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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

DRF BETS

DIGITAL HARNESS EYE HARNESS PPS

NA Cup 'Beach' Party for McCarthy?



Pebble Beach is expected to be a heavy favorite at post time for the North America Cup.

By Jay Bergman

DRF HARNESS HOME

For 29-year-old Todd McCarthy, just being in the North America Cup is a big deal.

"Growing up as a fan you watched all the big races and dreamed of being in them," McCarthy said. McCarthy dreamed from afar but on Saturday he'll be up close and behind morning-line favorite Pebble Beach as the pair set their sights on the C\$1 million sophomore pacing event at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Pebble Beach, the faster of the two elimination winners this past Saturday (June 11), was allowed to pick second after Beach Glass chose post four in Tuesday's draw. Pebble Beach chose post five in the middle of the 10-horse field that will afford his driver a clear view of all participants and a way to plot strategy.

"He's an easier horse to drive this year," said

McCarthy, who indicated that Pebble Beach, a colt from the first crop of Downbytheseaside, has matured from his freshman to sophomore season.

In last week's elimination race McCarthy knew what he was in for racing Pebble Beach from off the pace. "I kind of knew when I got out of there that I was going to be first-up," said McCarthy. "He was feeling very strong on the final turn, but I didn't want to let him go too early."

McCarthy's patience in the bike has been a signature of his rise up the ladder among North America's best drivers. In this just his third year since arriving he's commanding some of the best horses in training from leading conditioners.

"I think he's coming into the race in great shape," said McCarthy of the Noel Daley-trained colt that has captured nine of his 14 career starts to date,

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

including two consecutive stakes victories at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

While McCarthy is confident in his charge, it is clear from listening to a few others in the race that he is not alone. Trainer Brian Brown for instance will have two horses in the final starting next to each other in Ario Hanover (post six) and Night Hawk (post seven). Brown was in a similar position with his pair of Fear The Dragon and Downbytheseaside back in 2017 when they finished first and third in the North America Cup.

"Finishing first and third again would be fine with me," said Brown in an optimistic tone.

Brown's Night Hawk entered last week's trials off a 1:48 4/5 career-best effort in Pennsylvania Sire Stakes action and the trainer was happy with his second-place finish behind Pebble Beach.

"You don't want to give everything away in the elimination and have nothing left for the final," said Brown. "We're going to put a shadow roll back on him

like he wore in the Pocono [Sire Stakes] race. I don't like putting shadow rolls on my horses, but he might have seen something at the head of the stretch last week that made him lose focus."

Night Hawk, a son of Betting Line, has won three of his five starts as a sophomore, finishing second on the other two occasions.

Stablemate Ario Hanover was a strong closing third in his trial last week and Brown has chosen Dexter Dunn for the driving assignment this week with David Miller sticking with Night Hawk.

"He was training right with Night Hawk last year when he got hurt. Both had the same injury, a bone bruise above the ankle in their left hind," Brown said. "He's raced well in every race so far. We scoped him after his second-place finish in the Sire Stakes [May 30] and he had a high white blood count. He was much better last week."

Both Night Hawk and Ario Hanover enter the North America Cup with just seven lifetime starts and the lack of experience doesn't scare the trainer. "Beach Glass has seven starts also," Brown said, pointing to the likely second choice in the event.

Beach Glass brings trainer-owner Brent McGrath back to the North America Cup 14 years after capturing the race with the colt's sire, the incomparable Somebeachsomewhere.



"There's a lot less pressure this time." said McGrath at Tuesday's press conference. The trainer was happy with the performance of Beach Glass, with Yannick Gingras making his first start behind the colt in last week's trial. "He's going to need to pick up a few seconds," said McGrath, "But I think he can."

Beach Glass paced to a 1:51 career-best mile in his elimination victory. "He got a little sleepy on the front late, but he responded when Yannick

asked him. I think that race will serve him well."

For McCarthy, the night could culminate in the eleventh race C\$1 million North America Cup but he'll have plenty to sit behind prior to that, including a very talented filly in the C\$401K Fan Hanover stakes (race 8) for 3-year-olds named Wickedly Innocent.

"Last week was a big test up in class for her," said McCarthy. "I believe she passed it."



Night Hawk starts from post 7 and is sure to be heard from at some point during the North America Cup mile. (below-left to right) Luc Blais, Brent MacGrath, Sonja Booth and James Dean hope their horses come out on top in the C\$1,000,000 NA Cup final.



Wickedly Innocent and McCarthy carved out a nice cover trip and looked to be going on to victory in the deep stretch before Silver Label and James MacDonald rolled by them late in the stretch.

"The track was a little loose and that's not the kind of surface she likes," said McCarthy, who is hoping for better conditions this week. "I think the post will work out well for her."

Wickedly Innocent drew the rail in the competitive 10-horse field with elimination winner and stablemate Treacherous Dragon selecting post three and Silver Label choosing post four in the field.

The Fan Hanover is top-heavy in talent, with Ontario's finest Prohibition Legal (post two) starting to round into form in what will be her fourth start of the season. Last year Prohibition Legal won eight of her nine starts, with her lone defeat at the hands of Dan Patch winner Niki Hill in the She's A Great Lady.

Ohio-bred Sea Silk, another from the exciting first crop of Downbytheseaside, was a solid third in her Fan Hanover elimination last week for trainer Ron Burke and driver Chris Page. A nine-time winner in 11 starts as a 2-year-old, Sea Silk made her first start outside the U.S. last week and should benefit from the trip over the track. Sea Silk landed post six.

Trainer Tony Alagna also has a pair of fillies in the race with Queen Of Success and Boudoir Hanover, daughters of his 2013 North America Cup champion Captaintreacherous, lining up from posts seven and nine, respectively.

McCarthy enjoyed tremendous success last year with the Dan Patch winner for older pacing horses Allywag Hanover, a prized mount.



Todd McCarthy was successful north of the border in 2021, capturing the Canadian Pacing Derby with Allywag Hanover, who he'll steer in the \$100,000 Mohawk Gold Cup on Saturday.

an invitational that attracted a stellar field for the fifth of 13 races on the program.

"I was very happy with his race last week," McCarthy said of Allywag Hanover, who finished second behind Bulldog Hanover in an Open event on the June 11 Woodbine Mohawk Park card. "Bulldog got away from him on the turn and went a big mile. I kind of thought when he got separation that Allywag might get tired in the stretch, but he didn't and finished the mile off nicely," said McCarthy.

Allywag Hanover drew post four in the C\$100,000 Mohawk Gold Cup, "He had a couple of qualifiers in 1:50 and then got into a [1]:48 mile right out of the box," said McCarthy. "I think it was good for him."

Allywag Hanover will have company as he looks for his first win as a 5-year-old with the comeback kid Jimmy Freight rising rapidly in the rankings after some huge efforts over last two months. Jimmy Freight (post three) has won 10 races in 2022 including the Camluck Classic (May 27). He was also an eye-catching second in the Battle Of Lake Erie last week (June 11) at Northfield while overcoming a parked-the-mile journey from post eight and narrowly losing in a 1:49 2/5 effort over the half-mile oval.

Also included in the field is the upset winner in the Battle of Lake Erie and Borgata Pacing Series final Funatthebeach N (post eight) as well as Juravinski champion Linedrive Hanover (post seven) and a resurgent Workin Ona Mystery (post five).

McCarthy also picks up a drive behind Gigondas for trainer Tony Alagna in the C\$251,000 Goodtimes (race 7) for sophomore trotters.

"Todd drove him in the Breeders Crown," said Alagna, who also sends out likely favorite Fast As The Wind from post four. "I think with the draw [Gigondas] could be in a good spot to get money."

While he'll have his work cut out for him, McCarthy also drives Amazing Dream N from post 10 in the C\$315,000 Roses Are Red final (race 10) versus two impressive elimination winners in Test Of Faith (post two) and Lyons Sentinel (post three).

The only stake on the card without McCarthy is the C\$211,000 Armbro Flight (race 9) where Bella Bellini (post three) will try to best former Armbro Flight champions Atlanta (post seven), When Dovescry (post one) and Hey Livvy (post 10).

Racing begins with an early 6:30 PM E.D.T. start time and includes a pair of \$100,000 guaranteed Pick 5 wagers in the first and seventh races. The 13th race finale offers a \$548,692 mandatory payout Hi-5 pool.

NA CUP PP'S AND FULL-CARD SELECTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



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NORTH AMERICA CUP NIGHT STAKES HANDICAPPING

	Race 5 \$100,000 Mohawk Gold Cup	Race 7 \$251,000 Goodtimes	Race 8 \$401,000 Fan Hanover	Race 9 \$211,000 Armbro Flight	Race 10 \$315,000 Roses Are Red	Race 11 \$1,000,000 North America Cup
	(3) JIMMY FREIGHT produced a big effort in defeat in the Battle of Lake Erie; gets back on track leaving from a good post. (4) ALLYWAG	(7) PRETENDER was first-up last week, which should have him tight. Gingras gets more aggressive and scores the upset. (4) FAST AS THE	 (6) SEA SILK was very good last week considering the conservative drive. She could be a good value play. (3) TREACHEROUS 	 (2) NEXT LEVEL STUFF gets a good draw here and she can work out a trip at a square price; call to upset. (3) BELLA BELLINI 	(2) TEST OF FAITH will get valuable position on her main rival here and that should be the deciding factor. (3) LYONS SENTINEL	(4) BEACH GLASS is probably sitting on the biggest race of his life in this third start back. With Gingras taking the return drive he gets
GARNET BARNSDALE	HANOVER (7) LINEDRIVE HANOVER	WIND (5) TWIN B ARCHIE	DRAGON (2) PROHIBITION LEGAL	(7) ATLANTA	(1) SO MUCH MORE	the nod. (5) PEBBLE BEACH (3) RON
CA Change	 (4) ALLYWAG HANOVER was surprisingly strong in the stretch after losing contact with Bulldog Hanover. (5) WORKIN ONA MYSTERY (3) JIMMY FREIGHT 	 (4) FAST AS THE WIND was unchallenged and unthreatened at any point in last week's trials; seems primed for a big mile here. (5) TWIN B ARCHIE (9) WORLD AT WAR 	 (6) SEA SILK showed last week that she can step away from Ohio and be effective. Fleet filly deserves the upset call. (3) TREACHEROUS DRAGON (9) BOUDOIR 	(1) WHEN DOVESCRY gets her first reasonable draw of the year and figures to make the most of it. Veteran mare is at her best on or near the front. (3) BELLA BELLINI	 (2) TEST OF FAITH displayed that wicked turn of speed that made her last year's Horse of the Year in last week's trial. Inside post can keep her out of danger. (3) LYONS SENTINEL 	 (7) NIGHT HAWK has been rock solid in each of his starts this year and has the high turn of speed necessary with the big money on the line. (5) PEBBLE BEACH
BERGMAN EFFICIENT BERICK GIWNER	 (4) ALLYWAG HANOVER surprised me with a very aggressive effort in his 2022 debut; tight and ready now. (3) JIMMY FREIGHT (7) LINEDRIVE HANOVER 	DEO (4) FAST AS THE WIND was the best of this group last year and still seems at the head of the class here. (9) WORLD AT WAR DEO (5) TWIN B ARCHIE	 HANOVER (3) TREACHEROUS DRAGON has looked like the best 3YO pacing filly all year. No reason to change that view tonight. (5) LYONS SERENITY (6) SEA SILK 	 (7) ATLANTA (2) NEXT LEVEL STUFF had to abort leaving last time and rallied well. Is she ready to step up at age 5? (3) BELLA BELLINI (7) ATLANTA 	 (8) KOBES GIGI (3) LYONS SENTINEL has the age and likely price edge on Test Of Faith in this first-ever match-up. (2) TEST OF FAITH (8) KOBES GIGI 	 (4) BEACH GLASS (5) PEBBLE BEACH has proven his speed and versatil- ity in three starts this year. Lots of early speed could set him up. (6) ARIO HANOVER (7) NIGHT HAWK
GREG REINHART	 (4) ALLYWAG HANOVER showed a nice multiple-move effort last week in his 2022 debut; should be sharper here (5) WORKIN ONA MYSTERY (3) JIMMY FREIGHT 	 (4) FAST AS THE WIND won with authority in his elim and has been very sharp so far this year. (7) PRETENDER (5) TWIN B ARCHIE 	 (6) SEA SILK closed willingly while uncovered in her elim and will hopefully get some action to chase. (3) TREACHEROUS DRAGON (1) WICKEDLY INNOCENT 	 (1) WHEN DOVESCRY gets an inside draw after bad posts in her last two and should be on or near the lead. (7) ATLANTA (3) BELLA BELLINI 	 (3) LYONS SENTINEL scored in her elim despite excess cover and will offer a bit of value given Test Of Faith's presence. (2) TEST OF FAITH (1) SO MUCH MORE 	 (7) NIGHT HAWK will likely improve in his second start over the track and is slotted well to follow live cover. (5) PEBBLE BEACH (6) ARIO HANOVER
MATT ROSE	 (5) WORKIN ONA MYSTERY is finally firing on all cylinders and draws a perfect post to stalk and pounce. (4) ALLYWAG HANOVER (3) JIMMY FREIGHT 	 (4) FAST AS THE WIND needed those Meadowlands starts to tighten up and rolled in his elim. (5) TWIN B ARCHIE (2) DULY RESOLVED 	 (3) TREACHEROUS DRAGON was a top 2-year-old and looks to go five-for- five in 2022. (2) PROHIBITION LEGAL (9) BOUDOIR HANOVER 	 (7) ATLANTA has prepped well for first big-money engagement and the mare will be ready to fire. (2) NEXT LEVEL STUFF (3) BELLA BELLINI 	 (8) KOBES GIGI arrived from Indiana and was a solid second in her elim, beaten just half a length. More in the tank? (2) TEST OF FAITH (4) LIT DE ROSE 	 (4) BEACH GLASS was a comfortable elim winner but this late-bloomer should have more speed in the tank second- time Gingras. (5) PEBBLE BEACH (7) NIGHT HAWK
DARIN ZOCCALI	 (3) JIMMY FREIGHT went a huge effort from a tough spot in the Battle of Lake Erie at Northfield. (4) ALLYWAG HANOVER (5) WORKIN ONA MYSTERY 	 (4) FAST AS THE WIND looked too dominant in his elimination to try and beat. (8) LOOKS LIKE MONI (5) TWIN B ARCHIE 	 (6) SEA SILK has been flying a bit under the radar. (1) WICKEDLY INNOCENT (3) TREACHEROUS DRAGON 	 (3) BELLA BELLINI displayed a mon- strous turn of foot last out. (7) ATLANTA (1) WHEN DOVESCRY 	 (2) TEST OF FAITH comes off an effort last week that wins this race. (3) LYONS SENTINEL (6) FIRE START HANOVER 	 (5) PEBBLE BEACH is poised to put on a show here after a big mile in his elimination. (4) BEACH GLASS (6) ARIO HANOVER



🕒 @harnesseyeguy

2-year-olds to watch in the coming weeks

Between The Meadowlands, Gaitway Farm and Magical Acres there have been six qualifying sessions consisting of 65 races for 2-year-olds so far in 2022. There have also been a few pari-mutuel races contested already and countless qualifying races for the babies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Ontario and other locations. The stars of tomorrow are officially preparing for Grand Circuit and Sire Stakes appearances across the country.

While it is impossible to track every region unless you make it a fulltime job, I've been able to watch all 65 races from The Big M, Gaitway and Magical Acres. Special thanks certainly go out to James Witherite's 412 Communications for supplying superb live video for the last two on YouTube. From those races I've come away with a few horses that stood out, not solely by posting fast times or winning by large margins, but due to the ease of which they performed. The horses to follow may not become champions but I'd wager that at least one or two will offer an opportunity for you to make money at the windows.

JUNE 4 - THE MEADOWLANDS

BLUE LOU (Sweet Lou-Dance Blue) coasted along on the lead and was never asked in the stretch while coming home in 26 4/5. That's exactly what we are looking for, horses which do the work on their own. The Nancy Takter-trained colt is in-to-go on June 18 (qualifier) in race 8 at The Meadowlands.

MONILISA (Walner-Gran Cavalla) was eager but controllable through slow fractions at the back of the pack and simply exploded into a different gear when asked n the lane. She's also in June 18 in race 1.

JUNE 11 - THE MEADOWLANDS

KOPI LUWAK (Stay Hungry-Auniqueaquisition) sat the pocket, was asked in the stretch and finished very willingly while reined in late by driver David Miller.

D'APPER (Walner-D'one) had to abort a leave attempt and avoid a breaking foe on the first turn, rushed to the front and fended off a late challenger while never asked by driver Tim Tetrick. The Lucas Wallin trainee was a bit green in the stretch but still won with confidence.

JUNE 13 - GAITWAY

MIDWIND SUCCESS (Chapter Seven-Outrageous Fortune) was away a bit slowly but gained nicely to the half and sat behind a foe in the stretch while never let loose late. Filly makes her pari-mutuel debut in NY Sire Stakes June 20 at Saratoga in race 5.

ESPERANZA HANOVER (Sweet Lou-Emily R Hanover) left into third, angled midway on the final turn and came up to the leader only to lose ground off the turn. What impressed me is that the Ron Burke-trained filly battled back to get the win.

JUNE 15 - MAGICAL ACRES

CULTURED (Captaintreacherous-Fine Art) came away in the pocket, brushed to the front at the quarter and opened up on the field while well in hand. The Linda Toscano trainee turned in the most impressive mile of the morning by far.

ANGELPEDIA (Cantab Hall-Baker Black Jet) picked up her game nicely when asked in the third quarter and sprinted home nicely while unasked for the final quarter.

There are 17 more qualifiers scheduled to start at 9AM on Saturday at The Meadowlands. Then over the next three weeks: NY Sire Stakes for 2-year-olds start June 20, followed by NJ Sire Stakes on the 24th at The Meadowlands, Kentucky gets underway at Oak Grove on June 26, Ontario and PA Sire Stakes start July 1 at Mohawk Park and The Meadows respectively, and Ohio gets going with the Next Generation series at Scioto on July 4.

\$548,692 Mandatory Payout Hi-5 Handicapper Tickets



With a mandatory Hi-5 payout of \$548,692, Woodbine Mohawk Park is offering handicappers with some great value in the 13th race finale on North America Cup night. The difficulty level is high in selecting the first five finishers of a 12-horse race, but the reward should be large if you select wisely.

DRF Harness has enlisted some of our staff handicappers to provide their tickets (.20 base cost) and at least some comment for the wager. Play the ticket as-is or use some combination that suits you best.

GARNET BARNSDALE

(9) LETS GET PICKLED is very capable at this level and he should clear to the front quickly; slight nod over my 2nd choice. (6) NO PLAN INTENDED - (7) YACHT SEELSTER - (5) CENTURY FURY - (4) CHAMPAGNE PHIL

6,9 / 6,9 / 1,3,4,5,7 / 1,3,4,5,7 / All = \$64

JAY BERGMAN

(1) ROCKIN N TALKIN has managed to keep form despite some tough post draws. Veteran finally lands inside and should be in striking distance. (6) NO PLAN INTENDED - (12) BOLT POWER -(10) OUTLAWGRABBINGEARS - (3) POINTOMYGRANSON

1,6 / 1,6,12 / 1,3,6,10,12 / 1,3,6,10,12 / 1,3,4,5,6,7,10,12 = \$19.20

DERICK GIWNER

(6) NO PLAN INTENDED is the clear key for me in this race. The 4-year-old has won back-to-back races in this class and has proven versatile enough to win from on or off the pace. My entire play comes down to keying him for the first and second slots with the other viable contenders. (3) POINTTOMYGRANSON, (5) CENTURY FURY and (9) LETS GET PICKLED all show good recent form and figure to be forwardly placed, an important factor in a bulky field like this one. On the fringe spots of third and beyond, (1) ROCKIN N TALKIN, who was the victim of a bad post last time, (7) YACHT SEELSTER, second in this class two starts back, and (10) OUTLAWGRABBINGEARS, who comes off a tough trip as the favorite in this class, all join the ticket.

6 / 3,5,9 / 1,3,5,7,9,10 / 1,3,5,7,9,10 / 1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12 = \$72 3,5,9 / 6 / 1,3,5,7,9,10 / 1,3,5,7,9,10 / 1,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12 = \$72

GREG REINHART

(6) NO PLAN INTENDED - sharpest horse in the race with three straight victories and has shown a versatile racing style. (1) ROCKIN N TALKIN - (5) CENTURY FURY - (7) YACHT SEELSTER - (10) OUTLAWGRABBINGEARS.

6 / 1,5,7,10 / 1,5,7,10 / 1,3,5,7,8,9,10,12 / 1,3,5,7,8,9,10,12 = \$72

DARIN ZOCCALI

(6) NO PLAN INTENDED appears to be the class of this group. (10) OUTLAWGRABBINGEARS - (1) ROCKIN N TALKIN - (7) YACHT SEELSTER - (9) LETS GET PICKED.

6 / 1,7,9,10 / 1,7,9,10 / 1,2,7,9,10 / ALL = \$57.60

Joviality S headlines strong Empire Breeders Classic group

By Jay Bergman

With the first jewel in the Trotting Triple Crown just a few weeks away, some of the likely contenders will see action this Friday afternoon as Vernon Downs hosts the Empire Breeders Classic in divisions for both fillies and colts. Perhaps the top-rated sophomore trotter this year would have to be the filly Joviality S, who in just two starts has exhibited blinding speed and won with relative ease on a pair of occasions.

Trainer Marcus Melander believes the Chapter Seven-sired filly may be the best filly he's trained, and the events of the next coming weeks will go a long way in proving the point. "Right now, the plan is to race Friday and then the Yonkers Trot eliminations [June 24] if necessary," said Melander after training the filly a 2:30 trip on Tuesday (June 14).

Joviality S, who starts from post five on Friday, caught eyes for the first time this season with an effortless 1:532/5 victory in New York Sire Stakes action at Yonkers on May 16, but perhaps just as impressive was



Joviality S returns to Vernon Downs on Friday where she recently won in 1:51 2/5.

her 1:51 2/5 career-best mile in the May 30 leg contested at Vernon. Driver Brian Sears moved the filly before the half and Joviality S trotted a third quarter in a blistering 26 2/5 while appearing quite comfortable.

"That surprised Brian too," said Melander of the fraction. "Maybe it was the wind at their back in the third quarter. I don't know. But he took a hold of her and she finished well within herself."

Perhaps it was that effort that convinced just six other entrants to drop in the box for the \$187,500 event (race 5) this Friday. Trainer Linda Toscano was one of those who did, putting Bare My Soul in the entry box.

"I messed her up last year," Toscano said frankly of the scheduling issues. "I sent her to Kentucky thinking it would be easier on her and then she ran into Venerate."

Bare My Soul did return to Vernon last year and won in 1:54 4/5 and this year she has come back strongly. On May 30, Bare My Soul took a career mark over the Vernon surface, trotting to a 1:52 1/5 mile in New York Sire Stakes action.

Bare My Soul starts from post four with Scott Zeron listed to drive.

Trainer Tony Alagna was happy with the way Valentina Blu returned this year. "She's come back good but didn't draw that well for us," said Alagna, referring to post seven in the same field. Nevertheless, Valentina Blu has raced with the best over her 15-race career and overcame post 10 in last year's Goldsmith Maid to finish fourth at 88-1.

Meanwhile in the seventh race male division, Toscano is trying to play catch-up with New York Sire Stakes final champion Molotov Cocktail. "He got injured at the end of the season," said Toscano. "We gave him plenty of time off and didn't bring him back in until February. Unfortunately, he also got sick on us when we were almost ready to race."

With the absence of racing Molotov Cocktail has qualified twice, the second a 1:54 4/5 mile last Saturday (June 11) at The Meadowlands.

"He can get kind of lazy," said Toscano, "But when he sees another horse, he will pick up the bit."

Molotov Cocktail drew post seven with Zeron in the bike for the \$187,500 Empire Breeders Classic for colts and geldings and his trainer refused to look much past this race even though the Yonkers Trot eliminations are a week later.

"He's staked to the race. That's all I will say," Toscano said.

Given that 13 of the 15 horses entered in the combined Empire Breeders

Classics are sired by Toscano's Chapter Seven, and that Chapter Seven's son Walner has already established himself as a leading sire in the sport, perhaps it's the rightful time to pay homage to Toscano and call her the "Mother of Stallions."

Slay is another son of Chapter Seven coming into the race in great shape for Tony Alagna. "We got a late start with him last year," Alagna said. "I'm happy the way he's come back."

Slay scored a mild upset in New York Sire Stakes action at Vernon on June 10 defeating Cool Papa Bell in a 1:52 2/5 mile.

"This is a pretty strong group," Alagna said of the field of eight in which Slay will start from the two-hole with Tim Tetrick driving.

The highly regarded Branded By Lindy (post five), multiple Sire Stakes winner Justice (post six) and the aforementioned Cool Papa Bell (post eight) add depth to the select field.

While the fillies and colts won't meet at Vernon, the likelihood is that Joviality S will be meeting a field of colts in a week when she attempts to capture the \$500,000 Yonkers Trot. Though Melander doesn't want to get ahead of himself, he hasn't seen anything yet on the racetrack to convince him the filly can't best the colts.

"She was a very fast horse as a 2-year-old," said Melander. "All I could say as to the difference between last year and this year is maybe she's actually a little bit faster."

While some might be concerned racing a filly against boys, Melander referenced the efforts Joviality S has put in over the Yonkers surface as clear evidence his filly is more than capable.

"That 1:53 [2/5] mile in her first start during a driving rainstorm was impressive," Melander said. The slick-gaited filly sprinted out in 27 4/5 and home in 27 3/5 in that May 16 sophomore debut, giving trotting purists just a taste of what is to come.

A victory on Friday would push Joviality S' career bankroll into seven figures in just her 15th career outing.

While the Yonkers Trot has always been on the schedule for Joviality S, the trainer wasn't talking yet about where the filly may be on the first Saturday in August. There's plenty of time between now and then for action on the racetrack that compels her connections to either take the safe route or go for the glory.

Post time for the nine-race card, which also features two New York Sire Stakes divisions for 3-year-old filly pacers, is 12:15pm EDT.

Test Of Faith, Lyons Sentinel set for Roses Are Red showdown

By Ken Weingartner

Two-time Dan Patch Awardwinner Lyons Sentinel will try to win her second consecutive Roses Are Red Stakes on Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park, but among the nine pacing mares in her way is returning U.S. Horse of the Year Award recipient Test Of Faith.

The C\$315,000 Roses Are Red is part of a stakes-rich card Saturday at Mohawk, highlighted by the C\$1 million Pepsi North America Cup for 3-year-old male pacers. Also set for that night are the C\$401,000 Fan Hanover for 3-year-old female pacers, C\$251,000 Goodtimes for 3-year-old male trotters, and C\$211,000 Armbro Flight for older female trotters.

Test Of Faith, who in 2021 became only the fourth 3-year-old female pacer in history to be named the Dan Patch Award Horse of the Year, is the 8-5 morning-line favorite in the Roses Are Red. She heads to the final off a 2-1/2 length victory over So Much More in her elimination last week. Test Of Faith won in 1:49 4/5 with a 26 2/5 last quarter mile.



Test Of Faith was an easy winner in her Roses Are Red elimination. (below) Driver Tim Tetrick (left) and trainer Jim King Jr. hope to upend Test Of Faith with Lyons Sentinel.

"The other night, she just looked as good as she could look," Test Of Faith's trainer Brett Pelling said. "She's honest. She is a great horse, and she just wants to keep being a great horse. Everything about her is just perfect."

Test Of Faith has won 24 of 29 career races and finished second on four occasions. She has earned \$1.60 million lifetime for owners Mel Segal, Kentuckiana Racing Stable, and Eddie Gran.

This season, the 4-year-old daughter of Art Major-Cannae Cammie has two wins and a second in four starts. She will start the Roses Are Red from post two with driver David Miller.

"I think she's been pretty awesome," Pelling said. "She's pretty foolproof. The one thing about her I've always said to everyone, she never lets you know too much. Sometimes you can tell when a horse is a bit off their game, or on their game, but she doesn't give that away. That's just the way she is."

Five-year-old Lyons Sentinel, a Dan Patch Award winner at age 2 and a Dan Patch Award and O'Brien Award winner at 4, will try to add her name to the recent list of repeat winners of the Rose Are Red. Over the past 10 years, only five different mares have won the event: Anndrovette captured the races three times in a row, 2012-2014, followed by threetime champion Lady Shadow and two-time winner Shartin N. Warrawee Ubeaut won the 2020 edition.

Lyons Sentinel, the 2-1 second choice on the morning line, will start from post three with driver Tim Tetrick. She won her Roses Are Red elimination by a half length over Kobe's Gigi in 1:50 1/5 with a 26 last quarter. No horse last Saturday at Mohawk came home faster.

"I was satisfied with the way she came out of the race," Lyons Sentinel's trainer Jim King Jr. said. "We're expecting pretty good stuff. She's experienced in these races. I feel pretty good about it. We'll see."

Lyons Sentinel has won 24 of 50 career races, hit the board a total of 43 times, and earned \$2.03 million for owner Threelyonsracing. This season, the daughter of Captaintreacherous-Tutu Hanover has won two of three starts.

"It's a very nice pair of girls there," King said, referring to Lyons Sentinel and Test Of Faith. "I know mine is pretty determined. But they're not the only ones in the race, that's for sure. It's a deep field. The odds don't indicate how deep it is."

Six-year-old So Much More, a 2020 O'Brien Award winner, is the 5-1 third choice in the Roses Are Red. Next, Pat 10-1, is 4-year-old Fire Start

Hanover, who was a Dan Patch Award winner at age 2.

"It's fun when they all come together," Pelling said. "I'm looking forward to it."

Pelling on Saturday also has the morningline favorite in the Fan Hanover Stakes, Treacherous Dragon, who is unbeaten in four races this year. For her career, the daughter of Captaintreacherous-My Little Dragon has won eight of 14 races, missed the



board only once, and earned \$376,420 for owner Hot Lead Farm.

Treacherous Dragon, whose mom finished second to Darlin's Delight in the 2006 Fan Hanover, won her elimination last week by three-quarters of a length over Prohibition Legal in 1:50.2. Prohibition Legal, a 2021 O'Brien Award winner, is the 7-2 second choice.

"She was kind of a little bit gangly last year, even though she did everything perfect," Pelling said about Treacherous Dragon. "But now she is all filled out and I imagine there's still more to come as she gets older because she is a big filly."

Treacherous Dragon and driver Tim Tetrick will start Saturday from post three. Another filly being sent out by Pelling, Wickedly Innocent, will leave from post one and is 6-1 on the morning line with Todd McCarthy in the sulky.

Wickedly Innocent finished second to Silver Label in her elimination, which was her first loss in six starts this season. She has won six of 13 career races and earned \$78,580 for owner Hot Lead Farm.

"She's the same (as Treacherous Dragon)," Pelling said. "She caught up to her body and her gait got so much better coming back this year. She's a real sleeper. She's doing well."

Racing begins at 6:30 p.m. EDT Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Digging into the also-ran who brought \$1.3 million at auction



ON THE MARK

By Bob Marks C @BobMarks3

Recently a trotting horse brought the astronomical figure of \$1.375 million at The Mid Ohio Memorial Trotting sale in Mt. Hope, Ohio. The horse named Lordy Lordy was not purchased as a trotting race horse but rather will be a sire of Amish Roadsters as he was almost immediately syndicated at \$16,000 a share and a stallion fee of \$4,000.

Lordy Lordy himself was but a modest racehorse at best, taking a qualifying mark of 1:55 1/5 at 3 and earning \$31,250 in two abbreviated racing seasons.

As it was, Lordy Lordy was initially trained by Linda Toscano, transferred to Per Engblom, and then moved to trainer Greg Peck of Muscle Hill Fame, who had him briefly before the colt was transferred to Tracy Tarantino, Francisco Del Cid and eventually Marion Chupp.

Lordy Lordy is not the first unsung trotter to bring an astronomical price at an Amish sale, as we seem to remember Newtown Chocolatier, a \$15,000 claimer, attracting about \$300,000 some years back.

Actually Peck was involved in the naming of Lordy Lordy's dam Grace Victoria, an \$11,000 yearling by Glidemaster from Cressidia Hanover.

Lordy Lordy's sire Muscle Massive has been an Indiana trotting sire since being transferred from Pennsylvania in 2018.

Muscle Massive himself won the 2010 Hambletonian, narrowly defeating the favored Lucky Chucky in 1:51. His overall earnings were \$1,239,138, much of it occurring on Hambletonian Day.

Ironically both Muscle Massive and Lucky Chucky were bred and sold by Perretti Farms, with 'Massive' attracting a final bid of \$425,000. Chuck Sylvester harvested Lucky Chucky by the then first-crop stallion Windsong's Legacy for all of \$10,000.

Muscle Massive is a full brother to the successful racehorse and sire Muscle Mass, by Muscles Yankee, from one of the all-time leading commercial broodmares Graceful Touch. She's the only daughter of the famed Act Of Grace well-remembered for her battles with Continental Victory.

Muscle Massive himself is credited with but one million-dollar-earning son and while his initial Indiana crop was promising, it failed to dent the performance total of Indiana's leading trotting sire Swan For All.

As for Lordy Lordy, his third dam Bama Hall was listed as being at one point owned by Perretti Farms from September 1, 2013 through the final dispersal of November 8, 2013. Actually, she's also listed as being owned by Nordic Lindy, the Lomangino brothers who used to board horses at Perretti. I'm not sure how she wound up being owned by Perretti Farms during that three month period but there she is as HIP number 1262 in the final dispersal where she attracted the lofty sum of \$3,000. At the time, Bama Hall was carrying a Lucky Chucky eventually named Rare N Taryn. That one was not sold as a yearling in public auction nor for that matter has she ever raced.

Actually Bama Hall's 2011 Muscles Yankee colt Muscle Loosa sounds like it was named at Perretti Farms, as was the 2012 Lucky Chucky colt Chuck Full Of Nuts. The next two foals were all by Lucky Chucky, who stood at Perretti Farms at that time.

Genetically Lordy Lordy is by a son of Muscles Yankee while his second dam Grace Marie is a daughter of Muscles Yankee, making him as a 2x3 inbred to Muscles Yankee. As his dam Grace Victoria is by the Yankee Glide son Glidemaster, it introduces additional Valley Victory crosses in the third and fourth generation. As it is, Lordy Lordy also becomes a 3x4x4x4 to Valley Victory.

How that will help him as a sire of "Roadsters" remains to be seen as all that Muscles Yankee and Valley Victory blood did not help much in the racehorse speed department.

According to trainer Greg Peck, Lordy Lordy had a lot of upward motion, which is perfect for "Roadsters" but not so much for racing trotters in terms of sustaining speed. At one point he trained him in about 1:58 but subsequently the then ownership moved the colt to Northfield Park where he wound up being sold for a modest though undisclosed



Lordy Lordy is a son of Muscle Massive and the only foal from Grace Victoria.

number prior to his arrival at the Ohio Memorial Sale.

What gets interesting is that as a Roadster stallion he'll be expected to sire offspring that trot like he does, though I'd imagine the basic rules of stallion dominance will apply. Over the years we've seen more than a few great-gaited stallions like Adios Butler in particular unable to transmit that exact flow to their offspring that was so inherent in them.

Conversely, we've seen many stallions that were superb in their own right despite not possessing great gaits. Most were not able to produce their own like. Basically the lesser-endowed offspring couldn't quite overcome those less-than-flawless gaits as did the fathers.

The great Matt's Scooter had an incredible long-reaching way of going but seldom sired one who could go like he did. In fact, Matts Scooter's greatest son Mach Three looked more like his Abercrombie dam than Matt's Scooter and was probably gaited more like his maternal side.

Consequently, we'll have to check back in a few years to see just how Lordy Lordy fares in his new career. Who knew he was worth \$1.3 million though?



Instagram Model clicks in qualifying debut at Magical Acres

By Ken Weingartner

Instagram Model, a 2-year-old female trotter purchased for \$350,000 at last fall's Lexington Selected Sale, made her qualifying debut Wednesday at Magical Acres, and got around the training center's five-eighths-mile oval in 2:03 1/5 to win for trainer Annie Stoebe and owner Lynn Curry.

Instagram Model, bred by Steve Jones and Ray Schnittker, is a daughter of Chapter Seven out of Check Out Trixie. Instagram Model's second dam is Schnittker's former star Check Me Out, a two-time Dan Patch Award winner, and her dam is a half-sister to Schnittker's 2021 Dan Patch Award-winning male trotter King Of The North.

Scott Zeron drove Instagram Model, one of his four winners on the day. "We got what we wanted today," Curry said. "Scott did a really nice job with her. It's her first qualifying race, and that always makes me the most nervous. When you get a baby this far, it answers a lot of questions. Today she did fine. We'll see where the next one is."

Instagram Model was the 12th most expensive trotting yearling sold at the Lexington Selected Sale in 2021. Curry worried he might not get the filly after watching five trotters sell for at least \$400,000 -- including auction-topper Exile at \$800,000 -- in the group prior to Instagram Model, who was Hip No. 72.

"Early on, I really didn't think I would have a shot at her," Curry said. "I wanted her badly from the beginning, but I thought she would be up in that area. Believe me, when the hammer came down, we were a thrilled trainer and owner."

Instagram Model is one of four horses owned by Curry, who bought his first in 2020.

"The minute we put (Instagram Model) on the track, she goes to work," Curry said. "She loves the track. She doesn't play around like babies do, and she's been that way since we've had her. Today was a positive day, but there are a ton of great trotting fillies out there. This is just day one."

Linda Toscano led all trainers in wins with the 2-year-olds on Wednesday, posting triumphs with male pacers Fulton and Everybodyloveslou plus female pacer Cultured.

Fulton won his second time out in 1:57 1/5, the fastest mile of the morning among the freshmen. Last week, the homebred colt was timed in 2:00 2/5. Fulton (Heston Blue Chip-Bettor Be Steamin) is owned by Let It Ride Stables and Bottom Line Racing.

Everybodyloveslou, another homebred colt, won in 1:57.2 for owners Purple Haze Stables and Conrad Zurich. He is a son of Sweet Lou out of Beach Body and a full brother to Grand Circuit winner Somesweetsomewhere.

Cultured (Captaintreacherous-Fine Art) won in 1:57 2/5 for owners The Bay's Stable, Two Horseman Stable, Fred Wallace, and Jaf Racing. She was bred by Diamond Creek Farm and purchased for \$120,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale. Her dam is a three-quarter sister to Heart Of Mine, a Grand Circuit winner and multiple winner in the New York Sire Stakes.

Scott Zeron drove all three of Toscano's winners.

"All three of them were good," Toscano said. "I don't know what they are, but they've done their work and they've done everything right from the beginning. That's all we can hope for at this point.

"Fulton, last week we raced him up the inside and he had sneaky pace finishing. He was good. He had good pace finishing, so that's all I really cared about. Cultured is a lovely filly and is out of a really good family. I love my Captaintreacherous fillies. You have to keep your fingers crossed when it comes to them because they can be anything.

"Everybodyloveslou has been about the nicest horse you could have training down. I'd have been disappointed if he didn't go good because he's been such a nice horse training down. Now, they just have to be able to elevate it and go against the big ones. I know they can go with mine, now they have to go against other people's."

Fulton is expected to make his next appearance in an overnight at Harrah's Philadelphia while Everybodyloveslou and Cultured will qualify at The Meadowlands.

Rounding out the winners among 2-year-olds were female pacers Devilish Dreams, trained by Noel Daley, and Summer Flame, trained by Nik Drennan; male pacers Train Station, trained by Chris Ryder, and Vici, trained by Brett Pelling; and female trotter Angelpedia, trained by Chuck Sylvester.



Ken Weingartner

Instagram Model was the 12th most expensive trotting yearling sold at Lexington in 2021 at \$350,000.

Devilish Dreams, who was fourth in a qualifier last week when she came home in 27 to be timed in 1:58 2/5, won Wednesday in 1:57 2/5, final quarter in 27 3/5, for owner Morrison Racing Stables and driver Andy McCarthy. The daughter of Lazarus N-Dreamingofwichita was bred by Kentuckiana Farms and sold for \$35,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale. Her dam is a half-sister to A Rocknroll Dance, who earned \$2.42 million lifetime.

Summer Flame, also making her second appearance, won in 1:57 4/5 for owners Joseph Davino, Brad Shackman, Drennan Stable, and Anthony Perretti Farm. Last week, the homebred daughter of Always B Miki-Lover's Dream finished third in 2:02. James O'Donnell was in the sulky for both starts. Summer Flame's dam is a three-quarter sister to last year's Cane Pace winner Rockyroad Hanover.

Train Station (Roll With Joe-Also Encouraging) won in 1:58 2/5 in his debut for owner Robert Mondillo. He was bred by Stephen Dey III and purchased for \$25,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale. His dam was a Grand Circuit winner. He was driven by Patrick Ryder.

Vici (Lazarus N-Triple V Hanover) won in 1:58 2/5 for owners Buckstone Land Livestock and Mondillo and driver Todd McCarthy. A week ago, he was third, timed in 2:01. Vici was bred by Donald Robinson, Michael Robinson, Steve Stewart, and James Daut. Purchased for \$210,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale, he is a half-brother to Fulsome, a two-time winner on the Pennsylvania stakes circuit.

Angelpedia (Cantab Hall-Baker Black Jet) won in 2:01 1/5 in her debut for owners Gilbert Short and Ross Stables. She was bred by Ross Stables and sold for \$35,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale. Andy McCarthy was in the sulky Wednesday.

For complete charts from Magical Acres' qualifiers, click here. For replays of the qualifiers, presented by The First Mile, click here.

TEAM MILLER POSTS FOUR WINNERS AT GAITWAY

Julie Miller had numerous reasons to feel good following Monday's second week of qualifiers for 2-year-olds at Gaitway Farm. The trainer sent out five freshmen from her stable -- four of them for the first time -- and came away with four wins and a second.

Miller's four victories led all trainers in the dozen 2-year-old qualifiers. Joe Holloway was next with three wins, followed by Ron Burke with two. Michael Russo, Jennifer Bongiorno, and Claude Huckabone III each had one.

Leading the way for Team Miller was female pacer Prideful, who debuted with a 1:56 4/5 triumph with Andy Miller in the sulky. Prideful, owned by the Andy Miller Stable and Andray Farm, was third at the half-mile point but used an explosive move to take the lead on her way to pacing her back half in 543/5.

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BY DERICK GIWNER

As a native of Truro in Nova Scotia, Brent MacGrath has been immersed in the sport since he was a kid going to the local track with his father. He started as a fan and that developed into being a groom, trainer, driver, owner, track announcer, racing secretary and track general manager.

On top of the above, MacGrath trained and managed perhaps the best standardbred in history in Somebeachsomewhere. Now 14 years removed from a near-perfect season from Somebeachsomewhere, his final son Beach Glass will try to take MacGrath on another ride in his sophomore campaign.

Just days before Beach Glass was set to start in the C\$1,000,000 North America Cup, MacGrath took the time to dicsuss his path in harness racing, Somebeachsomewhere, Beach Glass and the sport in general.



TRAINER BRENT MACGRATH

How did you get started in harness racing?

My dad was a racing fan and we lived close to the track at Truro, about a half to three-quarters of a mile away. They were racing Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the summer time and I went down with him to the races. Soon I realized that it was a place I could go to clean some stalls and earn a little cash when I was 12 or 13 years old. That's how I got into it.

How did you go from cleaning stalls to training horses?

I was very fortunate to hook up with Phil Pinkney. Phil was, he just passed away last year, a great young-horse trainer and I learned very quickly that I wanted to be with the young horses. I stayed with him for years and when I was working with him just outside of Halifax, the executive board of the track at Truro wanted me to work at the track as racing secretary. I turned it down and said that if they gave me the general manager job I would do that, racing secretary and announcer. I did that from 1979 to 1985. In 1984 I got married to a local girl [wife – Rhonda] at the racetrack. I had bought a maritime-bred yearling for \$2,500 and I sold him in May of his 2-year-old year for \$35,000. I thought the job at the racetrack was limited in what it could provide so we decided to go to Toronto and race some horses. We did that for a few years and didn't have any luck. We had a few good horses but I claimed one for \$25,000 that broke a knee the next day, so I need to go to work and answered an ad looking for a car salesperson. I got the job, it took off right away and I loved it.

The guy that owned the dealership needed a general manager, so I took over the store. It took off making money and we became good buddies. He had lots of business experience but no car experience and I had the car experience, so once I got the store going he offered me a piece of the business and I bought it.

Are you still involved in car sales?

We have four dealerships.

Do you consider harness racing to be your hobby?

It is a hobby to me. I'm in Ontario right now with Beach Glass because



After a 14-year hiatus, Brent MacGrath has re-entered the spotlight in 2022 with top 3-year-old pacer Beach Glass.

of who I think he can be and he's [Somebeachsomewhere's] last son. Basically what I'm going to be doing is fooling around with babies in Florida during the winter and shipping them up to somebody to train. We've been lucky and done very well at our hobby but my main source of income is definitely the car business. My son is running it.

What kind of car do you drive?

GMC Denali.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

I've lost 100 pounds since 'Beach' raced. I'd say steak, filet. For snack, chocolate cake.

What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

I like Mohawk, The Meadowlands, The Red Mile. I just like the bigger tracks. The Red Mile would have to be first. It is so kind to the horses with the clay. The whole atmosphere is great.

What is your favorite big event in racing?

The North America Cup, Meadowlands, Pace, Grand Circuit at Lexington, Breeders Crown, take your pick. They are all big races on big stages and big tracks. Probably the North America Cup since I'm Canadian.

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

With Beach Glass right now it is a fair amount, but when I'm at my desk in my office, not a lot. You think about it a little every day. It depends on whether they are racing. It certainly doesn't consume my day when I'm at the dealership.

What hobbies do you have outside of racing?

We love the ocean, boating, hiking, and walking. We used to love skiing when we were younger. We like to travel.

What is your favorite sport? Team?

I don't watch a lot of sports but being a true Canadian I'd have to say hockey. I usually pick a young player and follow them. I like the Olympic hockey and the women hockey. I like watching good players and good skaters.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

I don't really have one word. It is a unique business. I've worked on both sides of the fence – with \$500 horses and with Somebeachsomewhere. The one thing about horse racing, there is lots of back fighting, but when a horsemen is in need or when there is a problem, I've never seen one horsemen who doesn't step up. It is almost like it is a family and it doesn't seem to matter if you are Canadian or American. They put the horse first. I don't know the best word to use but the sport is unique in that way.

I'm from Truro Nova Scotia, the smallest place in the world, and I have as good a shot to get a top horse, and did, as anyone. You go to the sale, take a shot and do everything right, there is no reason you can't be standing in the winner's circle with the rich people. There are not a lot of sports or industries where you can do that.

You are famous in harness racing



Brent MacGrath with the great Somebeachsomewhere back in 2008.

MICHAEL BURNS

as the trainer/owner of the great Somebeachsomewhere. Looking back at his 2008 Horse of the Year campaign, does it seem real?

Yeah, it does. It is hard to believe he died at 13 because he was so healthy ... I was never concerned about him racing because all I had to do was put him back on the track and we should get the same results as the previous week. I never really thought it was a dream. I just got lucky to grab the right halter and then was able to keep him healthy, happy and sound. That was my job, not to run around bragging about how good he was doing or sell him. I had a job to do and I did it. We made a lot of good moves with him and didn't over-race him. We made a plan and it worked. When he died, he had probably half the impact he should've had. Look at the horses racing at Mohawk or The Meadowlands on most Saturday nights. Very seldom is there an Open pace where Beach's horses aren't winning. I'm just thankful we had him for the time we did.

Somebeachsomewhere overcame some problems on his way to stardom. Can you talk about that?

My dad was in the hospital when he was 84. He passed away three days before the North America Cup. I went home a few weeks before that and got the call on the Wednesday before his first O.S.S. Gold that he was lame. He never had a lame step in his life and was never injected in his life, so I jumped on a plane to fly back and it looked like he might have a broken coffin bone. We got an MRI and he showed a severe bruise compromised his coffin bone and he needed some time. We were trying to get him ready for the North America Cup. Anyway, they had a sawdust track at the training center I was at that was very kind to the horses. He would go down to the racetrack a quarter-mile lame and when he hit the sawdust he would just start bucking and playing because it was so kind to him. I jogged him for a half-hour a day and he just kept getting sounder and sounder. We ended up racing him in the Burlington with a bar shoe on him and he ended up losing the shoe. We went back to his regular shoe, sent him to the North America Cup and away he went.

Do you think you got all you could on the track from Somebeachsomewhere? Could we have seen even more if he raced as a 4-year-old?

Oh yeah, no question. This was my money and I knew what would likely happen to him as a 4-year-old; that he would likely get beat up more. I was 100% managing for shareholder equity.

Unlike some people who taste success and chase more, you barely have more than 50 starts as a trainer since that 2008 season. Why?

Because I didn't think it was about me. I bought a horse and got lucky. I managed him well and was rewarded. Lots of people do the same thing and just don't get the right horse. We've all seen people that think it is easy and after one good horse they want to buy 50 the next time. I wasn't doing that. It helped that I had the car business at home to go back to and settle back into my life. My wife and I talked about the phone not ringing anymore, the cameras not being in our face anymore, and we had to be prepared for that. We weren't going to buy 10 or 15 babies. We would just fool around with one or two. That was the plan and we stuck to it. It is a hard life being a trainer. It's a lot of work and you have to be lucky. It can be heartbreaking to put the work in and be disappointed. On the flip side, it is a great sport where the little guy can go to the sale and buy a horse that can compete with the big guys. I never had any aspirations of being a big-time trainer. I love the car business, I'm good at it and it made life very easy for us.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

That's a tough question. You look at the 21 races Beach won. I felt very proud of the fact that Beach's last race of his life was the 25th anniversary of the Breeders Crown and he set a Breeders Crown record on a cold, miserable night. In the last race of his life, he toyed with them. I felt good about that. I didn't tire him out. He was as fresh in that race as the first race of the year.

Is it surreal for you to be thrown back into the spotlight with Beach Glass starting in the North America Cup?

It sure is surreal. He's had some issues that I had to wait on. With [Somebeachsomewhere] it was just a matter of throwing the harness on him and going. This guy has been a bit more difficult. Most of them were qualified or racing by the time I put a clock on this colt. I thought I had a horse with some talent and obviously I was right. So I waited and when the time was right I moved forward with him.

I bought his mother to breed to 'Beach'. She got money in the Breeders

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Crown at Hoosier Park as a 2-year-old. I was prepping her for her 3-year-old year in Florida when he died. We had some frozen semen and I had a decision to make. I could flush her or I could stop with her and end her racing career to send her to Hanover Shoe Farms. We were getting one shot to get a 'Beach' out of this mare and that was 100% we bought her. I didn't know a lot about flushing and [Dr.] Bridgette [Jablonsky] from Hanover convinced me to pull her out of training to give her to them for breeding.

As lightly raced as Beach Glass is, do you know how good the horse can be yet?

I don't. I know he has something left. He wasn't stretched out the other night [in his elimination for the North America Cup]. He's mostly green. He just needs experience to compete with the guys at the top level. That is where

we are now. I think you'll see a different horse this week than last week. That was a big race for him. He needed to charge off the gate from the outside, he needed to get parked off the quarter in 26 seconds, he needed to keep rolling and not get a big breather and he needed to have a horse sitting on his back. I'm expecting good things from him for sure.

All due respect to Paul MacDonell, do you think a guy like Yannick Gingras moves Beach Glass up slightly or is he simply a better long-term plan at driver?

Paul clearly did not want to go to the U.S. He has a stable here now and a very nice stable. He is focused on that. He felt to me that he went last year [to the U.S.] because of our friendship and when I brought it up he wasn't keen on going. Paul has never driven a horse bad for me, ever. He brings a horse back the way I want a horse brought back; not discouraged; not beat up. It was a logistics call and you read what he said, he is 60 years old and it is hard to compete with the younger guys that drive 2,000 races a year. It's tough, especially when inches could mean a half-a-million dollars. It is a business and Paul was happy with his decision and I'm happy. Paul is still an important part of the team. He warmed him up the other night at Mohawk and I'm stabled in his barn. If Paul wanted to drive him in the North America Cup, he'd be driving him.

Where do you see Beach Glass going from here?

He has the Meadowlands Pace, Adios, Cane and Hempt. Then we are going to come home.

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

I'd like to see the 2-year-old races later in the year. That would help some. If I had to choose one thing, the state commissions, Ontario and all jurisdictions should be under one umbrella. They can figure it out. They know how much money they collect from everyone joining and



Beach Glass starts from post 4 in Saturday's C\$1,000,000 North America Cup at Mohawk Park.

being members. To me, mathematically it is possible to do. If a guy like Ronnie Burke pays a certain amount to each state, he would still have to pay the same amount but only once. This way if you roll into any racetrack you are covered and one rulebook covers all tracks. It's crazy that some medications are allowed in some places and not in others. And that one medication has a 48-hour cutoff in one place and 96 hours in the other. There are a lot of people discouraged over this stuff.

It would be better to answer this as four questions: On the betting side what's the one thing? For the horses what's the one thing? For the owners what's the one thing? For the horse people what's the one thing? They are all separate groups and what is important to them is not important to the other at all.

Another thing I see as important is the lack of good grooms. Without a good groom you have nothing. You can't get a good groom now because there is no place for them to stay since the horses don't stable at the racetracks anymore.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

I know we are not getting enough young people involved. I don't like that we have so much drag time and that it takes 20 minutes to run a race. Everything in the world has gotten quicker and easier but at the races we still have 20 minutes between races. I don't understand it. To me it would be more attractive to young people if we cut an hour off each program.

Time for the stretch drive:

Best Driver Ever?: John Campbell.

Lasix - Yes or No?: Yes.

Favorite TV Show?: Everybody Loves Raymond.

Trotters or Pacers?: My résumé would suggest pacers but I like trotters. I've only had one trotter and I didn't even train it.



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THURSDAY, JUNE 16

RACE 3

(1) LA ALWAYS AMARTINI finished second in the corresponding class to this one over at Pocono in her last start and now she changes drivers to Bartlett. -Greg Reinhart



RACE 7

(10) IDEAL STAR N has simply been too fast for the competition in his last two starts and if he can come close to those miles again he'll overcome post 10 without issue.



-Derick Giwner

RACE 6

Homebred (6) ALWAYS B A STAR, 1/2-sister to 13-time winner and Race 13 favorite No Plan Intended, looks well-prepped for this debut and she likely converts as the chalk here on debut. -Garnet Barnsdale



SATURDAY, JUNE 18

RACE 4

(5) UPTOWN LADY N returns to the big track at the basement level after a no shot effort at Pocono from post 8. Mare can toy with this field if on her game. -Giwner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES Mohawk Park Analysis Thursday Friday Saturday Meadowlands Analysis Friday Saturday

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

LAST CALL FOR GOSHEN YEARLING SALE CONSIGNMENTS

Monday (June 20) will be the last opportunity to consign horses to the 2022 Goshen Yearling Sale that will be held on Monday (Sept. 12) at the Mark Ford Training Center in Middletown, NY. This year's sale has once again drawn a lot of interest and there has been a late rush of consignments in recent weeks. However Monday (June 20) will be the final day to enter the sale.

Once again this year the sale will be offering an outstanding group of yearlings from top consignors and that should push sales averages up across the board and everyone involved is looking forward to welcoming another great live crowd in September for the seventh annual sale so they can provide the best experience possible for both the seller and buyer.

Since 2015 the Goshen Yearling Sale has offered high quality stock from top breeders including Cameo Hills Farm, Winbak Farm, Blue Chip Farm and the Silver Tradition Stable, Double A Farm, Fred L. Dowling, Leatherstocking Equine, Millstream Farm, Michael S. Smoker and Thy Will Be Done Farm.

The sales facility is located at 90 Slaughter Road, Middletown, NY, which is within a 90-minute drive of many major race tracks and training centers in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, making it a very convenient location. It's also only three miles away from the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame and the Goshen Historic Track, making it easy to visit those historic places during your weekend.

Everything you need to know about this year's Goshen Yearling Sale is available on its website at www.goshenyearlingsale.com where consignment forms, a catalog request portal and hotel information for local lodging all can be found.

For any other inquiries please contact Mark Ford directly at 973-568-3253 or by email at fordstable@frontiernet.net.

-edited release (Tim Bojarski for Goshen Yearling Sale)

FS2 TO BROADCAST BIG M SATURDAY RACES; PICK 6 CARRYOVER FRIDAY

The Meadowlands makes it return to live television this Saturday (June 18) night, when Fox Sports 2 shows its third installment of "America's Day at the Races" in which the TV departments at the New York Racing Association and The Big M will pool their resources to bring racing fans the live action from The Meadowlands.

The telecast takes place from 9-11:30 p.m.

READ MORE

NYSS SOPHOMORE PACERS VISIT VERNON SUNDAY

Vernon Downs welcomes three divisions of the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) for 3-year-old pacing colts & geldings on Father's Day (June 19).

The Julie Miller-trained American Classic (Andy Miller) is the 5-2 morning line favorite in the \$30,550 first division. After no starts as a freshman, the colt by American Ideal has three wins in four starts this season.

READ MORE

ANDERS BLUESTONE OFFSPRING DOMINATE DSBF TROTS

Four \$20,000 Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund (DSBF) divisions for 3-year-old trotters headlined the Wednesday program at Harrington Raceway, with Anders Bluestone-sired horses winning all but one split. READ MORE

REVISED POST TIMES AT OAK GROVE; STAKES MOVED TO JUNE 21

The Kentucky Racing Commission, Kentucky Harness Association and Oak Grove Racing have decided that for the safety of all horses and horsemen the post times for Monday (June 20) and Tuesday (June 21) have been changed to 10 a.m.

Those shipping for these races are welcome to ship the night before. Sunday's post time will be at 5 p.m.

A rescheduled date for the Kentucky Sire Stakes 4-year-old series at Oak Grove has been announced.

Following the cancelation of racing this past Tuesday at Oak Grove,

the second leg of the Kentucky Sire Stakes 4-year-old series at Oak Grove has been rescheduled for Tuesday (June 21). First post for the day will be 10 a.m. (CDT).

Any questions can be directed to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission at 859.227.4578 or the Oak Grove Race Office at 270.984.4330. -edited release (Ky Horse Racing Commission/Ky Sire Stakes)

BONUS ANNOUNCED FOR TRACK RECORD IN GOLD CUP & SAUCER

Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park and the Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Industry Association today (June 16) released the details of the 2022 Gold Cup and Saucer Owner's Package and a special bonus for any horse that breaks the track record.

The 2022 Gold Cup and Saucer Final will be held Saturday, August 20th and finalists will compete for a \$100,000 purse sponsored by Atlantic Lottery.

"With the increase of the 2022 Gold Cup and Saucer Final purse to \$100,000, we were pleased to partner with PEIHRIA to also offer an enhanced package for owners participating in this years' event," stated David MacKenzie, Red Shores General Manager. "We look forward to hosting more people on site for the Greatest Show In Harness Racing."

Among the items in the Owner's Package are features such as complimentary seating for participating owners for the Gold Cup and Saucer Final and Consolation, invitations to the various receptions, complimentary golf and bridge passes, and gas cards.

The 2022 event includes a bonus of \$5,000 for breaking the track record in the Gold Cup and Saucer Final. This "Smash The Track Record" bonus is sponsored by Warren Ellis and family of Summerside Chrysler Dodge.

Complete details of the 2022 Gold Cup & Saucer presented by Atlantic Lottery and the new Owner's package go to redshores.ca.

-edited release (Red Shores)

MEADOWLANDS HOSTING SPORTSCASTERS DERBY FRIDAY

The Meadowlands Racetrack hosts the Annual Sportscasters Charity Derby this Friday, June 17, 2022.

There will be two charity races — with four Sportscasters participating in each race. Meadowlands Racetrack will donate \$5,000 to each of the two winning Sportscasters' selected charities and will also make a \$1,000 donation to each charity selected by each Sportscaster.

Sportscaster Derby Race 1 taking place at approx. 6:55 pm on Friday, features husband and wife Wally Szcerbiak and Rebecca Haarlow facing off against each other, 2012 Sportscaster Derby champ Marc Malusis and former wide receiver for the New York Jets Quincy Enunwa.

Sportscaster Derby Race 2 taking place at approx. 7:45pm features 2019 Sportscaster Derby champ Brandon Tierney, ESPN radio host Don La Greca, NY Daily News writer Pat Leonard and SNY reporter Maria Marino.

Participating Sportscaster/Media Outlet - Charity – Paired Driver: Sportscaster Derby Race 1

Quincy Enunwa/Former WR, NY Jets – Muscular Dystrophy Association – Dexter Dunn

Wally Szcerbiak/MSG Network – Croatian Charitable Foundation – Corey Callahan

Marc Malusis/PIX11 & SNY – Make-A-Wish Foundation – Todd McCarthy Rebecca Haarlow/MSG – Rescue Dogs Rock NYC – Tim Tetrick Sportscaster Derby Race 2

Brandon Tierney/WFAN-St. Jude Children's Research Foundation-Dunn Maria Marino/SNY – American Cancer Society (Making Strides Against Breast Cancer) – Callahan

Pat Leonard/NY Daily News – The Golden Lights Foundation – Tetrick Don La Greca/ESPN-NY (98.7 FM) – Ronald McDonald House – McCarthy "When I saw the list of sportscasters I got super excited, said Jason Settle-

moir, COO & GM of the Meadowlands Racetrack. "We have some major talent in the bikes for these charity derby races! We hope fans will come out to watch this fun event and cheer on their favorite local broadcaster."

First race post time for Friday, June 17 is 6:20pm. Saturday, June 18 features the popular Meadowlands Racetrack Food Truck Burger Battle which kicks off at 5pm with live racing starting at 6:20pm.

For a complete list of upcoming events and promotions at the Meadowlands visit PlayMeadowlands.com.

-edited release (Meadowlands)