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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Jay Bergman: Pedigree aplenty in Goshen Yearling Sale**

**Melander with multiple favorites on NY Day of Champions**

**NJSS champs aim for Classic crowns**

**Charlie May vies for Ewart win at Scioto + 8% Rebate via DRF Bets**

**Shake-up in the Road to the Mohawk Million Week 4**

**On The Backstretch: Profile of trainer Megan Scrnan**

**12 championship races at Hawthorne**

**Giannelli gets 3 1/2 years in drug case**

**Comments? Questions?**

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

# The Standardbred Advantage

*Standardbred superstar Bulldog Hanover could race a handful of times before Thoroughbred phenom Flightline steps on the track again*



## AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [@AtTheTrack7](#)

Bulldog Hanover and Flightline have captured the imagination of the fans of both thoroughbred and standardbred racing this year. When they step on the racetrack, it is more than a race, it is a highly- anticipated event.

A topic I have written about before is about one of the few advantages harness racing has over thoroughbred racing, the ability of their top performers to race more often. Given the events of the last few months involving Bulldog Hanover and Flightline, this feels like a good time to revisit that subject.

On September 3, Flightline competed in the \$1 million Pacific Classic at Del Mar. He faced just five opponents, but it was a field that included two other Grade One winners, including the Dubai World Cup winner Country Grammer. Those who attended Del Mar that day weren't there to watch a race. They were there to watch Flightline. In just five career races he has captured the imagination of the thoroughbred racing fan and he runs so infrequently that the months-long build-up to his races are like a powder keg ready to explode.

Flightline did not disappoint, winning the Pacific Classic by nearly 20 lengths in one of the most astounding performances in racing this century. The 126 Beyer Speed Figure earned by Flightline was the fastest since Ghostzapper in 2004. It is also the second-highest figure ever published since Beyer figures went into mass use in 1991.

In harness racing there is Bulldog Hanover. While he may not be winning races by 20 lengths, which for the most part just doesn't happen in



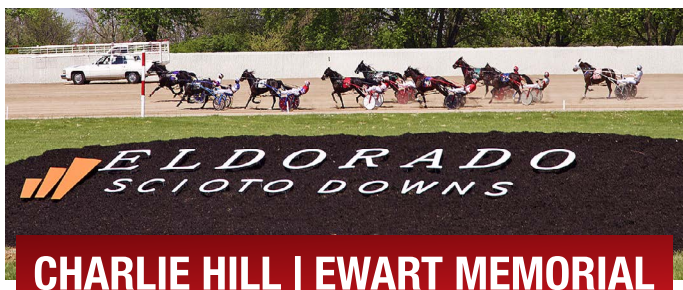
NEW IMAGE MEDIA

**Bulldog Hanover got the Canadian Pacing Derby trophy after pacing a national record 1:46 4/5 mile.**

harness racing, he has actually done one better than Flightline. While Flightline has run the second-fastest race according to the Beyer Speed Figure scale, Bulldog Hanover quite simply is the fastest standardbred of all time. His 1:45 4/5 clocking in the William Haughton Memorial lowered the world record and was the first sub-1:46 mile ever.

But once the Pacific Classic was over, the question that must be asked is "when will we see Flightline again?" In all likelihood, the answer to that question is the Breeders' Cup Classic on November 5 at Keeneland. Which means, the thoroughbred racing fan will have to wait 62 days to see Flightline again. It is also possible that could be his last race ever, or maybe we could be lucky enough to wait 84 more days to see him in the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream in January in what would likely be his last race after having run seven times in his life.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)



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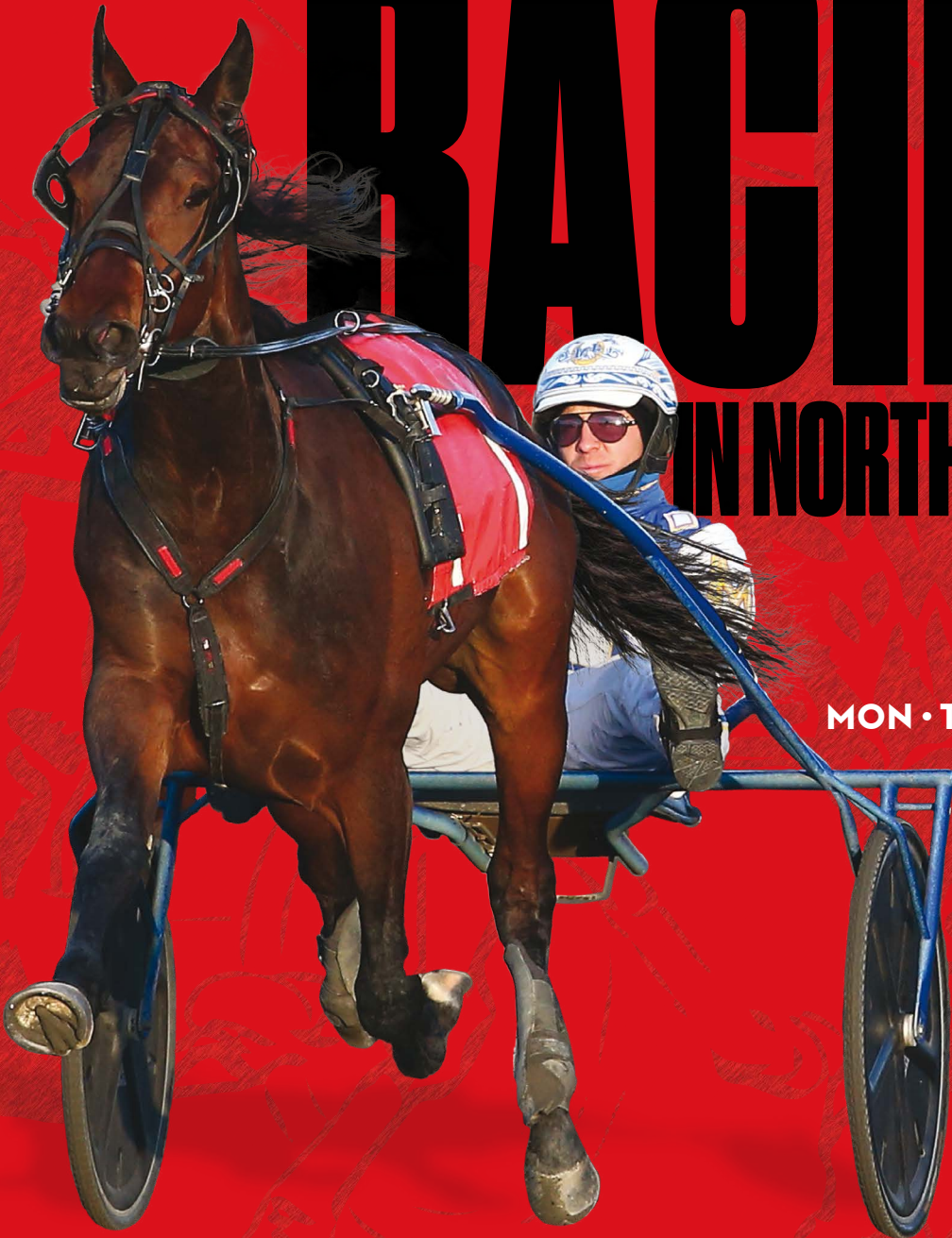
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In the two months from now until the Breeders' Cup, Bulldog Hanover is scheduled to race in almost as many events as Flightline has competed in his enter career. In case you missed it, his 2022 projected schedule is:

September 23: Hoosier Park Derby at Hoosier Park

October 1: Dayton Pacing Derby at Hollywood Dayton Raceway

October 9: The Allergate at The Red Mile

October 22: Breeders Crown Elimination at Woodbine Mohawk Park

October 29: Breeders Crown Final at Woodbine Mohawk Park

If the schedule holds, over a period of eight weeks Bulldog Hanover will race six times at four different racetracks. Over those same eight weeks, Flightline will have raced once and spend the rest of the time training for a single race.

Of course, the thoroughbred cannot race as often as the standardbred. I am not suggesting they can. But if harness racing isn't preparing a campaign right now through the fall that makes a specific point of these facts, they are frankly out of their minds.

After the Pacific Classic I sent out a tweet that read:

Bulldog Hanover to Flightline: Big deal, I'll race six times before you step on the racetrack again. (<https://twitter.com/atTheTrack7/status/1566449800622612480>)

Other than The Meadowlands, harness racing cannot compete with thoroughbred racing when it comes to wagering dollars and handle. It cannot compete with national television coverage. It cannot compete with the pomp and circumstance of a Kentucky Derby or Breeders Cup. But harness racing has an advantage over thoroughbred racing in one of the most important aspects – the stars race!

So I ask, where is the marketing campaign for Bulldog Hanover, one that is not left entirely up to the racetracks when the Bulldog comes to town? Where is the video of the last few seconds of Flightline winning the Pacific Classic with a voiceover that asks: "Wouldn't you like to see Flightline race every week? Don't you wish you could see this kind of speed and power week-in and week-out? Well you can...meet Bulldog Hanover."

Someone in harness racing doesn't have the ability to put together a



EMILY SHIELDS

**Flightline posted the second-fastest Beyer Speed Rating in history when winning the Pacific Classic.**

30-second video to this point? I work in racing and I have responsibilities in both thoroughbred and harness racing and I can tell you firsthand that the "thoroughbred people" love watching Bulldog Hanover race. I am asked repeatedly "where is he racing next?" But the fact that they have to ask that question means that harness racing is not doing their job in making people aware of just where and when Bulldog Hanover will appear next.

This isn't a ground-breaking, earth-shattering idea. This is literally the single-biggest advantage that harness racing has over thoroughbred racing. Harness racing has to make a point that this horse is on the track every week, while Flightline is hanging out in a stall. I hope someone gets it done before the careers of both horses are over.



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**FULTON**

p, 2, 1:50.2f -'22 (\$232,917)

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# Pedigree aplenty in Goshen Yearling Sale

By Jay Bergman

As yearling sale season comes into play it has become apparent that owners must not just read between the lines but expand their vision of the top line in pedigrees if they hope to come away with quality stakes performers in 2023 and beyond. At times in the past much of the focus when the annual auctions came to town was on specific stallions considered "dominant" to the breed. Today's yearling market offers hope to a wide array of stallions with maternal influence a continued driving force.

On Monday (September 12) the first major sale in the United States will take place at Mark Ford's training center in Middletown, New York. The Goshen Yearling Sale is a one-day event with a strong stress towards New York-sired horses in the catalog. That said, there are many new faces looking to have an impact in the coming years in the Empire State and some more established that have not only captivated local owners and trainers but gone on to bigger and better things outside the state.

What's new is always a major part of any yearling sale and that means first-year stallions to some. It should also mean broodmares that are sending out their first or second foals. While the unknown comes with a certain set of risks, the payoff can be huge for those sharp enough to find something on the pedigree page or for that matter an individual that stands out above the crowd.



**Cheri's Choice is a filly from the first crop of Courtly Choice from the Winbak Farm consignment.**

Derby, Courtly Choice not only brings an extension of the Art Major line into play but joins that with a maternal line that looks a lot like the 2022 Canadian Pacing Derby champion and current world-record holder Bulldog Hanover. It is that reason that buyers should be on the lookout for pedigrees that clearly fit the times we are racing in.

Cheri's Choice is a filly you might want to arrive early to see. As HIP 9 on the docket of the auction that commences at noon, Cheri's Choice's dam Winbak Speedi has already seen her first four foals reach the race-track.

Villain Blue Chip, HIP 53, is an interesting colt by Courtly Choice from Jenny's Terror, a half-sister to the \$1.3 million winning Versado. This is just the second foal from the young broodmare.

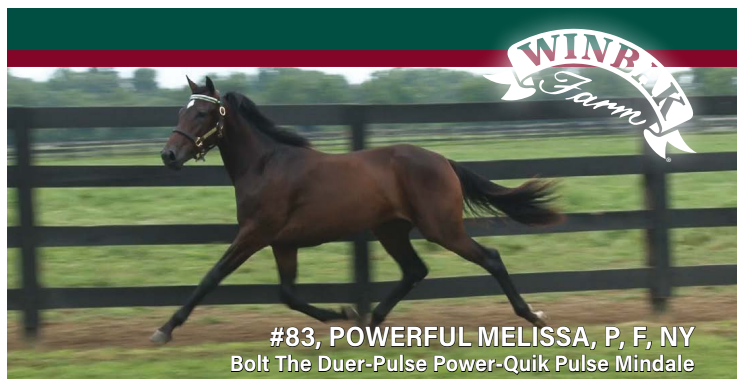
The Ontario-bred Viola Blue Chip is a filly by another Canadian Pacing Derby champion in the incomparable McWicked. This one is out of a full sister to Little Brown Jug winner Michael's Power, along with a host of others that earned nearly \$5 million collectively.

On the trotting side in Monday's auction, the second crop of a pair of stallions that have made a huge impact this year will be on display but in limited supply. International Moni and Tactical Landing both brought

The first crop of Courtly Choice, a son of popular New York Sire Art Major who was credited with the 2021 Horse of the Year Test Of Faith, figures to add some serious quality to the New York program and perhaps beyond. With eight yearlings in the Goshen sale, Courtly Choice fans will get an early look and perhaps take home something special. Remembered for his stunning victory in the 2019 Canadian Pacing



**Villain Blue Chip is out of a half-sister to the \$1.3 million winner Versado.**



## 9/12 Goshen Sale Yearlings with Rich Siblings & 2022 Winning Siblings

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### #2, LADY B, P, F, NY

Boston Red Rocks-Testing Center-Dragon Again

- 1/2-sister to 2022 NY Excelsior A Winner, Flip The Script, p, 3, 1:53.4f -'22 (\$73,656)

### #9, CHERI'S CHOICE\*, P, F, NY

Courtly Choice-Winbak Speedi-Riverboat King

- 1/2-sister to 2022 Prospect Series leg Winner, Ribbon Ridge, p, 3, 1:57.4h -'22 (\$36,594)

### #39, FAMILY SECRET\*, P, C, NY

Courtly Choice-Family Love-Western Hanover

- 1/2-brother to Lovely Donna, p, 1:49.3 -'21 (\$196,264)

### #46, G Q HALL, T, C, NY, Agent

Conway Hall-Great Quantity-CR Commando

- 1/2-brother to 2022 NY Fair Stakes Winner, Blazin Chally, 3, 1:58.3h -'22 (\$46,915)

### #49, ROLL AGAIN, P, F, NY

Roll With Joe-Here Again-American Ideal

- 1/2-sister to Escape Again, p, 1:52f -'21 (\$239,496)

### #83, POWERFUL MELISSA, P, F, NY

Bolt The Duer-Pulse Power-Quik Pulse Mindale

- Full-sister to Bolt Power, p, 3, 1:52.2h -'21 (\$102,586)

### #85, JULIEANN'S ELSA\*, P, F, NY

Courtly Choice-Redwalls-Red River Hanover

- 1/2-sister to Bigwalls, p, 1:53.1f (\$84,106)

**\*First Crop from Courtly Choice!**

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[CONTINUED ON PAGE 5](#)

unique pedigrees into the mix in 2022 and their impact should be felt for years to come. International Moni has two colts in the sale and Tactical Landing will send three fillies to the marketplace.

HIP 42 Floor Seats is a filly that brings both second-year stallions into the forefront. She's by Tactical Landing and is the first foal of Front Row Amy, a daughter of Andover Hall. In the second dam is a filly from the first crop of International Moni by the name of Uno Mas Blue Chip, the fourth-place finisher in the September 4 \$252,000 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final at Harrah's Philadelphia behind the dominant filly Bond. This pedigree extends back to Breeders Crown champion Spider Blue Chip as well.

There will be 18 yearlings by the second-year stallion Crazy Wow and that's something buyers should take note of given the incredible opportunity to learn and earn while racing on the tiered New York Sire Stakes program in the coming years. Foreveraperfectten (HIP 8) is a filly and just the second foal from a half-sister to the top open performer Rich And Miserable.

Sister Mary Maude, HIP 81, is a similar scenario for Crazy Wow as the filly is a second foal from a half-sister to Maple Leaf Trot finalist Perfetto.

While some of the younger stallion's progeny may come with additional risk, those who have watched the last two years of racing have become familiar with the name and offspring of Huntsville. With a dozen cataloged, HIP 20 is a colt to take note of in more ways than one. Named Cantfindmywayhome, the yearling is just the third foal from the mare Blind Faith. To those not around in the 60's, Blind Faith was the super-group led by Eric Clapton, Steve Winwood and Ginger Baker. The song titled Cantfindmywayhome was perhaps their best. As for the yearling, he's the third foal and half-brother to this year's NYSS winner Bandito Joe and represents the mare's first cross with the dominant Somebeach-somewhere line.

The stallion Betting Line has seen his sons and daughters show up in Grand Circuit events over the last few years and he could have an attractive purchase in HIP 10 Twiggs Pub, the first colt and third foal from the mare Wine Snob, a daughter of Art Major. Twiggs Pub is a half-brother to



BLUE CHIP FARMS

**HIP 20 Cantfindmywayhome is a colt by Huntsville from the Blue Chip Farms consignment.**

this year's New York New York Stakes winner Wine N Dine Me.

The veteran stallions So Surreal and Roll With Joe have large offerings on Monday and they shouldn't get lost in the mix. So Surreal has proven himself over time to be a significant stallion, with his daughter Racine Bell a major player in the older pacing ranks as well as a former New York Sire Stakes star. Roll With Joe, the full brother to Bettor's Delight, has carved out quite a niche for himself with his standout 2-year-old filly Twin B Joe Fresh among the favorites in Saturday's (September 10) New York Sire Stakes championship at Tioga Downs.

Other stallions with representation in Monday's auction include notable Stay Hungry, E L Titan and Met's Hall.

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# Melander with multiple favorites on NY Day of Champions

By Jay Bergman

For the last few years of the New York Sire Stakes program trainer Marcus Melander has been a dominant force on the trotting side. Melander has been a regular in the winner's circle on New York Night of Champions, with notable stars of the past like Gimpanzee and Hypnotic AM a pair of two-time winners.

On Saturday afternoon as Tioga Downs hosts the "Day of Champions" for the top pacers and trotters in the state, Melander once again finds himself with current star power and perhaps some budding stars. Heading his three-ply contingent at Tioga is last year's juvenile trotting filly champion Joviality S. The winner in eight of her 10 starts this season drew post eight in a field of nine going for \$200,000 in the New York Sire Stakes final for sophomore filly trotters, race six on the Tioga Downs program.

"Originally I wasn't going to race her after the Hambletonian for a while and just point towards the final New York Sire Stakes at Tioga [September 3]," said Melander. "But she felt so good following the Hambletonian that we decided to race her in the Delmonica Hanover."

The decision was a smart one as Joviality S bounced back from a pair of close defeats with a resounding 1:51 3/5 blowout mile in the Delmonica Hanover at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono on August 20.

"I was glad she got to race off a helmet," said Melander of Joviality S' winning New York Sire Stakes effort at Tioga Downs. "There was just so much speed in the race I think that others wanted to get the front and then follow her." That didn't prove to be the case with a contentious early pace in the September 3 NYSS. Brian Sears followed the live cover of Valentina Blu and then drove by in the stretch for a 1:51 3/5 victory.

"Valentina Blu is a very good horse," Melander said, giving credit to the Tony Alagna-trained filly that has really come to hand over the last month with a pair of Sire Stakes victories as well as a huge second-place finish in her last start. Valentina Blu unfortunately landed post nine for the final.



FOTOWON

Joviality S hasn't lost in seven career NY Sire Stakes starts.

"I always have confidence in her," Melander said of Joviality S, who has won 17 of her 22 lifetime starts and could be a line for a major Grand Circuit run following the sire stakes final. "I won't race her until Lexington," Melander said, while keeping his options open about whether to put the filly up against colts once at The Red Mile. "We'll race her the first week and then see where we go after that."

The 'after that' part is referring to the Kentucky Futurity Open division.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7](#)

## WINBAK FARM *Congratulates*

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**POUR MEA DOUBLE**

Bar Hopping-Ms Kristin-Donerail  
2, 1:56; 3, 1:53f -'22 (\$269,900)

**Trainer:** Lucas Wallin / **Driver:** Tim Tetrick

**Owners:** J&T Silva Stables LLC, Peter Kleinhans, Daniel Kraus & Dreamlover AB

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Joviality S has already captured the first jewel in the Triple Crown by winning this year's Yonkers Trot.

While Joviality S will be looking for her second straight New York Sire Stakes final, Melander is hoping that Crown, another by Chapter Seven, will get the day rolling while continuing his winning form in the first \$200,000 NYSS Final of the day (race one).

Crown, a 2-year-old colt that cost \$250,000 at last year's Lexington Selected auction, has been perfect in four starts this year and his trainer believes there's plenty of room for improvement.

"It was our plan from the start to point him towards the New York Sire Stakes," Melander said. "We train over a half-mile track and my horses develop the technique to get around them on the New York circuit." That early conditioning has paid off handsomely in the past and Crown appears to be the next in line for the powerful Melander stable.

"He's done everything we've asked so far," Melander said of Crown, who drew post six and is the likely favorite for driver Brian Sears. "Racing on the Sire Stakes they don't get to go the kind of speed you see at The Meadowlands and The Red Mile, but I think he can go with those horses."

Crown will not be alone in the 2-year-old colt and gelding final, with multi-leg winner The Gruffalo (post five) and the Ake Svanstedt-trained tandem of Cecil Hanover (post two) and Kierkegaard K (post four) inside his path in the field of nine.

Kayleigh S, the full sister to Joviality S, got her career off to a flying start with three straight wins on the Sire Stakes circuit all over half-mile tracks. "I think it was helpful she didn't have to go many fast miles and there were a lot of breakers in those races," said Melander, reflecting on the early success. "In her last few races, she's had to get acclimated to the faster times and I think she's getting there."



MELISSA SIMSER

**Crown has never tasted defeat in four career starts.**

Kayleigh S drew post three in the \$200,000 Sire Stakes final for juvenile trotting fillies, race two on the program.

All told there are eight \$200,000 New York Sire Stakes finals on tap on Saturday afternoon at Tioga Downs, with Hambletonian champion Cool Papa Bell (post four) hoping to regain winning form while taking on last year's Sire Stakes champion Molotov Cocktail (post seven) and seven others in the fifth race 3-year-old colt trot.

Messenger Stakes winner Pleaseletmeknow is another Grand Circuit star that drew poorly for the Sire Stakes final but will likely be the favorite for trainer Travis Alexander. Pleaseletmeknow landed post eight with Matt Kakaley driving in the \$200,000 final for 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers (race 7). Pleaseletmeknow faces J D (post six), last year's New York Sire Stakes final winner as a 2-year-old.

The Tioga Downs Day Of Champions program kicks off at 1:00 p.m.

## NJSS champs aim for Classic crowns

By Ken Weingartner

After winning New Jersey Sire Stakes championships earlier this year at The Meadowlands, 3-year-olds Fashion Schooner and Pretender will return to The Big M on Friday hoping to add to their collections of trophies for state-sired trotters.

Fashion Schooner, trained by Jim Campbell, is the 8-5 morning-line favorite in the \$275,000 New Jersey Classic "A" final for 3-year-old female trotters. In addition to capturing the NJSS championship in May, she counts the Hambletonian Oaks and a division of the Delvin Miller Memorial among her six victories this season.

Pretender, trained by Nancy Taktar, is the 4-1 second choice in the \$275,000 New Jersey Classic "A" final for 3-year-old male trotters. In addition to his NJSS title, the colt has hit the board in five Grand Circuit races this season and eight of his past nine starts overall.

The inaugural New Jersey Classic Series, sponsored by The Meadowlands and the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, features "A" and "B" divisions for 2- and 3-year-old trotters and 2-year-old pacers. The \$100,000 "B" finals for 3-year-old male and female trotters also are on Friday's card, as well as "B" eliminations for 2-year-old male and female trotters and 2-year-old female pacers.

Fashion Schooner, a daughter of Walner-Broadway Schooner bred and owned by Fashion Farms, was limited to three starts as a 2-year-old. This season, she has hit the board in all nine of her races, winning six and earning \$481,062. Her 1:50 1/5 victory in the Miller is the fastest mile of the season for a 3-year-old female trotter.

"She showed speed last year, but before they do it, you just don't know how well a horse in her case is going to transition from (1):54 to (1):50," Campbell said. "That's always the unknown, but she did show a lot of ability last year in her limited amount of starts."

Fashion Schooner has started once since the Aug. 6 Hambletonian Oaks, winning an Open for 3-year-old filly trotters last week at The Meadowlands in 1:52 1/5. She will start the Classic final from post four with regular driver Tim Tetrick.

"I was real happy with her last race and she's had a good week, so

everything seems good with her," Campbell said. "She's been very good, consistent, all year long. I'm thrilled with what she's done for us. Hopefully, we can keep her fresh for the rest of the season."

Campbell also has the 3-1 morning-line favorite in the Classic "B" final for 3-year-old female trotters, Misswalner Fashion. She has won back-to-back starts after making breaks in two consecutive starts. For her career, she has won seven of 16 races and earned \$379,469 for breeder-owner Jules Siegel of Fashion Farms.

"She had a couple bad starts, but she's put it together her last couple races," Campbell said. "The first time (she made a break) I thought she tried to go too fast too quick. The second time, there was no excuse for it. We lightened her up in front and she responded really well to it."

In the Classic "A" final, Pretender enters off a second-place finish behind Temporal Hanover in the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial on Aug. 20 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Temporal Hanover, who earlier this season won the Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial and was third in the Hambletonian, is the 3-5 favorite in the Classic's four-horse field.

Pretender, who defeated Temporal Hanover by a neck in the NJSS championship, has hit the board in nine of 11 starts this year, winning three. He has earned \$300,653. For his career, the son of Muscle Hill-Maven has won five of 23 races, hit the board an additional nine times, and earned \$416,281.

"He's a consistent horse," said Herb Liverman, who bred Pretender with John Fielding and Joyce McClelland and owns the colt with those two partners as well as Caviart Farms. "He's not that big, but size doesn't always matter. I've had a lot of good small horses. Some little horses have big, long gaits. And you can't see their heart."

"Pretender is a nice horse. He hasn't always had the best luck, but he tries very hard. He does his best. Quite often he's hung in there when he's had first-over trips or cutting-out trips. He keeps trying right to the end."

Andy McCarthy will drive Pretender, leaving from post one. Brian Sears will drive Temporal Hanover for trainer Marcus Melander from post two. Rounding out the compact field are Melander-trained Periculum and Ray Schnittker's King Of The North.

In the \$100,000 Classic "B" final for 3-year-old male trotters, Robert-sin is the 3-1 favorite.

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

# Charlie May goes for Ewart win

By Ken Weingartner

Charlie May has enjoyed a good amount of success at Eldorado Scioto Downs during his career and breeder-owner Don Tiger hopes that equates to a home-field advantage Saturday when Ohio's 2021 Horse of the Year meets six foes in the \$200,000 Jim Ewart Memorial for older male pacers.

Over a span of 12 lifetime Scioto starts, Charlie May has posted 11 top-three finishes, with eight wins, two seconds, and a third. He won the 2020 Ohio Sire Stakes championship there as a 2-year-old with a track-record performance and heads to the Ewart off another OHSS title at the five-eighths-mile oval, this time in the final for older male pacers.

Charlie May will start the Ewart from post five with Brett Miller, Scioto's leading driver, in the sulky for trainer Steve Carter. He is the 2-1 morning-line second choice behind Allywag Hanover, the 2021 Dan Patch Award recipient for best older male pacer, at 7-5.

"It's pretty exciting," Tiger said. "It's a seven-horse field going for \$200,000 right in our backyard; you have to be pretty happy about that. I think that we have a little bit of an advantage just because it's our home track. It's only 15-20 minutes to ship there and we've won a lot of races over that oval."

"But it's a nice field. Allywag Hanover is a super nice horse and there are some other nice horses in there. It should be a great race."

Last week at Scioto, Charlie May won the OHSS championship over a sloppy track in 1:50 1/5. Leaving from post five, the gelding was parked out in a 26 2/5 opening quarter before getting the lead on his way to hitting the half in 54 4/5. He fended off a challenge on the backstretch and then kept Gold Digger King at bay in the stretch to triumph by a half-length.



Charlie May was used hard and overcame a sloppy track to win his last start on September 3 at Scioto. CONRAD PHOTO

"He beat the bias that day; the front end was awful," Tiger said. "It's the only place we didn't want to be, but Brett got stuck and had to go forward. When we got to the quarter in 26 and half in 54, I just put my head down and thought this is awful. But he just gammed it out. It was a better effort than it looks on paper."

Charlie May's workmanlike demeanor is what Tiger most appreciates about his homebred.

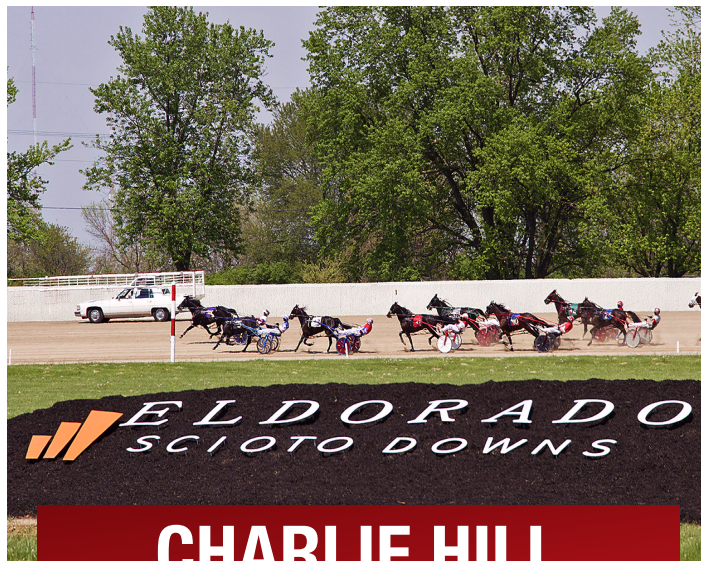
"I admire that lunch-pail mentality," Tiger said. "I was born and raised in the era of the steel mills in Pittsburgh. I remember my dad and his friends, they were lunch-pail guys. Every day – good, bad, indifferent – they showed up for work. I think that's Charlie. He always shows up and does what he can do. He's a pretty cool horse."

Charlie May, a son of McArdele out of Stipple Hanover, is the first horse Tiger ever bred. This season, he has hit the board in 10 of 13 races, winning five. For his career, he has won 22 of 44 starts, finished second 11 times, and earned \$1.43 million. His top victories include the Carl Milstein Memorial and Matron Stakes, both in 2021.

"It's fun," Tiger said. "I'm a blessed man. It's all still pretty surreal."

Ewart Memorial morning-line favorite Allywag Hanover brings a four-race win streak to the event. This past Sunday, he won the #SendItIn Invitational at Harrah's Philadelphia in 1:47 3/5, equaling the fastest mile

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 9](#)



## CHARLIE HILL EWART MEMORIAL

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10  
POST TIME: 3:15 P.M. EDT**

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ever at the track as well as matching the world record for a gelding pacer older than age 4 on a five-eighths oval.

The Ewart Memorial honors Jim Ewart, who was the race secretary at Scioto Downs from 1976 through 2002. He passed away in 2012.

Racing begins at 3:15 p.m. (EDT) at Scioto Downs.

### AFTER DELAYED DEBUT, WINNING TICKET SET FOR CHARLIE HILL

Winning Ticket, who won 11 of 12 races last season and was named Ohio's best 3-year-old male trotter, saw the start of his 2022 campaign delayed because of suspensory injury, but returns to the Grand Circuit for Saturday's \$200,000 Charlie Hill Memorial for older trotters.

Trained by co-owner Chris Beaver, Winning Ticket made his first start of the season in last week's Ohio Sire Stakes championship for older male trotters at Scioto Downs. He started from post eight, was a three-wide ninth at three-quarters, and finished sixth despite a race-best 27 4/5 final quarter-mile.

"He didn't draw very good and got a rough trip, but I thought he raced well," Beaver said.

Winning Ticket will start the Hill Memorial from post six with Aaron Merriman in the sulky. He is 5-1 on the morning line. Cuatro De Julio, who won the Sebastian K Invitational at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in his most recent start, is the 2-1 favorite. He will leave from post four with Yannick Gingras driving for trainer Marie Ortolan Bar.

Last year, Winning Ticket won his first 10 starts, including the Ohio Sire Stakes final, before a third-place finish from post 10 in the Canadian Trotting Classic at Woodbine Mohawk Park. He closed his campaign with a victory in a division of the Ohio Breeders Championship.

"He may not have a ton of starts this year, so I'm hoping he has some good luck and picks up a good check somewhere along the line," Beaver said. "He's eligible to four or five stakes late in the year. We'll see if it works out."

"He seems pretty good right now. Anything can happen. He was always a good-sized horse, but he definitely filled out some more this year. He's a strong horse."

The Hill Memorial honors Hall of Fame track executive Charles Hill, the founder of Scioto Downs. He passed away in 1991.

## \$1.2 million Night of Champions at Hawthorne set for Saturday

Twelve stakes finals will be taking place on Saturday at Hawthorne as over \$1.2 million in purses will be on the line, all for Illinois-breds, during the Night of Champions. With earlier stakes action taking place at Hawthorne this summer along with great racing at the Illinois State Fairs in Springfield and Du Quoin there are some scores to be settled. Divisional titles will be on the line as the season wraps up at Hawthorne. A look at the Saturday stakes action:

**Race 1 - \$85,000 Beulah Dygert Memorial - 3yo Filly Trot**

The night kicks off with a full field of 10 and a terrible post draw for the likely favorite. Dr. Patrick Graham's Funky Wiggle drew the far outside for trainer Curt Grummel and driver Kyle Wilfong. A winner of eight of 10 races on the year, Funky Wiggle has overcome tough spots recently and will have to do so once again.

**Race 2 - \$62,000 Tony Maurello - 3yo & up Filly & Mare Pace**

Despite having only a field of six for the final, the Maurello is one of the more wide-open races on the card. With over \$100,000 in earnings on the year, Fox Valley Exploit leads the way for trainer Amy Husted. A seven-time winner this season, Fox Valley Exploit has finished in the top three in 21 of 25 starts in 2022. Driver Kyle Husted is part owner with David Brigham. Scorecard Dany poses the biggest challenge to Fox Valley Exploit as Kyle Wilfong drives for trainer Greg Kain.

**Race 3 - \$62,000 Carl Becker Memorial - 3yo & up Filly & Mare Trot**

An event owned by champion Annas Lucky Star for owner Danny Graham, this race looks to be a possible repeat in 2022. With 54 career victories in 121 starts for over \$575,000 in lifetime earnings, Annas Lucky Star has been sharp as ever in 2022. A winner of three of her last five races, Annas Lucky Star and driver Kyle Wilfong set a track record at Hawthorne winning in 1:53 3/5 on August 6.

**Race 4 - \$62,000 Plesac - 3yo & up Trot**

When Annas Lucky Star broke her track record on August 6 against open company, she defeated a very tough gelding that night as Talk About Valor battled her to the wire. Owned by Shelley Steele and trained by Gerald Hansen, Talk About Valor has been very good in 2022, posting 11 victories from 17 starts. While speed is typically the name of the game for Talk About Valor and driver Travis Seekman, he showed he could rate when drawing outside and defeating open company on July 22. Talk About Valor draws post six in the field of seven in the Plesac and may be headed to the top once again from the start.

**Race 5 - \$125,000 Fox Valley Flan - 2yo Filly Trot**

While trainer Curt Grummel didn't get a great draw for Funky Wiggle in the night's opener, his very talented youngster Marvelous Mystery got an excellent draw in the Fox Valley Flan, drawing post five in the field of 10. With Kyle Wilfong in the bike for owners Curt, Craig and Leo Grummel, Marvelous Mystery has been exceptional in 2022, winning nine of 11 starts on the year.

**Race 6 - \$93,000 Robert F. Carey, Jr. Memorial - 3yo Colt & Gelding Pace**

A field of six lines up in the Carey Memorial as a trio of geldings have taken turns beating each other throughout the season. Drawing the outside is Fox Valley Ozzy for owners Stephen Mc MacKin and David Samuelson and trainer Gary Rath. The 2021 Illinois Horse of the Year has faced his challenges in 2022, winning four of 15 races. With Casey Leonard in the bike, Fox Valley Ozzy was in fine form winning stakes in both Springfield and DuQuoin. A Heavy favorite in last week's prep, Fox Valley Ozzy was all heart but came up just short, losing to Fox Valley Crete on the wire. Trained by Nelson Willis and driven by Kyle Wilfong, Fox Valley Crete has won five times in 2022 but has also been inconsistent. His form was sharp last week when he pulled off the 11-1 upset in the Carey prep. Get E Up can't be discounted for trainer Amy Husted and husband/driver Kyle. Hitting the board in nine of eleven races on the year, Get E Up won the Carey in July and had near misses to Fox Valley Ozzy in both Springfield and DuQuoin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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DELAWARE**

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# ROAD TO THE MOHAWK MILLION



The Mohawk Million for 2-year-old trotters is scheduled for September 24 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Nine owners paid C\$100,000 each to own slots for the C\$1,000,000 race. Each slot-holder may enter their own horse in the Mohawk Million or make arrangements with another owner to use the entry. Below are the Top 10 horses on the Road to the Mohawk Million (Week 4 - September 8) as rated by DRF Harness Editor Derick Giwner along with his comments.

(Horses are considered not only by on-track performance but chances of being in the race considering ownership)

**\*\*UPCOMING KEY RACES: NY Sire Stakes finals at Tioga on 9/10; IN Sire Stakes leg 7 at Hoosier on 9/13; Champlain at Woodbine Mohawk Park on 9/15\*\***

**1-WINNERS BET (C--Walner) / 5-3-1-1 (1:54 1/5 - Wbsb)**

**Trainer: Domenico Cecere**

**Owner(s): Lindy Farms of Conn, Robert Rudolph**

**Last Start: Won Wellwood Memorial at Woodbine Mohawk Park on 8/27**

Giwner: Colt moves up to #1 after #5 on the list broke last time. His last start was a win in the William Wellwood Memorial in a career-best 1:54 1/5. Driver Dexter Dunn worked out a perfect trip behind a contested pace and earned Winners Bet a golden ticket into the Mohawk Million. That he won the Wellwood and also a leg of the Kindergarten series shows this guy is no one-hit wonder.

**2-OH WELL (C--Musde Hill) / 4-2-2-0 (1:53 1/5 - Med)**

**Trainer: Marcus Melander**

**Owner(s): S R F Stable**

**Last Start: 2nd in Houghton Memorial on 8/6**

Giwner: He was finally scheduled to return to the races after more than a month on the sidelines but eliminations weren't required for his division of the New Jersey Classic. Instead he'll qualify at The Meadowlands. Trainer Marcus Melander reports that it was planned to give the horse some time off after the Peter Haughton, where he raced well to be second behind Kilmister. Melander added that the race would fit into his schedule.

**3-INSTAGRAM MODEL (F--Chapter Seven) / Record: 5-4-0-0 (1:53 - Med)**

**Trainer: Annie Stoebe**

**Owner(s): R. Lynn Curry**

**Last Start: Won Kindergarten at The Meadowlands on 9/1**

Giwner: She rolled to an easy win at 1-5 last week after sitting a sweet pocket trip. Prior to that she beat up on a soft group at 1-5 in New York Sire Stakes action on August 19. The biggest issue is whether the Mohawk Million is even on the radar since her connections have stated the Breeders Crown in the clear goal. Time will tell.

**4-RIGHTEOUS RESOLVE (F-Resolve) / Record: 6-5-1-0 (1:55 2/5 - Wbsb)**

**Trainer: John Bax**

**Owner(s): Bet Max Stables, Inc., Benenati Inc.**

**Last Start: Won Peaceful Way at Mohawk on 8/27**

Giwner: Made a powerful move in the third quarter and convincingly won the Peaceful Way last time. Trainer John Bax was immediately asked about the Mohawk Million and said his owners wanted to go. She needs to pick up a bit of speed to win that race, but her record is nearly flawless.

**5-KILMISTER (C--Chapter Seven) / Record: 6-5-0-0 (1:52 3/5 - Lex)**

**Trainer: Marcus Melander**

**Owner(s): Courant Inc.**

**Last Start: 9th in KY Sire Stakes at The Red Mile on 9/4**

Giwner: He was undefeated before breaking before the start last time as the even money favorite. His owner isn't a Mohawk Million ticketholder and that race conflicts with the Kentucky Sire Stakes final since they are just six days apart. There is no denying his talent and he may be the best horse on the list, but he isn't the most likely to attend the Mohawk Million.

**6-OH LOOK MAGIC (C--Lookslikeachpndale)**

**Record: 6-3-0-1 (1:55 1/5 - Wbsb) / Trainer: John Bax**

**Owner(s): Bax Stable, Glengate Farms, The Cavalier Stable**

**Last Start: 6th in Wellwood at Mohawk on 8/27**

Giwner: Shocked them at 25-1 with a wire-to-wire victory in one of three Wellwood eliminations but then was hooked up in a speed duel while parked every step in the final. That he only lost by six lengths was impressive considering the trip. Potentially he has a ticket to the Million via co-owner Glengate Farms.

**7-SPECIAL WAY (F--Walner) / 4-2-1-0 (1:52 2/5 - Lex)**

**Trainer: Ake Svanstedt**

**Owner(s): Brittany Farms LLC, Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld**

**Last Start: Won KY Sire Stakes at Red Mile on 9/6**

Giwner: She is the fastest 2-year-old trotter this year! The daughter of Walner sat patiently in the pocket in her most recent start and simply blew by the leader in the stretch with a 26 3/5 final quarter to cap a 1:53 4/5 performance at The Red Mile. Like many others she has the potential date conflict with the Sire Stakes final, but with two-thirds ownership from Canada I can see them wanting to win the Million on their home turf.

**8-BOND (F--Southwind Frank) / 6-4-2-0 (1:54 1/5 - Med)**

**Trainer: Ake Svanstedt**

**Owner(s): Ake Svanstedt Inc., Little E LLC, L.Berg Inc.**

**Last Start: Won PA Sire Stakes Final at Philadelphia on 9/4**

Giwner: She's clearly on a roll now and simply blew the doors off her competition in the PA Sire Stakes final. The second choice came to her flank around the final turn and she brushed her off like dust on her shoulder. The Mohawk Million would seemingly fit in her schedule should the connections go that route.

**9-CROWN (C--Chapter Seven) / Record: 4-4-0-0 (1:55 3/5 - VD)**

**Trainer: Marcus Melander**

**Owner(s): SRF Stable**

**Last Start: Won NY Sire Stakes at Yonkers on 8/23**

Giwner: He's undefeated, so that speaks to his ability at least a bit. Chapter Seven colt has also won on all sized tracks and off different trips. He'll start next on Saturday (9/10) in the NY Sire Stakes final at Tioga and after that his schedule is wide open for a Mohawk Million appearance if his connections make a deal for a ticket.

**10-CRANTINI (C--International Moni) / 6-3-2-0 (1:56 2/5 - Phl)**

**Trainer: Megan Scran**

**Owner(s): TheStable Crantini Group**

**Last Start: 2nd in PA Sire Stakes Final at Harrah's Philadelphia on 9/4**

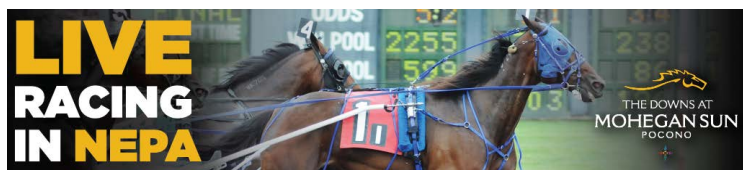
Giwner: Other than one miscue on August 26 his record is spectacular. Last time he brushed to the front and was a good second behind the heavily-favored Once In A Lifetime in the PA Sire Stakes final. Trainer reports this guy is heading north for the Champlain at Woodbine Mohawk Park and if things go well could be using the ticket held by TheStable.ca.



**BY DERICK GIWNER**

Trainer Megan Scran has been around horses her whole life but didn't immediately enter the world of harness racing. The 30-year-old New Jersey native started with show horses before finding a job with Trond Smedshammer that would change her life trajectory.

Scran now trains a stable of 10 that includes PA Sire Stakes runner-up Crantini, a contender to compete in the Mohawk Million. The hard-working young trainer took a few minutes off to speak to us about her journey in the sport and what could be ahead.



## TRAINER MEGAN SCRAN

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

I've always worked with horses my whole life, I grew up showing actually. One of my friends was in the business and she told me I should go work with Trond Smedshammer and that's how I started.

### What did you learn from Trond Smedshammer as well as Rick Zeron before you started your own stable?

Quite a bit. Trond early on let his grooms be really hands-on. I was very new to the business but I knew horses and he let me jog and train. I think that is a good way to learn early, to be given the lines and do it.

### You started your own stable in 2018. Was it hard to go out on your own at just 25?

Not really because I started small. I had just three horses at the time and then got a little more. It always helps to have good support around you but I was ready for it. You can't start out unless you have the right owner paying the bills. Back then I was also working for Rick [Zeron] so I could use his jog carts and I didn't have to buy all brand new stuff.

### What kind of car do you drive?

Volkswagen Tiguan.

### Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

I love filet mignon; cucumbers, I could eat them every day.

### What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

I would say The Meadowlands. The paddock is great, the atmosphere is great, and there is definitely nothing like racing there on Hambo Day.

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

Pretty much all the time. I wish there was an off button.

### When I texted you the other night you were at the barn. Do you ever go home?

I work all morning and then I go home for a bit. Then I go back to feed



DERICK GIWNER

**Megan Scran has already doubled her previous best year in earnings this season.**

the horses at night, get the training schedule ready for the next day, prepare for what's coming up the next week, and make sure I have my shipping and paddocking all set.

### What is your favorite thing to do outside of harness racing?

Go out on a lake, on a boat.

### Do you have a favorite sport to watch?

Not really. I don't watch sports.

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

Thrilling.

### You've already reached double your career high in single-season earnings in 2022. To what do you owe that success?

Just being a part of great connections and have some stakes-caliber horses racing for more money than your usual overnights. Definitely TheStable.ca has been a huge part of that this year.

### You've taken on a number of horses for The Stable and recently finished second with Crantini in the PA Sire Stakes 2-year-old colt trotting final. Do you see a performance like that helping your visibility?

The Sire Stakes just happened last Sunday so hopefully people notice and come the yearling sales someone will want to buy one or two for me.

### If you get to keep Crantini, what is next for him?

We head up to Canada next week with him for the Champlain and as long as that goes well, TheStable.ca has a spot in the Mohawk Million, so that could be very fun.

### It has to be very exciting to potentially have a starter in the Mohawk Million. Can you allow yourself to dream of winning a race like that?

I dream about it all the time. You just have to have the horse for it and I hope we do. I can't wait but I want to get through the first race before I get super-excited for the next.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 12](#)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**You have three new horses from The Stable for the New Jersey Classic eliminations on September 9 at The Meadowlands. Do you think having horses for just a couple of weeks gives you the chance to get the credit you deserve?**

Good horses are good horses. It takes a little time to get to know them, but I could be getting one when he's sick and get him again in a couple of weeks and he is healthy.

**Of the three you are starting Friday, which one are you most looking forward to racing?**

I really like Brace For Landing [race 4] but his bloodwork showed a little bit of a high liver [count] so I'm not sure today how much he'll be on his game on Friday. I like his gait and he's bred out the wazoo.

**I've also seen you in the winner's circle with Catch The Fire for the Luther's. Do you handle their horses on the east coast?**

They send them out here to me because they don't have a stable out here. I've been working for them for maybe a year-and-a-half now.

**Considering Catch The Fire has won the Sam McKee on Hambletonian Day the last two years under your care, that must be a profitable deal for you?**

I'm not the trainer technically on him so I don't get to make the 5%.

**How many horses do you currently have in your barn and where are you stabled at?**

10 at Mark Ford's in Middletown [New York].

**If you could plan it out, how do you see your career going?**

Hopefully up. I have a good gig right now with Anthony {Macdonald, The Stable}. He breaks them all and as they are ready to race he feeds them out to trainers where they are going to compete. I usually have one or two of my own every year to break but it would be nice to have a few more.

**Do you have any prospective owners who would give you a yearling or two?**

I used to but not right now. I don't think Scott [Zeron] will want to spend any money after being on the shelf for all this time. I am selling a yearling in Lexington and if she doesn't bring enough money I'll keep her to train.

**Since you brought him up, your boyfriend Scott Zeron was in an on-track accident back in July. How is he doing and when does he expect to return?**

He's doing well. He's in physical therapy and going to the chiropractor and acupuncture a lot. He has a removable cast and is waiting for a screw to heal. Hopefully he'll be back early to mid-October. He has to regain his strength again, too.

**Are you tired of seeing him around the house all the time or enjoying the extra time together?**

I'm not home much because I work all the time so it is not like we are together 24/7 ready to rip each other's throats out.



NIKKI SHERMAN

**Megan Scran took care of two-time Sam McKee winner Catch The Fire while on the east coast.**

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

We need more promotion and a younger crowd. We need more people at the track. It has become too easy to gamble on your phone. People would enjoy the sport much more live.

**As a young person, how do we get younger people to the track?**

I forget what track it was but I saw pictures online of maybe Oak Grove where they had camels at the track and the grandstand was loaded with people to see the different animals. We just need more entertainment at our tracks to get people to go. If you look at Hambletonian Day, with all the food vendors, it is packed that day.

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

We are going to need more horses. We have a horse shortage and every day tracks are texting, 'we need horses for this race'. I know COVID didn't help any of this but we have to find a way to get more horses.

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

Probably something with horses. Probably working for a vet or something.

**Did you go to school for horses or anything?**

I never went to college because I didn't know what I wanted to do. I ran a riding horse farm and that is when I was talking to my friend about a change of pace and ultimately got into racing.

**Time for the stretch drive...**

Best Horse you ever saw: Probably Marion Marauder. He was just my favorite, Paula Wellwood and Mike Keeling, they let me be a close part of that horse and I always helped them when they needed it at the track. He never won by much but he always got there. Also Catch The Fire. He has the biggest heart I've ever seen a horse had. He loves to win and he's a class act.

**Lasix – Yes or No?:** Yes.

**Favorite TV Show?:** I have many. I loved Ozark and Game Of Thrones.

**Trotters or Pacers?:** When I worked for Trond we pretty much always had trotters and I loved them a lot. When I went on my own I've always had pacers. This year I've had a lot of trotters. They can be very aggravating but when trotters are good they can be much more fun than pacers.

# 12 Championship races at Hawthorne

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Race 7 - \$88,000 Erwin F. Dygert Memorial - 3yo Colet & Gelding Trot

In the first edition of the Dygert in July, Fox Valley Cairo was winning easily as Lousdobb had encountered issues in back-to-back races. Since that victory, the Mike Brink trainee has held his own, finishing second in four straight starts between Springfield, DuQuoin and last week's prep at Hawthorne. Unfortunately for Fox Valley Cairo, the winner of all four of those races was Lousdobb, from the barn of trainer Steve Searle. Owned by Flacco Family Farms LLC and All-Wright Racing LLC, Lousdobb has been very good in 2022. His record shows seven wins from nine starts including four victories in a row. The only blemishes on his record came over a three-week span at the end of July and early into August when he encountered a flat tire and broke in another start. It has been clear sailing since as Casey Leonard has handled him perfectly in four straight victories.

Race 8 - \$144,000 Kadabra - 2yo Colt and Gelding Trot

Post position tells the story once again as the top two contenders in the Kadabra are stuck on the far outside of the full field of 10. Owned by Bowie Racing LLC and Anthony Lombardi, Niko Man returns off a track record effort in his last, winning his elimination by over nine-lengths in 1:56. Trained by Amy Husted and driven by Kyle Husted, Niko Man has finished first or second in seven of eight starts this year but is saddled with the far outside post in the Kadabra final.

Race 9 - \$62,000 Robert S. Molaro - 3yo & Up Pace

In what is likely to be the fastest race of the night, the battle between two Illinois champs takes place once again. With 52 victories in 102 career starts, Jim Ballinger's Fox Valley Gemini continues to show up with big efforts. With over \$660,000 in career earnings for trainer Terry Leonard, Fox Valley Gemini has seven victories on the year in 22 starts and comes off a 10-length win in last week's Molaro prep. Casey Leonard is back in the bike as he has been for the majority of Gemini's races. What was missing from last week's prep was He'zzz A Wise Sky as he scratched sick. Owned by Triple Zzz Stable and trained by John Filomeno, He'zzz A Wise Sky has gotten the best of Fox Valley Gemini this season while posting 12 wins from 21 starts. The speedy 5-year-old horse draws the inside with Kyle Wilfong in the bike.

Race 10 - \$154,000 Incredible Finale - 2yo Colt and Gelding Pace

Much of the story of this final is who isn't in the race as much as who is in it. The pair of dominant 2-year-olds early in the season, Fox Valley Jasper and Fox Valley Langley are not a part of the Saturday final after coming up short in a loaded elimination last week. With those two out, it leads to a wide-open race which is now led by that elimination winner Ghost Shark for trainer Tim Roach. Winless in his first six starts, Ghost Shark and driver Travis Seekman showed he was a contender with back-to-back third-place efforts in Springfield, beaten only a length in each race. In DuQuoin he grabbed his first lifetime victory and then repeated that performance in last week's elimination at Hawthorne, winning in a snappy 1:53 2/5. He draws post four in the field of 10.

Race 11 - \$185,000 Incredible Tillie - 2yo Filly Pace

The richest race of the Night of Champions card, the Incredible Tillie will likely determine the divisional champion. The race may come down to My Daddys Revenge from the barn of Mike Brink and the Scott Nance trained Fox Valley Kia. Both with six wins on the season and both with victories against each other when facing off, post may be the key on Saturday. Drawing favorably in post five, My Daddys Revenge nearly got to Fox Valley Kia in the final in Springfield after having to overcome a tough outside draw. Fox Valley Kia will have to work a bit harder on Saturday as she draws post eight in the field of 10 with Kyle Wilfong returning to the bike.

Race 12 - \$105,000 Plum Peachy - 3yo Filly Pace

The final race of the Night of Champions card has a talented filly who looks for her second victory on the meet's biggest night. A winner last year as a 2-year-old, Apple Valley looks to repeat on Night of Champions for owner Michael Perrin and trainer James Molitor. A winner of seven of 12 starts in 2022, Apple Valley won the July edition of the Plum Peachy in a snappy 1:52 4/5. She draws favorably on Saturday, drawing post four in the stakes final.

Hawthorne Race Course's summer harness season ends on Sunday, September 11.

-edited release (Jim Miller for Hawthorne)

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Handicapper's Corner

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

RACE 4

(4) VILLAIN steps up from NW4's but does so off a win and has been victorious in his last three overnight races. This combination of Dan Dube and Ake Svanstedt is usually strong.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY  
CASINO  
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

RACE 4

(1) EL LINCOLN returned from eight weeks on the sidelines and wound up trapped along the cones behind a gapper before finishing up his mile willingly. Walner offspring could have more than it appears on paper.

-Derick Giwner

MEADOWLANDS  
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

RACE 8

(8) SETTN A PRECEDENT made it into this series by earning just over \$30K prior to the first leg and that was bad news for her rivals. She towers over them and she should win again at a short price.

-Garnet Barnsdale

WOODBINE  
MOHAWK PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

RACE 5

(7) JL CRUZE gets the class drop he needs this week. While the "King" might not appear to be in form, a return to The Meadowlands should perk him up.

-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

## GIANNELLI GETS 3 1/2 YEARS IN DRUG MISBRANDING CASE

Lisa Giannelli, one of more than 30 people connected to horse racing who were indicted in 2020 on drug-related charges, was sentenced on Thursday to 3 1/2 years in prison.

In a jury trial in May, Giannelli, 56, was found guilty of a single charge of conspiracy to misbrand and adulterate drugs and faced a maximum sentence of five years in prison. Her lawyers appealed for a no-jail sentence of probation.

"This was not a one-time thing," Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil said in U.S. District Court in New York. "For 18 years, Ms. Giannelli marketed and sold what she knew were illegal and powerful performance-enhancing drugs."

[READ MORE](#)

## 2-YEAR-OLDS DUKE IT OUT IN MD SIRE STAKES FINALS

Two-year-olds took to the track for four \$75,000 Maryland Sire Stakes finals on Wednesday night at Ocean Downs.

In the colt and gelding trot, Jewett (John Wagner) raced on a clear lead through panels of 31 1/5, 1:01 3/5, and 1:32 and was able to keep pocket-sitter Googoo Eyes (Roger Plante Jr.) at bay through the lane to win by a length in 2:02 4/5. How Doo Yoo Goo (Russell Foster), the 2-5 favorite, overcame an early break to finish third.

[READ MORE](#)

## BLUE CHIP FARMS LEXINGTON VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

Blue Chip Farms is representing an amazing consignment at the Lexington Yearling Selected Sale at Fasig Tipton in Kentucky from Monday, October 3 to Friday, October 7. Videos are currently available for the farm's consignment at [www.bluechipfarms.com](http://www.bluechipfarms.com) and the sales company website.

Day 1 offerings feature Hip #121 Vulpine Blue Chip. This filly by Chapter Seven is the first foal out of the Muscle Hill mare Zette Minx. Joining her that first night will be Vestia Blue Chip (Hip #127), a stunning filly by Walner. She is the first foal out of the Muscle Hill mare Southwind Venus.

[READ MORE](#)

## FEAR OF SPORTS MATCHES WORLD RECORD AT NORTHFIELD

Fear Of Sports etched her name in the world record book next to Sea Silk when she won the second of two \$55,000 Ohio Sires Stakes divisions for 2-year-old pacing fillies on Tuesday evening at Northfield Park in 1:51 2/5, tying the standard for a freshman filly pacer on a half-mile oval that the Buckeye State standout set last year.

[READ MORE](#)

## PICK 6 CARRYOVER, WHHC ON TAP AT THE MEADOWLANDS

The Meadowlands' September 'mini meet' is now a tad smaller as tonight's (Thursday, Sept. 8) race card was canceled late last week, but that will only serve to strengthen the programs that will take place this Friday (Sept. 9) and Saturday (Sept. 10). Post time is 6:20 p.m.

The New Jersey Classic Series, the brainchild of Big M President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Gural, will be on display Friday. The "A" level final for 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings sports a purse of \$275,000 and stars Beal winner -- and Hambletonian third-place finisher -- Temporal Hanover, a Marcus Melander trainee who has hit the board in all eight of his 2022 starts, winning half.

In addition, the \$275,000 NJCS "A" final for 3-year-old trotting fillies is on the card, and that race features Hambletonian Oaks champion Fashion Schooner, who's won six-of-nine this season, including the \$240,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final.

Horses of a somewhat lower caliber still get to go for good green in the NJCS "B" level 3-year-old trotting events. The division for fillies and for colts and geldings will both go for a pot of \$100,000.

Twenty-cent Pick-6 bettors will get a chance to wagering into a carry-

over of \$4,091.80 on Friday. The Pick-6 will be offered beginning in race eight Friday night.

When this weekend's action has concluded, racing at The Meadowlands will have one more week of live action (Sept. 16-17) before taking a six-week break. That's when Monmouth will conduct thoroughbred turf racing over the Big M's seven-eighths-mile grass course.

WHHC CHAMPIONSHIP: The World Harness Handicapping Championship takes place at The Meadowlands on Saturday (Sept. 10).

Players who did not earn a seat through qualifying events can directly buy in for \$1,000. The fee includes a \$300 bankroll with the remaining \$700 going into the prize pool.

Entry includes a live racing program and a dinner buffet.

The top 10 finishers will earn cash prizes.

For complete information, [click here](#).

-edited release (Meadowlands)

## SBOANJ BOARD ELECTIONS COMING SOON

The 2022 SBOANJ elections will be held November 16, 2022. Time and place to be announced later.

Anyone interested in running for director must send a letter of intent to the SBOANJ office via certified mail, or in person, no later than September 17, 2022.

To qualify as a director, you must have been an active member for the past two years in the designated category in which you wish to run. There is one position available in the driver/trainer category, two positions in the breeder category, and two positions in the owner category.

All incumbents are running for reelection in their designated categories. Driver/Trainer Yannick Gingras, Breeder Mike Klau and Mark Mullen, Owner Anthony Perretti and Anthony Romano.

A copy of the by-laws can be found on the SBOANJ website.

Send your letter and a short biography to: SBOANJ - 64 Business Route 33 - Manalapan, NJ 07726.

-release (SBOANJ)

## LEATHERSTOCKING GOSHEN YEARLING VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Leatherstocking Equine announced today that the videos for their 18 yearlings selling at the Goshen Sale (September 12) are now available.

This impressive group features a half-sister to Bourbon Express 4, 1:52.2 (\$324,985), a half-brother to Fireyourguns p, 1:47.3s (\$406,886), a half-brother to Hawaii 4, 1:53.2s (\$242,902) and the second foal from Perfect Mass, a half-sister to award winner Perfetto 1:51.4s (\$740,721), Canada's representative in this year's Elitlopp.

To watch the videos and view the pedigrees of the colts and fillies selling this year please click [Leatherstocking Yearlings](#).

This year's Goshen Sale takes place at noon on Monday, September 12 at the Mark Ford Training Center in Middletown, New York.

-release (Leatherstocking)

## JANET TERHUNE TO BE HONORED WITH LADY PACE

Janet Terhune, Director of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen, New York, will be saluted as the 2022 Lady Pace honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

Born in Connecticut and raised in New Hampshire, Terhune earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Agriculture from the Ohio State University.

Terhune served as an administrative assistant for the Ohio Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association and as an administrative assistant at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

In 1986, she joined the United States Trotting Association (USTA) as an information and research associate. In 2008 she was appointed Registrar, and in 2011 the Director of Registry and Member Services.

Terhune was appointed to the top role at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in the spring of 2012.

Terhune will be honored in a winner circle ceremony on Jug Day (September 22).

-release (Little Brown Jug)