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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

# Are stakes payments necessary?

*Editor Derick Giwner looks at the current stakes payment system in harness racing and whether it can be revamped for the better*



## EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

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

The title of this column is a question I've been wrestling with internally and has led to a multitude of additional queries on whether payments are really necessary in harness racing or just ingrained as part of the system never to be altered.

How did the system of stakes payments begin?

By definition alone stakes races are contests where at least a portion of the prize money is put up by the owners of the competing horses. According to [Britannica.com](http://Britannica.com), the earliest races were match races between two or at most three horses where the owners would provide a purse by way of wagers.

It seems our current system has its roots in the ole "my horse is better than your horse" notion from back when horses were the main source of transportation. Two likely rich people would put up money and the rest was up to the horses. While we've gotten away from match races in 2022, in many cases we are still talking about wealthy people who are putting up money to race against each other. In some ways this is no different than the pari-mutuel wagering system where individual bettors are basically playing against their fellow bettors.

What is the purpose of stakes payments?

The concept could be to create large pots for horses to compete for throughout the year, similar to a bunch of people who get together and play poker and put aside a small percentage of each pot during the night so they can play one hand at the end of the night for a large sum and allow one person to walk away with a windfall. Or you can

compare it to a bowling tournament. The players put up money, perhaps a sponsor adds money, the bowling alley takes some money to host, and away the tournament goes.

Along the lines of creating a large pot, since there is clearly some skill to training and yearling selection, the idea of making payments could certainly be to reward those who are able to perform better each year. That said, the thought-to-be-best yearlings at sale time aren't always the leading earners come stakes season. One could definitely argue the skill level of picking yearlings, just as they could whether poker is a game of skill or luck. There are certainly elements of both in horses and poker. The question is which characteristic is more dominant, and that is difficult to answer.

"I always explained my job to people as I run a poker game where we hold the funds until the track contests the races and then we distribute it," said Tom Charters, former head of the Hambletonian Society and current Executive Vice President. The Hambletonian Society currently administers 147 stakes races at 13 North American tracks according to its website. Included in the list is of course the most prestigious race in the world – The Hambletonian – for 3-year-old trotters.

Perhaps the thought process is for everyone to have a stake in the game. Breeders make the first payments, owners make a bunch of payments and tracks contribute added money to create a large pool. It certainly makes some sense for everyone to put up money, but is it really everyone? This is no way is suggesting they should, but what money do drivers or non-owning trainers put up? So, everyone really isn't invested, unless you count time as an investment, and perhaps that is a viable contributing asset.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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Hambletonian retrospective & 2022 recap

### 4. Racetrack Television Network

(www.rtn.tv) Free streaming of Meadowlands In-house show from playmeadowlands.com; also available on Meadowlands Racetrack Facebook & YouTube page. RTN is available on PCs, mobile devices, on DISH Network, Roku and Amazon Fire TV.

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U.S. Trotting Association - @USTrotting (<https://twitter.com/USTrotting>)

### YouTube

Hambletonian - <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheHambletonian>

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## Hambletonian Information and History

Hambletonian Website: [hambletonian.com](http://hambletonian.com)





Is it possible that stakes payments simply exist so that the purses can be large enough to attract public attention? Or large enough to attract new owners to join the sport? While at some point both were likely legitimate reasons, only the latter really applies in 2022 since the 'Average Joe' hardly pays attention to racing and likely wouldn't know the difference between the importance of a \$200,000 race or a \$500,000 race. Purse is simply not a marketing tool for the public anymore. While it is probably in the millions, even I couldn't tell you what the purse is for the Kentucky Derby or a Breeders Cup race. And no one is going to tune in because it is \$1.5 million versus \$500,000.

From a different perspective, Nick Salvi, Stakes Coordinator for The Meadowlands and President of the American Harness Racing Secretaries, made a strong point that the higher payments for Grand Circuit stakes, considered the upper-echelon of the spectrum, help to give them more value to the horses.

"To me the Grand Circuit stakes are of substantially more value to a horse's overall body of work, particularly the ones that everyone wants to win," said Salvi, who conversely also recognizes that the numbers of some stakes are taking a hit as owners and trainers seek the most cost-effective spots to race and earn money. "You can buy a horse and race them regionally now and make great money without having to pay what it costs to race on the Grand Circuit. I keep a chart of our nominations each year and watch the ebb and flow of those. The older stakes hold up pretty well, and stakes like the Haughton are very expensive to race in. The younger horse stakes, because more people are taking the regional route because it makes more sense dollar for dollar . . . we lose some of those horses to the Sire Stakes."

What would change if stakes payments were drastically reduced or eliminated?

Without a doubt the most complained about part of the sport – the cost of stakes payments – would disappear. Talk to any major owner in the days leading up to February 15 or March 15 payments and all you hear about is the tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars it just cost them to

"To me the Grand Circuit stakes are of substantially more value to a horse's overall body of work, particularly the ones that everyone wants to win"

-Nick Salvi

make their horses eligible to races. Smaller owners are also affected by the system because they are often forced to pick and choose which stakes to enter due to costs.

"We usually start with 70 2-year-olds, 40 to 50 3-year-olds and a bunch of aged horses. As a barn we probably spend about \$2 million in a year staking," said Mark Weaver, part of the Weaver Bruscelli team that works exclusively with trainer Ron Burke. "I would love for the stakes payments to be less but I don't know where the money would come from. Some races offer value and some don't. You have to pick your spots."

Tom Charters added that almost everyone picks and chooses stakes on at least some level. "Bob Key was the last of the people who would check the 'stake all' button," said Charters.

More importantly for the industry's health and survival, purses for stakes races would drop substantially without payments from owners and breeders. Whether that is acceptable or avoidable by reallocating funds is another story. Certainly with less earning power the yearling prices of horses would logically take a major hit and that would be a hard pill to swallow. But let's investigate further by examining some specific races and seeing how they would be affected. We'll select races from the same age and gait to make it an apples to apples comparison.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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## Meadowlands Pace

The 2022 Meadowlands Pace had 659 nomination payments by breeders in May of 2020 at \$50 each for a total of \$32,950 (there was one supplement on August 15 for \$125). All of the remaining sustaining payments were on the owners: March 15, 2021 (\$400); February 15, 2022 (\$500); March 15 (\$2,000); April 15 (\$2,000). Then it costs \$2,500 to enter the elimination and \$5,000 for the final (you do get 1% of the final purse if you don't finish in the top 5 in the final. That was \$6,000 in 2022).

It is worth noting that prior to 2014 the February 15 payment was \$1,000 instead of \$500 and the cost to enter the elimination and final was \$6,000 instead of \$2,500 and \$5,000. According to numbers provided by Salvi, with the exception of 2019 when it hit a high point (51) since the fee changes, the Meadowlands Pace has averaged only in the high 30s in terms of horses eligible to enter the eliminations each year.

Back to the present, along the way there are opportunities to supplement a horse that wasn't nominated originally, but assuming your horse was paid from the start in 2022, the cost to make it to the final was \$12,450. Here was the purse breakdown: \$285,000 (1st); \$142,500 (2nd); \$68,400 (3rd); \$45,600 (4th); \$28,500 (5th); \$6,000 (6th to 10th). So, best case scenario was a \$272,550 profit and worst case was \$6,450 loss. If you entered the elimination and didn't qualify your deficit was \$7,450.

The 2022 Meadowlands Pace had \$300,000 of added money from sponsors. So if no payments were required from breeders or owners, and we eliminated the 6th to 10th payments since there is no more entry fee, the prizes would range from \$150,000 to first to \$15,000 for fifth, all profit to the owners. Of course that assumes that the cost of the elimination purses aren't removed from the added money, which really shouldn't happen since a large chunk of that money would be paid out if the race was a regular overnight race. A typical overnight for top 3-year-olds at The Meadowlands would go for approximately \$30,000 and the eliminations went for \$50,000, which could clearly be reduced to \$30,000 if necessary.

The question becomes: Would you rather pay \$6,450 to \$7,450 for a chance to receive an extra \$135,000 (winner) to \$13,500 (fifth) or pay nothing for a smaller prize?

According to Charters, as a rule of thumb from the USTA, the standard added money for tracks is often about 30% of the total purse. "The Hambletonian is at least 40% but no more than 50%," said Charters. "The Hambletonian is lucky in that it almost always has the most horses and thus creates the biggest pool."

## Max Hempt Memorial

The 2022 Max Hempt (Pocono) is scheduled for August 20 but is easy to figure out since it doesn't require eliminations, though it does have two consolation races which might complicate the numbers slightly. All payments for the Hempt take place in the year it is run. It costs \$3,750 to maintain eligibility and then declining fees of \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$750 depending on which race you get into based on earnings classification. The bottom line is it costs \$6,750 to race for \$300,000 in the final, \$5,250 to race for \$200,000 in the consolation and \$4,500 to compete for \$100,000 in the second consolation.

Total payments into the Hempt after April 15 were \$217,000. All of the purses for the Hempt are guaranteed, so assuming that 24 total horses enter (eight in each race) on August 20, another \$42,000 would be added to the pot. Removing the \$259,000 in payments from the \$600,000 would leave \$341,000 available if the stake was solely reliant on the track's stakes account. If the money was split between three races – let's say \$200,000, \$100,000 and \$41,000 – it would still survive but with a smaller purse scale.

Again, would you rather put up \$6,750 to race for a winner's share of \$150,000 or put up nothing to race for a \$100,000 return? Pony up \$5,250 to potentially get a \$100,000 check or nothing to get \$50,000? Are these not at least questions worth asking?

## Carl Milstein Memorial

This Northfield Park stake is worth mentioning because it doesn't require any payments. The Milstein is an invite-only stake where 3-year-old pacers race for \$300,000 with no financial commitment required. The track simply puts up the money and the horses/drivers/owners/trainers compete for it. This race is the other side of the spectrum and a potential different way to handle major races.

How would lower stakes payments affect participation?

A major issue which needs to be addressed is whether eliminating or lowering payments significantly would increase participation. Logic would clearly state if 660 yearlings make a payment for the Meadowlands Pace initially and that number is cut by a third to 210 by the following March, and even further to just 16 entering the elimination, a reduction in cost has to result in more interest. Consider the numbers that race in Sire Stakes. The cost to make a horse eligible as a 2- and 3-year-old in **New York is just \$1,300**. For that you get to race in six to eight legs each year for purses ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. The average purse (as of July 21) in the 3-year-old colt pacing division this year is \$48,468. In the four races contested so far 38 horses have raced, and that is New York only, compared to 17 in the North America Cup and 16 in the Meadowlands Pace. While it perhaps isn't a perfect example, lower costs equals more horses. Or does it?

Would you rather put up \$6,750 to race for a winner's share of \$150,000 or put up nothing to race for a \$100,000 return?

"In the early 90s we revamped the Breeders Crown and reduced the guaranteed purses for 2-year-olds to \$300,000 and result was fewer payments," said Charters. Indeed, from 1991 to 1993, only the 2-year-old colt pace in 1991 went for more than \$366,000 while on average the same finals have gone for \$600,000 each over the last decade.


I'm not sure that the elimination of all payments makes sense, mainly because of the aforementioned point that lowering purses dramatically will have a major impact on the economics of the industry. Yearlings will sell for less money and it could deter future investors from entering the sport at the highest levels. That said, a simplification and reduction of payments combined with perhaps a reallocation of purse funds could provide the perfect happy medium.

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RACING AND WAGERING SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Here's a suggestion using the Meadowlands Pace as an example:

May 15 Yearling Nomination - \$50; March 15 2YO Payment - \$450; March 15 3YO Payment - \$500; Elimination Entry Fee - \$1,000 (supplement fee for ineligible - \$25,000).

For a total cost of just \$2,000 you could enter the Meadowlands Pace. Using the 2022 numbers and assuming no additional horses pay in despite the reduced costs (somewhat unlikely), there would be \$158,000 in additional payments added to the \$300,000 in "sponsor" money. Now you'd be paying \$2,000 for a chance to get a \$229,000 first-place check (no 6th to 10th payouts due to reduced fees). Isn't that more appealing for the average owner?

Nick Salvi confirmed that reduced payments wouldn't necessarily affect the \$300,000 of sponsor money for a race like the Meadowlands Pace and even agreed that perhaps reduced payments are not a bad thing assuming the final purse could be kept at a reasonably high level.

"If the final purse was lowered to \$500,000 instead of \$600,000 it isn't necessarily a bad thing," said Salvi. "My personal thoughts are that the Meadowlands Pace is one of a few special races and needs to be treated as such and go for a lot of money. That race is a stallion-maker race. But it is a well-made point that if you make the payments lower it will nudge the total payments back up towards the number you got before reducing the payments. Those are things that you just have to try and see if they work. When you are messing around with something like the Meadowlands Pace, you are a little reluctant with trial and error because you want to keep it at the quality. But Jeff [Gural] is always willing to try something."

Just as important as making stakes affordable for the smaller owner, doesn't lowering payments also greatly reduce the investment a major owner has to post every year?

Trainer Nancy Takter pointed out that she often has to lay out large sums of money to post entry fees. "It is hard to get multiple owners to all send the money in on time," said Takter, who will have to lay out \$60,000 on Saturday (July 30) to enter her horses in the Hambletonian and Oaks eliminations at The Meadowlands. She added that lowering stakes payments is interesting but she does understand that money is needed to guarantee the purses at a certain level.

Imagine if you had three top 3-year-old pacing colts and it cost \$25,000 to stake each now but we could reduce that to \$10,000? Yes, you'd be racing for slightly reduced purses but your costs, especially for the person who buys many yearlings, would be greatly reduced as well, especially during those early months of the 2-year-old and 3-year-old year when your horse could be an unknown.

Let's keep in mind that the biggest payments - final sustaining fees and starting fees - for races like the Meadowlands Pace, North America Cup, Adios, etc. are made by very few horses compared to the numbers that first nominate as yearlings or even those made eligible as 3-year-olds. Eliminating large payments at the end of the process can only increase participation while having little effect on the final purse because so few horses are making those larger payments as the race gets closer.

Consider that in the 2022 Meadowlands Pace multiple owners paid part of the \$2,500 elimination entry fee on more than one horse. At least one owner paid part of the fee on four horses! At some point, aren't you racing for too much of your own money?

Mark Weaver, who is co-owner of two of the 12 horses entered into the Adios eliminations that took place July 23 at The Meadows and who nominated more than 10 to the race, agreed that to an extent they are racing for their own money, but he also felt the system allowed for options and decisions for all types of owners and horses. "There are C, B and A-level stakes. People have the opportunity to race in smaller stakes like the Keystone Classic or Liberty Bell or in the Grand Circuit races. Right now we are deciding whether to pay \$15,000 to start in the Hambletonian or \$500 to start in Kentucky. It's basically poker. Do you want to sit in the \$1/\$3 game or the \$10/\$20 game?" said Weaver the day before Hambletonian entries were due.

Some organizations might balk at this thought but maybe siphoning a bit from the overnight purse account to fuel stakes makes sense? Granted the United States model for sustaining the industry isn't to rely solely on wagering income, but strong stakes cards do increase handle. These increases vary depending on the track, like The Meadowlands could see a \$2 million bump in a single day while Yonkers or Harrah's Philadelphia might see a \$300,000 bump, but people do respond to good racing versus regular overnights and the money seems to be available.



CONRAD PHOTO

Owner Mark Weaver.

"Right now we are deciding whether to pay \$15,000 to start in the Hambletonian or \$500 to start in Kentucky. It's basically poker. Do you want to sit in the \$1/\$3 game or the \$10/\$20 game?"

-Mark Weaver

Consider that the average total purses per card for the U.S. in 2022 is \$137,611 (according to ustrotting.com as of July 24). That number is up an astonishing \$20,000 per card over 2021. Of course some of that is a result of certain regions having more money than in the past and continuing to grow, but maybe overnight purses have grown high enough for tracks that host major stakes to transfer some of that to the stakes account. Pocono, for instance, on a recent Tuesday raced for \$157,000 over 14 races. If each race was cut by \$100, how much affect would that have on the overnight races? Now take \$1,400 and multiply it by 136 racing dates and you have \$190,400 extra for stakes. Add a portion of that into the Hempt purse discussed above and we are inching closer to the current purse while reducing costs for all owners.

If a horse could remain eligible and compete in the North America Cup, Meadowlands Pace, Adios, Cane, Hempt, Little Brown Jug, Tattersalls, etc. by paying \$15,000 instead of \$40,000, wouldn't that increase participation and ultimately the quality of competition in each race? You'll notice no mention of the Breeders Crown in the list and that's by design. Since it is a series of races where a payment can gain you eligibility to later years and also one that doesn't race at just one track, the system doesn't work the same.

Some people may dismiss the entire concept as "crazy" talk from someone who has never staked a horse, bought a yearling or run a racetrack. Ultimately it's just an idea, one that may actually work and give the "little guy" a slightly better chance to play at the top levels. Everyone can agree that more participation leads to a healthier industry.

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# "Beach" party round two set for Adios Day at The Meadows



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [BergmanJay](#)

If you miss four weeks of competitive racing in North America you can lose your spot atop the 3-year-old rankings. Such appears to be the case heading into Saturday's Adios at The Meadows. North America Cup champion Pebble Beach now seems to be fighting for supremacy as Meadowlands Pace winner Beach Glass has gained traction in his absence.

"That horse grew a leg since we beat him in the North America Cup," said Noel Daley, referring to Beach Glass since the June contest.

For Daley there is no lack of confidence in his own horse. Pebble Beach has done nothing wrong since the North America Cup, it's just that he's done most of it behind the scenes.

"He's got a long campaign now and I wanted him to be ready for that," said Daley. "With these horses today, you don't have to train them that hard. I really didn't train any fast miles with him."

Pebble Beach had a rather easy go in his absence from competitive racing but was still fit and able when Daley sent him to victory in one of last week's two Adios eliminations.

"I think he'll be even better this week," Daley said, suggesting that while Beach Glass may have been the more visually impressive in his Adios elimination score, the public may see something different this Saturday afternoon.

On that note, Daley spoke of the most recent accomplishments of Bulldog Hanover, the 4-year-old that flashed through Daley's stable in a 23-day period and set the world ablaze while pacing the fastest mile in the sport's history.

"He was just amazing," said Daley. "That he put four straight races like that together is just unbelievable."

The demand of racing four straight weeks was something that Daley believes could be to his advantage heading into the Adios final. "That other horse [Beach Glass] has raced hard for four straight weeks. He's had to travel back and forth to Ontario as well," Daley said.

On the other end of the spectrum is Pebble Beach, who remains the lone horse returning from a competitive 2-year-old campaign that has not just maintained his top form but exceeded many other expectations. The son of Downbytheseaside raced a long campaign as a juvenile but appears to lack the wear and tear that has wiped out many of his rivals from a year ago.

"I'm not a big fan of racing these 2-year-olds more than seven or eight times," said Daley. "There are exceptions with a horse like this that can do it so easily."

A winner in seven of his 11 starts as a 2-year-old, Pebble Beach's year ended with him bleeding in the Breeders Crown final at The Meadowlands. "We added Lasix," said Daley. "But with him having to race in Kentucky this year he's been on a very low dosage."

With four wins in five starts this year, Pebble Beach has proven that he can race as well on the front end as from off the pace, a trait that Daley is indeed happy with.

"I just didn't want him to be on the front end as much," said Daley. "Last year in some of those fast miles at The Red Mile he did too much of the work."

This year Pebble Beach has been able to glide to the front and control the action as driver Todd McCarthy pleases. Case in point, last week's elimination where he faced the previously undefeated Bythemissal and was quite capable, stalling the opening half-mile in 56 3/5 and then accelerating when necessary to post a 1:50 1/5 clocking. While the time was more than a second slower than rival Beach Glass, Daley was unconcerned of the difference.

"I still think I have the better horse," said Daley.

While some have called the Adios final a rematch between the one-two finishers in this year's North America Cup, Daley has seen too many races over his career to fall into that trap.

"I thought Bythemissal was pretty good closing," said Daley. "I'm not sure why they raced him the way they did." It was a curious choice for Bythemissal to go to the back of the pack in an elimination race with just six horses, but driver Chris Page and trainer Ron Burke may have had



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

**Trainer Noel Daley (left) and driver Todd McCarthy took home the trophy in the North America Cup and hope to do the same in Saturday's Adios Pace.**

the same mindset as Daley considering that Bythemissal had not raced competitively since an Ohio Sire Stakes victory at Northfield Park on June 11. It was in that Northfield Park 1:50 1/5 scorcher that Bythemissal made a break while hitting three quarters in 1:21 3/5 yet quickly reset for catch-driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

The "Beach" Battle on Saturday afternoon at The Meadows is likely to be the last time these two meet for some time.

"After this we're heading to Kentucky for the next eight weeks," said Daley of his plans for Pebble Beach. "It will probably be a little lighter for him this year than last year. I don't see the same number of horses he faced last year in the picture."

While Pebble Beach has never raced over a half-mile track, Daley has left the door wide open for a possible appearance in the Little Brown Jug scheduled for September 22. "He's got a \$400,000 race at The Red Mile on September 18," said Daley. "There's no way we're going to pass that race up just to be in the Jug."

On the other hand, Daley appeared open to the idea of entering Pebble Beach for the Jug, something that is necessary before the Red Mile Kentucky Sire Stakes final occurs and before he can see how the horse comes out of the race ahead of a possible ship to Delaware.

The Adios is quite definitely shaping up as the race of the year in the 3-year-old division. In Daley's own words, Beach Glass appears to be a much different horse in late July than he was in mid-June.

"Yannick [Gingras] wasn't going to park him in the North America Cup," Daley said, reflecting on the decision that allowed Pebble Beach to gain control and dominate in Canada's richest pacing event. That decision came when Gingras had only driven the colt one previous time and may have been concerned with a negative outcome. Since then, Beach Glass has shown both high speed and the ability to rate on the lead. His 1:49 mile over a rain-soaked Meadows surface last week was quite convincing.

The outstanding question that should get answered on Saturday afternoon when Beach Glass, Pebble Beach and perhaps Bythemissal aggressively contest the mile from start to finish is not necessarily which one is the fastest, but which one is the toughest?

For fans of racing, it doesn't get much better.

### FIELD FOR THE \$350,000 DELVIN MILLER ADIOS

| POST | HORSE            | DRIVER            | MORNING-LINE |
|------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1    | Atlas Hanover    | Aaron Merriman    | 20-1         |
| 2    | Ario Hanover     | David Miller      | 8-1          |
| 3    | Pebble Beach     | Todd McCarthy     | 5-2          |
| 4    | River Ness       | Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. | 20-1         |
| 5    | Beach Glass      | Yannick Gingras   | 9-5          |
| 6    | Fouever Boy      | Mike Wilder       | 7-1          |
| 7    | Bythemissal      | Chris Page        | 6-1          |
| 8    | Quick Snap       | Dave Palone       | 15-1         |
| 9    | Nautical Hanover | Tim Tetrick       | 20-1         |

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# Melander looks to bring a handful to Hambletonian final

By Jay Bergman

There were some surprises when 20 horses were entered on Tuesday morning for the 97th edition of the Hambletonian. That two fillies joined 18 colts and geldings may have been unexpected, but that trainer Marcus Melander had five in the field certainly was a surprise.

"We were looking at four," said Melander on Wednesday. Letsdoit S was the last one and we thought he deserved a shot." Both Letsdoit S and Theresnolimit S are sons of Nuncio owned by Marcus' uncle Stefan Melander who himself captured the sport's biggest prize back in 2001 with Scarlet Knight.

"Letsdoit S got wiped out in the Dancer," Melander said. "In the Geers he had a troubled trip but held his ground in the stretch. Post nine isn't going to help."

Letsdoit S drew outside in the second \$100,000 Hambletonian elimination carded as race 11 on the Saturday Meadowlands program. In that race he'll face two stablemates that comprise Melander's best chances at his first Hambletonian victory. Joviality S, the Yonkers Trot winner, will be looking for the second jewel in the Triple Crown and first must overcome post 10 just to reach the \$1 million final on August 6.

"I'm happy with the way she's coming into this race," said Melander of Joviality S. "I think the 14 days after the Yonkers Trot did her well. I was concerned with racing consecutive weeks on the half-mile track how she would come out of those races, but she performed well in the Miller, and everything looks good except for the post position."

Regardless of the outside draw, Melander has supreme confidence that Joviality S, a daughter of Chapter Seven, has the talent to overcome male competition as well as the outside draw.

On the inside of the field is Temporal Hanover (post 3), a colt that Melander feels has the best chance of the four male stablemates in the race. "He's been very good in each start and was good last time finishing second behind Rebuff," said Melander. Unfortunately, driver Brian Sears is committed to Joviality S and thus Melander had a vacancy when Temporal Hanover drew into the same division.

"We had planned to have Orjan Kihlstrom drive him next Saturday [August 6] if he made the final," said Melander. "It's really tough to find a driver here, and now with Scottie Z [Zeron] going down it was more difficult. Orjan is probably going to get fined for missing drives in Sweden on Saturday but he's coming."

Kihlstrom is an elite talent and figures to have Temporal Hanover, a winner in three of his five starts this year, in position to post a mild upset in this talented field.

Joining Melander's filly in the race is Jiggy Jog S, a daughter of Walner that has won three of five this year and elected to race male competition this Saturday and perhaps in the final.

"No, I wasn't surprised to see her in against the boys," said Melander of Jiggy Jog S. "The owner has been talking about it since last November."

Jiggy Jog S drew post 5 and joins the Hambletonian field following a pair of Grand Circuit victories over fillies at Yonkers and then Vernon Downs.

Melander sends out a pair in the ninth race and first Hambletonian elimination, with Periculum (post 7) showing better credentials on paper and Theresnolimit S (post 9) one that earned his way into the contest on the strength of his most recent effort, a 1:51 score in non-winners of 2 on July 15 at The Meadowlands.

"When he trotted that fast, I felt he deserved a chance to be in the field," said Melander of Theresnolimit's recent effort. "Of course, he's probably going to have to go in (1:49) and change here but we'll see."

As for Periculum, the \$340,000 yearling purchased in Lexington in the fall of 2020 has been ultra-consistent through his 17-race career.

"He's very fast for a quarter mile," Melander said, summing up Periculum's racing qualities. "If he can work out a trip he can be right there."

"Of all the colts, Rebuff is the one that concerns me the most," Melander said in deference to last year's Breeders Crown champion that has returned this year with a pair of stakes wins including a 1:49 4/5 career-best clocking taken in the Stanley Dancer on July 16.

The first Hambletonian division should be quite contentious given the draws as Goodtimes champion Fast As The Wind (post 3) and the talented Branded By Lindy (post 4) join the promising Justice (post 5) in a solid division that will make it difficult for many to hit the top five and return for next week's final.

It's quite clear from the number of entrants in the field as well as



Trainer Marcus Melander has one of the Hambletonian favorites in the filly Joviality S.

those putting up the \$15,000 entry fees that winning the Hambletonian is most definitely a world championship event. That Melander has three Swedish-breds in the race says a great deal about what the Hambletonian means quite a distance from its East Rutherford, New Jersey based track.

The Hambletonian eliminations are part of a strong 14-race card at The Meadowlands Saturday that gets underway at 6:20 PM and also includes a pair of eight-horse eliminations for the Hambletonian Oaks.

## HAMBLETONIAN ELIMINATION ONE (RACE 9)

| POST | HORSE            | DRIVER           | MORNING-LINE |
|------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1    | Cool Papa Bell   | Brian Sears      | 8-1          |
| 2    | Looks Like Moni  | David Miller     | 12-1         |
| 3    | Fast As The Wind | Dexter Dunn      | 8-1          |
| 4    | Branded By Lindy | Yannick Gingras  | 5-1          |
| 5    | Justice          | Ake Svanstedt    | 10-1         |
| 6    | Molotov Cocktail | Todd McCarthy    | 10-1         |
| 7    | Periculum        | Mattias Melander | 4-1          |
| 8    | Rebuff           | Tim Tetrick      | 2-1          |
| 9    | Theresnolimit S  | Orjan Kihlstrom  | 15-1         |
| 10   | Pretender        | Andrew McCarthy  | 12-1         |

## HAMBLETONIAN ELIMINATION TWO (RACE 11)

| POST | HORSE             | DRIVER          | MORNING-LINE |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1    | Testing Testing   | Todd McCarthy   | 10-1         |
| 2    | Chulo             | Jason Bartlett  | 15-1         |
| 3    | Temporal Hanover  | Orjan Kihlstrom | 7-2          |
| 4    | Slay              | Joe Bongiorno   | 9-2          |
| 5    | Jiggy Jog S       | Dexter Dunn     | 8-1          |
| 6    | King Of The North | Mark Macdonald  | 5-1          |
| 7    | B A Superhero     | Tim Tetrick     | 8-1          |
| 8    | Keg Stand         | David Miller    | 10-1         |
| 9    | Letsdoit S        | Andy Miller     | 15-1         |
| 10   | Joviality S       | Brian Sears     | 3-1          |



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# The on-track fan has left the building with no return in sight



## AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [@AtTheTrack7](#)

Has harness racing ever made it back from COVID-19? Sure, the 2021 handle figures were excellent, but betting handle has waned in 2022 and it is fair to ask where did the majority of that handle stem from? The answer is people's homes. Wagering through advance-deposit wagering sites was always on the rise and the COVID-19 pandemic attached a rocket ship to that increase.

Of course, there were months where people could not attend the races and the only way someone could wager on horse racing was through an advance-deposit wagering site. When the racetracks reopened their doors to customers, some customers returned, but some have not. The comfort and convenience of being able to wager from your own home has become irrefutable. Sure, there was a time where you had to sit at a computer to do so and the live streaming of races was far from optimal. That is no longer the case.

In 2022, you can have the feed of every racetrack available to you on your 70 inch flat screen through an RTN subscription, or by using one of the several streaming applications that exist within the industry.

This past week Jeff Gural, the Chairman and C.E.O. of The Meadowlands, expressed his frustration at the lack of support within the industry pertaining to attending live races. Specifically, he cited the disappointment in not seeing more owners going to the races live. He mentioned Trotters, which is a gorgeous room at The Meadowlands, only having 20 people on a particular evening despite having nearly 100 2-year-old trotters and pacers making their first or second lifetime start.

Furthermore, he spoke about Meadowlands Pace night and the fact that their tiered dining room, Pink, was only half-full. He cited a net revenue decline for Meadowlands Pace night of approximately \$77,000.

Every year on one or two nights I try to get together a group of married couples and head to The Meadowlands for an evening of racing. Last fall I brought a group of 12 people to the track and made a reservation at Pink for a Friday night. Before the weekend, The Meadowlands called me to tell me that Pink will be closed due to lack of reservations and we would be moved to Trotters. Sadly, my group of 12 made up about 30 percent of the total number of people in Trotters that night.

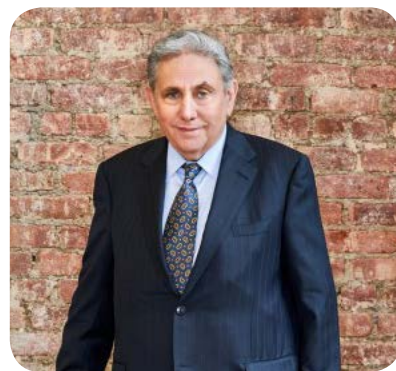
I cannot explain why, but horse ownership has changed over the past 10-12 years. There are so many syndicates or ownership groups and many horses are owned by a collection of people all over North America. While getting new people involved in horse ownership through these large syndicates certainly isn't a bad thing, I wonder if it has contributed to the lack of racetrack attendance specific to horse owners. People all over the continent and perhaps the world are sitting at home watching their horses' race. Often they could be hundreds of miles away, if not more.

Over the past two years, I have watched over 100 races in which a horse I owned part of competed. The vast majority of those races were nowhere near where I live. I have literally seen one compete in person.

With the exception of the biggest days of the year, everything in horse racing and in the world has incentivized people to stay home to watch and wager. We don't have to deal with traffic to and from the racetrack. We don't have to use gas or pay tolls, which could literally be putting people in a \$15.00 or \$20.00 hole for a drive to and from the racetrack. Advance deposit wagering sites are offering incentives to use their product rather than go to the racetrack.

"While I certainly understand Gural's frustration as it is deflating to have built a new facility that has seen attendance wane over the years, I don't believe this issue is specific to The Meadowlands at all."

-Darin Zoccali



COURTESY MEADOWLANDS

Jeff Gural expressed his frustration recently with the lack of attendance in Trotters and Pink at The Meadowlands.

All of this has been playing a part in keeping people home. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic and people who were still making the trip to their favorite racetrack no longer could, and when the time came to head back to the track, some of them did not.

With the exception of major racing days and elite meets like Saratoga and Del Mar thoroughbred meets, I am not sure we will ever see racing attendance bounce back to where it was even pre-COVID, let alone 10 or 20 years ago, and that will be problematic for racetracks that depend on live attendance for revenue. Of course we are all aware that the vast majority of handle has been coming from off-track venues for a long time. But in a simulcast system, where some of these racetracks are only earning three to four percent of every dollar wagered on their product through an off-track channel, something will have to give. I foresee many issues when simulcast agreements and contracts are set to expire. Racetracks that have lost live attendance and thus live betting dollars, will be looking for a bigger piece of the pie and that can lead to contract disputes.

While I certainly understand Gural's frustration as it is deflating to have built a new facility that has seen attendance wane over the years, I don't believe this issue is specific to The Meadowlands at all. I also don't think it is one that can be fixed and I don't have a solution to present. Horse racing has been trending to becoming a sport without many spectators for a long time and unfortunately the combination of these massive ownership groups with owners spread across the globe and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issue.

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# Merner happy for Haughton chance

By Ken Weingartner

Harness racing has always been Garry Merner Jr.'s passion, so when the opportunity came to put his career as a safety advisor in the oil fields of western Canada on hold and return to the sport with a stable of horses in New Jersey for owner Gino Toscani and trainer Desiree Jones, he took it.

Merner, a 43-year-old native of Newfoundland who worked as a second trainer for a number of stables before switching several years ago to his safety advisor role, will send out three horses in Friday's single \$20,000 Peter Haughton Memorial elimination for 2-year-old male trotters at The Meadowlands.

The top nine finishers in the elim will advance to the final on Aug. 6, Hambletonian Day, at The Big M, where they will be joined by bye recipient Oh Well to complete the 10-horse field. Oh Well, trained by Marcus Melander, won the New Jersey Sire Stakes championship last week at The Meadowlands.

Kilmister, also from the Melander Stable, is the 3-1 morning-line favorite in the elimination. He is 2-for-2 this season, with both victories in the New York Sire Stakes.

Friday's card also includes a single \$20,000 elimination of the Jim Doherty Memorial for 2-year-old female trotters. The top nine finishers there will go to the Aug. 6 final and be joined by bye recipient Mambacita, the New Jersey Sire Stakes championship runner-up from the stable of trainer Tony Alagna.

Merner, who is stabled at Magical Acres in central New Jersey, has Dahlquist Hanover, Raisealittlehill, and King Trix in the Haughton. Dahlquist Hanover is 8-1 on the morning line and will leave from post six with driver Andy McCarthy. Raisealittlehill and King Trix are both 15-1, starting from posts seven and 10, respectively.

Dahlquist Hanover, a son of Walner-Dangle Then Deke purchased for \$210,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale, is winless in four starts but heads to the Haughton elim off a second-place finish in a division of the Kindergarten Classic Series on July 15 at The Meadowlands.

"He hasn't had very much luck with the (post) draws but he seems to be getting better each week," Merner said. "We did change shoeing on him a couple weeks ago because he made a couple little steps. Since we've changed the shoes, it seems like he's come round good. He's a strong colt. I expect him to be good Friday."

Raisealittlehill (Muscle Hill-Kristine Anne) and King Trix (Trixton-Queen Serene) also are seeking their first wins. King Trix, who has started twice, finished third in a division of the Kindergarten two weeks ago. Raisealittlehill was fifth in the New Jersey Sire Stakes Consolation in his most recent outing.

"I think King Trix is going to be a much nicer horse next year," Merner said. "He's a well-bred colt, and a big growthy colt. He's very versatile, but green. I think as he matures, he may be the nicest of the three colts once he learns what he's doing. He needs to grow into himself. But if one of them had to draw the outside, I'd rather it be him because he can leave hard if he needs to."

"All three horses are longshots, but they seem like they're getting better each week. They've done everything I've asked of them so far. Anything can happen in a horserace with 2-year-old trotting colts. You can't win them if you're not in them. It's nice to be in and have an opportunity."

Merner followed in the footsteps of numerous family members in getting involved in harness racing. He had 80 wins as a driver and 17 as a trainer before going back to school and getting a degree in occupational health and safety. Prior to this year, he last raced in 2012, although he still owned several horses.

"I did have a good career, but horseracing has always been my passion," Merner said. "Even at the other job, I'd be watching the races in my office when I had a chance. On my days off, I helped Desiree with some of the babies training down."

"Gino and Desiree approached me and asked if I would be interested in taking some horses to New Jersey and go on my own, so I took a leave of absence from work and decided to give it a try. Both of them have been great with me. Hopefully, we can have some luck."

Merner has four horses in training at the moment, with 4-year-old male pacer Whichwaytothebeach joining his three trotters.

"I'm hoping it's going to be a busy day on Hambo Day," Merner said.

Racing begins at 6:20 p.m. (EDT) Friday at The Meadowlands.



WINBAK FARM PHOTO

Winbak Farm's Jack Burke, General Manager, & Elizabeth Cheesman, PR, accepted a Touch Of Class award from the Maryland Horse Industry Board at the Ronny Maher Memorial Polo Match in Monkton (Maryland).

## Zeron, Kakaley to miss time after accident

During the sixth race at The Downs at Pocono on July 26, Java went to her knees throwing driver Scott Zeron from the bike and also causing Chances Are Ideal to vault Matt Kakaley from his sulky seat.

According to Zeron's significant other Megan Scran, he has a three inch fracture in his pelvis, a dislocated shoulder and a small break in his left hand. Surgery is not expected to be necessary but Zeron remained in good spirits.

"A month of no golf is what they said," replied Zeron via text when asked how long he would be out of action.

According to reports, Kakaley has a torn shoulder but the severity of the injury is not completely known at this time. Sources close to the driver said his absence should be at least three weeks.

Trainer Tom Cancelliere reported that Java suffered only minor scrapes.

No further information is available at this time.



LISA PHOTO

Two-time Hambletonian champion Scott Zeron will have to sit on the sidelines for the 2022 edition.

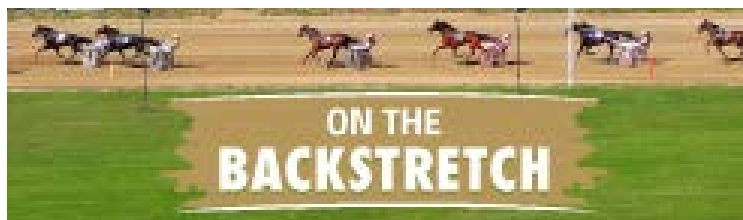




# NEW 2022 MERCHANDISE



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**BY DERICK GIWNER**

Have you won a race at The Meadowlands recently? If so there is a great chance you've had the pleasure of meeting Sis Arnold, currently the winner's circle attendant at the track. Along with serving as interim outrider at Freehold before its meet ended in May and working for trainer Tony Alagna in the mornings, Sis has kept very busy since coming to the east coast a year and a half ago.

As the Meadowlands meet wraps up and just days before she'll likely lead the next Hambletonian winner into the winner's circle, Sis took the time to discuss her journey in the sport and why she is heading back to Illinois in August.



## OUTRIDER SIS ARNOLD

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

My father Mike Arnold. My grandfather also did it and my niece trains horses in Ohio. Dad is in Kentucky now.

### Your father Mike was a very accomplished trainer/driver with thousands of combined wins. Did you consider going into that realm?

He'll be 75 this year and still has a couple of horses to fiddle around with. I worked for Curt Grummel and was his second trainer when he had Homicide Hunter. Grummel raised him and started him as a baby. We sold him to Michelle Crawford.

### Have you ever been a listed trainer or just second trainer?

Just a second trainer. I always outrode in Chicago so I couldn't be a listed trainer because I was a racing official.

### You spent much of your career as an outrider. Has that been your sole source of income over the years?

That was pretty much it. I always had a little job to do in the morning to be around horses. Being around horses gets in your blood. This winter I was working for Tony Alagna, then I would go out-ride at Freehold and head to work the winner's circle at The Meadowlands.

### What goes through your mind when you have to rescue a horse on the track? Is it all instinctual?

This might sound bad but I always worry about my guys. Like when Marcus [Miller] fell the other day [at The Meadowlands] I was worried about whether he was alright. I always have the animals in my mind but it is the people I'm more worried about. You can't replace them.

### What kind of car do you drive?

Mini Cooper. I can get so much junk in that car it is amazing. You think it is small until you get in and it's amazing.



Sis Arnold was all smiles in the Meadowlands winner's circle with Dorothy Haughton Memorial winner Test Of Faith.

### Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

Big steak; Teriyaki beef jerky.

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

I had never been to the east coast and as I've been working for Alagna I've gotten to go to a lot of places I've never been to. I don't know that I have a favorite. I like to go to all tracks. Vernon was probably the neatest track, and Monticello, I bet back in the day both were pretty nice.

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

I like any of the trotting races. They give me goose bumps. When Ake [Svanstedt] has one racing I'm like 'oh my God, look at those things.' And Sarah [Svanstedt], when you see her you think how beautiful she is, but then you see her in the bike and realize she's such a badass. I've been in this business so long and have met and dealt with so many people, but for a female to do what she does, it is kind of cool.

### How often is racing or horses on your mind?

All the time. I'm always checking to see what Alagna has in or what is going on.

### Do you own any horses?

I have two pony horses. I have an old horse that is 27 named Blackie. He is just my partner in crime. He outrode at Balmoral Park, that's how long I've had him. The other one is Junior and we named him that because he looks just like Blackie.

### What is your favorite sport to watch?

I don't really have one.

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

That I have pins and rods all the way up my backbone. I had an accident at Balmoral Park in 2011 I think. Every day I get up and hurt but you have to push yourself through it. You have better days and worse ones, but I do alright.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 15](#)





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

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

Work. People don't realize how much work goes into animals. They think kids are hard [laughing].

### What was your most memorable moment – good or bad – as an outrider?

When I caught Mike Brink. I love him, he is such a nice man. One day his line came off behind the gate at Balmoral. They took him all the way around but the whole way I'm thinking 'please don't let Mr. Brink fall off. Just hold on and I'll come get you.' He told me 'alright, I'm going to let him go' and I caught him. I could tell you tons of stories but that's the one that stands out.

### Are there times you are on the track and sense there is a chance there could be a problem?

Absolutely. You watch horses warm up and can see it. At Freehold, I didn't know half of the names but after a couple of weeks you get the handle of everyone. I love Freehold but maybe that's because I grew up at Maywood on the half-mile track. Too bad it's gone now.

### This season you've been the winner's circle attendant at Meadowlands. What made you take on that role?

I was looking for a little extra work after Alagna in the mornings. They were looking for an attendant and I thought, 'I can do that, it's easy.' The same day I told Scott Warren [Meadowlands Director of Racing] I would go to work, Karen Faglierone [Freehold Racing Secretary] called me and said their girl [outrider] hurt her hand, can you fill in? My fiancé/husband said now you have to work at two places and I said it would be alright because Freehold was only supposed to be for a little while, but the girl never came back and I ended up doing it the whole meet.

### You're originally from the Midwest. How did you end up in New Jersey?

I wanted unemployment from Hoosier Park and they wouldn't give it to me and were fighting me for the money. All I wanted was unemployment to help me feed my horses while I was off because I had four, but they were not willing to work with me. So I quit. I work for Tony Alagna

during the winter in Florida and I called him to ask about a job in New Jersey and he said he'd love to have me. So me and my husband came and have stayed a year and a half.

### You mentioned the other day to me that you were going back home soon?

Hambletonian Day is my last day. I told Tony I was homesick and wanted to go back and see me dad and mom. I haven't seen them in maybe two years. We talk every day on the phone but that isn't the same. I'm out of here August 8. I don't have a job or anything lined up, but I have a place to live and for my horses. That's all that matters. I did save quite a bit of money here because all I did was work.

### Is Sis your given name?

No – Hazel Michele is my given name. I'm named after my aunt and she was a pisspot. Nobody really know my real name because I don't tell anyone. When we were young all my sister could say was 'sis' and when she got bigger she kept saying it. It's been so many years there isn't much sense in changing it now.

### Do you have any stories about a horse which acted up badly for you in the winner's circle?

No. I can't remember their names. If I see them on the racetrack I'll remember which the nasty ones are but I don't remember names. I'm the same way with humans.

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

I would make more room for the little people. The two, three, 10, 15-horse stables. If that is even possible. All of the money now is going to Kentucky but the people there can't even afford to get those kind of horses. They can't afford the Stay Hungrys and Captaintreacherous'.

I would also publicize the sport more. When I hurt my back in Illinois I went to a therapeutic center that was 30 minutes from the racetrack and my therapist had no idea what a racehorse was. We had three tracks in Chicago at the time and she had no idea, none!

### Time for the stretch drive:

**Best horse you ever saw?** Bulldog Hanover, only because on the wire some of those horses were so tired and you can't see it but that horse is going in (1:)46 and you can see it, he's saying look at me, I'm the man. Maybe it is because where I sit and I get to watch the horses finish now.

**Best Driver ever?** Anthony Morgan.

**Lasix – Yes or No?** Yes.

**Favorite TV Show?** Two and a Half Men.

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## MANDATORY PAYOUT

### SATURDAY JULY 30, 2022

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# Woodbine Mohawk Park



## \$262,569 JACKPOT HI-5 MANDATORY PAYOUT ANALYSIS

Woodbine Mohawk Park is set to offer a mandatory payout on the Jackpot Hi-5 Saturday (July 30). The \$262,569 carryover opportunity is the 10th race on the program and offers a base wager amount of .20 per play. Our handicappers provide their base wagers below:

By Garnet Barnsdale

This is one of the better betting races that I can remember with a mandatory High-5 payout featured. Any of five or six of them can likely win depending on pace/trip. (6) HIGHLANDBEACHLOVER paced a terrific mile in defeat last week and he moves from the worst post to the best starting spot. I'll give him a slight nod. (7) SOMEWHERE-INVERONA was also very good in defeat considering he was out the mile. He gets a new driver and he should have a big shot. (1) HESINCONTROL continues to race well every week and he goes forward in the third quarter of every race. He's hard to leave off this High-5. (4) SOMBODYITREASURE has been really sharp since shipping in from Pennsylvania and he is likely to get a good trip on a helmet here. (11) FOREFATHER is sharp and dangerous but I don't love the second-tier post for him. I'll use him underneath.

Others to consider using underneath: (3) ISLANDSPECIALMAJOR, who should sit an inside following trip throughout, (8) HUNTER HILL, who comes in of an impressive score vs. lesser, and (9) DRAGON ENERGY, who rarely misses a check and will be a huge price.

**1,6,7 / 1,6,7 / 1,3,4,6,7,11 / 1,3,4,6,7,11 / 1,3,4,6,7,8,9,11 = \$57.60**

By Derick Gwerner

The only guarantee I can provide when it comes to this Hi-5 is that it will pay very well, mainly because there are so many contenders. The horse to beat for me is (7) SOMEWHEREINVERONA. The Blake Macintosh trainee was parked every step under constant urging while appearing to be on a right line much of the way in his most recent start. He was given a week off that hopefully will solve any physical issues (check for equipment changes too) and gets a new driver who could very well fire him off the gate. (4) SOMBODYITREASURE could be the favorite here for top connections of McNair/Moreau. He's clearly sharp and a must-use horse. (6) HIGHLANDBEACHLOVER is the other horse that MUST be included on tickets. He's sharp enough now that taking air doesn't seem to bother him and he gets a nice post switch from 10 to 6.

Others on the ticket include (1) HESINCONTROL, a very sharp horse that unfortunately loses McNair to #4, (2) BETTOR B GOING, who comes in off a monster mile at Georgian and really had no shot in his last Mohawk try, and (11) FOREFATHER a young yet potentially improving 4-year-old who has a shot if Jamieson can negotiate the second-tier starting spot.

**7 / 4,6 / 1,2,4,6,11 / 1,2,4,6,11 / ALL = \$33.60**

**4,6 / 7 / 1,2,4,6,11 / 1,2,4,6,11 / ALL = \$33.60**

# 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 28**

**RACE 8**

(8) KAYLEIGH S won at Saratoga and Batavia, and although she starts from the outside, I'll put the full sister to MGM Yonkers Trot champ Joviality S on top. Hopefully she'll offer a little value.

**-Greg Reinhart**

**EMPIRE CITY CASINO**  
YONKERS RACEWAY

**FRIDAY, JULY 29**

**RACE 4**

(5) VILLAGE CHAMP had no shot last time from post 9. He drops back to the level of his last win, draws well, and he needs a top effort to make next week's final; all systems go!

**-Derick Gwerner**

**MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT**

**RACE 8**

(7) CENTURY GIGALO couldn't be any sharper and he comes off a lifetime-best effort and Moreau claimed him right back after losing him for one start via claim.

**-Garnet Barnsdale**

**WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK**

**SATURDAY, JULY 30**

**RACE 11**

(3) TEMPORAL HANOVER came up just short versus Rebuff in the Stanley Dancer and while some of the betting public will think otherwise, he loses very little if anything getting one of the top drivers in the world in the bike this week. Walner colt is fresh and ready to peak.

**-Gwerner**

**MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT**

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**Meadowlands Analysis**

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## CARRYOVERS, DSBF FINALS HEADLINE HARRINGTON THURSDAY CARD

Harrington Raceway's richest program of the season is set for Thursday (July 28) on Governor's Day at the Delaware State Fair with a 12-race card starting at 7 p.m.

More than \$600,000 in total purses are at stake with four \$100,000 Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund (DSBF) events for 3-year-olds being the centerpiece for the program, in addition to popular annual events like the \$50,000 Governor's Cup, which showcases the top older (4 years old and up) horses locally.

On the wagering front, two healthy carryovers will spice up the betting menu as a \$6,821 carryover is in the pick four (races 9-12) and a \$1,301 carryover is in the pick 5 (races 2-6).

[READ MORE](#)

## ERV MILLER'S FILLIES DOMINATE IN INDIANA SIRE STAKES

Two-year-old pacing fillies sent out by trainer Erv Miller finished first and second in both \$68,000 Indiana Sires Stakes flights on Wednesday night at Harrah's Hoosier Park.

[READ MORE](#)

## SEVEN HUNDRED, JD VICTORIOUS IN NYSS SPLITS AT BATAVIA

Seven Hundred and JD both stopped the teletimer in 1:52 4/5 in winning the pair of \$59,200 New York Sire Stakes events for 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers that took place on Wednesday night at Batavia Downs.

[READ MORE](#)

## CATALOGUE ENTRIES CLOSING FOR BLOODED HORSE SUMMER SALE

Catalogue entries for the 67th Annual Blooded Horse Summer Sale to be held Tuesday, Aug 23, at the Champions Center in Springfield, OH, will close Friday, July 29. Supplemental entries will be taken after that.

The sale features 100 black-type yearlings along with 2- & 3-year-olds, seasoned racehorses and breeding stock. Buyers from throughout the United States and Canada flock to this late summer shopping opportunity. Enter at [www.bloodedhorse.com](http://www.bloodedhorse.com).

View black type yearlings [here](#).

**-edited release (Blooded Horse Sale)**

## STANDARD BRED HORSE SALES COMPANY ACCEPTING MIXED SALE ENTRIES

Standardbred Horse Sales Company is now accepting entries for our Annual Mixed Sale at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA.

The Mixed Sale will be held on Thursday, November 10, and Friday, November 11, 2022. The Black Book 2 catalog will close to new entries at the end of the business day on October 3, 2022.

Standardbred looks forward to offering our consignors and their clients extended opportunities to market their horses.

For more information please contact Dale Welk at [dwelk@hanoverpa.com](mailto:dwelk@hanoverpa.com) or Judy Casey at [jcasey@hanoverpa.com](mailto:jcasey@hanoverpa.com).

**-release (Standardbred Horse Sales Co.)**

## 2022 GOSHEN YEARLING SALE CATALOGS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Catalogs for the 2022 Goshen Yearling Sale are now available for online viewing or download by clicking [here](#). The sale will be held at the Mark Ford Training Center in Middletown, NY on Monday (Sept. 12) at 12 noon.

The downloadable PDF file includes the complete pedigree for all horses. Printed catalogs will be available within the next week and will be mailed as soon as they arrive. Requests can be made by filling out the link on the website (under the "Catalogs" tab) or by contacting Mark Ford directly at 973-568-3253 or at [fordstable@frontiernet.net](mailto:fordstable@frontiernet.net).

Prospective buyers can also pick up copies of the catalog at most race tracks in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, training facilities, at the Hambletonian at the Meadowlands and New York County Fair tracks racing through the end of August.

This year's consignment includes 24 pacing colts, 22 trotting colts, 26

pacing fillies and 24 trotting fillies for a total of 96 yearlings from top breeders that include Blue Chip Farm, Cameo Hills Farm, Leatherstocking Equine Center, Winbak Farms, Marie Houghtaling, Pine Hill Stable, Silver Tradition Stable and Thywillbe Done Farm.

The sales facility is located at 90 Slaughter Road, Middletown, NY, which is within a ninety-minute drive of many major race tracks and training centers in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, making it a very convenient location.

Everything you need to know about the 2022 Goshen Yearling Sale is available on their website at [www.goshenyearlingsale.com](http://www.goshenyearlingsale.com).

**-edited release (Tim Bojarski for GYS)**

## ALAGNA LONGSHOTS TAKE THEIR SHOTS IN ADIOS

Elimination winners Beach Glass and Pebble Beach may appear unbeatable in Saturday's \$350,000 final of the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows, but don't count out Tony Alagna. Few trainers can match his Adios success in recent years.

Alagna won the Orchids in 2016 with Racing Hill and finished second the following year with American History. He's sent eight colts into the Adios final over the last three years, including Atlas Hanover, Quick Snap and Nautical Hanover on Saturday.

The 16-race Adios Day card gets underway at 11:45 AM; the Adios goes as race 15 with an approximate off time of 5 PM. The Pace for the Orchids anchors a power-packed program that features a total of six Grand Circuit stakes, including the \$102,355 Quinton Patterson Adios Volo for 3-year-old filly pacers.

Alagna acknowledged that defeating Beach Glass and Pebble Beach is a tall order.

"Those two will be very tough to beat, and two of mine are hampered with outside posts," he said. "But I'm not embarrassed to have any of these three colts in there. They earned the right with the way they raced in the eliminations."

Here's a look at each of Alagna's trio:

- Atlas Hanover (post 1, Andrew McCarthy). "We gelded him last year, and it really helped him," Alagna said. "He's come back much better. From the rail, you leave out of there as best you can, sit the wood and hope you pick up a good check."

- Quick Snap (post 8, Dave Palone). "He had some breathing issues last year, so we gave him some time off. I'm happy about how he's come back. Last week was his first major step up against stakes company, and he raced very well. He's quick off the gate, but I'll let Dave figure out the trip."

- Nautical Hanover (post 9, Tim Tetrick). "He was as sharp as anybody in the eliminations (finishing third). He's sneaky good. I was disappointed in his performance in the Meadowlands Pace, but we found his blood work was a little out of kilter. We addressed that, and he's been really good since."

**-edited release (Evan Pattak for MSOA)**

## LIMITED HAMBLETONIAN DINING OPTIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Table and dining options are extremely limited for the greatest day in harness racing – the 97th Hambletonian Day, Saturday, August 6th.

Admission is just \$5 and includes a commemorative Hambletonian hat for adults and kids. Doors open at 10 am with first race at 12 noon. Parking is free.

While Café and Lounge tables have sold out there are still a few remaining promenade tables available for purchase. The promenade tables seat four and admission is included with the \$300 ticket.

Admission and promenade tables can be purchased [here](#).

Those looking for outdoor dining can now make reservations for the West Apron VIP tent. The \$48.95 menu includes a mixed greens salad served family-style, beef sliders, brisket, pulled pork and mac-n-cheese for entrees. Diners can end the meal with homemade brownies, cookies and fresh watermelon. Reservations can be made by calling 201-TheBigM (843-2446).

Outdoor dining is also available at the Backyard Bar & Grill. Reservations can be mailed by emailing [victoryreservations@arkrestaurants.com](mailto:victoryreservations@arkrestaurants.com).

All things Hambletonian can be found [here](#).

**-edited release (Meadowlands)**