

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

A WHOLE NEW WORLD?



Did Stanley Dancer upsets by horses like Sig Sauer change the Hambletonian landscape?

NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

DRF Bets Adios
PACE FOR THE ORCHIDS
2024

ADIOS PACE BANKROLL BUILDER

**BET \$50,
GET \$5**
on select stakes dates in
June & July at The Meadows

Find Out More

Sponsored by



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jay Bergman: Coleman's keen eye brought her Legendary Hanover, Nijinsky

Garnet Barnsdale: Road trip racing omens

Logan Park takes aim at It's Academic in Spirit of Massachusetts

MacDonald looks to Adios after Meadowlands Pace triumph

Opportunity knocks for Brett Beckwith in Gerrity at Saratoga

Best Bets & Analysis

Jay Randall wins 5,000th race; Parham buys Hoosier and Midwest Classic sales; Belmont and Hambletonian trophies on display

**Comments? Questions?
Email the Editor DGiwner@DRF.com**



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner
✉ @harnesseveguy

Less than a week ago the Hambletonian picture was clear. Karl was the presumptive champion waiting to be crowned and a few others were perhaps capable of an upset given the optimal set of circumstances. Then we watched a pair of Stanley Dancer Memorial races and everything changed . . . or did it?

Like David Copperfield performing illusions to amaze his audience, I will equally astound even the most devout harness racing followers without using slight-of-hand or trickery. Instead I will present undeniable facts as it relates to the Stanley Dancer – the presumptive stepping stone to the Hambletonian – and what it means as a determining factor for the winner of arguably the most important Standardbred race in North America.

The most compelling numbers are 14 and 2016. The first figure is the number of consecutive Dancer winners who did not go on to win the Hambletonian, either because they weren't eligible or because they failed. Meanwhile, 2016 points to the year of the last Dancer winner – Marion Marauder – that was able to capture the Hambletonian. Pinkman (2015) was the only other Dancer winner to win the trotting classic in the last decade.

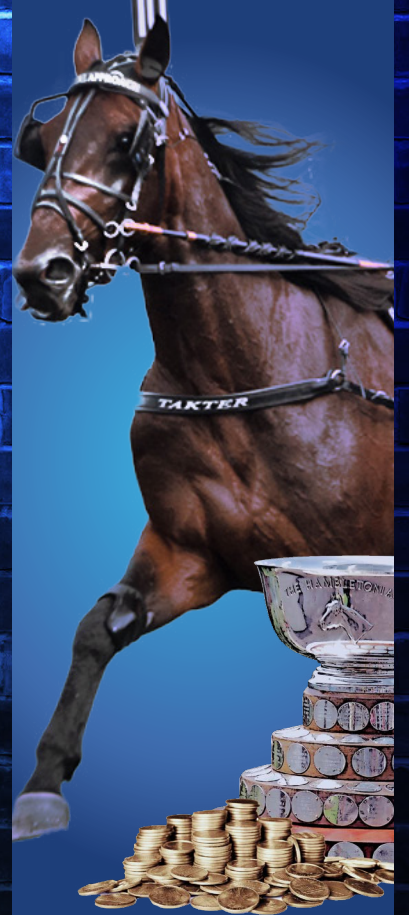
While the numbers themselves are striking, consider some of the horses who won the Dancer only to taste defeat on Hambletonian Day, or fail to even make the final: Father Patrick (2014); Southwind Frank (2016); Six Pack (2018); and Greenshoe (2019). The most recent Hambletonian winner Tactical Approach was third in the Dancer and 2021 winner Captain Corey finished second, so perhaps a good but not great showing in the Dancer allows for a peak effort in the Hambletonian.

“I don't think the other horse [Karl] was quite as good [as he has been] but we were a little better than I thought,”

—Sig Sauer's trainer Noel Daley

Looking to buck the trend in 2024 are Dancer winners Sig Sauer and Situationship. Both horses had credentials from 2023 but neither was sitting at the top of anyone's “Road to the Hambletonian” list. The stock of each vaulted upwards after Saturday's (7/13) wins, especially Sig Sauer.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



AUGUST 3

HARNESS RACING'S GREATEST DAY!

DOORS OPEN 10 A.M. | FIRST POST 12 NOON

\$5 Admission includes Commemorative Hat
SCAN QR TO PURCHASE



RACING

Over \$3 million in stakes including
the \$1 Million Hambletonian,
\$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks,
Sam McKee Memorial and more.

Tune into the live broadcast on Fox Sports 1-7pm



FESTIVITIES

Special Appearance by Emmy Award-Winning
TV Star **Carson Kressley** 3:30-6:30 pm

Plus Live music, carnival rides & games, pony
rides, food trucks, commemorative wine and
beer for sale and more.

\$1,000 Hambo Hat Contest

Sign up 10 am - 1 pm in the Lobby

1st Place \$500 / 2nd place \$250

3rd place \$100 / 4th place \$50

Fanciest \$100



PLAYMEADOWLANDS.COM

Driven by Andrew McCarthy, Sig Sauer sat fifth through a contested opening half of 55 2/5 in the Dancer as 1-9 favorite Karl had to work hard to get the front. The son of Muscle Hill was guided second-over by McCarthy and the pair surged nearing the wire as part of a sizzling 26 1/5 final quarter to win by a head in a stakes-record-equaling 1:50.

“I don’t think the other horse [Karl] was quite as good [as he has been] but we were a little better than I thought,” said Sig Sauer’s trainer Noel Daley, who explained the rapid improvement. “He was touching his elbow in his qualifier and his first start, and I don’t think he was really trying because he was hitting himself. The blacksmith changed the shoes on him and he was good.”

Daley said much of Sig Sauer’s schedule has been the result of strategy on his part because of how the colt raced in 2023 as well as how good some of his foes looked in the early going.

“I had this horse ready to go for the Sire Stakes [in May] but when they [other horses] came out and qualified in 1:52 I decided to wait and just qualify him a few times because I knew I couldn’t have him ready and keep him going, though he is very sound right now,” said Daley. “He won his first four last year and came up lame in his fifth one so we were trying to make his fourth start in the Hambletonian.”

Tony Adams S was second behind Sig Sauer and he is not eligible for the Hambletonian but obviously third-place finisher Karl is very much pointed to that August 3 race at The Meadowlands. To say that his Dancer trip was eventful is an understatement and I agree with driver Yannick Gingras’ assessment that he didn’t put in a great drive. After floating away off the gate and getting away near the back, the smart move was to settle for a tuck in sixth and give Karl a few moments to relax before making any bid for the front. Instead Karl was pushed along by Gingras to the front with a 27 1/5 second quarter followed by another 27 3/5 third quarter. In the end a 1:22 1/5 final three quarters was too much for the formerly unbeaten-in-2024 colt to handle.

By the same token, I can’t get on Gingras too much because Karl has given him every reason to believe he was close to unbeatable this year. I’d also argue that the loss was a good thing as we got to see his bottom and now Gingras has more perspective on what the son of Tactical Landing is capable of on Hambletonian Day.

“In hindsight after a night of sleep – I got up and talked to [trainer] Nancy [Takter] about it – I think it was the best thing for him. He’s never once been tired in his life. It’s not like they train them to be exhausted. He lost once before that in his career and the [ear] plugs were still in because he got a little bit bumpy, but he wasn’t tired that day either,” said Gingras. “Any athlete, you train to push your limits. He has a great attitude and he’s not sour at all. I think him getting tired and beat will only make him stronger. I think this will move him forward. Of course, next time I would like to make it easier on him. That is my job.”

“What I’m most happy about is how good he was gait-wise. I could’ve raced him from the back. Even in the last turn, he was as good as he’s been this year.”

On the topic of Karl’s gait, something very noticeable on the simulcast feed was Gingras constantly looking under his charge’s legs while scoring down prior to the Dancer. It was also clear that Karl hit a couple of pylons coming around the final turn.

“They changed shoes on him to what he was using last year but I didn’t feel like I was looking down. If you saw it I’m sure it happened but I was really happy with how he felt,” said Gingras, who joked that hitting the pylons was just him trying to “save some racetrack”.

Dame Good Time and Security Protected finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the Dancer and both showed enough to warrant entry into the Hambletonian eliminations on July 27 at The Meadowlands. The former made a brush to the front nearing the half and put in a credible mile to lose by less than three lengths while the latter had the early lead before getting shuffled and finding some stretch traffic.



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Karl was stuck with an outside post in the Stanley Dancer Memorial on July 13 which ultimately hurt his chances of victory.

“Any athlete, you train to push your limits. He has a great attitude and he’s not sour at all. I think him getting tired and beat will only make him stronger. I think this will move him forward. Of course, next time I would like to make it easier on him. That is my job.”

-Karl’s driver Yannick Gingras

Circling back to Situationship, who made two moves to the front and was all out to hold off Caballero in 1:51 1/5, the gelded son of Chapter Seven did nothing to make anyone think less of him, though he’ll certainly need to find more if he wants to win the Hambletonian.

I’m much more bullish on Caballero, who closed in 26 3/5 after a ground-saving trip. A son of Tactical Landing like Karl, he clearly appears to have some ability. Trainer Trond Smedshammer says his chances on Hambletonian Day may be directly related to the trip.

“I wouldn’t say I’m expecting to win it but it is an open race and he’s getting better and better,” said Smedshammer, who added that in his mind Karl is still the horse to beat. “[Caballero] is not the handiest horse. He has problems moving lanes and going forward.

“If he can get a trip like Tactical Approach last year and he can go straight the entire mile, he can catch them all, no question about it.”

Coming off an historic year in terms of earnings as a 2-year-old, T C I was expected to be Karl’s top competition entering 2024. He began the year well enough with a trio of workmanlike wins but then broke in the Zweig at Vernon and was simply a flat third after taking aim first-over in his elimination.

“The performance was ok,” said trainer Ron Burke on T C I’s mile.

“When I warmed him up I wasn’t blown away. Usually when they warm up I have a good feel for them and he was just ok.”

Can T C I return to the form he displayed last year and peak for the Hambletonian?

“We’ll pull blood, I’ll take him to the vet and make sure he is alright that way. If nothing is there, maybe I’ll train him a little harder and be tougher on him that way. It’s all about the next two weeks coming up and having him sharp for that,” said Burke. “I have all the faith in this horse. I’ve learned. I lost a lot of these Hambos and I’ve figured it out. I know what I want to do.”



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

T C I (above) and Highland Kismet (below) will both be looking to step up their games in the July 27 Hambletonian eliminations.



Perhaps the most disappointing of the upper-level Hambletonian hopefuls was Highland Kismet. On a four-race winning streak entering the Dancer, much was expected and he just simply didn’t deliver, starting the mile a few lengths off the gate and never getting involved. Those taking a positive view can point to his 26 3/5 final quarter and the fact that he gained three lengths late in the mile.

“I only had a brief conversation with [driver] Bobby [McClure] and he said it was his fault,” said Etsell about his horse being off the gate. “I schooled him and qualified him and he was right on the gate both times, so that is a discussion I have to have with Bob. Maybe something needs a little tweaking.

“He’s a big kid and there was a lot of stuff going on there Saturday with the food trucks and the banners. The banners and the signage on the inside of the track by the toteboard is what got him the most. When I warmed him up he was really shying away from that and not staying focused. It is a different atmosphere at The Meadowlands than Mohawk where it is really open with grass. There isn’t a wall down the backstretch

like at The Meadowlands. I’m not making excuses but I think he was a little overwhelmed with what was going on.

“I was a little disappointed but we accomplished what we wanted to do, for him to get a feel for the place,” concluded Etsell.

For his part the trainer said he believes that Highland Kismet has more left in the tank and he echoed comments from others I spoke to about the possibility of seeing the first-ever sub 1:50 Hambletonian mile.

“I think [1:49] and change is going to be the bar,” said the trainer.

In the big picture for the Hambletonian, it is certainly possible that Karl’s defeat may have changed the minds of a couple of people who were on the fence about entering the race. Quickly eyeballing the 104 eligibles to the race, I came up with 16 I feel confident will drop in the box, which would make me think the final number will be somewhere between 18 and 22. That said, Spaaaanzano wasn’t one of my 16 and he shows up in Saturday’s Tompkins Geers at The Meadowlands along with some other Hambletonian hopefuls in Big Ben Pellini S, Secret Agent Man and Bright Star, so maybe that number will grow.

From a wagering perspective, the ideal number is probably 27, leaving three fields of nine with the top three finishers in each elimination guaranteed a spot on the gate in the \$1,000,000 final. We’ll know the number of entrants on July 23 and the finalists on the 27th. Until then we are left to wonder what the 99th Hambletonian has in store for us in terms of storylines, drama and results. The one constant from almost every person I contacted was that Karl remains the horse to beat. I agree.

Meadowlands Pace Night winners and losers

Despite finishing third, Date Night Hanover upped her Hambletonian Oaks profile in my eyes with a very noticeable 26-second final quarter from an impossible spot in her Del Miller division. She had previously won the Zweig Filly at Vernon and looks like a serious contender.

Out of that same Del Miller split, Buy A Round was disappointing. Yes, she came home in 26 4/5, but off a cover trip you have to roll by your escort in the stretch.

In the first division of the Del Miller, Soiree Hanover stepped up with a much-improved performance to be second despite a first-over trip. She’s primed to move forward again in start three of the year on July 27.

The first Jerry Silverman division saw Asweetbeachhere lacking racing room and perhaps one to watch next time while Pass Line’s stock dropped some when she stopped after some tough fractions. Perhaps there was something easily fixable wrong.

The second Silverman was more proof that It’s A Love Thing is the best 3-year-old pacing filly right now while also a small sign that maybe Geocentric is ready to step back up.

Twin B Joe Fresh got my vote this week as the top horse in the sport after she bravely fought off an all-out attack from Sylvia Hanover and got a 1:47 3/5 victory in the Dorothy Haughton. I’m at the point where it would be interesting to see her tackle the boys.

Voukefalas only finished second behind Abuckabett Hanover in the William Haughton but in doing so he showed that his Graduate victory was no fluke. How many horses can brush early in a 53 3/5 half and win this division? That he lost by less than a length to a horse with good cover was impressive.

It seems as though we may not be looking at a division where the 3-year-old male pacer with the best trip will win and one where the best horse on that night will get top honors. Or maybe Legendary Hanover is simply the best. Will find out more over the next four to six weeks.

Finally, in some ways a small loser but a very big winner in many others is Crawford Farms. Yes, their Karl did suffer his first loss of the year but the farm bred two winners on the card and saw its Crazy Wow as the winning sire of the Hambletonian Maturity.



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Twin B Joe Fresh moved into the top spot in the Hambletonian/Breeders Crown poll.

TRADITION OF RAISING THE BAR CONTINUES...

Hanover Shoe Farms
Congratulates

**2024
MEADOWLANDS
PACE WINNER**

LEGENDARY HANOVER

**1:46.3 Meadowlands
Pace stakes record**

Owners: Eric K Good,
West Wins Stable,
Mark B Dumain

Trainer: Anthony Beaton

Driver: James MacDonald



THE GREATEST NAME IN HARNESS RACING ALSO SALUTES HANOVER BREDS

2024 Jerry Silverman Memorial winner

CAVIART BELLE*

Owner: Caviart Farms

Trainer: Nancy Takter

Driver: Yannick Gingras

2024 William R. Haughton winner

ABUCKABETT HANOVER **

Owners: William Pollock, Bruce Areman, Andrew Harris

Trainer: Andrew Harris

Driver: Dexter Dunn

* Papi Rob Hanover brother Ecuador Hanover selling in Lexington

** Tall Dark Stranger sister Ashima Hanover selling in Harrisburg

Hanover
Greatest name in
Harness Racing

717-637-8931

hanoverpa.com | hanover@hanoverpa.com

Coleman's keen eye brought her Legendary Hanover, Nijinsky



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

The one-two finish by Legendary Hanover and Nijinsky in the \$650,000 Meadowlands Pace last Saturday gave trainer Anthony Beaton a milestone only reached on a few occasions before. That Beaton trained the North America Cup and Meadowlands Pace winners in the same year with separate horses is amazing, but perhaps the bigger story was in the purchase and development of the pair of standout sophomore pacers. For that one must look towards Casie Coleman, once a full-time conditioner in Ontario with a large stable of racehorses and now more focused in Florida on a smaller stable that purchases yearlings and develops them for stakes action.

It was Coleman at the start and there's no way to get to the end of this dream sequence without looking at its beginnings.

"I bought five colts and four fillies," said Coleman on Sunday following the Meadowlands Pace tour de force.

That Nijinsky and Legendary Hanover were among the selection of five colts is astounding, though they did not exactly come cheaply at the sale.

Legendary Hanover, who broke the stakes and track mark pacing to a 1:46 3/5 blowout in The Meadowlands Pace, may have been a no-brainer for some at auction given that he was a Huntsville-sired half-brother to one of the fastest horses from Betting Line's first crop, Linedrive Hanover. That said, Coleman wasn't all-in when the colt sold at Harrisburg in 2022.

"I usually don't look to race on the New York Sire Stakes circuit," Coleman said. "So being by Huntsville wasn't something I was looking for."

What Coleman was looking for was a horse that fit a particular profile with a long barrel, big butt and big throat.

"There's not a particular pedigree or size that I'm looking for," said Coleman. "I look at every pacer in the sale. I look at them a lot. You can ask some of those who have shown them to me how many times I ask them to walk them back another time. I'm a real pain in the ***."

The extra time Coleman puts in brings her to the sales with a select group of horses but not with an unlimited budget.

"With Legendary Hanover we had some partners put together and I had set a limit of \$200,000," said Coleman.

Legendary Hanover would eventually be hammered down for \$230,000 yet Coleman managed to have the horse to break and train in Florida in the winter of 2022.

"Eric Good (co-owner) stepped in after and he signed the ticket for \$230,000," Coleman said. "He deserves the credit for going the distance."

North America Cup winner Nijinsky was among Coleman's favorites training down as a 2-year-old, but he just couldn't put things all together when the money was riding. Over the winter Coleman had both colts in Florida and treated them rather specially.

"I never put the two of them together in any training sets," said Coleman, concerned about testing them against each other at any point. "Tony (Beaton) has trained them together since."

Coleman on Sunday hadn't yet come down from the Meadowlands Pace victory, but she was not surprised with the power Legendary Hanover exhibited on the front end.

"I don't know why people think he can't do it on the front end," Coleman said, questioning a theoretical weakness in the colt. "It's a long season and you just don't want to have to send them to the front too many times."



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Legendary Hanover rolled to a 1:46 3/5 stakes-record victory in the Meadowlands Pace and owner Casie Coleman was all smiles while decked-out in her customary yellow and blue (nail polish) from head to toe.



[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7](#)

“Last year in the Breeders Crown was the only time where he raced badly,” said Coleman of Legendary Hanover. “There was a recall and he was all geared up and James (MacDonald) choked him. Other than that he’s never had a bad race.”

Given driver Dexter Dunn’s eagerness to pull the pocket at the three-quarter pole with rival Funtime Bayama, one would think he felt Legendary Hanover was vulnerable at the time. A few seconds later Legendary Hanover was airborne and Funtime Bayama was struggling with the rest of the field to keep in contact with the winner.

“When Legendary took off in the stretch I was looking and rooting hard for Nijinsky,” said Coleman. “He’d been out the entire way and was still charging late after going wide on the turn.”

The Meadowlands Pace one-two finishers left New Jersey on Sunday to return to Ontario and Coleman was relieved.

“It’s been extremely hot down here (New Jersey) and even though it’s an eight hour ship I thought it would be better for them to be in more comfortable weather,” said Coleman, who expects to see Nijinsky return to Ontario Gold action on Saturday (July 20) while Legendary Hanover will get at least one week off.

Legendary Hanover’s victory in The Meadowlands Pace had him eclipse his sire’s mark in 2017 by more than a full second. Coming into the race this appeared to be a group of five or six colts that could all win. Following the race Legendary Hanover really showed what he is made of. It is races like The Meadowlands Pace where power comes into play, and although James MacDonald didn’t want to find himself in the position Legendary Hanover was at the quarter pole, he had confidence to make an extended move to the lead during the second quarter. Legendary Hanover had the lungs to keep the pace lively through three quarters and the power to finish off his mile in 26 1/5, making a statement on the sport’s biggest stage.

Legendary Hanover’s Meadowlands Pace finish will likely help the connections forget the fifth-place finish in the North America Cup, where MacDonald actually found himself in almost the exact same position with Legendary Hanover at the quarter but decided to grind first-over as opposed to brush full throttle.

Coleman has been a big part of the Legendary Hanover-Nijinsky story line, but she deferred much of the credit.

“Anthony has done a great job. My entire crew in Florida has done a great job. It’s a team effort,” Coleman said.

How the sophomore story will play out over the rest of the season is hard to predict. Legendary Hanover and Nijinsky have been fabulous to date and amazingly were the two best horses in The Meadowlands Pace following aggressive miles in the North America Cup. Nijinsky’s Meadowlands Pace elimination victory was hard-earned and perhaps a reason why Louis Philippe Roy elected not to follow Legendary Hanover when that one made an extended move to the lead in the second quarter. It’s also easy to conclude that James MacDonald’s willingness to go all-in with Legendary Hanover in the Meadowlands Pace was the fact that he had gone a rather soft trip in the elimination, just racing the final quarter mile sprint to victory and taking little if no air in the process.

As Coleman and her partners watch the sophomores in stakes action the rest of the season and likely to contemplate potential stallion offerings, there are a host of 2-year-olds with similar promise and potential just getting started.

“I’m excited about Au Jus Hanover,” said Coleman of the Stay Hungry-sired filly that made a winning debut at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 29 in 1:55 4/5 with a 26 and change final quarter.

Au Jus Hanover perhaps best explains Coleman’s pursuit of pacing talent and its lack of a specific formula. The filly is the 13th foal from Always True, a mare that’s best progeny has come by way of sire Bettor’s Delight.

A \$50,000 Harrisburg purchase, Au Jus Hanover could add some zing to an already incredible year for Coleman and company.



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Driver James MacDonald (left) not only won the Meadowlands Pace but also three other races on July 13 at The Meadowlands. Trainer Tony Beaton finished 1st and 2nd in the Pace.



DRF HARNESS

YOUR HOME FOR STANDARD-BRED RACING



Visit us online for PPs, news, entries, results
DRF.com/Harness



Sign up for our FREE weekly newsletter

- Industry News
- Opinions
- Interviews

WATCH THE HAMBLETONIAN

Saturday, August 3 on FOX and CBS



★ Hambletonian on Fox Sports

Saturday, August 3 • 4:00–5:00 pm*

Hambletonian Oaks • 6–6:30 pm (Fox Sports 2)

★ America's Day at the Races (Fox Sports 2)

Saturday, August 3 • 1:00–7:00 pm*

*EDT (all subject to change)



★ Racetrack Television Network

(www.rtn.tv) Free streaming of Meadowlands In-house show from playmeadowlands.com; also available on Meadowlands Racetrack Facebook & YouTube page. RTN is available on PCs, mobile devices, on DISH Network, Roku and Amazon Fire TV.

PLUS...FanDuel TVG live onsite and ADW accounts:

Full card coverage of the Meadowlands

★ US Trotting Hambletonian Pre-Show

Sat., Aug. 3 • 11 am–12 noon • Live on Vimeo
Co-hosted by Wendy Ross and Ashley Mailloux
Go to: <https://vimeo.com/event/4438862>

★ CBS Sports Network

Sunday, August 4 • 2:00–3:00 pm EDT (replay)

Hambletonian Information and History

Hambletonian Website: hambletonian.com

Meadowlands Website: playmeadowlands.com

★ Other Upcoming Televised Races

Breeders Crown Eliminations • Oct. 18 & 19

Breeders Crown Finals • Oct. 25 & 26



Chris Tully Trot.com





BARN TALK

By Garnet Barnsdale X @gocashking

Road Trip Racing Omens

Do you believe in omens? To quote a famous television line: "I'm not superstitious, but I'm a little stitious."

My son Nicholas, also known as "Ace", and I took a road trip to Scioto Downs to watch my Aunt Lilly race in the Next Generation Stakes, and the trip was eventful, to say the least.

Ace and I often playfully look for omens and extrapolate how that will affect how the rest of our day plays out. For example, on the way to a Buffalo Bills game (we are season ticket holders and diehard Bills Mafia), we pull up to the border and pick a lane. When all the other lanes move fast and ours is stalled, one of us will blurt out: "I knew we were going to lose today".

Conversely, if we luckily pick the fastest lane, we figure that's an omen we are going to win. It's all playful banter, but on Saturday, July 6, on our way to Ohio, there was an event entirely caused by us that could have gone bad but didn't and I immediately took it as an omen that the race was going to go well that night.

As we progressed through Ohio, I asked Ace to find a Chick-Fil-A close to the thruway where we could stop to eat, and we also needed to fuel up as our range was getting low. He found a spot around Akron, and we enjoyed our lunch and got back on the road. After driving for a few minutes I glanced down at the gauges to check my speed and saw the fuel light was still on and the "range" down to 10 miles.

"OH MY GOD! We forgot to gas up!" I blurted. Seeing an exit coming up fast I veered off and directed Ace to find the closest gas station. How close is it?! I asked, now panicked. "Five miles," he replied. I hope like hell this gauge is accurate, I thought. We proceeded to the gas station and of course hit every red light. I coasted down hills hoping to save as much gas as I could. The range marker quickly changed to five miles. Of course it did.

"How close are we?" I asked as my blood pressure rose. "Three miles," Ace quietly replied, then added: "You won't believe where we are headed to." Okay, I'll bite, I thought. "Where?" He told me we were going to Chagrin Boulevard, which I without fail made a stupid joke about every time we passed on previous road trips. "How many times have I used the stupid line 'much to my chagrin,'" I asked rhetorically. That's it, we are for sure not making it, I thought. Alas, the gauge was right, and we rolled into the gas station without running out of fuel.

Now, about that omen. In my mind as I was panicking, I still managed to conjure the thought that if we run out of gas the race would go badly. Which of course is ridiculous, but hey, I already told you, I'm a little stitious. We arrive at Scioto and check into the Hampton Inn, meeting part of The Stable's Ohio crew in the lobby - stalwart Kirby McGinnis with some upbeat caretakers.

The next omen would soon follow. We check in without incident and get assigned room 427. As we ride the elevator, I blurt out: "I should have asked

for a room near the elevator" -- not because I am lazy, it just seems that virtually every time we stay in a hotel, we are in the room furthest from the elevator and it was starting to get annoying. The elevator door opens, we walk out, turn right, and there's room 427. The closest one to the elevator. A good sign? Maybe.

One of the highlights of our trips is exploring new food options. But this time, Ace remembered that the one previous time we came to Scioto Downs, we ate at Brew Brothers and ordered the Burnt Ends appetizer and loved it. So, we did so again, and remembered why. That dish is tremendous. It should be ordered as a main course then a side added. Half of the serving wasn't enough.

As much as we enjoyed our meal, we didn't drive 440 miles from Toronto to eat burnt ends. There were bigger fish to fry (and hopefully no more ends to burn). I owned a piece of a filly through The Stable.ca that was going to be one of the favorites in a \$150,000 (U.S.) race. Aunt Lilly is an Uncle Peter filly that The Stable.ca shelled out \$65,000 for at the Ohio Select sale. She

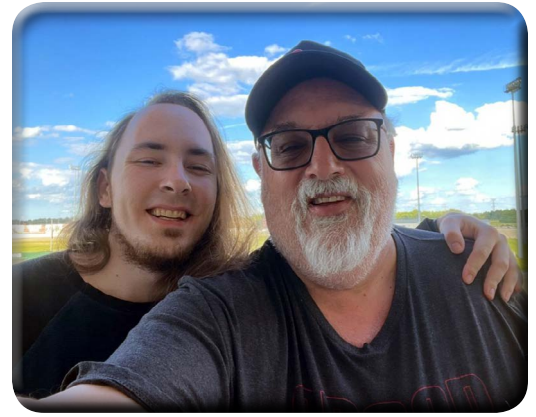
came into this race off a nice 1:58 4/5 maiden win in the opening leg of a Pop Up series at The Meadows.

To say I was nervous would be an understatement. But I was also extremely excited. We walked into the facility and the first thing that I noticed was the size of the crowd. The Scioto grandstand is intimate and seemingly the perfect size because there were very few empty seats. One reason I really enjoy going to any track in Ohio is that they are almost always well populated. Ohioans love harness racing and there was a great atmosphere on this night.

Ace and I sat in the Three Diamonds room for the first few races, invited as owners by Scioto Downs. When we walked in, we immediately were greeted by Jay Wolf and Frank Fraas, who would soon be starting the Facebook Live broadcast of the stakes races, presented by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. Fraas, a fellow Buffalo Bills season ticket holder, greeted us with a robust "GO BILLS", which to Bills fans is the equivalent of saying hello.

We decided to go down to the rail to watch the "Battle of the Bigmouths" partway through the card, featuring Gabe Prewitt vs. Pete Aiello in a match race rematch for charity. Aiello won the first one of these events, but he was up against it with Prewitt drawing the rail and, apparently, a faster racehorse. Alas, Prewitt went right down the road, crushing in 2:07 in a jog cart, final quarter in an impressive 30-flat. He showboated nearing the wire which pleased the large crowd.

We stayed at the rail to watch Aunt Lilly warm up and thought she looked sharp and ready. Soon, it would be time to race, and we went down to the rail again. As the horses lined up behind the gate, I could feel my



Nick "Ace" and Garnet Barnsdale.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY AUTHOR



CONRAD PHOTO

Aunt Lilly won a division of the Next Generation at Scioto Downs on July 6.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

heart starting to beat faster and harder. This was a \$150,000 race, and one could say that I “only” owned four percent of the filly. I can tell you there is nothing like winning a race no matter how much you own, and I had never been in a race this big with a good horse before. She was the 7-5 favorite at the off.

Being that the tote board blocked our view of the start (and most of the third quarter), I had to rely on Scioto’s very good announcer Barry Vicroy for information on the start. He indicated Rose’s Destiny was heading to the front. But that filly broke, then interfered with the rail filly Wild Child Annie, who then broke, and some confusion ensued which led to the trailing fillies to take up to get around the breakers.

Avoiding this trouble were only two of them, our Aunt Lilly, who left hard from post six, and R Maggie, who blasted from post three. They headed to the quarter racing 1-2 several lengths ahead of the rest of the field. Aunt Lilly cut a 29-flat opening quarter and seemed to be taking a breather when she passed in front of us. As the field disappeared behind the tote board heading to the half, I blurted out: “give me one minute!”

“They move to the half, it’s Aunt Lilly with the lead, the half is up in just a minute,” Vicroy obliged. I felt confident at this point. When Aunt Lilly reappeared in my view heading to the three-quarter pole, it seemed obvious that only the pocket-sitter R Maggie had a chance to chase her down. That filly started to gap then broke before the last turn, and Aunt Lilly sprinted clear of the rest of the field, turning for home with a seemingly insurmountable lead. She powered down the stretch, kicking home in 28 3/5, a decisive 4 1/2-length winner of the Next Generation Stakes.

I would like to report that I acted “like I’d been there before”, but I absolutely didn’t. I imagine that every single person in that track heard me. But, hey, it’s a racetrack, not a library, right? When Ace went to order the win picture from Brad Conrad, the talented photographer understated: “he was excited, wasn’t he?” referring to my post-race antics.

When I watched the replay, I was thankful that in what could be the biggest race I will ever have a starter in, we really got all the racing luck. First, the filly I was most scared of that had an exceptional warm-up, trainer Ron Burke’s Rose Run Allison, missed the gate by about three lengths then lost more ground avoiding the breakers heading to the first turn. The way she finished, passing horses to finish third while trotting the fastest final quarter, indicated she was surely one of the best fillies in the race.

Being able to take a breather to the half because the field was strung out helped. But when you think you have the best horse, heading immediately to the front allows you to stay out of trouble and make your own luck. You still have to seal the deal, and Aunt Lilly was more than up to the task.

When we went to watch Aunt Lilly qualify at Northfield Park, I told her caretaker Calli Kotkowski that I win-tip over and above what shows up on my monthly bill. True to my word, I handed Kotkoski a \$25 win ticket on Aunt Lilly. The only other bet I made on the filly was a souvenir \$2 win ticket which I will get laminated and add to the framed win pic. After all, I was cashing a \$2,700 owner’s share if she won, and that’s U.S. dollars. That is about half-a-billion when converted to Canuck bucks. I didn’t need to bet.

We joined the large gathering for the win picture. Instead of saying cheese, I blurted: “I love you A Mac,” and could see a grin appear on winning driver Anthony MacDonald’s face. We asked Kirby McGinnis how to get to the barn to see the filly and he helpfully sent us a screenshot of a map with The Stable’s barn pinpointed. We watched a couple more races in the Three Diamonds room to allow for the test barn time to pass. I was approached by Jason Roth, Director of Racing at Scioto Downs. “Congratulations, and thank you very much for coming tonight,” he said as he shook my hand. There is another reason why I love going to Ohio for the harness races. I seem to always get treated well no matter which track I am at. “How does he know who I am,” I asked Ace, incredulously. “Come on dad, everyone knows who you are,” he replied. I’m not sure how true that is, but Roth’s visit was genuinely appreciated.

We pulled into the stable area about 90 minutes after our race ended,

and made it over there just in time before the horses were loaded onto the trailer for the two-and-a-half-hour trip back to home base at Northfield Park. I remarked to Kotkowski how beautifully shiny the filly looked. Then we shot some pictures, had a nice chat with trainer Jason McGinnis, and made our way back to our hotel.

Of course, we stopped in Buffalo for celebratory wings and Beef On Weck sandwiches on our way back to Toronto on Sunday. We pulled into our favorite wing spot, Bar Bill Tavern and found cars circling the lot and zero available parking spots. Bar Bill is that good – especially their Cajun Honey Butter BBQ flavor.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AUTHOR

Gabe Prewitt (above) does a bit of showboating in his victory over Pete Aiello at Scioto. (below) Garnet Barnsdale meets up with his winning filly Aunt Lilly.



Was this another bad omen? Not really. I knew that Duff’s famous wings was down the street, so we headed there. We found out that their Beef On Weck sandwich is better than Bar Bill’s. The wings are good, but no one touches Bar Bill’s wings for me. They are elite.

As we dug into our wings – I separated the flats for myself and gave Ace the drums – I thought, did all the good omens on this road trip mean something? Consider how much racing luck we had going for \$150K and how perfectly the race played out. I can’t say for sure that they didn’t and I’m certainly not complaining about good mojo.



**RED SHORES**
CHARLOTTETOWN SUMMERSIDE

Watch & Wager on Red Shores
Charlottetown & Summerside racing!

Elite Harness Action from May to December!
Great fields, low 15% takeout on the Classic Hi-5,
Pick 4, and the guaranteed Isle Pick 5!

For race dates and times visit RedShores.ca

Logan Park takes aim at It's Academic in Spirit of Massachusetts

By Jay Bergman

Trainer Robert Fellows will be shipping in from Ontario on Sunday with a pair of trotters for the \$250,000 Spirit Of Massachusetts at Plainridge Park, with Logan Park, one of the dominant older trotters north of the border, a prime contender in the featured event on a stellar program. Logan Park, a 6-year-old by Archangel, drew post two with Doug McNair scheduled to be in the sulky.

"It's hard to get him races up here," said Fellows, explaining why Logan Park has not been in a competitive race in three weeks. "He needed a race so that's why I qualified him."

The qualifier on Tuesday (July 16) was clocked in 1:56 2/5, a good training mile over a sloppy surface. A winner in four of his six starts this year, Logan Park has raced mostly on big tracks during his 70-race career, but Fellows is more than confident the five-eighths mile oval at Plainridge Park will not be a factor.

"He set a track record at Rideau Carlton as a 3-year-old," said Fellows.

Perhaps of greater importance for Logan Park this Sunday is his ability to race on the front end and close to the pace.

"He can leave like a hobbled pacer," Fellows said of Logan Park, who with a victory on Sunday could go over the \$1 million mark in career earnings.

Post position is always important, especially when going for big money. Logan Park drew post two inside of last year's Spirit Of Massachusetts champion It's Academic (post 6) and last week's (July 13) Hambletonian Maturity upset winner Chapercraz (post 5). That pair hails from the leading stable in North America of Ron Burke and the trainer is quite confident in his horses heading into Sunday.

"It's been hard finding races for It's Academic," Burke said, echoing Fellows' sentiments, "But he's coming into the race in good shape and I expect him to race well."

It's Academic not only captured the Spirit Of Massachusetts last year from post eight but followed that up with a victory in the John Cashman Memorial on Hambletonian Day. In the money 16 times in his 18 starts in 2023, It's Academic banked \$951K in the process.

While Burke conceded that It's Academic – by virtue of his purse earnings and age – has more class than stablemate Chapercraz, he wasn't counting out the 4-year-old son of Crazy Wow yet.

"I wasn't surprised when he won last week," said Burke. "Yannick (Gingras) thought that if he had pulled him in the Graduate final, he may have won that race."

Chapercraz was third to Winner's Bet in the Graduate final at The Meadowlands on July 6 and came back a week later to capture the mile and an eighth Maturity, his first win in 11 races this year.

Fellows said that he expects to leave Ontario on Friday with both Logan Park and Esplosione, and perhaps make a two-day trip to Plainridge so as not to stress his horses while at the same time perhaps enjoying an afternoon of thoroughbred action at Saratoga.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Logan Park has won four of six races in 2024 and never finished worse than second.

"I'm looking to stop at Saratoga and maybe get them out there to jog a bit," said Fellows. "It's about seven hours to Saratoga and another three hours to Plainridge."

Fellows is concerned that the heat and travel could take a toll and with the stopover the horses should both be fresh for the Spirit Of Massachusetts.

As for Esplosione, a 5-year-old son of Kadabra that landed post three for Fellows, the trainer wasn't expecting much.

"He doesn't breathe the same air as Logan Park," Fellows said. "I nominated both of them for this race and I was hoping there might be a consolation for Esplosione."

The nine-horse field for the Spirit Of Massachusetts has some power on the outside with Incommunicado (post 8) and Helpfirstedition (post 9), two horses entering the race in great shape. Ake Svanstedt trains and drives Incommunicado, a 6-year-old by Chapter Seven that has feasted on smaller tracks during his career with more than \$880K banked. Incommunicado has won two straight Invitational trots at Yonkers in preparation for Sunday's contest.

Helpfirstedition stepped up nicely when racing against older foes when he finished third in the Crawford Farms (June 29) at The Meadowlands for trainer Linda Toscano. The Indiana-sired gelding followed that performance with a solid fourth-place finish coming from last in the 12-horse Hambletonian Maturity to miss by less than a length.

Rounding out the Spirit Of Massachusetts field will be Buddy Earl (post 1), Take All Comers (post 4) and Delayed Hanover (post 7).

On the Plainridge Park undercard of the 11-race program that commences at 2:00 p.m. is the \$100,000 Clara Barton for pacing mares and the \$75,000 Bert Beckwith Memorial for top flight older pacers. Sylvia Hanover (post 1) looks for her first win as a 4-year-old in the Clara Barton and will pick up a new driver in Tim Tetrick on Sunday.

Advertise with



For more information or to place an ad, contact:

Derick Giwner at dgiwner@drf.com

**MULTIPLE
PLACEMENT
DISCOUNTS**

MacDonald looks to Adios after Pace triumph

By Ken Weingartner

Three drivers this century have won the Meadowlands Pace and Adios in the same year. Each time, the driver captured those races with different horses. James MacDonald can take the first step toward duplicating that feat on Saturday.

MacDonald, who won the Meadowlands Pace this past Saturday with Legendary Hanover, will drive Huntingforchrome in the first of two \$25,000 eliminations for the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids, for 3-year-old pacers, at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

Huntingforchrome will enter the race off a 1:48 1/5 victory in a 3-year-old open at The Meadowlands on Pace night with MacDonald in the sulky. He paced his last quarter in 25 2/5; only one horse came home faster that night at the Big M.

"It's cool," MacDonald said about heading to the Adios with Huntingforchrome. "He felt like a nice horse, just the way he did it."

Last week, Huntingforchrome was first to the opening turn from post five, then saw Rush In and McCrunch go by on their way to a 26 1/5 quarter and 54 half. He was fourth on the pylons when the field reached three-quarters in 1:22 1/5, then angled out in the stretch to sprint past his foes on his way to winning by 1-3/4 lengths over Remember The Alamo.

"He followed along great and when I needed him, he flew," MacDonald said. "Those are all good qualities to have. Going to a five-eighths of a mile track (at The Meadows), it was good to see him have a lot of gate speed and then settle in nicely. He raced super."

The three drivers to win the Pace and Adios in the same year this century were Brian Sears in 2019 with Best In Show in the Pace and Southwind Ozzi in the Adios, Ron Pierce in 2011 with Roll With Joe in the Pace and Alsace Hanover in the Adios, and John Campbell in 2002 with Mach Three in the Pace and Million Dollar Cam in the Adios.

MacDonald and Huntingforchrome will begin their quest to reach the Adios final from post four in an elimination field of seven. The son of Huntsville-All On Top Hanover, one of three Adios hopefuls trained by Travis Alexander, is the third choice on the morning line at 4-1.

The first four finishers in each elim, along with the fifth-place finisher with the higher lifetime earnings, return on Adios Day, July 27, for the \$350,000 final. Connections of the elimination winners get to pick their post positions for the final, with the other posts determined by random draw.

"He definitely looks like a player," MacDonald said about Huntingforchrome. "He drew pretty good, so hopefully we can get a good trip and get the job done."

THE DELVIN MILLER Adios ELIMINATION DAY 2024

THE MEADOWS RACING SATURDAY JULY 20 POST TIME 12:45PM

ELIMINATION #1			ELIMINATION #2		
P.P.	ML/HORSE	TRAINER	P.P.	ML/HORSE	TRAINER
1	2-1 SWEET BEACH LIFE	TRAVIS ALEXANDER	1	10-1 TIMEISONMYSIDE	TIM TWADDLE
2	10-1 WISH YOU WELL	R. NIFTY NORMAN	2	9-2 NUCLEAR	SARAH ANDREWS
3	15-1 R N B BAND	EDDIE DENNIS	3	8-1 RUSH IN	LINDA TOSCANO
4	4-1 HUNTINGFORCHROME	TRAVIS ALEXANDER	4	4-1 BOOMING ECONOMY	RON BURKE
5	12-1 OUTER BANKS	RON BURKE	5	2-1 CAPTAIN ALBANO	NBEL DALEY
6	9-5 CAPTAIN LUKE	TONY ALAGNA	6	8-1 NOBLESVILLE	RON BURKE
7	7-1 CLEVER CODY	DR. IAN MOORE	7	6-1 NUMBER CRUNCHER	ERVIN MILLER
			8	10-1 COURTSHIP	TRAVIS ALEXANDER

Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER

Captain Luke, who finished fourth in the Meadowlands Pace, is the 9-5 favorite in the first elimination, leaving from post six for driver Scott Zeron and trainer Tony Alagna. Captain Albano, the 2023 Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old male pacer, is the 2-1 favorite in the second elim, starting from post five for driver Todd McCarthy and trainer Noel Daley.

MacDonald appeared in his first Adios last year, when he missed by a head with Redwood Hanover despite racing with a flat tire the last half mile.

"That was a heartbreaker," MacDonald said. "It was a tough pill to swallow, but it was definitely a fun experience."

Speaking of fun experiences, Legendary Hanover's stakes-record 1:46 3/5 victory last week in the Meadowlands Pace might be difficult to top. Only one 3-year-old has ever won a race with a faster time, Confederate with a 1:46 1/5 score last year at Lexington's Red Mile.

"It was definitely good to see him get his shining moment on Saturday," said MacDonald, who drove Legendary Hanover for trainer Anthony Beaton and owners Eric Good, West Wins Stable, and Mark Dumain. "We've always known he's had the ability, and we were just waiting for that big moment – and he finally got it."

"I couldn't be prouder of the horse and Tony and everyone involved. It's a great group of connections. He's some kind of horse. I'm happy to be along for the ride."

MacDonald is still in the process of having the experience sink in. "It's been a whirlwind since Saturday," he said. "I haven't really had time to sit back and reflect and appreciate how special it was as of yet, but I will. Those wins don't come along very often, so you've really got to find time to bask in it, for sure."

Racing begins at 12:45 p.m. (EDT) Saturday at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

ADIOS PACE BANKROLL BUILDER

BET \$50, GET \$5

on select stakes dates in June & July at The Meadows

[Find Out More](#)

DRF Bets

Adios
PACE FOR THE ORCHIDS
2024

Sponsored by



Opportunity knocks for Brett Beckwith in Gerrity at Saratoga

By Ken Weingartner

Brett Beckwith has done his best to take advantage of his opportunities this year, and the 21-year-old driver will look to do so again Saturday when he drives Ken Hanover in the \$250,000 Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial for older male pacers at Saratoga Casino Hotel.

Beckwith ranks No. 2 in wins among all drivers in North America, with 374, and is the leading driver at Saratoga and Plainridge Park. His horses have earned \$3.14 million in purses, good for 15th place in North America, and Beckwith's career-high .354 driver rating is sixth.

Last year, only Beckwith's third full season in the sulky, he established career highs with 453 wins and \$4.40 million in purses.

"I've been blessed with so many opportunities this year," Beckwith said. "After last year, I didn't know if it would get much better, or if it even would get better. I just ended up starting this year with a bang and it's been carrying over ever since.

"I credit a lot of it to work ethic. There are not many people that are going to outwork me. You can be as talented as you want in this game, but talent can only take you so far. You've got to have the right opportunity at the right time. I can name five other guys off the top of my head that if they had the same opportunities would have done just as well. I've been very fortunate."

For the Gerrity, Beckwith picked up the drive with Ken Hanover after Tyler Buter - who had his choice from among three horses including Ken Hanover - opted for Backstreet Shadow. A winner of \$1.65 million lifetime, the top figure in the eight-horse field, Backstreet Shadow will start from post one. Horses leaving from post one at Saratoga win at a 23.3-percent rate, the best mark at the half-mile oval by eight percentage points.

Ken Hanover will leave from post six, which has a win rate of 9.2 percent.

"Post position at Saratoga is just so important," Buter said. "It's a numbers game, for sure. And I've got a little more history with Backstreet's owner (NY Seb Inc.)."

Backstreet Shadow has competed once previously in the Gerrity, finishing third in 2021. The 9-year-old gelding, trained by Daniel Renaud, heads to Saturday's start off a third-place finish at Yonkers Raceway, where he was timed in 1:51 with a race-best 26 4/5 last quarter. Earlier in the season, he posted a win, a second, and two thirds in the preliminary rounds of the MGM Borgata Pacing Series.

Buter will be driving Backstreet Shadow, who is 6-1 on the morning line, for the first time.

"I've raced with him a lot at Yonkers, so I know the horse pretty well,"

Buter said. "It's a little different with a 2-year-old; they're going to have their quirks or tendencies. With an aged horse, they've been around the track as many times as I have. You just have to steer them in the right direction. He's a very classy horse."

Ken Hanover is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line. He won a preliminary round of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old pacers in 1:47 4/5 on June 22 at The Meadowlands and finished sixth from post nine in the final on July 6. He was second in the Joseph Augur Memorial at Harrah's Philadelphia in May and third in the Dave Brower Memorial the last weekend of June at The Meadowlands.

"I got lucky to pick him up," Beckwith said. "It looks like he can compete well with this group. It looks like it's going to be a good race, just with how the draw went. It's going to be action packed."

Coaches Corner, starting from post two with Jason Bartlett driving for trainer Per Engblom, is the 5-2 favorite. He last raced on June 15 in the Gold Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park, where he finished sixth. Earlier in the season, he was second in the Borgata Series final and Battle of Lake Erie at Northfield Park. He was third in the Auger Memorial.

Desperate Man, who drew post eight for driver Matt Kakaley and trainer Travis Alexander, is the 4-1 third choice. He won an invitational at Yonkers in 1:50 3/5 in his most recent outing on July 8. He won four preliminary rounds of the Borgata and finished third in the final. He also was third in the Battle of Lake Erie, when he made an early break and dropped 14-1/4 lengths behind at the quarter but missed by only three-quarters of a length at the finish.

Borgata Series and Camluck Classic winner Hellabalou is 9-2 on the morning line. He will leave from post seven with Jordan Stratton driving for trainer Ron Burke. He is the only returnee from last year's Gerrity, when he finished third.

Beckwith, who is appearing in the Gerrity for the second time, figures to see a lot of horses flashing early speed in an attempt to get good position.

"With these really good horses, it's tough nowadays to win from too far off the pace," Beckwith said. "You can have whatever game plan you want, but at the end of the day, when you reach races like this with these top-level horses, all of them can carry their speed. It's all about giving your horse the most ideal possible to have a late run at it.

"I think this is going to be a really good race for the fans to watch."

Racing begins at 5 p.m. (EDT) Saturday at Saratoga. The Gerrity is race 10, with an 8 p.m. approximate post time.

Belmont Stakes and Hambletonian trophies to be on display

Vito Cucci, co-owner of Chateau Grande Hotel - also the owner of numerous other successful hospitality businesses - has a side gig: horse racing. Turns out he's a winner there too.

His 3-year-old Dornoch recently won the \$2 million Belmont Stakes presented by NYRA Bets at Saratoga Race Course. New Jersey's horse racing fans can see the "big-hearted" Dornoch race at the upcoming Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Racetrack, Oceanport, Saturday, July 20.

To celebrate his win and show his support for horse racing, Cucci is bringing the legendary Belmont Stakes trophy to the hotel to display from Tuesday, July 16 to Friday, July 26 from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. The public is invited to drop in for photo opportunities during that time. (Due to the high interest shown in the trophies, if planning on dining at Orchard Park reservations should be made in advance at (732) 554-5714 or online www.orchardparkbydb.com)

Also on display will be the Hambletonian Trophy, presented by The Hambletonian Society to the winner of the Hambletonian Stake, prestigious second leg of the Trotting Triple Crown, which is scheduled for August 3 at the Meadowlands Racing & Gaming. This perpetual trophy on display is a silver bowl that has been used since 1939. A smaller replica, which the winning owners receive, is crafted by the world-renowned silversmith Ubaldo Vitali of Maplewood, NJ. His

work has been presented to the Queen of England, and in numerous exhibitions such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Cucci, owner of Belmar Racing and Breeding LLC, also owns Standardbred trotters racing at Freehold Racetrack, the Meadowlands Racetrack and other harness racing tracks. A horse that he bred, Cool Papa Bell, won the Hambletonian in 2022.

Dornoch co-owner, former MLB player Jayson Werth said on a FOX broadcast: "Horse racing is the most underrated sport in the world, bar none. ... This is as good as it gets in horse racing; this is as good as it gets in sports."

"We are all thrilled!" said Cucci. "Jayson Werth is a fantastic ambassador for horse racing."

The public display of the trophies at Chateau Grande - under strict surveillance - is a rare opportunity for the general public to see them up close off site. Generally, they are kept at the racetracks.

"New Jersey needs horse racing," explained Cucci. "Scenic farm landscapes of green, productive fields and animals are under constant pressure of development. But farms are important to what makes New Jersey a desirable place to live, work and recreate. The horse racing industry helps to keep open spaces and stabilizes our communities providing a healthy ratio of farms to development. Open spaces should not be looked at as merely potential tax ratables. This view is short-sighted and omits the fact that open space provides cleaner air and a general sense of wellbeing to all, while not requiring expensive services that congested areas need."

-edited release (Hambletonian Society)

RACE OF THE WEEK

10 SARATOGA SAT 1 Mile Pace. *** 15TH ANNUAL JOE GERRITY JR. MEMORIAL *** Purse \$250,000

SUPERFACTA | TRIPLE | EXACTA

1	BACKSTREET SHADOW(L) 71:47.2 (1) \$7,047	b g 9, by Shadow Play, Backstreet Sweetie by Dragon Again My Seb Inc,Katonah,NY	Last 5 Sts-\$23,220	1:51.3 YR +1:48.2 Phl 5/8	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 13 2 2 4	\$91,610
6-1 Ty. Butler	9-4-2 (444)	D. Renaud 0-0-0-0 (000)	Br - Karen E Carroll,Shedden,On		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 11 4 8	\$330,807
15 Jul 24	8YR fst ⁸⁸ 272	.56 1:23 1:50 4 NW32551L5	30000 4 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 4 ⁰⁰ 43 3 ¹	BrHolland DaRenaud	28 29 263 264 1:51	109
8 Jul 24	8YR fst ⁸³ 273	.56 1:22 1:50 3 Inv	39000 4 6 ⁷	5 ⁰ 5 ⁰ 5 ³ 6 ³	BrHolland DaRenaud	28 29 263 274 1:51	108
24 Jun 24	7YR fst ⁷¹ 273	.56 1:24 1:52 1 nw30000L5	30000 3 4 ⁴	4 ⁴ 2 ⁹ no 2 ¹ 1 ¹	BrHolland DaRenaud	28 29 264 274 1:52	105
17 Jun 24	6YR fst ⁸⁰ 261	.54 1:22 1:51 4 NW33011L5	30000 2 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ³ 1 ³ 5 ¹	BrHolland DaRenaud	26 28 273 293 1:52	104
10 Jun 24	7YR fst ⁶⁷ 27	.56 1:23 1:51 2 Inv	39000 4 6 ⁹	6 ¹⁰ 6 ⁷ 6 ⁷ 4 ⁵	BrHolland DaRenaud	28 29 264 274 1:52	100
26 May 24	14Phl fst ⁸³ 263	.54 1:21 1:48 2 Sendlin	45000 1 2 ²	2 ¹ 2 ² 3 ² 2 ¹	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	27 273 264 271 1:48	113
18 May 24	12M1 fst ⁶³ 263	.53 1:21 1:48 Opn Hcp	46500 9 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 3 ³	TiTrctck TrAlexndr	26 27 271 271 1:48	111
11 May 24	12M1 fst ⁵⁴ 271	.55 1:22 1:49 3 Opn Hcp	31500 7 7 ⁶	7 ⁶ 7 ⁹ 7 ⁸ 5 ²	TiTrctck TrAlexndr	28 28 273 252 1:49	101

2	COACHES CORNER 41:49.3 (1) \$19,590	b g 4, by Always A Virgin, Caribbean Pacety by Somebeachsomewhere Jeff Fought Racing,Astor,FL Brian K Carsey,Cambridge City,IN	Last 5 Sts-\$192,000	1:49.3 M1 1:50.3 Phl 5/8	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 13 3 1 6	\$293,845
5-2 J. Bartlett	6-0-13 (000)	P. Engblom 2-0-0-1 (000)	Br - Black Creek Farm & Hickory Hollow Stables,IN		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 19 5 2 4	\$121,146
12 Jul 24	9M1 fst ⁸⁰ 281	.55 1:24 1:50 Qua	39000 2 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ³ 1 ³ 1 ³	JaBartitt PeEngblom	27 27 281 281 1:50	109
8 Jul 24	9YR fst ⁸³ 26	.53 1:20 1:47 3-5 YO OPN	39000 6 6 ⁷	6 ⁷ 6 ⁰ 6 ¹ 6 ⁴	YaGingras PeEngblom	27 27 27 263 1:48	116
15 Jun 24	8Wbs fst ⁶⁸ 26	.53 1:20 1:47 GOLD CUP	73000 6 6 ⁷	6 ⁷ 6 ⁰ 6 ¹ 6 ⁴	YaGingras PeEngblom	27 27 27 263 1:48	116
8 Jun 24	11Nfd fst ⁷² 27	.55 1:23 1:52 4 D-Battle Final	20000 3 5 ⁶	5 ⁰ 4 ⁰ 2 ² 2 ¹	JaBartitt PeEngblom	28 27 273 292 1:52	101
26 May 24	13PhIA fst ⁸³ 263	.54 1:20 1:47 2 AUGER	10000 7 1 ¹	2 ¹ 2 ² 2 ² 3 ¹	DeDunn PeEngblom	26 27 26 272 1:47	117
11 May 24	12M1 fst ⁶³ 271	.55 1:22 1:49 3 Opn Hcp	31500 6 1 ¹	2 ¹ 2 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹	JaBartitt PeEngblom	27 28 274 263 1:49	102
22 Apr 24	8YR fst ⁵⁴ 264	.53 1:21 1:50 2 D-BORG FINAL	457000 6 6 ⁷	6 ⁸ 4 ² 2 ² 2 ²	JaBartitt PeEngblom	28 26 27 29 1:50	109
15 Apr 24	9YR fst ⁵⁵ 274	.56 1:23 1:51 2 BORGATA L5	50000 5 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 5 ⁶ 4 ³ 1 ¹	PeEngblom 29	28 272 263 1:52	105

3	PLEASELETMEKNOW(L) 31:50.3 (5/8) \$8,373	b g 5, by American Ideal, I Said Please by Well Said Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC,Naples,FL	Last 5 Sts-\$48,255	1:51.4 YR 1:51.2 YR	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 13 3 1 6	\$108,855
8-1 Ma. MacDonald	19-3-4-3 (158)	T. Alexander 3-1-1-1 (600)	Br - Fiddler's Creek Stables LLC,MI		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 19 5 2 4	\$137,577
16 Jul 24	4YR fst ⁹¹ 271	.56 1:24 1:51 3-5 YO OPN	39000 5 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 5 ³ 5 ² 3 ¹	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	28 29 271 271 1:51	104
1 Jul 24	4YR fst ⁷⁵ 27	.56 1:24 1:52 3-5 YO OPN	35000 1 2 ¹	2 ¹ 3 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	27 29 273 274 1:52	102
24 Jun 24	4YR fst ⁷¹ 264	.56 1:24 1:51 3-5 YO OPN	35000 2 4 ³	4 ⁴ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ⁰	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	27 29 271 29 1:53	107
17 Jun 24	8YR fst ⁸⁰ 26	.53 1:22 1:51 3-6 YO OPN	35000 4 5 ⁵	5 ⁵ 5 ⁰ 2 ² 6 ²	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	27 27 274 271 1:51	105
10 Jun 24	2YR fst ⁶⁷ 263	.55 1:22 1:51 3-6 YO OPN	35000 6 2 ⁰	2 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ² 3 ¹	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	26 29 271 29 1:51	103
3 Jun 24	2YR fst ⁷⁴ 273	.57 1:24 1:52 3-5 YO OPN	35000 5 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 5 ³ 5 ³ 4 ¹	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	29 29 274 264 1:52	101
22 May 24	4YR fst ⁷² 271	.56 1:24 1:53 3-6 YO OPN	32000 3 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 5 ⁰ 5 ² 6 ³	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	28 28 274 284 1:53	95
22 Apr 24	6YR fst ⁵⁴ 272	.56 1:24 1:52 1 D-BORG CON	10000 4 6 ⁷	6 ⁷ 5 ³ 5 ³ 3 ²	MaKakaley TrAlexndr	29 28 271 274 1:52	99

4	ROCKNROLL RUN A 6:14.9 (5/8) Q \$7,294	b g 7, by Rock N Roll Heaven, She's A Runa by Jereme's Jet Lary D Staibbaum,Matoras,PA	Last 5 Sts-\$46,150	1:50 PRC 5/8 1:49.4 PRC 5/8	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 13 3 1 6	\$138,587
10-1 L. Staibbaum	167-29-30 (174)	L. Staibbaum 173-31-35-32 (179)	Br - K B Kennedy & Burns Golf Pty LTD,AS		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 19 5 2 4	\$231,014
13 Jul 24	10M1 fst ⁸² 261	.53 1:21 1:47 4 D-WRHoughton	42800 11 3 ¹	5 ³ 6 ³ 7 ³ 5 ⁴	LaStaibam LaStaibam	26 27 281 261 1:48	107
8 Jul 24	8YR fst ⁸³ 273	.56 1:22 1:50 3 Inv	39000 1 2 ¹	2 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 2 ¹	MaMacDnd LaStaibam	27 28 264 274 1:50	108
29 Jun 24	11M1 sly ⁷⁷ 263	.53 1:21 1:47 3 Brower	152190 3 4 ²	5 ³ 7 ⁵ 8 ⁹ 3 ¹	LaStaibam LaStaibam	27 27 271 28 1:49	106
24 Jun 24	7YR fst ⁷¹ 273	.56 1:24 1:51 3-6 YO OPN	30000 5 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 4 ² 4 ¹ 3 ¹	MaMacDnd LaStaibam	28 29 264 273 1:52	101
17 Jun 24	7YR fst ⁸⁰ 272	.57 1:24 1:52 3-6 YO OPN	24000 3 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	MaMacDnd LaStaibam	27 29 274 28 1:52	100
10 Jun 24	1YR fst ⁶⁷ 273	.56 1:24 1:52 3-6 YO OPN	30000 7 7 ⁹	7 ¹⁰ 7 ³ 7 ⁵ 6 ²	MaMacDnd LaStaibam	29 29 263 273 1:53	97
4 Jun 24	8Stg fst ⁸³ 284	.58 1:26 1:53 Qua	8 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	LaStaibam LaStaibam	28 29 274 272 1:53	92
27 May 24	6YR fst ⁷¹ 261	.53 1:24 1:50 3-6 YO OPN	27000 4 6 ⁷	6 ⁷ 5 ³ 5 ³ 3 ²	MaMacDnd LaStaibam	29 28 271 274 1:52	99

5	ERVIN HANOVER(L) 31:49 (7/8) \$3,213	b h 4, by Captaintreacherous, Eloquent Grace by Well Said Pollack Racing LLC,Venetia,PA	Last 5 Sts-\$4,927	1:50.3 Phl 5/8 1:49 HoP 7/8	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 11 2 1 1	\$35,340
12-1 W. Hennessey	327-73-61-44 (223)	J. Cullipier 0-0-0-0 (000)	Br - Hanover Shoe Farms Inc,PA		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 21 5 2 3	\$150,359
7 Jul 24	8Phl fst ⁸² 262	.55 1:20 1:48 3 NW15000 L5	14000 4 5 ⁶	5 ⁰ 5 ¹ 5 ¹ 8 ¹	TiTrctck JeCullphr	27 28 251 314 1:53	92
22 Jun 24	10M1 fst ⁸³ 261	.53 1:21 1:47 3 Graduate	50000 1 4 ²	4 ² 7 ⁵ 7 ⁴ 5 ¹	TiTrctck JeCullphr	26 28 274 26 1:48	110
14 Jun 24	9M1 gd ⁷⁴ 264	.54 1:21 1:47 3 Graduate	50000 1 4 ²	4 ³ 5 ⁴ 7 ⁴ 7 ⁵	TiTrctck JeCullphr	27 27 271 263 1:48	109
1 Jun 24	8Wbs fst ⁶⁸ 262	.55 1:23 1:49 2 Graduate	48545 1 4 ³	4 ⁴ 6 ¹ 6 ⁴ 5 ³	TiTrctck DaMenary	27 29 273 26 1:50	104
19 May 24	10FID fst ⁷³ 263	.54 1:22 1:50 Juravinski	191990 8 6 ⁵	6 ⁵ 2 ⁰ 5 ³ 6 ⁴	TyBorch DaMenary	27 27 271 281 1:50	116
12 May 24	5FID fst ⁶⁰ 254	.54 1:22 1:50 3 Juravinski	25550 7 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	LoRoy DaMenary	25 28 28 281 1:50	111
27 Apr 24	6M1 fst ⁵² 273	.56 1:24 1:50 4 YO OPN	31500 2 4 ⁴	4 ⁴ 4 ⁴ 4 ³ 3 ¹	ToMcCrthy JeCullphr	28 29 281 251 1:50	96
21 Apr 24	10PhIA fst ⁵² 264	.55 1:22 1:50 3 NW15000	13000 3 2 ²	2 ² 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	ToMcCrthy JeCullphr	27 28 272 274 1:50	105

6	KEN HANOVER(L) 41:47.4 (1) Q \$13,283	b h 4, by Captaintreacherous, KJ's Justice by American Ideal R Mallor Phint,NC P Leavitt,Btm,ME W Jordan,Frytr,ME D Osterhof,Bytm Bch,FL	Last 5 Sts-\$68,263	1:47.4 M1 1:48.4 Del	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 6 1 2 1	\$76,697
3-1 B. Beckwith	716-195-134-94 (272)	R. Mallor 0-0-0-0 (000)	Br - Hanover Shoe Farms Inc,PA		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 19 8 5 2	\$415,605
6 Jul 24	10M1 fst ⁸⁷ 263	.54 1:21 1:47 3 D-Graduate	23000 9 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹	DaMiller RoMallar	26 27 272 264 1:48	112
29 Jun 24	11M1 fst ⁷⁷ 263	.53 1:21 1:47 3 Brower	152190 11 5 ³	5 ³ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹	DaMiller RoMallar	27 26 272 272 1:48	117
22 Jun 24	12M1 fst ⁸³ 271	.54 1:21 1:47 3 Graduate	50000 3 3 ¹	3 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	DaMiller RoMallar	27 27 274 254 1:47	111
14 Jun 24	9M1 gd ⁷⁴ 264	.54 1:21 1:47 3 Graduate	50000 8 5 ⁶	5 ⁶ 7 ⁶ 8 ⁵ 7 ⁵	DaMiller RoMallar	27 27 273 261 1:48	110
8 Jun 24	17M1 fst ⁷³ 274	.56 1:24 1:52 Qua	4 3 ³	3 ² 1 ² 1 ² 1 ²	TiTrctck RoMallar	28 28 28 272 1:52	109
26 May 24	13Phl fst ⁸³ 263	.54 1:20 1:47 2 AUGER	10000 3 3 ³	3 ² 4 ³ 4 ³ 2 ¹	DaMiller RoMallar	27 27 26 264 1:47	119
18 May 24	12M1 fst ⁶³ 263	.53 1:21 1:48 Opn Hcp	46500 4 3 ²	3 ² 5 ³ 4 ¹ 2 ¹	DaMiller RoMallar	27 27 273 263 1:48	119
7 May 24	7Phl fst ⁷⁰ 283	.57 1:25 1:51 Qua	4 1 ²	1 ² 1 ² 1 ² 1 ²	DaMiller RoMallar	28 28 28 263 1:51	114

7	HELLABALOU(L) 31:48.4 (5/8) * \$27,833	b h 6, by Sweet Lou, Magestic Blue Chip by Rocknroll Hanover Burke Rock Stg,Fridrctwn,PA E Good,Dvdsn,MD Weaver Brusconi,Cnstrg,PA L Karr,Rndph,NJ	Last 5 Sts-\$65,580	1:50.2 YR 1:50.1 Mw 5/8	24 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 24 Tot 13 2 3 3	\$361,830
9-2 J. Stratton	0-0-0-0 (000)	R. Burke 1-1-0-0 (1,000)	Br - Andray Farm & Sergeant Stables LLC,PA		23 Stg 0 0 0 0	- 23 Tot 31 7 3 1	\$542,201
8 Jul 24	8YR fst ⁸³ 273	.56 1:22 1:50 3 Inv	39000 5 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	JoBongim RoBurke	27 28 264 281 1:51	109
24 Jun 24	8YR fst ⁷¹ 27	.55 1:23 1:51 2 Inv	39000 4 2 ¹	2 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹	JoBongim RoBurke	26 29 28 28 1:51	104
8 Jun 24	11Nfd fst ⁷² 27	.55 1:23 1:52 4 D-Battle Final	20000 5 4 ⁵	4 ⁵ 3 ³ 6 ² 6 ³	RoBwnrjr RoBurke	28 29 273 294 1:53	95
31 May 24	10Lon fst ⁶⁸ 264	.56 1:23 1:51 1 CAMLUCK	109500 1 1 ¹	1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹	LoRoy RoBurke	26 29 273 273 1:51	109
13 May 24	4YR fst ⁶⁰ 264	.54 1:22 1:50 1 Inv	35000 6 2 ¹	2 ¹ 3 ² 3 ¹ 3 ²	JoBongim RoBurke	26 28 27 28 1:50	

Jay Randall lands 5,000th career driving win



When driver Jay Randall won the fourth race with Sweet Street Lou (1:54.4, \$8.60) at Plainridge Park on Tuesday (July 16) afternoon, he reached the 5,000 win plateau for his career that now spans 46 years.

Randall, a resident of Ballston Spa, New York, started his driving career in 1977 at Saratoga Raceway and five years later won the 1982 Johnny Page Award as the up and coming driver there. Over the years, Randall has switched his base of operations several times, moving to Monticello, then Yonkers and then the Meadowlands before returning to Saratoga in 2005, where he has been a leading driver ever since.

Since 2019, Randall has split his summers by also competing at Plainridge Park and has been very successful at both tracks.

As a regular member of the Plainridge driver colony, Randall has racked up 286 wins that earned their connections over \$4.1 million in purses. His best single year at The Ridge was 2022 when he finished third in the standings with 100 wins and just under \$1.5 million in earnings.

The 63-year-old Randall had his single best overall season for wins in 2019 when he hung 238 victories on his competitors. Since 2018 alone, Randall has won \$10.5 million in purses, and that's while being sidelined for an extended period of time in 2021 when he was injured in a racing accident at Saratoga Raceway.

This year, Randall is tied as the seventh-leading driver at Plainridge with 17 wins and is tied as the fourth-leading driver at Saratoga with 75 wins.

Randall notched his 4,000th driving win in August of 2018 and surpassed \$30 million in lifetime earnings in 2023. That number is now in excess of \$32 million.

-release (Plainridge)

TWIN B JOE FRESH CLAIMS LEAD SPOT IN TOP 10

There was a shakeup at the top of the Week 5 Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Tuesday, with Dorothy Haughton Memorial winner Twin B Joe Fresh taking over the No. 1 spot and Meadowlands Pace champ Legendary Hanover vaulting from eighth to second.

Nijinsky, who was ranked No. 1 for the first four weeks, dropped to third after his second-place finish in the Meadowlands Pace.

Jerry Silverman Memorial division winner Its A Love Thing moved from sixth to fourth. Jiggy Jog S, who was idle, completed the top five.

Karl, who suffered his first loss of the year in a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial, dropped from second to sixth. He was followed by William R. Haughton Memorial winner Abuckabett Hanover, the lone newcomer to the Top 10.

Rank	Name (First-Place Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Twin B Joe Fresh (20)	4mp	6-5-1-0	\$300,612	319	3
2	Legendary Hanover (5)	3cp	7-4-2-0	\$407,845	280	8
3	Nijinsky (9)	3cp	7-6-1-0	\$634,530	277	1
4	Its A Love Thing	3fp	6-4-2-0	\$316,324	207	6
5	Jiggy Jog S (1)	5mt	2-2-0-0	\$126,648	196	4
6	Karl	3ct	5-4-0-1	\$182,839	194	2
7	Abuckabett Hanover	6hp	5-3-0-1	\$295,987	157	--
8	Winner's Bet	4ht	4-3-0-0	\$163,500	44	7
9	T C I	3ct	5-3-0-1	\$129,637	27	9
10	Highland Kismet	3gt	7-5-1-0	\$118,150	26	5

-edited release (Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown)

DRF Bets Handicapper's Corner

SIGN UP NOW

At DRF Harness we strive to provide the best handicapping information in the sport. Each week we'll use this space to bring you some of our handicappers' best bets and value plays. Use this information as one of your tools when wagering or simply click on the link above and head to DRF Bets to wager now.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

RACE 4

(6) CRACK SHOT looked good breaking his maiden at first asking in Leg 1 of the Grassroots and he gets the call to repeat starting from the best post.

-Garnet Barnsdale



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, JULY 19

RACE 3

(5) CONVERSANO came into her debut mile off a very impressive qualifier but wound up racing from behind through moderate fractions at best and had no shot despite kicking home in 26 4/5. I'm expecting a big step up here.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 2

(4) SILK CLOUD A took advantage of last week's drop in class and converted rather easily at odds-on. Pete Tritton import faces mostly similar here and can repeat.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, JULY 20

RACE 2

(5) QUICK FIRE has been better with Lasix added and tonight she really does catch a soft bunch. Filly faced all kinds of traffic last time and finished with plenty of pace. Amateur driver just adds to the price.

-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

DANA PARHAM PURCHASES HOOSIER, MIDWEST CLASSIC SALES

Dana Parham, owner of Odds On Racing, has announced that he has purchased the Hoosier Classic Sale and the Midwest Classic Mixed Sale from its longtime owners and operators Steve Cross and David and Jeff Fought.

The 2024 Hoosier Classic Yearling Sale and 2024 Midwest Classic Mixed Sale will operate as normal under the management of Steve Cross. The transition to Odds On Racing's management team will begin upon conclusion of the 2024 Midwest Classic Mixed Sale.

The Buckeye Classic Yearling Sale was not included in the purchase and will continue to be owned and operated by Steve Cross and the Foughts.

For Jeff Fought, the sale of the Hoosier Classic Sale Company is somewhat bittersweet. "The Hoosier Classic Yearling Sale and Midwest Classic Mixed Sale have been great to my family and to Steve and Darlene Cross over the past 10 plus years," said Fought. "We feel there is no better people to pass the torch onto in the Indiana market than Mr. Parham and his team. We are excited to see the sale continue to flourish and wish the new ownership all the best in the future."

Odds On Racing would like to thank Eric Cherry for negotiating the purchase in such an expedient and professional manner and Steve Cross and the Foughts for providing him with this exceptional opportunity. Parham also states that he is looking forward to spending several weeks in Indiana next year getting to know the consignors and getting their feedback as to how their sales experience can be enhanced.

"My primary goal is to grow this sale, expect some major announcements from me and my management team immediately after the conclusion of this year's sale season. One detail I can share now is that I have hired Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky, my partner in Dr. J Stallion Management, to be the sale consultant. She will inspect each yearling entered into the sale, evaluate each pedigree and advise as to day placement etc. She will also help with marketing and growing our customer base. I am very, very excited for 2025 and beyond."

-edited release (Dr. Jablonsky for Dana Parham)

BETTING TOPS \$5 MILLION ON MEADOWLANDS PACE NIGHT

Meadowlands Pace Night (July 13) brought a mixture of predictability and surprise, and was highlighted by the fastest-ever Pace – a mythical 1:46 3/5 mile put up by Legendary Hanover – as well as the third \$5-million night of business at the windows over the last five Pace Nights.

Wagering on the 14-race program totaled \$5,136,129.

The Pace – as well as five other major stakes events – were broadcast live to a nationwide audience on FOX Sports 2 (FS2) as The Big M and the TV team at the New York Racing Association (NYRA) continue to team up in a continuing effort to expand harness racing's exposure.

"Without question, FOX Sports has raised the bar significantly," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "I want to thank NYRA and their team for their commitment to excellence in broadcasting. The three-hour show was informative, and their exciting way of showing the best in Standardbred racing to an international audience has clearly raised the interest on Meadowlands Pace Night to another level."

The average Pace Night handle over the last five years (2020-2024) is \$5,051,261. That number is over \$1-million more than the \$4,048,993 Pace Night averaged over the first five years of the New Meadowlands era (2011-2015).

Tentative schedule for the remaining Big M broadcasts:

- August 3: Hambletonian, 4:30-5 p.m. (FOX)
- October 18: Breeders Crown eliminations, 1-6 p.m. (TBD)
- October 19: Breeders Crown eliminations, 8-11 p.m. (TBD)
- October 25: Breeders Crown finals, 8-11 p.m. (TBD)
- October 26: Breeders Crown finals, 8-11 p.m. (TBD)

-edited release (Meadowlands)

BJM'S LIL MAN COMES UP BIG IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES

BJM's Lil Man (\$2.40) stood tall in the \$106,300 New York Sire Stakes for the 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters at Buffalo Raceway on Wednesday afternoon (July 17) with a hard-fought 1 1/4 length victory over Low Inside in 1:59 4/5 over the fast track.

[READ MORE](#)

GREENSHOE FILLIES PICK UP PA SIRE STAKES VICTORIES AT PHILLY

Two-year-old trotting fillies came to Harrah's Philadelphia Wednesday afternoon for the second preliminary rounds of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes and Pennsylvania Stallion Series, and the biggest newsmaker was the sire Greenshoe, who fathered both winners in the Sire Stakes competition and also two of the successful Stallion Series fillies.

[READ MORE](#)

THREE-YEAR-OLD TROTTING FILLIES BATTLE IN INDIANA SIRE STAKES

Indiana Sires Stakes action returned to Harrah's Hoosier Park on Wednesday, July 17 with leg four for the 3-year-old trotting fillies. Two divisions highlighted the 14-race program and saw Hail Broadway and Skyway Paige deliver victories.

[READ MORE](#)

SUGAR INSTEAD ROMPS IN OHIO SIRE STAKES AT NORTHFIELD

Sugar Instead improved to five-for-five in the win column in 2024 with a 1:55 3/5 victory in a \$100,000 Ohio Sires Stakes contest for sophomore trotting fillies on Wednesday night at MGM Northfield Park.

[READ MORE](#)

\$7,575 PICK 5 CARRYOVER AT YONKERS THURSDAY

Tuesday night's (July 16) Pick 5 at MGM Yonkers Raceway started with horses at odds of 10-1, 46-1 and 13-1 winning, and that led to the wager not being hit, resulting in a \$7,575.22 carryover (\$20,000 GTD) pool for July 18.

[READ MORE](#)

2024 HARNESS HEROES NOW AVAILABLE

The newly released set of HARNESS HEROES trading cards contains all the usual 35 North American champion horses and people from 2023. In addition, the set will feature six specifically Indiana-centric subjects. The Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) directors selected the 2023 pari-mutuel driver of the year (Trace Tetrack), pari-mutuel trainer of the year (Tyler George), fair driver/trainer of the year (Doug Rideout), trotter of the year (Ponda Title), pacer of the year (Coach Stefanos) and the Indiana State Fairgrounds as their inclusions.

"Tony (Renz) initiated the conversation last fall," explained Ellen Taylor HHYF Executive Director. "Since HHYF is always looking for ways to collaborate on projects, we worked through the creative process, utilizing our expertise to make high quality cards at an economical cost for ISA. The final effort is a wonderful trifecta; HHYF now has a unique twist for this year's set, ISA now has a cool giveaway for their events, and our avid collectors have the opportunity to learn more about Hoosier harness racing!"

National subjects in the 2024 set include Adare Castle, Bond, Bythem-issal, Captain Albano, Confederate, Geocentric, Ghostly Casper, Grace Hill, It's Academic, Jiggy Jog S, Karl, Legendary Hanover, Logan Park, Pass Line, Righteous Resolve, Soiree Hanover, So Much More, Stockade Seelster, Sylvia Hanover, Tactical Approach, Tattoo Artist, T C I, Willy's Home Run, Tim Bojarski, Dave Brower, Jim Campbell, Mark Etsell, Jay Hochstetler, Ed Lohmeyer, James MacDonald, Dave McDuffee, Ian Moore, Vicky Rouch, Ake Svanstedt, and Scott Zeron.

Collector sets will include all 41 (35 national, 6 Indiana) cards. This year marks the 34th edition of HARNESS HEROES trading card production which HHYF uses primarily as an educational tool as well as a small revenue stream for the charitable organization. For more information about the cards and HHYF, please contact the HHYF office at 317.908.0029. To place an order, use this link <https://hhyf.org/harness-heroes/>.

ATLANTIC SIRE STAKES SEASON STARTS FRIDAY

P.E.I. will host its first Atlantic Sires Stakes event of the season on Friday evening as part of Governor's Plate Week racing at Red Shores at the Summerside Raceway.

[READ MORE](#)