

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

3-year-olds battle older mares in Saturday's TVG Mare Pace



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [@BergmanJay](#)

It's not often during the racing season that harness fans can get a glimpse of the future. Perhaps Saturday (Nov. 26) will be that rare moment to visualize what the 2023 season may look like if your particular interest is pacing mares.

Defending Horse of the Year Test Of Faith will be looking to rebound from a rare defeat that came in the Breeders Crown when Grace Hill was the upset winner. Of perhaps more importance, the TVG Mare Pace final will give us the opportunity to see sophomore Crown champion Treacherous Dragon make her last start as a 3-year-old while facing older foes for the first time.

Trainer Brett Pelling sounded confident, yet concerned about the TVG Final. Pelling conditioned Treacherous Dragon this year before the filly was moved by her owner to the Nancy Takter stable.

"I think the biggest difference is versatility," said Pelling about what advantage Test Of Faith may have over Treacherous Dragon and other 3-year-olds at this point in the season. "She was solid in her qualifier."

The qualifier was the first time Treacherous Dragon and Test of Faith have met in an actual race and the results may be a tad misleading. Treacherous Dragon was a neck the good in the November 19 Meadowlands event, a 1:52 mile that saw the sophomore daughter of Captaintreacherous kick home in 25 3/5. Test Of Faith, racing well off the action, sprinted her final quarter in 25 flat to make the "non-race" interesting.

Nancy Takter is looking forward to not just the TVG Final, but next year for Treacherous Dragon. "She does just as much as she needs to

do," said Takter of Treacherous Dragon.

Those not wanting to take Takter's comments verbatim need only look at Treacherous Dragon's last four races (two qualifiers) where she was victorious each time by the exact "neck" margin. Her last victory came over Niki Hill in the Breeders Crown when Scott Zeron found a clear path in the late stages and Treacherous Dragon finished it off.



DERICK GIWNER

Trainer Brett Pelling has the one to beat in the \$158K TVG Mare Pace with Test of Faith.

"She knows what she has to do when it comes to race time," said Takter of Treacherous Dragon.

Takter took over the training of Treacherous Dragon following her victory in the Fan Hanover Stakes on June 18 and the filly went through a mid-season slump that culminated in a disappointing sixth-place finish in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship on September 3.

"She just wasn't finishing her miles," said Takter of the reason she elected to put Treacherous Dragon

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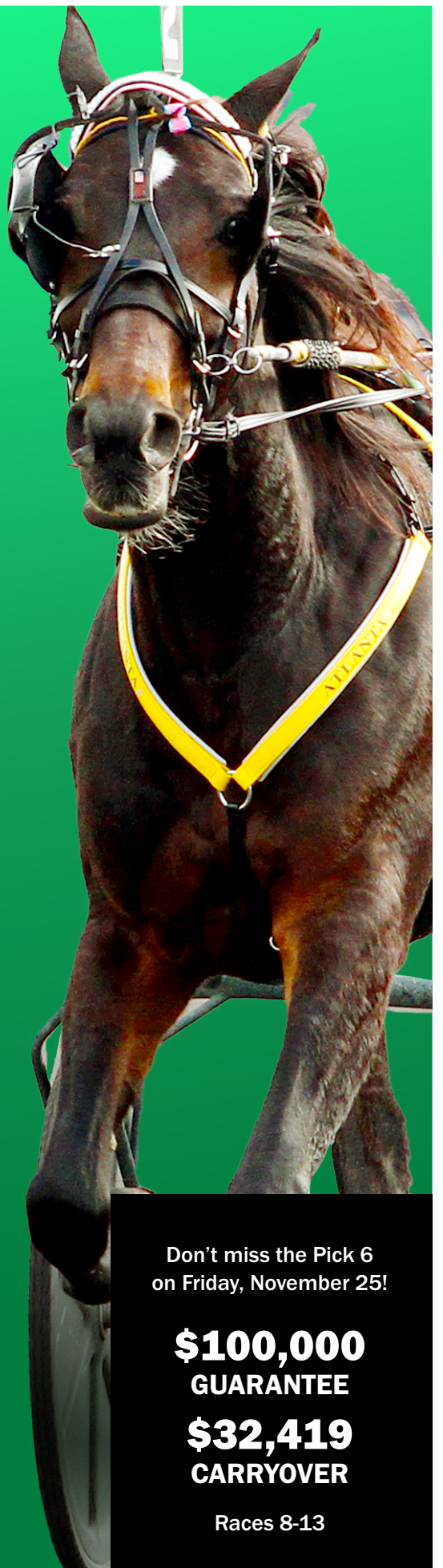
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on the Lasix program. Since her first qualifier with Lasix on September 11 in a Red Mile qualifier, Treacherous Dragon is unbeaten including straight-heat victories in the Jugetté.

With the return to the races of Niki Hill, regular pilot Dexter Dunn moved back to last year's juvenile champion and Scott Zeron took the helm. Last year Treacherous Dragon lived in the shadow of Niki Hill for most of the season, but in 2022, with Niki Hill sidelined for much of the stakes action, Treacherous Dragon has elevated herself as the likely divisional champion. That said, just where she ranks against a solid group of older mares is a question that can only be answered in a competitive mile, one we're likely to see on Saturday.

Pelling, who knows Treacherous Dragon quite well having campaigned her during her 2-year-old campaign and up to the Fan Hanover final she captured, was complimentary of the filly when she left his barn. "I think she'll continue to race well for Nancy," Pelling said at the time of the transfer.

As for the coming TVG Final: "I'm not sure if she [Treacherous Dragon] can leave the gate as well as some of the older mares and that could make it harder for get the trip she needs," Pelling said.

As for Test Of Faith, the loss in the Breeders Crown was a bitter pill to swallow for her trainer, driver and ownership. The 4-year-old by Art Major got away sixth from the pole position and too far back for driver David Miller to make an early move towards the front. Grace Hill and driver Doug McNair took advantage of that placement, putting his mare on the front end where she stayed, holding off Test Of Faith by a head in the 1:48 4/5 mile.

Miller perhaps expected second choice Mikala to provide the necessary cover for Test Of Faith to kick home off of, but that cover didn't get Test Of Faith close enough to Grace Hill before three quarters had been completed, making the task near impossible.

"The horse I'm concerned about [in the TVG] is Grace Hill," said Pelling. "She's gotten a lot better over the season."

Grace Hill became a millionaire with her victory in the Breeders Crown and comes into the TVG off a career-best performance. Perhaps the best attribute in Grace Hill's arsenal is her ability to race as well on the front end as she does from off the pace.

It's to be expected that Test Of Faith, who also adds Lasix this week, will be driven more aggressively in the TVG Mare Pace after the Breeders Crown second-place finish. With 11 wins this year in 18 starts, Test Of Faith has succeeded in three brilliant campaigns in succession. More remarkable is the fact that in 43 career starts she's only finished worse than second on just one occasion.

Whatever the result of Saturday's TVG Mare Pace, the division will take a turn for the better in 2023 with Test Of Faith returning for her 5-year-old season and both Treacherous Dragon and Niki Hill joining the division on a full-time basis. Given the late-season heroics of Niki Hill, there's a good chance the daughter of Always B Miki will push the other mares to their absolute limits. Niki Hill had captured consecutive Grand Circuit races at The Red Mile before her second-place finish in the Breeders Crown. She followed that performance up with a victory in the Matron at Dover Downs that defies description. The 1:49 4/5 victory on November 10 saw her effortlessly pace a sub-54 back half in a final clocking that was nearly two full seconds faster than Pebble Beach needed to win the colt and gelding division.

Both Takter and Pelling will send out horses in Saturday's Fall Final Four at The Meadowlands. Takter said, "We're going to put Save America on Lasix," when asked about the sub-par performance of the 2-year-old pacing colt in one of last week's Governor's Cup trials. "He's been fine until that final eighth."

Pelling is hoping that Earthwindfire, who received a bye for the Three Diamonds, will be better than she's been through her most recent starts. "She had an issue with her foot that we hope is resolved," said Pelling about the American Ideal-sired half-sister to Niki Hill.

Which of these top females will prevail? Tune in for race 9 on Saturday when all will be revealed.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA PHOTOS

Treacherous Dragon pulled off the upset in the Breeders Crown and she'll try to do it again for the team of trainer Nancy Takter and driver Scott Zeron.



Thankful for the dedicated and artful harness photographers



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

[@harnesseveguy](#)

'Tis the season to be thankful and there is one particular group of people in the harness racing industry that continually deliver, not just for me but for other media outlets, owners and trainers. Regardless of rain, snow, cold or heat, the track photographers walk the limestone, clay and other surfaces to document the history of the sport and provide memories for its participants.

On this Thanksgiving issue 2022, I thought it would be nice to send some praise to some of the more helpful photographers who make sure I have pictures to go with stories and go out of their way to help with any request. These people send me photos at no cost to help in the promotion of harness racing. Sure, they get the recognition of having a photo seen, but ultimately it is about media professionals working together to present a better picture of the sport (if you'll forgive the pun).

So, as I look at a number of my win photos from my amateur driving days, in no particular order, we thank the following people:

Brad Conrad – Scioto, Delaware County Fair, Dayton, Miami Valley

Conrad Photo was started in 1968 by the late Barry Conrad and the tradition of excellent work was carried on by his son Brad. While I've had the pleasure of sitting on the apron side of the finish line at the Delaware County Fair with Barry as we both took pictures, I didn't know the man well. On the other hand, I've had numerous occasions to talk and email with Brad and I'm not sure if there is a nicer man in the sport.

Brad is always on the ball when it comes to sending photos minutes after each race is completed and is equally quick to answer an email for a request, whether it is from an overnight at Scioto Downs or from a fair track anywhere in Ohio. You can see Brad's work [here](#).

Clive Cohen – Woodbine Mohawk Park

Operating under New Image Media, Clive Cohen has been the track photographer for Mohawk as long as I can remember. He goes out of his way on stakes dates to make sure everyone has access not just to the typical "wire" and winner's circle shots, but also a variety of crowd and participant pictures as well as alternate racing shots.

Despite shooting at a night track where at times you can come away with a "less than perfect" picture, Clive's shots are always crisp and clean. On occasion, when time permits, Clive, a three-time Smallsreed Award winner, even gets artsy, as can be seen with some of his Bulldog Hanover shots during a recent qualifying session. Check it out [here](#).

Amanda Stephens – Red Mile

Amanda took over at The Red Mile from Nigel Soult a few years back and has done a spectacular job, not just with the quality of the pictures but also with her ability to get them out in a timely fashion. What's great is that she sends high-quality images and various angles of the same horse, so whether you need a vertical, horizontal or even head shot, there is a good chance you have what you need. To view her work, click [here](#).

Lisa Photo – Meadowlands

Working in tandem, cousins Michael and Jim Lisa have been manning their cameras at The Meadowlands for over 20 years. The family team is also joined on occasion by Mike's son Jason to help get the action from all angles.

The cousin duo not only does a great job of sending photos promptly but has also been willing to go out of their way to lend a hand when I need something specific. While the track is only open Friday and Saturday for live racing, they have come in on "off" days in the past to get me the shot I need. Lisa Photo also has ventured into apparel and you can check it all out on their [website](#).

While I'm most grateful to those photographers that send me photos direct because it cuts out the middleman, there are plenty of other wonderful track photographers out there which are always willing to lend a hand when asked. Chris Gooden at The Meadows, Mike Lizzi at Yonkers Raceway



Bulldog Hanover qualifying at Woodbine Mohawk Park on November 18.

and Grace Zimmers at Harrah's Philadelphia have all contributed multiple photos over the years upon request. Gooden, a three-time Smallsreed winner, has already sent me the photo than will don the cover of the 2022 DRF Harness Digest Holiday Issue slated for December 22.

While not a track photographer, I'd be remiss if I didn't single out the USTA's photo expert Mark Hall. The all-time leader in Smallsreed awards with seven, Hall can be found at tracks across the country covering the best harness racing in the sport and he's always gracious when I need a shot to accompany a story.

Of course, DRF Harness uses photos from more than just the names listed above. Fotowon (Vernon, Dover, Harrington), World Wide Racing Photos (Freehold), Four Footed Photos (Hawthorne), Curtis Salonick (Pocono), Geri Schwarz (Monticello), Fred Brown (Tioga), Dean Gillette (Hoosier), Angela Casalinova (Northfield), Room 9 Photography (Rosecroft), William Burke (Buffalo), Wendy Lowery (Batavia), Tom Melanson (Plainridge), Melissa Simser (Saratoga), Carter Gimblett (Flamboro), Vicki Wright (freelance), Barbara Livingston (DRF) and certainly others have sent us photos over the years to help promote the sport in the best way possible. I apologize if I missed a name or a company but certainly thank all of them for their help, especially Nikki Sherman, who shoots for us at select stakes events.

Just a FYI, there is a listing of track photographers on the USTA website where you can get names, numbers and websites for many locations: <https://www.ustrotting.com/photographers.cfm>

Happy Thanksgiving, and don't forget to purchase a win photo from your local track photographer, or at the very least thank them for their efforts.



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From Grassroots to Grand Circuit, Standardbred industry is alive and well



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

"It's a dead game, laddies." If I hear it one more time, on social media or in person, I may end up strangling someone. And no court would convict me because it simply isn't true. All you need to do is look at this fall's yearling prices to know that. Harrisburg set records. Lexington set records. And it wasn't just a national trend. The phenomena held up regionally, too. Ohio, Indiana and even Minnesota sales set records. Michigan, for the first time in years, held a sale.

And it wasn't just overall records. In Minnesota, Moonlight Night, daughter of Easy Again, sold for \$50,000, nearly double the previous record price. In Ohio, Ida's First Dance, a daughter of first-crop sire Volstead brought an Ohio-sale trotting record \$170,000. Huge numbers were posted across the country. But, if it is a dead game, why did it happen?

Cynics will say it is just rich people trading money, and that may be true to an extent. We do live in a sport where the rich get richer, but we must remember the old adage about the best way to make a million dollars in the horse racing business. Start with two million dollars.

Opportunity exists, as more and more states pump money into their state-bred programs. There is finally a realization that our sport is also a lucrative agricultural business, not a breeding ground for degenerate gamblers. As my old boss Tom Aldrich used to say, "Ohio leads the nation in the production of two agricultural products – Standardbred Horses and Swiss cheese." It was a statement you can't poke any holes in (See what I did there?).

The sport makes itself seen in other agricultural pursuits, too, strengthening its ties to its business roots. This summer at the Ohio State Fair, the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association participated in the annual auction of top fair show livestock, purchasing the Grand Champion Market Lamb, in partnership with Talley Amusements, for \$47,000! By the way, the Grand Champion Swiss Cheese – yes, that is a thing – sold for \$50,000! Holely Moley!

It's not just a sport, it is a business, and we are seeing that reflected not just in the Sires Stakes purse supplements, but with the addition of more second-and third-tier stakes, providing racing opportunity for everyone at all levels. Add in the mare residency programs that are becoming more and more popular (and which mean added money into those state's agricultural coffers) and you can see that business is good.

If you can't make it on the Grand Circuit, race in the Sires Stakes. Not good enough for the Sires Stakes, try the Excelsior or the Stallion or the Commonwealth Series. Not good enough at that level. No problem. Opportunity abounds.

Some folks will point to simple supply and demand as the reason for the high prices. In addition to the additional stakes racing opportunity, there is a horse shortage at the raceways. We see more and more race secretaries writing more and more races for green horses, both straight non-winners and conditioned claimers. Can't make it at the raceways, still no problem.

Because, there are the fairs. Got a slow trotter who doesn't make breaks? A pacer who doesn't steer great? Most Midwest states have a healthy county fair circuit, often limited to five or six horse fields, and while you may not get rich racing on it, one of my 2-year-olds qualified for the Ohio fair consolation final this year which went for \$25,000. We have had several fair heats that went for over \$10,000. As I have played with partial ownership of young horses, all but one of my 2-year-olds (who tore a suspensory), has earned between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Not world beaters, but they paid their way and every level Ohio has to offer saw at least one of them race, from the \$65,000 State Fair Stakes to a \$4,600 Fair Stake.

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There may be two downsides to these inflationary prices. On the surface, it precludes a guy with a few thousand dollars from getting as actively involved as he may want, at least at the top level. Yes, there are fractional ownership groups which are great at the entry level, but to be honest, I want to see MY name in the program. But the groups I am involved with generally get priced out of the market at \$25-30,000. I couldn't even find a trainer in Minnesota willing to take me on as a \$4,000-5,000 investor, which up there is a 25-35% ownership share on most yearlings (I was eventually able to buy into a 2-year-old trotting filly who will race there next year at 3).

The other is that the pendulum may swing too far the other way, from a horse shortage to a glut. And with some of these smaller state programs, a cynic might argue that the quality of stallions and particularly mares, might leave something to be desired in those states. While that may be the case in some instances and for some breeders, particularly hobby breeders, keep in mind that while Ontario-sired, Jimmy Freight was Iowa-bred and started his career on the Iowa fair circuit. There are other examples, as well. Will continued breeding of apparent "inferior" stock hurt the breed in the long run? Where will those horses all go when their racing careers end?

There is no one answer and no one person's opinion is right or wrong on this one. We just need to continue to monitor yearling prices, stallion fees, mares bred, foals born, and program enhancements to see where we head in the future. But in my opinion, it is far from a dead game.

That's it for this month. Hold off on buying that ticket and then go cash this summer on some of those six-figure yearlings. Or maybe on a more modest four-figure baby. Happy holidays. See you next month.

Bulldog Hanover: Last chance to see Harness Racing's fastest horse

By Derick Gwerner

If you are a fan of racing - Thoroughbred or Standardbred - within a couple hundred miles of The Meadowlands, Saturday is a can't-miss opportunity to come to watch what is expected to be the final start of Bulldog Hanover's career. Scheduled as race 10 on a stakes-filled 14-race card that highlights horses of both gaits and sexes, the \$345,000 TVG Open Pace will see regular driver Dexter Dunn leaving from post four behind Bulldog Hanover.

Jack Darling, who trains and co-owns Bulldog Hanover along with Brad Grant, said it will be a bittersweet moment watching the 4-year-old son of Shadow Play hit the track for the final time.

"I'm preparing myself for what is going to be an emotional moment," said Darling. "It will be sad not to see him race but I'm happy that he'll get a nice retirement and will go out sound. He hasn't had a sick day in his life, which is impressive considering all of the shipping he did. He really is a special horse."

Following his Breeders Crown victory at Woodbine Mohawk Park in a sparkling 1:46 4/5 on October 29, Bulldog Hanover prepped for the TVG with an easy 1:52 qualifier over the same surface and trained on November 23 as a final tune-up for his career-closing race. "I was happy with the qualifier. I just trained him this morning and he was as good as can be," said Darling.

As the owner of an amazing six miles under 1:47 in his career, people have come to expect the unexpected from Bulldog Hanover, which poses the question as to whether he can beat his 1:45 4/5 record mile on a 40-degree night at The Meadowlands.

"It is hard to say," said Darling on how fast Bulldog Hanover will pace. "If he races his race and they set big fractions...I'm sure it will be a fast mile. How fast, I don't know."

Bulldog Hanover has won 13 of 15 races and over \$1.4 million in 2022. While he faces a strong group of seven competitors on Saturday, none have defeated him this year and few have even come close to him at the wire. He'll get one final chance to shine around 10 p.m. in East Rutherford, New Jersey before moving on to the next phase of his life.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the Bulldog yearlings over the next few years," concluded Darling.



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Volume Eight could be an earful in Valley Victory final

By Ken Weingartner

After watching Volume Eight win the Kindergarten Classic Series championship by 8-1/4 lengths in 1:52 in his most recent race on Nov. 12, trainer Noel Daley is hoping to see a similar performance in Saturday's \$416,200 Valley Victory Stakes for 2-year-old male trotters at The Meadows.

Volume Eight, who received a bye to the Valley Victory final, brings a four-race win streak to Saturday's contest. He will start from post nine with regular driver Andy McCarthy.

For the year, the son of Chapter Seven-Lass A Rope has won six of eight starts and earned \$234,537. His mark of 1:52 is the fastest of the season for a 2-year-old male trotter by three-fifths of a second.

"To me, it's his to win or lose," Daley said about the Valley Victory. "Things can happen, they're horses, but if he's anywhere near as good as he was last time, they won't beat him. He's got to come back and do it again, but if he's the same as he was, that's my opinion anyhow."

"It wasn't just the 1:52, it's the way he did it. He got home in 27 seconds and Andy said the horse could have come home in 26 seconds if he let him go at all. Andy had him under a tight hold the entire way. He couldn't believe how much he had left. To me, he's a very talented horse. I wouldn't swap him with anyone at this stage."

A paddock injury in early spring kept Volume Eight from making his debut until Sept. 1, when he finished fifth in a preliminary round of the Kindergarten. He followed with wins in a conditioned race and the Standardbred Stakes before a sixth-place finish in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes.

From there, it's been nothing but victories, all on the Grand Circuit. Not even an early break in the final preliminary round of the Kindergarten could keep Volume Eight from the winner's circle as he rallied for a head triumph.

"He's great gaited," Daley said. "When he did something wrong there, it's not because he's bad gaited, he was just a bit angry wanting to go. Andy was trying to take him off the gate and I could see he was getting a little mad about it and he just lost him. At least he was good enough to get back going again."

Among the horses joining Volume Eight in the Valley Victory are Celebrity Bambino, who won last week's elimination, and Peter Haughton Memorial winner Kilmister, who like Volume Eight received a bye to the final.

Celebrity Bambino has won four of his past five starts, with the setback being a second-place finish in the Breeders Crown final. Kilmister finished third in the Breeders Crown.

The Valley Victory is part of Saturday's "Fall Final Four" at The Meadows, which also includes the \$475,400 Goldsmith Maid for 2-year-old female trotters, \$430,000 Governor's Cup for 2-year-old male pacers, and \$428,400 Three Diamonds for 2-year-old female pacers.

Eliminations were not necessary for the Goldsmith Maid. Bond brings a five-race win streak to the event, including the Kindergarten championship for the fillies in her most recent outing. The field also includes Matron Stakes winner Brunella, Garden State winner Blonde Bombshell, and Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stakes winner Heart On Fire.

The Governor's Cup required two eliminations, which were won by Combustion and Stormalong. The field also includes Breeders Crown champ Ammo and Grand Circuit winner Save America.

In the Three Diamonds, the group includes elimination winner Zanatta, Kindergarten champ Bellissima Hanover, Matron winner Vivians Dream, and Kentuckiana winner Earthwindfire. Bellissima Hanover and Earthwindfire received byes to the final.

Saturday's stakes action also includes the TVG Series championships for pacers and trotters. Bulldog Hanover, the No. 1-ranked horse in the sport for 20 consecutive weeks, will make his final career appearance in the Open Pace while multiple Dan Patch Award-winner Atlanta makes her final career start in the Mare Trot.

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



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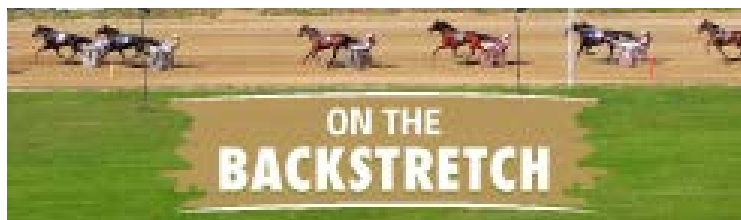
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BY DERICK GIWNER

Cory Mumford, who has been around stakes horses for over 20 years working behind the scenes for trainers like George Teague, got his chance to step into the spotlight in 2022 with Vivians Dream and has responded by setting career marks across the board.

The 51-year-old Maryland native took the time to discuss his journey in harness racing as well as the chances of Vivians Dream in the Three Diamonds final for 2-year-old filly pacers on Saturday at The Meadowlands. She starts from post 9 with Brian Sears in the bike.



TRAINER CORY MUMFORD

How did you get started in harness racing?

I had an uncle [Howard Mumford] who used to groom horses and I took an interest when I was about 13 and started brushing horses and cleaning stalls.

At what point did that lead you to become involved as a driver and trainer?

Probably when I was in high school. I worked for a guy named Mark Gray who started giving me some qualifying drives.

While your training career started in 1999, you only averaged 35 starts per year. What else did you do to supplement your income?

I usually work for someone. I worked for George Teague for probably 12 years. I also had horses of my own and some with my uncle. I've always worked with horses and never did anything outside of harness racing.

This has been a breakout year for you with career highs in starts, wins and earnings. What brought on the increased number of horses?

I work for Frank Chick and he let me start training some horses. Of course Vivians Dream boosted the purse earnings a lot.

What kind of car do you drive?

Ford Taurus.

Favorite dinner meal? Snack?

Some kind of fish with stuffed crab meat, maybe flounder; Snickers bar.

What is your favorite track to race at?

Meadowlands. That is the major league of harness racing.

What is your favorite big event in racing?

Meadowlands Pace. I've been there a few times working with George Teague but I've never had one in myself.



FOTOWON

Cory Mumford with his girlfriend Jamie Sullivan and stable standout Vivians Dream after her Matron win.

How often are horses or racing on your mind?

All the time.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of racing?

Relax at home and watch TV.

Do you have family?

I have two boys and two girls.

What is your favorite sport? Team?

Basketball – Los Angeles Lakers.

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

That I'm a quiet person.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Exciting.

You mentioned your stable is led this year by Matron winner Vivians Dream. What are your expectations for her in the Three Diamonds final at The Meadowlands on November 26?

Win. I think she can be right there with them and it will be a good race. She is just as good as the rest of the group.

She's had some good races but she's also had some clunkers like in the Kentuckiana at Hoosier. Any reason why she's had the ups and downs?

She just got tired and was a little sick in Kentucky. She should be ready to perform good in the Three Diamonds.

How excited are you for her 3-year-old campaign?

I'm super-excited.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

While Vivians Dream accounts for just under half of your barn's earnings in 2022, you also have some other stakes-placed youngsters. This must've been a fun year for you?

It was a lot of running around. In New York the closest track to me is probably Yonkers and that is 3 1/2 hours. It is 7 1/2 out to Buffalo and Batavia. We did a little racing in Ohio and that is around 8 hours. It was a lot of truck time, but it is better than sitting in the house.

You've also done some driving. Why did you stop?

I gained a little weight and lost a few horses that were competitive. When I started working for Teague there was really no room for me to train and drive.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

I want to say the Matron the other week with Vivian's Dream, but one thing I remember is the Hambletonian Oaks with Danae. That was for George Teague and Tim Tetrick drove. That was really exciting because it was like \$750,000.

How many horses are currently in your barn?

Right now we have 31 horses; a lot of babies. I'm breaking about 25 horses.

Will you be racing all of the babies next year?

Hopefully, they are all Frank Chicks. The winter is always exciting because you have big hopes and dreams that they will do well.

Considering how long you've been in the business, did you ever think you'd get to the point where you'd have a decent size stable like you do now?

There is always the hope and dream that you will and this year I did.

Where are you stabled?

Harrington Raceway.

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

Probably getting rid of all the favors drivers do for each other on the track as far as giving spots and not racing as hard as they should sometimes.

Then you must like the rule at the Meadowlands which doesn't permit easy "tucks" for horses that leave?

The supposed rule. I'd like to see it enforced more.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

I view it as promising. I don't think the sport is going to die off or anything. I've been hearing for a long time that harness racing is going away but it is still here.



BARBARA LIVINGSTON

Vivians Dream had a strong season on the New York circuit.

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

Maybe a cook or working in a restaurant. That's what my father did and I worked with him for a little while.

Are you a good cook? What is your best dish?

Not bad. I'm not going to brag on myself. Fried chicken or fried pork chops.

Time for the stretch drive:

Best Horse You Ever Saw? Rainbow Blue.

Best Driver Ever? John Campbell.

Lasix – Yes or No? Yes.

Favorite TV Show? Right now, Yellowstone.

Trotters or Pacers? Pacers.



Entries & Results

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DRF.COM/HARNESS

\$32,429 Pick 6 carryover Friday at The Meadowlands

The final huge weekend of racing during 2022 at The Meadowlands will kick off the day after Thanksgiving, Friday (Nov. 25), as 20-cent Pick-6 players will pump plenty of green into the pot that features a double carryover with a total pool guarantee of \$100,000, which is offered in conjunction with the United States Trotting Association.

As if that weren't enough, Saturday's (Nov. 26) extraordinary racing program will showcase many of the sport's biggest stars on "Fall Final Four/TVG Championships Night."

The Pick-6 failed to yield a winning ticket on both Friday (Nov. 18) and Saturday (Nov. 19) last week, resulting in a carryover of \$32,429, motivating Big M management to guarantee the six-figure Pick-6 pool. The wager will be offered beginning on race eight.

"Last weekend, our Pick-4 carryover resulted in a total pool of over \$300,000," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "So, we know how popular our multi-leg wagers -- which have a low 15 percent takeout to begin with -- can be when they have carryovers. All of us at The Meadowlands are looking forward to a big weekend, and what better way to get it going than with a big Pick-6 pool."

-edited release (Meadowlands)

\$75,000 MEADOWLANDS SATURDAY PICK 4 TICKETS

A pair of \$75,000 GTD Pick 4 wagers are on the card for Saturday's huge stakes card at The Meadowlands and below are Derick Giwner's tickets for each sequence:

Races 6-9: 1,2 / 1,3,8 / 5 / 2,5 = \$6

Races 10-13: 4 / 3,4,5,6 / 4,6 / 1,3,10 = \$12

For full card analysis, click [here](#).



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

RACE 7

(5) INSTANTANEOUS won and then went a big trip in finishing third at the Meadowlands in his last two outings and has plenty of half-mile track experience.

-Greg Reinhart



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

RACE 3

(8) ASSASSINS CREED went a big first-up trip to prevail last week and he gets the call to repeat facing basically the same field.

-Garnet Barnsdale



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

RACE 6

(6) STUN GUN did well to hold third after a first-over trip last Saturday and races at a lower level tonight.

-Reinhart



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

RACE 8

(5) ECURIE D DK comes off a complete toss-out effort in a race that simply didn't matter. I've heard mixed reports about whether he raced with or without shoes but you can expect the latter tonight. He's hands-down the best horse in the field.

-Derick Giwner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis [Wednesday](#)

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INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

CARRYOVERS AT NORTHFIELD, PLAINRIDGE

Punters have a carryover to feast on Thanksgiving Eve as MGM Northfield Park has announced the addition of a \$10,000 50¢ (non-jackpot) Pick-6 total pool guarantee for Wednesday (November 23).

Beginning in race eight, the Pick-6 includes a carryover of \$3,322.

Meanwhile, Plainridge Park Casino closes out its 2022 live racing season this coming Friday, November 25 and there is a mandatory payout of the Wicked Hi 5, which will only be offered once on the card, in race 9, which is scheduled to go to post at approximately 3:40pm ET. The Wicked Hi 5 carryover going into the final card is \$5,680.

-edited releases (Northfield/Plainridge)

NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN FOR CARETAKER OF THE YEAR

Nominations are being accepted for the 2022 Caretaker of the Year through Monday, Nov. 28. The award, sponsored by Art Zubrod and Leah Cheverie's Fair Island Farm in conjunction with the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), recognizes the unsung heroes of the sport — the caretakers who maintain the health and welfare of the horses on a daily basis.

Any caretaker working for any stable or farm in North America is eligible to be the Fair Island Farm Caretaker of the Year. All that is needed to nominate is an email or letter, 200 words minimum, from an individual or group detailing the skills and special qualities of the caretaker.

The Fair Island Farm Caretaker of the Year will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 as well as transportation costs to the USHWA Dan Patch Awards banquet in Orlando, Fla., on Sunday (Feb. 19, 2023), where he or she will be recognized and presented with a trophy. The winner will also enjoy a

two-night stay at Rosen Shingle Creek, host hotel for the USHWA activities, as well as two complimentary dinner tickets. All nominated caretakers will receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

"Leah and I are honored to continue the tradition of recognizing caretakers and the hard work they do on a daily basis," said Zubrod. "And it is especially gratifying to honor one most-deserving person as the Caretaker of the Year."

The winner will be chosen by a seven-person selection committee comprised of USHWA members, all of whom are former caretakers: Tim Bojarski (chair), Kim Rinker, Tom Char-ters, Moira Fanning, Dean Hoffman, Rob Pennington and Shawn Wiles.

All nomination letters and emails must be received and/or postmarked by Monday (Nov. 28) and sent to chairman Bojarski at a159star@gmail.com or mailed to Tim Bojarski, 7523 Maple Road, Akron, NY 14001.

-release (USHWA)

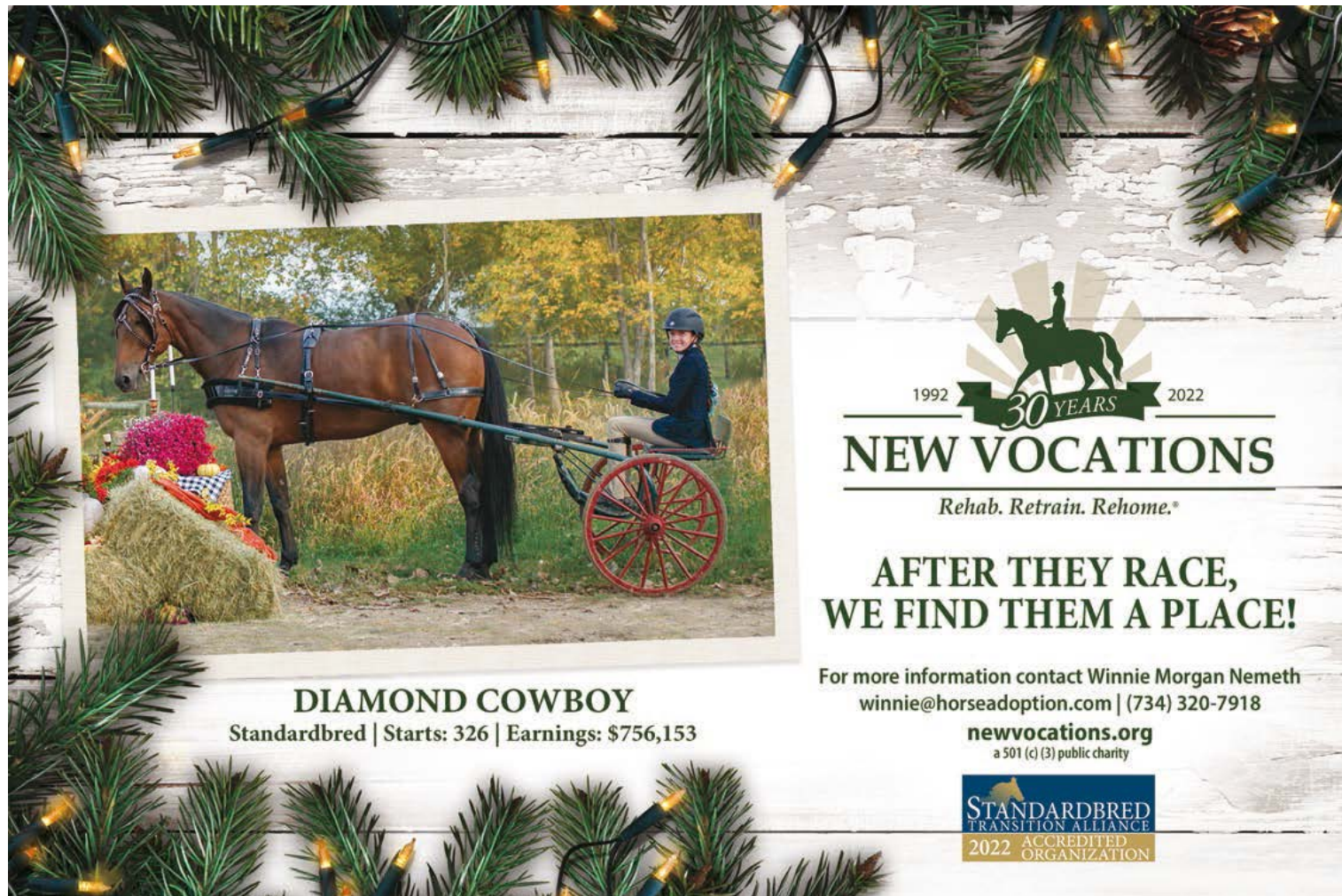
TROTTING STALLION BAR HOPPING, 9, DIES AT HANOVER SHOE FARMS

Trotting stallion Bar Hopping, the sire of 2021 Dan Patch Award-winner and Hambletonian Oaks champion Bella Bellini among others, passed away unexpectedly Monday at Hanover Shoe Farms, where he stood since retiring from racing in 2016. He was 9.

"There is no indication of what it was," Hanover Shoe Farms President and CEO Russell Williams said, adding an autopsy would be performed to try to determine the cause of death. "Whatever it was, it was unbelievably sudden. He had just been in his paddock a few hours before, and everything was normal."

"It's sad. We really loved him. He didn't have a mean bone in his body. He was as nice as could be."

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