

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

A CARRYOVER DILEMMA

*Is it better for carryovers
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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

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At times I find myself on the outside looking in when a carryover pool exists for no other reason than I had no idea it existed. These situations occur for two reasons: 1) the track does a poor job of getting the information out to the customer; 2) the carryover occurs intra-card and there simply isn't enough time to get the message out or handicap the wager.

Recently there was a Pick 5 carryover of over \$9,000 that I found out about well after the sequence had started. It really doesn't matter which track hosted the sequence and I'm not really interested in throwing people under the bus, but if handle is to matter there has to be a better effort made to inform the public.

In some instances the poor communication with the public likely comes down to having the wrong person controlling the message while in other cases perhaps that person is simply too swamped with tasks to do the job to its fullest. With social media, email and other options

available, certainly informing bettors should be an easy task.

As much as the industry shows difficulty at times getting its message to the bettors, there are many tracks that do a wonderful job. Scioto Downs and Hoosier Park in particular do an admirable job via X (Twitter) of alerting potential players when a carryover situation is in the offing. Considering that both tracks offer intra-card carryovers which could occur multiple times a night, someone needs to stay on top of things and they certainly do an admirable job.

For the uninitiated, an intra-card carryover occurs when there are no winning tickets in a race or sequence and that money is carried over to the next instance of the bet type regardless of when it occurs. So if there is a Pick 4 carryover after race 6 and the next Pick 4 starts in race 8, the money funnels directly into that wager rather than the following racing day. In theory this isn't a problem as much as a deterrent when it comes to having enough time to get the message out. If that same carryover money was moved to the next day's third race Pick 4, wouldn't there be a better opportunity to draw in new money?

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Both Scioto and Hoosier have chosen to have the intra-card carryovers rather than keeping the money until the following day and getting a full 24 hours to publicize it. According to Hoosier GM Rick Moore, there is some solid reasoning behind the decision.

"I think you can argue the case either way," said Moore. "I think it creates instant excitement for the latter part of the card and maybe gets people to stick around to look at races they may have ignored."

The Meadowlands is on the other side of the spectrum as every wager on its card carries to the following program if it goes unhit. This includes the Super Hi-5 as well as the Pick 5 and Pick 6 wagers. Track COO/GM Jason Settlemyer said the change was made to provide more time to promote each carryover, which makes sense from my perspective.

Gabe Prewitt, who handled the wagering at Pompano Park during its final years and is currently VP of Racing and Sports Wagering at The Red Mile sees both sides of the issue.

"I think there is a good argument for either side but I personally prefer the intra-card," said Prewitt, who admitted to keeping the Scioto signal on in the background just in case an opportunity pops up. "I think it gives people a reason to tune in and rewards those playing that night who created the carryover as opposed to the free world becoming aware the next day."

For tracks that prefer the intra-card method, there are some simple steps that can be taken to increase the power of each carryover. First, don't card the same multi-race wager in back to back races. Most tracks do a reasonably good job here, though Scioto runs Pick 4s in races three, eight and 13, so that only leaves one race between sequences and maybe 30 minutes to promote. On a 10-race card Woodbine Mohawk Park runs a Pick 5 in race one and six, so there is maybe 20 minutes to promote what can be a gigantic carryover of \$50K or more. That isn't ideal but also can't be helped if they want two Pick 5s on the same card. Which leads me to a second suggestion...

What if tracks texted interested customers when a carryover occurs? Using X to get to your customers is fine but not as effective as sending a text. I see every text almost immediately but tweets require me to be on the app and you have to hope that the algorithm shows it to you in a timely manner.

Most tracks already send texts to horsepeople and interested parties to alert of condition sheets, weather issues, or the need for more horses to enter. Why can't tracks set up a mass text for bettors? Some tracks likely already have a database of players. Just ask them if they want to opt in

and make it someone's task to send a text when there is a worthwhile opportunity.

After all, I can't bet into a carryover pool if I don't know it exists.

Getting the best of the best in stakes

There was some chatter on X the other day about the fact that Oakwood Ardan did not make it into the Dave Brower Memorial on Saturday night at The Meadowlands. The conditions of the race allow for the 11 highest earners from 2023-24 to get into the field. As Oakwood Ardan only had a couple of starts in North America last year and only a few older stakes races have been contested thus far, the 5-year-old was on the outside looking in when the race was drawn.

Trainer Nancy Takter chimed in that allowing for entry based on each horse's earnings in their last five starts would produce a better field full of sharper horses. In the case of the Brower, that would've excluded the winless-in-2024 Charlie May and I Did It Myway while presumably adding Oakwood Ardan and the unraced-in-2024 Stonebridge Helios to the mix.

Whether that produces a better field is up for argument. Probably yes would be my answer.

Clay Horner added that it should be based on stakes earnings and that money made in overnight races shouldn't be a factor because you can't compare the quality of competition between the two. My issue here is that it eliminates a late-blooming horse from contention and the idea is to get the best field possible, no?

I'd like to incorporate a hybrid approach. First preference goes to the top eight earners from the current and previous year and then we take the next two (or three in this case) top earners in their last five starts. This ensures that horses are awarded entry by performing well in stakes but also provides opportunity for a "now" horse to get into the race. How would that have altered the field for this year? Well, Oakwood Ardan still would've missed the cut, though maybe he would've been raced more aggressively in the Mohawk Gold Cup if entry into the next stakes race was on the line.

Maybe races like the Brower should simply have a "wildcard" entrant picked by the track. They would have the option of adding an eligible horse to the field as the 11th entrant. If that happened this year it would've kicked Christchurch to the curb, maybe for Oakwood Ardan or Stonebridge Helios or who knows.

Ironically after writing this column Stonebridge Helios made it into the race because Linedrive Hanover scratched. Too bad because Linedrive Hanover is coming off a very nice win.

No system is perfect but it is an interesting debate on how to get the best field possible for our best races.



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Hart aims for first MGM Yonkers Trot with Sir Pinocchio



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

Trainer Ed Hart has been active in the sport for more than 50 years and Friday will likely be his first chance at capturing the coveted first leg in the Triple Crown of Trotting with Sir Pinocchio in Friday's MGM Yonkers Trot. The veteran conditioner has what some may call a boutique operation with just nine horses under his and his wife's care, but Hart and company do all the work by themselves in seeing the horses made ready to race.

"We've cut down a lot," said Hart. "It's really hard to get help these days so it just works out better with my wife and one other person working with the horses."

The closeness Hart keeps with his horses has allowed him to be personally on top of all the details, and so when horses like Sir Pinocchio show up at the track they are generally ready for battle. The sophomore son of Mets Hall started his season by capturing the Dexter Cup at Freehold, the first major half-mile test for top trotting sophomores, and now this Friday hopes to give Hart his first major trotting win over the Yonkers track.

"I won the Messenger with Roll With Joe in his last start," said Hart, recalling the swan song of the star sophomore pacer from 2011 at Yonkers Raceway.

Sir Pinocchio also gives longtime owners and small breeder Carolyn Atherton and her husband Irv their first chance at winning the Yonkers Trot, a heralded race contested just four miles from their residence. For

Carolyn Atherton it is perhaps even more special as Sir Pinocchio was bred by her from the Chapter Seven-sired dam Lady Cromwell, a full sister to Lord Cromwell, a trotter than earned \$540K for the couple between 2016-21.

With three wins in six starts this year, Sir Pinocchio has advanced rapidly from a horse at age 2 that had high unrealized expectations to now a consistent Grand Circuit threat.

"He always showed a lot of talent," said Hart. "He would just do stupid things at times."

Those stupid things were of course breaks in stride and in more than one occasion they turned victory into bitter defeats for Sir Pinocchio and his connections.

It was last September at Tioga in the Reynolds where Hart finally saw more than he could handle from Sir Pinocchio.

"He was going to win the Reynolds Stake and trot in 1:55 and he made a break for no reason," said Hart.

With that being his final start and the journey to a 3-year-old season underway, Hart made the decision to castrate Sir Pinocchio and has seen a major change.

"He's a more focused horse this year, definitely," said Hart of the dramatic turnaround.



USTA PHOTO

Ed Hart is closing in on 1,100 career training wins.

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VICKI WRIGHT/WORLD WIDE RACING PHOTOS

Sir Pinocchio has already won the Dexter Cup this year over the half-mile track at Freehold Raceway.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Last year Sir Pinocchio was competing on the “B” circuit in the New York Sire Stakes program now he’s on the “A” team, and even better racing with the best horses in North America, including seven others he’ll meet in Friday’s \$300,000 Yonkers Trot.

Sir Pinocchio did not race in the single \$25,000 elimination last Friday (June 21) and that suited Hart nicely.

“He came out of a tough race at Vernon [Empire Breeders Classic] and with the shipping and hot weather I was glad to give him the week off,” said Hart.

Sir Pinocchio was a solid second behind Situationship in that Vernon race and he’ll meet up again with the Ake Svanstedt trainee in the Yonkers Trot, though post positions will favor Hart’s charge with Sir Pinocchio landing post two and Situationship starting from post eight.

“I thought he raced well in the Empire Breeders,” said Hart. “He got used a bit hard in the early stages and was only beaten by a very good horse.”

With the race moving to the half-mile track, Hart is going back to a piece of equipment that has been a safety net for Sir Pinocchio but has paid dividends, that being trotting hoppers.

“He can get to running in or running out and you don’t want to make a mistake,” said Hart of his decision that has proven quite wise, with Dexter Cup and New York Sire Stakes wins over half-mile tracks. Sir Pinocchio won his first start of the year over this surface back on April 17 with regular pilot Jason Bartlett in the sulky.

“Jason’s done a great job with this horse,” said Hart, echoing the praise of many for the Yonkers leading driver who has proven himself time and again in major races.

The MGM Yonkers Trot saw two others take byes and skip the eliminations, with Security Protected (post 1) and the aforementioned Situationship taking advantage of the added rest. Bargain, for red-hot trainer Nancy Takter, did not take a pass and in the process showed his quickness and determination in capturing the \$25,000 contest in 1:54 3/5 for driver Yannick Gingras, who will guide him once again in the final. Bargain has done well over the Yonkers surface, winning his very first career start just over a year ago wire-to-wire for Gingras at odds of 24-1. The Chapter Seven-sired gelding drew post three for the

final and can utilize his early speed to advantage.

Trainer Marcus Melander has had success in the past in the Yonkers Trot with victories in 2022 with the filly Joviality S and in 2019 with Gimpanzee. Unlike that pair, Security Protected does not enter the Yonkers Trot with New York Sire Stakes experience over half-mile tracks and instead makes his first start over a four-turn oval in the Yonkers Trot. That said, Tim Tetrick will be in the bike behind the son of Father Patrick that has been perfect in three starts this year, capturing two Pennsylvania Sire Stakes races in the process. Security Protected has raced with the best in North America, finishing third behind Karl in last year’s Breeders Crown for freshman male trotters.

Ake Svanstedt has a pair in the Yonkers Trot with Flying Kronos S (post 5) joining Situationship behind the starting gate. The Swedish-bred son of Face Time Bourbon earned a spot in the final with a fourth-place finish in last week’s trials.

Svanstedt has sent out three Yonkers Trot winners including last year’s champion Up Your Deo, who he drove to victory.

Duke Of Walner (post 4), I’m Out and Fly By (post 7) complete the field of eight.

Hart sounded optimistic of his chances but recognizes that this is perhaps the best field Sir Pinocchio has faced in his career.

“I think the best trip for him is chasing down horses, that’s what he likes to do,” said Hart, who expects his horse to be close to the pace but likely not on the front end.

The Yonkers Trot is scheduled as race eight on a stakes-laden 12-race card that gets underway at 7:00 PM (EDT) and also includes the \$225,000 MGM Grand Messenger. Both races are part of a \$75,000 guaranteed Pick 5 wager that will be boosted by \$20,000 in seed money from the SOA of NY.

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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [X AtTheTrack7](#)

Drawing comparisons between the Hambletonian and Kentucky Derby trails

The 2024 edition of the Hambletonian marks the 99th renewal of the American Trotting Classic and perhaps this year's edition shares more similarities with its thoroughbred counterpart – the Kentucky Derby – than ever before.

This year's Hambletonian will feature the defending 2-year-old champion and superstar Karl.

The event will also include a newcomer – Highland Kismet – who attracts more attention every time he races,

Of course the race will carry the question: Is this the year Yannick Gingras gets his Hambletonian as he drives the prohibitive favorite Karl?

Those three focal points are very similar to storylines we see every year leading into the Kentucky Derby. Can the superstar cement his legacy? Can the horse who has appeared seemingly from nowhere, without racing as a 2-year-old, really be this good, this fast? Can the jockey who has yet to cross the finish line first, finally get the roses?

In the Derby, there is seemingly a version of Karl, or somewhat close to it, just about every year. Sometimes, the horse wins, like a Street Sense, Big Brown, Barbaro, American Pharoah, etc. Sometimes, the horse does not win, like Arazi, Holy Bull, Unbridled's Song, Bellamy Road or most recently, Fierceness.

There have been versions of Highland Kismet, recently more-so than ever. Again, some win, like Justify or Mage, others, like Curlin, have not.

Of course, there have been stories of a jockey looking for that elusive Kentucky Derby. Riders like Mike Smith and Javier Castellano chased it seemingly forever, similar to Gingras' pursuit of Hambletonian.

Highland Kismet is an interesting storyline, because the horse has emerged out of nowhere to become the "new kid on the block" for this year's Hambletonian. The son of Father Patrick did not qualify until April 26 and just six weeks later he would be the winner of the Goodtimes and on the Road to the Hambletonian. His clocking of 1:51 3/5 in the Goodtimes matched the stakes record held by Trixton, who would go on to win the Hambletonian in 2014. Highland Kismet may have one more start in Canada before the Stanley Dancer Memorial at The Meadows, which could mark his first showdown with Karl, or they could land in separate divisions with an ultimate clash in the Hambletonian on the horizon.

Winning the Hambletonian having made his first pari-mutuel start in May of his 3-year-old season makes for a daunting task for Highland Kismet. The last trotter to win the Hambletonian without having raced at 2 was Tagliabue in 1995.

In 2018, Justify broke the "Apollo Curse," becoming the first horse to win the Kentucky Derby without racing as a 2-year-old since 1882. While there is no "Tagliabue Curse" and it is only 29 years, not 136 years, Highland Kismet would still need to be a generational talent to pull off this Hambletonian win, especially considering there is a monster waiting in the wings named Karl, who has won 12 of 13 lifetime starts and nearly \$1.2 million.

Karl is driven by Yannick Gingras, who has been one of the sport's leading drivers for the past two decades but has not won the Hambletonian. It is the one missing headline from his stellar career. Gingras' chase of the Hambletonian reminds me of Mike Smith's chase of a Kentucky Derby.

Smith rode some of the leading 3-year-olds several times in the Derby. In 1993, Smith rode Prairie Bayou, who was favored in the Derby and would mark the first of three times Smith would ride the Derby runner-up. He would finish second in 2002 with Proud Citizen and again in 2004 with Lion Heart. He rode favorites Holy Bull and Unbridled's Song in the Kentucky Derby, who were viewed as superstars leading up to the Derby, and although Holy Bull validated that title as his career moved forward, he and Unbridled's Song both faltered in the stretch of the Derby.

Gingras' first Hambletonian drive came in 2006, where he piloted longshot Ira K in his elimination but failed to qualify for the Final. Gingras' first time driving in the Hambletonian Final was in 2010 where he guided

longshot Hard Livin to a seventh-place finish in the event.

In 2011, Gingras had a couple of cracks at the Final, finishing third in an elimination with Fawkes and fifth with Whiskey Tax. He opted to drive Fawkes in the Final, but his trotter went off-stride at the three quarter pole while Whiskey Tax rode a perfect two-hole trip to a runner-up performance.

The following year, Gingras had what appeared to be his first real chance at a Hambletonian with the very quick Little Brown Fox. But that colt made a break while racing three wide to the opening quarter in his elimination and failed to make the final.

In 2013, Gingras drove a pair of trotters in the eliminations for Jimmy Takter. Both made the final but were 30-1 longshots. Gingras opted to drive High Bridge who finished seventh.

The next year, 2014, was supposed to be the year for Yannick Gingras. He was the driver of the powerhouse trotter Father Patrick, trained by Jimmy Takter. But trouble began at the post-position draw earlier in the week when Father Patrick drew post 10 in an 11-horse Hambletonian Final. When trying to leave aggressively from the gate, Father Patrick made a shocking miscue, going off-stride. Then Gingras had to watch Takter's other two trotters finish 1-2, with Takter himself driving the winner, Trixton.

If 2014 was tough for Gingras, 2015 was just cruel. Gingras drove the best colt Pinkman and the best filly Mission Brief. Both horses won their elimination. Gingras had a decision to make and opted to drive the brilliant filly Mission Brief. But she would never catch Pinkman, chasing him for much of the mile, and in the words of Red Pollard from the film Seabiscuit, "and this, the most unkindest cut of all," as Mission Brief finished second to Pinkman.

In 2016, Gingras had another major chance with the 2-year-old champion Southwind Frank. He finished second in his elimination as the 1-5 favorite and in the Final, Gingras found room up the pylons and for a moment it looked like it was going to happen, but Marion Marauder, who nailed 'Frank' on the wire in the elimination, did it again in the Final. Once again Gingras would finish second, beaten by a nose.

Gingras' trotters wouldn't threaten the next three years, but in 2020 Gingras had another major chance with Ready for Moni, who won his elimination as the 6/5 favorite. But again, it wasn't meant to be, as in an ironic twist of fate, Gingras was unable to catch the filly, Ramona Hill, finishing second for the third time in the Hambletonian Final.

Finally, last year Gingras appeared to have the "now horse" in Celebrity Bambino, who won his elimination impressively. But, despite leading much of the way as the 5/2 favorite, he faltered in the stretch to finish fourth.

Gingras' Hambletonian history and Mike Smith's Derby history have stark similarities. Smith eventually got his Derby. It looked, once again, like this was the year for Gingras with Karl and it still could very well be. He drives what is undeniably the horse to beat. But, six weeks out a new story is developing and a new threat has emerged. High drama awaits August 3rd at The Meadows.




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Burke well represented in weekend stakes at The Meadowlands

By Jay Bergman

Perennial leading trainer Ron Burke once again enters this weekend's stakes-filled action at The Meadowlands with a group of impressive older performers for Saturday's array of events and a large supply of freshmen for Friday's first leg of the Kindergarten series.

Saturday's action finds the return of the elite It's Academic to the racing wars in the \$131,250 Crawford Farms (race 10), making his 7-year-old debut following a string of three straight qualifying miles.

"I just couldn't get a race for him," said Burke bluntly of the three non-purse prep events that will hopefully have the winner of \$951K in 2023 prepared for another big season.

It's Academic (post 6) appeared ready for racing action following a June 1 1:51 4/5 second-place finish in a qualifier but with no races filling Burke waited three weeks and then qualified It's Academic once again at Gaitway Farm on June 20 with a solid if slower 1:54 3/5 effort.

On Saturday, It's Academic faces six rivals including stablemate Hillexotic (post 4) in the Crawford Farms.

"He's finally come around," said Burke of Hillexotic, a pacesetter sixth in the Cutler at the Meadowlands in May and more recently captured an Invitational at Yonkers on June 20 in 1:53 3/5 over the half-mile oval.

The Crawford also features last year's Breeders Crown champion Southwind Tyrion (post 3) and 2024 Maxie Lee winner Venerate (post 5).

Burke is really looking forward to the return of Spy Coast in a Reynolds Memorial division for sophomore trotting fillies. Last seen finishing fourth in the New Jersey Sire Stakes final on May 31, Spy Coast, a winner in her first three starts this year, looks to bounce back.

"We tested her blood after the Sire Stakes final and it was not perfect. She trained back super last Monday," said Burke of the Walner-sired filly who meets eight rivals in the \$25,667 event carded as race seven.

With the Hambletonian date coming closer into the picture, Burke appears pragmatic of the progress of last year's outstanding freshman T C I. The Cantab Hall-sired colt has captured both of his Pennsylvania Sire Stakes races this year over five-eighths mile tracks and won easily if not convincingly on both occasions.

"He's been good," said Burke. "He definitely likes the big track more and I think this race will be better for him."

A winner in 10 of his 12 races as a freshman, T C I (post 6) may start showing the speed needed to make him a contender on Hambletonian Day and Burke is wary of the schedule.

"We want to have him as perfect as possible for the Hambletonian," said Burke, not wanting to excessively tax his top sophomore in advance of the million dollar event on the first Saturday in August.

Saturday's \$34,750 Reynolds division (race 9) finds him missing rival Karl (race 6) but facing eight others including last year's New Jersey Classic winner Sig Sauer making his first start as a sophomore in the event. Sig Sauer landed post five.

Karl drew post six in his eight horse \$34,250 Reynolds division (race 6) for sophomore male trotters and appears a prohibitive choice looking for his fourth straight victory this year without defeat for trainer Nancy Takter.

The \$112,500 Six Pack for trotting mares kicks off the Saturday stakes program in the second race and Burke's M-M's Dream looks to rebound following her first loss of the year in the June 15 Armbrø Flight at Woodbine Mohawk Park where she finished second behind Call Me Goo.

"It's not like her to wait on other horses like she did in that race," said Burke of M-M's Dream being outkicked near the wire by Call Me Goo.

In Saturday's short field M-M's Dream will start from post five outside Call Me Goo (post 2) as well as the superstar of the division Jiggy Jog S (post 1).



(ABOVE) DERICK GIWNER / (BELOW) CURTIS SALONICK

It's Academic (above) looks to repeat in the Crawford Farms Trot while T C I (below) visits The Meadowlands for the first time in 2024 as trainer Ron Burke prepares him for the Hambletonian.



While recognizing the obstacles, Burke isn't worried about competing against the quality mares to M-M's Dream's inside.

"She's beaten Jiggy Jog S in the past," Burke said.

While it's quite early to stake claims about how good one's 2-year-olds are, Burke pointed to a few from his stable that are worth considering in Friday's Kindergarten.

"Hidalgo (race 2) has progressed nicely," Burke said. "Of course he cost \$600,000."

"Yannick (Gingras) really likes Shes A Streaker (post 9, race 4)," Burke said of the Huntsville-sired filly that cost \$80,000 at last year's Harrisburg auction. Shes A Streaker has won consecutive qualifiers at Gaitway Farms with the last a 1:54 3/5 effort on June 20.

"David's (Miller) very high on Railroad Station," Burke said of the Sweet Lou-sired colt purchased last fall in Lexington for \$110,000.

Railroad Station (post 9) faces eight others in Friday's sixth race Kindergarten division for 2-year-old pacing colts and geldings. Also a winner in a pair of qualifying miles at Gaitway, Railroad Station kicked home in 26 4/5, completing a 1:56 4/5 mile on June 20 in preparation for his career debut on Friday.

The Meadowlands cards this weekend commence at 6:20 PM (EDT) each night and offer 14 races.

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Tetrick has rail advantage in Yonkers Triple Crown races

By Ken Weingartner

Tim Tetrick will enter Friday's two Triple Crown events for 3-year-olds at MGM Yonkers Raceway driving horses starting as No. 1. He hopes to see that number again, connected to their finishing positions, when the races are completed.

Security Protected and Tetrick will leave from post No. 1 in the \$300,000 MGM Yonkers Trot, the first jewel in the Trotting Triple Crown. The Marcus Melander-trained colt, unbeaten in three starts this season, is the 3-2 morning-line favorite.

One race earlier, Armada Hanover and Tetrick will leave from post one in the \$225,000 MGM Grand Messenger Stakes, the first jewel in the Pacing Triple Crown. The Brett Pelling-trained gelding is the 4-1 third choice on the morning line.

Post one is statistically the most advantageous starting spot at Yonkers, producing winners at a 19-percent clip.

Security Protected was one of three horses to receive a bye to the Yonkers Trot final. He heads to the race with three victories on the Pennsylvania stakes circuit, including a 1:53 triumph at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs in his seasonal debut on May 19 with Tetrick in the sulky. The colt rallied from sixth place in the stretch with a 27 2/5 last quarter to win by a half-length. His time is tied for the season's second best for a 3-year-old male trotter on a five-eighths-mile track, trailing only T C I's 1:52 2/5 clocking.

"He flew through the stretch and came home strong," Tetrick said. "He raced really good. He's always been a pretty nice handy horse, and this year he's just more mature. He's a true professional. He gets the job done."

Security Protected has hit the board in 12 of 14 career races, winning seven and earning \$442,540. His four victories last year included a 1:52 4/5 triumph in a division of the International Stallion Stakes at The Red Mile, which was the third-fastest mile of the season by a 2-year-old male trotter, behind only millionaires Karl and T C I. He finished second behind T C I in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship and third behind Karl and T C I in the Breeders Crown final.

Karl and T C I are ranked 1-2, respectively, in Meadowlands announcer/analyst Ken Warkentin's Road to the Hambletonian. The \$1 million Hambletonian, which will be contested Aug. 3 at the Big M, is the second jewel in the Trotting Triple Crown. The Kentucky Futurity, held in October, completes the series.

"Those two are awful special," Tetrick said about Karl and T C I. "Hopefully, (Security Protected) keeps getting better and stronger and catches up to those guys."

Security Protected, a son of Father Patrick-Thatsnotmyname whose family includes 2010 Hambletonian champ Muscle Massive, will be making his first start on a half-mile track when he visits Yonkers for the Yonkers Trot.

"He should be fine," Tetrick said. "He's great gaited. He's handy, light on his feet; I see no problems with him handling that track."

Situationship and Sir Pinocchio, who were the other Yonkers Trot bye recipients, are the second and third choices on the morning line, at

3-1 and 4-1, respectively. Situationship, who is 2-for-2 this year and won a division of the Empire Breeders Championship on June 14, will leave from post eight with trainer Ake Svanstedt in the sulky. Dexter Cup winner Sir Pinocchio will leave from post two with Jason Bartlett driving for trainer Ed Hart.

Bargain, who won last week's lone elimination race in 1:54 3/5 for driver Yannick Gingras and trainer Nancy Takter, will leave Friday from post three and is 10-1. Svanstedt's second entry in the event, Flying Kronos S, will start from post five with driver Dexter Dunn and is 8-1. He finished fourth in the elim.

"There are no easy races," Tetrick said. "Any of them could jump up and be good."

The past five editions of the Yonkers Trot have been won by horses trained by either Svanstedt or Melander, with Svanstedt winning in 2018 with Six Pack, 2021 with Johan Palema, and 2023 with Up Your Deo.

Melander won in 2019 with Gimpanzee and 2022 with the filly Joviality S. There was no race in 2020.

In the Messenger Stakes, Tetrick will drive Armada Hanover, who finished second to Howlenth hills in one of the event's two eliminations last week. He was beaten by a head as Howlenth hills won for the sixth time in six starts this year.

The other elim was won by Janelle Granny, who was driven by Tetrick. Howlenth hills will leave from post four in the final with Matt Kakaley driving for Travis Alexander and is the 2-1 morning-line favorite.

Janelle Granny, who will have George Brennan driving for Scott DiDonemico, will leave from post six and is the 3-1 second choice.

"I've driven Armada off and on for the last two years for Brett," Tetrick said. "I like the horse. I think he's going to get better with age. I thought last week was a very good performance for him. He likes to chase and comes off a helmet really good. Hopefully, we can do good with him."

Armada Hanover, a son of Stay Hungry-Anderosa Hanover, is a three-quarter brother to Dan Patch Award-winner Allywag Hanover. He has hit the board in 12 of 15 career races, winning three and finishing second on eight occasions. This year, he has four seconds and a third in six starts. One of his runner-up finishes came behind 2023 Breeders Crown champ Gem Quality in a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes.

"He's been racing against a tough 3-year-old group," Tetrick said. "The Pennsylvania-bred sire stakes horses are a lot of times the best in the country. He's been chasing them, he just hasn't beat them yet. This is a good race for him. Hopefully, he can get his picture taken."

The Messenger is the first leg of the Pacing Triple Crown, followed by the Cane Pace in August and Little Brown Jug in September.

Friday's card at Yonkers also includes the \$90,000 Park MGM Filly Pace for sophomore female pacers and two \$55,000 divisions of the New York New York Mile for sophomore female trotters. Peace Talks is the 6-5 morning-line favorite in the Park MGM while She Shaq and Southwind Banshee, both at 8-5, and R Melina, at 3-5, get the nods in the New York New York splits.

Racing begins at 7 p.m. at Yonkers.



CURTIS SALONICK

Security Protected is perfect in three starts this year for Tim Tetrick and Marcus Melander.

Boston Rocks aims to make Meadowlands Pace case on Saturday

By Ken Weingartner

When 3-year-old male pacer Boston Rocks finished fourth in his career debut last season at Tioga Downs, trainer Mike Deters wasn't discouraged. He was impressed.

Boston Rocks got away near the rear of the eight-horse field and was 10-1/4 lengths behind the leader at the race's midpoint, but paced his second half in 55, came three-wide around the last turn, and was still gaining ground at the finish as he missed by two lengths.

"I said to myself, oh, he's good," Deters recalled. "It was a tremendous effort."

Boston Rocks has done nothing since that day to alter Deters' opinion. The homebred colt has hit the board in 16 of 18 career races, winning six and earning \$426,022 for owners Rick Berks and Peter Blood. He was a New York Sire Stakes champion at 2 and this season broke a track record that stood for 12 years at Buffalo Raceway when he won a NYSS division by seven lengths in 1:52 2/5 with a 27 last quarter.

"He's got a lot of talent," Deters said. "I wasn't around him early; Steve Elliott broke him and did a tremendous job. They said from day one this colt was all boy, that he was the king in the field. I'd say his best attributes are that he's got a great attitude, he's very handy, and he loves to race. He comes to play every time. You can't ask for more than that. He's a really cool little horse."

On Saturday, Boston Rocks will visit The Meadowlands for the first time when he faces six rivals in a \$31,500 Open for 3-year-olds. He is one of six Meadowlands Pace-eligible horses in the field, along with Captain Luke, Gem Quality, Mirage Hanover, Nuclear, and Remember The Alamo. Gem Quality won last year's Breeders Crown and Captain Luke captured the Governor's Cup. Remember The Alamo won the consolation division of the North America Cup on June 15 and Nuclear won his 2024 debut in 1:48 4/5 on June 14.

Eliminations for the Meadowlands Pace will be July 6. The final is July 13.

"If (Boston Rocks) performs the way we think he will, then we'll be in the following week," Deters said referring to the Meadowlands Pace. "That's why we're going there on Saturday. It's a trial run. There are some really nice horses in there. If he can show up, and shows that he belongs, that's what we're looking to see."

Last year on the Grand Circuit, the son of Boston Red Rocks-Scirocco Sarah finished second by a neck in divisions of the Bluegrass and International Stallion stakes (behind Better Is Nice and Newsroom, respectively) and was third in his elimination of the Breeders Crown. In the Crown final, he faced traffic trouble in the stretch and finished sixth.

"If there had been room, he's third at a minimum," Deters said. "He had tons of pace."

The Meadowlands Pace, if he is entered, would be Boston Rocks' first Grand Circuit appearance this season.

"I've never had one in the Pace," said Deters, who has won more than 1,600 races since the inception of official trainer stats in 1991. "I'd very much like to be there. But if we don't think he can be highly competitive, we will not be there. We're not interested in going to be a sideshow. If we



BARNSTORMER IMAGES

Boston Rocks set a track record at Buffalo Raceway this year.

can be competitive, we'll be there. I think we can be, but the proof will be in the pudding on Saturday."

Saturday's Big M card is loaded with stakes action: the \$152,190 Dave Brower Memorial Open Pace, \$131,250 Crawford Farms Open Trot, \$112,500 Six Pack for older female trotters, \$112,500 Perfect Sting for older female pacers, and five divisions of the W.N. Reynolds Memorial for 3-year-old male and female trotters.

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

VIVID WISE AS GETS 1ST INVITE TO YONKERS INTERNATIONAL TROT

There is just over two months before the \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot on September 7 at MGM Yonkers Raceway and the connections of 2023 winner Vivid Wise As have accepted an invitation for the 10-year-old to defend his title.

Somewhat lightly raced since his U.S. victory and unplaced in the Prix d'Amerique in January at Vincennes Racecourse, Vivid Wise As returned from a two-plus month break in action on June 23 over the same course and sat the pocket to be a very good third behind perhaps Europe's best horse – Elitloppet winner Horsa Dream – and Prix d'Amerique champion Idao De Tillard in the 200,000E Prix René Ballière.

A 2-3/4 lengths winner in 2:23 1/5 (1-1/4 miles) last year, Vivid Wise As won as the 5-2 favorite versus a strong international field over the Yonkers surface in 2023. The Alessandro Gocciadoro trainee, who has earned just shy of \$3.7 million in his career while winning 37 of 93 career races, is the first of 10 invitees expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

The MGM Yonkers International Trot will be the centerpiece of a spectacular afternoon card (12:15 PM EDT post time) on September 7 that also features a pair of \$250,000 Invitationals for older horses and the \$1.8 million finals of the New York Sire Stakes.

U.S. Trotting Association launches new HarnessRacing.com website

On Monday, the U.S. Trotting Association launched the new HarnessRacing.com website.

HarnessRacing.com was previously owned and operated by Horseman and Fair World magazine, which ceased operations in January 2021.

"HarnessRacing.com is a new, exciting and interactive website that aims to attract new fans and to further educate casual ones about harness racing. It also spotlights comprehensive information for all fans of the sport," said USTA Executive Vice President and CEO Mike Tanner in making the announcement.

"I'm grateful for the guidance and vision provided by the USTA Electronic Media Committee and the excellent job that John Adamsky did in designing the site," added Tanner.

The USTA's Electronic Media Committee is Chairperson Mark Loewe, directors Chris Antonacci, Chris McErlean, Jim Miller, Jason Settlement, Jim Simpson, Ashley Tetrack, and Gabe Wand as well as consultant Seth Rosenfeld.

"I would like to thank the members of the committee and the USTA staff for their time and effort in bringing this project to its completion," said Loewe. "I hope it brings harness racing to a new generation of fans and potential participants while continuing to serve our current members."

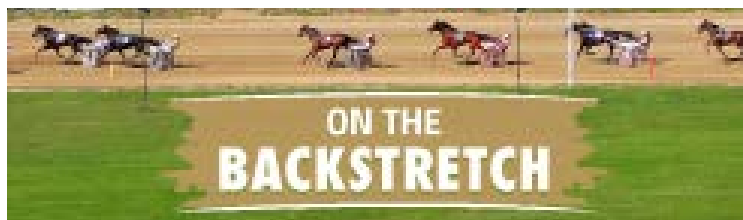
HarnessRacing.com features current news stories, social media posts and videos, allows fans to follow the stars of the sport on social media, and provides basic information on harness racing, Standardbreds and wagering, including how to read the program.

It lists a calendar of major races and how to find a local track; statistics of the top horses, drivers, trainers, and breeders; how to become involved as an owner; and information about Standardbred aftercare.

In addition, the HarnessRacingFanZone Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram social media platforms are being rebranded as HarnessRacing.com.

Visit www.HarnessRacing.com. Join the Experience.

-release (USTA Communications)



BY DERICK GIWNER

Jason Skinner has been training horses for over 20 years and is coming off the best season of his life in terms of stable earnings (\$731,839). The 40-year-old Maryland native who stables in Delaware owes that success in large part due to recent Armbro Flight winner Call Me Goo, who will start Saturday in the Six Pack at The Meadowslands.

Skinner is a third-generation horseman who worked hard to get his own farm and now trains a stable of about 25 horses. During some down time in the middle of the day he took the time to discuss his path in the sport as well as his current star trotting mare.

TRAINER JASON SKINNER

How did you get started in harness racing?

I'm basically third generation. My grandfather [Jimmy] had a bunch of horses and my dad [J Tim] always had three or four. I was jogging horses since I was 7 or 8 and was training by 10 or 11.

You've been a licensed trainer since you were 18. Was there ever a chance you wouldn't work in harness racing?

No, it's all I ever wanted to do.

Your barn is focused in Delaware mostly. What's it like to train and race there?

I think it is a great place to race. Both of the tracks are pretty much centrally located. I have a farm in Greenwood, Delaware and I'm about 10 minutes from Harrington and 30 minutes from Dover Downs, and I pretty much race all year round there, so it is pretty nice. The purses are also good.

So you have your own farm?

Yes, it is 33 acres with a half-mile track and four barns.

Was it a family farm or did you buy it as you had success?

My wife and I worked really hard and it took us a long time to get the farm. I always wanted one and an opportunity came up. The farm was rundown pretty good and we've done a lot of upgrades to get it to where it is today.

Over the last 20 years you've averaged just over \$440K in earnings per year which equates to \$22K in winning commissions. Is it hard to make a living as a Delaware trainer?

I don't know that it is hard. We own a lot of the horses, so that helps us. If you train for other people you probably have to do things different. We race a lot of young horses and buy a lot of colts every year while trying to do the Non-winner of 1, 2, 3 thing. If you are just training in Delaware to make a living you have to go with claimers because they go for a lot more money.

How many horses are in your barn?

About 25.

What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

Probably Rosecroft Raceway. I grew up there as a kid and sat by the fence before I could get into the paddock and watched every race. It just brings back childhood memories.

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

Spend time with my wife [Susan] and two boys.

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

I don't know, I'm pretty transparent. Probably that I get a little nervous when I'm racing [Call Me] 'Goo' or any good horse in a stake race. With overnight horses there is no pressure because there is always next week, so you don't worry as much.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Pure joy.

What is the best advice you've ever gotten or given about harness racing?

Mark Kesmodel once told me when I was young, 'Don't change anything. If it works for you, just keep doing it and stick to what you do.'



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Trainer Jason Skinner saw his barn reach new heights of \$731,839 in earnings during 2023.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

Winning the Legislator's Cup on Harrington Fair day with the mare I own BJ's Sweetheart [2015]. I purchased her for like nothing and she earned \$400,000 including a leg of the Ontario Sire Stakes. She's one of my all-time favorite horses.

Which is the best horse you've ever trained?

Call Me Goo.

Call Me Goo just won the Armbro Flight at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Was that a fluke or do you see her going with the Jiggy Jog's of the world?

Jiggy Jog is a whole different beast, but beating the mares in that race wasn't a fluke at all. I really believed if she got a trip she could beat them. Two weeks prior she was put in a spot where she had to go to the front and when you do that she just wants to go fast.

Call Me Goo has won 18 of 25 career races. Is it fair to say she is still improving at age 4?

Definitely. At ages 2 and 3 we babied her. Jonathan [Roberts] did a good job. We never pushed her. She raced with an ear hood and cotton in her ears. We always thought she had a lot of talent but I don't know if we thought she would win in 1:51. We knew she was special for a Maryland-bred.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 14](#)



Call Me Goo, with Tim Tetrick driving, won the Armbro Flight final at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 15.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13](#)

Are there any other horses from your barn we may see on the Grand Circuit in 2024?

Probably not. I have a [2-year-old] Sweet Lou colt who is ok. We are going to qualify him next Tuesday [July 2]. We put him in a couple of [stakes] races for his 3-year-old season [next year]. This year we're going to race him light.

Your wife Susan has been working on PA Harness Week. What's it like to have a TV personality in the family?

It's good. She really enjoys it. She likes getting dressed up and I think she likes being on TV. She gets up early Wednesday morning and does what she has to do so she can go shoot the show. Then she'll come back and do whatever she needs to do. She goes above and beyond, that's for sure.

So Susan works with you in the barn?

Yeah, every day.

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

I would like unified rules.

Can you foresee unified rules ever happening?

No. The states need the money and they like control. They will never give up control.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

I think it is pretty strong. My oldest son sleeps and breathes it. He can probably tell you more about the Grand Circuit than I can. He never misses a race, so for his sake I hope it is strong. In Delaware, Ohio and Indiana, I think they are locked in and should have great programs for years to come because they are pro-agriculture. A lot of other states worry me a little bit but I think those are solid. In Delaware I'm on the Board of Directors and I think our future looks bright.

Delaware was the first to get Racinos, no?

We were the first ones to start with casino legislation and we have a lot of things that others states don't have. We have to have racing to have a casino. We get a piece of table games, sports betting and now with online betting.

Do you ever worry about the day when state government will try to take away the casino purses from you?

You always have to worry about that. You have to make sure you speak your voice to the politicians and make sure they know that they need you. I think sometimes they forget how important this industry is to the community and how many jobs it produces.

You have a few minor smudges on your record in the last handful of years in terms of Class 4 violations. Is it just inevitable that trainers are going to get some positives?

When you have a lot of horses it is pretty much inevitable. It is hard to keep on top of everything and you are going to mess up at times and make mistakes. It isn't hard to think one is in on a Tuesday and it turns out they are in on a Monday. I respect Ronnie Burke a lot and he has had a couple of positives. Deep down I think he runs a clean program. A lot of his positives are cross contamination, and with testing nowadays that can happen pretty easily.

What does a day in the life of Jason Skinner look like?

I get up and go to the barn and work all day. If I'm not racing at night I'll cut the grass or clean something up. Pretty much the farm has consumed my whole life.

Time for the stretch drive...

Best Horse you ever saw: I think Wiggle It Jggleit's Little Brown Jug was the best one I've ever seen. He was one of the fastest and toughest horses. I told my son when we watched it, I don't think you realize what you just saw.

Lasix – Yes or No: Yes. If a horse needs it they should have it. I'm fortunate enough that 'Goo' doesn't need it. One day she might and I'm not against it.

Favorite TV Show: Yellowstone.

Trotters or Pacers: I would say pacers 90% of the time but lately I have a little bit of the trotting bug in me. We have a couple of Delaware-bred trotters that will go for \$110,000 in a few weeks. We have two in the finals, a filly and a colt. They both won a division of the Sire Stakes.

Once you get the gait solid on a trotter I think they are easy but sometimes it is tough getting to that point.

Supreme Court rejects appeal, upholds HISA's constitutionality

By Matt Hegarty

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear an appeal of a U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling upholding the constitutionality of the federal legislation that established the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority.

The decision by the Supreme Court was hailed by supporters of HISA, though the decision does not impact a court case still undecided in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. That court had ruled late in 2022 that the federal legislation violated certain doctrines associated with non-delegation clauses in the Constitution, setting up competing rulings.

The appeal of the Sixth Circuit decision that was denied by the Supreme Court was made by the states of Oklahoma, Louisiana, and West Virginia, along with their state racing commissions. Two of those states, Louisiana and West Virginia, are not currently under the jurisdiction of HISA due to a lower-court ruling that remains in effect due to the pending Fifth Circuit decision.

Charles Scheeler, the chairman of HISA, said in a statement released on Monday that the organization was "pleased" by the Supreme Court ruling. The statement also called on HISA's detractors to drop their pursuit of litigation in the Fifth Circuit and withdraw from support of ongoing litigation.

"It is long past time for opponents of HISA to drop their outstanding lawsuits," Scheeler said. "In light of this decision, continued litigation only serves to take time and valuable resources away from our core mission of improving the safety and integrity of Thoroughbred racing."

While the Sixth Circuit and its feeder courts have consistently ruled in favor of HISA, the Fifth Circuit, which is based in New Orleans, has taken a much dimmer view of the powers that Congress granted to HISA in the enabling legislation first passed at the end of 2020.

The Sixth Circuit initially ruled in 2022 that HISA was unconstitutional and remanded the case to a lower court to amend its earlier ruling upholding HISA's constitutionality based on its decision. But the lower court once again ruled in HISA's favor on remand, citing a late-2022 amendment to the federal legislation giving HISA's federal overseer, the Federal Trade Commission, broader rule-making authority.

That amendment was added to the legislation after the initial Fifth Circuit ruling. HISA's supporters have contended that the language explicitly addressed the shortcomings that the Fifth Circuit cited in its initial decision in 2022.


Eric Hamelback, the chief executive of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, which was a party to the suit that ended up in the Fifth Circuit, said on Monday that the court is expected to issue its amended ruling "any day." He also predicted that if the Fifth Circuit upholds the constitutionality of HISA, the National HBPA will appeal to the Supreme Court despite its decision on Monday.

"Our case and the Oklahoma cases did vary on the points of unconstitutionality that were being challenged, so there are some differences that could lead to different decisions on whether to take each case," Hamelback said.

Many horsemen's organizations have remained steadfast in their opposition to HISA since the legislation was passed with the support of a number of powerful constituencies in racing. HISA's safety and welfare rules went into effect in mid-2022, and the organization began enforcing a national medication and drug-testing program in the late spring of 2023.



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THURSDAY, JUNE 27

RACE 6

(3) CONVOY HALL is clearly fastest in here and I'm not worried about the break in his qualifier in which it shows he had broken equipment.

-Garnet Barnsdale



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

RACE 3

(5) MARYLAND has given every indication in the morning that he is the real deal, finishing with plenty of late trot in both miles, including an on the lead win. First foal from a \$528K-winning mare could be one to watch this year.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 10

(2) PEACE TALKS was the 2YO NYSS champ and she's come back strong this year. Chris Ryder trainee looks much the best.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, JUNE 29

RACE 4

(2) SUNKIST BEAUTY responded nicely when asked last time to win her second consecutive qualifier. I liked what I saw last year from this filly and she lucked-out to land in a division without Buy A Round.

-Giwner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis

[Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

[Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

[INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

SIX-FIGURE PURSES ON THE LINE IN WEDNESDAY'S NYSS TESTS AT BUFFALO

The front-end was the place to be on a rainy Wednesday afternoon (June 26) at Buffalo Raceway as a pair of big-purse New York Sire Stakes races were captured in wire-to-wire fashion.

Super Duper Cooper (\$4.00) was 'super' in taking the \$119,800 event for the 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters while Sister Mary Maude (\$4.20) cruised to the victory in the \$117,700 race for the 3-year-old trotting fillies.

With rain starting to fall just before the featured trotting races, the track was downgraded from fast to sloppy..

[READ MORE](#)

SBOANJ ANNOUNCES RESIDENT MARE REBATE FOR 2024 FOALS

The SBOANJ'S resident mare rebate is designated for mares who reside in New Jersey 150 days up to and including foaling.

Please register foals early and include USTA foal registration along with application and send to SBOANJ no later than Oct. 31, 2024. Foal registration must be included with application.

You must be a current SBOANJ member and have a 2024 W9 on file in order to receive your resident mare awards money.

For more information, please visit www.sboanj.com or call 732.462.2357. -release (SBOANJ)

ANDY MCCARTHY WINS SIX IN 2-YEAR-OLD RACES AT MAGICAL ACRES

Andy McCarthy sat behind six winners Wednesday as Magical Acres held 14 qualifiers for 2-year-old pacers and trotters.

McCarthy's victories included the day's fastest mile, a 1:56.3 score with Linda Toscano-trained female pacer Allegra Hanover. It was the filly's second winning qualifier this month, following a 1:58 1/5 triumph on June 18 at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Allegra Hanover, a daughter of Papi Rob Hanover-Arodasi, was purchased for \$90,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale and is owned by Jablonsky Held Stable, South Mountain Stables, JAF Racing, and Camelot Stable. She was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms.

McCarthy had two wins for both Tom Cancelliere and Noel Daley, plus one victory for Chuck Sylvester. Cancelliere, Daley, Sylvester, Nik Drennan, and Chris Ryder all finished the day with two wins.

[READ MORE](#)

ADMIRAL HILL LOWERS ALL-AGE TRACK RECORD IN KYSS AT OAK GROVE

After finishing third in the first Kentucky Sire Stakes (KYSS) final at Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel, Admiral Hill not only scored retribution when winning the \$150,000 series final for 4-year-old pacing horses and geldings on Tuesday afternoon but did so with the fastest mile ever recorded in the short history of the track - a 1:48 front-stepping effort.

[READ MORE](#)

AGENT OF FORTUNE REBOUNDS IN INDIANA SIRES STAKES

After tasting defeat for the first time in 2024 in her last outing, Agent Of Fortune avenged her loss with a victory in the lone \$95,000 division of Indiana Sires Stakes for 3-year-old trotting fillies at Harrah's Hoosier Park. The feature of the 13-race Tuesday (June 25) card was round three of eight for the group.

[READ MORE](#)

TETRICK AND DIDOMENICO CONTINUE TO ROLL IN PHILLY BABY RACES

Two-year-olds continued their education into the racing wars on Tuesday morning at Harrah's Philadelphia, with 10 events for babies held - four for pacing colts, and two for the other sections divided by sex and gait. Driver Tim Tetrick had a big hand in the proceedings as he won six times, two times with pacers of each sex and once in each of the other trotting divisions.

[READ MORE](#)

CALCULUS RISK, CHAPVIOUS SCORE IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES

Calculus Risk and Chapvious gave sire Devious Man a sweep in the \$74,500 New York Sire Stakes divisions for rookie trotting fillies that headlined Tuesday night's (June 25) program at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

[READ MORE](#)

CUMBERLAND OFFERS \$5,000 GTD PICK 4

First Tracks Cumberland will offer a \$5,000 Pick-4 guarantee on Friday (June 28) in races 9 through 12 fueled by a \$2,099 carryover from Saturday. The wager has an attractive 16% takeout on the 50-cent minimum bet.

-edited release (First Tracks Cumberland)

WINBAK BROODMARE SASS NEWTON PASSES AT AGE 30

Winbak Farm is sad to announce the passing of Sass Newton, p, 2, 2:03 4/5h; 3, 2:00 1/5f; 1:51s (\$607,466). She was a 30-year-old retired broodmare who resided at Winbak Farm of Maryland. Sass Newton was a 38x Winning daughter of Storm Compensation. She passed on June 11th, 2024.

"Sass Newton was a great race mare that also had an excellent broodmare career," said Joe Thomson, Winbak Farm Owner. "We purchased her in 2011, after she was already a proven producer, and she produced some very nice Winbak Farm-Bred performers, including Millionaire Newborn Sassy."

Sass Newton's offspring have earned \$2,563,530. Sass Newton was the dam of 10 winners including Adioo Volo Stakes Winner, Newborn Sassy, p, 2, 1:51 1/5f; 1:50 (\$1,097,155), James Lynch Memorial Winner, Ideal Newton, p, 2, Q2:02 1/5h; 3, 1:50 2/5f; 1:49 4/5f (\$629,731), Isaac Newton, p, 3, 1:53 2/5; 1:51 3/5f (\$367,090), and Smart Rokker, p, 3, 1:54 1/5h; 1:50 1/5f (\$300,666).

"Sass Newton produced 4 Winners of \$100,000," said Jack Burke, General Manager. "I am glad that her legacy continues with her daughters who have already produced several winners."

Sass Newton's daughter, Newborn Sassy, is the dam of Sir Issac Newton, p, 2, 1:52 4/5f; 3, 1:50 3/5f -23 (\$136,058), Ideal Newton is the dam of Closing Statement, p, 2, 1:50 4/5s; 1:49 1/5f (\$545,175), and Inverse Hanover, p, 3, 1:52 2/5; 1:49 2/5 (\$357,411). Sass Newton is also the granddam of So Diva, p, 2, 1:55 3/5s; 3, 1:52s; 1:51 3/5s (\$222,361), Indictable Hanover, p, 3, 1:49 4/5s (\$302,911), and Lady Newton, p, 2, 1:54f; 3, 1:51 2/5f; 1:50 4/5f (\$260,458).

-edited release (Winbak Farm)

OHHA FRESHMAN FOCUS TO FEATURE SCOTT AND ZACH MOGAN

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) will feature the 2-year-olds in training from the stables of Scott and Zach Mogan in this week's edition of Freshman Focus.

Freshman Focus with host Roger Huston will air Thursday evening on the OHHA Facebook page and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association YouTube channel. Air time is 7 PM.

-release (OHHA)

DISTAFFERS REUNITE AT RED SHORES CHARLOTTETOWN

The top pacing mares on the Eastern Seaboard of Canada will reignite their rivalry in the Thursday evening feature at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park.

The 13-dash card begins at 6 P.M. with last week's winner, Rosetown Mary, absent from the proceedings in the race 12 Fillies and Mares Preferred Pace for a \$3,700 purse. The runner-up that day was Pasta Momma, who gets the call as the morning-line favorite this week from post 5 for driver Marc Campbell, trainer Landon Campbell and owners Ryan and Everett MacLeod and Brady Doyle. Trainer Campbell also sends out Plain Jane from post 2 in line to Brady Sweet.

"Pasta Momma was sent to the point and raced great, just getting nipped in deep stretch," says the Post Time Picks handicapping column. "We're thinking Campbell will be pushing the pace again and if that's how it plays out, she could be smiling for the camera."

For the Race Day broadcast, race programs and more go to the new Player Portal at Redshores.ca.

-edited release (Red Shores)