



HARNESS DIGEST

10TH ANNIVERSARY

DRF Bets

\$200
DEPOSIT MATCH
& FREE DRF PPs

Join Now



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ray Cotolo: All arrows pointing up heading into Ohio Selected Jug Sale

Derick Giwner: How do we define lack of effort?

Brown, Dunn seeking big payday in Kentucky Championships at Red Mile

All Bets Off 2yo looks to shine in Metro

Quick Stop ready for NJ Classic at Big M

Road to the Mohawk Million Week 5

On The Backstretch: Profile of trainer John Bax

Pleaseletmeknow headed to Jug

Hall of Famer Ted Wing passes at 74

Comments? Questions?

Email the Editor DGiwner@DRF.com

[DRF HARNESS HOME](#)

[DIGITAL HARNESS EYE](#)

[HARNESS PPS](#)

[DRF BETS](#)

[ENTRIES](#)

[NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

'Help' has arrived for Indiana and beyond



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [Bergmanjay](#)

The breeding business has plenty of twists and turns. Navigating correctly can make a huge difference provided the bloodlines remain strong.

For owner John Wiesman, a chance encounter along the road pointed him in a different direction and ultimately led to the breakout trotting stallion of 2022 by the name of Helpisontheway.

"I was at the January mixed sale looking to buy his mother," said Wiesman about the Plesac-sired mare Porque. "Michelle Crawford outbid me." Crawford would secure the mare at the 2017 sale, but Wiesman's search for the pedigree continued.

Helpisontheway, a Chapter Seven-sired colt, was a 2-year-old for trainer Linda Toscano in 2017 and would go on to be a top New York Sire Stakes performer a year later. Once his racing career had ended, Wiesman saw potential for the \$610K winner who raced against Six Pack in the New York program.

"I really loved the pedigree," said Wiesman. Specifically going fully against the grain, Wiesman saw potential with the names Plesac, Armbro Charger and A Go Go Lauxmont on the dam's side.

"I loved Plesac as a racehorse. He didn't have that many crops so it's hard to say what kind of sire he could have been," Wiesman said, recalling the top invitational trotter from the early 2000's that earned \$2.5 million during his racing career.

Wiesman worked for Lauxmont Farm, one of many stops on his bloodstock career. "A Go Go Lauxmont was a top horse, but they sent him to New Jersey and he never got any quality mares," said Wiesman.



KEN WEINGARTNER

Helpisontheway is a son of Chapter Seven who has six winners in 1:56 or better from his first crop.

A Go Go Lauxmont is the second dam sire of Porque and hails from the Balanced Image line. Dream Of Glory is also prominent on the dam's side giving Helpisontheway a decided Canadian bloodline.

What Wiesman was looking for in a pedigree is contrary to many in the business as he was seeking to capitalize on select names that do well at auction but not necessarily advance the breadth in pedigrees.

"There's just way too much inbreeding," Wiesman said of his overall concern. "We had that way back in the 70's when everyone was breeding Meadow Skipper to Bret Hanover and Bret Hanover back to Meadow Skipper."

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

Are You a Member?

Help support the effort to preserve and celebrate harness racing's history by joining the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame

Membership levels
start at just \$35!



Make your check payable to the: Harness Racing Museum and mail to: 240 Main St., Goshen, NY 10924 or [CLICK HERE](#) to join online at: harnessmuseum.com

COCKTAILS FOR A CAUSE



Join us for a special cocktail reception to launch the 2022 Breeders Crown Charity Challenge. 'Cocktails For A Cause' will be held at Lexington's Selected Yearling Sale at Fasig-Tipton in Lexington, Kentucky.

Tuesday, October 4, 2022
1:00-2:00 pm



A special thank you to the following for their support and generous donations:

PLATINUM PLEDGES

Brad Grant
Determination
Libfeld-Katz
Steve Heimbecker

DIAMOND PLEDGES

Bettors Delight Syndicate – Blue Chip Farms
Hanover Shoe Farms
Hunterton Farm/Southwind Farm
Lindy Farms/Brittany Farms
Muscle Mass Syndicate – Kentuckiana Farms
Seelster Farms
Tara Hills Stud
Winbak Farm
Alagna Racing & Cameo Hills Farm

GOLD PLEDGES

Carmen Auciello
John Bax
Luc Blais
James MacDonald
Bob McClure
Doug McNair
Gregg McNair
Richard Moreau
Louis-Philippe Roy

Over \$800,000
raised to date
for local charities!

For Wiesman, who had the benefit of working for Carter Duer and called him his “mentor,” the reality of seeing what a contraction in the gene pool led to on the ground was reason enough to try to change the current course.

“Helpisontheway’s pedigree opens him up to so many types of mares,” said Wiesman, who proudly reels off the numbers that have hit the track this year. “From the ones that made it this year there’s 34 different dam sires.” That’s an incredible number and not only is it a great sign for the budding star stallion but it represents much of the hard work Wiesman has had to put in for the last three years just to see the fruits of his labor realized with the first crop racing with high impact this year in Indiana.

“It wasn’t easy,” Wiesman said about the first year getting mares bred to Helpisontheway despite a reasonable stud fee. “Let’s just say there was a lot of free semen for the first three years.”

The work done over the first three years may not have netted the owner much income, but he was able to convince many owners of trotting mares to try out a son of Chapter Seven that may not have had national recognition but possessed the male line that has been extremely popular with the likes of Walner proving out last year.

“He bred 117 mares the first year and 124 the second year,” said Wiesman, who credited the fine work done by Jonas Graber and his staff at Maple Lane Farms in Indiana. “He bred just 92 in year three but was back up to 118 this year.”

Just a few months into the first year on the racetrack, the showing by Helpisontheway in Indiana has been incredible. Considering the quality of mares bred and the year-over-year dominance of Swan For All, just having horses show up at the racetrack would have been a big victory in and of itself. What has happened is rather astonishing and one need only look to some of the results this past Tuesday (September 13) to realize how Helpisontheway is in the process of transforming the breed in the Hoosier state and perhaps beyond as the quality of mares bred is sure to only get better. On Tuesday Helpisontheway-sired fillies finished first, second and third in a division of the Indiana Sire Stakes for juvenile fillies with Yo Beth D, already a 1:54 3/5 winner this year, winning for the fifth time in seven starts and just a nose ahead of Helpoftheseason, herself a 1:55 1/5 winner this year. Third across the wire in the Hoosier Park contest was Saturdays, a previous six-time winner over Indiana Fair tracks that fell just a length short in her first challenge at this level.

With just 74 registered foals from his first crop Helpisontheway has a stunning 18 with records of 2:00 or better than three in 1:55.

Prior to any of the first crop hitting the racetrack Wiesman did ponder trying to sell some shares in the horse. “It’s funny how things work out,” Wiesman said. “I had a horseman call me the other day and he wanted to know whether shares were still available for \$20,000. I told him that ship has sailed.”

Wiesman was hoping that he would get the opportunity to race for big money this year with a son of Helpisontheway he co-owns named Here Is Help. “We were looking to get him ready to race in the Mohawk Million,” Wiesman said of the colt in training for Tony Alagna. “He got a little sick on us so we’re going to point him to some of the later Indiana races.”

Here Is Help, who is undefeated in three starts this year with a 1:54 2/5 record, is the first foal from the Trixton-sired mare Rocher Kemp. On the dams side you need to go back nearly 40 years to find serious pedigree in the form of the champion filly Davidia Hanover.

For Wiesman the success of Helpisontheway’s first crop brings him back to Jailhouse Jesse. “I managed Jailhouse Jesse and there wasn’t much interest in him early either until a horse by the name of Buck I St Pat came along,” Wiesman said of the \$2.3 million winner that paved the



DEAN GILLETTE

Yo Beth D is the richest 2-year-old from Helpisontheway with \$133,250 earned and a 1:54 3/5 mark.

way in Ohio for her sire once she arrived at the track in 2005.

“Bob Marks has done an outstanding job getting the word out on this horse,” Wiesman said of longtime friend and bloodline expert.

It may have taken more than three years to get to this point, but Wiesman’s perseverance has paid off and helped the Chapter Seven stallion tree grow an unexpected branch. Indiana horsemen should be grateful, and it may not be long before those in North America and beyond get on the bandwagon.

Actually, not long at all. “He was bred to 40 mares in Europe this year,” said Wiesman, “and 40-45 mares in Australia.”





Don't miss the Ohio
Harness Horsemen's
Association coverage of
Little Brown Jug Week

**5 DAYS IN
DELAWARE**

Sept. 18-22

HarnessRacingOhio.com

All arrows pointing up heading into Ohio Selected Jug Sale



RAY'S RUMBLINGS

By Ray Coto [@RayCoto](#)

Stock on Ohio-bred progeny continues to rise. With the legalization of VLTs in 2012, and an investment by Churchill Downs and Hollywood Gaming to construct two new facilities in Miami Valley Raceway and Dayton Raceway, the racing renaissance in Ohio entered full swing.

Consider this: In 2010, each leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes offered purses around \$20,000. With that, the average price of a yearling sold at the 2009 Jug Select Sale was \$9,153. A sleeper yearling like Dancin Yankee sold for \$17,000 and made around \$60,000 in his freshman season before becoming a weekend warrior with just over \$2 million earned. When he competed in the Ohio Sires Stakes championship as a 2- and 3-year-old, the winner's share of the purse was \$37,500.

Now, the winner of a single preliminary in the Ohio Sires Stakes can take home near that amount. Purses for each leg of the series have pretty much doubled. And the finals elevated to \$150,000 in 2013, then \$200,000 in 2014, then \$225,000 in 2015, then \$250,000 in 2017 and now go for \$300,000, with the finals slated for October 1 at Dayton Raceway.

Purses all around in Ohio have risen. Casinos at Ohio tracks have boosted not only the available money for its state-bred program but also the overall worth of day-to-day Ohio racing. Racino revenue at Northfield since 2014 has tripled, revenue at Dayton since 2015 has doubled, revenue at Miami Valley since 2015 has doubled (the Ohio Lottery publishes its fiscal reports for each track each year). These contributions to racing in Ohio are to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, so naturally the purse of a regular race at, say, Scioto has skyrocketed from around \$2,400 to between \$6,000 and \$32,000.

None of this even counts the opportunities Ohio gives its state-bred horses. Like other states, its Sire Stakes system has an "A" and a "B" level – the B level going as the Buckeye Stallion Series at around \$17,500 a preliminary. But the robust fair system in Ohio gives extra money-making opportunities for its provincial progeny, with those Ohio Fair Stakes events going for purses hovering between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

And then there's beyond Ohio. Last year, an Ohio-bred in Katie's Lucky Day won an American classic – the Kentucky Filly Futurity – while beating Hambletonian Oaks champ and divisional winner Bella Bellini. This year, an Ohio-bred in Pebble Beach annihilated his competition to take Canada's premier race: the \$1-million Pepsi North America Cup. Ohio-bred Herculisa has continuously shown herself against the sport's top trotting mares, and Charlie May broke onto the Grand Circuit as a 3-year-old last year and held his own as a gutsy millionaire against the sport's fastest pacers. Not only is the money getting better in Ohio, but so are the state's prospects.

Every aforementioned figure explains the continuing trend coming into the Ohio Select Yearling Sale, a justified increase in demand. The state stands Downbytheseaside, the fourth-richest son of the late Somebeach-somewhere; an asterisked Hambletonian winner in What The Hill, a son of Muscle Hill; a worldwide trotting champ in Creatine, a son of Andover Hall; a North America Cup winner in Fear The Dragon; a pair of Hambletonian finalists in Uncle Peter and Enterprise; and a speed freak in Lather Up, among other various stallions standing. Black-type pedigrees in Ohio have required more ink to print as the program continues to build.

Ahead of the 2022 Ohio Select Jug Yearling Sale, the numbers trend upwards. The average price of a yearling at the sale has risen (and beaten inflation) since 2019, a year where only one horse sold for a six-figure sum (\$100,000 to be exact). By 2020, the sale had four six-digit price tags. And by 2021, seven exited the ring for over \$100,000. The sale's topper that year was hammered down for \$200,000 – a filly by Downbytheseaside from stakes-winning mare Swinging Beauty.

Money brings interest. That interest brings higher-caliber blood in modern stallion pedigrees and quality broodmare families. Year after year the Ohio program has elevated its product at the aid of racino subsidies and increased the worth of its horses across the board – a trend that will surely have all raising their hands thinking the classic "I paid way



MARK HALL/USTA

15 horses from the first crop of Lather Up will sell on Friday.

more than I wanted for them." But they do so because the economic infrastructure better supports the risk.

This year's sale has several yearlings from black-type families. Hip 57 is the fifth foal from near-millionaire Dancinwiththearz, who had one of her crowning achievements come on Hambletonian Day 2010 in the Mistletoe Shalee. Hip 113 is a Fear The Dragon colt from another Hambletonian Day stakes winner in Jerseylicious; she won the now defunct Sweetheart as a springboard to a career worth over \$750,000.

A few horses down the line comes Hip 115, a What The Hill filly out of Boinga, a horse vivid in my memory from my first year "in the business". After having not raced for a month, she just showed up to the Hambletonian Oaks eliminations and sprung from nowhere to have Ken Warkentin shouting "Boinga. Boinga, Boinga, Boinga!" She paid over \$70 in that race but had some issues in the final. However, she's already foaled three winners of over \$100,000. There's also Hip 259 – the third foal from 2008 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace winner Fox Valley Topaz. She came before my time.

The list of quality families keeps going. And sprinkled through the catalog are foals from many mares who were the weekend warriors of their time. Hip 161 – a Downbytheseaside colt and first foal from Pan Luis Obispo, a mare who cut her teeth in the conditioned ranks after her sophomore season and retired a winner of nearly \$600,000. Hip 124 – the fifth foal from Rose Run Keepsake, a mare whom I remember from my first year at the Hambletonian when she lost to Buck I St Pat in the Perretti Farms Matchmaker. And on and on.

Midland Acres leads the sale, which begins at 10:00am on Friday morning (Sept. 16), with 56 horses consigned and are followed closely by Spring Haven Farm at 55. Dublin Valley Farm (26), Hickory Lane Horse Farm (21) and Diamond Creek (18) check in behind the two top dogs in a sale that will feature 276 yearlings.

[View the entire Ohio Select Sale Roster](#)

Ohio has spent the last decade constructing the infrastructure of its current market. In just a decade, it went from a state ranked beneath the main breeding operations of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey to now producing and exporting horses that carry more than their weight on the biggest stages. As long as the ecosystem is maintained and nurtured, good things look to continue for old Ohio.

Follow

DRF Harness

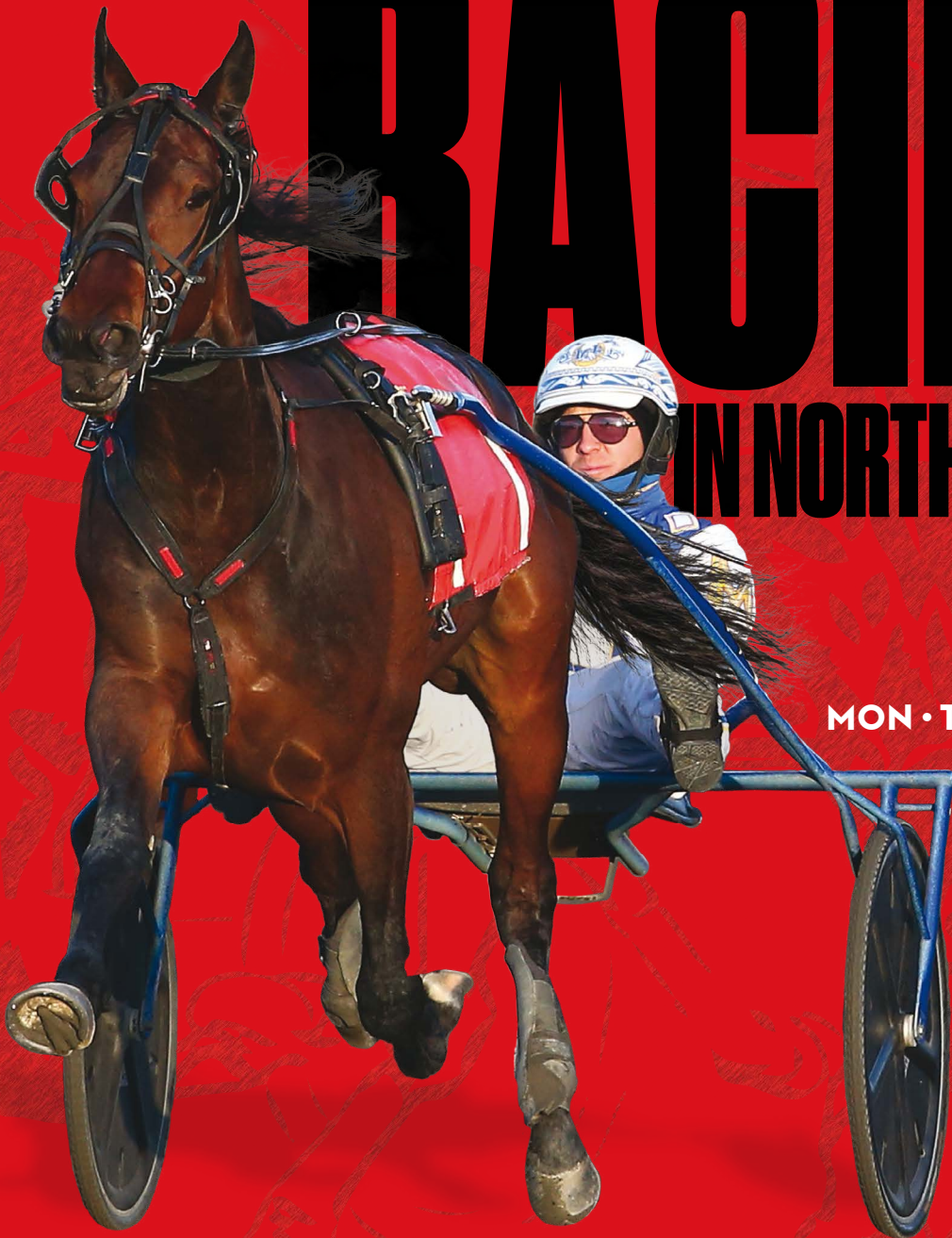


\$100,000 GUARANTEED EARLY PICK 5

#1 STANDARD BRED

RACING

IN NORTH AMERICA



RACING

MON • TUE • THU • FRI • SAT

**POST TIME
7:00 PM ET**



WoodbineMohawkPark.com

Know When to Take the Reins. ResponsibleGambling.org



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner [@harnessyeguy](#)

How do we define lack of effort?

A number of emails have come in lately complaining about the lack of performance of some horses. The blame was not so much placed on the horses as it was on the drivers, who in the opinion of the person who emailed, did not provide their charge with a reasonable chance to win the race.

The recent surge of emails on the topic was surprising because the practice of racing conservatively in some races has been going on since I started following the sport over 30 years ago and quite certainly was going on long before my eyes first watched a race. There are of course a number of legitimate reasons to take a conservative approach from the perspective of owners and trainers. Those range from horses "needing a start" to simply not wanting to "drain the tank" when richer spots are down the road.

The unfortunate truth is that the best interests of owners and trainers often directly conflict with those of bettors. This fact is highlighted even more when less educated bettors can't recognize a potentially vulnerable horse and hammer them down to odds-on status. That was certainly the case when Test Of Faith settled in last at 1-9 on September 2 at Harrah's Philadelphia and didn't start moving until the second half of the mile. As Test Of Faith has been raced from off-the-pace nearly every week and came away last in her most recent non-stakes event back in May, her performance at Philly was far from surprising.

When you consider that Test Of Faith raced as she has in the past, who is really to blame for the fact that she didn't win despite pacing a 53 1/5 final half? Some would say the trainer and driver, but I don't see how that could be the case given that her past performance didn't suggest she would be handled aggressively. Maybe you want to point a finger at the track for allowing a world-class mare to race against lesser foes? There are two issues here. First, how is a horse to prepare for major races if they aren't permitted to actually race? Qualifiers are hardly a substitute for an actual race where in theory the goal of all horses and drivers is to win. Secondly, we live in a world where the demand for horses exceeds the supply. How can we tell a track to refuse an entry when most of them are in such need?

Even if the Judges at each track handed out fines – like \$250 for failure to provide a horse the best chance to win – it wouldn't solve the problem. No driver is going to let a \$250 fine affect how he drives a horse that will win \$500,000 and net them \$25,000 in earnings for the year. Plus that would place an inordinate amount of pressure on the Judges to determine what is and what is not acceptable. Yes, it is their job to officiate the sport, but are they supposed to be good handicappers as well?

Another recent example where some people were "up in arms" about a drive occurred when Bella Bellini sat along the pylons on September 9 at The Meadowlands at 1-5 through fractions of 27 3/5, 56 4/5 and 1:24 2/5 before finally angling off the cones at the head of the stretch and sprinting home in 26 seconds to gain two-plus lengths while finishing second behind Next Level Stuff. I have mixed feelings about the performance. First, I'm not sure Bella Bellini would've beaten Next Level Stuff no matter what decisions driver Dexter Dunn would've made during the mile. That being said, if that race was worth \$300,000 instead of \$40,000, there is no doubt in my mind that Bella Bellini would've been on the move during a very slow 29 1/5 second quarter.

There is a flip side to the coin here as well. The 5-year-old Next Level Stuff had never won a race in faster than 1:51 3/5 and her average final quarter over her last five Meadowlands starts was 27 1/5. Isn't it reasonable for Dunn to assume that if his horse trotted 1:51 (which she did) and came home in 26 seconds that he would win?

There simply is no way to align the best interests of the bettor and horse-people/owners. There is no magic bullet that will solve the problem. Some tracks have utilized trainer and driver comments to help provide more clarity into potential decision making, but the information is spotty in terms of participation and many of the horse-people provide only general thoughts that say little to nothing. I'd much prefer a system similar to what they use in France. The trainer must provide a happy, neutral or sad face to appear in the program. If that was mandated in the U.S. and when entering a horse the trainer had to give an indication of intent to win, the information would be properly in front of the betting public for every horse. Hopefully a trainer will be truthful and if the intent is to provide an easy race despite the horse being sharp, they will indicate a neutral face. If the horse is ready and looking to win that week, a happy face would be used, and so on. Perhaps the system isn't ideal, but at least it aims to provide a consistent basis for decision making to the general public.

With a bunch of elimination races and preps on tap this weekend and dozens more on the schedule in the coming months, you can be sure this problem isn't going away anytime soon. Assuming it is a problem from your viewpoint, because there are always two sides to the coin.

Irish Exit headlines Goshen Yearling Sale at \$80,000

By Greg Reinhart

Irish Exit, a Huntsville-One Last Kiss filly bred by Cameo Hills Farm, topped today's Goshen Yearling Sale, selling to Gareth Dowse for \$80,000.

Selling as HIP 74, Irish Exit is the seventh foal out of her Artsplace dam and is a half-sister to the likes of Kiss Me Onthebeach [1:48 3/5, \$321,750] and Last Gunfighter [1:49, \$334,669].

Huntsville colt Cantfindmywayhome, consigned by Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., brought \$55,000 from Chad Kowal to earn runner-up honors on the top sellers list. Out of the Badlands mare Blind Faith, Cantfindmywayhome, who was HIP 20, is a half-brother to Bandito Joe, who finished third in the New York Sire Stakes final for 2-year-old male pacers.

HIP 26 Crazy Crown, a Crazy Wow colt, led the trotters after being acquired for \$40,000 by George Miller. Consigned by Pine Hill Stables, Crazy Crown's dam, the Conway Hall mare Con Air Crown, has produced the likes of Bazillionaire [1:57 3/5, \$150,232].

"Here at the Goshen Yearling Sale we have been striving to make this sale better over the last several years and have implemented the changes and improvements necessary to do that. And our hard work has paid off as since 2018 our volume, sales and prices have all reached new record heights, and the sale just continues to get better," said Mark Ford, whose training center in Middletown, New York,



hosted the sale. "We want to thank all of our consignors and customers both live and remote, for supporting this sale and we look forward to doing it again next year as we are already planning for 2023."

The average of \$20,203 for 91 horses sold was up 17.5 percent from a year ago. The gross was \$1,838,500, which decreased from \$2,108,600 for 122 horses sold in 2021.

By category, 22 pacing colts averaged \$22,318 each (up 13 percent), 26 pacing fillies averaged \$19,462 each (up 22 percent), 19 trotting colts averaged \$19,526 each (up 12 percent) and 24 trotting fillies averaged \$17,771 each (up 23 percent).

The major fall yearling sales continue on Friday with the Ohio Selected Jug Sale.

-additional reporting from the Goshen Yearling Sale

Brown, Dunn seeking big payday in Kentucky Championships

By Jay Bergman

A total of \$3.4 million in purse money will be on the line making Sunday's Kentucky Championship Series finals the richest day in Red Mile history. Trainer Brian Brown is hoping that his standout 2-year-old pacing colt Confederate can win for the fourth straight time at the historic Lexington oval and capture the \$400,000 championship in the last of 10 races on the afternoon program.

"I wish I had 10 like him in the barn," said Brown from his Delaware Fairgrounds home base. "Marcus Johansson [stable manager for Diamond Creek Farms] told me before they sent me the colt that I should take my time." Brown followed the program and the results have been incredible thus far.

"This colt knows what he's doing," said Brown. "You could see that in his very first start [July 28] at Hoosier Park where he came from the back and was charging home." That was Confederate's first start of the season and it more than set him up for his arrival in Kentucky. Still, with the conservative approach Brown didn't pit the son of Sweet Lou against the top competition and instead chose the Commonwealth division on August 7 for the first stakes start. Confederate was a dominant winner in 1:51 2/5 giving Brown and his team the confidence to move Confederate to the top tier of the Kentucky program.

On August 16 making just his third start Confederate sprinted off in 25 3/5, cracking the 1:50 barrier with a stunning 1:49 3/5 mile. Tim Tetrick put Confederate on the lead in his third start, an \$80,000 leg on September 6, and the colt relaxed nicely and then flew home in 26 2/5 for his third win.

On Sunday Confederate landed post nine in the field of 10.

"I'm not happy with the draw," Brown said as expected. "I think he can overcome it."

Driver Dexter Dunn has a host of talented stock in multiple \$400,000 finals and he chose Bamboozler (post 5) in that juvenile final.

"I really like him," Dunn said as to why he opted for the John Butenschoen-trained colt over Mamba (post 2). "He got away from me



AMANDA STEPHENS

Confederate has won three of four career starts and owns a 1:49 3/5 mark.

a little," continued Dunn in reference to an August 28 \$80,000 contest where Bamboozler cut wicked fractions of 27 4/5, 54 1/5, 1:21 and was just nipped in a 1:49 2/5 mile finishing second by a nose.

Trainer Tony Alagna has three in this division with Kopi Luwak, a colt from the first crop of Stay Hungry, is the fastest this year with a 1:49 2/5 record. David Miller will drive him from post 7.

Dunn guides Fast As The Wind (post 4) in the \$400,000 final for 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters carded as race six.

"He's been racing well coming home in 26 in his last few starts," said Dunn of

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)

WINBAK FARM

Congratulates

\$200,000 NEW YORK SIRES STAKE FINAL WINNER

AMERICAN FLING

American Ideal-Feeling You-Cambest

p, 2, 1:50.2f -'22 (\$239,320)

Trainer: Edward Hart / **Driver:** Jason Bartlett

Owners: Randy Bendis, Reed Broadway & Pollack Racing LLC

Raised & Sold by Winbak Farm!

Don't Miss Lexington Sale #448, WICKED FEELING!

He is a 1/2-brother to AMERICAN FLING, from the 1st Crop of MCWICKED!



[Click here for Winbak Farm's 2022 Lexington Lineup.](#)

Jack Burke, General Manager / **James Ladwig**, Yearling Manager

410.885.3059 / www.winbakfarm.com / f / t

the Cantab Hall-sired colt that hasn't had much of a chance closing into strong final halves in all three preliminary legs.

Dunn will drive a pair of Walner-sired freshman in the \$400,000 2-year-old finals for colt and filly trotters, landing post eight with Ari Ferrari J in the fourth race male division and post nine with Walner Payton in the eighth race final for fillies.

Though winless this year Ari Ferrari J, a \$620,000 yearling purchase from last year's Lexington Selected auction, has shown potential. "He's finished well in his last few trips for me but it's going to be tough on him from the outside," said Dunn.

The once-beaten Kilmister (post 1) is the likely favorite in the field for trainer Marcus Melander.

"There was nothing wrong with him," Melander said after the Chapter Seven-sired colt made a break behind the gate in the September 4 final preliminary leg. "The starting gate slowed down and sped up and he got a little confused. He's fine."

Dunn knows it's a tall order for Walner Payton in the freshman filly final. "She's been racing great," Dunn said. "It's a very tough field but she can leave the gate." A winner already as a 2-year-old in the \$240,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final, Walner Payton has two seconds and two fourths in her four Red Mile stakes appearances.

Special Way, a homebred Walner filly from the Svanstedt stable, drew post 2 and is the likely betting choice following three straight stakes victories over the Red Mile surface.

Dunn is hopeful that the filly Selfie Queen will have a good day on Sunday in the third race 3-year-old filly trot. "She really likes this track," Dunn said of the Muscle Hill-sired lass that has wicked speed but at times can be difficult to steer. Selfie Queen (post 3) has won two of her three starts since arriving in Lexington, including a 1:51 1/5 personal best in an \$80,000 leg on August 14. On Sunday she will likely be the favorite although the field does include Eternal Lee, a Southwind Frank-sired filly that upset her at odds of 17-1 when the two met on August 23 at The Red Mile. Eternal Lee (post 1) returns following a fifth-place finish behind Manon in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final at The Meadows (Sept. 3).

Caviart Camden is another colt Dunn has been driving that hasn't been able to crack the winner's circle while chasing the best 3-year-olds through wicked final quarters. "He's really raced well," said Dunn, who will steer Caviart Camden from post 2 in the fifth race. "I think he could get third or fourth in there."

The standouts I Did It Myway (post 4) and North America Cup winner Pebble Beach (post 3) figure to make it tougher on the Dunn-driven Caviart Camden in this division, with I Did It Myway currently riding a three-race win streak.

Twin B Joe Fresh hopes to complete the New York Sire Stakes-Kentucky championship sweep just eight days apart in the \$400,000 final for juvenile pacing fillies (race 9). A winner on September 10 at Tioga Downs in 1:50 4/5, Twin B Joe Fresh landed post six for Sunday's final.

"I think the draw works well for her," Dunn said. "I was happy to be able to get her a trip in the New York final. With this race eight days away and her needing to ship I think it worked to her advantage."

Already a winner over The Red Mile surface this year in a season's



(ABOVE) FRED BROWN; (BELOW) AMANDA STEPHENS
Twin B Joe Fresh took the NY Sire Stakes final at Tioga last week and goes for the Kentucky final on Sunday. (below) Kilmister seeks his sixth win in seven starts on Sunday.

best 1:48 4/5 clocking, Twin B Joe Fresh faces a field of nine rivals and is the 2-1 morning-line choice.

For Dunn the mount on Twin B Joe Fresh is a bit different from others in that he owns a piece of the filly with trainer Chris Ryder, Peter Trebotica and Barry Spak.

"I own a piece of three horses right now," said Dunn. As to his previous ownership history: "I've had a lot of slow horses."

Twin B Joe Fresh has won five of seven starts this year heading into Sunday's championship. She'll face a solid group that includes Strong Poison, an Always B Miki-sired filly that has three wins in four preliminary legs and has a win and second in two matchups this year against Twin B Joe Fresh. Strong Poison drew post 4.

First post for The Red Mile's Sunday program is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.



Advertise with

DRF
HARNESS DIGEST



For more information or to place an ad, contact:

Derick Giwner at
dgiwner@drf.com

**MULTIPLE
PLACEMENT
DISCOUNTS**

Metro starter Moment Is Here showing his father's resolve

By Ken Weingartner

The first time Frank Baldachino got a look at 2-year-old Moment Is Here, he saw a resemblance to the pacer's father, All Bets Off. It was at that moment Baldachino decided to get involved with the horse as an owner.

Moment Is Here, who competes Saturday in the first of two C\$40,000 eliminations of the Metro Pace for 2-year-olds at Woodbine Mohawk Park, is from All Bets Off's first crop as a sire. Moment Is Here was bred by Bob McIntosh, who also trains the gelding and shares ownership with Al McIntosh Holdings, Mardon Stables, and Baldachino.

Baldachino was among the owners of All Bets Off during the stallion's racing days. All Bets Off, who joined the stable of trainer Ron Burke after his first seven starts at age 2, concluded his six-year career in 2018 with nearly \$3.1 million in purses. He won 15 times on the Grand Circuit, with his most lucrative score coming in the 2014 Messenger Pace, and in addition was a New York Sire Stakes champion.

For his career, All Bets Off hit the board in 70 of 123 races, winning 30. He earned a paycheck 100 times.

"He was a godsend, pretty much," Baldachino said. "When you buy a horse, you never think you're going to get one that caliber, and when you do, you're real thankful. You feel happy, blessed, for all the joy and excitement the horse brought you year after year. All Bets Off and (2017 Horse of the Year) Hannelore Hanover are the two best horses I've ever owned. They're at the top of the list. He's special."

Baldachino knew McIntosh had several homebred 2-year-olds by All Bets Off and in January asked the trainer how they were coming along.

"Bob said he couldn't be happier at that point," Baldachino said. "A couple days later, he said he had a really nice colt, Moment Is Here, and asked if I wanted to take a piece. I was interested. I asked him to send me some pictures, and once he did, I was in. The way he looked reminded me of his dad. He's not big in size, but he's muscular. He's put together real nice. I was like, I've got to take a piece of this colt; he could be OK."

In his career debut, Moment Is Here, out of the mare Breathtacular, won a conditioned race for 2-year-olds at Mohawk in 1:53 4/5 with Trevor Henry in the sulky. Since then, he has started six times and posted two seconds, two thirds, a fourth, and a fifth.

Last week, Moment Is Here finished third behind Save America and Ace Of Aces in the Champlain Stakes at Mohawk. A week earlier, he was third behind Stockade Seelster and Ace Of Aces in an Ontario Sire Stakes division. Stockade Seelster, who is undefeated in six starts, won in 1:49 3/5 – the fastest mile by a 2-year-old in Ontario Sire Stakes history.

Save America, trained by Nancy Takter, is the 7-5 morning-line favorite in the first Metro Pace elimination. Stockade Seelster, trained by Ian Moore, is the 6-5 favorite in the second elim. The top-five finishers from each elim will advance to the final on Sept. 24 at Mohawk.

Moment Is Here is 8-1 and will have regular driver Henry in the bike from post two.

"He's been racing really well," Baldachino said. "We're very happy with him. He's handy and he never gets tired. He's always coming at the end of the mile, which is like his dad. He always had a lot of try to him, a lot of heart, a lot of determination. He's really good gaited. He checks all the boxes as of right now."

"We'll get a better gauge on Saturday night. We drew a good post and we're looking forward to it. I'm not worried about him showing up. I know he'll show up."

Just like his old man.

"Every week All Bets Off was grinding," Baldachino said. "He wouldn't win all the time, but he would be right there at the wire. He wasn't flashy but he got the job done. The real flashy part about him was his bank account. I'll take that any day of the week."

"I think (Moment Is Here) will only get better as he gets older, just like Bets. He seems to carry the same traits as his dad, so we'll see."

The Metro Pace eliminations are races four and eight on Saturday's 12-race Mohawk card, which begins at 7 p.m. (EDT).

Also on the card is the C\$230,000 Milton Stakes final for older female pacers, where Test Of Faith is the 6-5 morning-line favorite, and two eliminations of the She's A Great Lady Stakes for 2-year-old female pacers.

For more information about Saturday's card, [click here](#).

SEPT. 24 CANADIAN TROTTING CLASSIC FINALISTS

B A SUPERHERO

BRANDED BY LINDY

DULY RESOLVED

FAST AS THE WIND

KEG STAND

KING OF THE NORTH

PERICULUM

PRETENDER

SAFE CONDUCT

SLAY

TWIN B ARCHIE

SEPT. 24 ELEGANTIMAGE FINALISTS

ADARE CASTLE

BABY LONGSTOCKING

CASH INFUSION

MISCHEVIOUS ROSE

MON CHEVAL

PEYTON HANOVER

RAISED BY LINDY

SAMOSAS

SAUNDRA

TIE ONE ON

WARRAWEE XENIA

Pleaseletmeknow will supplement to the Little Brown Jug

By Derick Gwerner

With the conditions for the Little Brown Jug now allowing any 3-year-old to supplement for \$45,000, the connections of multiple stakes winner Pleaseletmeknow have decided to dip into their pockets to make the son of American Ideal eligible.

Owned by Fiddler's Creek Stable and trained by Travis Alexander, Pleaseletmeknow has won eight of 12 starts this year and only missed the board once while earning \$396,647. A pro around half-mile ovals, earlier this year he won the Messenger Pace at Yonkers Raceway. More recently, the homebred overcame post eight to capture the New York Sire Stakes final at Tioga Downs on September 10.

"The way he has dominated his last two starts, coming out of both like he hadn't even worked, and his ability to pace around a half led us to this decision," said Alexander.

Supplemental entries for the September 22nd Jug are due 10 a.m. Saturday (Sept. 17) and Bythemissal, who sits third in earnings in his age group, is also expected to make the payment. Divisional leader Beach Glass as well as North America Cup winner Pebble Beach are already eligible.

In addition to the supplemental entry rule, also eligibles are now permitted for the final heat and all starters in the final will get a portion of the purse. Horses which qualify for the second heat but scratch will not get money. Below is a review of the two new conditions:

All starters in the Finals will receive purse money. The winner of the Race will receive 50% of the purse; one percent (1%) of the total purse will be paid to the owners (including drivers) of each finalist finishing 6th through last including horses that are declared a non-starter for pari-mutuel purposes during the Race by the judges, or those that don't finish the Race. The remainder of the purse for the Race will be divided 50-24-16-10% for the horses finishing second through fifth.

Should any horse scratch for the second heat an Also Eligible (AE) would be included. In a two elimination Jug or Jugette, the fifth-place finishers in the eliminations will be ranked by highest career earnings. The highest ranked fifth-place finisher will be Also-Eligible 1 and the remaining fifth-place finisher will be Also-Eligible 2.

Quick Stop ready to go in NJ Classic

By Ken Weingartner

When trainer Anette Lorentzon bought trotting filly Quick Stop as a yearling at last fall's Standardbred Horse Sale, it was with an eye toward the future. But the eye on the present is pleased with the purchase as well.

Quick Stop has hit the board in four of five races this season, winning two, as she heads to Friday's \$275,000 New Jersey Classic "A" final for 2-year-old female trotters at The Meadowlands. Quick Stop, who on Sept. 1 notched her first Grand Circuit victory by capturing a division of the Kindergarten Classic Series, is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line in a field of five New Jersey-sired fillies.

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 finals for 3-year-olds were contested last week at The Big M and the eight finals for 2-year-olds are Friday.

Lorentzon bought Quick Stop, a daughter of Tactical Landing out of the millionaire mare Falls For You, for \$72,000. She is a half-sister to Grand Circuit winner Mazzarati and her family also includes two-time O'Brien Award winner Armbro Officer and Dan Patch/O'Brien awards winner Armbro Monarch.

"We were trying to find a trotting filly we could keep as a broodmare, so I was looking for a broodmare prospect for after racing," said Lorentzon, who owns Quick Stop with her family's ACL Stuteri AB. "I liked the pedigree on her, and she was athletic looking. A lot of the Tactical Landings were bigger and heavier, and she wasn't like that. She was more a race type."

Quick Stop won her debut in 1:55 3/5 on June 30 in the New Jersey Sire Stakes and followed that performance with a third in the second leg of the series and fourth in the final. She then headed to the Kindergarten, where she finished second on Aug. 5. Her victory in her most recent start saw her rally from fifth at three-quarters to score by a length in 1:56 2/5.

"We liked her from the beginning," Lorentzon said. "She's got a good attitude. She showed speed when we started with her, but I took my time because she could be a little bit aggressive. She had a little bit of an issue early on where she could get pacey, but we changed her shoeing and, knock on wood, she's been a lot better."

"She's been getting better every start. I was very happy to see her race from off the pace the last time. I prefer that the 2-year-olds early on get raced from off the pace."

In addition to the Kindergarten, Quick Stop is eligible to many of the remaining Grand Circuit events on the calendar, including the Bluegrass, International Stallion, Breeders Crown, Matron, and Goldsmith Maid.

"She has a lot of opportunities after this," Lorentzon said. "We just take one race at a time, see how she comes out of it, and go from there."

Quick Stop will start Friday's Classic final from post three with Todd McCarthy in the sulky.

"She trained good, and everything seems good with her," Lorentzon said. "You always hope to win, but it's always tough to do that. I'm just happy to have her in there. Hopefully, she gets a good piece of it."

Jim Campbell-trained Grand Fashion is the 2-1 favorite in the Classic final for 2-year-old female trotters. The daughter of Walner-Broadway Schooner is a full sister to Fashion Schooner, whose victories this year include the Hambletonian Oaks as well as the New Jersey Sire Stakes and Classic "A" finals.

In the \$275,000 Classic "A" final for male trotters, Oh Well is the 5-2 favorite. The son of Muscle Hill-Fine Tuned Lady won the New Jersey Sire Stakes championship and finished second in the Peter Haughton Memorial. The colt is trained by Marcus Melander.

The even-money favorite in the \$150,000 Classic "A" for female pacers is Ucandoit Blue Chip from the stable of Linda Toscano. The daughter of Keystone Velocity-Molly Can Do It has hit the board in all six of her races, winning four including the New Jersey Sire Stakes final.

Following Friday's fifth race, the \$150,000 Classic "A" for male pacers will go as a non-betting event. The three-horse field is led by New Jersey Sire Stakes champ Voukefalas. Michael Russo trains the son of Lazarus N-Inittowinafortune.

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

After They Race,

We Find Them a Place!

Accepting horses from all major tracks.



NEW VOCATIONS

Rehab. Retrain. Rehome.®

For more information, visit newvocations.org, email winnie@horseadoption.com or call (734) 320-7918.

STANDARD-BRED
TRANSITION ALLIANCE
2021 ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION

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 5 - September 15) 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 PREPS:** Champlain at Mohawk Park (Sept. 15); NJ Classic at The Meadowlands (Sept. 16); KY Sire Stakes Finals at Red Mile (Sept. 18)**

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: 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. He's in-to-go Thursday in the Champlain at Woodbine Mohawk Park (Race 4, PP10).

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: Won qualifier at The Meadowlands on 9/9

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 qualified at The Meadowlands with a 1:56 3/5 win and will race in the \$275,000 final on Friday (Race 8, PP3). 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.

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 time 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 mentioned that her connections might not want to take a shot versus the boys. Much will be decided after Thursday's appearance in the Champlain (Race 6, PP1).

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 a bit with the Kentucky Sire Stakes final, which is Sunday at The Red Mile (Race 4, PP1). 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--Looklikeachpndale)

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 and trainer Bax said that if all goes well in Thursday's Champlain (Race 7, PP4) he expects the horse will enter.

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 others she has the potential date conflict with the Sire Stakes final (Race 8, PP2) on Sunday, 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-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. He's in-to-go Thursday at Mohawk from the rail in race 4. Trainer reports if things go well he should be using the ticket held by TheStable.ca.

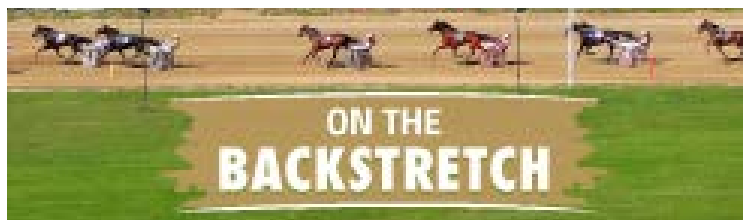
10-CROWN (C--Chapter Seven) / Record: 5-4-0-0 (1:55 3/5 - VD)

Trainer: Marcus Melander

Owner(s): SRF Stable

Last Start: 7th in NY Sire Stakes at Tioga on 9/10

Giwner: Was used to make the top in a 55 3/5 half at Tioga last time (a second faster than the 3-year-old got to that marker) and not surprisingly tired badly. The formerly unbeaten colt doesn't lose any luster off that performance and a Mohawk Million appearance should remain on the board if his connections make a deal for a ticket.



BY DERICK GIWNER

Trainer John Bax has been involved in harness racing since the late 1970's and has won many of the top races in the sport including the Breeders Crown and Maple Leaf Trot. The 2001 Trainer of the Year in Canada who specializes in trotters, currently has a strong group of 2-year-olds eyeing the Mohawk Million and Breeders Crown.

Now 68, Bax has moved into more of an oversight and on-track training role as his son Matt handles the more tedious parts of the business in the barn, but he still loves the game and was happy to spend a few minutes discussing his journey in harness racing.



TRAINER JOHN BAX

How did you get started in harness racing?

My father [William] bought a farm with 40 Standardbreds on it when I was in my early 20s. We had no experience before that. We went through those 40 and learned on them. As it turned out none of the 40 were any good but you learn a lot on bad ones.

You said that harness racing wasn't on the landscape for you early in life. What were your plans?

My father had worked with horses back in Holland in the old country so he was familiar with them for sure. I had just gotten out of university at the time we got started. I grew up on a dairy farm and we had dairy cattle. He sold the dairy cattle and bought the horse farm so it was all hands on deck.

Who most helped you start your career?

I went to the track and worked for Carmen Hie. He had a first trainer named Joe Heath who took me under his wing. So I spent a year at the track and worked for Carmen.

What kind of car do you drive?

Toyota.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

T-bone steak and potatoes; peanuts.

What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

Right now it is Mohawk because it is only five minutes away. Over the years I always loved racing at a little track called Hanover in Ontario. It is a half-mile track which I had a lot of success over. It is the best racing surface in Ontario.

What is your favorite big event in racing? Why?

The Hambletonian is on my bucket list. I've raced in the Elitlopp and I'd like to win that. The Maple Leaf Trot is great. Those are three special races in this business.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Trainer John Bax has won over 900 races during his career.

You mentioned the Hambletonian is on your bucket list. Is that the one race missing from your résumé in your eyes?

There is a lot missing but it is the race you'd want to win for 3-year-olds.

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

90% of the time.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of racing?

I always played a lot of sports. I've given it up now but I played old-timers hockey, basketball, soccer, baseball. I love competing in sports.

What is your favorite sport? Team?

I'm Canadian so it has to be hockey. I don't tell anyone this but I am partial to the [Toronto] Maple Leafs. I am old enough to remember the last time they won the [Stanley] Cup [1966-67].

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

Maybe how competitive I am.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Challenging.

You've trained a number of top horses during the years including Goodtimes, Duke Of York and Define The World. Does one stand out above the others?

Goodtimes, partly because of when he came along. It was a little after we started out and I had a young family. We owned half of him and he got us going. I always tell people that he bought a lot of shoes for the kids and groceries. He also helped buy a lot of yearlings. He's special and is actually still here on the farm. He's 31 or 32 now. His eyes still burn bright. He was very competitive.

You have 246 wins as a driver and over 900 (since 1992) as a trainer. What do those numbers mean to you?

Not a whole lot. I don't dwell on it. I think I'm more proud of the trainer part. I don't consider myself a driver. I drove like a trainer. I guess it just means I've been doing it a while.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

You switched to a focus on just trotters in the 1990's. Why?

The number one reason was that we were doing better with trotters. I think they are more challenging and it takes more skill to get one to stay trotting. It was kind of a combination of we were doing well with them and simply enjoying dealing with them. Pacers go so fast but to me they are a dime a dozen. I don't use trotting hobbles a lot. When I have to I do, but I guess I'm a purist. They are great for the sport and I don't knock them. I spent a lot of time with Carl Allen, he was a great horseman, and he was the one who kind of made it alright to wear trotting hobbles.

You have a number of possible entrants for the Mohawk Million on Sept. 24. Have any decisions been made on which horse(s) may attend?

That's a good question. I think after Thursday we'll have a better idea. I have three owners – Brad Grant, Jim Bullock and Steve Heimbecker – who have a spot in the Mohawk Million and they have horses with other people too, so they'll look at it and see what is best. I have four colts in the Champlain on Thursday, so that will be the last test.

One of the four colts is Oh Look Magic. Is he the one of the four that sticks out as most likely to be entered?

Jim Bullock is in on Oh Look Magic and I would think barring a bad race he's likely ticketed for it. They all have different traits that are good. One can leave more, one can take more air. It is a nice problem to have.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Righteous Resolve has won five of six career races including the Peaceful Way at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

What about the filly Righteous Resolve who won the Peaceful Way?

I'm not so sure the owners want to pony up the money for it. She's in Thursday as well. I agree that the fillies can go with the boys but if the owners are looking at the Breeders Crown, do they beat her up in the Mohawk Million or save her?

How many horses are currently in your barn?

Right now we are training about 17.

You now work in concert with your son Matt. At 68, how much of the work are you still doing?

[Laughing] I'm into delegating. Matt does the hands-on. I still drive horses every day but I let him do all the heavy lifting because my bones creak a little.

At what point do you see yourself walking away from the sport?

Do horsemen ever retire? I still enjoy it. I don't need the day-to-day anymore of the bills and paperwork. I certainly enjoy being with the horses. I love going to the sales but sometimes I'm like those people that eat too much, sometimes my appetite is bigger than my budget.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

Winning the Maple Leaf Trot with Goodtimes was pretty special. A close second is when he finished third in the Elitlopp. That was pretty special. The whole experience, I've been there four times, it really opened my eyes. It is a sport over there. It is more money-oriented here.

Looking at your career, while your starts are consistent the performance in terms of earnings are up and down in three to four year intervals. Is training like riding a roller coaster in some ways?

It always boils down to how you pick them. If you are training bad horses you are not going to make money and if you pick bad ones, I don't care how good of a trainer you are they are never going to make you money. Sometimes it is circumstances, sometimes it is poor picking. For Matt and I, we are on a two-year cycle. You buy yearlings and race them at 2 and 3 before getting rid of them. You just keep rotating. I've had years when I didn't have anything in the Gold [Ontario Sire Stakes] up here and this year I have five 2-year-olds and one 3-year-old in the Gold. We got along well with offspring of Balanced Image and some offspring you don't have luck with, so I guess it does go in cycles.

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

My one pet peeve is the track is too hard. They don't listen to me anymore because I always complain about it. You go over to the track to warm up at 6:00 and they haven't even started yet. They haven't even cut it. It's frustrating.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

Up here they have online betting now and we are not getting a fair shake there. I guess I'm glad I'm at the end and not at the beginning because I don't see the alliance with the casinos working out too well. They don't care too much about horses. It could be a happy marriage if we worked together but it seems like they put up with us because they have to, not because they want to make racing better. I'm not real bullish on the future but I hope it keeps going. If you are going to make a living at it you better like it.

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

I'd be a farmer of some sort. I like working on land. I grew up on a dairy farm and I enjoyed it.

Time for the stretch drive.

Best horse you ever saw: Niatross.

Best driver ever: Keith Waples and John Campbell as 1 and 1A.

Favorite horse in your barn: They never stay that long in our barn. I guess the favorite right now would be Duly Resolved. He was pretty special last year and he seems to be coming along now.

Lasix – Yes or No?: No.

Favorite TV Show?: NCIS.

Charities and participants announced for Breeders Crown Charity Challenge

The launch of the 2022 Breeders Crown Charity Challenge (BCCC), sponsored by the Libfeld-Katz Breeding Partnership, is at the post.

Established in 2019 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, the BCCC has raised more than \$800,000 for local charities of each year's Breeders Crown host track. In 2021, the challenge set a new event record, raising over \$400,000 for charities in The Meadowlands (East Rutherford, New Jersey) area.

This year's event is also shaping up to be something special.

The format showcases four teams, with each entry comprised of a prominent owner, their charity of choice, and a Woodbine leading driver, competing to net the largest donation amount from a minimum pool of \$200,000.

The four teams are listed below:

Team Brad Grant/Doug McNair

Charity: Milton District Hospital Foundation

Team Determination/Bob McClure

Charity: Kids Help Phone Line

Team Steve Heimbecker/James MacDonald

Charity: Pine River Institute

Team Libfeld-Katz/Louis-Philippe Roy

Charity: Toronto General Hospital Heart Research Centre - SickKids Hospital Toronto

Each team has pledged \$25,000, which guarantees their charity of choice a minimum donation in that amount. An additional \$100,000 has been raised through donations made by industry participants.

With a minimum \$25,000 guaranteed to be directed to each charity, the additional monies will be decided through a Driver Challenge and Social Media Challenge.

"This is a great addition to an already exciting event," said Bob McClure. "It's one more thing that adds to the excitement of the Breeders Crown. I'm really happy to be part of it."

A sentiment echoed by reinsman Doug McNair.

"I'm looking forward to teaming up with my fellow drivers to help raise money for some very worthwhile charities."

\$50,000 will be distributed to the charities based on each driver's performance in the Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Lampman Cup standings. The team with the driver earning the most points in the OSS season will be awarded \$20,000. The remaining \$30,000 will be distributed as \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, respectively, based on each driver's ranking in the standings.

\$50,000 will be directed to the charities based on each team's social media engagement. The team creating the most engagement by using their team hashtag will earn \$20,000. The remaining \$30,000 will be distributed as \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, based on each team's engagement numbers.

The team hashtags are listed below. Supporters are asked to go on Twitter and use the hashtag of their favorite team and also include #CrownCharity22.

Team Brad Grant/Doug McNair - #GrantUsVictory

Team Determination/Bob McClure - #DeterminedToWin

Team Steve Heimbecker/James MacDonald - #BeckerThanTheRest

Team Libfeld-Katz/Louis-Philippe Roy - #MeetTheFieldofKatz

The 2022 Breeders Crown presented by Libfeld-Katz Breeding Partnership will take place on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

"We are looking forward to putting on a first-class event and making this year's Breeders Crown one of the most memorable editions in its storied history," said Jim Lawson, Woodbine Entertainment CEO. "From a world-class night of racing, to raising money and awareness for deserving charities, to the support of so many passionate and caring horse people, this year's Breeders Crown is something we can all truly be proud of."

-edited release (Woodbine)

DRF Bets Handicapper's Corner

SIGN UP NOW

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, SEPTEMBER 15

RACE 5

(1) UPTOWN HANOVER romped the last time she faced NW10000L5's at Yonkers on June 30 and landed the pole and Bartlett's services here.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

RACE 2

(3) VOLUME EIGHT put in an even effort versus much better in the Kindergarten in his career debut for a barn that doesn't usually fire first time out. This is a soft spot!

-Derick Givner

MEADOWLANDS
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

RACE 11

(2) NIGHTLIFE SEELSTER has been dominant so far in this series and she should win again here.

-Garnet Barnsdale

WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

RACE 10 - \$50K GTD LATE PICK 4

R10-(3) CAPTAIN BARBOSSA raced well from post 10 following a layoff; ready to roll now. **R11-Three** deep here with (3) **IN LOU OF MONEY** who finds a field lacking early speed. (9) **KAT** enters the Burke barn. (5) **ALKIPPE** drops. **R12-(8) APRIL AVA** drops down a couple of levels and can control it. (7) **LA ALWAYS AMARTINI** was a good second last time. **R13-(3) LOU'S PEARLMAN** exits stakes company. (4) **BILLY CLYDE** just missed last time.

.50 Ticket: 3 / 3,5,9 / 7,8 / 3,4 = \$6

-Givner

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

HALL OF FAMER TED WING, 74, DIES

Ted Wing, 74, died peacefully on Sept. 13, 2022 surrounded by his family after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Wing was born on July 30, 1948 in Greenville, Maine and came from a harness racing family. Mr. Wing's grandfather Harold raced in Maine before the turn of the last century and his father Morris also trained and raced on the Maine circuit. He started out in racing on skis and became an alpine champion as a young man, but his love of racing would lead him to his life's work and that began in 1964 at Aroostook Raceway, Presque Isle, Maine.

[READ MORE](#)

CRAZY WOW RETURNS TO NEW YORK AT BLUE CHIP FARMS

Crawford Farms and Blue Chip Farms announced Tuesday (Sept. 13) that Crazy Wow will be returning to New York following a terrific season in which nearly half of his first-crop 2-year-old starters are either stakes winners or stakes-placed.

At auction, his yearlings have been equally impressive, averaging almost six times his stud fee at the 2022 Goshen Sale.

[READ MORE](#)

YEARLINGS TO BE POSTED SOON FOR 84TH STANDARDBRED HORSE SALE

Standardbred Horse Sales Company is proud to announce that our 84th Annual Yearling Sale Preview will be posted soon on our website, www.theblackbook.com. Yearling video links will be posted closer to the sale. Yearling video links will be posted closer to the sale.

As always, Standardbred provides multiple "Search" functions and downloadable PDF packets on our website to help in finding your next champion. Our convenient "My Black Book" feature allows customers to store lists of yearling prospects with pedigrees, video links, and personal notes in a confidential format that is accessible from any Internet-capable device.

[READ MORE](#)

QUEEN'S REIGN, ROLLIN ROSIE RULE IN INDIANA SIRES STAKES

Indiana Sires Stakes action continued on Wednesday, September 14 at Harrah's Hoosier Park, this time with the freshman pacing fillies stepping into the spotlight. Two divisions of the fifth leg the group highlighted the 14-race card, with sire JK Endofanera once again completing the stakes sweep.

The \$68,000 first flight kicked off the stakes action with Queen's Reign backing up her leg four victory in her last outing. With driver Mike Oosting aboard, Queen's Reign left alertly from post five, crossing over quickly to the lead to open things up with a 26 3/5 panel. Queen's Reign would relinquish the lead up the backstretch as Sleazy Mama and Trace Tetrack popped the pocket to lead the field to the halfway station in 56 2/5.

[READ MORE](#)

SOUTHWIND FARMS YEARLING VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR LEXINGTON

Videos of the Southwind Farms yearlings that have been consigned to the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale (October 3-7) are now available on the Southwind Farms website (www.southwindfarms.net) as well as the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale site (www.Lexingtonselected.com). To access the videos, click on the yearlings name and the video and pedigree will be shown.

The yearlings (which will sell in the Preferred Equine consignment) feature colts and fillies by champion trotting sires Muscle Hill, Walner, Chapter Seven, and Father Patrick. Pacing sires represented include Huntsville, Sweet Lou, Always B Miki, American Ideal and first-crop stallion Captain Crunch.

Yearlings are available for inspection at the farm. For an appointment please call Farm Manager Laura Young at (609)737-9067 or Syndicate Manager, Michael Klau at 917-930-2709.

[-edited release \(Southwind Farms\)](#)

ORTIZ CAPTURES WHHC AT THE MEADOWLANDS

Jaime Ortiz of Staten Island, NY captured 2022 World Harness Handicapping Championship on Saturday, September 10 at Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment.

Ortiz finished the tournament with a \$757.60 bankroll to top the field of 41 players from across North America who competed for \$38,700 in prize money. Ortiz walked away with \$13,545 in prize money. He won his Finals seat via the January Meadowlands \$400 Qualifier.

The WHHC contest format required contestants to bet 10 Meadowlands races of their choice. Bets had to meet a \$30 minimum, \$100 maximum per race. Contestants could only bet one horse per race and wagers could either be win, place, show or a combination of the three.

Ortiz cashed on four of his ten bets and steadily moved up the leader board through the night. He cashed on the fourth race for \$190 with a \$100 Win wager on #2 (Uptown Lady N) and again on the fifth race at the Meadowlands for \$72 with \$20 to Win & Place on #2 (JL Cruze). Ortiz then hit for \$327.60 with a \$26 Win & Place bet on Scirocco Rob in the tenth race. His biggest score came in race eleven with a \$100 win wager on #4 (Trashytonguetalker) which paid \$560. Slader finished with a final bankroll of \$757.60, taking home the \$13,545 grand prize.

Top Ten Finishers:

Finish	Prize \$	Bankroll	First	Last	City	State
1	\$13,545	\$757.60	Jaime	Ortiz	Staten Island	NY
2	\$7,740	\$716.00	Anthony	Mancini	Clifton	NJ
3	\$5,805	\$549.10	Todd	Slembarski	Swoyersville	PA
4	\$3,870	\$487.00	Tim	Platt	Little Falls	NJ
5	\$1,935	\$486.00	William	Alempijevic	Forest Hills	NY
6	\$1,161	\$378.00	Frank	Palmasani	Endicott	NY
7	\$1,161	\$355.00	Jim	Schiro	Niagara Falls	NY
8	\$1,161	\$301.00	Anthony	DeBaltzo	Willoughby Hs	OH
9	\$1,161	\$274.00	Del	Kern	Milford	PA
10	\$1,161	\$365.00	John	Murphy		CT

[-release \(Meadowlands\)](#)

TIOGA MOVES TO 3 P.M. POST TIMES

Tioga Downs has updated its post times for the final four live race dates of the 2022 season to 3pm. The change has been made due to technical issues affecting track lighting.

The dates impacted include Friday (Sept. 16), Saturday (Sept. 17), Friday, Sept. 23 and Saturday, Sept. 24. All four race cards will kick off at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 24 is closing day at Tioga Downs. In addition to the Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program Horseplay car giveaway, Tioga will host a special Fan Appreciation Day with additional prizes being given away throughout the card. The season will conclude with a fireworks show at dusk.

[-release \(Tioga\)](#)

PICK 5 CARRYOVER SATURDAY AT NORTHFIELD

MGM Northfield Park has announced a \$10,000 guaranteed Pick-5 total pool for Saturday's (September 17) race card.

Beginning in race six, the \$10,000 guarantee includes a carryover of \$3,165. The guarantee is being offered as part of the Strategic Wagering Program through the United States Trotting Association.

Northfield's Pick-3s, Pick-4s, Pick-5, Pick-6 and 20-cent Super High Five offer a reduced take-out rate of just 14%.

Saturday's post time is 6 p.m.

[-release \(Northfield\)](#)

DRF Bets

\$200 DEPOSIT MATCH
& **FREE DRF PPs**

[Join Now](#)