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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Late burst sends It's My Show to victory in 78th Little Brown Jug

By Greg Reinhart

It's My Show gave driver Scott Zeron and trainer Linda Toscano a sweep of this year's Jugette and the Little Brown Jug by winning Thursday's \$850,000 Jug final for 3-year-old male pacers at the Delaware County Fair in 1:49 flat.

The scene was set for the final by three eliminations that were won by Moment Is Here (Tim Tetrick, 1:50 1/5), Ken Hanover (David Miller, 1:48 4/5) and Cannibal (Yannick Gingras, 1:49 1/5). Ken Hanover's mile in the second elimination was the fastest-ever in the Little Brown Jug and tied the world record for a 3-year-old gelding pacer on a half-

Moment Is Here drew the rail for the final, with Ken Hanover in the two-hole and Cannibal in post three. Moving out from there, Seven Colors (Dexter Dunn), It's My Show, Hungry Angel Boy (Todd McCarthy), Blue Hunt (Andy McCarthy), Redwood Hanover (James MacDon-

ald) and Thunder Hunter Joe (Jordan Stratton) completed the field.

Using the pole position to its full measure in the final. Tetrick rocketed Moment Is Here out while Cannibal also showed speed. Cannibal was not able to duck into the two-hole that was closed by Ken Hanover and was forced to drive on, but he found no luck there, either, as Tetrick parked out Cannibal to the quarter in 25 4/5 and the half in 53 3/5, with Seven Colors moving up behind Cannibal into the second-over position and It's My Show set up shop third-over.

Dunn fanned Seven Colors out three-wide, with It's My Show sticking right with him, as Cannibal began to back up and Moment Is Here put three-



Trainer Linda Toscano and driver Scott Zeron embrace after It's My Show's Little Brown Jug victory.

quarters on the board in 1:22. Seven Colors was able to clear Cannibal rather easily to take up the first-over position on the final bend and would then go by the winded Moment Is Here before they turned for home, but Zeron had It's My Show looming to Seven Colors's outside.

Seven Colors entered the lane on top and looked to seal the deal under Dunn's urging, but It's My Show kept coming on his flank and was able to chase him down in deep stretch to go by for the victory by about a neck. Ken Hanover finished in the third position, Moment Is Here checked in fourth, and Thunder Hunter Joe was fifth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This horse has made some amazing races for us. When you add in a trailer, it changes everything about a race. Yannick timed the gate great going out of there, and that made it easy for me to not to try to leave," Zeron said after the race. "Honestly, I've been in the position he was in, which is when you commit to the leave, but there's no give and goes, your two-hole goes by pretty quick. When Dave closed up the hole, it was just tough for him.

"They were going at it, but I was still way out of it. I needed a lot of things to go right, and Seven Colors raced sensational. My guy just put his nose out."

Owned and bred by Richard and Joanne Young, It's My Show is a Sweet Lou gelding and is out of their champion mare Put On A Show. This was his ninth victory from 20 starts and made him harness racing's newest millionaire. Sent off at 7-1, It's My Show paid \$16.00 to win.

"I'm ecstatic. I had tears running down my face," said Richard Young when reached at his Florida home. "When you don't have expectations of winning [because of the post draw] and you win it is the best feeling."

The Jug victory gave Young the "big three" in the sophomore pacing ranks – North America Cup, Meadowlands Pace and Little Brown Jug. It also checked off a box for Tosacno that she has been waiting a long time to complete.

"This has been a pretty good week," Toscano offered with a laugh. "This has been a race that has eluded me, and a race that I've wanted for so long that I'm a little choked up."

Toscano made a key equipment change to It's My Show after he finished second to Cannibal in his elimination, putting him in a blind bridle.

"I've been waiting and waiting to change his bridle," she explained.



CONDAD PHOTO

It's My Show got past Seven Colors steps before the wire at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

"When he didn't go by in the first heat I said 'this is the week to do it,' so I put the blind bridle on and he went right by in the final."

Steve and Cindy Stewart, who raised It's My Show at Hunterton Farm, accepted the winning owner/breeder trophy for the Youngs.

"We bred Rock N Roll Heaven, so we've been here before. This is great for Richard," Steve Stewart stated. "He had a real tough decision to make because this horse was eligible in Kentucky last Sunday for \$400,000. He asked me my opinion, and I said 'you should go because you need to support people that support our industry.'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

10/2-10/6 Lexington Lineup Videos Are Now Posted! Click Here to Watch

IN PACER	Colts	Fillies
Odds On Equuleus	-	1
NJ PACERS	Colts	Fillies
Cattlewash*	2	2
NJ TROTTERS	Colts	Fillies
Muscle Hill	-	1
Six Pack	-	1
NY PACERS	Colts	Fillies
NY PACERS American Ideal	Colts 5	Fillies 4
American Ideal	5	4
American Ideal Courtly Choice	5 4	4
American Ideal Courtly Choice Huntsville	5 4 1	4 2 -

OH PACERS	Colts	Fillies
Downbytheseaside	-	1
Fear The Dragon	1	1
ON PACERS	Colts	Fillies
Bettor's Delight	5	2
Jimmy Freight	1	-
McWicked	4	5
Shadow Play	2	1
Sportswriter	-	3
ON TROTTERS	Colts	Fillies
Archangel	-	2
Green Manalishi S*	-	1
Muscle Mass	1	1
My MVP	-	1

ON TROTTERS	Colts	Fillies
The Bank	1	2
Trixton	1	-
PA PACERS	Colts	Fillies
Betting Line	1	-
Bettor's Wish	-	1
Captaintreacherous	1	-
Papi Rob Hanover*	-	2
Sweet Lou	2	1
PA TROTTERS	Colts	Fillies
Bar Hopping	1	1
Cantab Hall	4	1
International Moni	2	1
*First Crop Sells in 2023		



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"In Ohio, there was a darkness before the dawn. There were a lot of dark days for many years but through Governor Kasich and Governor Dewine, they've stepped up, and I think the industry has really supported it."

As far as upcoming plans for It's My Show, Toscano remarked, "We'll probably skip the first week in Lexington, I'm guessing, and then probably go the second."

That second week is when the Tattersalls Pace is contested at The Red Mile and could lead to a rematch between It's My Show and divisional leader Confederate. Young is looking forward to the encounter with Confederate and hopes the Jug victory makes it all the more interesting when they do meet

"Maybe we can give him a run," said Young, unwilling to provide bulletin board material to motivate the competition. "We were never avoiding him. There were always multiple options and it didn't make business sense to pay \$83,000 to face him in the Meadowlands Pace."

M-M'S DREAM DELIVERS AGAIN IN MS VERSATILITY FINAL

M-M's Dream was first-over for a long way but still came away victorious in the \$90,000 Ms Versatility Series final for trotting mares on Thursday afternoon at the Delaware County Fair.

Eternal Lee (Andy McCarthy) hustled out from post four and had early command, but Yannick Gingras pressed on two-wide with Raised By Lindy and took control nearing the 27 1/5 opening quarter. David Miller and M-M's Dream watched all that from third, then went first-over on the second turn.

Raised By Lindy fought off a two-wide M-M's Dream to the 55 2/5 half, the 1:23 2/5 three-quarters, and onto the final bend but M-M's finally wore her down before they turned into the lane. From there, M-M's Dream got a bit of separation on the rest of the field and held sway to the wire to tally by three-quarters of a length in 1:52 4/5. Adare Castle (James MacDonald) rallied from third-over to get second and Warrawee Xenia (Tim Tetrick), who caught up to M-M's Dream's cover prior to three-quarters, was the third-place finisher.

"She has been a blessing, and I cannot explain how important and how special she is," said owner Henry Graber of Eleven Star Stables. "She just seems to always do it by herself. She does not like to lose a race."

Frank Baldachino and Hillside Stables also co-own M-M's Dream, a Ron Burke-trained 4-year-old by Swan For All. This was her 25th win from 31 lifetime starts, she has now pocketed \$1,254,374 and she returned \$2.40 to win as the 1-5 favorite.

HERODOTUS REIGNS SUPREME IN OLD OAKEN BUCKET

Herodotus set up shop on the engine and didn't relinquish command when challenged by favored Talent Scout in winning Thursday afternoon's \$100,000 Old Oaken Bucket for 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters at the Delaware County Fair.

Driver David Miller gunned Herodotus to the point from post two and cut the opening quarter in 27 3/5. Talent Scout (Dexter Dunn) tipped out from the pocket racing to that marker and took the lead on the rim on the second turn, but he was unable to clear. Miller then elected to drive back on through on the inside and left Talent Scout parked to the half in 55 3/5.

Talent Scout didn't go away on the rim and was still in second as Herodotus hit three-quarters in 1:24 1/5, but Herodotus sealed the deal in the final quarter of 29 seconds, pulling clear to win by 2 1/2 lengths in 1:53 1/5, lowering the track record for a sophomore gelding trotter in the process. Drink Up Drink Up (Aaron Merriman) crossed the wire in second but was placed third for making a break in the lane, elevating Talent Scout to the runner-up spot.

A gelded son of Bar Hopping bred by Bill Solomon, Herodotus is trained by Ron Burke for owners Burke Racing Stable LLC., Hatfield Stables and Weaver Bruscemi LLC. He has a record of 8-2-4 from 25 starts, sent his earnings to \$262,956 and returned \$9.40 to win as the 7-2 second choice.

BIRD AND GRENADE SOARS IN THE STANDARDBRED

Bird And Grenade and Silken Sweet visited the winner's circle following the pair of Standardbred tests for 2-year-old colts and geldings on Thursday afternoon at the Delaware County Fair.

READ MORE

Ucandoit Blue Chip does it in the Jugette

By Greg Reinhart

Ucandoit Blue Chip, a two-time New Jersey Sire Stakes champion, defeated open company in both her \$25,000 elimination and the \$255,000 of the Jugette for sophomore pacing fillies on Wednes-



CONIDAD PHOTO

Ucandoit Blue Chip set a lifetime mark of 1:50 1/5 in the Jugette final.

day afternoon at the Delaware County Fair.

The stage was set for the final after Ucandoit Blue Chip (Scott Zeron) and Zanatta (Joe Bongiorno) won their eliminations in 1:50 3/5 and 1:50 1/5, respectively. The other finalists were Southwind Bella (Yannick Gingras), Daffled Hanover (David Miller), Earthwindfire (Tim Tetrick), Hey Hey Mama (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.), Odds On Hail Mary and Vivians Dream (Brett Miller), but Odds On Hail Mary would be scratched out of the final, leaving a field of seven with Zanatta starting from the pole and Ucandoit Blue Chip next to her.

Zanatta and Bongiorno made the lead with zero dispute in a 27 4/5 quarter as the others lined up in post position order. Southwind Bella tried a first-over move on the second turn, followed by Earthwindfire, but Southwind Bella stalled out almost immediately as Zanatta continued on the point through a $55\,4/5$ half and a $1:22\,4/5$ three-quarters with Ucandoit Blue Chip always in touch with her from the two-hole.

On the final bend Zeron angled Ucandoit Blue Chip to the outside to go after Zanatta, and after a brief tussle, Ucandoit Blue Chip would get the lead before she pulled clear to prevail by a length and three-quarters in 1:50 2/5. Zanatta held second from Daffled Hanover, with Vivians Dream fourth and Hey Hey Mama back in fifth.

"I don't think there were many options. We had to take the two-hole

trip. I was happy there were no flyers on the outside putting me third where I would have eventually been first-up," Zeron said post-race. "That would have been a tough trip. Zanatta can really leave the gate really fast. I protected as much as I could, and it was kind of going to line-up that way. It was on the move fairly early, but we were on the gas pedal from the half on.

"She was exceptional in both heats. In the first heat I didn't have to use her that hard, and the race kind of unfolded where it was going to help off-the-pace. The two-hole trip worked out great, but at the same time, having won

CONRAD PHOTO

Ucandoit Blue Chip's owner Bill Elliott.

the elim and the final, she was very deserving."

A daughter of Keystone Velocity-Molly Can Do It bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock, Ucandoit Blue Chip is trained by Linda Toscano for owner Bill Elliott. She has ten wins from 20 lifetime starts, has banked \$559,127 and paid \$5.00 to win as the 3-2 favorite.

"I thought she's a big, strong filly, and I thought she could handle (two heats)," Toscano remarked. "She's a good filly, and it's kind of ice cream on the cake that her mom was my first Breeders Crown winner and now she's my first Jugette.

"We'll give her a little bit of time to recover."

Elliott added, "I can't say enough for the job that Linda and her whole crew have done with this filly. It's just amazing."

MORE JUGETTE DAY COVERAGE ON PAGE 15



Brian Brown building a reputation as a developer of champions



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner (a) @harnesseyeguy

Which name comes to mind when you think of great developers of young Standardbred talent? If Brian Brown isn't in the conversation then perhaps you need to check the statistics.

Brown currently trains the best 2-year-old filly pacer in North America Geocentric and helped develop arguably the top two 3-year-olds currently in training – Confederate and Seven Colors. The 58-year-old trainer has been selecting yearlings and producing champions for years, most notably Fear The Dragon, Downbytheseaside, Limelight Beach and so many others just in the last decade.

Brown is developing these talented horses at price points that are certainly attractive.

Seven Colors was a \$93,000 Lexington purchase in 2021 with Brown signing the ticket. He also put in the final bid of \$65,000 on 2017 Pacer of the year Downbytheseaside back in 2015.

"We've been fortunate straight back to Won The West that raced for the Burkes," said Brown, recalling the \$35,000 purchase he made at Harrisburg in 2005 that went on to earn \$3.9 million. "We've had several that, whether we kept them and raced or they went somewhere else, they did well."

Brown certainly feels a sense of pride when the horses he develops go on to greatness, even if he isn't the one calling the shots when they reach the top of the Standardbred mountain.

"Yeah, I still know that I had a part in it. My life is buying young horses and getting them going. I would love to still have them and race them, but if I had to just train older horses. I don't know if I'd like this anymore."

Of course the disappointment of losing top horses is very real. Brown trained Confederate to five wins in seven starts as a 2-year-old last year while earning just north of \$443K. The Diamond Creek Racing-owned son of Sweet Lou was thought by most to be the best of his class entering 2023. Despite no wrongdoing on his part, the colt was moved from Brown's home base in Ohio to trainer Brett Pelling in order to keep Confederate in the New Jersey area under the watchful eye of racing manager Marcus Johansson.

Confederate lived up to the promise and leads all North American Standardbreds in earnings at \$1,077,929 this year. He also set a world record by becoming the fastest 3-year-old pacer in history when he stopped the Red Mile timer in $1.46\,1/5$.

"I'm not going to tell you it wasn't disappointing to lose Confederate, but Adam [Bowden – owner Diamond Creek Racing] has taken care of me pretty good on that horse, so I really can't complain. It makes losing the horse a lot easier. Don't get me wrong, it is not the same as having him," said Brown. "I still root for the horse every week. We still like the horse. He's a hell of a horse.

"Confederate was the best horse last year and I was sure coming out this year he would be the best horse. I can't say that though because the pressure isn't on me anymore. I would only be putting pressure on Brett and I didn't want to do that," continued the affable Brown. "Confederate came to us late as a yearling and we took our time and brought him along slowly. It worked out great. You just hope during yearling time people remember that you were the one training originally and not just who is winning all the races now."

The aforementioned Seven Colors was in Brown's barn for his entire 2-year-old campaign and up through the Cane Pace on August 5 at The Meadowlands when the colt finished second behind Confederate. At that point he was sold and has gone on to win the Milstein Memorial at Northfield Park and Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final at Harrah's Philadelphia. It was another blow for Brown but one he agreed made sense for the owners.

"I got some money when they sold him," said Brown. "I wasn't against selling him but I knew I was giving away my last chance of competing in the major races like the Jug and the Breeders Crown. But the money was really good at the time and I sure couldn't tell the owners not to sell. It was a good business move at the time."

While new trainer Andrew Harris was quick to praise Brown for his work with Seven Colors after the Milstein, at one point

> social media was abuzz when Brown's name wasn't brought up after Confederate won an early stakes race. The social angst was something the trainer said he addressed at the time on a Facebook post to clear

> > the air that he wasn't offended and that the connections treated him very well. Now months later,

he simply said "It's time to let that go".

It is certainly easier to turn the page when vou come to the barn every morning and see Geocentric in the stall. The Pennsylvania and Kentucky Sire Stakes champion rookie filly has never lost in seven career starts under the tutelage of Brown, who has nearly 1,900 career training victories (as of 1991 when USTA records begin) in his 40 years in the sport. Geocentric is expected to start during the first week of October at The Red Mile before taking Brown to the Breeders Crown at Harrah's

October. Perhaps that will be the key for him to pick up another Crown win as his last came in 2017

Hoosier Park on the final two weekends in

over that same surface with then 3-year-old pacing filly Blazin

Britches.

Brown, whose other Breeders Crown win came in the Mare Pace Crown final with Color's A Virgin in 2015, has seen his share of bad luck in the Crown races, with a number of second-place finishes over the last eight years. Most recently, Confederate found himself in an impossible spot and charged home to just miss last year. Gulf Shores fell a neck shy in 2021, also in the 2-year-old colt pace. Downbytheseaside was second twice, as a 2- and 3-year-old in the colt pace finals in 2016 and 2017.

"I never really thought about it," said Brown about the poor fortune before diving into his memory banks. "Confederate should've won last year. He just got into a bad spot. Downbytheseaside was coming back at the end of his 3-year-old race but just ran out of time. Color's A Virgin [fourth in the 3-year-old filly pace in 2014] was by far the best filly but a horse got parked on the outside and jammed the flow up while she was third-over. She paced home in $25\,4/5$ to be fourth. It's all water under the bridge now."

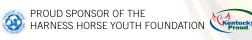
With the major yearling sales in Lexington and Harrisburg fast approaching, it may be worthwhile to give 2017 Trainer of the Year Brown a call. If history is an indicator, he may just be training another standout 2-year-old in 2024 that he developed and there is no time like the present to jump on the bandwagon.



Brittany Farms yearlings sell in Lexington Oct. 2-6

Brittany Farms, a sponsor of Saturday's Mohawk Million, is harness racing's leading breeder in percentage of million dollar-winning racehorses from foals bred, with 45 to its credit. More are likely to come from the farm's Lexington consignment. Watch Britflix yearling videos now on our website.





Mohawk Million brings together intriguing group on Saturday



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman 📵 Bergmanlay

Saturday night will mark the fourth year of the Mohawk Million that will come two days following the first \$1 million Little Brown Jug. In a sport that has struggled to reach seven figure purses over the years, it's great to see tradition rewarded in the case of the ageless Jug and attempt to be continued in the Mohawk Million.

The Mohawk Million has been the sport's most intriguing event since its inception. The reason is obvious. It's a 2-year-old trotting event contested at a time in the year when most have shown ability in one form or another. However, unlike traditional stakes races that find horses nominated and then sustained before declaring into the race, the Million finds itself with placeholders working out behind the scenes deals in advance of the entry box closing and attempting to secure a field of 10. The result is not always as expected as often horses that one would never expect to see in a million-dollar race arrive with the opportunity of a lifetime.

Trainer Nancy Takter clearly has the best 2-year-old trotter in North America with the unbeaten and now Kentucky champion Karl. A few weeks back when asked about shipping the Tactical Landing-sired colt in for the Mohawk Million she suggested it wasn't on her radar. To me that seemed odd given Karl's enormous talent and the opportunity to race for the large purse. Takter revealed that the ownership of Karl did not own a place in the Mohawk Million and thus a deal would need to be worked out to "share" in the purse should Karl compete under another owner's sponsorship. It's a deal the owners of Karl elected not to make. At the time prior to the Kentucky final Takter said, "He's got some big purses to race for down her in Kentucky and the Breeders Crown." Clearly in those events the owners are in line for 100 percent of the return.

Regardless of deal making, the close scheduling of the Kentucky championship with the Mohawk Million adds another wrinkle to the equation, though it didn't stop the connections of Show Me (Andy/Julie Miller) from shipping north following Monday's (September 18) victory in the Commonwealth final.

While some owners weren't willing to deal to find a spot in the Mohawk Million, several were, and for now that is something that will keep this race alive. Without solid sponsorship there wouldn't be a Mohawk Million in the first place and the sport needs to stand behind those willing to fund this race. If Karl is the perceived best freshman in training, it would be unfair not to suggest that T C I is far more accomplished at this point if far less flashy. A winner in the first-ever Peter Haughton Memorial contested at Hoosier Park (thankfully a tradition upheld following the Meadowlands dropping the race) last Friday (September 15), T C I, a son of Cantab Hall that would see his earnings go over a \$1 million with a win on Saturday night, is the only horse to "earn" his spot in the final based on a victory in the Wellwood Memorial on August 26.

For T C I the victories this year have come with extensive travel, as trainer Ron Burke has put the colt in position to prosper and there has not been a single disappointment to date. The nine rivals he'll face on Saturday night lack his experience, even if some at one point will reach his talent level. Burke has been vocal publicly about his wish for driver David Miller to race T C I from off the pace but given Miller's ability to get T C I to the front without overworking him, the best result has been wins on the front end with a horse that has yet to struggle in the stretch.

That was the case the other night in the Haughton Memorial as Miller looked for the first time to be following Burke's advice and taking T C I off



CURTIS SALONICK

Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion T C I leads all 2-year-olds in earnings and is the horse to beat in Saturday's Mohawk Million.

the leaders before the first turn. The plan changed quickly when Miller saw what was in front of him and was not keen on giving up the advantage he was sitting behind.

Not all the Mohawk Million contenders needed to buy into the race as some owners secured spots and found horses within their own ranks to qualify for coveted positions. Serge Godin's Determination had two spots before the draw and found two solid representatives from trainer Luc Blais' well-bred and funded collection. The most interesting of the pair is the filly Drawn Impression, a daughter of Muscle Hill and first foal from the \$1.7 million-winning Emoticon Hanover. Undefeated in three career starts including the August 26 Peaceful Way, Drawn Impression has never had to travel away from home to race. That she went a fifth of a second faster than T C I had to go on the same night at Woodbine Mohawk Park when he was capturing the Wellwood is a fact, but hardly a means of comparing the two to date. His activity is matched by her inactivity as T C I followed up his Wellwood score with a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship and the Haughton. Drawn Impression was withdrawn from last week's (September 14) Champlain due to sickness.

Drawn Impression won't be the only filly in the race, with the Tactical Landing filly Allegiant making the ship from Kentucky northward following a disappointing effort in the Championship on September 17. Previously Allegiant had used dual-eligibility to her advantage, racing in New Jersey as well. She enters the Mohawk Million as the fastest horse in the race by way of her 1:52 2/5 effort at The Red Mile on September 5. How she'll handle the long ship and racing back in six days remains to be seen, but there is indeed a bright spot here with Scott Zeron in the bike looking for his third \$1 million race of the year after capturing the North America Cup and Hambletonian.

The Little Brown Jug, with current funding strong in Ohio, is likely to be able to command a seven-figure purse in years to come and be a natural draw for top pacers, with nominations likely to rise as well as the ability for supplements. How the Mohawk Million will proceed or whether it becomes part of harness racing tradition remains to be seen, but here's hoping it becomes a mainstay on the stakes landscape.



ROAD TO THE MOHAWK MILLION

The Mohawk Million for 2-year-old trotters is scheduled for September 23 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 is the field for the Mohawk Million with commentary of each horse by DRF Harness Editor Derick Giwner.



1-TACTICAL STRIKE (5-1-0-2, 1:57) - 20/1

Driver: Gino Toscani — Trainer: Desiree Jones
Owner: Gino Toscani — Breeder: Andrea Lea Racing Stables & Asa Farm

Giwner: Filly has the slowest lifetime mark in the field at 1:57 but did show something last weekend when third in the Champlain with owner Gino Toscani in the bike. Of course that field was much weaker than the foes she faces here and this daughter of Tactical landing will need a great trip and a lifetime best to hit the exotics.

Giwner: Stablemate of #1 also comes out of the Champlain and got a third. This guy has some early speed in his arsenal and was second in the Wellwood elims. That said, the Walner colt simply hasn't shown the mile speed of some of the others in here and like his

Giwner: Filly owns multiple wins that are as fast or faster than any of her competition tonight, including a 1:52 2/5 score that ranks her as the fastest in the field on paper. Those

accomplishments are certainly something for her to hang her hat on. Hard to say what happened in the in Sunday's \$400,00 KYSS final at The Red Mile when she came up empty

uncoupled parter will need a lifetime best to get a small piece.

late, but there is no denying she can win this race.

2-TOP MAST (8-3-2-2, 1:56 4/5) - 15/1

Driver: Travis Cullen — Trainer: Desiree Jones
Owner: Gino Toscani — Breeders: Steve Stewart, Martti Ala-seppala

3-AUTCHANT (2-5-1-0, 1452 2/65) - 10/1

Driver: Scott Zeron — Trainer: Vernon Beachy
Owner: Ryan Smith — Breeders: Atlantic Trot Inc., Steve Stewart

4-GRIFF (4-2-0-0, 1:54 4/5) - 15/1

Driver: James MacDonald — Trainer: Murray Brethour Owner: Jeffrey & Lori Thomson (Breeders), Murray Brethour & Kyle Northover

5-DRAWN IMPRESSION (3-3-0-0, 1:54) - 2/1

Driver: Louis Roy – Trainer: Luc Blais Owner/Breeder: Determination

6-TENNESSEE TOM (8-5-1-1, 1:55 1/5) = 10/1

Driver: Chris Page — Trainer: Ron Burke — Breeder: Albert Miller
Owners: Burke Racing Stbs, Weaver Bruscemi, Hatfield Stbs & Knox Services

7-SHOW ME (6-11-21-8), 11-513 4//51) - 20//1

Driver: Andy Miller — Trainer: Julie Miller — Breeders: Marvin Katz & Al Libfeld Owners: Andy Miller Stable, Daniel & Jean-Chrisophe Plouffe, One Legend Stable Giwner: Displayed a powerful late kick in an Ontario Gold race two starts back versus lesser and was supposed to show whether he belonged in this company last week when he broke in the Champlain at 5-1. It is anyone's guess whether the son of Muscle Mass is good enough to win but one strike against him is a closing style that will force him to pass way too many horses.

Giwner: Muscle Hill filly is undefeated in three starts including an impressive Peaceful Way victory by nearly five lengths last time out. She was scratched-sick out of the Champlain and that brings with it some questions. There is clearly lots of ability here, though it is worth noting she's been raced exclusively from off the pace and more aggressive tactics may be needed here.

Giwner: Gelding brushed and crushed in the Ohio Championship on September 9 and looked impressive doing it. What's really interesting is that the exact ownership group already had a ticket with #8 and still made a deal to get this guy in the race. Plus Chris Page is taking the trip up to Canada to drive. If you can get a double-digit price here he may be worth a long look.

Giwner: He's been kept "hidden" in the Commonwealth series at The Red Mile and finally broke through with his first win in the final. Chapter Seven colt was certainly solid in that win but faces a bigger test here. At least he seems versatile enough to race from on or off the pace and has connections that already own a win in the race.

8-T CI (9-8-1-0, 1:54 1/5) - 9/5

Driver: David Miller – Trainer: Ron Burke – Breeder: Concord Stud Farm Owners: Burke Racing Stbs, Hatfield Stbs, Knox Services, Weaver Bruscemi

9-SECURITY PROTECTED (6-3-2-1, 1:55 4/5) - 5/1

Driver: Tim Tetrick — Trainer: Marcus Melander
Owners: Howard Taylor, Brad Grant, Order By Stable (Breeder)

Driver: Bob McClure — Trainer: Luc Blais
Owner: Determination — Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms

Giwner: Cantab Hall colt owns wins in the Peter Haughton, William Wellwood final and PA Sire Stakes Championship. That's some resume already in 2023. He's clearly the one to beat on paper and already owns a win over the track. The question here is whether he has separated himself enough from the competition to accept around even money. I'll probably lean against him on the win end and roll the dice.

Giwner: That he finished second behind T C I in the PASS final and closed well for third behind that foe in the Haughton one week later certainly shows he belongs in this race. The son of Father Patrick has the tall task of trying to work out a trip from an outside post with two horses that are likely to leave strong off the gate right to his inside.

Giwner: Post aside, because we all know winning from the outside isn't easy, doesn't this gal look like she can be any kind of horse on paper? Every start from this Greenshoe daughter has been super and she's dropped time (including four seconds most recently) in each race. I'd consider her for the bottom of my exotics.



GIMPANZEE

DON'T MISS **21 YEARLINGS** BY THE **3-TIME BREEDERS CROWN WINNER** AT THE **LEXINGTON SALE OCT. 2-6**, INCL:

HIP 48 - 0/0 WORLD CHAMPION MISSION BRIEF (1:50.2, \$1,599,587), FROM THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF THE HOT, YOUNG SIRE TACTICAL LANDING.

HIP 118 - SECOND FOAL O/O O'BRIEN AWARD WINNER EVIDENT BEAUTY (1:52.2, \$805,301).

HIP 286- FIRST FOAL O/O HANNAH, FROM THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF YOU ATO DREAM (1:52.2, \$593,852) AND ZWEIG MEMORIAL WINNER ARI FERRARI J (1:51, \$488,311)



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Sugar Instead and Gillespie have defied the odds in 2023



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

Everyone loves a good Cinderella story, regardless of the sport. Whether it's a kid from a Junior College making it in the pros or a product that seems to come out of nowhere from a low-budget, poorly capitalized entrepreneur. But no Cinderella story is as good as when it involves a racehorse defying probability.

It happens more than you think – witness Minnesota 2-year-old filly trotting champion Baby Flash, a \$5,000 yearling purchase who is 13-of-15 on the year with over \$92,000 in the bank, or colt champ, the undefeated \$5,500 yearling DP Freedoms Chrome (Foryoualmost-free-Wannabee Loved), who has earned \$78,500. He is 10-for-10!

But as much as I like the program, Minnesota is a minor market and we just don't see that kind of thing happen in

states with big Sires Stakes programs like Pennsylvania or Kentucky or Ohio. Except when we do. Last year at Ohio's top sale, the Ohio Select (or Jug) sale, a filly by first-crop sire Volstead brought a record \$170,000 bid. Volana (originally Idas First Dance) is the first foal from a full sister to 2017 Ohio 3-year-old Trotting Filly of the Year Rose Run Sydney 4,1:54 1/5 (\$597,703).

Little known to any of those buyers, the best Volstead had already been sold at public auction and it was not a yearling sale. It was a mixed sale. Sugar Instead (Volstead – Sugar Pop – Windsong's Legacy) was purchased for Susan Sickle by journeyman trainer/driver and Mississippi native-Ronnie Gillespie for just \$11,000 at the Blooded Horse Sales Company's August offering.

In her most recent effort, on Jugette Day at Delaware Ohio, she turned in a dominating performance. Driver Ronnie Gillespie tipped Sugar Instead off the rail at the three-quarter pole in 1:26 1/5 and cruised home in 29 4/5 to score the 6 1/4 length win in 1:56. My Rory (Tony Hall) was second and Westfiftyfive (Dexter Dunn) was third.

The win was her seventh in nine freshman starts and pushed her earnings to \$363,925. But how did the \$11,000 purchase get to this point?

"The filly trained down really well and qualified in 1:57 in her second attempt. She kind of shocked me," said Gillespie. "I knew she could go under 2:00 [in the qualifier], maybe 1:59. She was just so relaxed. I was surprised when I saw the timer. I just never asked her for the last quarter."

The filly trained down well enough to earn a spot in the early-season Next Generation at Scioto Downs, where she was favored. But a first-over move fell short as she was defeated by another Volstead daughter, Jurassic Hattie. But by then the filly had been sold to Joyce McClelland and Larry Willis, two patrons of trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr, who paid \$150,000 for her after a 1:57 qualifying win. Knowing a good thing when he sees it, he kept Gillespie, who has toiled primarily on the Ohio fair circuit, as her pilot. Toiled may not be the right word. Last year, he dominated the fair circuit, with over 100 wins.

The pairing between Sugar Instead and Gillespie has been sweet indeed. She has helped the 51-year-old set a career high in earnings for his drives at \$776,739, 20% of his career total. For the uninitiated, Gillespie has over 900 career driving wins and nearly 350 as a trainer. He's also hitting at over a 20% win rate in both categories for his 25-plus year career.

Getting back to Sugar Instead, the bay trotter would go on to win the first three legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes in her next three starts before tasting defeat for the last time (so far) in the \$54,500 Ohio State Fair Stakes. She was unable to get by I Am Independent, after that Triumphant Caviar filly got an early lead and was able to control the fractions. Sugar Again rebounded to win the final two legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes, leading into the Ohio Super Night.



CONRAD PHOTO

Sugar Instead has won seven of nine starts and \$363,925 during her career, all with Ronnie Gillespie in the bike.

In her \$300,000 Sires Final, Gillespie and Sugar Instead left no doubt, powering to the front and cutting fractions of 26 3/5, 55 4/5 and 1:23 4/5 en route to the career-best 1:55 win. Eleven days later she won the Ohio Breeders Championship, as we mentioned above. She has earned \$182,800 in September alone and she may not be done. Although trainer Virgil Morgan could not be reached for confirmation, Gillespie said there is serious consideration being given to sending her to Lexington, if they can find a spot for her. She is also Breeders Crown eligible.

"She was that good early that we figured we would take that chance," said Gillespie about the Breeders Crown.

So why did the outstanding filly only bring \$11,000? First off, she was not sold at either of Ohio's two major yearling sales, so many top buyers were not there. Gillespie was looking for a filly who could make some money on the fair circuit, without overpaying.

Then there is her dam Sugar Pop. Sugar Instead was just her second foal, but her first (which did not make it to the races) was born in 2016. Her second dam Chips Ahoy, a daughter of Pine Chip, had six foals who earned a total of \$22,988. It is not a pedigree that inspires confidence.

"She was the cheapest horse we bought, but she was a really good-looking filly. She was just so calm and good-natured. We looked to buy a couple more Volsteads but they went out of our price range," Gillespie explained.

For the \$170,000 Volstead filly Volana, the glass slipper didn't fit. She has earned \$640 this year. For Sugar Instead, the glass slipper fit and the clock is showing no signs of striking midnight. It's the kind of story every yearling buyer hopes for.

That's it for this month. Now go cash, hopefully on a Volstead colt or filly.

Standardbred Horse Sale live pedigrees available; Videos, Black Book coming soon!

Standardbred Horse Sales Company is happy to announce that the live pedigrees are now available on the website at www.theblackbook.com. Yearling videos are being added as they are received, please keep checking back to view your selected favorites.

We are anxiously waiting for the arrival of Black Book #1 at our office, they will be mailed on Monday 9/25/23.

We are accepting entries for the Harrisburg Mixed Sale thru October 6th, 2023!!! -release (Standardbred Horse Sales Company)

FIND YOUR DIAMOND

AT THE LEXINGTON SELECTED SALE

OCTOBER 2ND - 6TH

HIP 105 GIMPANZEE COLT

FIRST FOAL FROM COVER GIRL (1:52.1, \$87,982),
FROM FAMILY OF **TO DREAM ON** (1:52.1, \$975,395), **DAN PATCH 2YO FILLY OF THE YEAR.**

HIP 938 DOWNBYTHESEASIDE COLT

O/O WESTERN DRAG, FULL BROTHER TO **GULF SHORES** (1:50.3, \$653,270). OHIO SIRE STAKES FINAL CHAMPION.



DIAMOND CREEK A CUT ABOVE

A CUT ABOVE shaun@diamondcreekfarm.com

BARN 7

Newsroom brings his show on the road to Hoosier Friday

By Jay Bergman

Hall of Fame trainer Joe Holloway will be sending out a pair of freshman pacers in separate events on Friday's mega stakes-packed card at Harrah's Hoosier Park. It's somewhat fitting that one of the rich events on the program is named for one of Holloway's greats Jenna's Beach Boy.

For Holloway, the timing seems apt considering his undefeated juvenile pacing colt named Newsroom, the likely favorite in the \$110,000 The Elevation, could be headed towards the same lofty heights.

"I think he has a chance to be very special," said Holloway. "Perhaps become the best horse I've ever trained."

Though Newsroom has only had five starts and will be making his first trip outside of New Jersey for Friday's contest, Holloway believes he's already seen enough of the character of this son of Always B Miki to trust in his future.

"I thought he was a bit different training down but wanted to see what David [Miller] thought to find out if it was just me," said Holloway. "When David drove him, he agreed."

Miller has sat behind Newsroom in all five wins, with the colt's last score a 1:49 4/5 effort, a convincing tally on September 8 in the \$150,000 New Jersey Classic.

"He's lazy colt," said Holloway. "The week before in the elimination he was going pretty slow on the front and a horse came at him pretty quickly in the stretch."

Newsroom was shaken up a bit by Miller in that race and fought bravely to win his elimination by just a neck.

A week later in the final Miller let the colt know he meant business and Newsroom won by close to six lengths over a good field.

Originally the trip to Hoosier Park for Friday's contest was not on Holloway's radar, but a break in the scheduling led to the decision to send him to The Elevation.

"If we didn't ship out for the race it would have been three weeks and I probably would have had to qualify him again," said Holloway, who clearly would like to use the Hoosier Park stake as a stepping stone to the major fall races.

"After this we'll go to Lexington for a couple of weeks and then on to the Breeders Crown," said Holloway. "If all goes well, we'll decide later about the Governor's Cup or not."

On Friday Newsroom landed post two in the fifth race on the program and will face a field largely comprised of Indiana-breds, including three from the Ron Burke stable. Noblesville (post 1) and Martz Telly (post 3) have been solid in Indiana Sire Stakes this season, with the latter entering Friday's contest with six wins in his seven career starts. Burke's third entrant is Lou Vuitton (post 4).

It's taken some time for Holloway to get to see Blue Pacific on the racetrack, but the Sweet Lou-sired lass has certainly been worth the wait.

"She got sore with bucked shins. It's a bit of a thoroughbred injury but it took her a long time to get sound," said Holloway.

After debuting with some solid qualifiers in June at Gaitway Farms, Blue Pacific returned to action at The Meadowlands in September and was an impressive 1:50 3/5 maiden-breaking winner in the \$150,000 New Jersey Classic for freshmen pacing fillies on September 8 over the East Rutherford mile oval.

Blue Pacific will get tested on a grander scale in the \$200,000 Kentuckiana Stallion Management (race 9), with a field of 10 juvenile fillies going postward. Blue Pacific landed the pole position with Miller again in the bike and will meet a solid group that's been racing in Sire Stakes competition throughout the land.

Lyons Legend (post 6) was undefeated until facing Geocentric (the Pennsylvania and Kentucky champion) on September 2 at Pocono Downs. A daughter of Stay Hungry, Lyons Legend has won six of her seven career starts and sports a 1:50 2/5 career-best taken at Harrah's Philadelphia. Ron Burke has four in the field including New York Sire Stakes and Pennsylvania Sire Stakes finalists Lou Lou (post 2), Camerican (post 4) and Canigetalouploup (post 5).

The \$210,000 Caesars Trotting Classic and the \$175,000 Hoosier Pacing Derby are the featured events on the Hoosier Park Friday program and will bolster the latter part of the 15-race card. The Caesars goes as race 13 and trainer Marcus Melander is hopeful that Venerate will be able to recapture some of his old glory on the anniversary of his triumph in the 2020 Mohawk Million.



LICA PLICTO

Newsroom (above) and Allywag Hanover (below) are two pacers looking to make some noise on a Harrah's Hoosier Park Friday card with over \$1.5 million in purse money



"I'm happy with the way he's coming into the race," said Melander. "He drew post 10 for the International [September 9] and things just didn't work out there. I really don't know why he made the break in the Maple Leaf but he's fine now."

Venerate (post 4) has a first and two second-place finishes in his other three starts this year and the son of Love You found an inside draw against nemesis It's Academic (post 7) in the Trotting Classic. A winner in 1:50 1/5 in the Cutler Memorial earlier this year at The Meadowlands, Venerate was second behind It's Academic in both the Crawford Farms and Cashman at The Meadowlands.

It's Academic has won seven of his 12 starts this year for trainer Ron Burke and looks for another major stakes victory on Friday. It's Academic had to settle for a fourth-place finish trying to come from off the pace in the International Trot but unable to sustain his bid through a solid final half put up by race-winner Vivid Wise As.

Trainer Brett Pelling is hopeful that Friday will afford Allywag Hanover a chance to shine in the \$175,000 Hoosier Park Pacing Derby. Second to Bythemissal in the Aria Pace at Yonkers on International Day, Allywag Hanover drew post four with his rival landing post nine in Friday's 12th race at Hoosier Park.

"He kept getting backed into last time," said Pelling of the dawdling fractions set by Bythemissal in the one and one-quarter mile Aria Pace. In the Canadian Pacing Derby final Allywag Hanover tracked Bythemissal in the pocket and then struggled to find room throughout the stretch in a race captured late by Tattoo Artist.

A field of 10 comprise the Hoosier Pacing Derby, with Dan Patch champion Ponda Warrior (post 1) getting the opportunity to take on two major players that did not participate in that \$310,000 contest on August 11 over this surface.

Post time for the Hoosier card on Friday, which features a \$20,000 Guaranteed Pick 4 in race 12 and a \$25,000 Superfecta in the Caesars Trotting Classic among other guarantees, is 6:15 PM (EDT).

RACE OF THE WIEEK

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CAESARS TROTTING CLASSIC NIGHT

HARRAH'S HOOSIER PARK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 POST TIME - 6:15 PM (EDT)

- **OFFICE PPS**
- **⊘** 5% Rebate
- **OVICE** Live Video & Analysis
- ✓ Stakes-filled card

Jugette Day Stakes Recaps

All recaps by Greg Reinhart

MORGAN JR. TRAINEES STRIKE TWICE IN OHIO BREEDERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. captured two of the three Ohio Breeders Championship (OBC) contests on Wednesday afternoon at the Delaware County Fair, winning with 2-year-old filly trotter Sugar Instead and 7-year-old trotting mare Refined.

Sugar Instead (Ronnie Gillespie), the Ohio Sires Stakes champion, got away in third from post seven in the first of two \$65,600 OBC flights for rookie trotting fillies and watched Possibility (Todd McCarthy) cut a 27 3/5 quarter and a 563/5 half. Gillespie then attacked first-over with Sugar Instead on the third turn, and she would move up to and then by Possibility just past the 1:26 1/5 three-quarters. Sugar Instead widened for an easy victory after that, defeating My Rory (Tony Hall) by 61/4 lengths in 1:56, with Westfiftyfive (Dexter Dunn) up for third.

A daughter of Volstead bred by Elmer Miller, Sugar Instead is owned by Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills. She has pocketed \$363,925 to go with her seven triumphs and two runner-up finishes in nine outings and paid \$3.00 to win as the 1-2 favorite.

In the lone \$34,400 OBC for older trotters, Refined (Tyler Smith) was in command through fractions of 26, 57 and 1:25 1/5 and held off pocket-sitter Caviar Gold (Aaron Merriman) to tally by a neck in 1:54 1/5. Rose Run Valor (Kayne Kauffman) checked in third.

McClelland and Wills also own Refined, an Uncle Peter mare. This was her 36th career victory, she has now earned \$963,933 and she returned \$2.60 to win as the 1-5 favorite.

Roxanna (Aaron Merriman) took the other \$65,600 OBC for 2-year-old filly trotters in 1:57 after she led to the quarter in 29 1/5, the half in 58 4/5 and the three-quarters in 1:27 2/5. Chulia (Smith) angled three-wide out of third on the final bend and closed well to get second and She's Spicy (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) turned a pocket trip into a third-place result.

Trainer Chris Beaver also co-owns Roxanna, a What The Hill filly, with breeder Sandra Burnett. Roxanna has a summary of 4-1-2 from eight efforts, has earned \$200,500 and paid \$4.60 to win as the favorite.

HELPOFTHESEASON BAGS BUCKETTE TITLE



CONRAD PHOTO

Helpoftheseason gave driver Peter Wrenn back-to-back wins in the Buckette.

Helpoftheseason was a 1:54 2/5 winner of the \$88,000 Buckette for 3-year-old filly trotters on Wednesday afternoon at the Delaware County Fair, giving driver Peter Wrenn and trainer Melanie Wrenn back-to-back victories in the event after taking it last year with Bluebird Dove.

Royal Filly (Yannick Gingras) led through fractions of 27 2/5, 56 2/5 and 1:24 1/5 with Helpoftheseason in the pocket. Bella Macchiato (Dexter Dunn), the co-favorite with Royal Filly at 9-5, tipped out first-over from fourth on the second turn but stalled out in third and then broke before three-quarters, leaving Royal Filly and Helpoftheseason well ahead of the others.



CONRAD PHOTO

Roger Huston (left) interviews Jugette-winning trainer Linda Toscasno (right) as she is presented by Michelle Crawford.

Wrenn brought Helpoftheseason to the outside on the final bend to go after Royal Filly, but then Royal Filly went off-stride as well, putting Helpoftheseason on the point. From there she never had an anxious moment, sailing to a 2 1/2 length trimph over Pride N Joy (Todd McCarthy), who overcame being on the outside for the first three-quarters of the mile to get runner-up honors. Stella Rose (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) crossed the wire third but was placed sixth from causing interference to Maiden Voyage (Tony Hall), promoting Bravo Angel S (Andy McCarthy) from fourth to the show spot.

"I am so excited I can't stand it. When the draw came out and we had the six in a ten-horse field, I'm like 'oh my God, we're screwed,' and then Peter landed so well, I'm like 'we do have a chance,'" said Melanie Wrenn. "It was crazy (with Bella Macchiato and Royal Filly making breaks). The same thing happened at The Red Mile yesterday. It's like the seas are parting. I kind of hope it keeps happening."

Bred by Ben Wittmer Jr. and owned by John Schmucker, Wrenn Racing LLC. and Running Wild Stables, the victorious daughter of Helpisontheway has a record of 9-3-2 from 17 outings, has banked \$311,345 and paid \$11.00 to win as the 9-2 third choice.

2YO FILLIES TUSSLE IN STANDARDBRED SPLITS

Grand Circuit action on Wednesday's program at the Delaware County Fairgrounds began with a pair of \$40,000 Standardbred divisions for 2-year-old fillies of both sexes.

In the race for the trotters, Heavenly Heart (Dexter Dunn) put up opening-half fractions of 30 and 1:00 4/5, but Brett Miller brought Cantab's Joy out of the pocket on the third turn and took over the lead before the 1:30 4/5 three-quarters. It was all Cantab's Joy from there as she kept clear to defeat Fiya (Tyler Smith) by 2 1/2 lengths in 2:00 1/5, and Heavenly Heart wound up third.

A daughter of Cantab Hall bred by Mahantongo Farms, Cantab's Joy is trained by Todd Luther for owner Greg Luther Racing LLC. This was her third win in nine career starts, she has now earned \$46,992 and she paid \$3.20 to win as the 3-5 favorite.

A Few Choice Words (Yannick Gingras) posted fractions of 28, 57 2/5 and 1:25 1/5 on her way to a 1:54 3/5 victory in the test for pacers. Track'n Field (Chris Page) was second after a pocket trip, 2 1/2 lengths behind A Few Choice Words, and Fresh Legs (Tim Tetrick) collected third.

From the first crop of Courtly Choice, a Few Choice Words was bred by Knot Xzachallie Stable and was sent out by Blake MacIntosh for owner Clancy Farms. A Few Choice Words has a summary of 4-2-0 from nine lifetime tries, has pocketed \$75,222 and returned \$3.40 to win as the 3-5 choice.





Join us for a special cocktail reception to launch the 2023 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 3, 2023 Noon - 1:00 pm



THANK YOU - The Indiana Standardbred Association would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following, for donating stallion breedings to be auctioned off in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio this fall. 100% of all proceeds will be donated to the four deserving charities participating in the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge.

LEXINGTON: Selling October 3rd at 1pm, prior to session two of the sale.

WALNER (Walner Syndicate)

BULLDOG HANOVER (Seelster Farms)

TRIXTON (Deo Volente Farms)

TALL DARK STRANGER (Hanover Shoe Farms)

SWEET LOU (Diamond Creek Farm)

CAPTAIN CRUNCH (Diamond Creek Farm)

BETTORS DELIGHT (Blue Chip Farm)

Thank you to everyone that supported the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge through the stallion auction that took place at the OHIO SELECTED JUG SALE in September!

Over \$1.2 million raised to date for local charities!

INDIANA: Selling October 20th at 10am, prior to the HOOSIER CLASSIC SALE.

SWAN FOR ALL (Kentuckiana Farms)

HELPISONTHEWAY (Jon Weisman)

ROCKIN IMAGE (Victory Hill Farm)

REBUFF (Victory Hill Farm)

TEMPORAL HANOVER (Ola Yoder)



By Derick Giwner

Harrah's Hoosier Park will offer a 15-race card on Friday (Sept. 22) with NINE stakes races with over \$1.5 million in purses on the line. Along with the stakes come some guaranteed wagers and below we'll look at the \$20,000 promised Pick 4.

RACE 12: \$175K HOOSIER PACING DERBY

(9) BYTHEMISSAL is the best older pacer in training right now. Some may be turned off by the outside post but that could work to his advantage with him likely being the last one to the lead. The only thing I fear is him getting stretched too far on his way to the top and another horse like (1) PONDA WARRIOR nailing him in the long stretch. That Indiana-bred scored the upset in the Dan Patch over this track and simply got caught behind slow paces two and three starts back. He should have every chance tonight at a fair price. Not on my ticket but certainly capable is (4) ALLYWAG HANOVER, who was second behind the top pick last time and third two starts back.

RACE 13: S210K CAESARS TROTTING CLASSIC

(4) VENERATE had absolutely no shot from the second tier when making his first career start on a half-mile track while facing a better overall field in the Yonkers International Trot. This is a great spot for driver Brian Sears to push away and get into position. I'll single him but there are other options... (7) IT'S ACADEMIC made a bold wide move in the International Trot and faded in the stretch. He's back at a mile here and perhaps a more "normal" style of racing. (3) PRETENDER has some ability if he behaves. He did win over the track last week, which is a plus. (8) RATTLE MY CAGE has been racing well and is a must use in the \$25,000 Guaranteed Superfecta.

RACE 14: \$22.5K DEROSA MEMORIAL

(6) DIXIE DREAM is probably the most consistent filly in this wide-open group. She has the ability to get early position and finish it off with the 1:51 mile likely needed to win here. (10) JKS LUCKY LOU, (9) SLEAZY MAMA & (2) LAYALLYOURLOVEONME have been racing in similar company to the top pick and all are getting interesting driver changes to Grand Circuit guys. (4) WALKIN ON SUNSHINE is the fastest horse in the field on paper but she's also had trouble closing out her miles. Filly could be overlooked in the wagering despite good form.

RACE 15: \$20K WILCOX MEMORIAL

(6) RJ ROCKS doesn't find much early speed to his inside or outside and might be able to get the front without too much trouble. He hasn't been a win machine but certainly seems to have found a good spot. (3) ISITLIKEITLOOKS was short three starts back after missing some time and then wound up chasing some quick paces in his last two. He's another horse that could be in the right spot at the right time. (5) ART IT IS drops out of the Hoosier Cup and certainly fits with this group.

.50 Ticket: 1,9 / 4 / 2,4,6,9,10 / 3,5,6 = \$15

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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

RACE 10

(2) CHRISTCHURCH took a month off and now lands in an ideal spot where he finally gets away from some of the divisional leaders and can exert his will.





RACE 5

(4) UNDRTHSOUTHRNSUN N moved to the Alexander barn for his last start at Pocono and he was second best in a sub-1:50 mile. Gelding competed in every leg of the Borgata series earlier this year and did not disgrace himself. Short price looming but he should jog.

-Matt Rose



RACE 1

(4) SMASHIN RACQUETS couldn't be any sharper for this semi-final and she should repeat at a very short price to kick off the Pick 5.



-Garnet Barnsdale

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

RACE **12**

(4) AMERICAN HISTORY had no shot starting from the 12-hole behind a horse that doesn't leave quickly last time. Getting no money from that start allows him to drop here and he will likely get sent on an all-out speed mission.

-Barnsdale



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

<u>Thursday</u>

Friday Saturday

Yonkers Analysis

Thursday

Friday Saturday

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

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INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNESS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

SCIOTO'S 2023 MEET CONCLUDES

The 2023 racing season concluded at Eldorado Scioto Downs on Saturday (September 16).

Chase H Hanover and Tony Hall took the last Open Pace of the year in 1:48 2/5. The 5-year-old gelding by Captaintreacherous was fresh off a fourth-place finish in the Jim Ewart Memorial Pace last weekend during Ohio Super Night.

READ MORE

WINBAK FARM'S LEXINGTON SALE VIDEOS NOW POSTED

Winbak Farm is proud to offer a consignment of 83 yearlings at the Lexington Sale, which will be held October 2nd-6th at Fasig-Tipton. The Winbak Farm lineup includes Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Pennsylvania sired yearlings.

Winbak Farm's Lexington yearling videos are now posted. Please visit www.winbakfarm.com and click on an individual yearling's hip number to watch their video.

Winbak Farm's 2023 Lexington Lineup

Indiana Pacer: Odds On Equuleus: 1 Filly

New Jersey Pacers: Cattlewash: 2 Colts / 2 Fillies (First Crop!)

New Jersey Trotters: Muscle Hill: 1 Filly; Six Pack: 1 Filly

New York Pacers: American Ideal: 5 Colts / 4 Fillies; Courtly Choice: 4 Colts / 2 Fillies; Huntsville: 1 Colt; Roll With Joe: 2 Colts / 1 Filly

New York Trotters: Chapter Seven: 1 Colt / 2 Fillies

Ohio Pacers: Downbytheseaside: 1 Filly; Fear The Dragon: 1 Colt / 1 Filly Ontario Pacers: Bettor's Delight: 5 Colts / 2 Fillies; Jimmy Freight: 1 Colt; McWicked: 4 Colts / 5 Fillies; Shadow Play: 2 Colts / 1 Filly; Sportswriter: 3 Fillies

Ontario Trotters: Archangel: 2 Fillies; Green Manalishi S: 1 Filly (First Crop!); Muscle Mass: 1 Colt / 1 Filly; My MVP: 1 Filly; The Bank: 1 Colt / 2 Fillies; Trixton: 1 Colt (First Ontario Crop!)

Pennsylvania Pacers: Betting Line: 1 Colt; Bettor's Wish: 1 Filly (First Pennsylvania Crop!); Captaintreacherous: 1 Colt; Papi Rob Hanover: 2 Fillies (First Crop!); Sweet Lou: 2 Colts / 1 Filly

Pennsylvania Trotters: Bar Hopping: 1 Colt / 1 Filly; Cantab Hall: 4 Colts / 1 Filly; International Moni: 2 Colts / 1 Filly

Highlights of the consignment include:

 $\#123,\, Happy$ Jack B, a Chapter Seven half-brother to Barn Hall, 1:53 2/5h -'23 (\$281,408)

#196, Smooth Dream, a half-brother to 2021 O'Brien Horse of the Year, Desperate Man, p, 3, 1:49 3/5s (\$913,414). Smooth Dream is from Cattlewash's first crop

#295, One Sweet Chance, a Sweet Lou half-sister to Somebeach Baron, p, 1:49f (\$365,645). Dam is Chancey Lady, p, 1:48 4/5f (\$2,072,384)

#476, Teller's Choice, a The Bank half-sister to 2023 ONSS Gold Winner, Tuscan Prince, 3, 1:52 3/5s -'23; BT1:51 4/5-'23 (\$214,956), and 2023 NYSS Final Winner, Senorita Palema, 2, 1:56 4/5h -'23 (\$177,900)

#713, Missi Is Zippy, an Archangel full-sister to Dream Nation, 1:52 3/5s (\$481.005)

The yearlings are available for viewing at Winbak Farm of Maryland, please contact James Ladwig, Winbak Farm Yearling Manager, at 410.885.3059 or by email at james.ladwig@winbakfarm.com to schedule an appointment. The yearlings will be available for viewing starting September 30th at Fasig-Tipton.

For more information about the Lexington Sale, visit lexingtonselected.com. Be sure to register early for online bidding.

Winbak London videos also posted

Winbak Farm is proud to offer a consignment of 51 yearlings at the London Classic Yearling Sale which will be held October 17th & October 18th at the Western District Agriplex in London.

Winbak Farm's 2023 London Classic Lineup Archangel – 3 Colts / 2 Fillies Betterthancheddar – 3 Colts / 4 Fillies Jimmy Freight – 5 Fillies McWicked – 3 Colts / 7 Fillies My MVP – 2 Fillies Shadow Play – 2 Colts / 6 Fillies Sportswriter – 1 Colt Stag Party – 2 Fillies The Bank – 2 Colts / 6 Fillies

Trixton – 3 Colts (First Ontario Crop!)

Highlights include:

#18, Forbidden One, a My MVP half-sister to 2023 Champlain Stakes Winner, Valuable Miss, 2, 1:55 2/5s -'23 (\$97,067). She is also a half-sister to Aussie Lover, 1:54 4/5f -'23 (\$228,115)

#36, Wicked Jenny, a McWicked half-sister to 2023 PASS Winner, Aint-bluenomore, p, 2, 1:51f-'23 (\$62,635)

#70, Ten Barrel, a Trixton first foal from the family of O'Brien Award Winner, Its Made To Order, 2, 1:58 1/5f (\$314,218). This is Trixton's first Ontario Crop.

#163, Special Scent, an Archangel half-sister to Some Kinda Chapter, 3, 1:524/5 (\$129,360)

#304, Julieann Kapelle, a Betterthancheddar full-sister to Lovely Donna, p, 1:49 3/5 (\$232,927), & half-sister to Family Roll Call, p, 1:52 1/5f (\$195,941)

The yearlings are available for viewing at Winbak Farm of Canada, please contact Pat Woods, Winbak Farm of Canada, at 905.838.2145 or by email at canada@winbakfarm.com to schedule an appointment.

Please RSVP for Winbak Farm of Canada's London Classic Open House and BBQ by September 25th. The event will be held on September 27th and will give potential buyers a chance to preview yearlings at the farm.

For additional sale details, please visit www.westernfairdistrict/lcys.

-edited release (Winbak Farm)

SHARTIN N'S FIRST FOAL READY TO SELL AT LEXINGTON

Shartin N had one of the most celebrated and accomplished careers in the sport of harness racing.

Now, her first foal, a striking, solid-bay filly, appears to be one of the most anticipated distaffs offered for auction when she steps into the Fasig-Tipton Pavilion ring on Monday evening, Oct. 2, the first day of the Lexington 2023 Selected Yearling Sale, as Hip No. 61. The sale begins at 7 pm that evening.

To see Shartin N's yearling video, click here.

"I haven't seen the baby, but it's super intriguing for Shartin N to be coupled with Captaintreacherous," said trainer Tony Alagna. "I hear great things about her, and her video is quite impressive, and I'm excited to see her soon. With the international success that Captaintreacherous has been showing with his progeny racing Down Under, this will be a horse that fits the international as well as the domestic market."

The filly, a daughter by world champion Captaintreacherous p, 3, 1:47 1/5.1 (\$3,148,657), has been christened Caroline Kountry, and is both Pennsylvania and Kentucky eligible. She was foaled February 13, 2022, at Beth and Doug Yontz's Anvil and Lace Farm in Cynthiana, KY, where Shartin N resides during breeding and foaling season.

"Everything went very smoothly with Shartin's first foal," Beth acknowledged. "It's a great opportunity for us to have a mare like Shartin. She moves back and forth between Mr. Yoder's farm and ours, roughly on July 1st every year we do a flip-flop and horses go back and forth between his farm and ours, that way all his yearlings moving forward will be duel eligible."

Named 2019 Dan Patch Harness Horse of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA), Shartin N retired as the fastest pacing mare in history with a mark of 1:46 4/5 taken at age 6, winning 39 of 55 starts and \$2,555,629 in career earnings. Beth said Caroline Kountry is the splitting image of her infamous dam.

"She's done everything right and has been a true class act from day one," Beth offered. "She looks just like her mother. When you look at her, there's no denying who her mother is. She's very professional; she learns fast, and if I had a barn full of yearlings like her my life would be a lot easier.

"More than anything, I hope for Mr. Yoder that he has tremendous success," Beth added. "He runs a cabinetry business in Indiana, and understands what it takes to run a successful business. The best part of working with him is that he's a team player, and while he ultimately makes the decisions, he allows everyone to be part of the program. I take pride in the team we put together here in Kentucky, as well, when it comes to having a great operation for our mares and foals."

-edited release by Kimberly Rinker