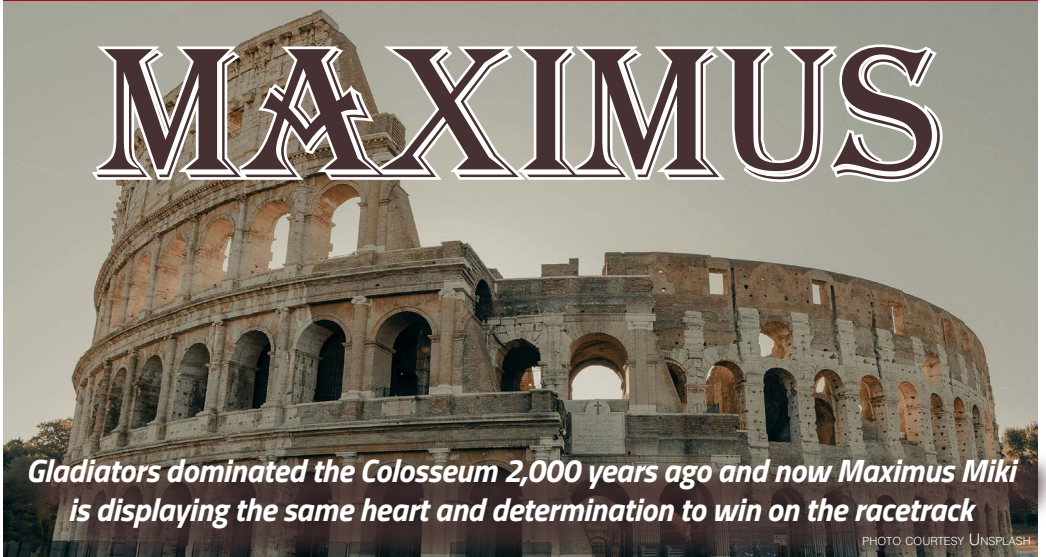


WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024

# MAXIMUS



## EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Gwerner  
[@harnessevegy](https://twitter.com/harnessevegy)

It is rare that a movie sequel can live up to the original and while I'm not sure whether *Gladiator II* equaled its predecessor it certainly came close. Of course, the original film centered around Maximus Decimus Meridius – played brilliantly by Russell Crowe – as he went from high-ranking Roman soldier to gladiator to hero. The character was as skilled as they come in the arena and possessed a certain invincibility regardless of the situation which makes me think of Maximus Miki.

Drawing parallels between a mythical gladiator from two thousand years ago and a 2024 Standardbred may seem far-fetched to some. What could they possibly have in common?

The first identical marker between horse and man is in the moniker, as they clearly have the

same first name of Maximus. While the Roman word *maximus* translates into greatest in English, it would be unfair to say that either the gladiator or the horse fits that bill. That said, both possess a certain grittiness when in their working environment that is undeniable.

"He has an ability that I have not had in a horse yet. He can get up on the rim and he just wants to do all he can do," said trainer Tom Cancelliere on Maximus Miki's desire to win.

As much as I could discuss *Gladiator* or *Gladiator II* all day, this column is meant to shine the spotlight on Maximus Miki, a son of Always B Miki out of Beach Gal who sold for \$200,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale back in 2020 to current owner John Cancelliere. While the 5-year-old can't be heralded for making his owner a huge profit – he's earned \$299,899 in his career – the gelding has proven remarkable in other ways.

For his career, Maximus Miki has won a stellar 21 of 44 races. Certainly noteworthy! Even more amazing is his ability to finish in the top

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**Comments? Questions?  
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three, which he has accomplished 42 times! The only time in his career he has failed to get a check (finish top five) was on December 3, 2022 when he finished seventh at The Meadowlands.

There are many horses in the sport which own great records – especially in stakes races and on the fair circuit – but it is much rarer to see it on such a consistent basis among those competing almost exclusively in overnight races, no less a horse racing in the top class at tracks across the East coast. Consider that Maximus Miki has won the Preferred/Open Handicap at The Meadowlands and the Open Handicap at Dover Downs multiple times in 2024. He’s also won the Open at Pocono Downs and the Winners Over at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

At least some of the credit for Maximus Miki’s success has to go to his mom Beach Gal. Consider that she produced four consecutive foals from 2018 to 2021 that have earned over \$284K, including Maximus Miki’s full brother Always A Miki, her richest foal at \$718K and counting. Perhaps even more importantly, all of them are still racing and earning.

Maximus Miki certainly took his time getting to the races. He didn’t make his debut until his 3-year-old season, partly because of his size.

“He’s a big horse; almost 1,200 pounds,” said Cancelliere. “We brought him along nice and slowly. We put him in non-winners or 1 and non-winners of 2 races. We knew he was a fast horse but you never really know how fast.”

Maximus Miki is not just about his record or his earnings. His allure as a horse is just as much his ability to take air while attacking the leader and continuing to find more in the late stages of the race to prove victorious. He simply wears down his foes into submission and there are seemingly endless examples from his 20-race campaign this year.

Most recently on November 23, Maximus Miki came first-over into South Beach Star, a \$511K earner with 33 career wins, and put him away rather easily to win in 1:49 1/5 on a chilly night at The Meadowlands. He also used his patented attacking style to best an even stronger field that included a former winner (Allywag Hanover) and current leader (Abuckabett Hanover) for Dan Patch Older Pacer of the Year back on May 18 over the same surface.

“I close my eyes when I see him pull at the half, like he did the other night, and there were great horses in that race. He’s just a really nice horse,” said Cancelliere.

Having never raced as a 2-year-old and with only eight starts as a 3-year-old, Maximus Miki is clearly lightly raced by industry standards. He recorded his first 20-start season just last week and also set his lifetime-best time for a mile this year of 1:48. All that begs the question as to what his future may have in store in terms of continued progression or maybe even stakes appearances in 2025 and beyond.

“There are 3-year-olds with more starts than him,” said Cancelliere, blaming some of Maximus Miki’s light schedule on the lack of Open races getting enough horses to fill. “He’ll be staked to all of the big races next year, just like Ruthless Hanover.”

For now Maximus Miki will get another four to five starts if he can while racing into January. Then he get about six weeks off and start preparing for a return to the races in May.

“He’s a big horse and I don’t want to shut him down completely. I just want to keep him fresh,” said Cancelliere.

Given Maximus Miki’s will to win, perhaps we’ll be seeing him in the winner’s circle after some of the biggest races of 2025, and just maybe, like his gladiator namesake, we’ll be cheering “Maximus, Maximus, Maximus” as he does what he loves on the track.



CURTIS SALONICK

**Maximus Miki has won 10 of 20 races and never missed the top three while racing in upper-conditioned races on the East coast in 2024.**



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# R Melina, Allegiant to settle sophomore divisional honors vs. older in Saturday's \$150K FanDuel Open Mare Trot

By Jay Bergman

Saturday's quartet of FanDuel championships offer the opportunity for sophomores to face older horses and for two entries in the \$150,000 event for open mare trotters a pair of trainers have taken the invitation. The outcome of the race could go a long way towards determining the eventual sophomore filly Dan Patch winner as the top fillies Allegiant and R Melina face four older mares in a defining contest at The Meadowlands.

"Without Jiggy Jog in the race I think she can go with the rest of the mares," said John Butenschoen, who trains R Melina, a daughter of Chapter Seven with eight wins in 17 starts this year. "She's had to do a lot of the heavy lifting all season long. She's been all over the country and to Canada and she's had to cut the pace a lot."

Butenschoen was hopeful that putting R Melina in against older mares would give his filly the chance to race using a different style. "The older mares can mix it up and I'm looking forward to see her racing from off the pace."

The FanDuel will be R Melina's final start of the year as she looks to regain winning form following three consecutive second-place finishes at the hooves of Allegiant, a filly that has been red hot since shipping north into trainer Linda Toscano's stable. Allegiant (post 2) once again has post advantage over R Melina (post 4).

"She came to me in great flesh," said Toscano of Allegiant, a filly by Tactical Landing that was under the tutelage of trainer Vernon Beachy through the Kentucky Filly Futurity. "Vernon called me and told me he wanted me to take the filly. I said I would baby sit her, but he wanted me to have her. I really haven't done anything with her, just a few minor things."

Toscano refused to take credit for Allegiant's major fall campaign that has seen her capture a Breeders Crown elimination as well as the \$600,000 final at The Meadowlands. Following that victory Allegiant went to Dover Downs on November 7 and captured the \$146,050 Matron Stakes in a career-best 1:51 1/5 clocking. The race was so impressive that it even caught Butenschoen's attention.

"I thought she was incredible that day," said Butenschoen of Allegiant. "I thought we got the exact trip I wanted to have following her, but we weren't good enough."

Scott Zeron guides Allegiant in the FanDuel with Todd McCarthy behind R Melina.

While Ake Svanstedt's Jiggy Jog has retired, the trainer did have the one-two finishers in the Breeders Crown for Open mares with supplemental entries Call Me Goo and Nelsonbriteagle No cashing in in the \$496,000 event at The Meadowlands on October 26. Call Me Goo landed post five with Svanstedt set to drive the 4-year-old by Googoo Gaagaa in search of her third straight win. Call Me Goo captured the Breeders Crown in a career-best clocking of 1:50 4/5, just two-fifths of a second faster than the Crown time of Allegiant in the sophomore filly trot. Nelsonbriteagle No (post 6), a daughter of international star Bold Eagle, has finished on the board in all eight starts this year. Dexter Dunn drives the mare. Rounding out the field for the FanDuel Mares event is Warrawee Xenia (post 1) and M-Ms Dream (post 3).

Butenschoen would love to see R Melina come back to race again as a 4-year-old but that decision will be made at a later time by ownership.

"If it was up to me, I'm a trainer and I race horses," said Butenschoen.

A 15-time winner with \$1.19 million banked during two years of racing, R Melina could start her broodmare career next year as well.

Allegiant's future is as cloudy as her sophomore rival.

"She's scheduled to go in the Mt. Hope Sale (Ohio December 17)," said Toscano. "It will be up to the new owners whether she races next year or not."

Twin B Joe Fresh heads a field of seven in the \$150,000 FanDuel Championship for pacing mares with the field also attracting a pair of 3-year-old fillies with Rocket Deo (post 1) and Breeders Crown champion My Girl EJ (post 2). Carded as race 8, Twin B Joe Fresh hopes to close out a memorable campaign with her 11th triumph. The favorite for Horse of the Year, Twin B Joe Fresh starts from post six with co-owner Dexter Dunn in the bike.



(ABOVE) NIKKI SHERMAN-DRF HARNESS / (BELOW) AMANDA STEPHENS

Allegiant (above) won the Breeders Crown while R Melina (below) captured the Kentucky Filly Futurity. They meet Saturday at Big M.



My Girl EJ will be making her first start for trainer Andrew Harris following a \$758,000 purchase via onGait.com, and she'll tackle older foes for the first time. Rocket Deo secured entry into the FanDuel final by virtue of a victory earlier this year in the Shady Daisy at The Meadowlands.

Harris' Abuckabett Hanover (post 1) hopes to secure a division title of his own in the \$325,000 FanDuel Championship for open pacers. The field drew 10 horses with no sophomores accepting invites. Abuckabett Hanover hopes to avenge his Breeders Crown defeat to Coach Stefanos in this event with the benefit of a more favorable draw. Abuckabett Hanover, a son of Betting Line, is fresh off a 1:47 4/5 victory in the \$125,000 Potomac at Rosecroft on November 17.

Coach Stefanos drew post eight and will hope to prove his Crown upset was no fluke. Another contender is the speedy Ruthless Hanover, who will have to overcome post 10.

A field of eight goes postward in the \$325,000 FanDuel Championship for open trotters, with Breeders Crown winner Winner's Bet hoping to close out his racing career with a victory. The 4-year-old by Walner has won nine of his 12 starts this year for trainer Nancy Takter and landed post six for the FanDuel. Winner's Bet faces a strong field that includes millionaires Logan Park (post 1), Oh Well (post 2), Periculum (post 4), Hillextotic (post 5) and It's Academic (post 8).

Post time for the 14-race card that also features four finals for 2-year-olds tabbed as the Fall Final Four is 6:20 PM (ET).





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# Papi Rob Hanover well represented in \$382K Governor's Cup



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

When the Harrisburg sale in November of 2023 approached, trainer Sam DePinto was looking to buy a foal from the first crop of Papi Rob Hanover.

"I saw what he did on the racetrack, especially that mile in the Adios elimination," said DePinto. "I mean, it looked like he could have gone even faster."

The 1:47 1/5 blowout victory was a thing to behold and proved to be Papi Rob Hanover's last race, something that his trainer Brett Pelling opined on. "I'm not sure when the fracture occurred but it may have contributed to the speed he showed," said Pelling.

Regardless of how fast Papi Rob Hanover may have eventually gone had his racing career continued, DePinto liked what he saw in the physical appearance of the son of Somebeachsomewhere and wanted to be a part of the first crop.

"The problem was the horses that sold on Monday (first day of yearling sale) went way too high for my budget," said DePinto. "Then I ran into Anthony Perretti and he had a beautiful looking colt that I just loved."

The Papi Rob Hanover-sired Papi's Pistol would impress DePinto enough to put together an ownership team to buy the colt with Perretti.

Pelling and DePinto have common interests in sons of Papi Rob Hanover and they will be potent forces on Saturday night (November 30) in the \$383,200 Governor's Cup for juvenile pacing colts and geldings at The Meadowlands. With just 10 horses declared for last week's potential eliminations, all proceeded to the final, including four sons of Papi Rob Hanover's first crop who are trying to emulate their sire, who captured the title with a brilliant 1:51 1/5 mile in the 2019 edition.

"I felt very confident going into the race," said Pelling about Papi Rob Hanover's command performance in the 2019 Governor's Cup.

Pelling's confidence going into this year's edition is a bit different. With Sugar Man and Beach Club Monty, Pelling has a pair of late bloomers that have shown up late in the season with stakes success but have yet to take on the cream of the freshman crop. Pelling likes his chances but recognizes the challenge.

"Sugar Man was a May foal and is first starting to grow a little," said Pelling of one of the better-bred sons from Papi Rob Hanover's first crop. "I think as he grows more and fills out, he's going to be a much better 3-year-old."

Still Sugar Man's progress has been quite evident over the last six weeks, including a solid 1:51 4/5 prep this past Saturday (November 23) in an overnight event at The Meadowlands.

"I think you saw when you ask him, he'll go on a bit more," said Pelling.

Sugar Man's maternal family has been among the best in recent years. His dam Sweet As Sugar is the only full sister to top stallion Sweet Lou, with the immediate family also responsible for millionaires Captain Crunch, Youaremycandygirl and Bettor Sweet.

While Pelling's pair of Papi Rob Hanover's may be on the fringe of contention in the Governor's Cup, DePinto's is likely to stand center stage as one of the horses to beat given his impeccable late-season form.

"I liked him from the start," said DePinto. "From early on I would tell people that I thought he'd pace in 1:49-1:50 at Lexington this year."

DePinto was only half-right as Papi's Pistol would miss the Red Mile Grand Circuit meet but be ready for the Kindergarten series final leg and score on the front-end in 1:49 3/5 with Andy Miller in the bike.

"He's had some issues with his feet," said DePinto, "But we've worked on it and he's much better now."

Papi's Pistol was a decisive winner in the \$148,500 Kindergarten series final at The Meadowlands on November 9 in 1:50 3/5 and then prepped for

the Governor's Cup with a solid qualifier two weeks later.

"Andy didn't even pop the [ear] plugs in the Kindergarten final," said DePinto, obviously elated with how far his colt has come. "I still think he's a better horse chasing, but he's learned to race on the front end and that will help him in the long run."

DePinto, like Pelling, sees an incredible upside for his son of Papi Rob Hanover next year as a sophomore.

"I think he's only going to get better," said DePinto. "I'm really looking forward to next year."

Pelling may be the only one with the ability to compare Papi Rob Hanover to his sons and daughters since he's sat behind both.

"I'd say the one thing I've seen with almost all the ones I've trained is that they are quick learners and do things right," said Pelling. "I think what we're going to see with them is that they are going to be solid racehorses that continue to race past the 3-year-old season."

Pelling sees Papi Rob Hanover's foals emulating that of the Somebeachsomewhere's when it comes to longevity.

Trainer Ron Burke will send out three horses in the Governor's Cup, with his Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion Papi's Rocket the lone representative from the first-year stallion. Papi's Rocket will be making his 15th start of the year. In addition to his accomplishments in Pennsylvania, the colt also competed in the Metro and Breeders Crown this year.

Trainers Tony Alagna and Nancy Takter are responsible for a pair each in the Governor's Cup field, with Takter's Captain Optimistic, a



LISA PHOTO

**Papi's Pistol won the Kindergarten final this month at The Meadowlands.**

sub-1:50 performer in capturing a Breeders Crown elimination, the most accomplished of the quartet. Takter also has the impeccably bred Fusion (Always B Miki-Pure Country), a Kentucky Commonwealth champion this year that enters the Cup following four straight qualifying miles. Alagna's pair of Higher Ground and Knockout Round have both played outside the Grand Circuit much of the year, with Knockout Round recently third in the Matron at Dover Downs.

What's fascinating about the breeding business when compared to racing is how fortunes can change rapidly once first crops hit the racetrack. When Papi Rob Hanover and Tall Dark Stranger met on the racetrack they were hard to separate, with Tall Dark Stranger having the longer career and capturing the biggest races. The pair left the track with both residing at Pennsylvania's famed Hanover Shoe Farms. As expected, Tall Dark Stranger was a much higher-priced stallion at the outset and booked champion mares in abundance. Papi Rob Hanover's first crop of mares couldn't compare with that of his rival.

Fast forward a few years and Papi Rob Hanover's representation in major stakes this year has been abundant and Tall Dark Stranger's has been minimal at best. It's just one year and no one truly knows what the future will bring. A champion may spring from either down the road. What we do know is that both will stand as stallions at Hanover in 2025 with Papi Rob Hanover now the more expensive of the two.



## CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

# Good News at Lebanon, Bad News Elsewhere?

When the Warren County Agricultural Society (Fair Board) voted unanimously to rescind its eviction order tossing all horsemen and over 200 horses off the fairgrounds as of December 1, it was good news for the sport.

The Warren County Fairgrounds (Formerly Lebanon Raceway) have been part of Ohio Harness Racing for over 75 years. It took the county commissioners, and most importantly a unified front from the horsemen, to get the job done. With cooperation from the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association, they formed the Warren County Harness Horsemen's Association, showing up en masse at Fair Board and County Commissioner meetings to make their case. And, in time, the initial 6-4 vote was overturned.

A state audit of the books is in process, but already from meetings among the board, the commissioners and horsemen, it appears that an annual savings of \$50,000 just on manure hauling costs (insert your own punchline here) will be realized. That cuts costs nearly \$20 per stall per month.

Ohio racing could not afford the loss of 300 stalls, even though only about 210 are currently occupied. Above and beyond the hardship to horsemen, there are simply not that many extra stalls in the state now that the only pari-mutuel track offering stabling is Northfield Park. The other three rely on ship-ins.

Stall space is a problem in nearly every jurisdiction. In Minnesota, where Gulf Shores, a son of Downbytheseaside, is breeding huge books of mares, there are not enough stalls to accommodate his babies for training, even if only half of the anticipated foals go into training, let alone any others. I am sure someone will eventually build a training center, or perhaps lease and improve a fairground track like Cannon Falls.

If you look at it across the sport, there are just too many babies being born and not enough places to train them. And that is negatively affecting yearling prices. Nearly every yearling sale saw their gross go up, but their average go down in 2024. And there is a simple factor that becomes apparent to me as I look at the numbers. Let's see if you notice it.

Lexington sold 906 yearlings over five days (181 per day) for an average of \$72,203, up slightly from 2023 but down from its 2022 record average of \$73,690.

Harrisburg sold 866 horses over five days (173 per day) for an average of \$42,830, down from 2023's average price of \$44,284. That's about 2%.

The Indiana Classic Sale sold 342 yearlings over two days (171 per day) for an average of \$22,941, an increase over 2023's average of \$20,036, when 50 more yearlings were sold. That is a about a 14% increase.

The Ohio Select Sale, which sold 269 horses in one day, saw its average of \$29,779 down about 3% from 2023 when the sale sold the same number of yearlings.

The Buckeye Classic Sale sold 339 head in one day. The average was \$8,821. Last year the sale had just 227 yearlings go through the ring for an average of \$11,872. From Hip# 300 on, 19 yearlings sold for \$3,000 or less.

And in Ohio you had yearlings sold at two Blooded Horse Sales Company events and several weanlings catalogued for the new North American Standardbred Sale, scheduled for December 17 in Mt. Hope.

I attempted to get numbers from several other sales for comparison, but was unable to. While every sale trumpeted its higher gross numbers (they were selling more horses), nearly every sale saw its average drop. And the more horses that were sold per day, the worse the drop was. Sales offering relatively fewer horses per session did better.

Why?

Maybe buyer exhaustion. Maybe the pocketbooks were empty. At a one-day sale, it's do or die. At a multi-day sale, buyers can regroup and strategize for the next day. A trainer or agent or lead partner can also go back to his investors and try to get them to spend a bit more on the next day.

Personally, I would love to see the Ohio Select Sale sell 50-70 more horses, but do it over two days. If the Buckeye Classic sale hopes to have continued success, it needs to either cut its numbers or go to two days. The irony of that is that the Buckeye Classic and Indiana Classic have the same management team.

These are casual observations and one year does not make a trend, but it seems pretty clear that limiting a sale to under 200 head per day is the best way to guarantee success for the consignors.

### Smile for the camera

Hopefully, at least for the Ohio buyers, when their babies get a win at Northfield Park they will patronize new track photographer Diane Wise, a retired postal worker and long-time racing fan who stepped in after the track had gone without a track photographer for several months. Wise, who owns horses with thestable.ca, has added some new innovations and does a very good job considering her relative lack of experience. Remember, track photographers don't get paid by the tracks typically. All they get is a work space and maybe an ad in the program. So, support them. Especially at Northfield.

That's it for this month. Hopefully the turkey goes down easy and you can start getting prepped for the winter holidays by cashing some tickets. See you in a few weeks.



## 2024 HOLIDAY ISSUE



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# Captain Albano set for career finale in Dover's Progress Pace

By Ken Weingartner

Captain Albano will head to the final start of his career Wednesday as the morning-line favorite in the \$267,960 Progress Pace at Bally's Dover, where he will meet seven rivals in the season's last Grand Circuit event for 3-year-old male pacers.

Last week, Captain Albano and driver Todd McCarthy won the single Progress Pace elimination by a half-length over Better Is Nice in 1:49 4/5. Captain Albano was a first-over third heading around the opening turn, took the lead on his way to a 54 half as he repelled a challenge from Nijinsky, and came home in 27 4/5 to wrap up the victory.

It was Captain Albano's 11th win in 17 starts this year and increased his earnings to \$984,593.

"I'm super happy with him," trainer Noel Daley said. "It's been a long year, and he's still good. He's really been good every time I've put him out there. To me, the only time he's had a bit of an average performance was when he won the Adios; he was a little off that day. But anytime he's been beaten, he's been beaten because of the trip, really.

"He's just there all the time. He seems to be the same horse every week. He got out-tripped a few times, but apart from that, he's been genuine every time."

Captain Albano was the Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old male pacer in 2023, when he was no worse than second in nine starts, winning seven. For his career, the son of Captaintreacheraus-Angelou has hit the board in 24 of 26 races and earned \$1.43 million for owners Patricia Stable, L.A. Express Stable, Sjoblom Racing, and Michael Dolan.

On Wednesday, Captain Albano will start the Progress final from post six with regular driver McCarthy in the sulky. He is the 5-2 choice on the morning line, followed by Breeders Crown champion Mirage Hanover at 7-2 (post one, driver Dexter Dunn) and North America Cup winner Nijinsky at 9-2 (post four, Louis Roy).

Following the Progress Pace, Captain Albano will be retired and stand at Blue Chip Farms in New York for the 2025 breeding season.

"Let's hope it's a good final performance," Daley said. "It's a bit of a tough spot, so we'll just see what happens. Obviously, he's shown that he's brilliant out of the gate. But it's a good bunch of horses there.

"I don't know what (McCarthy) will do, I'll just leave it up to him," the trainer continued, adding with a laugh, "He didn't ask for any comments last week, we just handed him the lines and away he went. So, we'll do the same this week and see what happens."

In addition to the Adios, Captain Albano's wins this year include the



FOTOWON

Captain Albano went down the road in the lone Progress Pace elimination last week at Dover Downs.

Little Brown Jug, Max C. Hempt Memorial, and Matron Stakes. On Jug Day, he won his elimination by 3-1/2 lengths in 1:49 2/5 before coming back to take the same-day final by three lengths in 1:50 1/5.

"Obviously, we were pretty happy with the Jug performance," Daley said. "He came out of the first heat so well, I figured they weren't beating him in the second. He was very good that day. He was very sharp."

Captain Albano is Daley's second millionaire male pacer in recent years, following in the footsteps of Dan Patch and O'Brien awards winner Pebble Beach.

"It's been a pretty good couple of years," Daley said. "It had been sort of heavily skewed toward the trotters there the last decade or so. The year we bought Pebble Beach, he was the only pacing colt we bought that year. He sort of turned things around for us when he was so good and we ended up with more pacers.

"But we're happy with a good horse, whether it's a filly or a colt, or a trotter or a pacer. As long as it's a good one."

Racing begins at 4:30 p.m. (EST) at Bally's Dover

## D Train, dam of Donato Hanover, passes at age 26

Hanover Shoe Farms announces the passing of beloved broodmare D Train, dam of 2007 Horse of the Year and Hambletonian winner Donato Hanover (by Andover Hall) t,2,1:55m; 3,1:50 1/5m \$2,998,777, at the age of 26.

In 2006 Donato Hanover was voted 2-Year-Old Trotter of the Year winning eight of nine starts as a freshman trotter including the Harriman Cup in 1:57 2/5, Peter Houghton Memorial elimination and \$456,000 final in his fastest 2-year old performance of 1:55, Bluegrass Stake by six lengths in 1:57 4/5, International Stallion Stake by three lengths in 1:57 2/5, and the Breeders Crown elimination and \$600,000 final in 1:56 by a solid four length margin.

As a sophomore performer, Donato Hanover triumphed in 11 of 13 starts including the Dickerson, \$400,000 Dancer Memorial (elimination and final 1:54 2/5), \$1.5 million Hambletonian (elimination and final), \$600,000 World Trotting Derby (1:51 2/5 at Du Quoin), \$970,000 Canadian Trotting Classic (elimination and final in 1:54s by 3-1/4 lengths), \$136,000 Bluegrass Stake in 1:52, Kentucky Futurity elimination and \$356,160 final in a career-best record of 1:50 1/5 by two lengths. He ended his racing career with a second in the 2007 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old elimination by a neck in 1:52 2/5, and 3rd in the \$610,000 final after which he retired to stallion duty at the place of his birth, Hanover Shoe Farms in Hanover, Pennsylvania.

As a stallion Donato Hanover produced five millionaires and 181 \$100,000 winners with 174 performers taking a record of 1:55 or faster.

In addition to Donato Hanover, D Train produced stakes performers Here Comes Herbie (by Credit Winner) t,3,1:52m \$365,541 and Dream On Hanover (by Andover Hall) t,3,1:55 4/5s \$119,521. Her progeny of 14 foals earned \$3,625,381 over her broodmare career and she sold the first Standardbred yearling to sell for \$825,000 in 2011, Detour Hanover - a full-brother to Donato Hanover - at The Standardbred Horse Sales Company Harrisburg Sale.

Hanover Shoe Farms retained two of her unraced daughters, Danielle Hanover (by Cantab Hall) and Devin Hanover (by Muscle Massive) as broodmares. Danielle Hanover is the dam of Darlene Hanover t,3,1:51 4/5f \$591,250, Delilah Hanover t,3,1:54 2/5f \$308,331 and Delaney Hanover t,2,1:54m \$122,557. Devin Hanover has produced Donatello Hanover (by Cantab Hall) t,1:57 2/5f \$93,009, Dejerate Hanover (International Moni) t,3,1:53 1/5f \$96,390, and Devious Hanover (Andover Hall) t,2,1:56 2/5f \$54,740.

D Train was retired from her broodmare duties in 2020 at the age of 22 and spent the last four years of her life at leisure with her best friend and blind mare, Giantess. Their paddock was next to Andover Hall, who spent much of his time overlooking "his ladies".

-edited release (Hanover Shoe Farms)





# 12 MEADOWLANDS SAT

1 Mile Pace, FANDUEL CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN PACE (DECLARATION FEE - \$5,000) Purse \$325,000

EXACTA AND TRIFECTA | 10 CENT SUPERFECTA | PICK 3 (12-13-14)

## 1 ABUCKETT HANOVER

51:47.2 (7/8) \* \$48,475 SHS-HBG \$160,000  
 6-5 D. Dunn 106-21-13-21 (198)  
 17 Nov24 7YR fst590 254 :541 1:203 1:474 POTOMAC  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 10M1 fst600 262 :542 1:211 1:481 D-Br Crown E  
 6 Oct24 11Lx1 fst830 262 :534 1:211 1:472 Allerae  
 28 Sep24 11Dtn wf660 262 :542 1:221 1:493 DTN DERBY  
 20 Sep24 12HoP fst710 262 :542 1:213 1:481 D-HP Pac Der

b h 6, by Betting Line, All Tucked Up by Western Ideal  
 William A Pollock, Freehold, NJ; Bruce M Areman, Freehold, NJ; Andrew S Harris, Allentown, NJ  
 A. Harris 36-4-5-5 (111)  
 Br - Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA  
 Last 4 Sts - \$108,500  
 1:47.3 M1 24 M1 6 2 1 0 \*\$26,345 24 : 14 6 4 1 \*\$57,8647  
 1:47.2 Wbs 7/8 23 M1 5 2 1 1 \$10,035 23 Tot 13 3 2 3 \$21,103  
 22 M1 7 1 0 2 \$142,340 Life 73 21 10 2 \*\$1,895,256

## 2 VOUEKALAS(L)

41:47.3 (1) \$17,737  
 10-1 J. Stratton 37-5-8-3 (135)  
 17 Nov24 11RCr fst590 254 :541 1:203 1:474 POTOMAC  
 9 Nov24 4M1 fst630 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 8M1 fst600 271 :551 1:224 1:484 D-Br Crown E  
 10 Oct24 14M1 fst530 284 :58 1:25 1:524 Qua  
 17 Sep24 3YR fst720 262 :54 1:214 1:51 3-5 YO QPN

b h 4, by Lazarus N, Intowinafortune by Cams Fortune  
 Michael N Pagnas, Saddle River, NJ  
 M. Russo 7-0-0-1 (000)  
 Br - Michael N Pagnas, NJ  
 Last 4 Sts - \$2,000  
 1:47.3 M1 24 M1 12 4 2 2 \$274,488 24 Tot 17 4 3 2 \$301,536  
 1:49.2 M1 23 M1 8 4 2 0 \$261,585 23 Tot 12 4 3 0 \$330,162  
 22 M1 5 2 1 2 \$212,200 Life 36 11 7 4 \$872,786

## 3 SOUTH BEACH STRL

51:48.1 (5/8) Q \$6,205 LEX-SEL \$110,000  
 15-1 Dv. Miller 104-12-27-14 (115)  
 23 Nov24 10M1 fst460 264 :543 1:212 1:491 Prf Hcp  
 9 Nov24 12M1 fst450 271 :554 1:24 1:50 W/O HC  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 10M1 fst600 262 :542 1:211 1:481 D-Br Crown E  
 12 Oct24 15Pcd fst680 262 :54 1:211 1:49 NW12500L4  
 28 Sep24 10Pcd fst710 261 :533 1:204 1:483 nwl7500L4

b g 6, by Somebeachsomewhere, Higher And Higher by Western Terror  
 All Star Racing Inc, Towaco, NJ  
 M. Silva 27-4-6-6 (148)  
 Br - Daryl Scott Bier, DE; Charles A Dombbeck, FL  
 Last 4 Sts - \$20,500  
 1:48.2 Phil 5/8 24 M1 6 2 1 0 \$250,000 24 Tot 19 8 5 1 \$117,886  
 1:48.1 Phil 5/8 23 M1 8 4 2 0 \$261,585 23 Tot 17 4 3 0 \$330,162  
 22 M1 8 1 0 1 \$12,400 Life 91 33 20 9 \$511,890

## 4 SEVEN COLES(L)

31:48.1 \$15,638 LEX-SEL \$93,000  
 8-1 J. Bartlett 48-9-9 (188)  
 11 Nov24 7YR fst570 271 :572 1:243 1:53 MGM GP L2  
 4 Nov24 7YR fst520 272 :56 1:233 1:51 MGM GP L1  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 8M1 fst600 262 :54 1:221 1:484 D-Br Crown E  
 10 Oct24 14M1 fst530 284 :58 1:25 1:524 Qua  
 17 Sep24 6YR fst720 261 :553 1:234 1:51 NW21301L5

b h 4, by Stay Hungry, Rainbowhedarck by Bettor's Delight  
 William A Pollock, Freehold, NJ; Bruce M Areman, Freehold, NJ; Andrew S Harris, Allentown, NJ  
 A. Harris 36-4-5-5 (111)  
 Br - Alan E Byler, KY  
 Last 4 Sts - \$171,500  
 1:48.2 M1 24 M1 7 0 1 1 \$155,500 24 Tot 16 2 3 3 \$250,209  
 1:48.1 Wtd 23 M1 1 0 1 0 \$79,825 23 Tot 18 7 3 3 \$685,220  
 22 M1 0 0 0 0 -Life 40 6 6 6 \$365,579

## 5 EL REY

31:48.1 (1) \$12,517  
 12-1 T. McCarthy 104-16-18-18 (154)  
 17 Nov24 11RCr fst590 254 :541 1:203 1:474 POTOMAC  
 11 Nov24 9YR fst570 271 :572 1:243 1:53 MGM GP L2  
 4 Nov24 5YR fst520 264 :554 1:242 1:513 MGM GP L1  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 10M1 fst600 262 :542 1:211 1:481 D-Br Crown E  
 6 Oct24 11Lx1 fst830 262 :534 1:211 1:472 Allerae

b h 4, by Captainteacherous, Mystery Game by Artistic Fella  
 William A Pollock, Freehold, NJ; Bruce M Areman, Freehold, NJ; Andrew S Harris, Allentown, NJ  
 A. Harris 36-4-5-5 (111)  
 Br - Riverview Breeding LLC, FL  
 Last 4 Sts - \$109,250  
 1:49.1 Lxt 24 M1 4 0 0 1 \$73,250 24 Tot 21 3 4 3 \$261,851  
 1:48.3 Lxt 23 M1 6 2 1 1 \$22,160 23 Tot 20 3 4 4 \$256,450  
 22 M1 3 1 0 1 \$217,400 Life 53 11 10 8 \$803,701

## 6 ROCKNROLL RUNA

71:47.3 (1) Q \$9,328  
 10-1 G. Brennan 1-0-0-0 (000)  
 25 Nov24 8YR fst450 273 :563 1:242 1:514 Inv  
 18 Nov24 7YR fst530 28 :564 1:24 1:514 nw80000L5  
 11 Nov24 5YR fst570 271 :564 1:242 1:513 MGM GP L2  
 4 Nov24 7YR fst520 272 :56 1:233 1:51 MGM GP L1  
 24 Oct24 9PRC fst680 262 :55 1:222 1:501 Opn  
 19 Oct24 10M1 fst600 262 :542 1:211 1:481 D-Br Crown E

b g 7, by Rock N Roll Heaven, She's A Runa by Jerome's Jet  
 Larry D Staib, Matamoros, PA  
 L. Staibbaum 1-0-0-0 (000)  
 Br - K B Kennedy & Burns Golf Pty Ltd, AS  
 Last 4 Sts - \$21,250  
 1:47.3 M1 24 M1 4 1 0 1 \$131,400 24 Tot 36 9 3 6 \$335,782  
 1:49.4 Pfc 5/8 23 M1 0 0 0 0 -23 Tot 38 13 8 6 \$323,014  
 22 M1 0 0 0 0 -Life 101 34 15 13 \$663,194

## 7 HUNTHELASTDOLAR(L)

31:48.2 (7/8) \$13,300 LEX-SEL \$60,000  
 15-1 Y. Gingras 109-16-14-13 (185)  
 23 Nov24 10M1 fst460 264 :543 1:212 1:491 Prf Hcp  
 12 Nov24 8YR fst430 272 :562 1:241 1:521 nw20000L5  
 5 Nov24 8YR fst590 271 :561 1:24 1:513 3-5 YO QPN  
 19 Oct24 10M1 fst600 262 :542 1:211 1:481 D-Br Crown E  
 6 Oct24 11Lx1 fst830 262 :534 1:211 1:472 Allerae  
 28 Sep24 11Dtn wf660 262 :542 1:221 1:493 DTN DERBY

b g 4, by Huntsville, Eighthundredollar by Bettor's Delight  
 E Five Racing, Boca Raton, FL; John D Fielding, Scarborough, ON, CA  
 P. Engblom 28-1-3-6 (036)  
 Br - Crawford Farms LLC, NY  
 Last 4 Sts - \$30,500  
 1:49.2 M1 24 M1 8 1 0 1 \$142,500 24 Tot 18 5 3 3 \$239,408  
 1:49.2 VD 7/8 23 M1 1 0 1 0 \$2,760 23 Tot 14 6 0 3 \$320,473  
 22 M1 0 0 0 0 -Life 41 13 6 4 \$728,801

## 8 COACH STEFANOS(L)

41:47.3 (1) \$23,910 HOOSIER \$42,000  
 3-1 Ja. Macdonald 26-2-2-2 (077)  
 23 Nov24 6M1 fst500 292 :583 1:261 1:531 Qua  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 8M1 fst600 271 :551 1:224 1:484 D-Br Crown E  
 11 Oct24 11HoP fst640 262 :542 1:22 1:491 D-ISS-Aged  
 4 Oct24 12HoP fst650 261 :552 1:231 1:493 Opn  
 28 Sep24 7Dtn wf670 261 :54 1:212 1:501 DTN DERBY

b g 4, by Tellitikeits, Watch N Be Watched by Rocknroll Hanover  
 K W Duffy, Orlando Pk, IL; D&M Trading II LLC, Orlando Pk, IL; Chris Stefanos, Orlando Pk, IL  
 E. Miller 4-1-1-1 (250)  
 Br - Victory Hill Farm Inc, IN  
 Last 4 Sts - \$313,530  
 1:47.3 M1 24 M1 5 2 1 0 \$342,750 24 Tot 19 3 3 3 \$454,286  
 1:48.4 HoP 7/8 23 M1 0 0 0 0 -23 : 17 9 6 0 \$365,885  
 22 M1 0 0 0 0 -Life 47 18 11 4 \$1,265,206

## 9 ITS MY SHOW

31:46.4 (1) \$21,244  
 10-1 S. Zeron 122-22-16-9 (180)  
 23 Nov24 10M1 fst460 264 :543 1:212 1:491 Prf Hcp  
 17 Nov24 11RCr fst590 : : : POTOMAC  
 9 Nov24 12M1 fst450 271 :554 1:24 1:50 W/O HC  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 8M1 fst600 271 :551 1:224 1:484 D-Br Crown E  
 28 Sep24 11Dtn wf660 262 :542 1:221 1:493 DTN DERBY

b g 4, by Sweet Lou, Put On A Show by Rocknroll Hanover  
 Richard P Young, Boca Raton, FL; Joanne Young, Coconut Creek, FL  
 L. Toscano 36-6-5-2 (167)  
 Br - Richard P Young & Joanne Young, FL  
 Last 4 Sts - \$8,050  
 1:48.1 Wbs 7/8 24 M1 9 0 2 2 \$112,550 24 Tot 18 3 2 3 \$382,287  
 1:46.4 Lxt 23 M1 2 2 0 0 \$16,000 23 : 16 9 4 0 \*\$1,073,334  
 22 M1 0 0 0 0 -Life 42 12 8 4 \*\$1,519,352

## 10 RUTHLESS HANOVER(L)

61:46.3 (5/8) \$22,504 SHS-HBG \$57,000  
 5-1 G. Napolitano, Jr. 0-0-0-0 (000)  
 17 Nov24 11RCr fst590 254 :541 1:203 1:474 POTOMAC  
 26 Oct24 8M1 fst540 26 :532 1:211 1:483 D-Br Crown F  
 19 Oct24 10M1 fst600 262 :542 1:211 1:481 D-Br Crown E  
 10 Oct24 16M1 fst590 282 :56 1:221 1:49 Qua  
 28 Sep24 7Dtn wf670 261 :54 1:212 1:501 DTN DERBY  
 20 Sep24 10Pnl slv770 273 :57 1:242 1:512 W/O

b g 7, by Somebeachsomewhere, Rockaroundthetrack by Rocknroll Hanover  
 John Cancelliere, Clark, NJ  
 T. Cancelliere 17-5-1-0 (294)  
 Br - Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA  
 Last 4 Sts - \$110,500  
 1:47.1 P1 5/8 24 M1 6 2 1 0 \$108,510 24 : 12 6 2 1 \$270,049  
 1:46.3 P1 5/8 23 M1 4 1 1 1 \$140,225 23 Tot 14 6 2 2 \$243,572  
 22 M1 1 1 2 2 \$29,200 Life 68 21 9 9 \$847,044

No coupled entries per NJRC All horses in this race have participated in a pre-race stakes barn since 12 PM Saturday 6-last receive 1% of purse Points leader drew 1-6 Huntinthelastdolar - First Lasix



## MEADOWLANDS SATURDAY STAKES

### \$150,000 FanDuel Championship Open Mares Trot - Race 5

Posr-Horse	Driver	Trainer	Morning Line
1-Warrawee Xenia	Jason Bartlett	Mark Steacy	15-1
2-Allegiant	Scott Zeron	Linda Toscano	8-1
3-M-M's Dream	David Miller	Ron Burke	4-1
4-R Melina	Todd McCarthy	John Butenschoen	10-1
5-Call Me Goo	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	2-1
6-Nelsonbriteagle No	Dexter Dunn	Ake Svanstedt	5-2

### \$338,200 Three Diamonds 2YO Filly Pace Final - Race 6

1-Rodeo Drive Deo	David Miller	Ron Burke	2-1
2-Miki And Minnie	Dexter Dunn	Chris Ryder	8-5
3-Shes A Streaker	Yannick Gingras	Ron Burke	10-1
4-Baret	James MacDonald	Tony Alagna	15-1
5-Simply Perfect	Andy McCarthy	Tony Alagna	15-1
6-Lyons Benz	Corey Callahan	Jim King Jr.	15-1
7-Faze	Tim Tetrick	Nancy Takter	8-1
8-Chakra	Anibal Borjas	Tony Alagna	12-1
9-Unreasonable	Scott Zeron	Erv Miller	6-1

### \$447,000 Valley Victory 2YO C&G Trot Final - Race 7

1-My Degenerate	Andy Miller	Julie Miller	15-1
2-Uno	Anibal Borjas	Tony Alagna	12-1
3-Herecomesdajudge	Tyler Miller	Julie Miller	15-1
4-Blank	Andy McCarthy	Marcus Melander	10-1
5-Monserrate	David Miller	Andrew Harris	2-1
6-Go Dog Go	Todd McCarthy	Carter Pinske	5-2
7-Durante Hanover	Yannick Gingras	Jim Oscarsson	20-1
8-Super Chapter	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander	3-1
9-Yannick G Kemp	Scott Zeron	Nifty Norman	15-1

### \$150,000 FanDuel Championship Open Mares Pace - Race 8

1-Rocket Deo	Andy McCarthy	Brett Pelling	10-1
2-My Girl EJ	Todd McCarthy	Andrew Harris	10-1
3-Grace Hill	Jason Bartlett	Virgil Morgan Jr.	8-1
4-Always B Naughtly	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	12-1
5-Beach Cowgirl	David Miller	Ron Burke	20-1
6-Twin B Joe Fresh	Dexter Dunn	Chris Ryder	1-5
7-Valar Dohaeris	Andy Miller	Ake Svanstedt	15-1

### \$455,000 Goldsmith Maid 2YO Filly Trot Final - Race 9

1-R Dutchess	Corey Callahan	John Butenschoen	10-1
2-Panacea Hanover	Rikard Skoglund	Lucas Wallin	20-1
3-Luna Lovegood	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander	5-2
4-Voguish	Todd McCarthy	Andrew Harris	10-1
5-Spicy Nice	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	6-1
6-Miss Belmar	Andy McCarthy	Noel Daley	8-1
7-Sound Judgement	David Miller	Jim Oscarsson	12-1
8-What A Bid Hanover	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	7-2
9-R Charm	Scott Zeron	Linda Toscano	20-1
10-Champagne Problems	James MacDonald	Nancy Takter	3-1

### \$325,000 FanDuel Championship Open Trot - Race 10

1-Logan Park	Doug McNair	Rob Fellows	6-1
2-Oh Well	Todd McCarthy	Marcus Melander	10-1
3-Asteroid	Tim Tetrick	Jeff Cullipher	15-1
4-Periculum	Scott Zeron	Marcus Melander	7-2
5-Hillexotic	Austin Hanners	Todd Luther	15-1
6-Winner's Bet	Dexter Dunn	Nancy Takter	3-5
7-Up Your Deo	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	15-1
8-It's Academic	David Miller	Ron Burke	10-1

### \$382,200 Governor's Cup 2YO C&G Pace Final - Race 11

1-Papi's Pistol	Andy Miller	Sam De Pinto	5-2
2-Beach Club Monty	Scott Zeron	Brett Pelling	15-1
3-Knockout Round	Andy McCarthy	Tony Alagna	15-1
4-Higher Ground	James MacDonald	Tony Alagna	15-1
5-Captain Optimistic	Dexter Dunn	Nancy Takter	2-1
6-Sugar Man	Tim Tetrick	Brett Pelling	10-1
7-Swingtown	Yannick Gingras	Ron Burke	4-1
8-Railroad Station	David Miller	Ron Burke	8-1
9-Fusion	Todd McCarthy	Nancy Takter	12-1
10-Papi's Rocket	George Brennan	Ron Burke	20-1

### \$325,000 FanDuel Championship Open Pace - Race 12

1-Abuckabett Hanover	Dexter Dunn	Andrew Harris	6-5
2-Voukefalas	Jordan Stratton	Michael Russo	10-1
3-South Beach Star	David Miller	Mark Silva	15-1
4-Seven Colors	Jason Bartlett	Andrew Harris	8-1
5-El Rey	Todd McCarthy	Andrew Harris	12-1
6-Rocknroll Runa A	George Brennan	Larry Stalbaum	10-1
7-Huntinthelastdolar	Yannick Gingras	Per Engblom	15-1
8-Coach Stefanos	James MacDonald	Erv Miller	3-1
9-It's My Show	Scott Zeron	Linda Toscano	10-1
10-Ruthless Hanover	George Napolitano Jr.	Tom Cancelliere	5-1

## DRF Bets Handicapper's Corner

SIGN UP NOW

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

### RACE 3

Three-time winner (2) STEEL-WHEEL HANOVER's first start here was decent and he had missed 5 1/2 weeks. He returns quicker now and gets top billing. Bettor's Delight colt.

-Garnet Barnsdale



WOODBINE  
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

### RACE 11

(7) MADRID A appeared like she had pace in the pocket last week but was completely boxed in. I'll look for a better trip tonight and swing with her.

-Greg Reinhardt



### RACE 3

(2) CATNAP ships back in from the Meadowlands and has been facing FAR tougher of late. She may be just 1-28 in her young career, but when last seen here at Freehold, she was chasing super-fast miles in the New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund series.

-Larry Fox



Your BEST BET for a GOOD TIME!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

### RACE 3

(3) JACK'S LEGEND N was sitting fifth through a pedestrian 56 1/5 half last weekend and his 27 1/5 final quarter was only good enough to pass a couple of foes, though a clear improvement from the week prior. Veteran could be sitting on a big mile.

-Derick Gwerner



### FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

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

Meadowlands Analysis [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Freehold Analysis [Friday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## POCONO TITLE IN HAND, KAKALEY DRIVES ON

After closing out his third consecutive driving title at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs last week, Matt Kakaley can still add to his list of accomplishments before his 2024 campaign comes to an end next month.

Kakaley has already set a career high for purse earnings this year, with \$9.55 million, but has his eyes on the \$10-million mark as he will continue driving at MGM Yonkers Raceway through mid-December. In addition, the 36-year-old Pennsylvania resident is 32 victories from establishing a career best for wins.

[READ MORE](#)

## 2024 RETIREMENT CEREMONIES THIS SATURDAY AT THE MEADOWLANDS

Harness racing's biggest stars will battle on the track on Saturday, November 30 in the 2024 FanDuel Championships & Fall Final Four Finals at the Meadowlands Racetrack.

Recently, retirement ceremonies have become the norm on this night of racing, and this year is no different. This year, a retirement video has been compiled for those who announced their retirements, including:

Legendary Hanover – 2024 Meadowlands Pace & Cane Pace  
Captain Albano – 2023 Dan Patch Award and 2024 Little Brown Jug  
Sig Sauer – 2024 Kentucky Futurity and Breeders Crown  
Winner's Bet – 2024 Graduate and 2024 Breeders Crown  
TCI – 2023 O'Brien Award winner  
Karl – 99th Hambletonian, 2023 Dan Patch Award

[READ MORE](#)

## LEIGH NICHOL RAYMER WINS JANUARY DAVIES HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Leigh Nichol Raymer will receive the 2024 January Davies Humanitarian Award from the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA).

The award was created in 2008 by U.S. Harness Writers Association member Callie Davies-Gooch in memory of her daughter to recognize contributions beyond harness racing, and it is given annually at the Dan Patch Awards Banquet.

[READ MORE](#)

## NEW EPISODE OF CREEKSIDE CHAT IS OUT

A new episode of the revamped Creekside Chat hosted by Diamond Creek is out now! Catch up with Shaun Laungani and Adam Bowden as they talk all things Diamond Creek and Harness Racing! Episode 4 topics include; stallion news for 2025, year end award debates, sale discussion, Karl Open House and the classic debate: how early is too early to get your holiday decorations out?

Watch it [here](#).

-release (Diamond Creek)

## DREW MONTI SURPASSES \$20 MILLION IN CAREER EARNINGS

When Drew Monti finished fourth in the third race at Plainridge Park with Star Speaker on Monday (Nov. 25) afternoon, he surpassed the \$20 million mark for lifetime earnings over his 12-year career.

The numbers that helped him achieve that milestone were 17,318 starts that yielded 2,571 wins, 2,448 seconds and 2,297 thirds, pushing him to the \$20,000,600 total he currently has.

Monti is experiencing the best year he's had in the sulky since 2021, after doing double duty between Plainridge and Batavia Downs this season. Monti is currently showing 1,567 starts with 227 wins, 228 seconds and 191 thirds with \$2,132,276 in the bank for 2024.

At the current Plainridge meet, Monti sits eighth among the driving colony with 44 wins and those have helped earn his connections \$679,029 in purses as a result. Monti is currently the leading dash driver at Batavia Downs with 111 victories, which have him up by 17 wins and put him in position to win his third driving title with only days left in the meet there.

In the six years Monti has been driving at Plainridge Park, he has amassed 454 wins and \$5,490,648 in purses.

-release (Tim Bojarski for the Standardbred Owners of Massachusetts)

## MELVIN G COMPLETES DSBF SWEEP

After winning his six previous starts by a combined 26 lengths, Melvin G withstood the toughest test of his rookie stakes campaign in the form of Legend Of Rock, whom he held off by a half length to win Tuesday's (Nov. 26) \$110,000 Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund championship for 2-year-old male trotters at Bally's Dover and complete a series sweep.

Sent off the 1-20 favorite for a seventh consecutive start, Melvin G and driver Jim Morand left from post seven and worked to clear Yale (driven by Art Stafford Jr.) just upon entering the first turn. The E L Platinum-Jersey Punk gelding was in complete control well before the end of a 28 1/5 first quarter, and he coasted unopposed through middle splits of 58 1/5 and 1:28 2/5 before facing a stern first-over challenge from 27-1 shot Legend Of Rock (Corey Callahan), who began his ascent from fourth with three-eighths of the mile remaining. Legend Of Rock worked into level terms with Melvin G off the home turn but was rebuffed in mid-stretch as Melvin G responded to secure victory in 1:57 4/5. Legend Of Rock maintained second; Yale was a one-paced third from the pocket, another three-quarters of a length back.

Les Givens trains Melvin G, who now has won seven of 10 starts and earned \$162,437 for the partnership of Nanticoke Racing and breeder Legacy Racing of Delaware. He paid \$2.10 to win.

The \$20,000 DSBF consolation for 2-year-old trotters went to Blue Collar Boy, who defeated Burly by 5-1/4 lengths in 2:00 4/5 and returned \$2.20 as the 1-10 favorite. Tim Tetrick drove the Anders Bluestone-Willow Mill Anna gelding for trainer Dylan Davis, who shares ownership with Shannon Stafford and Michael West.

The final DSBF championship event for 2-year-olds this season is slated for Wednesday (Nov. 27) at Bally's Dover, with seven-time winner Little Miss Peyton leading a field of eight rookie pacing fillies in the evening's sixth of 15 races. First post is 4:30 p.m. EST.

-edited release (Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund)

## ABUCKABETT HANOVER SEEKS FANDUEL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN AT BIG M

Just 48 hours after Thanksgiving, The Meadowlands will serve up one last stakes-laden 2024 feast on Saturday (Nov. 30), when \$2,572,400 in purses will be doled out on Fall Final Four/FanDuel Championships Night.

One horse looking to close out a season in which he hopes to walk away with divisional honors is Abuckabett Hanover, a veteran 6-year-old who is the likely favorite in the FanDuel Open Pace.

During 2024, "Bucky" has put together quite the resume, winning the Potomac Pace, Dayton Derby, William Haughton Memorial and Dave Brower Memorial.

"You know why I'm happy if Bucky is lucky enough to win?" co-owner Bill Pollock told Debbie Little in a recent edition of Harness Racing Update. "He toiled behind Bulldog Hanover, Allywag Hanover, Tattoo Artist, a lot of great, great horses, and he was always in their shadow, and now this year, I feel he really broke out on his own and really did a good job.

"I'm so happy for him. I know he doesn't know he might win it, but I'm so thrilled for him. I think we have a very good shot at it. Plus, if he's successful in the FanDuel, he'll cross \$2 million lifetime."

Pollock, along with partners Bruce Areman and trainer Andrew Harris, have been on a buying spree in an effort to build a championship-caliber barn.

Pollock plunked down over \$5 million purchasing 18 yearlings at the 2023 sales at Lexington and Harrisburg. Over the last two years, they've spent almost \$12 million in stocking Harris' stable, which includes a then-record online purchase of \$534,000 for Abuckabett Hanover in 2022, before they topped that mark with a \$758,000 purchase several weeks ago of two-time Breeders Crown champion My Girl E.J.

No longer having to go up against horses like Bulldog Hanover and Allywag Hanover, Abuckabett Hanover hopes to be the bully on the playground when he faces some other top-flight competitors Saturday night.

Ruthless Hanover, the winner of the Joseph Auger Memorial earlier this year at Harrah's Philadelphia, and Coach Stefanos, who won the Breeders Crown in eye-popping last-to-first fashion, are two of the horses who are looking to take Bucky down.

-edited release (Meadowlands)