 3/5 in the first of two \$58,100 New York Sire Stakes divisions on Wednesday afternoon, defeating American Ticket by a nose in a 1:52 2/5 performance. Joyride Hanover won the other grouping, giving driver Jason Bartlett and trainer Nifty Norman a sweep of the event.

American Ticket (Mark MacDonald) fired out from post two and battled with April Angel (Jim Morrill Jr.) until forcing her to back off into the pocket coming to the 28 2/5 opening quarter. Meanwhile, Gotthegreenlight was able to get away in third from post five. American Ticket continued to show the way to a 57 second half and a 1:25 three-quarters, with Gotthegreenlight moving out first-over heading to the latter marker. Entering the last turn, Bartlett was able to briefly move Gotthegreenlight into the pocket as April Angel began to back up, but Gotthegreenlight was back out and two-wide midway through the bend.

In the stretch American Ticket dug in gamely, and it looked like she might be able to hold on, but Gotthegreenlight was able to sustain her rally and got past the pace-setter at the wire by the slimmest of margins. Kele Kele (Tyler Buter) was a well-beaten third.

"We had the middle of the (starting) car and knew there was speed on the inside," Bartlett said of sitting back in the beginning. "We didn't want to go out but wanted to stay in contact."

A daughter of American Ideal bred by Dr. Stephen P. Dey, Gotthegreenlight is owned by Patricia Stable and Kovach Stables LLC. The defending New York Sire Stakes champion for this group, Gotthegreenlight has compiled a record of 9-1-0 from 14 starts and has earned \$280,456. She paid \$3.30 to win as the 3-5 favorite.

In the other flight, Joyride Hanover and Bartlett gunned out from post one but let a two-wide Superbly (Morrill Jr.) clear as they raced in the backstretch for the first time. Bartlett wanted no part of the pocket, though, and re-moved his filly to the point prior to the 30 1/5 opening quarter.

Joyride Hanover didn't have an anxious moment from there as she got away with soft middle-half fractions of 59 3/5 and 1:28 2/5 before she used a 27 1/5 last quarter to draw off and tally by 3 3/4 lengths in 1:55 3/5. Superbly held second from Fly Like An Angel (MacDonald).

"She's a handy filly," Bartlett said of Joyride Hanover. "She's great gaited and gets around the turns really well. I knew with the rail we could push out really hard and we got the trip we wanted."

Another American Ideal filly, Joyride Hanover was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms and is owned by Eric Good. This was her fourth win from 14 lifetime tries, and she has now pocketed \$217,510. The 7-5 second choice, she returned \$4.80 to win.

-quotes courtesy Buffalo Raceway

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THURSDAY, MAY 26

RACE 8

(2) MISTER J R got hung up briefly behind dead cover on the last turn and it probably cost him a win last week. That was a strong effort and he is clear top pick for me here.

-Garnet Barnsdale



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, MAY 27

RACE 4

Sadly (8) YANABA had to miss the NJSS because of an Equine Herpes outbreak. What we've seen of her so far is that she exudes talent and I'm certain she'll come in tight to try to get back on track.

-Derick Givner



MEADOWLANDS
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

RACE 8

(5) GOT THE GOLD shoots for a threeppeat here and she looked particularly sharp flying down the centre of the track in the lane for the win last week.

-Barnsdale



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 28

RACE 3

(2) SOMEBADDUDE had no shot last time from post 8 at Freehold and was up against it versus much better in his prior outings. If the Team Bongiorno trainee has a big mile in the tank this year we'll see it tonight.

-Givner



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Mohawk Park Analysis

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[Friday](#)

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Meadowlands Analysis

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INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES



NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

ROYALLY-BRED BEE FOREVER STARTS 2022 OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Maybe 2022 will be the year that the royally-bred Bee Forever will develop into a top horse. The gelded son of Horses of the Year Muscle Hill and Bee A Magician took a step in that direction Wednesday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia, winning his seasonal debut in 1:54 1/5 in the \$14,400 featured trot.

David Miller allowed the 4-year-old to go at his own pace past the half, sitting third as College Tuition put down fractions of 28 2/5, 58, and 1:26 1/5. Bee Forever had been asked to move uncovered down the backstretch and trotted up to the leader on the far turn, then was himself able to come home in 27 3/5 in catching the pacesetter by 1 1/4 lengths, with Miller sitting calmly, either confident or not wanting to disrupt the late bloomer's concentration.

Bee Forever has "been to the races" for only 112 days to this point, nearing halfway into his 4-year-old campaign, racing from September to November at 2 (a year he capped by winning the Valley Victory and taking his mark of 1:54), and then in May and June last year. Trainer Nifty Norman and the ownership of Melvin Hartman, Herb Liverman, and David Mc Duffee saw their horse keep his record at Philly perfect after three career outings.

The meet's leading driver, Tim Tetrick, reported home first five times on Wednesday afternoon, including three times with Scott Di Domenico trainees, to raise his total for the meet to 64. Andrew McCarthy, second in the standings, added three triumphs to take his total to 51.

-edited release (PHHA/Harrah's Philadelphia)

RIDGE WARREN NABS HIS 1,000TH CAREER WIN

Ridge Warren collected career win 1,000 Wednesday at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows when he piloted Sportsbook Hanover to victory in race 2. He took three quick steps to the next milestone by capturing races 4, 5 and the featured 8th with Mary Puffins, Marlboro Seelster and Lady Newton.

Warren, 33, grew up in Fenton, MI, where he and his sister Taylor were named for characters in the long-running soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

"My grandmother still watches it," Warren said. "Here's a shout-out to Grandma Janice."

But there was nothing melodramatic about his apprenticeship under the tutelage of his dad, top Midwest trainer/driver Todd Warren, who boasts more than 5,200 career driving victories. His son describes his approach as meticulous.

"When I was a kid, we had 20-to-30 horses, and Dad was winning a lot," he recalled. "He's at the barn all day, rubbing on legs, and the horses look like they're worth a lot of money. He takes pride in his work. That's an old-school horsemanship thing that's kind of gone out the window these days. I appreciate his work ethic and his desire always to make a horse better."

Still, the younger Warren wasn't completely sold on harness racing as a career. In high school, he took college-level law enforcement courses and considered pursuing a job in homeland security.

"Once I got out to Illinois with my dad and starting sitting behind more horses and getting that buzz, that stuck, and the law enforcement thing went out the window. I started training side-by-side with my dad," said Warren.

Still, Warren's commitment to harness racing had to survive one more test — the decline in opportunities in Illinois and Michigan.

"When Illinois went downhill, that was a real eye-opener for me. I got involved in investing in some businesses, some small franchises. I had a real job and raced as a hobby," said Warren. "About a year-and-a-half ago, I decided to race full time and stepped out of the investments. It was a great learning experience in my life."

"I'm a people person, and I love talking to people. But at the end of the day, I love the adrenaline rush of racing horses and being under the lights. It's hard to compare anything to this."

Warren's renewed dedication to racing showed. He enjoyed his best year ever in 2021 with 166 wins and more than \$1.6 million in purses.

These days, Warren has added a wrinkle to his game; he's driving at The Downs at Mohegan Sun-Pocono as well as The Meadows, his home base since 2020, meaning he's working seven days a week. That's the sort of schedule he prefers.

"I just want to keep chipping away at the wins and improve my abilities by

being out there more. The more you race, the better you get," said Warren.

In an unusual, perhaps unprecedented coincidence, while Ridge was en route to driving win 1,000, his dad was on a similar path to his 1,000th training victory; he's at 997 at the moment and soon will become the 17th North American horseman all time with at least 5,000 winning drives and at least 1,000 training victories. Ridge says he won't give the old man any grief about beating him to 1,000.

"When we're racing together, we're chippy on the track. If he's coming, I know he's coming. If I beat him, I let him know. That's fun. It's the competitiveness in us. But for him to get 1,000 training wins, that's just an amazing accomplishment. I'll be happy for him," said Warren.

-release (Evan Pattak for MSOA)

SECOND LEG OF MISS VERSATILITY CANCELLED

The second leg of the Miss Versatility series which was scheduled to have been raced at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Friday, May 27 has been cancelled due to a lack of entries.

The mares that entered for the cancelled leg will be awarded a start credit and 7 points toward the standings for the final as described in the stake's conditions.

The Miss Versatility series continues at The Meadowlands on Meadowlands Pace night Saturday, July 16 with legs 3, 4 & 5 remaining before the \$100,000e final on Little Brown Jug day at the Delaware County Fair on Thursday, September 22.

-edited release (Meadowlands)

SJOBERG HOPES PATIENCE PAYS OFF FOR JONAS K, JESSICA K

Swedish-born trotters Jonas K and Jessica K saw their careers delayed at age 2 but are poised to make up for lost time for breeder-owner Tristan Sjoberg this season at 3.

[READ MORE](#)

TWIN B ARCHIE TROTS TO SBOA STAKES TITLE AT MOHAWK

Twin B Archie, an Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final champion last year, was a 1:53 3/5 winner in Monday night's non-wagering C\$121,600 SBOA Stakes final for 3-year-old male trotters at Woodbine Mohawk Park. This event was supposed to take place on Saturday night but was one of the events impacted by the early cancellation of that program due to power issues at the Campbellville, Ontario, oval.

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PREFERRED EQUINE ONLINE REACHES \$3.5 MILLION IN TOTAL SALES

At the conclusion of the May 23 Preferred Equine Online Mixed Sale, the relatively new platform has already rung up total sales of \$3.5 million for its online customers.

[READ MORE](#)

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK TO OFFER POP-UP SERIES IN JUNE

With the racing schedule set to increase to five-days-a-week in June, Woodbine Mohawk Park's Race Office has released conditions for several upcoming Pop-Up Series.

Each Pop-Up Series will feature two preliminary legs (purse \$15,000 for each division) and a \$25,000 final. A \$15,000 consolation will also be available for each event.

The conditions for the upcoming Pop-Up Series are listed below:

Pacing Mares: Non-Winners of \$20,000 in 2022 or Not Averaging \$1,250 Per Start in 2022 (Minimum 10 starts)

Preliminary Legs: June 2, June 9 - Final: June 16

Pacing Colts, Horses, Geldings: Non-Winners of \$15,000 in 2022 or Not Averaging \$1,250 Per Start in 2022 (Minimum 10 starts)

Preliminary Legs: June 3, June 10 - Final: June 17

Trotters: Non-Winners of \$20,000 in 2022 or Not Averaging \$1,250 Per Start in 2022 (Minimum 10 starts)

Preliminary Legs: June 6, June 13 - Final: June 20

-edited release (Woodbine)