

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

THE FALL GUY



Trainer Noel Daley has seen horses like Captain Albano and Sig Sauer deliver as the seasons changed from summer to fall

BACKGROUND: VICTREX.COM / PHOTO: DERICK GIWNER



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

Earlier this year trainer Noel Daley had a plan for his top sophomore colts. On the pacing side, Captain Albano had his schedule spaced out not just to maximize profits but hopefully keep the Captaintreacherous-sired colt primed for a solid Fall campaign. On the trotting end, Daley suggested early he was more concerned with getting four good efforts in place before the Hambletonian for Sig Sauer, a horse he thought highly of despite limited starts in a crop that included a pair of juvenile millionaires.

With his Little Brown Jug victory just a few weeks ago, Captain Albano annexed the third leg of the pacing Triple Crown in fine style. Then last Sunday (October 6) Sig Sauer overcame an outside

draw and an improbable trip to first pass favored Highland Kismet into the stretch and then easily hold off second-choice and Hambletonian champion Karl along with others while winning the Kentucky Futurity. The son of Muscle Hill oddly has been hampered by some physical issues off the racetrack and then when in Triple Crown events has somehow drawn post eight on three occasions.

“We’ve had issues with bone soreness,” said Daley when asked about the quirky nature of Sig Sauer’s schedule, and in some cases performances. “I could tell warming him up that he was good to go on Sunday.”

Daley’s feel for Sig Sauer’s condition is a big part of the colt’s success and that driver Andy McCarthy had the confidence to drive his horse to the fullest given the competition, post position and prestige of the event, is extraordinary. McCarthy’s steer in the Kentucky Futurity was epic in that he gave his horse every chance to win

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)




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2024 BREEDERS CROWN SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
New Meadowlands Racetrack, East Rutherford, New Jersey
[all times EDT]

**PLEASE CHECK THE MEADOWLANDS CONDITION SHEET FOR
ALL ENTRY TIMES & DATES FOR THE BREEDERS CROWN
ELIMINATIONS AND FINALS.**

- Monday, October 14 – Breeders Crown Supplemental Entries for 3-year-old & up declare by **12 P.M.**
 - Tuesday, October 15 – Meadowlands DOUBLE DRAW FOR ALL BREEDERS CROWN RACES (elims Oct. 18 – 19)
 - Friday, October 18 – Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Elimination Races - post time **12:30 p.m. DAY CARD**
 - Fox Sports coverage 12:30pm – 5pm *FS2*
 - Post Position Champagne Draw for 2YO Finals - Gallery 6:15pm after the day card races
 - Thoroughbred night card has a post time of 7pm.
 - Saturday, October 19 – Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old, Open & Mare Elimination Races - post time **6:20 p.m.**
 - Fox Sports coverage 7pm - 11pm *FS1*
 - Standardbred Retirement Foundation Diamond & Boots Gala – trackside 6pm-10pm
 - Tuesday, October 22 – Post Position Draw & Luncheon at Hogan Equine for 3-Year-Old & Open Races.
 - 2pm-5pm
 - Draw at 3pm streamed live on Meadowlands Facebook & YouTube
 - Thursday, October 24 – Advance wagering available at 11 am for Friday, Oct. 25 Breeders Crown card.
 - Friday, October 25 – \$2.8 million 2-Year-Old Breeders Crown Finals - post time **6:20 P.M.**
 - Advance wagering available at 11 am for Saturday, Oct. 25 Breeders Crown card.
 - Cocktail Reception 6pm – 8pm in the Gallery
 - Diamond Creek Winner Lounge for Breeders Crown Winners
 - Breeders Crown Charity Check Presentations after Race 2
 - Fox Sports coverage 8pm – 11pm *FS1*
 - Saturday, October 26 – \$4.4 Million 3-year-old and up Breeders Crown Finals - post time **6:20 p.m.**
 - Diamond Creek Winner Lounge for Breeders Crown Winners
 - Hat contest winners announced after Race 3
 - Fox Sports Coverage 8pm – 11pm *FS2*
- The Meadowlands starting gate scores 10 horses across; if 11 horses enter the race goes straight to a final.
 - Jim Doherty winner Champagne Problems (2FT) and Peter Haughton winner Maryland (2CT) are the “Win and You’re In” entrants in their respective divisions.
 - The breeder of the Open Mare Trot winner receives the \$10,000 Charlie Keller III Breeders Bonus.

Breeders Crown

In Harness Racing,
It All Comes Down To The Breeders Crown

the race despite a frenetic pace being put down right before his eyes.

"I was a little concerned about Sig Sauer following the recall," said Daley. "But when Andy passed by the draw gate, he gave me a little smile and I knew the colt was good to go."

Daley's belief in Sig Sauer has been high since the start of his 2-year-old campaign that was unblemished prior to last year's Grand Circuit meet at the Red Mile.

"In hindsight I probably shouldn't have raced him," said Daley of Sig Sauer's lone defeat after he miscued in a Bluegrass division.

Sig Sauer's win on Sunday puts him even with Karl when going head-to-head this year, with Sig Sauer winning a division of the Dancer in then season's best 1:50 at The Meadolwands in June and the Kentucky Futurity in a career and 2024's fastest mile, a 1:49 3/5 effort. Karl bested Sig Sauer in both the Hambletonian elimination and final but Daley felt luck played a key role in that outcome.

"Andy had to use him hard making two moves to get the front in the Hambo," Daley said. "Then in the stretch I think if we can get out earlier, he could have gotten some momentum."

McCarthy and Sig Sauer were locked in the pocket behind a stubborn yet tiring T C I turning into the homestretch of the Hambletonian with Karl pinning them to the pylons. McCarthy would first look inside in mid-stretch but found no opening, and then angle across the track for room late where Sig Sauer finally had chance to accelerate. The effort would result in a fourth-place finish.

"Karl and Highland Kismet are both very good horses," said Daley. "But I've believed all along that my horse could go with them."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Darin Zoccali: Optimism in place for next week's London Classic Yearling Sale

Burke Brigade out in force for Ohio, Indiana Sire Stakes finals; Sabonis goes for Super Final at Hoosier

Derick Giwner: Can bad be good?

Ontario Sire Stakes finals Saturday at Mohawk Park

Best Bets from Mohawk, Yonkers, Hoosier & Northfield

Breeders Crown promotions in place; Blooded Horse Sale entries being accepted; Tactical Landing to stand

Follow

DRF Harness



Breeder's Crown

POST POSITION DRAWS

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 18:
Draw for 2YO Races**

HOSTED BY
Meadowlands Racetrack

2nd Floor Gallery
following the end of live racing
approximately 6:15 p.m.
with Champagne Toast

**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 22:
Draw for 3YO
and Open Races**

HOSTED BY
 HOGAN EQUINE

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Draw at 3:00 p.m.
Refreshments to be served

While Daley had reason to stay humble as Sig Sauer was rested following a victory in the Beal at Pocono in mid-August, he was happy with the support he was getting.

“The owners were great with this horse,” Daley said. “We skipped Canada and they were very patient giving me time to get him healthy.”

That patience has now paid off in a major way for the owners, not just in Sig Sauer’s purse earnings but more than likely a potentially lucrative stallion career.

“He’s a beautiful-looking horse that they gave \$200,000 for,” said Daley of Sig Sauer. “Plus, his maternal family is red hot right now.”

Daley was speaking about the hefty price paid for a pair of very close relatives to Sig Sauer at the just completed Lexington Selected yearling sale. Andrew Harris and company paid \$425,000 for the Gimpanzee-sired brother to Sig Sauer while a group of owners got together and paid \$550,000 for a Tactical Landing-sired filly and first foal from Love Muffin, a sister to the dam of Sig Sauer.

For Daley, the Kentucky Futurity was the stars aligning finally for a colt that had missed the chance to compete against Karl and T C I as a juvenile and then for much of 2024 has been overshadowed on racing’s highest stage while spending most of his hours away from the racetrack.

Daley was quick to credit a change in equipment that he believes made Sig Sauer even better in the Futurity.

“It was the first time we took the shoes off,” said Daley, who made it a ritual with many of his horses during the two-week Red Mile Grand Circuit meeting. “I definitely think first-time shoes off gives the horses a boost. R Melina (Kentucky Filly Futurity winner) also took them off for the first time, and Nifty (Norman) took them off Bellas Muscleshill (a surprising third in the Futurity).”

The next challenge for Sig Sauer will be the Breeders Crown at The Meadowlands and Daley is hoping that his horse will feel as good then as he did in the aftermath of the Kentucky Futurity.

“He was full of himself and recovered quickly,” said Daley, who witnessed Sig Sauer enjoying the moment during a post-pace celebration back at the barn.

“For the Breeders Crown I’m probably going to have to put shoes back on him for the eliminations and hopefully get to take them off again for the final,” said Daley, mapping out plans that help to repeat the Kentucky Futurity performance.

In what appeared to be a two-horse race for divisional honors, Sig Sauer’s Kentucky Futurity victory adds more significance to the Breeders Crown and one must wonder whether rivals Highland Kismet or Karl will be capable of bounce-back efforts in short order. Highland Kismet, much as he did in the Hambletonian, found himself active at high speed for a long portion of the mile. The 52 4/5 half clocking was extraordinary as was the 1:21 three quarters. Karl was given another perfect drive by Yannick Gingras but had no finishing punch in the stretch for the first time in his career. It was also the first time he’d lost consecutive races. To be fair to the rest of the division, Canadian Trotting Classic winner Amazing Catch put in another big effort closing for second after getting shuffled on the final turn.

Daley is enthusiastic about Captain Albano’s form heading into the Breeders Crown.

“He’s feeling great right now,” said Daley of the current division leader looking for his second Dan Patch award that could be sealed with a Crown victory. The 3-year-old finished second timed in 1:51 3/5 during a Thursday (10/10) qualifier at The Meadowlands in preparation for the Breeders Crown.

Daley expects the son of Captaintreacheros to be a major stallion draw Down Under when his racing days are complete. “He could breed 250 mares there. They are looking for a son of Captaintreacheros to breed to.”

While Daley is more than happy with how his 3-year-olds have raced this year, he’s hoping that a 2-year-old trotting filly that has been a little late to the game could emerge in the next few weeks. Miss Belmar made just her third career start in an International Stallion Stakes event on Saturday (October 5) and was a fast-closing third.

“She was my best filly training down, but we’ve had some hiccups with



AMANDA STEPHENS

Sig Sauer will head to the Breeders Crown off a Kentucky Futurity score at The Red Mile.

her,” said Daley about the daughter of Muscle Hill. “Andy (McCarthy) had to stop her twice when she stuck her toes in.”

To Daley’s amazement, Miss Belmar lost significant ground into the first turn and on the last turn in her stakes engagement, and then absolutely flew through the stretch missing just a half-length in a 1:52 1/5 mile. Impressing Daley even more about Miss Belmar was that the filly was in the toughest division.

Onajetplane, a son of Walner, has been another bright spot for Daley. The freshman colt followed up a solid effort in the Mohawk Million with a 1:52 2/5 lifetime-best performance in an International Stallion Stake division on October 4. He’ll be heading for the Breeders Crown and a return to The Meadowlands where he captured the \$250,000 New Jersey Classic on September 6.

Through solid planning and some good fortune trainer Noel Daley’s stable seems primed to close out 2024 in style.



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p, 2, 1:52.1s -'24 (\$215,392) CAD

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Driver: Louis-Philippe Roy

Owners: Ozzie MacKay, Tammy Lynn MacKay,
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#10, MIDNIGHT BRIDGET

10/15 & 10/16 LONDON CLASSIC PACING LINEUP

Sale starts at Noon on Tuesday & Wednesday!

Sale Preview starts at 10 am on Monday, October 14th!

ARTSPEAK (2)

#42, ALL BOOKED UP, C
Artspeak-Open Book Test-Real Desire
1/2-brother to **The Book Of Life**,
p, 1:50.4s (\$407,639), **Smart Zone**,
p, 1:52.2f (\$164,015), & **Heart Of Dixie**,
p, 3, 1:51.1s (\$141,508)

#211, DEALER'S CALL, C
Artspeak-Flirtwithedealer-Cam's Card Shark
Dam is **Flirtwithedealer**,
p, 1:51.1f (\$469,175). 1/2-brother to
Major Ace, p, 1:54h (\$119,458),
Press Time, p, 1:51.2s -'23 (\$108,354), &
Fearless Fury, p, 1:51.4f -'24 (\$107,455)

BETTERTHANCHEDDAR (5)

#128, COOPERS HILL, C
Betterthancheddar-Warrawee Templar-Shadow Play
Family of **Stienams Place**,
p, 3, 1:50.4 (\$1,402,301), &
Put On A Show, p, 1:47.3 (\$2,459,903)

#214, QUIET WYATT, C
Betterthancheddar-Free Admission-Powerful Toy
1/2-brother to **Free Show**,
p, 3, 1:51.3s (\$292,718), &
2024 NY Stakes Winner, **Ideal Entry**,
3, 1:55s -'24, BT1:53.2f-'24 (\$41,767).
Full-brother to **Free Exchange**,
p, 3, 1:52.3s (\$233,220)

#240, JERSEY JEWEL, F
Betterthancheddar-Jersey Pearl-Dragon Again
1/2-sister to **Jersey Jim**,
p, 1:51.4f (\$323,539)

#250, PEPPER JACK CHEESE, C
Betterthancheddar-Lady Jackie-Badlands Hanover
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Sports Column**,
p, 1:49.1s (\$650,750)

#253, BETTER SCRIPT, C, First Foal
Betterthancheddar-Lady Writer-Sportswriter
Second dam is **Lady Jen**,
p, 1:52.2s (\$103,190)

BETTING LINE (4)

#10, MIDNIGHT BRIDGET, F
Betting Line-Midnight Art-Artsplace
1/2-sister to **Artie's Ideal**,
p, 3, 1:50.1f (\$674,780), **Artist Night**,
p, 3, 1:51.1f (\$327,383), **Manchine**,
p, 1:52.2 (\$269,080), & **Nite Time Deal**,
p, 1:52.3f -'23 (\$154,207). Family of
Escape The News, p, 1:48.4 (\$1,021,619)

BETTING LINE (4) (cont.)

#57, VANILLA BEAN QUEEN, F
Betting Line-Redwalls-Red River Hanover
1/2-sister to **Bigwalls**, p, 1:53.1f (\$84,313),
& 2024 Prospect Winner, **Silverwalls**,
p, 2, 1:56.2h -'24; BT1:55.2f-'24 (\$8,488).
Family of **Always A Virgin**,
p, 3, 1:48.4 (\$1,135,559)

#59, WILDCARD BET, C
Betting Line-Revival Cards-Royal Mattjesty
1/2-brother to 2024 Prospect Winner,
World Revival, p, 3, 1:55f -'24 (\$20,865).
Family of O'Brien Award Winner,
Laura's Love, p, 3, 1:50.3s (\$486,863)

#161, TOAST THE COAST, C
Betting Line-Beaches N Dreams-Rocknroll Hanover
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Cabana Fever**,
p, 1:51 (\$486,189)

MCWICKED (4)

#27, JANETS STORY, F
McWicked-New Writer-Sportswriter
Family of **Rocknroll Hanover**,
p, 3, 1:48.3 (\$3,069,093), &
Royalflush Hanover,
p, 1:49.3 (\$2,182,205)

#170, BATTEN DOWN, F
McWicked-Bunker Away-Dream Away
Family of **Dragon's Lair**,
p, 1:51.3q (\$1,085,317)

#203, WICKED SKYLINE, F
McWicked-Enjoy The View-Life Sign
1/2-sister to **Inspiration View**,
p, 3, 1:50.2s (\$333,880), &
Master The View, p, 3, 1:52.4f (\$181,967)

#234, WICKED IRISH, C
McWicked-Hope For Paddy-Mach Three
Dam is **Hope For Paddy**,
p, 1:50.1s (\$572,177)

SHADOW PLAY (5)

#50, PLAYATYOUROWN RISK, F
Shadow Play-Place Your Best-Cambest
1/2-sister to **So So Die Vie**,
p, 1:51.3f (\$261,369), & **Best Chip**,
p, 2, 1:54.4f -'24 (\$19,050).
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Foiled Again**,
p, 1:48f (\$7,676,047), & **Safe From Terror**,
p, 1:50.3f (\$1,092,451)

#108, HARVEST TIDE, C
Shadow Play-Tide Her Over-Roll With Joy
Second dam is **Tidewaterdragonfly**,
p, 1:49.4 (\$1,079,213)

SHADOW PLAY (5) (cont.)

#117, TWO CAN PLAY, C
Shadow Play-Twin B Thong-Sportswriter
Dam is **Twin B Thong**, p, 2, 1:52.1s (\$263,344).
1/2-brother to **Hide The Wick**,
p, 2, 1:54.4s -'24 (\$22,220)

#183, RISING SHADOW, F
Shadow Play-Clara-Art Major
1/2-sister to **Lyons Pegasus**,
p, 1:49.4s (\$176,306)

#256, FRILLY LILLY, F
Shadow Play-Lillywhites-Artiscape
Dam is **Lillywhites**, p, 1:52.4f (\$246,245)

SPORTSWRITER (6)

#5, HALL OF FEAR, C
Sportswriter-Marietta Hall-Cambest
Dam is **Marietta Hall**, p, 1:51.1s (\$628,664).
1/2-brother to **Unstoppable Hall**,
p, 1:53.2 -'23 (\$172,987)

#84, WHATS UP SPORT, C
Sportswriter-So What's Up-Badlands Hanover
Family of **Not A Prude**, p, 1:51.1s (\$412,967)

#163, SPORTING THE SPEED, F
Sportswriter-Better Speed-Betterthancheddar
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Powerful Mist**,
p, 1:50f (\$617,891)

#210, FRESH FLIP, C
Sportswriter-Flip For Love-Riverboat King
1/2-brother to **Ideal Flip**,
p, 1:50.1f (\$431,346), & **Fresh Cut**,
p, 3, 1:51.1f (\$279,468)

#217, LUNAR SPORT, F
Sportswriter-Full Moon Fix-Bettor's Delight
Family of **Dali**, p, 3, 1:48.2f (\$1,436,363)

#255, PROSE, F
Sportswriter-Lilli Maid-Christian Cullen
1/2-sister to **Ms Cheesman**,
p, 3, 1:52.2s (\$135,652), & **Lightning Lizzie**,
p, 3, 1:50.3s -'24; BT1:49.2s-'24 (\$122,304)

STAG PARTY (1)

#215, BORN TO FLY, F
Stag Party-Free Flight Fran-Veeza
1/2-sister to **Cards A Flyin**,
p, 1:52f -'24 (\$144,088)

SUNFIRE BLUE CHIP (1)

#15, MOLLYS ON FIRE, F, Agent
Sunfire Blue Chip-Mo Molly Bluechip-Rock N Roll Heaven
1/2-sister to **Rys Red Rocket**,
p, 1:50.3f -'23 (\$323,623)



Visit www.winbakfarm.com for Winbak Farm's London Classic trotting lineup!

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Optimism in place for next week's London Classic Yearling Sale



AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali ✕ [AtTheTrack7](#)

The Lexington Selected Yearling Sale is in the books and the industry is riding high into the London Classic Yearling Sale off another strong showing from that Kentucky-based auction. Driven by the trotting yearlings and an impressive opening session, the average price per yearling was up slightly from the previous year in Lexington.

Naturally the London Classic Yearling Sale does not sport the kind of numbers we see in Lexington, but the sale is coming off two of its most successful editions. Last year, the sale grossed over \$7.75 million for 284 yearlings, which was a record for the sale that debuted in 2017. While the average sale price declined in 2023, that was attributed to the large spike in the number of yearlings – 284 to be exact, compared to 186 the previous year.

London Classic Yearling Sale manager Greg Blanchard views the success of this year's Lexington sale as a strong indicator for London.

"Lexington had tremendous numbers again and that is typically a positive indicator ahead of our sale. We have a very strong catalogue and there seems to be a real buzz ahead of this year's sale," said Blanchard, who is hopeful for 2024 based on the performance indicators of both the industry and what London has to offer.

"This will be our third year operating the London Classic and I personally think this is the strongest catalogue we

have had. We are in what I consider to be our sweet spot, with just over 250 yearlings scheduled to sell," said Blanchard.

The overall perception of the health of the industry in Ontario is always critical to a successful sale as well, and Blanchard is well aware of that.

"The climate here in Ontario remains positive," said Blanchard. "We have one of the premier stakes program in the world and as part of its strategic plan, Ontario Racing will be engaging government on enhancing an extension of the current long term funding agreement. That agreement has the potential to give a major boost to the Ontario Racing program."

Having the racing support the sale and vice versa is also a critical element of any successful sale, and a recent announcement speaks to that point as well.

"We have also announced the launch of the London Classic Sale series, a revitalization of the former City of London Series which will be bolstered annually by sale proceeds," said Blanchard.

The presence of a larger American influence for both yearlings and ownership participation is an element to this year's sale that Blanchard expects to provide a shot in the arm.

"We have some American-sired horses this year, including one from the first crop of Hambletonian winner Captain Corey," said Blanchard. "As online bidding has grown we have seen more American buyers participating each year. I anticipate that trend to continue as U.S. dollars go a long way here."

There is certainly some serious horsepower when looking at the stallions represented via the London yearling offerings this year.

"Like everyone, we are excited to see the first crop of world champion Bulldog Hanover go through our sales ring," said Blanchard of the fastest

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)



Trotting Yearlings from Rich Families

10/15 & 10/16 London Classic Sale starts at Noon!

#13, MISTY VODKA, F, First Foal

My MVP-Misty Kristy-Andover Hall

- Dam is a 1/2-sister to Pour Mea Double, 3, 1:53f (\$306,472)

#16, YACHT CLUB, C

Trixton-Mom's Apple Pie-Striking Sahbra

- 1/2-brother to Mr Fritter, 3, 1:54.2s (\$160,041)

#25, WISTFUL ANGEL, F

Archangel-Mustalgia-Muscles Yankee

- Dam is a full-sister to Costa Rica, 3, 1:54.3s (\$1,404,244)

#43, MATTY'S HALO, F

Archangel-Order By Matilda-Tom Ridge

- 1/2-sister to Majestic Kat, 1:55.3f (\$338,016)

#89, SWEETEST TRIX, F

Trixton-Mom's Sweetie Pie-Donerail

- 1/2-sister to Sweet Chapter, 3, 1:54.2f (\$311,561)

#190, EMERALD SHOES, F

Green Manalishi S-Dancing Slippers-Angus Hall

- Second dam is Doin The Town, 3, 1:54.2 (\$481,224)

#194, TRICKY CALL, C

Trixton-Daylon Mistress-Duke of York

- 1/2-brother to Mister Magic, 1:52s (\$372,208)

#228, ONE FINAL WISH, F

Archangel-Hall Of Wishes-Broadway Hall

- 1/2-sister to New Jersey Viking, 1:52.4 (\$220,048)

[Click to view Winbak Farm's London Classic Lineup!](#)

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horse in the history of harness racing via a 1:45 4/5 World Record set in the William Haughton Memorial in 2022.

Blanchard was quick to point out that there is a lot more than Bulldog Hanover yearlings to be excited about.

“Cattlewash is an exciting addition to the Canadian stallion ranks and we will have 31 of his offspring available. Green Manalishi has made a huge splash in Ontario this season and will also be well represented with 29 yearlings,” said Blanchard. “We also have offerings from Canadian titans like Hambletonian winner Muscle Mass and the immortal Bettor’s Delight.

“There are several strong pedigrees and it is difficult to single out just one or two. But one that should certainly draw attention is HIP 156 Saulsbrook Big Dog, a Bulldog Hanover colt out of a terrific producer Atlanta Girl and a brother to 1:48 1/5 winner Saulsbrook Victor (\$584,385).

The sale appears poised to be very strong with sharp pedigrees appearing both days.

Here are some of my personal favorites:

HIP 5 HALL OF FEAR is by Sportswriter out of Marietta Hall, an earner of \$628,664 and a producer of a pair of six-figure earners. The dam is also a full sister to millionaire Cammibest and a kin to five other stakes competitors that all earned at least \$300,000.

HIP 12 SATU WANIA is by Green Manalishi S out of Miss Everything, who has produced a six-figure earner and is a full sister to Ken Warkentin (\$1.06 million) and Peter Haughton winner Holiday Road.

HIP 20 D A GABRIELLA is a Green Manalishi S and the first foal from Motormouth Hanover. The second dam produced Walter White, earner of \$582,725 and from the maternal family of \$1.4 million earner Costa Rica.

HIP 29 LIVEWIRE SEELSTER is by the ageless Bettor’s Delight out of Lively Rocket. This is her first foal and the dam is a half-sister to Twist N Clout, an earner of \$564,484.

HIP 62 SILVER FERN comes from Cattlewash out of Roller Cam, who is the dam of eight winners. Of them, seven are six-figure earners, including

Ellis Park (\$856,320, 1:48 2/5) and Fat Mans Alley (\$774,640, 1:49 1/5).

HIP 64 NAUTICAL SEELSTER is by Bulldog Hanover out of Nila Seelster, who is the dam of \$109,212 earner Novella Seelster and is a half-sister to Nirvana Seelster, an earner of nearly \$1.3 million.

HIP 156 SAULSBROOK BIG DOG is another Bulldog Hanover and this one is out of Atlanta Girl, who is the dam of a six-pack of six-figure earners, including Saulsbrook Victor (\$551,885, 1:48 4/5).

HIP 160 CENTURY MOO is by Cattlewash out of Beach Sports. This is her second foal and Beach Sports is a half-sister to popular Ontario stallion Century Farroh (\$1.56 Million, 1:47 3/5).

HIP 179 COOLCALMNCOLLECTED is the second foal from Chica and the first pairing with Muscle Mass. This is her second foal and her first foal by Greenshoe has already placed four times from six starts. The dam is also a half-sister to Filly at Bigs (\$816,475).

HIP 210 FRESH FLIP is by Sportswriter out of Flip For Love. The dam is a tremendous producer, with her foals including Ideal Flip (\$428,441, 1:50) and Fresh Cut (\$279,468, 1:50 4/5), and she is also a half-sister to Three of Spades (\$788,402, 1:49 2/5).

HIP 227 COMMANDER SAUL is by Captain Corey out of Christina Hanover, an earner of \$326,511 and producer of two six-figure earners including Esa (\$371,386, 1:52 3/5).

HIP 259 AMBERROSE SEELSTER (Century Farroh) is out of Aqua Rosa, who is the dam of seven winners including Avion Seelster (\$302,903, 1:51 3/5) and Allstar Seelster (\$288,061, 1:50 3/5).

The London Classic Yearling sale takes place on October 15 and 16 at The Agriplex at Western Fair District in London, Ontario.



WINBAK VIDEO SCREEN SHOT

HIP 210 is from a dam that has produced some big winners.



NORTHFIELD PARK





**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12**

POST TIME 6:00PM

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Burke Brigade out in force for Ohio, Indiana Sire Stakes finals

By Jay Bergman

Prior to the post-position draw for Saturday night's Ohio Sire Stakes extravaganza at Northfield Park, leading trainer Ron Burke was feeling good about the chances of many finalists from his lofty stable. Burke's demeanor changed some following Wednesday's draw that compromised some of his better horses.

"If you asked me going in I thought we were in good shape," Burke said on Thursday (Oct. 10). "Now I think my best chances are with Rick Wink and Seaside Diva. The rest drew outside."

Northfield Park will host four \$300,000 divisions of the Scarlet & Gray Championships for 2-year-olds of each sex and gait and another quartet of \$300,000 Ohio Sire Stakes championships for sophomores.

Burke qualified three juvenile pacing colts for the fifth race final but put most of his hope in Rick Wink, a colt from the second crop of Bit Of A Legend N that enters Saturday's contest undefeated in eight starts. The reason for his optimism aside from the colt's brilliant record-to-date was landing post three. His other two colts, both by top sire Downbytheseaside, have impressed in Ohio and beyond this year, with Sippinonsearoc (post 7) a world champion owner of a 1:48 2/5 mark at The Red Mile in Kentucky Sire Stakes action and Swingtown (post 8) most recently fourth in the Metro.

"Rick Wink can do whatever is necessary," said Burke in praise of the colt that cost just \$27,000 at last year's Oho Select auction and to date has earnings approaching \$240,000.

"I must give all credit on that purchase to Dr. J (Bridgette Jablonsky)," said Burke. "He's from the same family as McSeaside and she told me to look at him at the sale."

Rick Wink has won from on the pace and off the pace this season, but opened the eyes of many with a stunning 1:50 2/5 effort in an Ohio Breeders Championship at the Delaware Fairgrounds on September 19. The time was much faster than a pair of Sire Stakes victories over the Northfield surface he's quite familiar with already in his brief career.

Burke wasn't sure whether Rick Wink is the best of his three in the field but questioned just how the other two colts would react not just to the poor position draw but the half-miler as well.

"Sippinonsearoc likes the big track," Burke said when asked about the colt that has earned \$285K this year with five wins in eight tries. A winner in his most recent start at Dayton Raceway in 1:51 2/5 from post eight, Burke is hopeful that getting Yannick Gingras back in the bike could be advantageous.

"I would say Northfield is perhaps the fairest half-mile track there is," Burke said. "Some of the others they go hard the first quarter and then relax until the last quarter. At Northfield they race the entire mile and you can get parked and still win."

Perhaps that's exactly the trip that Swingtown could be in line for given the draw.

"He's a little bit headstrong," said Burke of the colt that captured a Sire Stakes leg at Northfield in July and was unbeaten in five starts in the Buckeye State before two defeats north of the Border.

Burke's confidence in Seaside Diva (post 5, Race 9) in the \$300,000 final for sophomore fillies has a lot to do with her 10 victories this year in 14 starts. The homebred daughter of Downbytheseaside has been a model of



JJ ZAMAICO

Rick Wink heads back to Northfield Park with a big chance to win the \$300,000 Ohio Sire Stakes championship.

consistency and been rock solid when landing good post positions. The filly has won three of her last six starts with her only losses coming after drawing post eight in the other events.

Seaside Diva was upset by Daisy's Star (post 2) in last year's Ohio Sire Stakes Championship final and hopes to avenge that defeat on Saturday. The two have gone in different directions as sophomores, with Daisy's Star a winner just once this year in 17 trips to post.

If there's a sleeper from Burke's endless list of finalists on Saturday at Northfield he thought Prince Charmer (post 1) in the \$300,000 final for sophomore male trotters (Race 10) had the best chance.

"He's been improving in his last few starts and he drew inside Spaaaaanzano," said Burke of the altered son of Long Tom. Burke's Tennessee Tom (post 6) drew into the race as well but as a closer with an outside draw could have a tough time getting into the action.

On Friday night (October 11) Burke has a few entered at Hoosier Park on their Night of Champions for Indiana sired horses.

"I think Starlitfrankenstein is my best shot," said Burke of the freshman trotting colt entered in the \$250,000 final carded as race six. "He's gotten his act together. I didn't get down there, but they told me he was vicious training this week."

Starlitfrankenstein is a colt by Swan For All with three victories this year in eight tries including a 1:55 mile on October 1 in the final preliminary leg of the series.

The Friday card at Harrah's Hoosier Park has 12 championship races worth over \$2.2 million and kicks off at 6:15 PM (EDT) while the Northfield Saturday program starts at 6:00 PM (EDT). Both tracks are offering guaranteed wagers, with Hoosier posting guarantees of \$7,500 (Pick 5/Race 1), \$20,000 (Pick 4/Race 12) and \$15,000 (Hi-5/Race 15), and Northfield offering three \$10,000 promised pools (Pick 4 in races 2 and 11 & Hi-5 in Race 13) and one \$20,000 guaranteed Pick 4 in race 8.

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Friday, October 11 | Post Time 6:15 PM (EDT)

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The Breeders Crown Returns to the Meadowlands

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October 18

POST TIME 12:30 PM

October 19

POST TIME 6:20 PM

Finals

October 25 + 26

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The Breeders Crown is highlighted by the annual **Breeders Crown Charity Challenge** which has raised over \$1.5 million to date! Fans can participate in the challenge by voting daily for their favorite team at playmeadowlands.com



EDITOR'S EYE - CAN BAD BE GOOD?

By Derick Giwner ✕ @harnessveguy

Recently I was watching the classic 1996 bowling movie *Kingpin* for what must be the tenth time. It has star power with Woody Harrelson and Bill Murray anchoring one of those “so corny you have to laugh” type films in the mold of the 1980 movie *Airplane!*

As a movie based on bowling, it was a no-brainer that I would watch it some 30 years ago when it came out. As a somewhat avid bowler, at the time I just took the laughs as they came and enjoyed the two hours of entertainment, but recently when watching it I began to dissect some of the humor and the accuracy of the movie.

Kingpin included professional bowlers of the time like the late Mark Roth and Parker Bohn III. Maybe the general public knew who they were or perhaps they didn't but at least to the bowling community their appearance sort of legitimized the movie, which contained so-called pros played by Harrelson and Murray displaying poor bowling form and behavior, and throwing strikes at angles that were nothing to be proud of for a “pro” bowler.

Overall the movie really wasn't a good “look” for the sport of bowling, other than maybe the idea that bowling could be profitable on the biggest stage. Which got me to thinking, is any publicity really good publicity? Does just the act of showing bowling help its popularity or does showing it done in a jokingly manner hurt it?

An even better question for those reading this column may be: How does this all relate to Harness Racing?

As someone who has been writing about the sport for more than 20 years, I can say firsthand that we walk a fine line. As much as people want to read feel-good content about people and horses, they equally enjoy controversial articles which stir the pot. Does a negative editorial hurt the sport or open eyes and help us move forward? We could certainly argue both sides.

There is no denying that harness racing has an image problem. When it is mentioned nationally the root is usually a scandal (drugs, illegal

activity, etc.) or on-track accident. At least in my neck of the woods – downstate New York – the common perception of the sport is unsavory, though after a few minutes of talking I can usually turn their view around to a more neutral position. Is it crazy to think we should embrace the bad news and turn it into a positive?

Over the last few days I watched *Mr. McMahon*, a six-part series on WWE co-founder Vince McMahon on Netflix. I'm not really a wrestling guy but I did watch my fair share of it during the 1980s and have a vague idea of some of the more popular characters over the last few decades. Beyond the show's take on the man, my takeaway in some ways is that negative sells. The former WWF and current WWE has done some crazy stuff over the years and drawn an audience because of it.

Go watch the news tonight and tell me the proportion of negative stories to positive ones. It'll probably be 10 to 1. With that, maybe Harness Racing's negatives can become our positives. Maybe instead of sweeping drug scandals under the rug we should talk about them publicly with a spin that we are trying to correct things . . . and here is the evidence. Maybe a tragedy can be an opportunity to show the world how tight the Standardbred community can be when things go unexpectedly wrong.

Las Vegas is another venue that embraces the negative. If the slogan “what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas” doesn't say that outlandish and potentially negative activity is acceptable and good, I don't know what does. Las Vegas could also be a great model for Harness Racing in another way. Look how the city has remade itself over the years to attract new visitors. It was an adult town, then along came the huge hotels with volcanos and pirate shows to attract families, then the “what happens in Vegas” era. Now we are seeing the explosion of sports teams and events surrounding the “Strip” – Las Vegas Boulevard. They have F1 racing, a NHL team, a NFL team, a WNBA team, and MLB and NBA are coming soon as well.

Las Vegas has transformed so many times over the years to attract people. What has Harness Racing done? Have we created new reasons for people to come to the track? I guess sports wagering and casino games count but that was more out of necessity to support the industry than a step to improve attendance. All tracks need to come to a realization that you either need to accept most handle will come from off-track or you need to give people more reasons to visit.



Saturday, October 12th | Air Time 6:10PM

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Sabonis eyes Super Final win at Hoosier, Crown appearance

By Ken Weingartner

John Miller considers himself “pretty lucky” when it comes to stand-out Indiana pacer Sabonis. Miller purchased Sabonis as a yearling for \$9,000 at the 2022 Midwest Mixed Sale and has watched the colt develop into a multiple Grand Circuit winner and potential Breeders Crown participant in the two years since then.

Owned by Miller’s wife, Pat, and trained by Aaron Stutzman, Sabonis has won 17 of 19 career races and earned \$480,200 as he prepares for Friday’s \$250,000 Indiana Sire Stakes championship for 3-year-old male pacers at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

Sabonis, whose victories this year include the Carl Milstein Memorial and Jenna’s Beach Boy on the Grand Circuit, will bring a 13-race win streak to his INSS final. The colt is not eligible to the upcoming Breeders Crown at The Meadowlands, which will host eliminations for all 3-year-olds on Oct. 19, but the plan is to supplement the colt to the event for \$72,000.

“You dream about something like this, but you don’t think it will ever happen,” Miller said. “When I bought him as a yearling, I didn’t even know if he would ever race, but I thought he looked good and had a pretty good pedigree. I thought I’d take a chance on him. That’s something that nobody else wanted to take.

“I guess I’ve been pretty lucky. It’s very special.”

Sabonis raced twice as a 2-year-old, finishing third in his debut at Hoosier Park before winning a race for Indiana Sire Stakes eligibles in gate-to-wire fashion in 1:55 1/5. His season ended there because of health issues and needing more time to mature, but he returned this past April with a 1:52 1/5 victory by four lengths in the first leg of the Mark Fransen Memorial conditioned series at Hoosier.

“That kind of opened our eyes to what we might have,” said Stutzman, who drove Sabonis that night before turning the lines over to Joey Putnam the rest of this season. “He came home in 25 4/5 and I was just sitting on him.

“I knew there was something there, but I didn’t know it was this kind of horse. It’s not that we weren’t impressed, but we were just kind of going from one race to the next.”

And with the exception of a second-place finish in early May, all Sabonis did while going one race to the next was win. The son of Tellitlikeitis-Gypsy Bellevue posted his best time of 1:48 2/5 in the second leg of the Indiana Sire Stakes in June at Hoosier Park and totaled seven triumphs in the series.

His victory in the Milstein was perhaps his defining moment so far. Sabonis was fifth through the first three-quarters of a mile and needed to make up nearly seven lengths from there. He got the job done, winning by 1-1/2 lengths over Timeisonmyside in 1:50 3/5.

“All of his wins have stood out to a certain extent, but in the Milstein, going into the last turn he was fifth and took a bad step,” Miller said. “I thought he was going to make a break, but he didn’t. When they came out of the turn, he was competing for the front, and I couldn’t hardly believe it.”

Said Stutzman, “I’d have to say the Milstein was my favorite so far, with as far back as he was going to the three-quarter pole and to still come back and beat them.

“He’s having an awesome year. It’s been fun. He’s a nice versatile horse. He’s well-rounded. You can put him on the front or race him from behind. That’s just the type of horse he is. And he’s laidback. He acts like he doesn’t have a mean bone in his body.”

Miller said Sabonis’ demeanor is one of his best qualities.

“He’s gentle,” Miller said. “The girl that takes care of him (Leah Schlabach) said she will give him something to eat after

cleaning his stall, and he’ll just come over and put his head on her shoulder. He’s very gentle.”

Of course, the ability to go fast also helps.

“I’ve never had one with the speed that he’s got,” Miller said. “I’ve got to put in a good word for Aaron. He’s done a hell of a job with him.”

Sabonis will start Friday’s INSS final from post three in a field of 10. He is the 4-5 morning-line favorite. Last year’s champ, Tellmeit matters, is the 9-2 second choice from post six with John DeLong driving for trainer Roger Welch.

If all goes well Friday, the plan is for Sabonis to continue his campaign with a trip to New Jersey for the Breeders Crown. The purses for all 3-year-old finals are \$600,000.

“I have to buy into it, but it’s pretty good money for the Breeders Crown,” Miller said, adding about the supplement fee, “I might be silly, but I’ve been silly before I guess. I might regret it, but you only go around once. So far, he’s been able to hold his own with everyone. We might never have another one like him.”

“The Lord blessed us in getting him,” Pat Miller said.

Harrah’s Hoosier Park will host 12 Indiana Sire Stakes championships Friday night.



Sabonis owns 16 wins in 17 starts this year.

DEAN GILLETTE

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

Twin B Joe Fresh preps for Breeders Crown in Big M qualifiers

By Nick Salvi

Live racing returned to The Meadowlands Thursday morning (Oct. 10) with 19 qualifying races held on a lovely day under clear skies with a considerable homestretch head wind when they began at 9:00 am that dissipated as the day wore on.

With the Breeders Crown eliminations scheduled for next weekend, many among those entered were looking for some work to hone their edge for the championship events.

Twin B Joe Fresh has been a grizzly all season and there was no letting up today as she smoked around the oval in 1:52 (26 4/5 home) in the Dexter Dunn grips while facing a considerable head wind. She may deserve, as her Thoroughbred grizzly counterpart Thorpedo Anna got in the Travers Stakes, a shot at the boys before year's end. A win in the Breeders Crown Mare Open is fifth in line for invitations to the FanDuel Open final. Chris Ryder has done a remarkable job to hold her form since May. Valar Dohaeris and AVF Claire were valiant in defeat behind the winner.

Maryland has taken three top freshman trotting stakes – the William Wellwood and Peter Haughton Memorials then the Mohawk Million – in his last three starts to pick up around \$750,000 for his ownership group. This morning, driver Dexter Dunn took the opportunity to race the Chapter Seven colt from behind and he rallied up late in-hand to be a closing second to another nice Chapter Seven colt in Karinchak (Mark MacDonald/Ray Schnittker), who set all the fractions and held safe easily in 1:55 2/5.

Maryland's win in the Peter Haughton stakes at Hoosier last month provides him with a bye into the BC final and to draw for his post position with the elimination winners.

She's A Shoe In has collected some impressive hardware as late, including an upset win in the PASS final for the MacDonald/Schnittker combo and she was given a tightener this morning, following the well-bred Conversano around the oval and finished second to that one. Conversano has shown flashes of brilliance for her connections and the sister to Celebrity Bambino put it together nicely this morning for Scott Zeron and trainer Juan Cano, with an impressive 1:56 score (home in 28 3/5) while never asked. Torristi also went well this morning, closing nicely through the stretch to just miss second for trainer Nancy Takter and driver Yannick Gingras.

Five accomplished freshman pacing fillies teed it up in race five and the combination of trainer Juan Cano and owner Hot Lead Farm struck right back with their homebred Papi Rob Hanover PA Stallion Series winner Gigglingonthebeach, who sat just off the lead then closed inside to get the win in 1:54 1/5 for Andy McCarthy. KY Golden Rod champ Faze did most of the work for Tim Tetrick, pressed to a 56 middle half by KYSS final winner Miki And Minnie, she fought that one off but just got snapped inside late.

Race seven had a juicy field of colt pacers with impressive resumes and Bruce Saunders' good Cattlewash colt Manolete wore down mile-cutter Papi's Pistol (Andy Miller/Sam DePinto) right at the light to get the 1:52 2/5 nod for Todd McCarthy. Captain Optimistic had good late pace in a successful prep.

Makes Sense (A. McCarthy/Robert Cleary) and Sugar Man (Tetrick/Brett Pelling) went right to the wire together with the former getting the slight nod in a contentious eighth race. The pair of Papi Rob's moved on the outside in tandem then squared off, with Makes Sense holding sway narrowly over his rival and both colts driven out in 1:52 3/5, home in 27 3/5. Fusion actually had the best foot finishing for Gingras, conservatively raced and sent up the inside in a useful effort.

Oh Well looked great, again, for the Melanders and driver Todd McCarthy. A better-looking, better-gaited horse you'd struggle to find. While he's certainly got great style and has won major stakes while collecting \$1.5 million, the sense is that there's even more there. He crushed an overmatched group today in 1:55.

Dave Miller sent TCI (first Lasix) out fast for the Burke barn today and kept rolling, and he had some of his old snap back, blasting along through even numbers while well in front throughout to win in 1:53 2/5. His final quarter was 28 seconds pretty much on his own. He wasn't in by himself either, as Daquiri Hanover and Supernova Hanover, both stakes winners, were left in his wake.

Voukefalas (Jordan Stratton/Mike Russo) sharpened up with a 1:52

4/5 (home in 27 4/5) largely front-running effort and looked like he could use the work having been a month off. Seven Colors showed snap that we haven't seen from him this year, rallying up the inside late to narrow in on the winner for Dunn.

Ruthless Hanover put on one of his speed shows, 1:49 off a half in 56, and as always, he looked great doing it. Strong right through the wire for Andy Miller with a 26 4/5 end to the mile. He's been a really good horse for a very long time for the Cancelliere boys. Oakwood Ardan IR got a little detached then paced right up to Ruthless in the stretch with Andy McCarthy keeping him on Miller's helmet right through the wire in a braving trip.

Caviart Belle (Gingras/Takter) has not been at her best recently, but she perked right up today upon her return to The Meadowlands, storming first-up to take the lead off the last turn then drawing away from a good group of her peers through a 26-second last quarter for the 1:52 score, impressively. Stonecoldtreachery, Tarrific and Hunting Hula all acquitted themselves well in the winner's wake.

The glamour boys showed up for race 18 and last year's Breeders Crown winner Gem Quality proved dead-game for Gingras to hold his rival, 2-year-old Dan Patch Award winning Little Brown Jug champ Captain Albano off by a nostril in 1:51 3/5. Both were held off a controlled pace with Gem Quality first up to leader Captain Bazinga and "Albano" tracking that move. They went right to the wire in sub 27, which arrived just in time for Gem to hold safe. Captain Bazinga held up well under the circumstances.

Live racing returns next Friday, October 18 with the eliminations for Breeders Crown stakes.

Please note that post time on that day is 12:30 pm.

Ontario Super Finals Saturday at Mohawk

Eight C\$300,000 Ontario Sire Stakes Gold Super Finals will be contested at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Saturday evening to showcase some of the best 2- and 3-year-olds north of the border.

There are a number of standouts throughout the octet of races and perhaps none moreso than the undefeated Chantilly. The daughter of Big Jim starts as the 1-5 morning line favorite in the 2-year-old filly pace (race 3) from post three with James MacDonald in the bike for trainer Nick Gallucci in what is expected to be her final start of 2024.

Following closely in terms of morning-line status is Nijinsky at 2-5 in the 3-year-old colt and gelding pace. The Anthony Beaton trainee takes on eight rivals in the ninth race and will have regular driver Louis Roy in the sulky.

Ontario standout Its A Love Thing looks to rebound from a rare defeat in the 3-year-old filly pace scheduled as race six. The Dave Menary-trained daughter of Bettor's Delight was second behind Blazing Belle last time but remains a clear choice on the early line at even money versus 4-1 for that rival.

The Sire Stakes start in race two with 2-year-old filly trotters and multiple stakes winner Monalishi is clearly the one to beat at 4-5 in the program. The previously mentioned James MacDonald, who is listed on the morning-line choice in four finals, gets the call behind the daughter of Green Manalishi.

Other favorites through the finals are Willys Home Run (3-2) in the fourth race 3-year-old filly trot, You Got It Kemp (8-5) one race later in the 2-year-old colt trot, Crack Shot (3-1) in what looks like a wide open 2-year-old colt pace (race 7), and Paquet (6-5) in the 3-year-old colt trot (race 8).

The action at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Saturday starts at 7:10 PM with a \$75,000 guaranteed Pick 5. The Sire Stakes finals are scheduled consecutively from races two through nine.

-Derick Gwerner

Many promotions on Crown weekend

This year's Breeders Crown Finals are October 25 and 26 at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Both race nights feature special promotions and events to complement the great on-track racing action.

Friday promotions include:

\$1,200 Halloween Costume Contest

o Sign up from 6-7:30pm in the Clubhouse Lobby with judging in the Winner's Circle following Race 4. First Prize: \$500; 2nd place: \$250; 3rd place \$100; 4th place: \$50. Bonus categories: \$100 for Scariest; \$100 for funniest; \$100 for best horse themed costume

Tote Machine Payout

o Guests who use any self-service tote machine between 6:15 and 11 pm are eligible to win. Voucher values from \$2 – \$500. Voucher prizes based on the overall # of wagers made in the entire facility on self-service machines. Must be present to participate.

The fun continues on Saturday:

\$1,200 Breeders Crown Hat Contest

o Sign up from 6-7:30 pm in the Clubhouse Lobby with judging in the Winner's Circle following Race 4. First Prize: \$500; 2nd place: \$250; 3rd place \$100; 4th place: \$50. Bonus categories: \$100 for Scariest; \$100 for funniest; \$100 for best horse themed costume

\$10,000 Handicapping Contest

o \$100 "betting card" purchase required at contest check-in. Entry includes a live racing program. Format is below:

Contestants must bet a minimum 5 Meadowlands races.

No minimum and no maximum bet per race.

Open to any wager on the Meadowlands live wagering menu. This includes W/P/S, Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3/4/5/6, Daily Double, Superfecta, and Pick X wagers.

Contestants keep all pari-mutuel winnings

Unlimited entries allowed per person.

Payouts: 1st – \$2,500; 2nd – \$2,000; 3rd – \$1,250; 4th – \$1,000; 5th – \$750; 6th – 10th – \$500

All event, racing, and dining details for Breeders Crown Finals weekend can be viewed at <https://playmeadowlands.com/event/breeders-crown-championships/>

On Friday, October 25, the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge check presentations will occur after the second race.

-edited release (Meadowlands)



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

RACE 3

(9) DEBRA has grassroots lines from tough posts out of town and gets back to an overnight. 8/28 win was sharp when favored.

-Garnet Barnsdale



**WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

RACE 13

(4) GRUESOME TWOSOME hasn't been able to make any noise on the Grand Circuit but has been pure gold in Indiana Sire Stakes action.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 8

(6) CHAPERCAZ only has one win on the season in 17 tries but the Burke trainee has banked \$435K by being competitive in all the big dances. He returns to Yonkers where he's got a 1:53 4/5 mark from last year and was also the runner-up in the YR Trot.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

RACE 10

(2) SPAAAANZANO probably isn't better than Tennessee Tom but what he does have is a huge tactical edge having drawn inside a foe that tends to race from off the pace. If we can get anything around 2-1 I'd be thrilled.

-Giwner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

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

Freehold Analysis

[Friday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

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

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS



INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES



NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

TACTICAL LANDING TO STAND FOR \$25,000 IN 2025

The Tactical Landing Syndicate has announced that Tactical Landing's service fee for the 2025 North American breeding season has been set at \$25,000.00.

"Tactical Landing has earned his way to this level by producing an unprecedented two Hambletonian winners and two future prominent North American sires in Tactical Approach and Karl, along with European superstar Fame and Glory, winner of the Swedish equivalent of the Hambletonian at 3 and recent winner of the prestigious Swedish Trotting Derby, in just his first two crops of racing age from a group of mares widely considered below the best available," stated Syndicate Manager Kevin Greenfield.

2024 marked a major upward turning point in Tactical Landing's stallion career. Not only did he begin to service many of the finest trotting mares in the sport throughout North America, Europe and the Southern Hemisphere, in a recent historic vote by the French governing trotting Board, SETF, he also became the only North American-based trotting stallion in over 30 years to be accepted into the French stud book, commencing with the 2025 breeding season, which will allow his foals born to qualified French mares in France on frozen semen to be eligible to the lucrative French racing program, one of the finest in the world. With his outstanding fertility, unmatched pedigree, looks and conformation, Tactical Landing's future standing as a prominent world class trotting sire is now unlimited.

Tactical Landing stands at Southwind Farms in New Jersey. For booking information, contact Farm Manager Laura Young at 609-731-8088 or Business Manager Mike Klau at 917-930-2709.

-edited release (Tactical Landing Syndicate)

BLOODED HORSE SALE TAKING YEARLING ENTRIES

Time to get your Black Type yearlings in for the 77th Annual Blooded Horse Fall Sale to be held November 20 at the Champions Center in Springfield, Ohio. If you still have yearlings to sell, join others in taking advantage of this late fall opportunity. Mixed horses will be taken for the main catalogue until around October 25, with supplemental entries added through Sunday Nov. 17.

This highly anticipated sale draws buyers from across the United States and Canada. It's the perfect venue to sell 2- and 3-year-olds at the end of their stakes season, along with young green prospects and race-way horses. In addition, breeders flock to the sale in search of broodmares and weanlings. With the supplement now remaining open until a few days before the sale, horsemen can bolster their buying power by bringing along a late entry to sell.

The Blooded Horse Sale offers the best marketing value for your horses. With both online bidders and in-person buyers competing for your consignment, you get the best of both worlds at a fair price.

There is no commission for reserves not attained. Enter now at bloodedhorse.com or by fax at (859) 300-3940.

For more information about upcoming sales, yearlings videos, and updates subscribe to our mailing list.

-edited release (Blooded Horse)

PA FAIR FINALS, PINK OUT, FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT THE MEADOWS

The \$200,000 championships of the Pennsylvania Fairs will be contested Friday on a special evening of racing that will see Hollywood Casino at The Meadows transformed into something approaching a county fair with fun activities for all.

The racing includes \$25,000 championships in all eight divisions for 2- and 3-year-olds. Horses have earned points for the finals by competing in stakes at PA fairs throughout the summer. But exciting racing is not the only attraction Friday. Other events include:

- Annual Pink Out. The Meadows and The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) will present their eighth annual Pink Out to benefit cancer awareness, research and treatment. Fans who make donations to the American Cancer Society will be eligible to win raffle prizes from participating vendors.

- Corgi racing. Those lovable Welsh wagers will compete in three qualifying events following harness races 3, 4 and 5, with the final after Meadows race 7. Winning dogs will receive prizes from event partners. Also, in keeping with the Pink Out theme, one dog will be chosen "Pinkest Pup."

- Family Fun Night. Activities include balloon and tattoo artists, a face painter and a bounce house. The Dan and Galla Musical Show takes place live on the apron, where fans also may enjoy fair-style food and beverages.

First post for the 13-race program — and kickoff for the other festivities — is 5:10 PM.

-release (Evan Pattak for MSOA)

BLACK BOOK #2 ENTRIES ARE NOW CLOSED

We are now accepting Supplemental entries for the Standardbred Horse Sale, which will close on October 18.

Black Book #2 will be on the website by Friday, October 18 and on Equineline for Ipad users.

Black Book #1 yearling updates are now on Equineline for Ipad users, and highlighted pedigrees are on the website at theblackbook.com.

-edited release (Standardbred Horse Sales Co.)

CHANTILLY UP, TWO NEWCOMERS IN FOR WEEK 17

Chantilly moved into the top three and Sig Sauer and Fallout joined the Top 10 in the Week 17 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Tuesday.

No. 1 Twin B Joe Fresh and No. 2 Jiggy Jog S were idle. Chantilly, undefeated in eight lifetime starts, won the fifth leg of the Ontario Sire Stakes Gold for 2-year-old female pacers to move from fifth to third in the rankings. It is the first time female horses have occupied the top three positions since Week 22 in 2021, when Lyons Sentinel, Venerable, and Test Of Faith led the way.

Captain Albano, also idle, remained fourth in this week's rankings while Karl, who finished fifth in the Kentucky Futurity, dropped from third to fifth.

Kentucky Futurity winner Sig Sauer joined the Top 10 for the first time, at No. 8. Fallout, who won a division of the International Stallion Stakes, debuted at No. 10.

Legendary Hanover fell from seventh to ninth following a fifth-place finish in a division of the Tattersalls Pace. Maryland and Nijinsky, the remaining horses in the Top 10, were idle. Highland Kismet, who was eighth in the Kentucky Futurity, and idle Its A Love Thing dropped from the Top 10.

The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll, which will be released every Tuesday through the remainder of the Grand Circuit season, does not determine Horse of the Year. The members of the U.S. Harness Writers Association vote on all Dan Patch Award division winners plus Trotter of the Year, Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year.

Rankings based on the votes of harness racing media representatives on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll: Week 17 – 10/8/2024

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Twin B Joe Fresh (28)	4mp	10-9-1-0	\$620,812	337	1
2	Jiggy Jog S (7)	5mt	6-6-0-0	\$934,188	320	2
3	Chantilly	2fp	8-8-0-0	\$450,815	199	5
4	Captain Albano	3cp	13-8-1-2	\$797,043	189	4
5	Karl	3ct	12-9-1-1	\$1,002,839	172	3
6	Maryland	2ct	7-4-1-1	\$795,378	135	8
7	Nijinsky	3cp	11-9-1-0	\$802,170	131	6
8	Sig Sauer	3ct	8-4-0-1	\$569,812	49	—
9	Legendary Hanover	3cp	14-6-4-2	\$785,567	48	7
10	Fallout	2cp	9-4-2-1	\$486,750	42	—

ALSO: R Melina, Winner's Bet 37; Abuckabett Hanover, Its A Love Thing 36; Sabonis 27; Logan Park 25; Rose 24; Highland Kismet 23; Rocket Deo 19; Call Me Goo, Sylvia Hanover 10; Direction, Little Rocket Man, Mirage Hanover 3; Bythemissal, It's My Show, My Girl EJ, Papi Grad 2; Greenspan, Louprint 1.

-by Ken Weingartner