

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

MARYLAND

with one final assignment in Saturday's Kindergarten

By Jay Bergman

It was thought following his brilliant tally in the Breeders Crown that the 2-year-old trotting colt Maryland could eclipse the earnings record for a horse in his division by racing in and capturing the Kindergarten Series final on Saturday night at The Meadowlands. Trainer Marcus Melander was true to his word, entering the son of Chapter Seven as planned but any hopes of Maryland overtaking T C I's earnings mark won't be on the line.

The \$173,300 Kindergarten purse was more than \$50,000 under the estimate on the Meadowlands condition sheet and a victory by Maryland will not be enough to secure the top spot. Nevertheless, Maryland's presence on any stage has its own rewards as the colt has been brilliant through the second half of the season and Melander has a clear eye on a future Meadowlands race on the first Saturday next August.

"I think 2-year-old wise he's the best 2-year-old I've ever trained," said Melander. "Of course, he's got to come back and do it at 3 but he's a great horse and I don't think he'll have a problem doing it."

While there were a few growing pains along the way in his early races, Maryland has been flawless winning four consecutive major stakes races in advance of his Kindergarten finale.

"He's a very smart horse. He's been travelling a lot, and it doesn't seem to both him at all," said Melander of Maryland.

The travels of Maryland first led him to capture the prestigious William Wellwood Memorial on August 24 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. In that race he overcame post nine showing sharp early speed and then rallied in the stretch to win quite comfortably.

From Ontario Maryland followed the money to the Peter Haughton Memorial at Hoosier Park



DERICK GIWNER

Trainer Marcus Melander conditions the best 2-year-old trotting colt in North America and early 2025 Hambletonian favorite Maryland.

on September 13 and again overcame an outside draw to capture the elite freshman event in style, capping off a 1:54 1/5 mile with a 27 1/5 last quarter while cruising on his own to the wire.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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Only eight days later back at Woodbine Mohawk, Maryland would give Melander and company their first Mohawk Million triumph with Maryland racing from off the pace for driver Dexter Dunn and romping home in a then career-best 1:52 3/5 clocking.

Given entry into the Breeders Crown final with the Haughton score, Melander trained him back and kept him fresh with a qualifying mile two weeks prior and that set Maryland up nicely for a hard-earned yet decisive score in the \$700,000 Crown final at The Meadowlands on October 25. While Maryland had to fight off a bitter challenge to his right flank, he was tested to his left in deep stretch by runner-up Maximus Mearas S and held that one at bay bravely in a career-best 1:51 4/5 mile.

“He’s fresh and sound and should be ready to race on Saturday,” Melander said with confidence of Maryland.

finished with a 27 1/5 final quarter on November 2.

Cheers Hanover (post 4) also enters the final with a two-race winning streak, both Kindergarten legs for trainer Ron Burke. The Bar Hopping-sired colt has rebounded this fall following a mishap in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final at The Meadows on September 5 where he miscued.

Trainer Ake Svanstedt always has a sleeper at this time of the year and what version of Gap Kronos S (post 7) shows up remains to be seen. The Face Time Bourbon-sired colt drew rave reviews following his consecutive Grand Circuit triumphs at The Red Mile earlier this Fall but was somewhat flat in a third-place finish on October 25 in a Meadowlands Kindergarten leg.

The richest of the Kindergarten finals will be the \$243,400 event for juvenile trotting fillies carded as race six. The 10-filly field has attracted a host of stakes winners, with the Nancy Takter-trained Champagne Problems (post 8) the likely favorite on the strength of six wins this year and \$378K banked.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Maryland won the Mohawk Million in September and went on to win the Breeders Crown in October.

Maryland drew post two in Saturday’s eighth race at The Meadowlands, a program that features three other Kindergarten Series finals.

“The Kindergarten will be his last race [this year],” said Melander, dashing hopes for now that T C I’s record will be in danger.

With \$1,145,378 earned this year, Maryland has almost doubled what the other nine in the field have taken in during their frosh season combined. That said, the Kindergarten will be a true test with some late bloomers in the crowd that could step up to Maryland’s level.

Monserrate (post 3) had won just once in his first nine tries for trainer Andrew Harris including a fifth-place finish in the Breeders Crown elimination. The light bulb obviously went on and the Chapter Seven colt has responded with consecutive Kindergarten leg wins over the Meadowlands strip in the last two weeks. His 1:54 2/5 career-best mile was

Trainer Andrew Harris has another one of his six-figure yearling purchases in this grouping in Voguish, a daughter of Gimpanzee with five wins this year including the Kentuckiana at Hoosier Park and a pair of Kindergarten legs most recently. Voguish and Maryland hail from a red-hot maternal line that on Monday was responsible for a \$1 million yearling at the Harrisburg auction. Jolene Jolene is the dam of Voguish, herself a \$535,000 yearling purchase in 2023. Jolene Jolene’s daughter Crucial is the dam of Maryland as well as Cambridge Hanover, the yearling purchased on Monday by Harris and his ownership group.

The 14-race Meadowlands card on Saturday kicks off at 6:20 p.m. and also features a Kindergarten final for male pacers where Papis Pistol (post six) is the presumptive favorite and pacing fillies led by Breeders Crown third-place finisher Rodeo Drive Deo.

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Divisional honors on the line in Matron Stakes at Dover Downs

By Derick Gwerner

Some of the best 3-year-olds in harness racing will be in action at Dover Downs for the Matron series on Thursday evening. Three of the four six-figure stakes feature Breeders Crown winners looking to add to their résumés in search of divisional honors.

The festivities start in the \$146,050 filly trot (race six) and the horse to beat is Crown champion Allegiant (5-2 morning line) starting from post five with Scott Zeron in the bike for trainer Linda Toscano.

"She came out of the [Breeders Crown] really good and she trained well on Saturday [Nov. 2]," said Toscano, who mentioned that Allegiant will sell in the North American Standardbred Mixed Sale on December 17. "We are hoping she puts in a good effort. She trained on a half-mile track her whole life, so I don't see any reason why she won't get around Dover."

Allegiant currently sits second in her division in earnings behind fellow Matron starter R Melina (post three, Todd McCarthy, 7-2) and a win by either filly could be the difference maker in deciding divisional honors.

"I don't like to talk about that stuff because you know me, I like to fly under the radar if possible, but she's certainly done everything worthy of it. If she can beat R Melina and beat the fillies she's in against on Thursday night, she's certainly worthy of consideration," said Toscano, who took over training the filly in early October. "Vernon [Beachy] called me and asked if I would take her after Lexington. I offered to just babysit her and he said, 'no, I want you to take her and do whatever it is that you do' and he's awesome, and [owner] Ryan [Smith], I've worked with him before. They are terrific people and I was just happy to help."

Filly pacers go in the \$116,500 tenth race and Toscano also has an entrant in the speedy yet erratic Sarasota Hanover.

"Sarasota Hanover has a world of ability, which is the reason we

decided to race her next year as a 4-year-old," said Toscano. "As we've finished up the year I think she's getting stronger and more consistent. She's very, very fast but she's in tough. She's got a good post but they are all good horses in there."

Sarasota Hanover (10-1) starts from post three with Zeron in the bike and will take on Breeders Crown champion My Girl EJ (post five, Dexter Dunn, 5-2) and runner-up Tarrific (post eight, Jason Bartlett, 7-2), who trainer Chris Ryder said will be retired to serve as a broodmare after the race.

Male pacers go in race 12 and we'll witness a Breeders Crown rematch between winner Mirage Hanover (Dexter Dunn, 5-2) and Captain Albano (Todd McCarthy, 7-2), who tired to third after setting the pace in the mile.

"You have to have some sort of breather and he didn't get any. The horses that beat him drew one and two along the fence," said trainer Noel Daley about the Crown performance by Captain Albano, who again starts outside his rival in post five versus pylon position for the Jake Leamon-trained Mirage Hanover.

This \$185,500 Matron split is another that could have a major impact on divisional honors as both Mirage Hanover and Captain Albano are separated by just under \$160,000 in earnings.

Male trotters do battle in the \$152,800 eighth race with Highland Kismet (5-2) looking to get back on the winning track after three consecutive off-the-board finishes.

Thought to be one of the divisional leaders along with Karl and Sig Sauer, Highland Kismet could only finish fourth in the Breeders Crown last time and hasn't won since the September 28 Bluegrass at The Red Mile. He'll start from post two with Tim Tetrick in the bike for trainer Mark Etsell on Thursday while tackling New York Sire Stakes champion Sir Pinocchio (Bartlett, 7-2) just to his inside.

Post time for the 15-race Dover card is 4:30 p.m.

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Potential 2025 stars for sale in Friday's Mixed Session in Harrisburg



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

There was no shortage of enthusiasm in the audience on Monday when a \$1 million yearling was auctioned off. While some of those in attendance that day have left Pennsylvania, those buyers looking to fill up a stable of racehorses with potential breeding implications would be wise to stick around for Friday's finale where a plethora of accomplished racehorses and budding stars will be on display. While yearling purchase results won't be realized for months, those with a keen eye on Friday can get near instant returns on their investment with ready-made horses to be dropped in the entry box immediately.

The sophomore pacing ranks is quite difficult to navigate even for those with the ability to pace in sub-1:48 territory and there are a couple of "also-rans" that didn't quite crack the list of major stakes talent in 2024 but could emerge and become next year's premier elite pacers. Specifically, we're speaking of the well-traveled Captain Luke and the speedy McCrunch, two 3-year-olds with extreme speed while perhaps not enough luck to have earned more in 2024 than some of their contemporaries.



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Captain Luke has already earned \$292,365 as a 3-year-old and will sell as HIP 1600 on Friday at Harrisburg.

Captain Luke (HIP 1600, Preferred Equine) will hope to go over the \$300K mark in seasonal earnings just hours before he's scheduled to arrive in Harrisburg. The son of Captaintreacherous has a date on Thursday (November 7) in the Matron Stakes at Dover (post six, race 12) less than 24 hours prior to the auction. The Governor's Cup winner as a 2-year-old, Captain Luke has proven his durability with 30 starts over two years battling the sport's best. Sharp both early and late this season, Captain Luke was a solid second behind Captain Albano in a Breeders Crown elimination recently at The Meadowlands.

HIP 1586 McCrunch (Diamond Creek), a 1:48 2/5 winner in a division of the Tattersalls at The Red Mile, is an entirely different kind of prospect in that he was unraced as a 2-year-old but quickly emerged this year with superstar credentials. He was lapped-on Captain Luke in a \$200,000 Hempt Consolation in August at Pocono, showing some class against horses with more experience. There's no telling what a year's

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 6](#)



11/8 Racehorse Lineup

Harrisburg Sale starts at 11 am

#1387, BEAUTIFUL SMILE*, 2, P, F, ON
Bettor's Delight-Qrakmeup Blue Chip-Sunshine Beach
• Family of **One More Laugh**, p, 3, 1:47.4 (\$2,690,593)

#1388, WINDEMERE BLUE CHIP*, 2, P, F, ON
Bettor's Delight-Caroline Hanover-Yankee Cruiser
• Family of **Dorsoduro Hanover**, p, 1:47.4 (\$2,039,993)

#1427, TIE GAME, 2, T, G, ON
Muscle Mass-Daylon Mermaid-Kadabra
• 1/2-brother to **Black Tie Bash**, 1:54f (\$264,248)

#1428, WEBFLOW, 2, T, C, PA
International Moni-Ivory Pearl-Muscle Hill
• Family of **Forbidden Trade**, 3, 1:51 (\$2,116,858)

#1471, MICHELON'S TITAN, 2, T, F, NY
E L Titan-Royal Melbourne-Explosive Matter
2, Q2:00.1f -'24; BT1:56.3f-'24 (\$45,565)

#1472, TALBOT EHBESEA, 2, T, F, ON
Muscle Mass-Talbot Eh Plus-Kadabra
2, 2:01.1f -'24; BT1:59.2f-'24 (\$8,044)

#1572, LEANNE'S CHOICE, 3, P, F, NY
Courtly Choice-Village Madonna-Rocknroll Hanover
p, 2, 1:53h; 3, 1:50.2f -'24 (\$217,912)

#1573, MELANIE'S MEGAN, 3, P, F, NY
American Ideal-Palette Tina-Allamerican Native
p, 3, 1:55f -'24; BT1:53.1f-'24 (\$31,440)

#1574, MYSTIC BELL, 3, P, F, NY
American Ideal-Hypnotize-Artiscape
p, 3, Q1:54.3 -'24; BT1:51.4f-'24 (\$43,136)

#1575, SOMEBODY SPECIAL, 3, T, F, IN
Archangel-Half Filthy-Kadabra
2, 1:55.3s; 3, 1:55s -'24; BT1:54-'24 (\$149,050)

#1576, SOUTHERN MONI, 3, T, F, PA
International Moni-Mississippi Dream-Dream Vacation
2, 2:00s; 3, 1:53.3f -'24; BT1:53.2s-'24 (\$67,282)

#1621, BREEZY HALL, 3, T, G, PA
Cantab Hall-Baileys Breeze-Angus Hall
2, 1:57.2f; 3, 1:54.1f -'24; BT1:53.1-'24 (\$77,131)

#1622, SPRING BLAKE, 3, P, R, NY
Courtly Choice-Spring Break-Dream Away
p, 3, 1:52.2f -'24; BT1:50.3s-'24 (\$92,841)

[Click here to learn more about the lineup!](#)

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racing will do for this son of Captain Crunch with a solid pedigree.

Also selling via Diamond Creek is HIP 1581 Arbitrage Hanover, another horse that could emerge next year in invitational and stakes competition. The son of Bettor's Wish proved his dominance inside the Garden State this year for the most part but added a new wrinkle to his résumé with a solid score in the Simpson at Pocono just a few weeks ago. Having won on all-sized tracks, Arbitrage Hanover could be the perfect kind of horse to race throughout North America in Open and Invitational type races as a 4-year-old and beyond.

With sophomore trotters retiring at a rapid rate these days, one must wonder just what the make-up of next year's Open class of trotters will look like. It's not just the stallions that will be lost to the division as the top trotting mare in North America Jiggy Jog S will move on to her second career. That leaves the door ajar for any one of this year's other sophomores to have a shot at some major stakes money in 2025. The Hambletonian Maturity offers a great starting point to those with 4-year-olds, as does the Graduate Series, making any buy at Harrisburg a solid investment. Perhaps no one horse in the auction fits the bill more perfectly than HIP 1595 Amazing Catch (Preferred Equine), third by a neck to Sig Sauer in this year's Breeders Crown finale after finishing second to him in the Kentucky Futurity. A winner of \$870K already, Amazing Catch not only has the pedigree to succeed next year but the stallion potential that was just a short distance out of reach this year because he was on the wrong side of a photo or two.

Amazing Catch caught a break in winning the Canadian Trotting Classic when rival Highland Kismet broke stride early in the race. Unfortunately, he didn't have that kind of luck in the Hambletonian where he got squeezed along the pylons while appearing full of trot and had to settle for a third-place finish.

Amazing Catch is clearly a horse that danced all the dances and thus his talent was on full display throughout the year. Timed in sub-1:50 this year, Amazing Catch could be the top prize on the trotting side in this auction and for good reason. His pedigree not only shouldn't be ignored but revered in that he's out of Met's Life and hails from the immediate maternal family of top sire Muscle Hill as well as the budding stallion Gimpanzee.

For those with the same enthusiasm one might have for Amazing Catch but not the funds to take that one home, there is a multitude of quality sophomore trotters with the potential to join the elite class next year in this auction. Breeders Crown elimination runner-up Greenspan (HIP 1606, Preferred Equine) showed plenty of talent on the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes circuit over the last two years and certainly could be a player in the 4-year-old division. HIP 1596 Bella's Muscleshill (Preferred Equine) went from an unraced 2-year-old to the top level as a sophomore, most notably with second-place finishes in the Hambletonian elimination and a New Jersey Classic elimination. That he was behind two now-retired colts in those races, specifically Karl in the Hambletonian and Sig Sauer in the New Jersey Classic, suggests the Muscle Hill-sired gelding is at least close to greatness. With the needed experience, Bella's Muscleshill should be even better as a 4-year-old for new connections.

Then there is French Kronos (HIP 1605, Preferred Equine), the sophomore with an international pedigree being a son of Face Time Bourbon. Third to Karl earlier this year in a division of the Reynolds, French Kronos has been in fine form towards the end of the campaign, capturing the \$100,000 Langley at Hoosier Park in late September.

While 3-year-olds advancing into the 4-year-old ranks offers potential to some buyers, there are those looking for a younger horse to provide some thrills as well. One 2-year-old that has shown enormous speed is the Lather Up-sired freshman filly named Chakra (HIP 1456, Preferred Equine). A winner in Kentucky Commonwealth action in August, Chakra showed high speed and manners in a 1:50 3/5 victory in a Kindergarten leg at The Meadowlands on October 25. The fact that the filly is dual-eligible and could race in Kentucky and Ohio next year as well as the Grand Circuit is compelling considering just how hard it is to find one with this kind of speed. Chakra is also entered in the \$165,000 Kindergarten final at The Meadowlands on Saturday from post three in race seven.



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Despite only two wins in 2024, HIP 1595 Amazing Catch has earned \$707,300 in 2024.

HIP 1510 Mambacita (Preferred Equine) is the lone \$1 million winner in this sale and the 4-year-old mare by Tactical Landing has the pedigree and performance to be a star no matter what her next owner has in mind. Dominant earlier this year in the Kentucky Sires program following a pair of stakes-winning seasons as a freshman and sophomore, Mambacita could rise again on the racetrack if healthy, but if not, she's got plenty of credentials to be a high-end broodmare worthy of elite status at most any nursery in North America or abroad.

There is quality in abundance this Friday in Harrisburg, a sale that might cost you more if you miss out.

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CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

Yes, Virginia, there is a Harness track

“Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you, Away you rolling river. Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you.”

While almost anyone with an interest in harness racing on October 26 had their eyes on the 3-Year-Old and Veteran Breeders Crown Finals at The Meadowlands, your humble scribe was navigating the hills of Virginia en route to the bucolic town of Woodstock, home to Shenandoah Downs. My goal was two-fold: Add a track to my list and see the Virginia Day of Champions.

I have witnessed harness racing at every extended pari-mutuel track that currently hosts the sport except three – Cal Expo and First Tracks Cumberland (that’s the one in Maine, not to be confused with Cumberland Run, which is the one in Corbin, Kentucky and is located near the headwaters of the Cumberland River . . . or Cumberland Park, a small city park and swimming pool two blocks from my house). The third was Shenandoah Downs.

The half-mile oval, located at the Shenandoah Fairgrounds, was concluding its 106th year of racing (and its ninth featuring pari-mutuel racing). The closing day was the \$750,000 Virginia Breeders Stakes Day of Champions. Currently based on a generous mare residency program, starting next year with foals of 2023 there will also be a Virginia Sired program. Virginia also offers a Certified Residency bonus, which has been around since 2019.

The residency program has been around since the Colonial Downs days, over 25 years, and allows a foal whose dam spent at least six consecutive months of her foaling year in the state to be eligible. The result? We saw colts by Sweet Lou, Captain Crunch, Always B Miki and others race against Virginia homebreds, many of which held their own. We also saw trainers named Tony Alagna, Nancy Takter and Carlo Polisen in the program. But we can talk about the racing later.

The grandstand is plastered with sponsor billboards and there is no luxurious clubhouse, just bleacher seating. There are some remarkable concession stands – an ice cream stand as good as any I have tried and a county fair type trailer (Italian Sausage or ribeye sandwiches, burgers, fries and funnel cakes) all at prices \$1-2 less than at any county fair I have ever attended. Even though it was Champions Day, the track offered its normal Sunday special – two dollar 12 oz. beer and dollar hot dogs. Midway through the card, in an attempt at inventory reduction, the 12 ounces were reduced to one dollar and premium beers and wine were reduced to three bucks. How can you go wrong?

The wagering area featured five windows, four of which were staffed on this day, as well as a total of nine ancient AmTote self-serve terminals (two in the beer tent and seven in the grandstand). They may be old, but they are so much easier to use than most of what we see today.

Unfortunately, the pools were anemic – not a single race handled over \$10,000. The track is available for simulcast, but very few tracks take the signal. It is also available on many ADWs, but only a person searching for the track is likely to find it there. Part of the reason may be a limited wagering menu – most races did not offer show wagering and quite a few

were win/exacta or win/exacta/trifecta. There is an early and a late daily double, but no Pick Threes, Pick Fours or Super High Fives.

Nor was the racing the greatest. Although the track looked great, there were lots of breaking trotters – not just youngsters, but even the veteran trotters saw half the field (the two top choices) run. That’s right, just a four-horse field. The Virginia program offers \$20,000 finals for the veterans and there just are not that many of them. Or maybe the purse is not appealing enough. Three- and four-horse fields were the norm for the older racehorses.



KEITH GISSER

The Shenandoah grandstand is loaded with sponsor signage.

Only four races were won by less than two lengths and four others were won by eight lengths or more. The most impressive performance of the day, aside from the 18-length win by Terry’s Watching (Betsy Brown) in the Aged Horse Trot at 14-1, was the 2-year-old pacing colt Brooksforreal, driven by Corey Braden for trainer John Wagner and owner Kelsey Wagner. His 1:53 3/5 win was his third straight divisional track record. He is a son of Rusty’s For Real, who stands for \$1,500 in Maryland, where Brooksforreal won the Sires Stakes title. It might be of note that he beat Alagna and Takter trainees. We should also note that Alagna and Polisen had wins on the card. The fans went crazy applauding this colt (as they did for every winner in a great show of sportsmanship) as he moved into the winner’s circle. The grandstand was about two-thirds or maybe three-quarters full, so the crowd was decent, and obviously appreciative.

Having said all that, the program for young horses is very attractive due to its compact schedule. Two \$8,000 preps and then the \$85-95K finals all contested in October. There were many horses who came from Lexington and the Goldenrod or Commonwealth Series. We also saw several horses coming from rich Maryland Sires Stakes Finals competing. In some cases, a horse with one check-earning start in a prelim got into the final.

The Virginia program will grow with the addition of the Sires Stakes next year. While not as lucrative as some of the other so-called B programs (Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan), it is a solid one and Shenandoah Downs was a great host.

That’s it for now. Instead of cashing, go buy a four-dollar lunch at the Shenandoah Downs spring meet next year. See you in a few weeks.



2024 HOLIDAY ISSUE



Send a holiday greeting to the harness community or thank those that helped you succeed in 2024.

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Gross up, average down in yearling-only portion of Standardbred Horse Sale

By Greg Reinhart

The yearling-only section of this year's Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, wrapped up on Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 6).

Year-over-year, the three-day yearling-only sale saw an increase in the gross from \$35,870,000 to \$37,091,000, but the average dipped from \$44,284 to \$42,830. A total of 810 yearlings went through the ring through three sessions in 2023 while 866 horses were sold in 2024. A comparable year to this year in terms of the average would be 2018, which ended at \$42,675 for 830 horses offered.

Agent Concord Stud Farm was the leading consignor on average, with their 75 offerings sitting at \$74,880. They were followed by agent Peninsula Farm Inc., (\$65,889 / 18 horses), Twinbrook Farms (\$58,533 / 15 horses), All American Harnessbreds (\$55,773 / 22 horses) and Icy Stable/Farhi Standardbreds (\$55,000 / six horses).

Walner was top dog for sires in terms of average as his 16 progeny finished at \$258,063, including record-setter Cambridge Hanover at \$1 million. Chapter Seven (\$128,800 / 25 horses) was second, with Captaintreacherous (\$98,513 / 39 horses), Muscle Hill (\$87,769 / 13 horses) and Gimpanzee (\$71,786 / 14 horses) in third through fifth.

New York-eligibles led the average in that category at \$66,379 for 95 horses. Kentucky was second (\$60,529 / 17 horses), New Jersey was third (\$58,250 / 124 horses), Ontario was fourth (\$37,725 / 142 horses) and Pennsylvania checked in fifth (\$36,411 / 431 horses).

Trotting fillies were at the head of the line for sex/gait as 184 of them fetched an average of \$58,505. Trotting colts were next at \$45,216 for 208 offerings, and pacing colts (\$36,004 / 265 horses) edged out pacing fillies (\$35,311 / 209 horses) for third.

The top seller on Wednesday was HIP 607 Shes On The Money, a daughter of E L Titan consigned by Preferred Equine Marketing Inc. Shes On The Money, who was purchased by George Ducharme for \$95,000, is a half-sister to the Conway Hall mare With Out A Doubt (1:53 1/5, \$250,185).

With the yearling-only part of the Standardbred Horse Sale complete, the focus in Harrisburg switches to the mixed sale on Thursday and Friday. HIPs 953-1332 will be offered on Thursday, and HIPs 1341-1642 will close out the sale on Friday. Both of those sessions get underway at 11 a.m. (EST).



Ellie Hanover, a filly from the first crop of Captain Corey bred and consigned by Hanover Shoe Farm, went to Captain Corey's trainer Ake Svanstedt. Ellie Hanover's 2-year-old brother Elan Hanover was the runner-up in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Championship and a Bluegrass Series division at The Red Mile this year.

Coming in behind Upgrade and Ellie Hanover at \$225,000 was HIP 458 Tavern Onthe Green, who was acquired by Serge Godin's Determination stable. Consigned by Concord Stud Farm as agent, Tavern Onthe Green is a Green Manalishi colt and is a half-brother to Mr Grant (\$128,345, 1:54 3/5).

Rounding out the top five sellers were HIP 202 Kountry Sill and HIP 277 Studio Boss at \$200,000. A daughter of Chapter Seven consigned by Anvil And Lace Farm as agent, Kountry Sill is the second foal out of the Explosive Matter mare Phaetosive (\$898,561, 1:51), and Studio Boss, who was consigned by Preferred Equine Marketing, Inc. as agent, is a Bettor's Delight colt. Studio Boss's dam is a sister to several top performers, led by double millionaire Glowing Report.

Through two sessions the average is down year-over-year (\$59,605 in 2024 versus \$60,187 in 2023), but the gross is up from \$29,913,000 to \$31,531,000. 497 horses sold through two days in 2023 while 529 have gone through the ring so far in 2024.

TWO FILLY TROTTERS BRING \$300,000 ON TUESDAY IN HARRISBURG

HIP 313 Upgrade and HIP 439 Ellie Hanover shared top honors on Tuesday at the Standardbred Horse Sale as both went for \$300,000.

A daughter of Green Manalishi consigned by agent Concord Stud Farm, Upgrade's dam Uptown Classic is a sister to Flawless Lindy, the dam of \$1.9 million earner Southwind Frank. Upgrade was purchased by Bax Stables as agent.

\$1,000,000 HORSE SOLD AT HARRISBURG THURSDAY

On a Thursday morning and afternoon mixed session with plenty of big sellers, Hot Mess Express topped them all with a \$1,000,000 selling price. Purchased by Winning Key, the 10-year-old Cantab Hall mare is the dam of triple millionaire Jiggy Jog S.

BEYOND THE HORSE SALE IN HARRISBURG YOU'LL FIND PLENTY OF AMENITIES AND PERKS FROM VARIOUS CONSIGNORS

Spring Station offered attendees at Harrisburg goodie bags with items to keep them healthy during and after the sale



Drinks and a full breakfast were served at Harrisburg on Monday courtesy of consignor Concord Stud Farm



History-making victory for Southwind Amazon

Thirteen days removed from his most recent victory, and up in class, Southwind Amazon was all class, re-writing the harness racing history books by earning career win number 138 at MGM Northfield Park on Tuesday (Nov. 5). The victory also sent the 14-year-old son of Camluck's earnings to over \$1.5 million and pushed him past Niffit who had 137 wins.

Things were stacked against the warhorse and driver Justin Irvine from the word go, as after he earned his 137th victory two weeks ago, he was forced to face tougher company. He also didn't get the greatest of beginnings as he came away sixth, with Beach Forecast (John Ciocca Jr.) and Native's Filou (Kurt Sugg) both flying off the gate. The top three arrived the quarter in a blistering 26 seconds.



DIANE WISE

Southwind Amazon won his 138th career race on Tuesday evening (Nov. 5) at Northfield Park.

At the half in 55 3/5 the outer flow began to develop, and Southwind Amazon began his bid from third-over. Up the backstretch, Native's Filou kicked clear, but as the field arrived at three-quarters in 1:24 3/5, Win Not Lou (Billy Davis Jr.) flipped off cover three-wide and Southwind Amazon followed his cover and found another gear around the last turn.

When Southwind Amazon met Native's Filou, he went by like the gelding was standing still, drawing off to win his historic mile by 3 3/4 lengths in 1:54.

Southwind Amazon is owned by Ameer Najor and trained by Paul Holzman. 22-year-old Irvine earned one of the biggest victories of his career.

"He was racing before I even got my driving license, I can't believe that my name will be in the record books with such a great horse," said Irvine.

Trainer Paul Holzman plans to race Southwind Amazon through the end of the year until he is forced into retirement on December 31.

"He has taken me to places I never thought I would be, and has raced against some of the greatest horses of all-time, I couldn't be more proud of him," said a jubilant Holzman. "He's like my son, I've rode on his coat-tails. It's been an absolute thrill and honor."

-edited release (Northfield)



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

RACE 2

(6) MOVE YOUR MASS dominated the opening legs of this series and he should prove tough to beat here in the final.

-Garnet Barnsdale



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

RACE 12

(8) RAPTORS FLIGHT N beat TrackMaster 77 company at the Meadowlands on 9-7 and I think he'll be better tonight in his second outing after some time off prior to his third-place result on October 26.

-Greg Reinhart



RACE 4

(1) IT'S ACADEMIC just has too much class for these and with nemesis (6) ARI FERRARI J drawing the outermost post again it makes the path to the winner's circle easy again.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

RACE 2

(1) NET WEIGHT turned in a really nice effort switching to the big track as he was kept on hold most of the mile and came charging home in the stretch. The small field and weaker competition should set him up for a win.

-Derick Gwerner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Freehold Analysis | Friday |
| Mohawk Park Analysis | Thursday Friday Saturday |
| Meadowlands Analysis | Friday Saturday |
| 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

JACKPOT HI-5 MANDATORY PAYOUT SET FOR SATURDAY AT MOHAWK

Woodbine Entertainment today announced a mandatory payout for the Standardbred Jackpot Hi-5 this Saturday (November 9) at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The Jackpot Hi-5 carryover currently sits at \$153,763.39.

Woodbine will continue to offer Jackpot Hi-5 wagering on each card leading up to Saturday's mandatory payout.

The Jackpot Hi-5 requires horseplayers to select the top-five finishers in order. A horseplayer can only win the entire jackpot if they hold the only winning ticket for that evening's wager. If there are multiple winning tickets, half the pool is paid out, while the other half is added to the carryover.

The entire carryover will be paid out, plus new money wagered, during Saturday's mandatory payout. The Jackpot Hi-5 has a \$0.20 minimum and a 15 per cent takeout.

The Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payout race will be the final race on Saturday's program. First-race post time is 7:10 p.m.

-release (Woodbine Communications)

2024 BREEDERS CROWN CHARITY CHALLENGE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

The 2024 Breeders Crown Charity Challenge once again exceeded expectations and raised \$420,963.

Four tri-state charities benefited from the Challenge, which ran through Breeders Crown night one on Friday, October 25. Driver Grand Circuit points, online voting, a team influencer handicapping contest, an on-track charity race, and onsite visit points were tallied to award the first through fourth spots.

SBH Health System, Bronx, and Team Yannick Gingras captured the top spot, earning 287.50 out of a possible 350 total points, which earned SBH \$138,200.

The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance came in second place and earned \$86,375, thanks to a strong social media push by Team Tim Tetrick.

The enCourage Kids Foundation and Team David Miller finished in third place. Meadowlands Racetrack CEO Jeff Gural and his wife Paula generously matched the third-place donation winnings, giving the enCourage Kids Foundation \$120,925.

The recently formed Friends of Union County and Team Dexter Dunn finished the Challenge in fourth place, earning \$60,462.50.

Thank you to this year's Charity Challenge Sponsors:

\$25,000 Diamond Sponsors: Meadowlands Racetrack & FanDuel

\$5,000 Platinum Sponsors:

Alagna Racing / Armitage Farm / Brittany Farms

Burke Racing & Weaver Brussemi / Cameo Hills Farm

Anders Strom – Courant, Inc. / Diamond Creek / Brad Grant

Hunterton Farm / Marvin & Lynn Katz / Kentuckiana Farms

M&L of Delaware / Melander Stable / Bill Pollock /

Svanstedt Stable / Takter Stable

\$2,500 Gold Sponsors:

Dexter Dunn / Yannick Gingras / Todd McCarthy / Dave Miller

Julie Miller / Carter Pinsky / Southwind Farms / Tim Tetrick

Lucas Wallin / Walnridge Farm / Scott Zeron

Many thanks go out to the "Breeding for a Cause" bidders and the breeding donors Diamond Creek Farm (Sweet Lou, Downbytheseaside & Confederate), Walner Syndicate, Marvin Katz & Southwind Farm (Muscle Hill), Tactical Landing Syndicate, Blue Chip Farms & Chapter Seven Syndicate.

\$15,000 was also raised for the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital.

To date, \$1,929,473 has been raised for local organizations in need through the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge, created in 2019 to help host tracks forge a bond with their regional communities while highlighting the benevolence of the harness racing industry.

-release (Meadowlands)

KENTUCKY SIRES STAKES FINALS HELD AT CUMBERLAND RUN

Cumberland Run concluded their meet for 2024 on Tuesday afternoon with eight \$100,000 Kentucky Sires Stakes finals for rookies and sophomores and four \$50,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes events for 4-year-olds.

READ MORE

WINNER'S BET TO BE SYNDICATED, STAND AT BLUE CHIP FARMS

Winner's Bet 2,1:54 1/5, 3,1:51, 4,1:49 3/5-'24 (\$1,307,221), the richest and fastest son of Walner, will stand at Blue Chip Farms in Wallkill, New York, starting with the 2025 breeding season.

Owned by Lindy Farms and Robert Rudolph, and trained by Domenico Cecere and Nancy Takter throughout his career, Winner's Bet is a multiple stakes winner at two, three, and four.

READ MORE

LEGENDARY HANOVER TO JOIN STALLION ROSTER AT SOUTHWIND FARMS

Legendary Hanover, winner of this year's Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace and 2023 O'Brien 2-year-old Pacing Colt of the Year, will be syndicated and stand at Southwind Farms in Pennington, New Jersey, beginning in 2025.

The brilliant son of Huntsville set multiple stakes and track records including in this year's Meadowlands Pace (p,3,1:46 3/5-'24), Cane Pace (p,3,1:46 2/5-'24) and the Empire Breeders (p,3,1:48 1/5f-'24).

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COACHES CORNER FASTEST IN MGM GRAND PRIX PACING SERIES OPENER

Coaches Corner, the runner-up in the MGM Borgata Pacing Series final earlier this year, led the way with a 1:51 mile in the first leg of the MGM Grand Prix Pacing Series on Monday (November 4) at MGM Yonkers Raceway. El Rey and Nandolo N won the other \$50,000 divisions that took place on the program.

Driven by Jason Bartlett and racing in the second split, Coaches Corner led through fractions of 27 2/5, 56 and 1:23 3/5 on his way to a 2 3/4 length victory over a first-up Seven Colors (Jordan Stratton). Pocket-sitter Chase H Hanover (Joe Bongiorno) finished in the third position.

READ MORE

\$7,689 PICK 6 CARRYOVER AT THE MEADOWLANDS FRIDAY

There were no winning tickets sold on the 20-cent Pick-6 last Saturday, creating a carryover of \$7,689 for Friday's program. These are the type of scenarios multi-leg players love. In the event \$40,000 of "new money" is bet into the pool, only that portion of the total pot would be subject to the already low 15 percent takeout.

Thus, if \$40,000 is the number, the total pool would be just over \$41,000, precisely \$1,000 more than what was wagered, creating a "negative takeout", where winning tickets will pay out more money than what was wagered.

The Pick-6 is offered on races eight through 13 nightly.

One more big night

The Meadowlands will then have one more monster night at the races before settling in for five months of winter action, when Fall Final Four/FanDuel Championships Night takes place on Saturday, Nov. 30.

"We are in the midst of a great run here at The Meadowlands," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "We came back from our five-week layoff with two weeks of Breeders Crown action, then, last week and this, the Kindergarten, and then, we'll dole out over \$2.5 million in purses on Fall Final Four/FanDuel Championships Night three weeks from Saturday. It is a great time for all harness fans to be watching and wagering on our races, as many of them will determine divisional honors."

-edited release (Meadowlands)

PALONE REACHES 21,000 WINS

Already harness racing's all-time winningest driver, Dave Palone passed yet another milestone Thursday at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows when he notched career win 21,000. The historic win came with Green Magic in the fifth race.

Although Palone sets a new record with each victory, he indicated milestone wins remain special to him.

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