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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022

Trainer explains how a horse drops seven seconds in one start



RAY'S RUMBLINGS

By Ray Coto

[@RayCoto](https://twitter.com/RayCoto)

On June 30, the 4-year-old Conway Hall mare Cantkeepmiasecret made her first start in trainer Scott Betts' barn. She had last raced 20 days prior at Vernon Downs, where she finished third and trotted a 2:00 4/5 mile in rein to her conditioner and developer Angus MacDonald – a veteran New York reinsman. In her first start for Betts, the mare – picking up the hands of The Meadows' all-time leading driver Dave Palone – scorched the track to win a non-winners-of-two event by 16-1/4 lengths in 1:53 4/5.

She improved seven seconds from one start to the next.

Now I have seen marked drops in time by horses through my time in this sport. Through each instance I've noticed details that I overlooked from the form that show some sort of improvement to be *possible*. Because our game encapsulates living creatures, we cannot say any one detail is necessarily capable of a quantifiably guaranteeing improvement. All that said, examining the whole canvas can help us to understand.

Scott Betts sits second on the training leaderboard at The Meadows with 60 wins from 200 starts, a 30-percent trainer who's off the heels of a career-best year in 2021 and is currently batting a .425 average, which bests the track's leading trainer Ron Burke. Betts started with a modest stable in 2014 that slowly grew into an operation that has now posted back-to-back 100-win years starting in 2020.

I contacted Scott Betts about this mare who dropped seven seconds and he agreed to talk with me about the acquisition and training of the 4-year-old as well as his overall operation.

Cantkeepmiasecret was purchased privately by Tim Betts from Angus MacDonald for a low five-figure amount. Betts said he liked that she fit into low classes at The Meadows and, from her replays, had a good gait with a rare tendency to break stride.

"She came to the barn and we jogged her," Betts said. "She was a little sore and we ended up doing some vet work to her. She had on five-eighths egg bars, which is a really heavy shoe pretty much made into a bar shoe. And she was hitting her knees really bad. So I put aluminum shoes on her behind and then square-toe full swedges up front. So basically, she went from having heavy shoes up front [and] hitting her knees to really light shoes that gets her to break over a little quicker and straighter to hopefully get her off her knees. And then she just jumped in with our training sets. I had her for two weeks, so I think she trained three or four times and then we put her in the bike and went a good mile in the bike. Then we dropped her in."

"I didn't know that she was going to trot [1:53]," Betts also said. "I thought she would be better with the addition of Lasix and I did vet work to her. I changed her shoes to what I thought would be better – I actually wanted to put four aluminums on her, but I figured I'd just go full swedge."



CHRIS GOODEN

Trainer Scott Betts is second in wins at The Meadows this year.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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CHRIS GOODEN

Cantkeepmiasecret has gone on a roll since moving into the Scott Betts barn winning three straight races.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

[I] put Dave [Palone] on . . . I think in her life, you could probably count on one hand the number of times a catch-driver has been on her. And I think that's a huge factor right there."

For Betts, training is an all-around approach to making sure the horse is comfortable on the track and maintaining their health. On one hand, Betts uses his horsemanship and understanding of the breed to rig a horse from its headpole to its shoes how he feels will allow the horse to perform to its best ability. On another hand, Betts collaborates frequently with vets to keep his horses sound and healthy for race day – and if a horse does not race to expectation, he's with a vet to scope the horse's lungs for any signs of issues.

"There is a definite negative stigma when people get horses and improve them, especially in the first start," Betts said. "But I had her for a couple of weeks. I trained her multiple times, big sets, sprinting. I don't know what she was doing or what she was wearing before we got her. We trained her and I rigged her how I thought she should be rigged and shod her how I thought she should be shod, did vet work. And away she went."

This synchronicity of proper equipment, veterinary work and training is the triad that structures modern training. Anecdotally, many of the sport's top trainers are candid about monitoring their horses' health through scoping the lungs and bloodwork, and Betts is no different. Part of his regimen – aside from health monitoring – is to treat any ailments his horses may be experiencing. He said, for example, that he will frequently treat his horses with dexamethasone two days before a race, which is allowed by racing jurisdictions. Dexamethasone specifically aids in lowering inflammation spurred by training or in respiration, as the medication also aids horses experiencing allergic reactions to pollens and/or any various air pollutants which would build mucous in the lungs as an immune response.

"It seems elementary to say a healthy horse is a good horse," Betts said. "I don't understand why people don't think these elite athletes don't have

a workout specific to what they're doing, a meal plan, they have doctors . . . they have every single thing. I'm sure they're pulling their own blood, seeing if they need to supplement something. They don't tell anybody that, but they're doing all these things. They're just trying to be a better athlete and healthier – going to see a chiropractor, sitting in ice tubs. It's all the same thing, but a different sport. But you're still trying to take care of the athlete so they can perform at a high level for a long time."

Betts later provided an analogy, comparing horses to people: "In your house, you wake up in the morning – one day you're fine and the next you have a nasal drip and your nose is all stuffed up . . . nothing changed. It's just a different day. Something bloomed, and I mean it's a big thing. Breathing is a big part of the horses, obviously. I think any mucous is performance limiting. It's the equivalent of waking up and taking your over-the-counter allergy pill."

My conversation with Betts lasted around 40 minutes, and through it I gathered several pieces to solve our puzzle. For one, he reshod the mare in a way which could improve her stride, thus allowing her to carry her speed for longer. The vet work done clearly brought her to a sounder point which would allow her to race to her potential as a decently bred Conway Hall mare. Betts also mentioned that the track was playing much faster, with the winners of the two previous races both setting lifetime marks on an 84-degree high-humidity day – all factors which would make a sound horse go quickly. Plus, being a 4-year-old mare, her performance ceiling is not established, which is a legitimate argument to make given the amount of rerigging and other changes Betts made in the 20-ish days he had her.

I talked with Scott the night Cantkeepmiasecret made her second start for his barn. She trotted another front-stepping mile to win by 5-3/4 lengths in 1:57 3/5. She won again a week later – on July 14 – going wire to wire to win by 4-1/4 lengths in 1:55 4/5. Betts said he did not change her loadout from her first start for his stable. When it comes to gauging improvement in a racehorse, sometimes the evidence doesn't directly read off the past performance line.

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Applauding Meadowlands Pace Night drivers for a job well done



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [BergmanJay](#)

While some have criticized how today's catch-drivers conduct themselves during the first quarter of races, a real perspective to their overall talent has been lost. The July 16 Meadowlands program showcased the enormous skills of the sport's leading horses but simultaneously spotlighted the brilliance of those who have reached the pinnacle of success guiding them.

Perhaps lost in the moment in the victory of Beach Glass in the Meadowlands Pace was the driver change that took place in the bike prior to the North America Cup which saw Paul MacDonell step aside and pave the way to a younger, if not more talented driver in Yannick Gingras to pilot the colt going forward. The recognition by MacDonell, or reality of the moment when the understanding that no matter how talented a horse is, a mistake or two by a driver can lead to losses as opposed to victories, paved the way for Gingras' arrival and a more consistent and accomplished Beach Glass has been the result.

While some have cast Beach Glass' Meadowlands Pace victory as making up for his late sire's only career defeat, I for one will never really believe that Somebeachsomewhere's second-place finish in the 2008 Meadowlands Pace wasn't his greatest race or for that matter, that the horse that beat him that day was breathing the same air on that occasion.



DERICK GIWINER

(left to right) Trainer Brent MacGrath, Beach Glass, driver Yannick Gingras and wife Vicki Gingras.

surprisingly. Rarely is credit given to the driver who perfectly executes a strategy that gets a horse to finish second or third that may have been thought to be no better than eighth or ninth best in the field. Mad Max Hanover rallied sharply in the late stages to get the runner-up spot in The Meadowlands Pace and that was no small task given the son of Always B Miki started from post 9 in the field of 10. Mad Max Hanover had also landed outside in the North America Cup and despite having the option to drive a horse with an inside post that night Tetrack stayed with Mad Max Hanover in the Cup to an off-the-board finish.

In the Pace, Tetrack did not let the post position or speed of the race stop him from being assertive and in the process, he managed to forge a spot on the outside behind cover while Foureverb Boy and Mike Wilder got pinned to the pylons moving past the quarter and leading to the half. It was a split-second decision by Tetrack that put him on the back of I Did It Myway and paved the way for a reasonable cover journey in a slowed-down middle half. Mad Max Hanover had to perform well to complete the job but that is exactly what he did, pacing home in 25 4/5 to be a clear second behind Beach Glass.

Yannick Gingras showed the calm and cool necessary to handle a top horse and that has been apparent since he sat behind Beach Glass for the first time. The confidence has helped settle down Beach Glass and in turn the colt has performed better and better with each race.

Sometimes as bettors we focus on the horses that win races and instead miss driving accomplishments where horses thought to be complete outsiders manage to find the way on to the exacta or trifecta ticket

When watching the new world champion Bulldog Hanover, most recent observers would think that any driver could win with a horse of this incredible power. Prior to his arrival in East Rutherford, Bulldog Hanover had never had the string of successes he would find on four successive Saturdays. While trainer Noel Daley has considered his job to be "babysitting," it would be unfair not to give him credit for keeping Bulldog Hanover in great condition to accomplish what prior to now had been unthinkable. On the other side of the spectrum sits Dexter Dunn, who did not take the Haughton as a given and instead drove the race with the heavy favorite as perfectly as he could while at the same time not getting stressed. One of Dunn's great qualities in the sulky is his innate sense of not hurrying at the start of a race. On Saturday with Bulldog Hanover, Dunn knew that Todd McCarthy was likely to be more assertive with Rockyroad Hanover from the outside post. Dunn didn't panic as if it was that important to be on the lead early. Instead, he allowed Rockyroad Hanover to loop him into the first turn and then patiently followed that one until he chose to take the lead with Bulldog Hanover. Keeping a horse of this caliber relaxed is a plus in any race and it's that sense to me which led to the 1:45 4/5 mile. Bulldog Hanover was completely ready for the final-quarter sprint and Dunn did the rest to assure the milestone.

It's also worth mentioning that driver Andy Miller had the right idea with the lightly-raced Max Contract to move to the outside and follow cover in the Mistletoe Shalee. Miller didn't panic or attempt to rush the Huntsville-sired filly in order to keep with cover on the final turn. Perhaps that kind of aggression could have led the filly into making a mistake. Miller remained calm until the stretch drive and then Max Contract showed that wicked burst of speed previously seen only in qualifying miles to catapult by her rivals.

Last but certainly not least was the sharp steer that Brian Sears put on Joviality S in a division of the Del Miller Memorial for sophomore filly trotters. Sharp I say because he not only wanted to win the race but at the same time preserve the Chapter Seven filly for future races. With Joviality S on the front end, Sears knew there was unlikely to be any serious middle-half activity. While the decision could have led to some anxious moments in the stretch when Venerable took a determined shot at her, Joviality S was well-equipped to finish off the mile in a personal best.

It is dangerous in modern times to get overly concerned about the apparent closeness of Joviality S' victories as some might consider her most recent effort. In any race that turns into a sprint nowadays there is always the risk that a "fast" horse will beat a "better" one by being close enough and accelerating in the final eighth. When races are contested at a lively clip throughout all four quarters it tends to eliminate such injustice.

The decision to point Joviality S towards the Hambletonian as opposed to the Hambletonian Oaks makes sense on numerous fronts. I see a host of talented trotting fillies that won't make winning the Oaks a walk-over. The colts, other than Rebuff, have lacked any consistency and to this point lack the depth of the fillies. Perhaps behind Sears and trainer Marcus Melander's strategy has been preservation of Joviality S over the course of the first few months of racing. Final times are not always the greatest indicator and to this sense there's a feeling that for Joviality S the best is yet to come, especially if others in the field do some of the heavy lifting and she's left with something to chase.



DERICK GIWINER

Dexter Dunn has expertly steered Bulldog Hanover to monster performances in recent weeks.

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NJ Sire Stakes resurrection continues Friday with four \$240K finals

By Derick Giwner

The renaissance of the New Jersey breeding industry, especially on the pacing side, will be on display Friday night (July 22) at The Meadowlands as the track hosts four \$240,000 finals for 2-year-olds.

In just two years' time the total purses for the finals have increased from \$512,000 to \$960,000 and the pacing championships have gone from two-horse races to a full field of 10 and an 8-horse field. Consider that Anna Jeans captured the \$96,000 final in 2020 with a final time of 2:05 2/5 and now that field includes multiple horses that have already paced in 1:53 or better while the colt division has a 1:50 4/5 winner in Lifes A Puzzle.

"I'm so excited about where we are today. The number of stallions has increased and so have the number of mares bred," said Sire Stakes Board of Trustees member Mike Gulotta. "You have to thank the legislators and Governor Murphy for the purse appropriation, The Meadowlands and the SBOA of New Jersey for their concerted effort.

"When you look at how far the Sire Stakes has come you can't just look at the Sire Stakes. You have to look at the races for New Jersey-sired horses including the new Classic Series. The breeders' awards are huge compared to where we were. The breeder of a horse that wins the Sire Stakes final will get a 12% bonus [\$14,400]."

The New Jersey Classic Series will offer a second opportunity for state-sired 2- and 3-year-olds to earn money in September at The Meadowlands. The four freshmen races will offer \$300,000 purses while the 3-year-old trotters will race for \$150,000 each. There will also be "B" division finals worth \$100,000 each.

Back with Friday's Sire Stakes finals, likely favorites Lifes A Puzzle (8-5, post 5) and Handlelikeaporsche (2-1, post 7) are sons of Lazarus N, who has seen his first crop dominate the numbers on the pacing side in New Jersey as 16 of the 18 finalists are by the two-time New Zealand Horse of the Year who happens to stand at Gulotta's Deo Volente Farms.

"Lifes A Puzzle was pretty impressive. I think he is kind of special," said Gulotta. "People are excited about the Lazarus horses and more importantly I've heard good things from the trainers about them."

Interestingly, the only non-Lazarus N-sired filly is the likely favorite in the \$240,000 championship for the girls. Ucandoit Blue Chip (2-1, post 5), a two-time winner in the series with a 1:51 4/5 lifetime mark, is a daughter of \$1.6 million winner Keystone Velocity, a war-horse of sorts who made a name for himself winning the Levy (two times), Ben Franklin and Potomac, among other races. Bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., Scott Zeron drives the filly for trainer Linda Toscano and owner Bill Elliott, who didn't exactly have to twist Toscano's arm to take the daughter of Molly Can Do It.

"Bill [Elliott] had asked me whether I would train one for him and I wasn't really looking for another horse," said Toscano. "He asked me if I saw the Molly Can Do It and what was wrong with her. I said she's a Keystone Velocity, so I didn't pursue it. Bill ended up buying her and asked me to train. How could I not take a horse out of Molly?"

"She was always ok training down but never gave the impression of a top filly. She just did nothing wrong, and I like that type. I call them vanilla, invisible horses. They just do their work. When I qualified her I knew I had a little more than I thought."

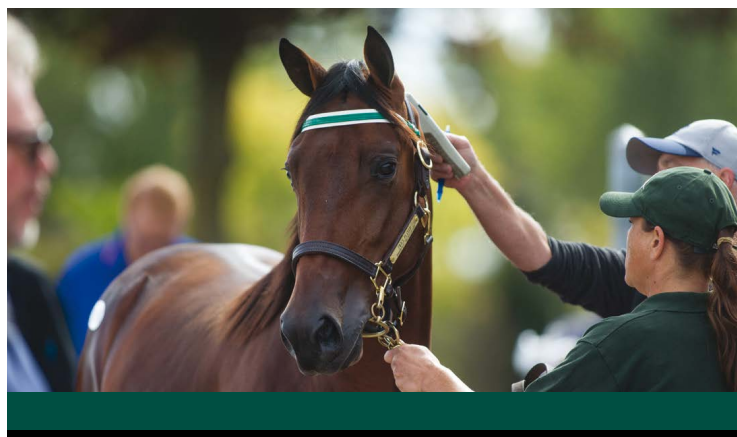
Ucandoit Blue Chip found a tuck early and powered home in 25 4/5 and 25 3/5 in her two Sire Stakes wins. While Toscano said the driving decisions are up to Scott, she added that off the pace is her filly's best game.

The trotting finals, which have grown from \$160,000 in 2020 to \$200,000 in 2021 to their current level, are ultra-competitive and include sons and daughters of mainstay upper-echelon stallions Muscle Hill and Walner, along with Trixton and newcomer Tactical Landing. Gulotta co-owns and bred Up Your Deo (5-1, post 6) in the male final and is hoping he can step up from a head loss in his lone start.

"It's a funny name, isn't it? Normally we like to be more sophisticated but we had a little fun with that one," said Gulotta, who bought back into the colt at the request of the Svanstedts after they purchased the son of Grand Stand.

Celebrity Bambino was made the 3-1 morning-line choice from post 9 in the colt split while Mambacita was given lower early odds of 2-1 in the filly trot from the seven-hole. Yannick Gingras will guide the Ron Burke-trained Celebrity Bambino, a son of Muscle Hill, and David Miller steers the Tactical Landing filly Mambacita for Tony Alagna.

The Sire Stakes finals are set as races 4, 6, 8 and 10 on a 13-race program Friday. Post time is 6:20 PM.



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Solid field invades Plainridge for \$250K Spirit of Massachusetts

By Jay Bergman

When you supplement into any race luck needs to be on your side.

Generally, it's a significant amount to gain entry into a prestigious stakes event. In the case of Eurobond though, a few forces had to be at work to get the veteran into Sunday's \$250,000 Spirit of Massachusetts at Plainridge Park.

"If more than eight horses entered, we wouldn't have gotten in," said Travis Alexander, who trains Eurobond, a seven-time winner in 2022 that finished third behind Bella Bellini and Atlanta in Open company at The Meadowlands in June and now faces a formidable group on Sunday.

"We entered him at Yonkers on Friday but we're going to scratch," said Alexander. "If he couldn't get in at Plainridge we would have raced him there."

Eurobond, a 7-year-old by the stallion Love You, was not an original eligible to the Spirit Of Massachusetts but Alexander thinks he may have a horse for the course. "When Lindy Farms owned him I think he won like seven out of eight races there," Alexander said.

Bruce Ranger is familiar with the horse and has the driving assignment. While the \$20,000 supplemental entry was large, it didn't come with a post guarantee. It was the luck of the draw that saw Eurobond land the pole position in the field of nine, with all going behind the starting gate.

On the outside of the draw are the likely post-time favorites in Lovedbythemasses (post 8) and Alrajah One It (post 9). Tim Tetrick has been the regular pilot behind Lovedbythemasses and likes his chances.

"He's been great all year," said Tetrick, who guided Lovedbythemasses to a major victory in May capturing the Maxie Lee at Harrah's Philadelphia while overcoming post seven in the process.

"He's a different horse this year," said Tetrick, comparing Lovedbythemasses' 4-year-old season to 2022. "It's a lot easier to leave the gate with him this year."

While Tetrick recognized the depth of the competition he seemed relieved that perhaps the best horse drew outside of him.

Alrajah One It made one of the most impressive debuts by a foreign horse on American soil in quite some time with his explosive stretch rally in the Crawford Farms at The Meadowlands on July 2. In his debut for the Svanstedt stable, Alrajah One It rallied home in 25 3/5 in the final quarter to score in 1:50 4/5. Tetrick lamented the second-place finish with Lovedbythemasses.

"We beat Ake's other horse, the one I thought we had to beat," said Tetrick regarding Ecurie D, the race favorite that finished third on that occasion.

Lovedbythemasses has won seven of 10 starts this year for trainer and co-owner Jeff Cullipher.

The Spirit Of Massachusetts has attracted a solid field with Svanstedt also represented by Incommunicado (post 5), a horse that seemed to be gaining some momentum that was stalled in last week's Hambletonian Maturity. Incommunicado returns to Plainridge where he was undefeated in four starts as a sophomore, sweeping to the Massachusetts Sire Stakes championship. The Chapter Seven-sired gelding also won last year's Dexter Cup.

Trainer Luc Blais has 2019 Hambletonian winner Forbidden Trade (post 6) and stablemate Inaminate Hanover (post 7) set for action, with Forbidden Trade looking to go over \$2 million in career earnings with a solid performance.

Co-featured on Plainridge's Sunday extravaganza will be the \$100,000 Clara Barton Distaff Pace where Tetrick hopes to get Lyons Sentinel into the winner's circle.

"I'm happy with the inside draw," said Tetrick. As to the struggles thus far in 2022 for last year's divisional champion, "She just can't go in (1):47. She can go in (1):48," said Tetrick.

While Lyons Sentinel does have a post advantage over her six rivals, she's going to need to be at her absolute best as the field includes some very sharp mares. Blue Diamond Eyes (post 2) is fresh off a 1:48 3/5 victory at Oak Grove on Tuesday (July 19) and returns north on a five-race win streak for trainer Ron Burke.

Amazing Dream N (post 4) was a solid second behind Test Of Faith in a world-record 1:47 mile last Saturday (July 16) at The Meadowlands for trainer Linda Toscano. The Bettor's Delight-sired 6-year-old arrived stateside with a solid resume and has been formidable in this division all season long.



Lovedbythemasses looks for his second stakes victory of the year in Sunday's Spirit of Massachusetts.

"We were over-driving her a little bit and I talked to Todd [McCarthy] about it," said Toscano, who admits the mare came with a lot of pressure given her accomplishments overseas. "I was tickled with her last effort. Test Of Faith is in a league of her own so to be second was great."

Racine Bell (post 7) won't be compromised by the outside draw. The 5-year-old by So Surreal has blistering gate speed and impressive staying power. She defeated Test Of Faith in a 1:47 mile at The Meadowlands in the Perfect Sting on July 2. Jason Bartlett has the driving assignment.

Post time is 4:00 p.m. for Sunday's 11-race program at Plainridge Park.

Joviality S to race in the Hambletonian

By Greg Reinhart & Derick Gwerner

Already with a win over male foes in this year's MGM Yonkers Trot, Joviality S will have the opportunity to do the same thing on the first Saturday in August, as her connections have decided to race the daughter of Chapter Seven-Pasithea Face S in the Hambletonian rather than the Hambletonian Oaks.

"We are doing it to have a chance to beat the colts. Of course the purse is bigger as well, but beating the boys can make a horse an immortal," said trainer Marcus Melander, who added that everything has to go right with the filly before entry time of the Hambletonian.

Joviality S, who is owned by Courant Inc. and was bred by Courant's AM Bloodstock Inc., raced on Saturday night at the Meadowlands and won her division of the Del Miller Memorial over last year's Dan Patch Award winner Venerable in a career-best clocking of 1:50 2/5. Melander is aware she'll likely have to drop even more time given Rebuff clocked a sub-1:50 mile in a split of the Stanley Dancer for the colts and geldings, but he has faith that she can accomplish that task.

"We wouldn't do it if we didn't think she had a shot. She's done everything right," said Melander. "She 100 percent is capable of going 1:49 [and change]. Just because she didn't do it the other night after a slower half doesn't mean she can't. Rebuff will be hard to beat, but I'm confident that she's as fast as him."

In addition to sending out Joviality S, Melander is planning to have other horses in both the Hambletonian and the Oaks. Melander is expecting to take one filly - Peyton Hanover - to the Oaks and three colts to the Hambo - Temporal Hanover and Periculum and perhaps one more.

"Temporal was right next to Rebuff last time, and Periculum had a tough first-over trip and still finished in 27 1/5 in a 1:50 2/5 mile. They are both nice horses, but we realize Rebuff is the horse to beat."

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North America Cup champ Pebble Beach returns in Adios eliminations

By Ken Weingartner

Pebble Beach will return to the races for the first time since his Pepsi North America Cup victory five weeks ago by facing five foes in Saturday's second of two \$25,000 eliminations of the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids for 3-year-old male pacers at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

The top-four finishers in each elimination, along with the fifth-place finisher with the higher career earnings, advance to the \$350,000 final July 30.

Pebble Beach, who was ineligible to race in this month's Meadowlands Pace because of the Meadowlands' rule prohibiting first-crop foals of stallions that retired to stud at age 4 without a medical exemption from being nominated to stakes at the track, won a qualifier in 1:51 2/5 at The Meadowlands on July 9 in preparation for a busy stretch of his schedule.

"He seems good," trainer Noel Daley said. "I didn't want to qualify him a week out (from the Adios) because after this he's got something every week. It was good he had a little break. Well, it wasn't good he wasn't in the Meadowlands Pace, but in the whole scheme of things, it was good he had a break. From here on in, his schedule is pretty busy provided he's OK. I'm happy with him."

Pebble Beach, a son of Downbytheseaside-Santa Rosa, has won three of four races this year. Lifetime, he has hit the board in all 15 of his starts, winning 10. In addition to capturing the C\$1 million North America Cup, his triumphs this year include a division of the Somebeachsomewhere Stakes and last year's Kentucky Championship Series final and a division of the International Stallion Stakes.

His victory in the Kentucky Championship Series came in a career-best 1:48 4/5, which was the second-fastest mile by a 2-year-old pacer in 2021, trailing only Caviart Camden's 1:48 3/5 effort that equaled history's quickest-ever mile by a 2-year-old.

In the North America Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Pebble Beach defeated Beach Glass, who won the Meadowlands Pace last weekend and is in the first Adios elimination, by 2-3/4 lengths in 1:50. It was the first time since Tell All's victory in 2007 that the Cup winner did not go faster than 1:50.

"(To win) was pretty cool," Daley said. "I know he only went (1):50, but that's all he needed to do. He went (1):48 as a 2-year-old; he's got nothing to prove in the time department. I couldn't care if we win in (1):55.

"He was good up there the whole time. It was obvious pretty early that it was his to win or lose. He was the best of them. (Beach Glass) has the license to improve; he hasn't done much racing, so he might keep getting better. But he was never catching him that night."

Daley trains Pebble Beach, who is known around the barn as "Bam Bam," for owners Patricia Stable, Joe Sbrocco, Country Club Acres, and Laexpressfoderadeovolente. The colt was purchased for \$85,000 at the 2020 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. His second dam is Hall of Fame broodmare Art's Vintage, who produced millionaires Vintage Master and Great Vintage.

"He was the only pacing colt we had, the only one we bought," Daley said. "He always seemed like he was a good one, but I kept saying that I hadn't had one in so long that I didn't know. I didn't know if he could go (1):50 or if he could go (1):48. There's a big difference. They've got to have the desire to do it, too. It just so happened he could go (1):48."

One especially notable bonus to Pebble Beach's trip to the North America Cup was that Daley came back from Canada with 4-year-old pacer Bulldog Hanover, who was being sent to the U.S. by trainer/co-owner Jack Darling to race at The Meadows. All Bulldog Hanover did, of course, was win in consecutive weeks in 1:47, 1:46, 1:46 1/5, and finally in 1:45 4/5 to establish the record for the fastest mile in history.

"It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time," Daley said about getting Bulldog Hanover, who this week returned to Darling's stable. "He was fun to have. He was a very simple horse to do anything with.

"To do what he did four weeks in a row is mindboggling. It's crazy."

The Adios eliminations are races eight and nine at The Meadows on Saturday. Racing begins at 12:45 p.m. (EDT).

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Somebeachsomewhere leaving a long line of successor stallions



ON THE MARK

By Bob Marks [@BobMarks3](#)

Generally speaking most great sires leave one or possibly two that could be considered enduring successor sons. Often that is not verifiable until years later as the breed sorts itself out.

Adios, considered the eminent sire of his day, left dozens of potential successor sons like Bret Hanover, Adios Butler, Adios Harry, etc., but his line ultimately endured through the unsuccessful Henry T Adios, who in turn sired Silent Majority, who begat Abercrombie. From there, Abercrombie sired Artsplace and Life Sign, but of those only Artsplace is likely to endure via sons Art Major and Sportswriter. Then there's great-grandson Sweet Lou, he through son Artiscap's son Yankee Cruiser.

Meadow Skipper had numerous siring sons but ultimately it was through his first-crop son Most Happy Fella that his line expanded and flourished. As great a stallion as Skipper's second-crop son Albatross proved to be, he himself did not leave any successor sons. Hence his male line is non-existent under the current spectrum.

Most Happy Fella sired the unsuccessful Oil Burner, who in turn sired No Nukes, responsible for the still expanding Western Hanover line. Later Most Happy Fella would sire his "successor" son Cam Fella, responsible for Cam's Card Shark, the sire of present-day legend Bettor's Delight.

As for the great Speedy Crown, only Speedy Somolli could be considered a successor son and he had to wait until his son Baltic Speed accounted for Valley Victory for that line to extend and flourish.

Which brings us to Somebeachsomewhere, a virtual revelation on the race-track and in the stud barn who unfortunately passed on at the tender age of 13. Unlike predecessor superstars Niatross, Bret Hanover, Romeo Hanover, Overtrick, Speedy Scot, Nevele Pride, Nihilator, etc., Somebeachsomewhere has proven to be as great in the stud barn as he was on the racetrack.

This was apparent from his opening crop, which not only featured potential successor son Captaintreacherous but also included Sunshine Beach, who has been doing well in Canada. Captaintreacherous was and continues to be an instant and enduring success, though his potential successor sons like Captain Crunch in particular have yet to have foals at the races.

Perhaps the leading first-crop sire of 2022 is Stay Hungry (Somebeachsomewhere-My Little Dragon), currently the fifth-ranked pacing stallion in terms of 2-year-old money winners. Stay Hungry has accounted for Hungry Man and Hungry Angel Boy, both with sub 1:51 wins at The

Meadowlands and miles in 1:50 1/5 and 1:50 2/5, respectively.

Stay Hungry joins fellow Somebeachsomewhere sons on the 2-year-old money-winning sires list as Downbytheseaside, Huntsville and Captaintreacherous currently rank 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively.

Of those, Downbytheseaside (Sprig Hanover) was the leading sire of 2-year-old money-winners in 2021 and his 3-year-old son Pebble Beach is among the leading 3-year-old pacers of this year by virtue of his North America Cup win last month.

For the record, Pebble Beach was not eligible to the recently concluded Meadowlands Pace via the "Gural rule" which prohibits sons of stallions retired following their 3-year-old seasons from racing in certain Meadowlands Stakes. While we won't be seeing Pebble Beach at The Meadowlands anytime soon (he is not eligible to race in the Cane on Hambletonian Day and can't supplement due to the conditions), at least he will be in the Adios Day lineup assuming he gets through this weekend's eliminations.

In New York, Somebeachsomewhere son Huntsville (Wild West Show) is challenging American Ideal for regional siring supremacy and looks to be of "national" stature as two of his sons made the Meadowlands Pace final. Moreover, Huntsville's 2-year-old son Blue Hunt was but a nose off Hungry Man in that one's seasons-fastest 1:50 1/5 win at The Meadowlands.

That said, Captaintreacherous placed three sons in "The Pace" and remains the leading candidate to be the successor son of Somebeachsomewhere.

Other potential candidates still to be heard from include Cattlewash (Road Bet) and Papi Rob Hanover (Panera Hanover). Of those, Cattlewash, a half-brother to champion filly Niki Hill, will get his opportunity in Canada. Papi Rob Hanover, the world's fastest 3-year-old on a five eighths track via his 1:47 1/5 win at The Meadows in an Adios elimination, showed signs of being potentially the Beach's all-time best son. However, given his injury in that event, that remains pure conjecture as his career concluded at that point.

Still, Papi Rob remains in the running to emerge as Somebeachsomewhere's potential successor son. However, given the almost unprecedented performances thus far by his paternal half-brothers Captaintreacherous, Stay Hungry, Downbytheseaside and Huntsville, that may take some doing.

Moreover, Meadowlands Pace winner Beach Glass will undoubtedly toss his hat in to the Somebeachsomewhere siring arena at some point.

Of course we won't know for generations just how the Somebeachsomewhere successor saga will play itself out. Certainly nobody could have forecasted the diminishing of the Adios and/or Albatross siring lines but diminish they did.

But for now, Somebeachsomewhere virtually stands alone as a super racehorse, a super stallion and a super sire of sires.



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Hennessey gets the Gerrity call

By Ken Weingartner

Wally Hennessey was contemplating whether to head to Saratoga Casino Hotel to drive Saturday in New York Sire Stakes action when he received a call that basically made the decision for him. Hennessey was asked to drive Tattoo Artist in the \$250,000 Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial for older male pacers.

"When you get a call like that, it's a no-brainer," Hennessey said.

Tattoo Artist, trained by Chris Ryder, is the 3-1 morning-line second choice in the Gerrity and will start from post three. Workin Ona Mystery, who starts from post one with Tim Tetrack driving for Ron Burke, is the 5-2 favorite. The field also includes Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup winner Linedrive Hanover, who is 4-1, and 2021 Gerrity champ This Is The Plan, who is 9-2.



BARBARA LIVINGSTON

Wally Hennessey will drive Tattoo Artist in the \$250,000 Gerrity Memorial at Saratoga Saturday.

"He's a very good horse," Hennessey said about Tattoo Artist. "But when you get to that level, they're all good. I don't know much about him, other than seeing him race a lot. I'm not in that (Grand Circuit) environment as much anymore, but I know the horses because they've been around a while. Any one of them is capable of winning."

"Horses like these, there's not a whole lot somebody can tell you about them. It's all there in the past performances, it's all there in black and white. These are the best free-for-alls in the country. These are the best of the best. The best horses, the best trainers, and the best drivers. It's who gets the trip, or if there is a speed duel, who benefits from it."

Tattoo Artist is a 5-year-old stallion owned by Let It Ride

Stables, Frank Cannon, and Diamond Creek Racing. The son of He's Watching-Style Artist has won 24 of 60 career races and earned \$1.22 million. He was an O'Brien Award winner at age 3. Ryder trains Tattoo Artist in the U.S. and Ian Moore conditions the horse in Canada.

Last weekend, Tattoo Artist finished third in Bulldog Hanover's world-record 1:45 4/5 victory in the William R. Haughton Memorial at The Meadowlands.

"I want to thank the guys for giving me this opportunity," Hennessey said. "I've been going over (to Saratoga) a little bit, a little here and there. A couple of guys asked me about going over because the 2-year-old pacing colts are that same night. I was thinking of going over anyway, but I received a call Sunday night from Eric Cherry (of Let It Ride Stables) asking me if I would be there Saturday night. That solidified where I would be."

Tattoo Artist has enjoyed success on half-mile ovals, such as Saratoga, hitting the board in 15 of 18 lifetime starts with six wins.

Hennessey, who was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2007 and ranks 10th all-time in North American wins with 11,334, is winning at a 27-percent clip at Saratoga. Since arriving there April 23 after the conclusion of the Pompano Park meet, he is third in wins, with 50 in 184 starts. Jim Devaux, who leads the Saratoga standings, has 81 victories in 471 races during that timeframe.

A native of Prince Edward Island, Hennessey has competed at Saratoga since 1986 but doesn't believe familiarity is any advantage when it comes to the Gerrity.

"I might have 36 years, but I think the rest of those guys driving know where they're going too," Hennessey said with a laugh. "The main thing is I've got a competitor in there. I'm not a longshot by no means. He drew pretty good. I'm happy with everything. It just depends how the horse is that day and how things go. You just want to do the best job you can do."

The Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial is race six Saturday at Saratoga. Racing begins at 6:45 p.m. (EDT).



EDITOR'S EYE

THOUGHTS ON BULLDOG HANOVER

By Derick Giwner [@harnesseeyeguy](#)

A few weeks back I was sitting in my home office at my desk surrounded by computer monitors and TVs (five total, yes I have a problem!) watching Bulldog Hanover win the Roll With Joe at The Meadowlands. When he crossed the wire in 1:46 I bellowed the word "wow" loud enough that my wife in the next room asked what happened.

Going into the Roll With Joe I knew Bulldog Hanover was fast and extremely talented but had no idea equaling a world record was in the cards. The moment was exciting and I have to admit, selfishly I'm glad he didn't break the record on a night I decided against attending the races live.

One week later I watched in person as he won the Graduate final in 1:46 1/5. I again thought "wow, this horse is simply a beast." Then came his William Haughton Memorial victory where the clock stopped in a new record of 1:45 4/5. Bulldog Hanover was now the fastest horse in history and while I'm thrilled that I witnessed it in person, I simply didn't get the same feeling. Think of it like drinking alcohol or taking a drug, the more you use it the weaker the effect. Another great analogy is riding a roller coaster, the first trip is always the best because it's all new and exciting. Quite frankly, it would've been more surprising if Bulldog Hanover won in 1:47 or lost than him winning in 1:45 4/5.

The key to getting that chilling goosebump feeling is the factor of surprise. I got them in 2013 standing in the infield at the Delaware County Fairgrounds as Maven (1:51 4/5) and Pet Rock (1:48 1/5) set North American records. Sebastian K's 1:49 win in 2014 at Pocono qualifies, as does Mission Brief's 1:50 3/5 victory at The Red Mile and He's Watching's Meadowlands Pace score (1:46 4/5) that same year. Amazingly all of those records still stand!

No doubt, Bulldog Hanover was spectacular on July 16 at The Meadowlands and now the biggest question is where he stands in history. Certainly he's the fastest horse ever and posting three miles of 1:46 4/5 or faster shows he is far from a one-hit wonder, but is he the greatest pacer ever off his performances this year? Keep in mind that it is not like he is beating up on bad horses. Rockyroad Hanover has paced 1:46 2/5 and 1:46 1/5 finishing within two lengths of him each of the last two appearances and won in 1:46 2/5 prior to that.

If Bulldog Hanover isn't the best ever, do we chalk that up to the fact that horses are simply getting faster every year and his 1:45 4/5 is equal to or less than Somebeachsomewhere's 1:46 4/5?

These are difficult questions to answer in July but perhaps by November we'll have more clarity on the first query. As Somebeach-somewhere and Bulldog Hanover competed more than a decade apart, the second answer is likely at least 10 years from a resolution.

Note from last week

Last week I wrote about how having a \$100 fine for kicking a horse is bad for perception when the same fine is given for talking on the track. John Campbell from the Hambletonian Society agreed and additionally pointed out that many jurisdictions list "kicking" as the fine even though the driver was simply taking their foot out of the stirrup without any thrusting motion. Campbell added that the Model Rules with the Association of Racing Commissions International are in place to guide how these infractions should be handled but that certain states refuse to adopt them, similar to the rules on horses going off-stride in a race.

I've mentioned it many times and so have the majority of people I've interviewed over the years. We need one set of rules and everyone needs to get on board.

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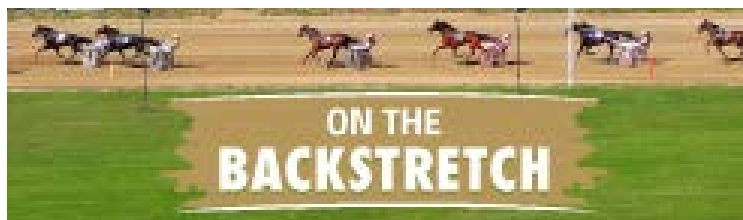
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BY DERICK GIWNER

Jacqueline Ingrassia, known to many as Lady J and the driver of 2000 Yonkers Trot winner Goalfish, has been involved in the sport for more than six decades and still competes regularly against the best drivers in Harness Racing. At 75, she owns a current-year UDRS of .396, and along with her husband Frank, campaigns one of the best 3-year-old trotting colts on the Pennsylvania circuit in Dandy.

With 1,176 driving wins and a lifetime of experience in her rearview mirror, Ingrassia's passion for the sport remains intact. Taking a break from the "action" on a Monday afternoon, the 1999 New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame inductee took the time to discuss her journey in the sport and the horse that is taking her on a great ride in 2022.



DRIVER JACQUELINE INGRASSIA

How did you get started in harness racing?

I was born and raised in England and as you know, England is not the hotbed of harness racing. However, I got into riding horses when I was very young because my sister got me into riding under saddle. We happened to live reasonably near someone who had Standardbreds, which is a rarity. I had never heard about Standardbreds until I got into it. I started exercising them under saddle when I was 12 or 13.

Why did you come to the United States in 1970?

To do this. I think I was 17 when I moved across the country to North Wales because that is where all the action was. There was a harness track there. For some reason Noel Simpson from Down Under had decided to build a track in North Wales. I got a job training horses for Lord Langford and I was there until I was 23. I figured I'd gone as far as I could there because there weren't many opportunities for women. So I talked to Noel Simpson, I guess he was one of the 'big cheese's' down in New Zealand, he was well known and well liked. I asked him if I should go Down Under or the States. I don't know if that is true now because women have made great strides down in New Zealand. A friend of mine had just been in the States and said they ran into a guy named Tony Abbatiello and he said he is always looking for good help. So I had Lord Langford write to Tony Abbatiello and when I got a reply I was on my way within a month.

Would you say Tony Abbatiello helped to kick start your career in the U.S.?

Yeah. He helped me get my license. He gave me my first drives.

You and your husband Frank have been racing horses for more than four decades. How did that start?

Well, it's more like five decades now. Tony Abbatiello sent me to Yonkers with four young horses to train and I happen to be put in the same barn, barn A I believe, as my future husband. That's how I got to know him. It was 1971.

Has racing been the sole source of income for you and Frank?

Yes, and it was pretty meager at times. We survived and we are



VICKI WRIGHT PHOTO

Jacqueline Ingrassia came to the United States in 1970 and has gone on to win 1,176 career races.

comfortable now. We built a home and we are more than satisfied with the way things have worked out.

Is it hard to work together with your husband day and night?

No. A lot of people say 'I don't know how you do it,' but we've been together since 1971 and we were married in 1975. We are together 24/7. We've had our ups and downs but it works for us.

With 1,176 career driving wins you rank third in history among women. Does it encourage you to see more women entering the sport via amateur racing?

Yes and I would like to see more. We've come a long way but there is still that stigma attached, not for me anymore because I'm old enough to be all these guys' mother, grandmother maybe. Now I've gotten over it and it is in the past, but I can see where young women would have a tough time, it is tough for anyone, but especially tough for young women. A lot of times these women are names you never hear but they are the backbone of the sport as far as I'm concerned. These grooms and second trainers, they know how to put in a day's work, and they just love the animals for the most part.

Why has it been so difficult for women drivers to break into the sport?

I really don't know, but I don't think it is just this business. I think in a variety of jobs women are looked down upon. I'm not on a soap box about it. It is just reality. I think we've come a long way and I'd like to think I've helped some women along the way by inspiring them. That's not why I'm doing it. I do it because I love to do it. I'm selfish, I absolutely love this business and my last breath will hopefully be around a horse. Like I said, women are making strides but it's baby steps.

Along the lines of your last breath around horses, in 2019 you suffered two broken wrists and bleeding on your brain and liver in an on-track incident. At 75, is it that love that keeps you on the track?

I couldn't do anything else and I wouldn't want to do anything else. Retirement is not in the cards for me or my husband. I think we'd get old really quick sitting around. That was just a freaky accident. I was back driving three or four months later. I couldn't wait to get back in a race. I had broken my leg years back and I drove with it in a cast, but obviously I couldn't drive with a broken wrist. I'm lucky to be able to do what I do. I love the business and the Standardbreds. To me there is no other breed that compares to them for versatility and kindness. They are just the best.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 15](#)

What kind of car do you drive?

I have a Lincoln hatchback. I'd much prefer to drive our one-ton truck. I feel safer in it and I really like it.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

I probably can't give you a favorite dinner meal but I can give you a list of deserts I love. My husband always says 'she'll start with the deserts and to hell with the rest.' My favorite is any kind of chocolate and ice cream variation.

What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

It used to be at Freehold. I cut my teeth at Freehold and I bet a good 90% of the races I won were there. We graduated away because we kind of got horses that needed bigger tracks. We've been all over but we started racing at Chester [Harrah's Philadelphia] when they opened and I really like to race there. It is only about an hour and ten minutes away from us, the people are very friendly there and our horses seem to like that track. Now we race 90% at Chester.

What is your favorite big event in racing?

That's a tough one. It would have to be the Hambletonian being the trotting person that I am. I watch all of the big races but I think I'm a little more boned up on the trotters than the pacers. We haven't had a pacer in our barn for many years, maybe 15 or 20. We switched to trotters mainly because we hooked up with Arden Homestead and that's all they have.

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

I can't say 100% because I have a family and a son that is beyond expectations. I would say 90% of the time.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of racing?

We used to go on cruises and had been doing that for the last 20 years, but unfortunately with COVID things have changed considerably. We like to go away with friends, all horse people of course, and this last year we went to Florida. A good friend of mine Richard Hans, he had Googoo Gaagaa, he has a condo in Fort Myers and he's generous enough to let us use it whenever we want. This year we are going to go down for two separate weeks to enjoy the warmth and get away. Also, when I'm home, I have a retired Standardbred and I like to ride him.

What is your favorite sport? Team?

I don't have one. If anything, I'll watch some NFL football. I like to watch the lead up to the Super Bowl. My husband is a huge Giants fan and there is a lot of comradery in the barn between the Eagles and the Giants fans. But I'm really not into sports.

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

I have an unbelievable son. He's on a SWAT team. We always tell him that we got the wrong son at the hospital because he is so unlike us. He's never been interested in horses but that's fine. He's buttoned up, has his act together and has a wonderful wife. It makes my day just thinking about him.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

I'm not sure I can think of one word off the top of my head. I certainly hope it keeps going but I have my doubts at times when I see how things are going. I don't necessarily think it is any problem we created but more that things have changed so much recently with the internet and kids are just different now. Youngsters aren't clamoring to be around horses like they used to be. Now they want to be around cell phones. Maybe the word for me is Terrific, because it is the one sport, as opposed to Thoroughbred racing, where you can breed, own, train and drive your own horse. You can't do that in any other sport. Look, I'm a



CHRIS GOODEN

Jacqueline Ingrassia guided Dandy to three Pennsylvania Sire Stakes wins in four starts.

75-year-old woman with an 89-year-old husband and we are breeding, training and driving our own horses.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

Winning the Yonkers Trot with Goalfish [2000]. What sticks out in my mind is that after we got done in the winner's circle and went back to the paddock we got a standing ovation, in Yonkers of all places, where people don't usually give a damn about anything. It was an absolute tear-jerker.

Which is the best horse you've ever trained?

I would've said Goalfish before this year but I really think it is Dandy now. Bearing in mind that horses are getting faster, it is not just that he has raw speed. This horse is an unbelievable individual. He went from being a horse that was never supposed to race to having the most desire that I've ever seen in a horse.

Dandy has won three of four PA Sire Stakes races this year. Is it true he was basically a gift?

Yes. Frank and I along with Arden Homestead owned his mother 50/50. Her name was Cococabana. She was a very mediocre horse. When we retired her we went with the breeding program. We gave her to Vieux Carre for no bills. We pay just the stud fee and the prep of the yearling but not day-to-day bills. In return all of her foals have to go to the sales. We could buy them back but instead of 50/50, we owned 25/25 and Vieux Carre owned 50%. Her first foal was sold I think to Erv Miller. The second one we bought back, it was a Father Patrick. He was an absolute flop. Along comes Dandy and I get a call from Vieux Carre. The horse was supposed to be in the Lexington sale and they were giving me the bad news that the horse had epiphysitis, where a youngster is getting too much protein and they grow way too quickly. He had a big lump on his left knee. The way you treat it is to keep them in a stall with no exercise and no protein, just hay for a month or two to stop the growing. He looked awful and still stands terrible but without the growth on his leg. Anyway, I got a call from Tad Egloff who owns Vieux Carre and said if I want the colt he'll give me his half. I told him to send him out and I'll see what I can do. Frank and I just looked at each other when he arrived because he was small, afraid and just awful. We decided to break him and meanwhile Peter Gerry from Arden Homestead asked about him and decided to pass, so we kept him.

He's now a gorgeous animal. He's changed so much and I just think he's thankful he wasn't Amished and pulling a cart somewhere. He's got the life now.

How high are your hopes for him to be a Sire Stakes champion this year?

It will all depend on the draw. I really do think he's as good as anything

ON THE BACKSTRETCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

in there. I've always been ultra-careful with him. Now I've been a little more aggressive and asked him to leave a little in his last start at The Meadows.

You mentioned earlier that you are racing against people who are much younger than you. Do you think you are at a disadvantage against them?

I don't think so. When I first started out I was just a young girl driving against the men and everyone thought I was at a disadvantage, and maybe I was. Now I'm an old woman driving against the boys. I don't think I'm at a disadvantage because you can't pick them up and carry them, that's what Herve [Filion] used to say. In some ways I think I have an edge because they are our horses and I know them. They are the best drivers in the world around here but you have to have the horsepower to win.

How many horses do you and Frank currently have in the barn?

We only have six right now. We always had 10 or 12, maybe 15 at times. The half-dozen seems to work for us. Over the course of the years we've been blessed with prompt-paying owners that have been kind and understanding, and we have two wonderful ones right now.

You mentioned Arden Homestead earlier. Who is the other owner?

Donna Franchetti and her husband. She's a vet and she's an absolute animal lover. They just let us do our thing. Our owners always let us do what is right by the horses. And Arden Homestead, I can't say enough good about them. We've been with them for like 25 years.

In addition to racing you served decades on the board of the SBOA in New Jersey. Why was it important for you to serve?

I always wanted to give the horsemen a voice. I'm not afraid to say what I feel is right. I think I've made a difference somewhere along the way. If horsemen needed financial help or whatever, I'd like to think I helped them out.

You go by the nickname Lady J. Do you like it?

Yeah, it's ok. Jack Lee came up with that. When Julie Krone was racing at Monmouth she was Lady K, so I think that is where he came up with it. He had a name for everybody. My nearest friends and family, nobody calls me Jacquie, they all call me J.

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

I'd do away with the use of drugs. Frank and I have been together for 50-something years and we've never had a [drug] positive. I understand people get environmental positives, that can happen, but if only there is a way they can clean up the sport and stop them from what they are doing, and I'm pretty sure they are still doing it. I don't know how or what it is, but it is bad for the sport and even worse for the animals. It's an uphill battle. People who do these things are always one step ahead.

Time for the stretch drive:

Best Horse You Ever Saw: Googoo Gaagaa. He was an outstanding-looking individual.

Best Driver Ever: Herve Filion.

Lasix – Yes or No?: It is a necessary evil.

Favorite TV Show?: Jeopardy.

Trotters or Pacers?: Trotters. I'd like to think that you still need a little skill to train a trotter but in reality they come out trotting now.

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, JULY 21

RACE 5

(5) VENDOR BILL romped over NW4's on 7-7. If anything he should be tighter tonight since that was his first start back after a layoff, and he's the only horse that shows a victory at this level.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, JULY 22

RACE 4

(10) DIRE STRAITS got unlucky with the draw and the driver change to Miller won't help his price any, but he's looked like the best in the series through the first two legs and I'm staying on the train.

-Derick Giwner

MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

RACE 7

(5) BETTER B DONNA N drops and she is sure to get aggressive at this level. She gets top call facing some that are sophomore sires stakes fillies.

-Garnet Barnsdale

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

SATURDAY, JULY 23

RACE 11

(7) DATE NIGHT wasn't bad in the Del Miller as she took a small step forward in her second start of the year. This represents a huge dip in class and she should break out in a big way.

-Giwner

MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis

[Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

[Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

FRENCH HORSES TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE ON JULY 25

Last month a delegation of American breeders traveled to France to discuss collaboration with French trotting officials. Over the years, relationships were developed, and discussions had taken place about ways for more collaboration between the two countries. The June trip by the Americans, following an invitation by France's LeTrot organization, which oversees most of the details involving the country's trotting sport, put a concept for selling and importing French horses in the United States on a fast track.

[READ MORE](#)

A HANOVER DOUBLE IN WEDNESDAY'S PA SIRE STAKES

Ervin Hanover is now a double Pennsylvania Sire Stakes winner in his young career after capturing his \$81,110 division of the second prelim for 2-year-old pacing males Wednesday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia, while Annapolis Hanover won his second straight stakes start in finishing first in the other division.

[READ MORE](#)

NY SIRE STAKES RACES SHOWCASED WEDNESDAY AT BATAVIA

Two-year-old filly trotters headlined opening night of the 2022 meet at Batavia Downs on July 20, racing in a trio of \$35,200 New York Sire Stakes events.

Last Page First lured Bob McClure down from Ontario to drive, and the trip proved to be a successful one as she won the first split in 2:00 1/5.

[READ MORE](#)

PICK 5 CARRYOVER, GUARANTEED POOL AT YONKERS THURSDAY

14-1 upsets by Mister Hat and Thundra, both driven by Pat Lachance, and another surprise of 18-1 by Look In My Eyes, piloted by Braxten Boyd, occurred during Wednesday night's (July 20) Pick 5 sequence at Yonkers Raceway. As a result, the wager was not hit, leading to a carryover of \$5,307.70 and a guaranteed pool in the sequence of \$15,000 on Thursday night (July 21).

[DOWNLOAD FREE PPS HERE](#)

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M-M'S DREAM STAYS HOT IN INDIANA SIRES STAKES

M-M's Dream turned in another dominant performance in the first of two Indiana Sires Stakes divisions for 3-year-old trotting fillies at Harrah's Hoosier Park on Wednesday, July 20 to go a perfect four-for-four this season. Jismakinyalook and Jordan Ross turned in an impressive performance of their own to capture the second split by a length in 1:53 4/5.

[READ MORE](#)

MSOA ANNOUNCES 10% PURSE INCREASE AT THE MEADOWS

The Board of Directors of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) has announced a 10 percent across-the-board purse increase, effective Aug. 3, 2022, for races at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

[READ MORE](#)

PICK 6 CARRYOVER ON TAP SATURDAY AT NORTHFIELD

MGM Northfield Park has announced a \$15,000 guaranteed Pick-6 total pool for Saturday's (July 23) race card. Beginning in race eight, the \$15,000 guarantee includes a carryover of \$5,373.

[DOWNLOAD FREE PPS HERE](#)

NEW DEAL BETWEEN STANDARDTBRED HORSE SALES CO. & MAST

Standardbred Horse Sales Company is announced Thursday (July 21) a multi-year renewal of its partnership with Mast Auctioneers. This partnership secures the world's leading team of auction professionals, an important component to providing the premier experience that is synonymous with Standardbred Horse Sales Company.

[READ MORE](#)

WIN A SHARE OF \$30,000 AT THE MEADOWLANDS

Thirty thousand dollars is up for grabs at the Meadowlands Racetrack this Saturday, July 23 in the first annual Jackpot Sweepstakes!

Beginning at 6:45 pm the Meadowlands will call a contestant's name every 15 minutes to win a cash prize. The cash prizes will start at \$250 and get progressively larger as the evening progresses. The final drawing is at 11:30pm and will be for a minimum prize of \$5,000.

If the cash prize goes unclaimed (winners are given 15 minutes to claim prize), it is rolled into the next drawing.

Registration to win your share is free and can be found online at [\\$30,000 Progressive Sweepstakes Entry Form](#).

Fans can also grab free grilled corn on the cob for the track's annual Cornstastic Saturday.

-edited release (Meadowlands)

VERNON TO HOST ROOKIE COLT TROTTERS ON FRIDAY

Vernon Downs will play host to three divisions of New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) for freshmen trotting colts & geldings on Friday (July 22).

The Strawboss (Jim Devaux) is the 2-1 morning-line favorite in the \$35,900 first division. The colt by Conway Hall-Jersey Gal is trained by Joe Skowyr and has a win and a second in two lifetime starts, including a second in a NYSS race at Saratoga.

The Mark Harder-trained The Gruffalo (Tyler Buter) was installed as the 2-1 early choice in the \$36,600 second division. The Chapter Seven-Clementine product has a NYSS win at Saratoga in his only lifetime start.

Marcus Melander trains Crown (Brian Sears), the 6-5 morning-line favorite in the \$36,600 third division. The colt by Chapter Seven-Amour Heires is one-for-one with a NYSS win at Saratoga.

The 13-race card starts at 12:15 p.m.

-edited release (Vernon)

PLAINRIDGE THURSDAY CARD MOVED TO FRIDAY

Due to an excessive heat advisory and threat of possible severe weather, Plainridge Park has postponed live racing for Thursday (July 21). The card has been moved to Friday (July 22) and post time is 4 p.m.

-release (Plainridge)

\$10,000 DONATION TO THE STANDARDTBRED TRANSITION ALLIANCE

When Plainridge Park hosts the \$250,000 Spirit of Massachusetts Trot on Sunday (July 24), the fourth race has been named "The Standardbred Transition Alliance Pace" in an effort to draw attention to the mission and important work this organization does on behalf of retired Standardbreds. And to show how much the racing community in Massachusetts cares about making sure every retired Standardbred finds a home and career after racing, they are making a collaborative donation to lead by example in this nationwide effort.

Plainridge Park, the Harness Horseman's Association of New England, the Standardbred Owners of Massachusetts and the New England Amateur Harness Drivers Club have partnered to make a direct donation of \$10,000 to the Standardbred Transition Alliance.

"Everyone who races Standardbreds in Massachusetts understands the importance of the health and well-being of our horses and they all expend a lot of time and money to keep them sound and fit while they race. But it's equally important to make sure these animals have a safe and secure future once they retire from the track," said Steve O'Toole, Director of Racing at Plainridge Park.

There will also be the opportunity for all visiting horsemen and women and fans to help retired race horses on Sunday by making their own donation to the STA at the track. All monies collected will go directly to the organization and everyone who contributes will be entered into a free random drawing for a 2022 Hambletonian package that includes two admissions, VIP Tent tickets, programs and hats, all donated by the Hambletonian Society. The Hambletonian will be held at the Meadowlands Racetrack on Saturday (Aug. 6).

-edited release (Tim Bojarski for Plainridge Park)