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THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

# Wallin has a Hambletonian plan

*Trainer Lucas Wallin will follow the path set by many Hambletonian winners in the past by staying at The Meadowlands until the big date in August*



NIKKI SHERMAN

Lucas Wallin (10) got some Hambletonian experience in the driver's seat behind Cuatro De Julio in 2021.



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [BergmanJay](#)

In the 2021 Hambletonian, Lucas Wallin got rebuffed while driving Cuatro De Julio from post 10. Wallin pushed the pace, forcing the winner Captain Corey to hard early fractions, but in the end went down to defeat. With less than two months towards this year's Hambletonian, Wallin is taking a different approach with one of the horses he trains. The aptly-named Rebuff could benefit in a small part to Wallin's Hambletonian experience as the trainer plans the steps necessary to have the colt in peak condition for the first Saturday in August.

"I'm very happy with the way he qualified," Wallin said following last Saturday's (June 4) winning mile at The Meadowlands where he trotted in 1:52 4/5 and went past King Of The North at the wire. Driver Tim Tetrick shared the praise: "I'm super excited about him," said Tetrick. "He's grown up. He's smarter. Last year I had to drive him with kid gloves."

"They didn't card a 3-year-old open this week," Wallin said when asked when racing fans can expect to see Rebuff under the lights. "I'm hoping they schedule one next week but if not, I will likely have to put him in another qualifier."

Though Cuatro De Julio was not trained by Wallin, the conditioner understands full well what it takes to bring a horse to top form for the sport's biggest prize and that's why he has kept it rather simple looking ahead.

"We're going to keep him at The Meadowlands through the Hambletonian eliminations," Wallin said quite carefully, not wanting to do anything to trouble the Muscle Hill colt that ended his 2-year-old season in style with a victory in the Breeders Crown at the very same East Rutherford mile track.

The Hambletonian is clearly on the 29-year-old Wallin's mind for Rebuff and that's how he's been treating the horse from day one on the racetrack. "I raced him all of last year with a closed bridle,"

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said Wallin. "We purposely tried to race him from off the pace."

Wallin didn't want Rebuff to get too hot on the racetrack or lose focus and spent the better part of his 2-year-old campaign letting him learn the ropes and succeed as well. Winning in his last three starts of the year, including an off-track score in the Breeders Crown, says a lot about the talent of Rebuff as well as the patience of Wallin. Give driver Tim Tetrick much of the credit as well for sticking to the plan and executing it to perfection over the long run.

Now with his first sophomore start approaching, Wallin appears to have a lot more confidence in the colt and his behavior on the racetrack. "We put an open bridle on him for the first time in the qualifier," said Wallin. "He was just fine."

From a conditioning standpoint, Wallin feels that Rebuff is definitely a stronger horse this year and that his job will be to manage him as best as possible. "He has plenty of miles in him. There isn't much training left. Now the races will keep him fit," Wallin said.

There's no Triple Crown in Rebuff's future as Wallin is pointing towards the Reynolds on July 1 at The Meadowlands, the same night as the \$500,000 Yonkers Trot will be contested at Yonkers. Past that there's the Stanley Dancer at The Meadowlands on July 16 with the Hambletonian eliminations slated two weeks afterwards.

"We gave him some time off and since returning to training he hasn't missed a day of work or a meal," said Wallin, who has marveled at the good fortune Rebuff has enjoyed since last year's Crown victory. As for the differences between last year and this... "He's more mature body-wise."

Wallin, who has Rebuff racing with steel shoes with pads up front and steel behind, hinted that there are a few things he can do to make him a little bit faster if necessary but didn't think racing barefoot was in the colt's future. "There are a few things we can do to get a little more out of him," said Wallin.

While Rebuff has yet to get his 3-year-old season underway, Wallin has been overjoyed with how Manon has returned this year in the sophomore filly ranks.

"She's getting better with every race," Wallin said. "I was very happy with her performance in the 'All Stars' [June 5] at Pocono.

"I was very high on her last year. We raced her once in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes and then she got a little sore and we decided to stop with her."

Owned by Steve Organ's Harbor Racing, Manon, a daughter of Bar

Hopping, was done after just one race in 2021. "Steve's a patient owner and wanted to do right by the filly," said Wallin.

Thus far in 2022 that patience is paying off quite nicely as Manon has been impressive in Pennsylvania, winning all three starts including the initial leg of the Sire Stakes at The Meadows on May 11 in a 1:53 3/5 clocking. She bettered that mark at Pocono with a 1:53 mile, looking sharp from start to finish.

"I plan to go right back with her in the next leg of the Sire Stakes," said Wallin, pointing Manon for a June 19 date at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Manon is fully staked as well and could see action at The Meadowlands in July with the hope that she's up to the level of the Hambletonian Oaks field.

While his 3-year-olds shine on the track, Wallin has a stable quite heavy in 2-year-old talent. With 26 under his care, the conditioner is happy with the depth and quality of the horses in training. On the 2-year-old front he pointed to a pair of Chapter Seven's that are getting ready to see baby race action in the coming weeks at The Meadowlands as well as a few by Walner.

There are still many hurdles ahead but trainer Lucas Wallin appears to have a command of his trotting stable and a solid plan to succeed in the long run.



(ABOVE) LISA PHOTO / (BELOW) CURTIS SALONICK

**Trainer Lucas Wallin could have a strong pair for the first Saturday in August at The Meadowlands with Rebuff (above) for the Hambletonian and Manon (below) in the Oaks.**



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## AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [@AtTheTrack7](#)

# Importance of Transparency

For the past several years, The Meadowlands has dabbled in including comments from trainers and drivers in its racing program. These comments were included in the handicapper's race preview and would focus on a few horses each night.

Since this began during my time at the track, it has expanded and just recently it was announced that in partnership with Inside Harness (InsideHarness.com), The Meadowlands would be supplying handicappers with more commentary than ever before. In addition, Inside Harness has a series of racetracks available, although given that The Meadowlands has been an industry leader in this area for years, they have by far the most content.

In fact, just this past weekend, there were dozens of comments submitted for The Meadowlands racing programs and some of them were really interesting. Here are some examples:

**Trond Smedhammer on Hallance (June 3, Race 3)** - *Had a little break from racing, because I bred her, she is in foal to Bar Hopping. She will probably need a start to get back into form, but she is healthy.*

Without this information, there is no way the handicappers would know the mare was in foal. Whether or not that matters to a person as a handicapper is subjective, but it certainly is a useful piece of information. Hallance finished third, but was disqualified for going inside pylons.

**Tony Beltrami on Final Justice (June 3, Race 6)** - *The last time I drove him, he was loaded with pace with nowhere to go. Could be a threat with a decent trip.*

Tony delivered on avoiding trouble this time as he fired up Final Justice right off the gate and went to the lead. He led all the way until the shadow of the wire where he was beaten two noses in a three-horse photo finish that saw him finish third at 13-1.

This is a great example of the kind of information we want. I watched the replay and didn't come to the same conclusion as Tony Beltrami. He waited for room, found it late and seemed to offer just even pace in the lane. But clearly Beltrami felt differently, and he drove his horse with the confidence he displayed in his comments.

**Ron Burke on Celebrate With Me (June 3, Race 8)** - *Gate bettors beware, she will come to the gate last, if trotting she is very competitive here.*

Sure enough, Yannick Gingras timed the gate and Celebrate With Me, the 4/5 favorite, was the last horse to arrive to the gate. She was also

carefully handled and when the winner got the jump on her on the far turn, she simply couldn't catch that rival late.

Had there not been a comment available like Ron Burke's, bettors could have questioned the tactics and the drive. But it was clear from the trainer's comment that this is a filly they need to be careful with in order to keep her trotting and they did exactly what they said they were going to do.

There have been questions raised about this new addition to harness racing handicapping. A popular criticism has been along the lines of "what happens when a trainer makes a comment that infers a horse needs a race and he wins anyway?" Another criticism is related to the tactics a driver may employ: "What if a driver says he is going to do one thing and ends up doing something else?"

This experiment is about transparency. Transparency is good. Lack of transparency raises the question: "What are you hiding?" Sure, these comments can open up questions when a race doesn't unfold like a trainer or driver expected it to within his comments, but we need to remember, it is still a horse race.

When we handicap races, we not only try to predict the outcome of each race, but we also try to determine how the race will unfold. Who will show speed? Who will sit the best trip? Who will be forced to move first? A trainer and a driver are no different. They may look at a race on paper and come up with a game plan, but once the wings of the gate open that plan could change entirely based on what the other drivers are doing.

We can't expect trainers or drivers to guarantee us that things will always go to plan. As I said, this is horse racing with human and equine athletes competing in real life, not an algorithm on a computer.

Based on what I have seen from the comments thus far, they have been honest, clear and concise. Trainers and drivers have been presenting the information they know to be true. If you are a handicapper who has concerns that these comments could influence you and prove to be detrimental to your wagering, I have a simple suggestion: Don't read them.

But, if you want to know if a certain mare racing is in foal, or if a horse has trouble staying on-stride and needs to be handled carefully, or if the trainer believes a horse needs a race, then make them a part of your handicapping. But don't hold the drivers or trainers to a higher standard than you hold yourself. As a racehorse owner, there have been times that our trainer has told us a horse wasn't as fit going into a race as he would have liked and that horse surprises us with a winning effort. There have been times where our trainer has told us a horse has been training unbelievably well and the horse disappoints us in his race.

All you can ask for is transparency and honesty. When you inject those two things into the sport, they will benefit the entire industry in the long-run. It will open the doors to more transparency in other areas as well and you shouldn't let a horse coming from off the pace after a driver inferred they will be sending the horse be a reason why we shouldn't continue down this path. Transparency is good.

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## Elitloppet winner Etonnant to visit North America?

By Derick Givner

According to track officials, Elitloppet winner Etonnant will get an invitation to the \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot and owner/trainer Richard Westerink is considering making the trip.

"I'm interested in the race at Yonkers," said Westerink, who added that if invited to the Breeders Crown he would consider making the trip up to Woodbine Mohawk Park to compete. While any decision on a foreign invitation to compete in the Breeders Crown would have to be approved by a committee and is premature, it is not out of the question for a foreign horse to be granted a spot in the final.

Etonnant was a surprise winner of the Elitloppet as he overcame a bad post and a break during the mile. Although the win may have been unexpected, he is a high-class horse that has won 18 of 77 starts and nearly \$2 million.

Next up for Etonnant is expected to be the Prix René Ballière to be contested on June 26 at Vincennes in France and Westerink reports that his horse is "doing fine."

# Tetrick hopes to have many options in Mohawk stakes finals

By Jay Bergman

The North America Cup drew 17 horses with two C\$50,000 eliminations slated for Saturday's Woodbine Mohawk Park program. Driver Tim Tetrick goes north of the border in search of his third North America Cup victory and has a shot to qualify a pair for the final.

Mad Max Hanover, a son of Always B Miki, closed out his 2-year-old season with a solid second-place finish in the Governor's Cup. He's returned to form in a big way this year and Tetrick will steer him from post two in the first elimination division (race 4).

"I just drove him once last year," said Tetrick of the Jake Leamon trainee. "He was a big, gangly horse and was 50-1 and got a little rough on me at the start." Tetrick recalled the Governor's Cup where Mad Max Hanover recovered from a poor start to be flying at the finish.

"I think he's a big contender," said Tetrick. "He went a big trip last time and just got nipped in a [1]:48 [4/5] cutting the pace."

Mad Max Hanover was caught by Night Hawk, a winner in three of his four starts this year who he'll meet again on Saturday night. Night Hawk (post six) has five wins in six lifetime starts for trainer Brian Brown.

Other contenders in the first Cup division have to be Somebeachsomewhere winner Pebble Beach (post four) and world champion Caviart Camden, a 1:48 3/5 winner last year at The Red Mile that has returned sharp for trainer Tony Alagna with consecutive wins at Harrah's Philadelphia. Caviart Camden landed post three.

Tetrick is expecting a top performance from I Did It Myway (post 6) in the second North America Cup trial carded as race eight.

"Tony [Alagna] does a great job getting these horses ready to go," said Tetrick, paying homage to the colt's trainer. "I'm happy these two didn't draw in with one another."

I Did It Myway, a son of Captaintreacherous, a horse Tetrick guided to victory in the 2013 North America Cup, prepped nicely with a 1:50 2/5 score on May 29 at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Last year's Governor's Cup winner Early Action will make his first start as a sophomore in this division for trainer Joe Holloway. Early Action landed post five with Brian Sears in the bike.

Beach Glass, a highly regarded son of Somebeachsomewhere, drew post eight in the field and picks up Yannick Gingras in the bike with Paul MacDonell ceding the drive following last week's second-place finish in stakes action. Beach Glass has won half of his six lifetime starts for trainer Brent Macgrath of Somebeachsomewhere fame.

A pair of Ontario-breds add depth to the second division, with Somebeachsomewhere upsetter Magical Arthur (post three) hoping to build on his 1:50 3/5 career-best performance a week earlier. Ron (post four), a son of Sportswriter, qualified in 1:52 2/5 on June 3 in his final tune-up.

Trainer Tim Taddle returns to Ontario with a serious contender in Fourever Boy. A winner just once as a 2-year-old, Fourever Boy was a game winner in Pennsylvania Sire Stakes action at Pocono on May 30 in



CURTIS SALONICK

**Treacherous Dragon will provide Tim Tetrick with a big chance to win the Fan Hanover.**

a career-best 1:51 1/5 clocking. Fourever Boy drew the pole.

The top five horses in each North America Cup elimination qualify for the C\$1 million final on June 18.

Tetrick is hopeful he'll have some others to drive on June 18, with Saturday's Woodbine Mohawk program hosting two eliminations for the Fan Hanover as well as two for the Roses Are Red. Tetrick is well situated with Treacherous Dragon (post four) in the first of the two C\$35,000 Fan Hanover eliminations carded as race two.

"She's been great," Tetrick said of Treacherous Dragon. "She was great last year but had to run into Niki Hill."

With Niki Hill absent from the Fan Hanover, Treacherous Dragon is the likely choice in this division, but she'll have serious company with the top Ontario-bred filly Prohibition Legal (post five), Pennsylvania Sire Stakes winner Boudoir Hanover (post six) and Ohio star Sea Silk (post seven) to her outside in the stacked field.

Tetrick drives Lyons Serenity (post four) in the second division (race 3) and said he liked her in the qualifier a bit more than in her first start on May 29. "She might be a step below these," Tetrick said.

Lyons Serenity's stablemate Lyons Sentinel is clearly not a step below. The 5-year-old daughter of Captaintreacherous had a solid campaign for trainer Jim King Jr. in 2021, picking up her second Dan Patch award in the process.

"She went a big mile at The Meadowlands last week," said Tetrick, about the mare who will start in race 7. "I think she needs one more race to get back to the kind of level she raced at all last year."

Lyons Sentinel drew post five in the second C\$35,000 Roses Are Red elimination.

Test Of Faith, the 2021 Horse of the Year, drew the pole position in the first Roses Are Red division (race 6).

Woodbine Mohawk Park's 11-race Saturday night program starts at 7:00pm EDT.

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# Power-packed field ready for “Battle” in \$200K Stake at Northfield

By Derick Givner

The \$200,000 Battle of Lake Erie at MGM Northfield Park is loaded with equine firepower. Scheduled for Saturday (June 11), the nine-horse field includes five millionaires, world-record holders, and winners of countless stakes races.

The fastest horse of 2022 leaves from post two in the field with driver Joe Bongiorno at the helm for trainer Jenn Bongiorno. Nicholas Beach stopped the timer in 1:47 at The Meadowlands on May 21 to lay claim to the “fastest” moniker but was only able to finish fourth as the 1-2 favorite last time out in the \$100,000 Commodore Barry at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

“The track was a little off that day. He wears full pads and I’m not sure they were the best shoes for that day on that racetrack,” said Joe Bongiorno. “At the end of the day, he wasn’t at his best last time and I think we got beat a length for the whole thing. He’s a very good horse and we just need a little luck with our trip.”

While Joe Bongiorno admitted he prefers Nicholas Beach on a mile track, the horse has won multiple times on the half, five-eighths and mile surfaces. Northfield is perhaps a different animal as a well-banked half-mile track that plays quite well to horses which want to race in the two-path.

“We haven’t raced him at Northfield but I’m pretty sure he can go a big mile on that track. It is a forgiving and kind track for horses so I think he should like it there,” said Joe Bongiorno, who was a semi-regular there earlier in his career.

A glaring feature of the Battle of Lake Erie field as a whole is early speed as Sectionline Bigry (post one), Nicholas Beach, Ocean Rock (post four) and Tattoo Artist (post six) all seem highly likely to fire off the wings of the gate. Then there are others like This Is The Plan (post five), Leonidas A (post seven) and Jimmy Freight (post eight) who have been known to leave hard on occasion. The plethora of early speed could lead to a crowded first turn, a fast pace and perhaps play into the hands of a horse like Catch The Fire from the second tier.

Of course Catch The Fire is no stranger to starting off the gate. In the 2021 Battle of Lake Erie he also had post nine and was unlucky to come away seventh early as neither the horse in post one or two left strongly enough to detour the outside speedsters. Trainer Todd Luther is hoping that the results are much different this year since he’s been aiming for this race as his early-season goal.

“We prepped him this year to get two or three starts in him to set him up for the Battle and then give him a break before the big ones,” said Luther, who mentioned the Sam McKee at The Meadowlands in early August as the 5-year-olds next goal. “He’s come back really good this year. He’s a lot stronger and I think he’ll give a big effort.”

Also a stallion standing at Sugar Valley Farm in Ohio, Catch The Fire is currently doing double-duty until early July, but that has hardly affected his on-track performance. He was second in his 2022 debut on May 28 and missed by just a length to get the place spot behind Ocean Rock on June 4 at Scioto.

“He doesn’t even know that he is jumping and racing. He’s a very professional horse, but we are going to skip jumping him this week and hopefully that works out,” said Luther.

Catch The Fire and driver Trevor Smith were installed as the 6-1 fifth choice on the morning-line behind the aforementioned Ocean Rock at 3-1. The 2021 Breeders Crown Open Pace winner is also making just his third start of the year and he owns a 1:48 1/5 mark over the track, the fastest mile by a 4-year-old gelding on a half. Dan Noble will drive for his wife, trainer Christi Noble.

With the strength of the field it is no surprise that the fastest performer in history on a half-mile track is also in the field. This Is The Plan stopped the clock in 1:47 3/5 while winning the 2021 Battle of Lake Erie. With regular driver Yannick Gingras at Woodbine Mohawk Park Saturday, Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. has picked up the assignment in the sulky.

While the post-position draw wasn’t kind to him, Jimmy Freight is



(above) Nicholas Beach owns the fastest mile of 2022 with a 1:47 win at The Meadowlands.  
(below) Todd Luther and Toni Dale Hollar hope Catch The Fire is ready for a big mile.



undoubtedly the sharpest horse in the field. After taking two years off to pursue a stallion career, the now 7-year-old has reeled off six consecutive victories including beating some of tonight’s foes in the \$150,000 Camluck Classic on May 27 at The Raceway at Western Fair. Jimmy Freight will also be without regular driver Louis Roy as Billy Davis, Jr. takes over.

The 11th race on a blockbuster 15-race program that also features two divisions of the Ohio Sire Stakes for 3-year-old colt pacers – including Breeders Crown runner-up Gulf Shores – gets underway at 6pm EDT. The Battle of Lake Erie will begin a \$15,000 Guaranteed Pick 4 and include an equally-promised Hi-5 pool.

## \$200,000 BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE - NORTHFIELD PARK - RACE 11 - JUNE 11

Post	Horse	Driver	Morning Line
1	Sectionline Bigry	B.Miller	10-1
2	Nicholas Beach	J.Bongiorno	7-2
3	Funatthebeach N	J.Stratton	20-1
4	Ocean Rock	D.Noble	3-1
5	This Is The Plan	R.Wrenn, Jr.	8-1
6	Tattoo Artist	M.MacDonald	9-2
7	Leonidas A	A.Siegelman	15-1
8	Jimmy Freight	B.Davis, Jr.	4-1
9	Catch The Fire	Tr.Smith	6-1



# Per Engblom eyes Goodtimes at Mohawk with Chulo, Senna

By Ken Weingartner

Hambletonian hopeful Chulo made a misstep in his most recent outing May 28 at The Meadowlands, but trainer Per Engblom is looking for the colt to rebound in the second of Friday's two C\$30,000 eliminations of the Goodtimes Stakes for 3-year-old trotters at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Chulo, who topped the April 25 Preferred Equine Online Mixed Sale when he sold for \$178,000, won last year's \$150,000 Next Generation Trot for 2-year-old Ohio-sired colts and geldings while trained by Engblom. After a switch to another trainer in the offseason, he was purchased by Engblom Stable LLC and Chulo Partners in the online auction.

In his 2022 debut, Chulo finished third in a division of the Ohio Sire Stakes, then missed by a nose in a conditioned event for 3-year-old male trotters at The Meadowlands. Returning to that class on May 28, Chulo started from post 10 and was ninth through the opening quarter-mile before going off stride on the backstretch.

"We tried to race him from behind and he just got a little overexcited when they slammed the brakes up front," said Engblom, who planned several equipment changes, including Chulo's driving bit, for the Goodtimes.

"The first two starts he was very good for us, and then he just made a little mistake. But I think he's pretty good. He won a couple of stakes races for us (last year) and his first start back here now he was third in the sire stakes in Ohio. He was just beat at the wire in an overnight at The Meadowlands after that. I think he'll have a good year."

For his career, Chulo (What The Hill-Chula) has hit the board in five of 10 races, winning two. He has earned \$116,535.

Chulo and driver Yannick Gingras will start their Goodtimes elimination from post six and are 10-1 on the morning line.

"He's strong," Engblom said. "He's more of a strong horse than a fast horse, really, but he can carry his speed quite a bit."

Engblom also sends out a starter, Senna, in the first Goodtimes split. Senna, named after late Formula One racing champion Ayrton Senna, had a fourth and a second in the preliminary legs of the New Jersey Sire Stakes series before finishing seventh in the final. For the year, he has won one of five starts.

Senna (Trixton-Conwayslassie) is not eligible to the Hambletonian. For his career, he has won two of 16 races and earned \$58,321 for owners Engblom Stable LLC and Douglas Sipple. He starts his elimination from post two and is also 10-1 on the morning line, with David Miller in the sulky.

"He was really good in the elimination rounds of the sire stakes, then he just got away way too far back in the final, but he finished up OK," Engblom said. "He changed a lot (from last year). Last year, he was too short against the best ones. Now he's already trotted (1):52 this year, so I think he'll have a decent year."

"He's got plenty of races, just not the Hambo."

Eleven Hambletonian-eligible male trotters, including three of the 10 in the "Road to the Hambletonian" rankings, will be in action in Friday's Goodtimes eliminations.

A total of 19 horses will compete in the eliminations, which are races five and seven on Mohawk's 10-race card. Racing begins at 7 p.m. EDT. The top-five finishers from each Goodtimes elim advance to the C\$251,000 final, which will be on Pepsi North America Cup Night, June 18, at Mohawk.

The second Goodtimes elimination features eight Hambletonian-eligible trotters in the nine-horse field. The only horse not eligible to August's \$1 million Hambletonian at The Meadowlands is the 2-1 morning-line favorite, Twin B Archie. Trained by co-owner Scott McEneny, Twin B Archie was an Ontario Sire Stakes champ last year and last month won the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association stakes final.

Looks Like Moni, who is No. 6 in the Hambletonian Top 10 compiled by Meadowlands Racetrack analyst/announcer Ken Warkentin, is the 5-2 second choice. So far this year, Looks Like Moni has finished fourth in the New Jersey Sire Stakes championship after posting a win and a second in the prelims for trainer Nancy Takter.

The first Goodtimes division is led by New Jersey Sire Stakes



COURTESY PER ENGBLOM

**Senna starts from post two in the first Goodtimes elimination (race 5) on Friday at Woodbine Mohawk Park.**

champion Pretender and last year's Valley Victory Stakes winner Fast As The Wind, who are ranked second and eighth, respectively, in the "Road to the Hambletonian."

Pretender, who has won three of four races this season, also is from the Takter Stable and is the 2-1 morning-line favorite. Fast As The Wind, who has started twice this year for trainer Tony Alagna, heads to his Goodtimes elim off a second-place finish by a nose to older warhorse JL Cruze, the earner of \$1.71 million lifetime, in a conditioned event at The Meadowlands. He is 5-2.

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# Weingartner tracks the babies at Gaitway and Magical Acres

By Ken Weingartner

Ron Burke sent out 26 freshmen during Monday's (6/6) qualifiers for 2-year-olds at Gaitway Farm, with In Italian, a full sister to multiple Dan Patch Award-winner Atlanta, attracting a good deal of attention.

But the \$750,000 yearling purchase was not alone in generating a buzz during the first of this month's weekly sessions at the training center.

In Italian, who was the sales topper at last fall's Standardbred Horse Sale, won her qualifying debut in 1:59 for Burke and driver Yannick Gingras. The daughter of Chapter Seven-Hemi Blue Chip is owned by Brad Grant and Howard Taylor. She was bred by Order By Stable.

Also winning in 1:59 for Burke and Gingras was male trotter Celebrity Bambino, from the family of Dan Patch Award winners Housethatruthbuilt and Master Lavec. Celebrity Bambino trotted the second half of his mile in :56. He is owned by Burke Racing Stable, J&T Silva Stables, Knox Services, and Phil Collura. The son of Muscle Hill-Celebrity Ruth was bred by White Birch Farm and purchased for \$120,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale.

"(In Italian) was very good," Burke said. "She gets better all the time. Every time we ask her to go faster, she goes faster. She is very much like her sister; I think that if she has a target, somebody to aim at, she's going to be even better.

"She's very professional, does everything right. She reminds me of her sister. I don't know if she has the speed yet that Atlanta has, but not too many do.

"We love (Celebrity Bambino). He trained down like a killer. He seems like a top colt. We're very happy with him. He's just perfect. He does everything perfect. He really does."

Celebrity Bambino and In Italian were among Burke's eight winning 2-year-olds on Monday. He swept the three qualifiers for filly pacers with Stop The Show, Hungry For Love, and Esperanza Hanover and also won with male trotter Herodotus and male pacers Ervin Hanover and Loubet.

Stop The Show, a \$400,000 buy at the Lexington Selected Sale from the family of Dan Patch Award-winning filly Put On A Show, won her qualifier in 1:54 2/5 with a 27 2/5 last quarter. The Sweet Lou-Come See The Show filly is owned by Brixton Medical Inc., Hatfield Stables, and Marvin Katz. She was bred by Steve Jones and Maumee River Stables.

Esperanza Hanover (Sweet Lou-Emily R Hanover) won in 1:56 1/5 for owners Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, James Simpson, and Weaver Brussemi. The Hanover Shoe Farms-bred filly was purchased for \$70,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale.

Hungry For Love (Stay Hungry-Lover Of Art) is a half-sister to stakes winners Art Scene and Summer Charm. She won in 1:57 1/5 for owners Thomas Dillon and Scott Dillion. She was bred by Brittany Farms and purchased for \$80,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale.

Herodotus (Bar Hopping-Regal Woman) won in 1:59 4/5. The colt is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, and Weaver Brussemi. He was bred by Dr. William Solomon and sold for \$50,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale.

Ervin Hanover (Captaintreacherous-Eloquent Grace) won in 1:54 1/5. He is owned by Burke Racing Stable, J&T Silva Stables, James Simpson, and Weaver Brussemi. He was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms and purchased for \$115,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale. His family includes millionaires Ginger And Fred and Fred And Ginger.

Loubet (Sweet Lou-Atsallrite Hanover) won in 1:57 2/5 for breeder/owners Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brussemi, Michelle Yanek and Phil Collura.

"Overall, it was good," Burke said. "There were a couple that were real good, but we expect them to be good too. Overall, I was very happy."

Trainer Julie Miller won two of the 2-year-old qualifiers with female trotters, Friends After Six and Wind Chime.

Wind Chime (Father Patrick-Wind Stroll) won in 1:59 with a 27 4/5 last quarter. She is owned by Andy Miller Stable, Gty Stable, Walter Zent, and Tony Holmes. She was bred by Holmes and Zent and was purchased for \$60,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale. She is a three-quarter sister to Valley Victory and Kindergarten Classic winner Fast As The Wind.

Friends After Six (Tactical Landing-Bambino Supreme), from the family of multiple Dan Patch Award-winner Six Pack, won in 1:59 2/5. She is owned by Andy Miller Stable, Never 2 Late Stable, and William Devan Jr. She was bred by Steve Jones and sold for \$55,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale.

Rounding out the day's 2-year-old winners was male pacer Ammo (Sweet Lou-Beach Gal) from the stable of Joe Holloway. He won in 1:56 for owners Val D'Or Farms and Ted Gewertz. He was bred by Sergeant Stables and sold under the name Lou's Guy for \$90,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale. He is a half-brother to Grand Circuit winner Always A Miki.

For replays of qualifiers one through seven, presented by The First Mile, click [here](#). For qualifiers eight through 14, click [here](#).

## Grand Fashion impressive in Magical Acres qualifiers

Grand Fashion is a full sister to recently crowned New Jersey Sire Stakes champion female trotter Fashion Schooner and half-sister to two-time Dan Patch Award-winner Broadway Donna, but she is her own girl.

Grand Fashion was among Wednesday's (6/8) nine winning 2-year-olds during the first of this month's weekly qualifiers at Magical Acres training center. Bred and owned by Fashion Farms, the daughter of Walner-Broadway Schooner won in 2:01 4/5 with Tim Tetrack in the sulky.

"I was very happy with the way she went," trainer Jim Campbell said. "Her manners were good, she trotted home nice; Timmy liked her a lot. She did everything that we could have asked of her today. We're going to take her up to The Meadowlands a week from Saturday."

So, does Grand Fashion share any similarities with her siblings?

"None," said Campbell, who trained Broadway Donna during her career and now has Fashion Schooner in his stable. "She is totally different than any of them. Not in any bad way, but she's just her own. She's been a tough one. She was tough all winter training, just trying to find the right things that suited her equipment wise and everything like that. But she's always showed that she was very athletic and had speed to her."

Fashion Farms was not the only owner to win with a homebred 2-year-old at Magical Acres on Wednesday. Trainer Tom Cancelliere sent out two winners -- male pacer Feel My Wrath and female pacer Absolute Power -- for his brother, breeder/owner John Cancelliere.

Feel My Wrath (Western Shore-Some Kinda Girl) won in 2:00 1/5 and Absolute Power (Sweet Lou-Power Pack Hanover) won in 1:59 4/5, both with driver Corey Callahan. Feel My Wrath is from the family of Hall of Fame broodmare Cathedra, his third dam, while Absolute Power is from the family of Grand Circuit winner Panther Hanover.

Also winning two qualifiers was trainer Jonas Czernyson, who scored with male trotters Smooth Landing, in 2:02, and Templeton, in 2:00 4/5. Both were driven by Daryl Thiessen.

Templeton (Muscle Mass-Dornello) was purchased under the name Dominic Hanover for \$52,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale and is owned by Czernyson, Aldebaran Park, and Lars Berg.

Smooth Landing (Tactical Landing-Ostrich Blue Chip) was purchased for \$40,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale and is owned by J Czernyson Aldebaran Park, Barry Carter, Lars Berg, and Geoffrey Dubrowsky. His family includes Quincy Blue Chip, a New York Sire Stakes champion and Empire Breeders Classic winner.

Female pacer American Wisdom (American Ideal-Tori Hanover) posted the day's fastest time among the 2-year-olds, winning in 1:58 for trainer Linda Toscano, driver Scott Zeron, and owner Brittany Farms, which also bred the filly. Her family includes O'Brien and Dan Patch Award-winner American Jewel as well as millionaire Luck Be Withyou.

Rounding out the list of winning 2-year-olds were male pacers Handlelikeaporsche and Maskless, and female pacer Rock My Socks.

Handlelikeaporsche (Lazarus N-The Signature) won in 2:00 3/5 for trainer Chris Ryder and driver Dexter Dunn. He was purchased for \$100,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale and is owned by Ryder, William Ezzo, Robert Mondillo, and Barry Spak. His family includes O'Brien Award-winner Vegas Vacation.

Maskless (Heston Blue Chip-Dance With Danger) won in 2:05 for trainer Nik Drennan and driver James O'Donnell. The homebred colt is owned by Let It Ride Stables and Bottom Line Racing.

Rock My Socks (Boston Red Rocks-Kattimon) won in 2:01 3/5 for trainer Jake Leamon and driver Dunn. She is owned by Rick Berks and was purchased for \$30,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale. She is a half-sister to O'Brien Award-winner Classic Pro and Grand Circuit winner Devil Child.

To watch replays of the qualifiers, presented by The First Mile, click [here](#).



**BY DERICK GIWNER**

Frank Canzone started his path in harness racing as a teenager attending the races at Yonkers Raceway and those early encounters sparked a love affair with the sport. He got involved as an owner in the early 2000s and currently ranks as one of the leaders in terms of earnings with a 30-plus-head stable of mostly overnight horses.

The 51-year-old Canzone took some time away from his construction business to discuss his journey in harness racing, the sport in general and what it's like to juggle many different trainers.



## OWNER FRANK CANZONE

### How did you get started in harness racing?

I used to go to Yonkers when I was 16 years old, to double-headers [on Tuesdays] watching Luc Ouellette and Walter Case race. I won my first day there and ever since I've been hooked.

### So did you grow up in the area?

I grew up in Yonkers and then I moved to New Rochelle. In a couple of months, I'm moving to Florida. I bought a house down there.

### Will it be weird for you not being able to go to the track all the time to see your horses?

I still have family up here and my business is up here, so I still have to come back, but my wife and my son are moving down to Florida. I'll fly back and forth.

### How did you end up getting into ownership?

A friend of mine's uncle had a horse with a trainer at Yonkers named Carl Tirella. Me and two other partners ended up getting a \$5,000 claimer called Potomatt River and that started it. That was with Zippett Racing stable. Then one horse turned into two horses. Carl was my first trainer, then Brian Horlacher. I wound up meeting Yannick [Gingras] in like 2002 or 2003. His then girlfriend Vicki Mosher [now Vicki Gingras] was training and we ended up buying horses together.

### You are in the top 15 in owner earnings this year. What made you pick up your game in terms of numbers?

Just reinvesting the money I've made. I've been very fortunate to win a lot of races and get hooked up with the right people. I love the game and it is very addicting. Besides having my children, there is no greater feeling than winning a horse race. Being in that winner's circle with your friends and having a great time is priceless.

### You've had a number of partners but one that has been with you from the start is Yannick Gingras. What is that relationship like?

It is great. We see things eye to eye. His knowledge of the game is great. He's trustworthy. I had a horse called Miami and Yannick qualified the horse at The Meadowlands. Yannick asked me if I owned the horse



MIKE LIZZI

**Owner Frank Canzone feels at home when visiting Yonkers Raceway but cited The Meadowlands as his favorite track to attend.**

by myself and I said yeah. He asked if he could buy a piece of the horse and I said absolutely. He asked how much and I told him whatever you want to give me just write out a check. Three days later the check came. That's the type of relationship we have. Yannick is a Hall of Famer and I congratulate him and Ron Burke on getting into the Hall this year.

### It has to be a huge help having someone you trust so much on the journey with you?

Absolutely. If I'm not buying a horse with him, I can always ask him about it. He remembers about horses he drove like five years ago and can tell me the horse is no good or too hot. Having that knowledge from his experience is priceless.

### What kind of car do you drive?

Jeep Wrangler.

### Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

Veal Parm; Cheez Doodles.

### What is your favorite track to visit? Why?

Meadowlands. As an owner it is great to go there for dinner with friends. They are very hospitable and fan-friendly.

### What is your favorite big event in racing? Why?

Hambletonian. Hopefully one day I'll have a horse in the race. To see all of the people at the track and all the great horses and drivers competing, there is nothing better than that.

### How often is racing on your mind?

Every day, every minute. That is my passion, besides my construction business, which takes up a lot of my time. Being an owner I can be on the phone or bidding OnGait during working hours. When I'm not racing, I feel like I'm lost.

### How many horses do you own?

Between 32 to 35 horses.

### What is your favorite sport to watch? Team?

Football – Pittsburgh Steelers.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 11](#)



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

That I'm a good-hearted person. I try to please everyone but unfortunately in this game and in life you can't please everyone.

## What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Life – It is in my blood. There is something about that feeling of winning and being around that beautiful animal. Once I stop my construction business in a couple of years, that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to try to be like Mark Weaver.

## Yannick isn't your only partner in the sport. What is it like to work with so many owners and trainers?

Everyone has the same passion for winning and once you have too many partners you can upset some by buying horses with different people. It is a fine line you have to walk, with the trainers, too. I probably have eight to nine trainers. I just started racing in Indiana. I race in Delaware with Ed Gannon. I'd invite him to my house in Florida. He's just a great guy. The trainers are becoming my friends. When you have a good partner there is a bond. I have horses with Jenn and Joe in JB Racing and now I have a bunch with Per Engblom who is great and hands-on. Certain horses fit certain people, their personalities or their training regimens. Horses are like people, some will do well with some people and some with others. If one trainer can't do well with a horse, I don't want to give up on them without giving the horse to someone else before moving on.

## What was your best moment in Harness Racing?

Winning the Matron with Type A.

## Was that your first stakes win?

It was probably my first big stakes win. I won one New York Sire Stakes with Our White Knight and two Maryland races with Goodoo Doll. I haven't been lucky in the stakes program.

## What is the favorite horse you've owned?

Privilege Hanover. Hopefully it will be I Da Princess or Infinity Stone. In 20 years maybe I'd answer that differently.

## From my perspective the most important horse you've ever owned is Direct Order as he accounts for my lone pari-mutuel win as an amateur driver. Do you remember that?

I knew you drove for me. I think I was in the winner's circle that day.

## Is it more frustrating watching an amateur drive your horse?

No, because I've sat behind horses jogging them and I realize how strong the horses are. On TV it looks like slow motion but out there they are moving very fast. It is easy to sit at home and critique the race, but when you are in the race driving it is a different ballgame. I give you guys all the credit, I could never do it. The gift the pros have and even the amateurs; these horses are very powerful and it is very scary when you are jogging, so I can only imagine going 35 or 40 miles per hour.



MIKE LIZZI

**Frank Canzone (right) joined driver Yannick Gingras in the winner's circle at Yonkers Raceway after their new trotting acquisition I Da Princess romped in 1:54 3/5.**

## When will you give me my next winning drive?

Whenever you ask. Any horse you see of mine, if it fits the qualifications, it's yours to drive.

## You have mostly owned overnight horses but lately you've gone in with the Taktors on some younger ones. What brought that on?

Everyone wants to have a 3-year-old or 2-year-old champion, so I've tried it and hopefully one day I'll get lucky. I have a couple with Chris Ryder this year. I didn't go crazy with the babies this year because the money for the overnights is so good. I always tease Yannick that hopefully I'll get a Hambo winner for him because I know that is the one thing missing on his résumé, and I would love to give it to him.

## Is there one particular horse that you are excited to watch through the rest of 2022?

I Da Princess. She is just so fluid trotting. I've been very lucky buying these horses through OnGait and giving them to the right people. I can't thank my trainers enough. I'm very hands-off. They run the ship.

## You mentioned having eight to nine trainers. How do you decide who will train each one?

We will buy a horse [from] OnGait and decide who will be the right fit. You have to look at how many horses they have and how many they have in the class. With The Meadowlands they will let you race uncoupled entries so you have to check all that. If a trainer has two or three in the class you might not get in. Sometimes it is just a feel. If a horse doesn't fit a program, you try someone else out. If it still doesn't work out, you cut your losses. That's one thing I've learned. Mark Beckwith told me 15 years ago, 'Frank, sometimes you are going to spend \$50,000 for a good \$10,000 claimer.' That's this business. Some horses you can buy for \$20,000 and they can be worth \$50,000 and others you can buy for \$50,000 and they are worth \$10,000. You just try to negate the losses. The bills get expensive and you have to put the horses in the right classes.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

## How involved are you as an owner?

I'll text the trainer after the race and tell them my thoughts or congratulate them, but I don't tell the driver what to do. I don't like my horses being abused. I hate them being parked out, although I know it is the nature of the game. If they are parked out, sit them out there and let them race; don't abuse them. I try to let the trainers have their personal space because they are busy, and I'm busy too.

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

I would love to get more young people involved. I used to go to the track when I was 16 or 17 years old. Winning the first time, seeing those animals and having a good time as a youth is what made me love the game. I was a bettor first and it is possible to go to the track as a young person and eventually own horses. No one owned horses in my family. I just loved the game. Being around good people is huge; trustworthy people. Maybe that is the one thing I would change: getting rid of the bad trainers out there that take advantage of good owners. They see you have money and they are selfish at the time. If you have a good owner, why screw that owner? I've been burnt in the business before and I keep those memories in the back of my mind. A happy customer is a return customer.

## How do you view the future of harness racing?

Hopefully it continues the way it is. The program in Ohio and Kentucky, and now Virginia is getting big. I'm hoping it continues in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The whole thing is getting younger people involved. The syndicates are great because you can get involved with a small percentage and if you are successful, you can get other horses on your own. That helps get young blood into the game.

## Time for the stretch drive:

Best horse you ever saw? Scenic Regal with Harold Story.

Best Driver ever? Yannick Gingras. I may be a little biased.

Lasix – Yes or No? If the horse needs it, yes. If not, no.

Favorite TV Show? Yellowstone.

Trotters or Pacers? Trotters.

## DISCOUNTED ENTRY FEE FOR TOMPKINS-GEERS AT THE MEADOWLANDS

The Meadowlands and The Hambletonian Society are reminding trainers that have 2-year-olds eligible to the Tompkins-Geers stakes to be raced at The Meadowlands on Friday, June 17 that entry fees will be substantially discounted on horses eligible to other Meadowlands stakes as stated below:

Standard Tompkins-Geers Entry Fee Is \$500

\* If a 2-year-old has made all payments to the Fall Final Four & Kindergarten Series, the entrance fee will be waived.

\* If a 2-year-old has made all payments to the Fall Final Four only, the entrance fee will be discounted 50% to \$250.

\* If the 2-year-old has made all payments to the Kindergarten Series only, the entrance fee will be discounted 25% to \$375.

You may check for eligibility to these stakes from the links below:

[Tompkins-Geers 2YO](#)

[Kindergarten & Fall Final Four](#)

Enter by 9:00am on Tuesday, June 14. Racing office (201) 842-5130.

-release (Meadowlands)

## DRF Bets Handicapper's Corner

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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 and value plays. 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, JUNE 9

#### RACE 9

(4) BOLT OF BEAUTY doesn't have to face Best Head West tonight, and I think that will result in her finding the winner's circle.

-Greg Reinhart

**EMPIRE CITY**  
CASINO  
YONKERS RACEWAY

### FRIDAY, JUNE 10

#### RACE 5

(2) GAME OF CHANGE returns to the Estrada barn where he won four times in nine starts earlier this year. This race came up a bit tough but those races are hidden on the program and that should provide good value.

-Derick Givner

**MEADOWLANDS**  
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

#### RACE 5

(5) FAST AS THE WIND got a perfect tuneup for this with a narrow loss to classy older millionaire JL Cruze and he gets the nod here.

-Garnet Barnsdale

**WOODBINE**  
MOHAWK PARK

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

#### RACE 2

(3) STONEBRIDGE REEF won three starts back, faced a much better field two back and was a victim of a slow pace last time. Short field is perfect for this guy as he can sit and pounce.

-Givner

**MEADOWLANDS**  
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

### FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

#### Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

#### Meadowlands Analysis

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#### Yonkers Analysis

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**DHP PPS**

**HARNESS EYE PPS**

**TRACKMASTER PPS**

**FREE PPS**

**INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES**



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## LAYTON HANOVER, ENERGETIC HANOVER COLLECT PASS VICTORIES

Layton Hanover and Energetic Hanover picked up their first career Pennsylvania Sire Stakes wins on Wednesday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia, capturing the two \$69,179 flights for 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers that took place.

[READ MORE](#)

## MARK MACDONALD BRINGS OUT THE BROOM IN NYSS

Mark MacDonald drove Bomb Hugger and Cash Infusion to wins in the pair of \$57,000 New York Sire Stakes splits for 3-year-old trotting fillies that were held on Wednesday afternoon at Buffalo Raceway.

[READ MORE](#)

## MCCARTHY, GINGRAS CLEAN UP IN KENTUCKY-BRED SERIES AT OAK GROVE

First round action in the new-for-2022 Kentucky-Bred Series for 4-year-olds took place on Tuesday afternoon at Oak Grove Racing & Gaming. Each event was worth \$50,000 and Andy McCarthy won both trots, while Yannick Gingras captured both paces.

The mare trot went as a non-wagering race, and Beltassima defeated two foes in 1:56 1/5. She and McCarthy led through panels of 29 2/5, 58 3/5, and 1:27 3/5 and downed Jazzy Jules (Christian Lind) by five lengths. Highly Acclaimed (Dan Shetler) rounded out the order.

[READ MORE](#)

## DAN PATCH AWARDS WILL RETURN TO ORLANDO IN 2023

The United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), the industry's leading group of journalists, is very proud to announce that the annual Dan Patch Awards Banquet, and the annual USHWA meetings held in conjunction with the banquet, will be returning to the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort near Disney World in Orlando FL. The Banquet will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023.

[READ MORE](#)

## STRONG GROUP OF 2-YEAR-OLDS PUT IN FIRST QUALIFIERS AT PHILLY

The 2-year-olds were out in force at Harrah's Philadelphia on Tuesday morning (6/7), with 10 fields of babies taking preparatory steps towards their racing career.

[READ MORE](#)

## PREFERRED EQUINE ONLINE RINGS UP \$430,000 IN SALES

Fast and fresh racehorses were the order of the day at the Monday, June 6 Preferred Equine Online Mixed Sale, with Yonkers and Meadowlands regular Demeter N p,1:52 4/5h leading the way with a purchase price of \$88,000.

[READ MORE](#)

## WINBAK FARM TO SPONSOR BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Grand River Raceway (GRR) announced that Winbak Farm will be the presenting sponsor of the 25th edition of Battle of Waterloo, held on August 1, 2022.

The Battle of Waterloo, a stake for Ontario Sired 2-year-old pacers, is the signature race held annually at GRR and a key early-season race for all colts racing in the Ontario Sires Stakes program.

[READ MORE](#)

## BRANDED BY LINDY, COOL PAPA BELL LEAD NYSS TROTTERS AT VERNON

Vernon Downs plays host to two divisions of the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) for 3-year-old trotting colts & geldings in a special Friday matinee (June 10).

Branded By Lindy (Yannick Gingras) is the even-money favorite in the \$57,000 first division (race 2) of the NYSS. The colt by Chapter Seven will be making his 2022 debut after a terrific freshmen campaign where he won

eight times in 11 career starts and amassed over \$230,000 in lifetime earnings. He is owned by Lindy Farms of Conn and trained by Domenico Cecere.

The Jim Campbell trained Cool Papa Bell (Brian Sears) is the 6-5 morning-line choice in the \$57,000 second division carded as race 4. The Chapter Seven gelding is two-for-two as a sophomore including a NYSS win at Tioga Downs. Owned by Runthetable Stables, he has five lifetime victories and has won over \$170,000 during his career.

The 11-race card starts at 12:15 p.m.

**-edited release (Vernon)**

## 2-YEAR-OLDS COME OUT TO PLAY IN POCONO QUALIFIERS

A total of 11 qualifiers for 2-year-olds were held at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono during a Wednesday morning session. Divided into four segments by sex and gait, below are the highlights of the morning's action:

**PACING FILLIES** -- The father/son team of trainer Erv and driver Marcus Miller struck in two of this group's three sections, including with the fastest winner by far, the Lazarus N - Put On A Display miss Fox Valley Adele, who never looked back in 1:57 1/5, last quarter 27 4/5, for the ownership of Ervin Miller Stable Inc. and Bowie Racing LLC. Team Miller also sent out Frondeur, a daughter of Arocknroll Dance - Redhot's Memory, who came from off the pace with individual back fractions of 57 2/5 - 27 3/5 to post a 2:00 1/5 success.

**PACING COLTS** - Trainer/driver Todd Schadel got a pair of victories from sons of Stay Hungry, the faster with the colt Arroyo Hanover (dam Anadarko Hanover), who dominated on the engine in 1:58 4/5, with back splits of 56 4/5 - 27 4/5 for Todd and Christine Schadel, Timothy Hayes, and Dr. Megan Moschgat. Team Schadel combined in the other triumph, as Todd's son Cody piloted the gelding Tictocmoe (dam Mai Katie) home first in 1:59 - 58 1/5 - 29. Fastest winner of the day came from the father/son Team Miller crew with Barbossa Hanover (a Captaintreacherous - Bittersweet Terror colt), who triumphed in 1:56 4/5.

**TROTGING FILLIES** - Todd Schadel, who had a success with a baby trotting miss on Tuesday at Harrah's, came back at Pocono the next day to notch two more, the faster from the Cantab Hall - Shes On Fire filly Gina's On Fire, who rallied from the pocket to win in 2:03, her own last split 29 1/5, for Todd and co-owner/wife Christine. Just a tick behind that one was Keystone Sweetpea, by Bar Hopping - Keystone Sirena, a coast-to-coast winner who turned in a last quarter of 29 3/5. Fastest in this section was Topsy Moni (International Moni - Seaside), whose 2:02 clocking for owner/trainer/diver D. R. Ackerman matched the one she posted last week.

**TROTGING COLTS** - Trainer/driver Ray Schnittker won by over 10 lengths with the Bar Hopping - Snow Angel Hanover colt Snowman Hanover, coming home in 58 1/5 - 29 to complete a 2:01 triumph for Schnittker Bordogna, Arden Homestead Stable, Steven Arnold, and Ted Gewertz. The other winner in this group, the E L Titan - Bone A Fide colt Heza Scoundrel (2:01 4/5) earns a mention because it was the first driving victory of any kind for Joe Antonelli, seldom in the sulky these days, since November 17, 2015 at Pocono, when he won with Lady Of The Lake - who returned a \$400.60 mutuel!

**-edited release (Pocono/PHHA)**

## HICKEY WINS FREE WHHC QUALIFIER AT THE MEADOWLANDS

Ken Hickey of Dumont, NJ, took first place in Saturday's (6/4) free WHHC Qualifier at the Meadowlands. Hickey won a \$1,000 seat into the World Harness Handicapping Championship Final on September 10, 2022.

The contest required players to make a mythical \$2 "across the board" wager on one horse in races 1-10 at the Meadowlands. Hickey finished with \$119.50; \$9 ahead of the second place finisher. He hit the board on all but one of his 10 wagers. His biggest score came in Race 4 when Tim Tetrack piloted Great Unknown to an upset win giving Hickey a \$38.40 across the board score.

The World Harness Handicapping Championship is a one-day tournament [September 10, 2022]. Players that did not earn a seat through a qualifying event can directly buy-in for \$1,000. The \$1,000 entry fee includes a \$300 bankroll, with the remaining \$700 going to the prize pool.

For more information on how to become a WHHC partner outlet or sponsor, contact Rachel Ryan, Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment (rryan@playmeadowlands.com) or 201-842-5015.

**-edited release (Meadowlands)**