

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Matriarch Gail MacDonald has raised a family of men involved in all aspects of Harness Racing

COURTESY: ANTHONY MACDONALD FACEBOOK

\$75,000 GUARANTEED EARLY PICK 5

WOODBINE
STANDARD BRED
RACING

4 NIGHTS A WEEK

WoodbineMohawkPark.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jay Bergman: Downbytheseaside could launch regional fireworks on final night at the Lexington Selected Sale

Owner Bill Pollock sets the pace through four sessions at the Lexington Selected Sale

Karl looks to rule in Kentucky Futurity; 4YO season on the table

Pollack hopes for success with Elan Hanover at The Red Mile on Friday

Best Bets & Analysis for Mohawk Park, Yonkers, Freehold, Red Mile

Trotting fillies dominate Wednesday's Lexington Sale; Twin B Joe Fresh still leads Jiggy Jog in Top 10 poll

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



HARNESS FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett

[@JHallettPhoto](https://twitter.com/JHallettPhoto)

If there's one thing that harness racing stands out for, it's for being a family-oriented business. Walk on any backstretch and you're bound to find stables that share the same names, drivers that match in colors, and kids playing out in the yards. Nine times out of 10, you'll hear someone entered into the business because of a family connection.

While that connection is usually from a family member who is a trainer or driver, for the MacDonald brothers, the connection tied back to their home in Kingston, Prince Edward Island.

Gail MacDonald, the matriarch of the MacDonald racing clan, moved to Prince Edward Island when she was in high school and she has resided there ever since.

"When my mother, my sister and I moved here to

Prince Edward Island, my brother-in-law, Gordon, decided he wanted to be in horses because his parents were involved a little bit way back when in New Brunswick," said Gail MacDonald. "My mom and he bought a horse, a trotter, so that kind of started him in harness racing and kind of started us hanging around the track and watching the races. When I moved into the Charlottetown area and was looking for a little second job, because everybody's always wanting another little job, I got one at the racetrack."

Gail met her husband, Freddy MacDonald, at the racetrack.

"I was working at the Top of the Park and he was one of the regulars there," Gail said. "That's where I met him and I always tell him that I was the best thing he ever won at the track."

"When Freddy and I got together and got married, the only way I got him to move out of the city was to get a horse, so we ended up with a few broodmares and we started to race a few horses here and there," Gail continued. "We had

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

ACCEPTING ENTRIES

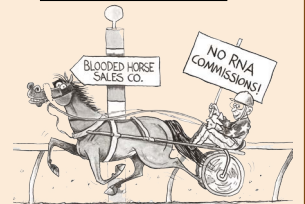


FALL SPEED SALE NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Enter online now at
www.bloodedhorse.com
Black type entries close October 12
Mixed entries close October 23

BLOODED HORSE SALES COMPANY

JERRY HAWS
P.O. Box 187
Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
Phone: (859) 858-4415
Fax: (859) 858-8498





The Breeders Crown Returns to the Meadowlands

Eliminations

October 18

POST TIME 12:30 PM

October 19

POST TIME 6:20 PM

Finals

October 25 + 26

Millions in championship stakes across two star-studded evenings.

POST TIME 6:20 PM



Breeders Crown Charity Challenge

Over \$1.5 million raised for charity!

some success with some of our horses, but the biggest success was that the kids fell in love with the horses. They couldn't wait to have their own horse and they wanted to be around the racetrack. We raised another boy, Bobby Drake, so I always say we have six boys because Bobby was our extra."

Lloyd is the oldest of the six boys, followed by Bobby, Anthony, Mark, Curtis, and James.

"There are gaps between my boys. Lloyd and Bobby and then there's five years and there's Anthony and Mark, then there's another almost five years then Curtis and James. They were all at different ends and they tortured each other just like regular hellions," Gail laughed.

Gail became the track photographer at Charlottetown Driving Park in 1988 and the boys were raised at the track.

"Their father and I would bring them to the track, they were a mainstay there," she said. "They, like a lot of kids, especially in Charlottetown, grew up at the track. You never worried about them. Our backstretch has raised more kids than you can imagine and you don't worry about them because you know that every pair of eyes in that barnyard know who that kid is and they are watching them and keeping an eye out for them. Our backstretch is like our little village."

One of Gail's memories that stands out as track photographer is her first Gold Cup and Saucer when Ian Moore's The Papermaker won.

"My very first Gold Cup and Saucer was Ian Moore with The Papermaker and that was interesting. I had never seen anything like it. Especially when all of the sudden that's your job and all these people are crowding around you," said Gail. "If you ever see the photo of The Papermaker coming across the finish line and if you look in the background, you'll see this tiny little boy holding the yellow blanket for the Gold Cup and Saucer. It was pouring rain so it wasn't being displayed and he was holding onto it – that was Mark."

Overall, as a mother and track photographer, Gail recalls the moments that both Mark and Anthony won the Gold Cup and Saucer as her favorite memories.

"Watching Mark win and then watching Anthony win, and then hope-



JESSICA HALLETT

Anthony MacDonald has won over 3,600 races as a driver and 400 as a trainer but his legacy will be thestable.ca.

fully someday I'll be able to watch James win the Gold Cup and Saucer. Those are always breathtaking for me because I know how much it meant to them," said Gail. "Also, when I watch some of the other kids that grew

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



HOLLYWOOD
Gaming
DAYTON RACEWAY



BUCKEYE STALLION
SERIES



OHHA
OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
EST. 1953

Saturday, October 5th | Air Time 4:45 pm

CATCH ALL THE ACTION
on the OHHA Facebook, YouTube,
and HarnessRacingOhio.com!



EVERYTHING IS BETTER

Down by the seaside

Set sail for success with yearlings at the
Lexington Sale!

HIP 9 - o/o a **SWEET LOU** stakes mare,
PACE BABY PACE 1:50.3 (\$384,680),
family of **PASS LINE** 1:50.2 (\$603,382)

HIP 66 - Dual eligible (OH & KY), first colt o/o
ALEXIS FAITH 1:50.3 (\$586,546) family of
TEST OF FAITH 1:47 (\$2,416,011)

HIP 89 - full brother to **BYTHEMISSAL** 1:47.1
(\$2,168,591)

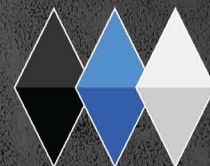
LEADING PERFORMERS IN 2024 INCLUDE:

SIPPINONSEAROC, who set a world record at
2 in the **Kentucky Championship Series**.

ACT FAST, winner of the **\$100,000 Myron
Charna President's Pace** at 4.

SEASIDE DIVA, winner of the **\$100,000 Ohio
Sire Stakes**, the **\$100,000 Nadia Lobel Pace**,
etc.

SWINGTOWN, winner of the **\$150,000 The
Next Generation** for 2YOs, etc.



DIAMOND
CREEK

717-638-7100

office@diamondcreekfarm.com

up through the Charlottetown Driving Park family and I watch them win the Gold Cup and Saucer, that same kind of look on their face and I see how much it means to them, they are awestruck at the idea that they've won what they've always watched."

All raised in the same household, the six boys went in different directions but with a similar background and field: harness racing.

Lloyd was more in tune with the technical aspect of racing with the simulcast and video.

"Lloyd, our oldest boy, started out doing the first color videos because Mike McDonald wanted a color video that he could show at lunch. He had bought a little pizza place in Charlottetown and the idea was that if horsemen would come to this place at lunchtime, they would show the races from the previous race card," said Gail. "So, Mike got a little colored video camera and Lloyd started doing videos of the races and they were being shown at this restaurant. From there, Lloyd started to make up races and sell them for the horsemen. That was his involvement in the business."

Curtis followed suit with Lloyd in the technical aspect of racing. Today, Curtis can still be found behind the scenes of the racing action, working behind the camera for Central Ontario Standardbred Association (COSA).

"With Curtis, he was around the horses a little bit and moved to Ontario, but he was more into the technical stuff with Lloyd," Gail said. "As Curtis got older, he was more technically inclined in that area than actually wanting to get up behind a horse. He did his share of it – anybody who has ever worked with Anthony has been up behind a horse – but that wasn't something that he wanted to do all the time. He didn't mind getting up and jogging or training the horses, but his passion was on the camera, doing the technical end of it, simulcast work, that was what he did and what he still does."

Bobby became a blacksmith and he was an introduction path to working on the backstretch for Mark and Anthony at a young age.

"Bobby is now a blacksmith at the racetrack. The boys, Mark and Anthony, started going with him down around the barn area and started doing little odd jobs with trainers like Gary MacDonald, Kenny Arsenault, Buddy Campbell and Paul MacDonald. Of course, the love of the horses just kept growing and growing and growing until finally they did get their own horses and it went from there with those two," Gail said.

Mark was the first one to leave home, heading to Windsor, Ontario to get his start in the business.

Mark was also the first to start driving. To date, he has over 6,700 driving wins and nearly \$106 million in purse earnings. The Goshen, New York resident started driving in 1997 and his resume is extensive. He has surpassed the \$100 million mark, has two O'Brien Awards, three Gold Cup and Saucer victories (2003, 2004, 2011) as well as been a regular on the Grand Circuit and more recently in the New York Sire Stakes. This year he won the \$220,000 Sam McKee Memorial on Aug. 3 at The Big M with Larry Stalbaum's Rocknroll Runa A.

"We had nothing else so I decided to go to Windsor and work for Mike MacDonald. He helped me a lot," Mark said.

"They are all first-generation horsemen," Gail said. "We had a couple of broodmares here, but there were no drivers or trainers [in the family]. When Mark and Anthony went to Ontario and they started with Mike MacDonald and different trainers, they had no family that was feeding them horses, no family that they grew up learning from their dad or their uncle or their grandfather. They are truly first generation. When James landed up there, it was a little different because he had his brothers. He did have a little bit of a harness racing connection where Anthony could say to a trainer, why don't you try my kid brother? Anthony and Mark did not have that."

Anthony followed Mark out to Windsor shortly after.

"My brothers and I grew up just kids before the internet and before computers, baseball all the time or beating the hell out of each other all the time, it was quite the childhood. To see when Mark left home – I'm two years older than Mark – when he left home, I was still at home," Anthony said. "For him to move from Prince Edward Island to Windsor as a 17-year-old kid moving to somewhere you've never been before around

people you've never known before, that's a pretty impressive feat in its own right. And I followed a few months later. We ended up going from Windsor to Montreal. As you can imagine, an English kid starting their driving career in a French province, we didn't usually get the best horses to drive."

Anthony MacDonald has over 3,600 lifetime driving wins and nearly \$35 million in earnings. The Guelph, Ont. resident also started driving in 1997.

Anthony's experience in the business extends beyond driving as he developed TheStable.ca.

"It was the same as if every track around you was

about to close and you had no job whatsoever," Anthony explained. "It was probably one of the most terrifying things that ever came through. I didn't have postsecondary education or any other job that I was good at or wanted to do and it was all coming crumbling down. I just got married, we just had a kid, we had a mortgage and a car, it was literally probably the scariest thing I have gone through in my life. We had a rally in Ontario, Canada, downtown Toronto. I spoke and when I was done speaking, the leader of the Conservative Party, asked if I would work with the party, to which I replied, 'absolutely not'.

"That went on for about three months, we had a couple more rallies and I spoke again and the leader of the party now asked me twice more and finally convinced me to run in politics, so for two years I was the candidate for the Conservative Party in an area of 130,000 people to represent them in provincial politics. I knocked on doors and talked to people for two years and I finished second in the election in a field of five politicians. From there, from knocking on all those doors, I realized a lot of people would enjoy horse racing if they thought it was affordable and it wasn't tied to gambling. These were people that don't really gamble, they don't go to the casino, they don't play cards online, they are just everyday people and I don't think they realize there is an outlet for entertainment to watch your horse train or watch your horse race. Just to experience horse racing.

"I don't think people in that area understood that, which is disappointing because it was right in the middle of four racetracks – Mohawk,



Three-time O'Brien Award winning driver James MacDonald with his brother Curtis' daughter Lennon.



JESSICA HALLETT

London, Flamboro, and Grand River,” Anthony continued. “So, when I lost the election, I was kind of deflated. I didn’t know what to do. I went back to driving a little bit and at this point, there was a deal starting to be hammered out by the Conservatives and Liberals over horse racing, so there was some light at the end of the tunnel, but not a ton. I said to my wife one night, ‘all those times I talked to people at their door and they told me that horse racing sounds fun and they’d be interested in something like that, but didn’t know it existed, they can’t all be lying. I wonder what would happen if we just got some horses and trained them down and see if people would become partners.’”

And so, Anthony and his wife reached out to breeding farms and made a deal that if the yearlings don’t go for what they want at the sale, they will give them an opportunity to train them down and sell shares to people all over, at the time, Ontario.

“I didn’t realize how far reaching it would become,” Anthony said. “Blue Chip Farms gave us some horses and some other small breeders gave us some horses and we ended up with 18 or 20 horses and over 40 owners which, at the time, was an incredible number. Fast forward to today and we have over 900 clients in 15 countries and currently, before Lexington or Harrisburg, we have 115 horses and broodmares. It gave people all over the world an opportunity. It opened the door to an entirely different view of horse racing. I think people are aware of what we did and how we did it. Without the work my wife and I put in, most definitely her, it wouldn’t have been possible.”

Anthony credits his success with his family and especially his parents.

“To look back and to see every aspect of my life and how I got here is truly incredible. It all started with my parents teaching us to work hard. It’s the same things I tell my kids, ‘if you work harder than the people around you, you’re going to be offered opportunities that maybe they wouldn’t.’ That all started in Kingston back in the 80s. To have so many people from one household succeed from a little strip of asphalt. To have all those wins and all this happen from that one household is really amazing.”

The youngest of his brothers, James, is closing in on 4,000 career driving wins and \$58 million in lifetime earnings. The Guelph, Ont. resident started driving in 2009 and in 2023, he notched his third straight O’Brien Award as the Keith Waples Driver of the Year, with his sights set on number four in 2024.

“James was our youngest,” Gail said. “He wasn’t always interested in the horses. He was around the track, worked in one of the restaurants around the track, but he didn’t at that time have the same passion as the older boys did, Anthony and Mark. He graduated from high school and went into college, decided he was going to go in through marketing and advertising. They send you to do on-the-job training when you do that and his on-the-job training was going to be at Georgian Downs.

“We took him up to Georgian Downs and they went on strike so he was up there with no place to work, so Anthony jumps in and says ‘well, they’ll only be a little while so come and work for me’ and that was the end of the story. He didn’t go back, fell in love with the horses. I don’t know what bug bit him when he was in there, but he learned from that point on, he learned all he could from the horses and all the horsemen around him and he is what he is today as a result of that,” Gail added.

James’ name tops the standings at Woodbine Mohawk Park once again this season with a 100-win lead. He also tops the Canadian leaderboard by wins and earnings for the season to date. His name can be regularly found at the headlines of winning multiple races on the card, sweeping featured races, and achieving new milestones. This year, he has found

great success with Anthony Beaton’s Legendary Hanover, winning the Meadowlands Pace as their marquee event.

“Winning a signature race at the Big M is incredible,” James said. “It’s the biggest win of my career I would say and I couldn’t be more proud of it. There is no feeling like winning a big race. There’s a lot of pressure going into races like that and it’s just a release of a lot of emotion when you hit the wire first.”

James said that he looks up to his brothers and is able to call on them whenever he needs help or advice.

“They are definitely the reason I got into the business; always available for help if I need it or advice; always my number one fans no matter how I do. We are fortunate to be a very close family,” James said.

Together, the brothers in the bike share nearly \$200 million in career driving earnings and over 14,000 wins.

“They are so close and it’s so nice to see it,” Gail said. “We’ve always said to them, nobody is closer to you or will have your back better than your brothers. They are very close to one another, always rooting for one another. They’d be the first ones on social media saying ‘look at what he just did’ for whoever it happened to be. We’re very proud of the fact that they are that close and that they all respect and stand up for one another.”



Mark MacDonald leads the family with over 6,700 career driving victories.

MIKE LIZZI

“But when they moved away, I heard stories after my boys left that I went, ‘you what?!’” Gail laughed, recalling a memory when Anthony and Mark put James in a hockey bag in the middle of a horse field.

And while the MacDonald boys still have their fun as brothers, they all echoed the same sentiment that they are a close family and all stick together.

“A lot took place for us to get to where we are,” Anthony said. “We were always very proud of one another as brothers and as a family and we always stick up for one another and praise each other. I think that comes from the way that we were raised, my mom and my dad. It’s hard to quantify what they did and how they did it because they raised a family when it was tough.

“The way that we grew up, to think that from that household – my brother Mark has won everything, James who is winning everything, and I’ve won a couple of races, too; my brother Bobby is a blacksmith, my other brother Lloyd is a business owner, and Curtis is best at what he does. It’s pretty hard to believe, the population of Kingston, Prince Edward Island when I was a kid and the kids that came out of that house. It’s more so my parents should be proud of what they accomplished. That’s how I feel about that. They did a tremendous job with what they had.

“For me to look back at my family and where the boys came from and how my parents were able to pull it off – it truly is amazing,” Anthony concluded.

Downbytheseaside could launch regional fireworks on final night of the Lexington Selected Sale



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

Some 800 yearlings will go under the block over the first four days of the Lexington Selected yearling sale and while some fatigue may set in, those looking for next year's stars would be wise to save a little energy and yes, some funds to participate in the final night of the sale. While bargains may be expected, more than likely in this sophisticated age many buyers know there will still be plenty of competition for the colt or filly that looks the part when entering the sales arena.

Friday's finale finds some pedigrees that appear to fit better on the first two nights but didn't have the black-type filled at the time of consignment. That may be an irregularity that is hard to predict but at the same time it means that those paying close enough attention may be able to get a minor discount in the end. HIP 810 on Friday night's schedule is a filly that certainly measures up to those standards. Malibu Barbie Deo is a dual-eligible daughter of Downbytheseaside, with Sire Stakes options available in Ohio and the New Jersey development program. More than likely bidders will be hoping for more than that and the primary reason why is that Rodeo Drive Deo, the yearling's half-sister, is a 2-year-old filly that just captured a Bluegrass stakes at The Red Mile on September 26. Malibu Barbie Deo hails from a solid maternal family that served the late Hall of Famer Bob McIntosh quite well during his brilliant career. Her dam, Miss L A is a full sister to the \$1.4 million winner L A Delight and a half-sister to a solid pair including the rugged Somewhere In LA and the O'Brien award-winning Sunny Dee. The pedigree tilts towards fillies, as the recent Grand Circuit winner would suggest, giving Malibu Barbie Deo value both on the track and following her racing career.

Depth of pedigree is quite important, especially on the trotting side of the ledger. That's why HIP 820 Windfall Moni, another dual-eligible with options in Ohio and Massachusetts, could prove a bright spot next year on the racetrack. This daughter of Ready For Moni is the first foal from the \$381K winner O So Easy, a solid stakes winner in Indiana during her racing career. It seems that O So Easy has given rebirth to a dormant maternal line that goes back to a fourth dam Vanessa Hill with strong roots to top sire Chapter Seven.

Ohio's breeding program has improved year over year for the last decade and the results are showing up solidly in pedigrees in all major auctions. HIP 829 Downbythelakeside is a colt by Downbytheseaside with a deep maternal line that includes some heavy hitters from the Buckeye State. Notably, Pure Paradise, the colt's dam, was a six-figure earner competing in both Ohio Sire Stakes and Kentucky programs during her racing career. The daughter of McArde is a 100 percent producer, with her 2024 2-year-old Captain Paradise a 1:52 4/5 winner in just his second career start. Downbythelakeside's second dam Odds On Hemera is credited with another multiple Ohio Sire Stakes winner in Stanford Court. Like his dam, the yearling Downbythelakeside will have eligibility both in Ohio and Kentucky when he races in 2025 and beyond.

The sheer number of foals by Downbytheseaside selling on the last night of the auction could make it easy to skip over one or the other but that would be a mistake. HIP 834 is one that most definitely will receive plenty of attention. Estuary is another with Ohio and Kentucky eligibility. Following the Grand Circuit opening on Thursday (September 26) bidders may have higher goals for this filly. Her half-sister Unreasonable, already a winner in 1:50 4/5 this year in the Kentucky Championships at The Red Mile, became a multiple stakes winner, capturing a Bluegrass division in 1:51. What's interesting when looking at the comparative pedigrees is that the dam Roaring To Go, a Bluegrass winner herself and top New York Sire Stakes performer during her racing career, did not connect with her first two foals but then when moved to the Somebeach-somewhere stallion line, specifically Huntsville, she hit it big. Estuary is the mare's second foal from that stallion line with the accomplished Downbytheseaside expected to give the mare another talented filly.

Seaside Shuffle, HIP 886 is another Downbytheseaside filly that offers performative bloodlines. Her dam Hula Shuffle has sent both of her foals to successful racing careers in Ohio, with Seaside Shuffle's half-sister Twenty a 20-time career winner. Second dam Hula Dancer produced two outstanding stakes and aged pacing stars, with brothers Maltest Artist and Artesian earning more than \$3.2 million collectively.

The influence of European stallions on American trotting continues to grow and the results on the racetrack offer confidence to future buyers that the yearlings can go on to great success

on the racetrack. Calgarian, HIP 893, may have sold earlier in the sale had his sire been more recognizable, but that's no reason to overlook him on night five. Calgary Games is the sire of the colt, and he was an accomplished son of Ready Express and grandson of Ready Cash. On the dam's side is a strong maternal family to back the dam Blessed's impressive record thus far. Blessed, a half-sister to Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive, has carved out quite a niche for herself, with all four foals she's produced showing up on the racetrack. Her most recent foal of racing age Kewpie Doll (1:55 4/5 career mark) is a 2-year-old this year, and she recently closed to finish second from post 10 in a Kentucky Goldenrod final at The Red Mile. Calgarian, as a true Kentucky-bred, also gets the benefit of increased earning potential in local stakes events.

Six Pack has gotten off to a solid start as a stallion and he could have a sleeper in HIP 901 Beijing Bombshell, a filly and just third foal from the well-bred Caviar Session. The dam has already produced a stakes winner from her first two foals and could just be getting started considering her parentage. Caviar Session is a full sister to standouts Triumphant Caviar and Centurion ATM. Beijing Bombshell is another with dual eligibility in New Jersey and Kentucky next year.

Ready For Moni's name could be impactful on the Ohio Sire Stakes circuit next year with horses like HIP 909 First Dalliance a solid prospect. The filly is the third foal from the 100 percent producer Dalliance Seelster, who has hit with both Muscle Mass and E L Titan before moving on to the Ready Cash-sired Ready For Moni.

If it is coming down near the end of Friday's final night, try not to make the mistake of leaving early, otherwise you could miss out on some quality. HIP 935 Intogo Station is a Downbytheseaside-sired colt and first foal from a half-sister to stakes winners Closing Statement and Inverse Hanover. Intogo Station has dual eligibility in Ohio and Kentucky.

HIP 943 could be a trotting colt worth taking a flyer on. The son of Bar Hopping is out of a young Chapter Seven mare with just one foal, a 2-year-old currently racing. The maternal line is quite strong with third dam Spellbound Hanover producing Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder.



CAROLINE VAZQUEZ PHOTO

HIP 886 is an interesting Downbytheseaside yearling selling for Diamond Creek.

Pollock sets the pace through four sessions at Lexington

By Greg Reinhart

fffffffffffffff



DERICK GIMNER

Bill Pollock led all buyers at the Lexington Selected Sale.



Thank You Sponsors



GOLD SPONSORS

Dexter Dunn / Julie Miller / David Miller
Yannick Gingras / Tim Tetrick

CHARIOT RACE SPONSORS

Todd McCarthy / Scott Zeron /
Lucas Wallin / Carter Pinske

2025 STALLION BREEDING GENEROUS DONATIONS:

- Diamond Creek (*Sweet Lou, Downbytheseaside & Confederate*)
- Walner Syndicate (*Walner*)
- Marvin Katz & Southwind Farm (*Muscle Hill*)
- Tactical Landing (*Tactical Landing Syndicate*)
- Blue Chip Farms & Chapter Seven Syndicate (*Chapter Seven*)

Christina & Nancy Takter; Black Horse Racing; Crawford Farms Racing & Bender Sweden (*Karl*)

Karl looks to rule in Kentucky Futurity; 4YO season on the table

By Jay Bergman with reporting by Derick Gwerner

Hambletonian champion Karl takes a back seat to no one in the division, yet this Sunday in the oldest harness stakes race, the 132nd edition of the Kentucky Futurity, the son of Tactical Landing will start behind the first flank after drawing post 11 in the second tier. The Hambletonian winner hopes to give trainer Nancy Takter her second straight Kentucky Futurity victory at The Red Mile's closing Grand Circuit program in the historic event that carries a purse of \$500,000 this year.

With only 11 slots available for the Futurity, Karl was the lone horse in the race that won't have his nose on the starting gate at the outset, but trainer Nancy Takter was happy with the draw, nonetheless. "He could have drawn eight, nine or 10," Takter said, "So I'm happy with 11."

Karl may be coming in off a loss, but his trainer praised what the colt has done in the last few months.

"His last nine starts have all been 1:51 3/5 or faster, and five of them have been in 1:51. If you go back to look at history, how many horses have gone that fast that many times," said Takter.

Karl has generally had to cut the mile and that's something he may not be able to do easily on Sunday. "It would be nice if he could get a cover trip," Takter said.

Karl will be looking to rebound from just his second loss of the season in the \$400,000 Kentucky Championship where Dame Good Time trotted past him in the final strides on September 15. Dame Good Time drew post two for the Futurity with driver Scott Zeron looking for back-to-back wins in the event, having captured last year's edition with the Nancy Takter-trained Tactical Approach. Travis Alexander conditions Dame Good Time, a son of the white-hot stallion Chapter Seven that took a 1:50 2/5 record in the Kentucky Championship.

Highland Kismet, runner-up in the Hambletonian, is likely the close second choice in the field with Bob McClure guiding the gelded son of Father Patrick from post three. Highland Kismet bounced back from a break in stride in the Canadian Trotting Classic with an authoritative win in last Saturday's Bluegrass over an extremely sloppy surface.

"I trained him a bit yesterday (Wednesday) and he's feeling really good," said Mark Etsell, who will be starting a horse in the Futurity for the first time.

Highland Kismet will once again be racing without trotting hobbles, something he wore in the Hambletonian final but has since taken off with some success.

Secret Agent Man, another solid sophomore son of Chapter Seven, hopes to give trainer Julie Miller and husband Andy the coveted Kentucky Futurity victory that barely eluded them a year ago when French Wine put in a huge effort and was just collared by a head on the wire by Tactical Approach. Secret Agent Man was a runner-up to Karl in three legs of the Kentucky Championship and then regained winning form capturing the faster Bluegrass division in 1:53 2/5. Secret Agent Man landed post five.

Trainer Ake Svanstedt captured the Futurity in a record-setting 1:49 1/5 mile in 2018 and he's back in force in 2024 with three solid contenders. Canadian Trotting Classic winner Amazing Catch (post 4), Tony Adams S (post 5) and Bluegrass winner Mr. Bluebird (post 7) give team Svanstedt three horses not only with power but gate speed in the large field.

The luck of the draw worked in opposite directions for trainer Marcus Melander, who found the pole position for Wild Ticket but will be on the extreme outside of the starting car with Security Protected drawing post 10. Wild Ticket came up a little short in the Bluegrass, his first start in four weeks after being scratched from the New York Sire Stakes championship final. One of three sons of Chapter Seven in the field, Wild Ticket was a winner in the Empire Breeders Championship in June at Vernon Downs. He finished sixth in the Hambletonian, racing from well off the pace after drawing post nine.

Trainer Noel Daley had Sig Sauer in top form for this year's Hambletonian, but the son of Muscle Hill drew post eight and was used hard in the early going and had to settle for a fourth-place finish. Sig Sauer bounced back in a big way capturing the \$300,000 Beal Memorial at Pocono in his very next start. Following a win in the New Jersey Classic trials two weeks later Sig Sauer looked like a cinch to capture the final, leading the race into the stretch before making an uncharacteristic break in stride. Sig Sauer was entered by Daley to race in the Bluegrass but opted out due to the track conditions and now the colt will be racing competitively for



BARBARA LIVINGSTON

Trainer Nancy Takter said Karl is coming into the Kentucky Futurity sharp and ready to roll.

the first time in four weeks and again will start from post eight.

Rounding out the Kentucky Futurity field will be Bella's Musclehill from post nine for trainer Nifty Norman.

The Kentucky Futurity will be race 12 on the Lexington Red Mile's Sunday showcase, with the 59th edition of the \$301,500 Kentucky Futurity Filly division slated as race 11. With 11 fillies signed on, the race appears to be a wide-open affair. Hambletonian Oaks winner Warrawee Michelle drew post seven in what will be her first start in a month for trainer Ake Svanstedt. Svanstedt will also send out multiple stakes winner French Champagne from post 11.

Noel Daley has a three-pronged attack with Buy A Round (post 3) likely his best chance and stablemates Paulina Hanover (post 1) and Miss I LA (post 6) likely to be forwardly placed following the draw.

Date Night Hanover comes into the race in great shape but again has been bitten by the luck of the draw. The Chapter Seven-sired filly landed post nine in the Hambletonian Oaks and now starts from post 10 in the Kentucky Futurity Filly division. Post may not be enough to deter this Marcus Melander-trained filly as Date Night Hanover enters the race off two exceptional outings – a 1:50 1/5 career-best in the \$400,000 Kentucky Championships followed up by a gritty uncovered performance in her Bluegrass win on September 28 here at The Red Mile.

Rounding out the field for the Kentucky Futurity are R Melina (post 2), Sandbirdstillsing (post 4), Sambuca Hanover (post 5), Allegiant (post 8), Soiree Hanover (post 9).

KARL TO RETURN AS A 4-YEAR-OLD?

Trainer Nancy Takter has a schedule mapped out for Karl that includes Sunday's Kentucky Futurity, the Breeders Crown and possibly the FanDuel against older horses. But what's next?

"We haven't really decided if he is going to stand stud or race next year," said Takter. "It is on the table but we'll have to see."

Takter owns 10 percent of the colt and has mixed feelings about racing him as a 4-year-old due to his potential value as a stallion.

"We've talked about that, maybe a limited book and race as well," said Takter about potentially racing and breeding in 2025. "We'll evaluate where his health level is at the end of the year and go from there."

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR BABIES**



ATTENTION 2024 FOAL OWNERS!

**Get your share of bonus monies in Virginia's
lucrative Certified Residency Program!**

- 1 \$400,000 IN CERTIFIED BONUS MONIES...**
...available for the '24 foal crop in BOTH of their 2 and 3-year-old seasons. That same bonus level will extend to future foal crops.
- 2 HORSES ACCUMULATE POINTS...**
...in every money earning overnite race start as a 2 and 3-year-old. Awards are distributed based on cumulative end-of-year point totals.
- 3 PARTICIPATING FOALS...**
...become eligible if raised in Virginia for at least 6 consecutive months before they turn 2 years old.
- 4 VIRGINIA RACING BONUS!**
Earn double points from all starts at the Shenandoah Downs spring and fall meets.

**Shenandoah Downs
FALL Meet in
Woodstock, VA**



**September 14 - October 27
Saturdays and Sundays at 1:05 PM**

Wager the action via any ADW and simulcast location. Free programs at shenandoahdowns.com.

Program details are at vhha.net or by calling Debbie Warnick at 443-463-0917.

(this program is separate from Virginia Breeders Fund program).

Steady 'Elan' pleases Pollack

By Ken Weingartner

Elan Hanover might not be flashy, but that is perfectly fine with co-owner Tom Pollack.

A 2-year-old trotting colt, Elan Hanover has finished no worse than third in all nine of his career races heading into Friday's International Stallion Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile. The son of Bar Hopping-Expect A Lot is the 3-1 morning-line favorite in the first of four \$80,000 divisions for the freshman male trotters.

Elan Hanover, purchased by Pollack and trainer Jeff Cullipher in July after three starts for George Ducharme, has posted two wins, six seconds, and a third this year. Half of his runner-up finishes have come by a neck or less, including in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship on Sept. 5 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows. He has earned \$181,706 overall, with \$157,145 coming since the sale.

"Would I like to flip-flop the seconds and the firsts? Absolutely," Pollack said. "But he's done nothing wrong. He hasn't had any clunkers. It's tough racing. He got snapped at the wire a few times by sprinters. He's a big, strong, good-gaited horse; not a sleek sprinter.

"He's professional, does his work, nothing flashy. He's just consistent, shows up every start. I'll take that all day long over a horse that might be a little faster, but a little more unstable. At this level, seconds aren't bad. If you can keep hitting the board, you're doing all right. You picked a pretty good one."

Pollack and Cullipher became interested in Elan Hanover after seeing the colt race in a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at The Meadows on July 12. (Their colt Father TJ was competing in a different division that day.) Elan Hanover finished second by a head to Meshuggah, the same horse that caught him nearing the wire of the series final.

"George owned him himself," Pollack said. "We heard that George might sell him, so we pursued it and put a deal together. Hopefully, it was a good deal for George, since he owned him himself, and certainly it's been a good deal for us because the horse has been super. George has been following the horse and rooting for us. He's a good guy to do business with."

Elan Hanover has impressed Pollack enough that the owner purchased one of the colt's family members, Princess Tara, for \$45,000 during Tuesday's second session of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Princess Tara is a daughter of stallion Gimpazee out of the mare Pantera, who is a half-sister to Elan Hanover. The family also includes Kentucky Futurity winner My MVP and Hambletonian Oaks winner Must Be Victory, plus Grand Circuit winner and Kentucky Sire Stakes champion Top Expectations.

"We liked (Elan Hanover) that much that we went to the well again for next year," Pollack said.

On Friday, Elan Hanover will leave from post five in a field of nine in his International Stallion Stakes division. Todd McCarthy will be in the sulky. He enters the race off a second-place finish in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes last week.

If all goes well, Pollack said the Breeders Crown later this month at The Meadowlands would be next.

"George paid him in, so we'll put up the starting fee and give him a shot," Pollack said. "He's definitely earned a trip to New Jersey if he races like he's been. The big track at Lexington and The Meadowlands doesn't hurt him because he's big and strong. That's a good thing.

"We're excited. Sometimes these things work out, and sometimes they don't. This one is in the working out column, so that's always good."

The favorites in the remaining International Stallion Stakes divisions for the trotters are Happy Jack B, Meshuggah, and Super Chapter.

Ake Svanstedt trains and drives Happy Jack B, who is coming off a win in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes last week and is even-money on the morning line.

Meshuggah and Super Chapter are both from the stable of trainer Marcus Melander. Meshuggah, driven by Scott Zeron, is making his first appearance since a third-place finish in the Mohawk Million on Sept. 21 and is 5-2. Super Chapter, with driver Dexter Dunn, is making his first start since winning the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final on Sept. 15 at the Red Mile. He is 6-5.

Friday's Red Mile card also features three divisions of the International Stallion Stakes for 2-year-old female pacers.

Action begins at 1 p.m. (EDT) at the Red Mile.



59TH KENTUCKY FILITY FUTURITY - RACE 11 AT RED MILE SUNDAY

- 1-Paulina Hanover 20-1
- 2-R Melina 6-1
- 3-Buy A Round 9-2
- 4-Sadbirdstillsing 15-1
- 5-Sambuca Hanover 20-1
- 6-Miss I LA 15-1
- 7-Warrawee Michelle 4-1
- 8-Allegiant 5-1
- 9-Soiree Hanover 6-1
- 10-Date Night Hanover 3-1
- 11-French Champagne 15-1

132ND KENTUCKY FUTURITY - RACE 12 AT RED MILE SUNDAY

- 1-Wild Ticket 15-1
- 2-Dame Good Time 8-1
- 3-Highland Kismet 3-1
- 4-Amazing Catch 12-1
- 5-Secret Agent Man 15-1
- 6-Tony Adams S 10-1
- 7-Mr Bluebird 20-1
- 8-Sig Sauer 6-1
- 9-Bella's Musclehill 20-1
- 10-Security Protected 20-1
- 11-Karl 6-5

Trotting fillies dominate on Wednesday at Lexington Selected Sale

By Greg Reinhart

Trotting fillies occupied the top five places on the top sellers chart in Wednesday's third session of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale at the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavilion.

HIP 514 Storybook Love, a daughter of Chapter Seven consigned by Kentuckiana Farms as agent, sold for \$210,000 to head the action. She's a half-sister to former Indiana Super Final winner Shirley Goodness, who earned \$394,945 before being exported to Europe. Bax Stable, acting as agent for Al Libfeld, was the purchaser.

Behind Storybook Love at \$175,000 were both HIP 449 Hustle N Bustle, who went to Dream With Me Stable and HIP 531 Cork And Carry, who was taken by Armitage Farm. Hustle N Bustle is by Walner and Cork And Carry is by the late Bar Hopping. Both were consigned by Kentuckiana Farms as agent.

HIP 424 Carve, by first-crop sire Captain Corey and HIP 471 AJ Hall, by the late Cantab Hall, went for \$170,000. Carve, who was consigned by Diamond Creek, and AJ Hall, who was consigned by Preferred Equine Marketing Inc., were both acquired by Kemppi Stables.

The gross of \$10,705,000 and average of \$48,881 for 219 saw year-over-year declines from 2023's \$13,021,000 and \$52,717 for 247 horses, but the three-day average of \$97,996 continues to out-pace the record 2022 sale that sat with an average of \$95,015 after three sessions.

HIPs 591 through 801 are scheduled to go through the ring on Thursday. That will be the final 1 p.m. session before the sale concludes on Friday at 7 p.m.

PAPI GRAD TRIES TO GO BACK-TO-BACK ON FRIDAY AT RED MILE

Fresh from her authoritative winner's circle return in the Bluegrass Stakes, Papi Grad looks to potentially wrap the bow on her freshman campaign when starting in the second of three divisions for the \$245,800 International Stallion Stakes (ISS) for 2-year-old pacing fillies on Friday (Oct. 4) at The Red Mile.

Papi Grad lands post four in the seven-filly field, which will hit the track for race six on the Friday card. Listed at 7-5 on the morning line, Papi Grad enters the affair in a potential rematch with Looksgoodinloulou, whom the Steve Carter trainee easily repelled during a far turn assault to win in 1:51. Dexter Dunn sticks with the daughter of Papi Rob Hanover who may hit the bench following Friday's race per co-owner Jay Mossbarger, who said after her most recent win, "We've got one more start left here and we're probably going to shut her down. We've had enough starts for her this year."

[READ MORE](#)

PEDIGREES FOR STANDARDBRED HORSE SALE NOW AVAILABLE

2024 Standardbred Yearling Highlighted pedigrees are now available at theblackbook.com.

Videos will be posted as they are received by the webmaster. If you have videos to send please send them to Travis Snyder at travis@triscari.com. Videos will also be available on equineline.com

Mixed Sales entries will be accepted thru Sunday October 6th, 2024.

-release (Standardbred Horse Sales Co.)

AFTER THEY RACE, WE FIND THEM A PLACE

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program accepts horses from all major U.S. tracks.



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

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, OCTOBER 3

RACE 9

Superstar (3) CHANTILLY just jogged in a Grand Circuit race and more of the same should be coming here in a sires stake.

-Garnet Barnsdale



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

RACE 6

(4) BADDITUDE comes in for Izzy Estrada with by far the highest TrackMaster rating in this field. She has hit the board 14-29 times in 2024 including six wins out of town and has been chasing some strong miles at Philly.

-Larry Fox



Your BEST BET for a GOOD TIME!

RACE 10

(1) MISS DOTTIE MAE has been crying out for a winning spot and it looks like she's found it; wire-to-wire chalk in the finale.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

RACE 6

(3) STONEBRIDGE HALO adds Lasix and gets a better spot here. I think an early aggressive move is coming.

-Mike Pribozie



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 8

(2) DELANEY HANOVER failed at Hoosier but can rebound.

-Derick Givner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

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

Freehold Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#)

Yonkers Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESSEYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNESSE

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

DANGER TROTS TO SIXTH STRAIGHT SCORE AT HOOSIER

Sensational sophomore trotting filly Danger extender her win streak to six as trainer Robert Taylor swept the eighth and final round of Indiana Sires Stakes for 3-year-old trotting fillies on Wednesday (Oct. 2) at Harrah's Hoosier Park. The 13-race card also featured a pair of Sires Stakes divisions for 2-year-old pacing fillies in their leg six finale prior to the \$250,000 Super Finals on Friday, Oct. 11.

Danger was sent away as the 1-20 favorite in the \$48,500 first division for trotting fillies with driver Kevin Lambright guiding her against five foes. Leaving from post four, Danger had to work hard to get to the front early, trotting to the outside of Social Chatter (Pete Wrenn) through a quick opening quarter of 26 4/5. Once clear, Danger kept rolling on the front to the half in 55 4/5 before trotting two lengths clear at three-quarters in 1:24 2/5. In the stretch, Danger kept Social Chatter at arm's length, crossing the wire 1 1/4 lengths clear in a lifetime-best 1:53 1/5.

[READ MORE](#)

FRANK LEAHY KICKS PAST CHEERS HANOVER IN KEYSTONE CLASSIC

Frank Leahy out-kicked track record-holder Cheers Hanover in the lane to triumph in Wednesday's Keystone Classic at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows. Arrowhead Hanover captured the other division of the \$77,900 stake for 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters.

On Aug. 2, Cheers Hanover trotted in 1:54 for Hunter Myers, the fastest mile ever by a rookie colt trotter at The Meadows. Ironically, in the Keystone Classic, it was Myers trying to pilot Frank Leahy around Myers's erstwhile partner. Frank Leahy sat an unused third before taking up the attack entering the final turn, so Myers knew the son of Southwind Frank-Regal Woman was fresh.

[READ MORE](#)

RECORD MILES TURNED IN BY MELVIN G, NAKED COWBOY AT HARRINGTON

Legacy Racing of Delaware and Nanticoke Racing's Melvin G (\$2.10, Jim Morand) won the fastest of four Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund (DSBF) \$20,000 2-year-old trotting splits Wednesday at Harrington Raceway and broke the track record for his division with a 1:58 1/5 score.

[READ MORE](#)

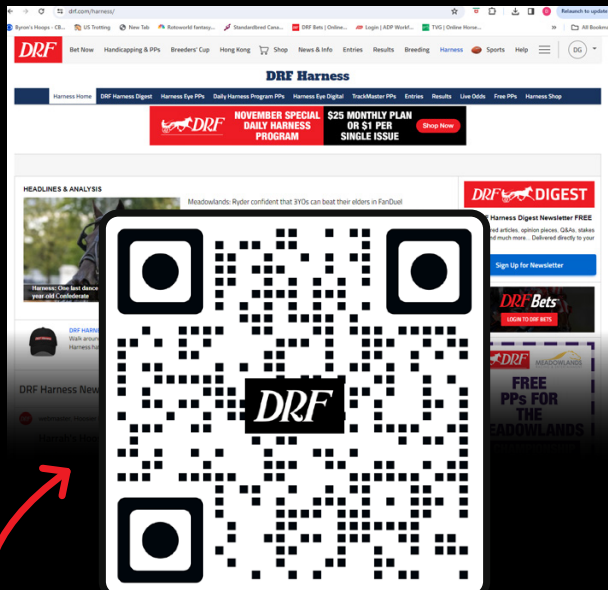
HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY/BREEDERS CROWN POLL: WEEK 16 – 10/1/2024

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Twin B Joe Fresh (27)	4mp	10-9-1-0	\$620,812	330	1
2	Jiggy Jog S (7)	5mt	6-6-0-0	\$934,188	309	2
3	Karl	3ct	11-9-1-1	\$977,839	230	3
4	Captain Albano (1)	3cp	13-8-1-2	\$797,043	189	4
5	Chantilly	2fp	7-7-0-0	\$399,015	187	5
6	Nijinsky	3cp	11-9-1-0	\$802,170	162	6
7	Legendary Hanover	3cp	13-6-4-2	\$775,017	143	7
8	Maryland	2ct	7-4-1-1	\$795,378	99	8
9	Highland Kismet	3gt	13-8-2-0	\$485,806	80	10
10	Its A Love Thing	3fp	11-7-3-0	\$519,038	48	9

ALSO: Abuckabett Hanover 24; Winner's Bet 23; Sabonis 14; Little Rocket Man 10; Louprint, Rose, Warrawee Michelle 9; Call Me Goo, Logan Park, Periculum, Rocket Deo 7; Monalishi, Paquet 4; Desperate Man, Direction, It's My Show 3; Fallout, Papi Grad 2; Greenspan 1.

DRF HARNESS

YOUR HOME FOR STANDARDBRED RACING



Visit us online for PPs, news, entries, results



Sign up for our FREE weekly newsletter