

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

# DAN PATCH DECISIONS

*Editor Derick Giwner goes through each of the Dan Patch Award divisional races from 2024 with stats, facts and analysis*



## EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner  
 ✉ [@harnesseveguy](mailto:@harnesseveguy)

Shortly after you read this column the 2024 Dan Patch Award ballots will reach the email inboxes of voters. While there are some mildly difficult decisions to make, the majority of the horse awards won't require any thought at all.

In the 4-year-old and older ranks, Twin B Joe Fresh, Jiggy Jog, Abuckabett Hanover and Winner's Bet are going to win. The only slight conversation could occur on Winner's Bet since Periculum earned more and Logan Park won more, but judging by the final Top 10 poll vote and considering the overall résumés of the participants, Winner's Bet should win out in the end.

The 3-year-old awards are a bit more interesting in that each category except for the filly pacer award – where My Girl EJ should easily prevail – has two good candidates for the honor. Voters must decide between Sig Sauer and Karl for colt trotter, R Melina and Allegiant for filly trotter and Captain Albano and Nijinsky on the colt pacing front. Below is the tale of the tape on those matchups:

### KARL VS. SIG SAUER

**Record:** Karl (13-9-1-1) / Sig Sauer (10-5-0-1)  
**EDGE KARL**

**Earnings:** Karl (\$1,004,089) / Sig Sauer (\$871,812)

**EDGE KARL**  
**Major Grand Circuit Stakes Wins:** Karl (Hambletonian) / Sig Sauer (Breeders Crown, Kentucky Futurity, Beal Memorial, Stanley Dancer)

**EDGE SIG SAUER**  
**Head-to-head:** Karl (2 wins) / Sig Sauer (2 wins)

**TIE**  
**Best Win Time:** Karl (1:50 2/5) / Sig Sauer (1:49 3/5)

**EDGE SIG SAUER**  
**ANALYSIS:** While I couldn't fault anyone for choosing either horse, the slight edge for me goes to Sig Sauer because of the number of stakes he won. There is no more important race in terms of breeding potential and history than the Hambletonian but one major stakes win does not equal year-end honors. It's a shame Karl got sick at the end of the year and couldn't have boosted his résumé even further. He proved to be an exceptional horse but Sig Sauer had the more well-rounded year.

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### HOLIDAY ISSUE NEXT WEEK

OUR HUGE YEAR-END HOLIDAY ISSUE WILL BE OUT NEXT THURSDAY WITH LOADS OF STORIES ON WHAT HAPPENED IN 2024, HOLIDAY WISHES FROM THOSE IN THE INDUSTRY AND MUCH MORE. THAT DECEMBER 19 ISSUE WILL BE THE LAST OF 2024 BUT DRF HARNESS DIGEST WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 9 WITH A FRESH EDITION FOR THE NEW YEAR.

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# MIKI AND MINNIE

p,2,1:49.2-'24 (\$834,086)



*From everyone at the Chris Ryder Stable*

MIKI AND MINNIE dominated her 2-year-old pacing filly division with decisive victories in the Breeders Crown final, Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Final, a division of the Bluegrass, and the Three Diamonds season finale, winning in a stakes record-equaling 1:49.2. With six wins and four seconds in 11 seasonal starts, the daughter of ALWAYS B MIKI danced every dance and skipped away with \$834,086 in earnings, making her the season's richest freshmen pacer, regardless of sex.

**R MELINA VS. ALLEGIANT**

**Record:** R Melina (18-8-5-1) / Allegiant (17-6-4-2)

**EDGE R MELINA**

**Earnings:** R Melina (\$817,469) / Allegiant (\$748,027)

**EDGE R MELINA**

**Major Grand Circuit Stakes Wins:** R Melina (Kentucky Filly Futurity, Del Miller) / Allegiant (Matron, Breeders Crown, Moni Maker)

**EDGE ALLEGIANT**

**Head-to-head:** R Melina (2 wins) / Allegiant (3 wins)

**EDGE ALLEGIANT**

**Best Win Time:** R Melina (1:50 1/5) / Allegiant (1:51 1/5)

**EDGE R MELINA**

**ANALYSIS:** Entering the Breeders Crown this division was R Melina's to lose. All she had to do was win the Breeders Crown or Matron . . . or just not have Allegiant win both. That evened the playing field out in a major way and when both showed up versus older foes in the FanDuel, a good performance by either could've been a difference maker, and it was for me. Allegiant was a very good second timed in 1:50 1/5 while R Melina broke early in the mile.

**CAPTAIN ALBANO VS. NIJINSKY**

**Record:** Captain Albano (18-12-1-3) / Nijinsky (17-11-4-0)

**TIE**

**Earnings:** Captain Albano (\$1,118,573) / Nijinsky (\$1,212,710)

**EDGE NIJINSKY**

**Major Grand Circuit Stakes Wins:** Captain Albano (Progress Pace, Matron, Little Brown Jug, Max Hempt, Adios) / Nijinsky (Monument Circle, Simcoe, North America Cup, Somebeachsomewhere)

**EDGE CAPTAIN ALBANO**

**Head-to-head:** Captain Albano (3 wins) / Nijinsky (2 wins)

**EDGE CAPTAIN ALBANO**

**Best Win Time:** Captain Albano (1:48 1/5) / Nijinsky (1:47 3/5)

**EDGE NIJINSKY**

**Analysis:** This matchup is fairly even from my perspective with the exception of the "stakes won" category where Captain Albano has a huge edge. While you could argue that Nijinsky's North America Cup win ranks first on the scale of importance, Captain Albano's Jug, Hempt and Adios victories are easily second through fourth in terms of importance. There is the point that Captain Albano didn't win a major stake on a "big track" but then you could say Nijinsky didn't win on a five-eighths or half-mile track. I have to give my vote to Captain Albano while applauding the year from Nijinsky.

Moving onto the 2-year-old divisions, we have what should be a unanimous winner in colt trotter Maryland and a near-lock to get the pacing colt title in Breeders Crown winner Louprint. Divisional honors in both of the filly categories is likely to be much more interesting. Let's go to the stats first.

**MIKI AND MINNIE VS. CHANTILLY**

**Record:** Miki And Minnie (11-6-4-1) / Chantilly (9-9-0-0)

**EDGE CHANTILLY**

**Earnings:** Miki And Minnie (\$834,086) / Chantilly (\$560,315)

**EDGE MIKI AND MINNIE**

**Major Grand Circuit Stakes Wins:** Miki And Minnie (Three Diamonds, Breeders Crown, Bluegrass) / Chantilly (She's A Great Lady, Eternal Camnation)

**EDGE MIKI AND MINNIE**

**Head-to-head:** None

**TIE**

**Best Win Time:** Miki And Minnie (1:49 2/5) / Chantilly (1:50 2/5)

**EDGE MIKI AND MINNIE**

**Analysis:** The big question here is whether an undefeated season that doesn't include leaving your home track is enough. Make no mistake, Chantilly was awesome in 2024 and in most years I would give her my vote, but what Miki And Minnie accomplished in the Crown and Three Diamonds – coming first-over and proving much the best – pushed her over the top in my book. Of course, Chantilly is ranked fifth in the industry top 10 poll and Miki And Minnie isn't on the list, so I may be against the grain. All I can say is to re-watch the Breeders Crown.

**CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS VS. LADY LANDIA VS. MONALISHI**

**Record:** Champagne Problems (12-7-2-0) / Lady Landia (8-4-1-0) / Monalishi (10-6-2-0)

**EDGE CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS & MONALISHI**

**Earnings:** Champagne Problems (\$500,086) / Lady Landia (\$426,300) / Monalishi (\$413,280)

**EDGE CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS**

**Major Grand Circuit Stakes Wins:** Champagne Problems (Kindergarten, International Stallion Stake, Doherty Memorial) / Lady Landia (Breeders Crown) / Monalishi (Champlain, Peaceful Way)

**EDGE CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS**

**Head-to-head:** Lady Landia and Monalishi (1 win)

**EDGE LADY LANDIA & MONALISHI**

**Best Win Time:** Champagne Problems (1:52 3/5) / Lady Landia (1:53 3/5) / Monalishi (1:52 2/5)

**EDGE MONALISHI**

**Analysis:** There really is no clear leader in this division. My gut says that Champagne Problems will win based on having the most money earned and most wins, but without question Lady Landia won the most important race and Monalishi is no slouch either. This is the one category where I could still change my mind but Champagne Problems has my vote today.

Now that we've covered all of the 12 divisional races we are left with Pacer, Trotter and Horse of the Year. While she won't be unanimous, Twin B Joe Fresh will win the Pacer and Horse of the Year awards in a landslide. That leaves a decision on the best trotter. Here is the breakdown:

**JIGGY JOG VS. MARYLAND**

**Record:** Jiggy Jog (6-6-0-0) / Maryland (9-6-1-1)

**EDGE JIGGY JOG**

**Earnings:** Jiggy Jog (\$929,188) / Maryland (\$1,227,695)

**EDGE MARYLAND**

**Major Grand Circuit Stakes Wins:** Jiggy Jog (Dayton Trotting Derby, MGM Yonkers International Trot, Sebastian K, Cashman Memorial, Six Pack, Cutler Memorial) / Maryland (Kindergarten, Breeders Crown, Mohawk Million, Peter Haughton Memorial, Wellwood Memorial)

**TIE**

**Analysis:** You'll notice fewer categories above and that is because it is hard to compare an older trotting mare to a 2-year-old trotting colt. Jiggy Jog being undefeated is going to lure many people in and rightfully so. She also defeated the boys in most of her races. Maryland led all horses in earnings this year, and that is a huge feather in his cap, especially considering that he had the third-richest season by a 2-year-old trotter in history. Both horses get a ton of credit for racing and winning at multiple tracks. So how do we separate them? I'm digging deep into the competition lines to examine how each horse won and who they faced.

Maryland was an easy winner in three of his stakes and also showed a gutsy side in winning the Breeders Crown and Kindergarten. While we won't know for sure until this time next year, I felt the group he faced was at least above average and perhaps exceptional. By contrast, Jiggy Jog really didn't face much in the older trotting ranks from my view. The international competition at Yonkers as well as the domestic horses from these shores were average at best. Yes, she dominated, but what did she really beat? That being said, if she would've remained sound through the end of November and picked up wins in the Breeders Crown and FanDuel, she would've gotten my vote, but when you look at Jiggy Jog's overall body of work versus Maryland I feel it came up just short.

Let me conclude by congratulating all of the horses mentioned above on a wonderful year of racing. While some of them will not walk away with Dan Patch Award trophies, it was a pleasure to watch them race in 2024, and for those that are returning to the races next year, here's hoping the best is still yet to come.



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# Highland Kismet will seek to make his mark as a 4YO in 2025



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [✕ BergmanJay](#)

There's going to be a brand new division of horses racing in 2025 for the top prizes for open trotters. A slew of voluntary and forced retirements has assured that next year's premier races will likely be filled with new horses and first-time winners. The times have changed and with them so have the faces, and the likes of top sophomores Sig Sauer, Karl and T C I moving on to stallion duty help thin out an older division that is likely to be somewhat decimated with the loss of 2024 stars Jiggy Jog S and Winner's Bet.

As is the case most often in this sport, what some see as a loss others see as a gain and that could leave room for some would-be stars to emerge on the scene in races wider open than they have been in years. While those trotters with speed and breeding options have fled the racing wars, others without a second option will remain and one has a lot to prove to his owner, trainer and driver in 2025.

Highland Kismet did not start his sophomore season with the same outlook that the connections of 2023 millionaires Karl and T C I did. The gelded son of Father Patrick had run out of options to make the races as a freshman and was given to trainer Mark Etsell as a final chance to make the grade.

"I thought best early on that if we stake him for later in the season, we'd have a chance," said Etsell, who saw promise in the horse but had a sense of realism that wouldn't allow him to dream too big too early.

Highland Kismet did have ownership that was able to back dreams with stakes payments and that made him eligible to the year's most lucrative races, including the Hambletonian. Highland Kismet's early success would make that dream possible, but the road was far from perfect and the class of horses he would eventually meet up with in the last few weeks of July and first Saturday in August were far different than what he had faced and dominated in his native Ontario.

"It's tough to race a 3-year-old that didn't race at 2 against horses that have," said Etsell. "The way I see it, it's the same as taking a kid that's playing High School basketball and putting him into the NBA. It's an entirely different game."

Quite often what the betting public sees on the racetrack is far different from what the trainer experiences with a horse, and in the case of Highland Kismet, Etsell had his hands full throughout the year.

"He would just do stupid things," said Etsell, pointing out the key issues during the year.

Translated into layman's terms, Highland Kismet would make breaks in stride at inopportune times and sometimes without warning. The trait in a trotter working his way up the class ladder can be common, yet driving a horse of this caliber in stakes races make the game that much more challenging for driver and trainer.

With the Hambletonian, perhaps no race this year pointed to Highland Kismet's incredible ability while at the same time showcasing the predicament a driver could face when \$1 million was on the line. The Hambletonian had numerous twists and turns in 2024 and none of them had Etsell resting too easily as he sent his horse to the track.

"At first it was just a little rain and the track was holding up well," said Etsell. "Then right as they went to the gait it started pouring and I was just holding my breath."

Highland Kismet's nine rivals all had the experience edge over him and the ability to adjust to the conditions, leaving the race in the capable hands of Bob McClure who had already won the sport's premier event five years ago with Forbidden Trade.

McClure was able to keep Highland Kismet on stride and gain position in the opening quarter, and then left with few options had to go up without cover early to have any chance.

"I was feeling pretty good when I saw him get to T C I on the final turn and then go by him in the stretch," said Etsell. "It's just that when he gets to the front he starts waiting on horses."

Etsell knew at that moment that it was a question of when the finish line would finally arrive because McClure had the unenviable task of keep-

ing Highland Kismet engaged enough to hold off the closers while not seeing him make a break in stride and losing any chance at victory.

"That's a long stretch," Etsell said looking back on that day as the final yards seemed like they would never arrive. In the end they did, and Karl was able to get the job done as the public choice.

"Bob came back after the race and said he was sorry," said Etsell. "I said what are you sorry about? You just won a \$500,000 race."

For Etsell just making the Hambletonian was a longshot, but the outcome may have been better than anyone could have expected.

"I would say that was definitely his best race of the year," Etsell said of the Hambletonian.

There were plenty of low points along the way that built frustrations, like a break in the Canadian Trotting Classic final for no reason and a suicidal speed mission in the Kentucky Futurity that would lead the connections to move to Tim Tetrick to drive Highland Kismet in the Breeders Crown and Matron.

Etsell continued to point out his challenges getting a horse to do things properly when they appear to lack the capacity to learn.

"He's just not a very smart horse," said Etsell, who knew even at year's end that challenges remain.

"Look at the Matron," Etsell said. "Timmy (Tetrick) had him on the lead and he was going well, then on the last turn he just took himself out of the race. He had raced on the mile and seven-eighths mile tracks all year and they were once around and the race was over. I think in the Matron Highland Kismet thought the race was over and was pulling himself up. There was nothing Tim could do."

Etsell had experienced many of the highs and lows along the way and remains positive and even-keel. "If you asked me to describe his year I would say bittersweet," Etsell said.

While many of his rivals will look to prove themselves on a separate stage in 2025, Highland Kismet could become a dominant force against 4-year-olds and older rivals next year.

"He's in Kentucky resting," said Etsell of Highland Kismet, who will come back to him in 2025 to prepare for the stakes season. "We'll map out a schedule in February for him."

Highland Kismet's blistering speed needs to be controlled and a lot of what happens next year will depend on whether he can adapt and become more focused and reliable on the track.

"I'm hoping he fills out a little bit and matures," said Etsell, who philosophized that girls mature faster than boys so maybe change is imminent.

When Highland Kismet returns to Etsell's stable he'll join his younger half-brother Highland Destiny, a son of Greenshoe.

"He's smarter," Etsell said when asked to compare the soon-to-be 2-year-old with Highland Kismet.

"If you told me in March that he was going to win the Goodtimes and Simcoe I would have said it's going to be a great year," said Etsell.

Looking forward, Etsell has no doubt that Highland Kismet has sub-1:50 speed in his profile. The challenge will be to see him more focused and better equipped to handle the complexity of racing seasoned horses in 2025.



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## HARNESS FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett [X @JHallettPhoto](#)

# Historic season at Saratoga comes to a close for “Team Beckwith” and others

The 2024 season at the Saratoga Harness Track is drawing to a close with a timeline of milestones and records left in its wake at the Upstate New York half-mile oval. With 151 live race dates, the meet ran from early February to mid-December with thousands of races contested.

Highlighting the conclusion of the Saratoga year was the award ceremony to honor the Trainer and Driver of the Year winners, Mark and Brett Beckwith, respectively. For the first time in the track’s history, a father-son duo swept the leaderboard at the Spa.

Mark Beckwith, a New England native, had a career year overall with 220 winners and \$1.85 million banked. At Saratoga, however, he set an all-time record to become the winningest trainer in the history of the track after he sent out 182 winners and took home \$1.21 million in purse earnings over 576 starts.

“I found out earlier in the year what the record by Colin Johnson was and made it my mission to try and break it,” Mark Beckwith said.

With his record season came his first training title at the track and he was able to share it with his son Brett.

“To be able to win it with my son as leading driver is a dream come true,” Mark said. “But make no mistake about it, without the support of the people that work with me and my family and the best owners a trainer could want, none of this would be possible.”

On June 23, Mark set the seasonal best for most wins in a card with five wins, all piloted by Brett.

Mark Beckwith maintained a stable of around 20 head throughout the year with horses racing at Saratoga Casino Hotel and Plainridge Park. Between himself, his wife Melissa, Brett, and his grooms and riders, the team harnessed up many winners while keeping a tight operation and an immaculate stable. Now, several of his trainees are on the ballot for Saratoga year-end awards, to be decided on January 4 at the annual banquet.

On the driving side, Brett Beckwith was a clear winner on the leaderboard, stepping away with an over 60-win lead as he has made north of 300 trips to the winner’s circle, producing \$2.36 million in seasonal earnings.

“It’s an honor. I grew up here watching my dad drive so to be able to take the reins from him and both of us be the top dogs is something out of a fairytale,” Brett said.

The 21-year-old reinsman finished second last year by one point in the polls for the USHWA Rising Star title after becoming the youngest to achieve \$4 million in a season and winning 452 races. This year, in his sixth year of driving, Brett has since magnified his stats and standings. With 585 wins to date and nearly \$6 million earned, Brett sits third in the national rankings behind Aaron Merriman and Jason Bartlett on the win end.

There were multiple days in which Brett scored five or more wins on a single card, including full weekends where he swept with five wins each day. On July 13, Brett equaled the all-time Saratoga record for most wins in a single card with eight, tying Hall of Fame driver Frank Coppola Jr.

Driving across the northeast throughout the year, Brett has made starts at Freehold Raceway, Tioga Downs, Yonkers Raceway and The Meadowlands, in addition to driving full-time at Saratoga and Plainridge Park. Not only did Brett lead the rankings at Saratoga, but he shared the driving title at Plainridge with Bruce Ranger as the co-leading drivers.

“There’s been so many fun moments and memories but [the best] probably would be the Mass Sire Stakes Final with my dad’s horse or the night I won eight [at Saratoga], everything was just flowing that whole night,” Brett said.

Next year, Brett has raised his goals again and hopes to continue with the success he has had.



JESSICA HALLETT PHOTO

**Father and son team Mark (left) and Brett (right) Beckwith won Trainer and Driver of the Year titles at Saratoga Casino and Raceway in 2024.**

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

“I just want to keep the ball rolling, but for next year I want to grab a couple higher purse wins and maybe get a crack at the Gerrity again,” he added.

Closing on Brett for the driving title with a quick surge during his stint at the Spa for the season was Wally Hennessey. A member of five different Halls of Fame (PEI, Canada, Florida, Saratoga and Goshen), Hennessey is no stranger to the spotlight and headlines. He arrived at Saratoga in May, three months after the start of the meet, and wasted little time in rising through the ranks. He rattled off five and six winners on multiple cards, reaching seven winners on May 13.

On September 30, the 66-year-old reinsman piloted six straight winners as the most consecutive number of wins by a driver at the Spa and then later added one more to make another seven-win score for his seasonal-best tally.

“I learned a long time ago as a catch driver, your destination is not in your hands but in the relationships you develop with the owners, trainers and grooms,” Hennessey said. “It’s with them, having the opportunity and being prepared to accept and adapt to each race as it comes. The main thing is the standardbred horse, who is and always will be my main purpose for why I continue to work with each one. They are amazing individuals with different talents and traits. They for sure make your life complete if you have the passion.”

Despite his three month late start and his dismemberment a month prior to the conclusion of the meet, Hennessey racked up 238 winners over 874 starts with the highest UDR of .420 of the top 20 drivers. Adding in his \$1.72 million accumulated, Hennessey topped the standings in second.

“The success this year was a combination of getting to drive for the leading trainers and just trying to give everybody the best possible result, and as always, having to have great luck and always keeping your confidence whether results are good or bad, because without confidence your longevity is pretty short,” Hennessey said.

Hennessey’s success at Saratoga in the 2024 meet propelled him into the top 10 for national all-time winningest drivers. He is now 129 wins shy of the 12,000-win milestone.

Overall, Saratoga produced a record handle for the track with \$714,997 wagered on the May 5 card.

The track also saw a record amount of money raised for the annual

Charity Match Race that was showcased on Saturday, July 27. The event merged the thoroughbred and standardbred racing worlds together as Brett Beckwith drove against prolific jockey Robbie Davis and harness trainer/driver/RUS rider Michelle Crawford rode in a RUS-style race against jockey Katie Davis. The grandstand was packed with the highest number of fans in attendance for an event in the year and over \$20,000 was raised for two local charities: the Franklin Community Center and Kelly’s Angels.

A week prior to that huge event was the marquee race of the Saratoga meet with the \$250,000 Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial and Jason Bartlett made history as the first driver to win twice in the 15 years since the race’s installment. Bartlett steered Coaches Corner to a 1:49 3/5 mile for trainer Per Engblom as the fourth-fastest mile in Saratoga’s history.



JESSICA HALLETT

Wally Hennessey had his usual strong season at Saratoga, including winning 6 races on a card.

As for the horsemen, the milestones kept on rolling with Jaymes Mcassey reaching 500 training wins, Gary Levine and Scott Mongeon reaching 1,000 training wins, Matty Athearn and Brett Beckwith reaching \$10 million, Wally Hennessey passing \$80 million, Brett Beckwith achieving 1,000 driving wins, and Jay Randall notching 5,000 driving wins.

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# Harris pair seek \$250K prize in MGM Grand Prix at Yonkers

By Jay Bergman

The newly christened MGM Grand Prix Pacing Series has its \$250,000 final on Monday (December 16). Following three preliminary legs the final eight will vie for the largest purse offered this month in Yonkers Raceway's history. Trainer Andrew Harris has collected a large ensemble of top older pacers led by likely division champion Abuckabett Hanover. On Monday he'll send out stablemates Seven Colors and El Rey with an eye on the top prize in the lucrative event.

"Kudos to Joe Frasure for putting this series together," said Harris following Tuesday's draw for the final. "I think it's a great addition to the stakes schedule."

The MGM Grand Prix has been quite eventful over the three elimination rounds with the first two legs raced on November 4 and 11 and then the final preliminary contested last Monday (December 9). Finding a place on the busy schedule for older pacers may have been a challenge but Frasure found a seam following the Breeders Crown that allowed the Potomac and FanDuel to take place, and the response was solid. Until last week's third preliminary leg there had been no repeat winners in the first six races. Only Coaches Corner (post 7) was able to capture two of the three legs of the series.

In Monday's finale, all the eight horses captured a prelim and that sets the stage for a great event with the horses needing to go the mile and a sixteenth distance to earn the championship. Harris' pair of pacers found the luck of the draw to their benefit, with Seven Colors landing post two and El Rey post four in the field that goes as race eight on a Monday program that also features a \$10,000 seeded Pick 5 pool and \$40,000 guarantee starting in race five.

"Seven Colors has started to come around in his last five races," said Harris. "We've had some issues with his blood through the middle of the season that held him back."

Following a solid sophomore season where the Harris connections picked up the son of Stay Hungry towards the end of the campaign, Seven Colors has been limited to just three wins in 18 tries this season. Harris' stable finished one-two in the \$600,000 Breeders Crown at The Meadowlands on October 26 with Seven Colors following home Abuckabett Hanover. In three legs of the series Seven Colors followed up a second and third in the first two legs with a dominating score in last week's final elimination leg.

"You know that's his kind of trip," said Harris, referring to the first-over journey driver Jason Bartlett sent Seven Colors on. "That's not always the preferred trip getting over this track but it's the one that works best for him."

The win assured Seven Colors a spot in the final and the draw gave him post two, inside many of his chief rivals in the contest. Scott Zeron will pick up the drive with Jason Bartlett opting for the likely favorite Coaches Corner for the final.

"Scott will get along with him fine," said Harris.

Harris didn't have as much confidence in El Rey following Tuesday's draw but that was easy to understand.

"He just raced last night and we're waiting on bloodwork to come back," said Harris, still trying to assess El Rey's sixth-place finish.

A winner in the opening leg of the series on November 4, El Rey pulled from third to challenge in Monday's race and backed up on the final turn. Harris has called on young Brett Beckwith to guide El Rey from post four on Monday.

Though drawing inside Coaches Corner, Harris wasn't certain that would be as big an edge as perceived.

"With the added distance to the first turn Coaches Corner can get out quickly," Harris said, recognizing the combination of Bartlett's timing and Coaches Corner's quick foot as a competitive advantage for the opposing team.

Coaches Corner may not need extra help, as he proved winning for the second time in the series last week, controlling the action for Bartlett. One of two entries from leading trainer Per Engblom's stable, Coaches Corner joins stablemate Adam Twelve (post 3). Adam Twelve was used a bit in the early stages last week for driver Yannick Gingras and faded to



MIKE LIZZI PHOTO

**Seven Colors won the third leg of the MGM Grand Prix at Yonkers Raceway with Jason Bartlett driving but Scott Zeron will be in the bike in Monday's final.**

fourth in the stretch. The 4-year-old could outspurt rivals to his inside in the final in search of a stalking trip this week.

Outside of the solid couples from Harris and Engblom there are four others in the field looking for major upsets, with Typhoon Banner N (post 5) the most logical of the quartet. Trainer Joe Bongiorno appears to have this import peaking for the final following last week's authoritative score. An 8-year-old by Bettor's Delight, Typhoon Banner N has won eight times in his first full year for the Bongiorno stable. Matt Kakaley will drive Typhoon Banner N.

Nandolo N makes his 37th start of 2024 and may be perfectly spotted having drawn post one with Lauren Tritton in the bike. Battle tested, Nandolo N could benefit if the pace gets too contested.

American Dealer N (post 6) and Whats Stanley Got A (post 8) round out the exceptional field.

Harris said this will be the final race for both of his horses this season and he doesn't anticipate either will be ready in time for the 2025 Borgata Series at Yonkers in the spring.

"I just think that series is too tough on horses," Harris said. "I'm going to point them for the Grand Circuit races."

The Monday card at Yonkers Raceway kicks off at 7:00 PM (ET) and features 11 races.

# Hart, Sir Pinocchio, New York horses honored by USHWA

Beloved harness horse trainer Eddie Hart looked out at the capacity crowd of well-wishers at Sunday (Dec. 8) night's 65th Awards Banquet of the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), presented by the New York Sire Stakes, and said, "Me and my buddy Tom Manza took the BOCES harness class in high school over 50 years ago."

"And I am still here," stated the trainer of this year's USTA District 8 Horse of the Year, Sir Pinocchio.

Hart, whose charges have earned over \$23 million, gave the life-long conditioner a long list of people that he was thankful for.

"Jeff Cohen flew up from Florida just to be here tonight," Hart stated, "and I am very grateful for that." For Cohen, Hart trained Four Starzzzz Shark, a top open pacer. Hart also trained Space Shuttle for Bob Hiemstra, Roll With Joe for Blue Chip Farms, et al, and had a plethora of horses for top owners like Jeff Snyder and Mannie Halbert.

"But most of all I have to thank my wife Jeannine for sticking with me and the horses for all these years," which prompted the crowd to their feet, once again.

Known for his integrity, professionalism and horsemanship, Hart often shies away from the spotlight, but anyone present could feel the mutual admiration and respect that filled the room.

Although the Monticello-Goshen Chapter was tasked with presenting all of the New York Sire Stakes, Excelsior Series and County Fair Awards, along with the US Trotting Association's District 8 Awards, the night very much belonged to Eddie and the connections of Sir Pinocchio.

For the owners and breeders of the Yonkers Trot and NY Sire Stakes Championship-winning 3-year-old son of Met's Hall, Carolyn and Irv Atherton were both honored with individual awards. Carolyn was the recipient of the Cradle of the Trotter Breeders Award, and her husband Irv received the Amy Bull Crist Distinguished Service Award for his twenty years of service to the sport and Goshen Historic Track.

Sir Pinocchio's driver, Jason Bartlett, was feted with both the New York Sire Stakes and USTA District 8 Driver of the Year award.

The USHWA chapter's second highest honor, the John Manzi Leadership Award, went to Steve Jones for his work as trustee with the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Fund in securing a record purse structure for the New York Sire Stakes program for 2025. Jones, the proprietor of his family-operated Cameo Hills Farm, glossed over all of his other 'dollar-a-year' jobs. The third generation horseman is also president of Goshen Historic Track and sits on the board of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, the Hambletonian Society, and the Grand Circuit.

The writers also honored Kim Crawford with the Excelsior Award for his dedication and contributions to harness racing in New York State. A former driver, trainer and owner, Crawford now dons the tools of trackman and is also a USTA Director. A staunch advocate for horsemen throughout the state, he puts his time and efforts into ensuring that our NY racing surfaces are the best they can be.

Heather Reese-Marshall received the chapter's John Gilmour Good 'Gal' Award for her yeoman's work foaling, raising and selling champion Crawford Farms' stars such as Hambletonian winner Karl and Kentucky Futurity winner Sig Sauer. In addition, Michelle Crawford was on hand to accept the Breeder of the Year award from the New York Sire Stakes and USTA District 8.

In addition Jessica Otten, harness racing analyst and TV personality received the chapter's Phil Pines, along with Tyler 'TJ' Miller who got the group's Rising Star Award.

Aside from hosting nationally prominent honorees, the awards banquet still maintains its 'Borscht Belt' roots. Since 1959 the Monticello-Goshen chapter has been rewarding the local horsemen and women that compete at the 'Mighty M,' as well as the hard-working staff and management that keep the races rolling.

The Mighty M Award of Appreciation was bestowed upon Dale Berenson for her 35-years of dedication to the Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association. President Alan Schwartz made a poignant introduction while Ms. Berenson was given a lengthy standing ovation for her tireless efforts on behalf of all the local horse people.

Andrew Adamczyk was this year's Amateur Driver of the Year, with long-time track announcer Howard Oil ad-libbing a race call while a replay was shown on two big screens, much to the delight of all in attendance. These folks, and others from around the region, received their

awards along with their peers for the sixty-plus divisional equine honors bestowed upon the hard-working owners, trainers and caretakers that call New York State, and the Sullivan County oval home.

Just after the dinner break a 'bidding war' of sorts broke out among several of the golf aficionados that were in attendance that evening. When the dust settled Jared Bako emerged as the successful live auction purchaser of a foursome at the Monster Golf Course, compliments of Resorts World Catskills. Following the melee, Bako said, "I hate to lose!" The Bako Racing Team had an entire table of staff and horse people on hand to collect all the hardware they won for horses such as The Last Martini and Fast Choice.

With revenue from their loyal advertisers in the 88-page souvenir journal, the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of USHWA is able to raise enough funds to donate thousands of dollars every year to the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, as well as Goshen Historic Track. These two distinct, separate entities share the same hallowed ground and a singleness of purpose to preserve, protect and promote harness racing.

The practice of raising money and donating funds to Historic Track and the Hall of Fame began in the mid-1970s with Monticello Raceway publicity icon John Manzi, and has continued ever since. In just the last 25 years, the local Monticello-Goshen chapter has donated well over \$160,000 to these important industry preservationists.

-release (Chris Tully for Monticello-Goshen Chapter of USHWA)

## THUNDEROUSLY: NEW TO WINBAK FARM OF DELAWARE

Winbak Farm of Delaware is excited to announce that Thunderously, 2, 1:57 2/5s; BT1:56 1/5s-24 (\$33,427), will be standing his introductory season in Delaware in 2025.

"Thunderously has the pedigree and conformation to make him a great choice for Delaware breeders," said Joe Thomson, Winbak Farm Owner. "He should be a great cross for many mares."

Thunderously is a son of New York Sire Stakes Final winner Anikawiesahalee, who has produced four foals from five of racing age. As a yearling, Thunderously sold for \$130,000 at Harrisburg.

Thunderously is a Walner half-brother to O'Brien Award winner Resolve (1:50 4/5, \$2,587,684).

"When I discovered Thunderously was for sale, I knew right away that we had to have him," said Jack Burke, Winbak Farm General Manager. "With him being a half-brother to Resolve, a proven sire of Stakes winners and a son of Walner, who is highly sought after, it made him a no-brainer decision for our farm."

Resolve is the sire of multiple O'Brien Award winner Righteous Resolve, 3, 1:52 (\$781,483), O'Brien Award winner Duly Resolved, 1:52 4/5f-24 (\$737,232), and 2023 O'Brien Award winner Ghostly Casper, 1:51 4/5s-24 (\$595,489).

Thunderously's second dam, New York Sire Stakes winner Sahalee, 1:58 1/5s (\$91,878), produced 11 winners from 13 foals including seven that earned over \$100,000. That list contains Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Final winner Wilsonator, 3, 1:56s (\$470,188), and Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Final winner Legzy, 3, 1:55 4/5 (\$274,473).

"With the enhancements to the Delaware program, including money being added to the purses, Delaware stallions need to step up their game so their offspring can be more competitive nationally," said Thomson. "Winbak Farm is dedicated to finding stallions with top pedigrees to stand in Delaware."

In 2025, Thunderously's sire Walner will stand for \$50,000. He is the sire of six millionaires including 2024 International Trot Winner Jiggy Jog S, 1:49 2/5-24 (\$3,095,467).

"We encourage breeders to call our office for assistance with breeding-related questions," said Burke. "Emily Warrington, our Stallion Administrator, who has a wealth of standardbred knowledge, is available six days a week during breeding season to help answer calls to assist breeders in making the best decisions or to help direct them to someone who can help."

Thunderously will stand at Winbak Farm of Delaware for \$2,500.

More information on Thunderously can be found at [www.winbakfarm.com](http://www.winbakfarm.com). Please call Jack Burke at 410.885.3059 or email [stallions@winbakfarm.com](mailto:stallions@winbakfarm.com) for more information.

"Winbak Farm plans on breeding some of our top trotting mares to Thunderously," said Thomson. "With his outstanding pedigree and great looks, I expect his foals to be at the top of game in Delaware and nationally."

-edited release (Winbak Farm)



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STANDBRED  
TRANSITION ALLIANCE  
2024 ACCREDITED  
ORGANIZATION

# RACE OF THE WEEK

## 8 YONKERS MON

1 1/16 Mile Pace MGM GRAND PRIX INVITATIONAL PACING SERIES FINAL. Purse \$250,000

51 PICK 4 (8-9-10-11) | \$2 EXACTA | \$2 TRIPLE | \$.10 SUPERFECTA

<b>1 NANDOLO N(L)</b> 91:48.3 (1) Q \$5,678		b g 10, by Betterthancheddar, Midnight In Paris by Christian Cullen		Last 5 Sts-\$25,000		1:51.1 YR		24 YR 32 8 8 7		\$200,770 24 Tot 36 8 8 7		\$204,415	
20-1 L Triton 35-4-24 (160)		Stephen Klunowski, North York, ON, CA		50000 5 6 <sup>8</sup> 6 <sup>7</sup> <sub>3</sub> 6 <sup>6</sup> <sub>1</sub> 6 <sup>5</sup> <sub>3</sub> 6 <sup>4</sup> <sub>1</sub>		1:48.3 M1		23 YR 25 5 3 4		\$128,710 23 Tot 32 8 4 4		\$186,495	
9 Dec24 4YR gd <sup>460</sup> 262 .563 1:24 1:583 MGM GP L3		S. Tritton 241-52-42-32(216)		40000 9 9 <sup>11</sup> 9 <sup>12</sup> 9 <sup>12</sup> 9 <sup>14</sup>		Br.- Mrs C L Smith & P F Smith, NZ		22 * 15 6 4 2		\$178,770 Life 157 38 27 21		-\$905,770	
23 Nov24 10M1 fst <sup>460</sup> 264 .543 1:21 1:491 Prf Hop													
11 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>570</sup> 27 .542 1:22 1:504 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>520</sup> 272 .57 1:24 1:521 MGM GP L1													
28 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>510</sup> 271 .561 1:24 1:51 Inv													
21 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>670</sup> 264 .562 1:23 1:521 Inv													
14 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>490</sup> 264 .552 1:23 1:523 Inv													
7 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>600</sup> 272 .58 1:25 1:53 Inv													

<b>2 SEVEN COLORS(L)</b> 31:48.1 \$17,348		b h 4, by Stay Hungry, Rainbowwithdark by Bettor's Delight		Last 5 Sts-\$232,500		*1:48.2 Wbs 7/8		24 * 4 2 1 1		\$55,500 24 Tot 18 3 2 4		-\$312,259	
3-1 S. Zeron 35-64-49-50 (179)		William A Pollock, Freehold, NJ; Bruce M Areman, Freehold, NJ; Andrew S Harris, Allentown, NJ		50000 2 3 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 3 <sup>5</sup> <sub>4</sub> 2 <sup>11</sup> <sub>3</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub> 1 <sup>2</sup> <sub>3</sub>		*1:48.1 Nrd		23 YR 1 0 0 0		\$0 23 Tot 18 7 3 3		-\$685,220	
9 Dec24 4YR gd <sup>460</sup> 262 .563 1:24 1:583 MGM GP L3		A. Harris 78-13-10-10 (167)		325000 4 5 <sup>6</sup> <sub>3</sub> 5 <sup>5</sup> <sub>5</sub> 4 <sup>2</sup> <sub>3</sub> 3 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub> 3 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub>		Br.- Alan E Byler, KY		22 YR 0 0 0 0		-\$Life 42 11 6 7		-\$1017,629	
30 Nov24 12M1 fst <sup>330</sup> 262 .542 1:21 1:481 D-FanDuel													
11 Nov24 7YR fst <sup>570</sup> 271 .572 1:24 1:53 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 7YR fst <sup>520</sup> 272 .56 1:23 1:51 MGM GP L1													
26 Oct24 8M1 fst <sup>540</sup> 26 .532 1:21 1:483 D-Br Crown F													
19 Oct24 8M1 fst <sup>600</sup> 271 .551 1:22 1:484 D-Br Crown F													
10 Oct24 14M1 fst <sup>530</sup> 284 .58 1:25 1:523 Qua													
7 Sep24 6YR fst <sup>720</sup> 262 .553 1:23 1:51 NW21301L5													

<b>3 ADAM TWELVE(L)</b> 31:50.2 (7/8) \$8,039		b g 4, by Luck Be Withyou, Mandy's Mattesty by His Mattesty		Last 5 Sts-\$43,250		1:51.2 YR		24 YR 27 7 1 2		\$217,050 24 Tot 27 7 1 2		-\$217,050	
8-1 Y. Gingras 304-176-117-118 (195)		N Callahan & Yorvolahan Rco Team & G Godbout & R Arerenson, DE		50000 3 1 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 1 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub> 2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>4</sub> 4 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub>		1:50.2 HoP 7/8		23 YR 5 2 0 0		\$54,750 23 * 23 9 4 4		\$100,145	
9 Dec24 4YR gd <sup>460</sup> 262 .563 1:24 1:583 MGM GP L3		P. Engblom 1057-199-183-141 (188)		35000 6 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 1 <sup>0</sup> <sub>5</sub> 1 <sup>0</sup> <sub>5</sub>		Br.- Pond-A Acres, IN		22 YR 0 0 0 0		-\$Life 61 17 18 8		-\$356,387	
26 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>460</sup> 261 .541 1:22 1:51 3-5 YO OPN													
11 Nov24 5YR fst <sup>570</sup> 271 .564 1:24 1:513 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>520</sup> 272 .57 1:24 1:521 MGM GP L1													
22 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>600</sup> 264 .551 1:22 1:51 3-5 YO OPN													
7 Oct24 7YR fst <sup>600</sup> 271 .553 1:24 1:514 nw30000L5													
30 Sep24 2YR fst <sup>650</sup> 272 .563 1:24 1:512 nw20000L5													
23 Sep24 1YR fst <sup>640</sup> 28 .564 1:25 1:521 NW21301L5													

<b>4 EL REY</b> 31:48.3 (1) \$11,570		b h 4, by Captaintreacherous, Mystery Game by Artistic Fella		Last 5 Sts-\$37,250		1:49.1 Lx1		24 * 3 1 0 1		\$31,000 24 Tot 23 3 4 3		-\$266,101	
5-1 B. Beckwith 52-1-7-5 (019)		William A Pollock, Freehold, NJ; Bruce M Areman, Freehold, NJ; Andrew S Harris, Allentown, NJ		50000 3 3 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 3 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> 3 <sup>2</sup> <sub>3</sub> 3 <sup>2</sup> <sub>3</sub> 6 <sup>7</sup> <sub>3</sub>		1:48.3 Lx1		23 YR 0 0 0 0		-\$23 Tot 20 3 4 4		-\$256,450	
9 Dec24 4YR gd <sup>460</sup> 262 .563 1:24 1:583 MGM GP L3		A. Harris 78-13-10-10 (167)		325000 5 6 <sup>6</sup> <sub>1</sub> 6 <sup>6</sup> <sub>1</sub> 5 <sup>5</sup> <sub>4</sub> 6 <sup>5</sup> <sub>4</sub> 6 <sup>6</sup> <sub>1</sub>		Br.- Riverview Breeding LLC, FL		22 YR 0 0 0 0		-\$Life 55 11 10 8		-\$906,951	
30 Nov24 12M1 fst <sup>330</sup> 262 .542 1:21 1:481 D-FanDuel													
17 Nov24 11RCR fst <sup>590</sup> 254 .541 1:20 1:474 POTOMAC													
11 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>570</sup> 271 .564 1:24 1:513 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 5YR fst <sup>520</sup> 264 .554 1:24 1:513 MGM GP L1													
26 Oct24 8M1 fst <sup>540</sup> 26 .532 1:21 1:483 D-Br Crown F													
19 Oct24 10M1 fst <sup>600</sup> 262 .542 1:21 1:484 D-Br Crown F													
6 Oct24 11Lx1 fst <sup>830</sup> 262 .534 1:21 1:472 Allerae													

<b>5 TYPHON BANNER N(L)</b> 81:48.4 (5/8) \$6,878		b g 8, by Bettor's Delight, When You're Hot by McARDle		Last 5 Sts-\$45,700		1:48.4 Pcd 5/8		24 YR 14 4 2 1		\$111,990 24 * 22 8 2 3		-\$151,305	
7-2 Ma. Kakaley 1293-215-179-201 (166)		Phillip S Steinberg, Weston, FL; Jb Racing, Freehold, NJ; Barbara Bonicorno Stb LLC, Monroe, NJ		50000 1 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub>		1:53.3 YR		23 YR 8 1 2 1		\$27,760 23 Tot 18 1 3 4		-\$262,051	
9 Dec24 3YR gd <sup>460</sup> 272 .571 1:24 1:584 MGM GP L3		J. Bongiorno 414-82-54-67 (198)		35000 6 6 <sup>8</sup> <sub>1</sub> 6 <sup>8</sup> <sub>1</sub> 5 <sup>4</sup> <sub>4</sub> 4 <sup>2</sup> <sub>4</sub> 3 <sup>2</sup> <sub>4</sub>		Br.- River Bloodstock LTD, NZ		22 YR 0 0 0 0		-\$Life 85 14 12 12		-\$941,735	
25 Nov24 8YR fst <sup>450</sup> 273 .563 1:24 1:514 Inv													
11 Nov24 7YR fst <sup>570</sup> 271 .572 1:24 1:53 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>520</sup> 272 .57 1:24 1:521 MGM GP L1													
28 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>510</sup> 271 .561 1:24 1:51 Inv													
18 Oct24 1YR fst <sup>570</sup> 283 .583 1:26 1:54 Qua T/P													
9 Sep24 7YR fst <sup>720</sup> 274 .57 1:24 1:52 Inv													
24 Aug24 10Btv fst <sup>790</sup> 264 .552 1:22 1:513 KANE PACE													

<b>6 AMERICAN DEALER N(L)</b> 71:49.1 (1) Q \$6,340		b h 7, by American Ideal, Maddison's Delight by Bettor's Delight		Last 5 Sts-\$35,000		1:49 M1		24 YR 20 6 3 3		\$143,820 24 * 34 10 8 3		-\$215,575	
15-1 A. Napitano 411-52-58-57 (127)		Enviro Stables LTD, Aventura, FL; Kenneth E Jacobs, Baldwinville, NY		50000 4 5 <sup>5</sup> <sub>4</sub> 5 <sup>6</sup> <sub>4</sub> 5 <sup>4</sup> <sub>1</sub> 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>1</sub> 3 <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub>		1:49.2 M1		23 YR 25 4 7 2		\$158,820 23 Tot 33 6 7 0		-\$187,920	
9 Dec24 4YR gd <sup>460</sup> 272 .561 1:24 1:582 MGM GP L3		L. Toscano 78-15-12-10 (192)		40000 7 8 <sup>10</sup> 8 <sup>9</sup> <sub>9</sub> 8 <sup>8</sup> <sub>9</sub> 8 <sup>10</sup> 8 <sup>10</sup>		Br.- C J Roberts, NZ		22 YR 14 4 1 2		\$115,220 Life 123 32 24 12		-\$817,276	
23 Nov24 10M1 fst <sup>460</sup> 264 .543 1:21 1:491 Prf Hop													
11 Nov24 7YR fst <sup>570</sup> 271 .572 1:24 1:53 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 5YR fst <sup>520</sup> 264 .554 1:24 1:513 MGM GP L1													
28 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>510</sup> 271 .561 1:24 1:51 Inv													
21 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>670</sup> 264 .562 1:23 1:521 Inv													
7 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>600</sup> 272 .58 1:25 1:53 Inv													
30 Sep24 8YR fst <sup>650</sup> 263 .552 1:23 1:513 Inv													

<b>7 COACHES CORNER</b> 41:49.3 * \$24,285		b g 4, by Always A Virgin, Caribbean Pacety by Somebeachsomewhere		Last 5 Sts-\$142,500		1:49.3 Stg		24 YR 16 5 9 0		\$360,910 24 Tot 24 7 10 3		-\$582,945	
5-2 J. Bartlett 1802-433-235-246 (240)		Jeff Fouhy, Racine, WI; Brian K Carney, Cambridge City, IN		50000 5 2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub> 2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>1</sub>		1:50.3 Phl 5/8		23 YR 7 1 0 0		\$67,000 23 * 28 19 0 2		-\$121,146	
9 Dec24 8YR gd <sup>460</sup> 272 .561 1:24 1:582 MGM GP L3		P. Engblom 1057-199-183-141 (188)		40000 7 8 <sup>10</sup> 8 <sup>9</sup> <sub>9</sub> 8 <sup>8</sup> <sub>9</sub> 8 <sup>10</sup> 8 <sup>10</sup>		Br.- Black Creek Farm & Hickory Hollow Stables, IN		22 YR 0 0 0 0		-\$Life 64 27 11 7		-\$726,444	
30 Nov24 5M1 fst <sup>370</sup> 281 .563 1:24 1:504 Qua													
11 Nov24 9YR fst <sup>570</sup> 271 .572 1:24 1:53 MGM GP L2													
4 Nov24 7YR fst <sup>520</sup> 272 .56 1:23 1:51 MGM GP L1													
28 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>510</sup> 271 .561 1:24 1:51 Inv													
21 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>670</sup> 264 .562 1:23 1:521 Inv													
7 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>600</sup> 272 .58 1:25 1:53 Inv													
30 Sep24 8YR fst <sup>650</sup> 263 .552 1:23 1:513 Inv													

<b>8 WHATS STANLEY GOT A(L)</b> 71:50.2 (1) \$6,603		b g 8, by Heston Blue Chip, Whats Nero Got by Art Major		Last 5 Sts-\$34,440		1:51 YR		24 YR 25 5 9 3		\$237,720 24 Tot 36 5 9 3		-\$237,720	
20-1 J. Stratton 1704-200-242-234 (117)		Vip Internet Stable LLC, Piscataway, NJ; Stratton Stable Inc, State Hill, NJ		50000 1 4 <sup>5</sup> <sub>4</sub> 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub> 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub> 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub> 4 <sup>3</sup> <sub>4</sub>		1:50.2 M1		23 YR 14 4 5 2		\$96,500 23 Tot 18 5 6 3		-\$100,671	
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28 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>510</sup> 271 .561 1:24 1:51 Inv													
21 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>670</sup> 264 .562 1:23 1:521 Inv													
7 Oct24 8YR fst <sup>600</sup> 272 .58 1:25 1:53 Inv													
30 Sep24 8YR fst <sup>650</sup> 263 .552 1:23 1:513 Inv													

UNCOUPLED ENTRIES PER NYRC 411.15 (L) TREATED WITH LASIX

# Pick 6 Carryover at Big M Thursday

While it's true that last Thursday's (Dec. 5) 10-race program at The Meadowlands didn't offer stakes-caliber racing, what it did provide is what many players love: Racing that is ultra-competitive where bettors can make a big score, like the one that came when the 20-cent Pick-5 returned \$28,712.22.

Tonight (Thursday, Dec. 12), The Big M will offer the second of two Thursday cards on the 2024 calendar.

In addition to the Thursday Pick-5, The Meadowlands was the place for big fields and big payoffs last weekend.

During the course of the Thursday card, seven favorites tasted defeat, setting up payouts that no doubt pleased those with winning tickets. The Early 50-cent Pick-4 returned \$4,030.50, the Late Pick-5 \$580.55 and the 20-cent Pick-6 \$3,634.13.

"Our fans like having a shot at making a score, and last Thursday proves those chances exist," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. "That opportunity will be there again [tonight] when there is a carryover in the Pick-6."

Saturday's (Dec. 7) Pick-6 went unhit, creating a carryover of \$4,038. Now, before you are unimpressed by that number, take note of the following:

If \$20,000 in "new money" is wagered, players will be swimming in a highly appealing pool. After removing the small takeout, the total pool would be \$21,038, meaning winning tickets would pay out more money than what's taken in, a "negative takeout". Simply put, in this scenario, the return would be 5 percent more than the amount that is wagered. Advantage: Player.

The Pick 6 starts in race five and offers a 15 percent takeout.

The Big M's betting menu has many opportunities for players to bet into a pool with a low 15 percent takeout. This puts more money back in the hands of horseplayers. This is illustrated by what the payout would have been before The Meadowlands decreased the takeout by 40 per cent, from 25 to 15 per cent. Clearly, this has helped horseplayers stay in the game.

Last Thursday's Pick-5 returned \$28,712, precisely \$3,378 more with the lower takeout; on Friday, the payout was \$11,938, a little over \$1,400 more than what it would have paid with the higher takeout.

Thursday's Pick-4 came back \$4,030, \$475 more with the lower takeout, while on Saturday, the giant payoff of \$25,609 was more than \$3,000 better.

The Pick-6 on Thursday paid \$4,275, \$503 more than if the higher takeout was still in effect.

The payout on the 20-cent Survivor Pick-7 on Friday was \$5,478, which meant an extra \$645 in someone's Christmas stocking.

Finally, the Thursday 10-cent Pentafecta (or Hi-5, if you prefer), paid off \$3,379, approximately \$400 more.

"We here at The Meadowlands understand that giving the horseplayers a beatable game is crucial to a successful business model," said Settlemoir. "With large fields, competitive racing, low takeouts and situational negative or near-negative takeouts, we have created the gambling landscape that gives horseplayers a much better chance to win."

**BIG FIELDS, BIG OPPORTUNITIES:** Cold weather be damned!

The Meadowlands will once again offer big fields all weekend (Dec. 12-14) long.

On Thursday, the average field size is 9.7, Friday is 9.9 and Saturday is 9.5. There will be 38 races contested at The Big M over the three days, and 31 of them will offer full 10-horse fields (82 per cent).

**MUCH APPRECIATED:** On Saturday, Dec. 28, head to The Meadowlands for Fan Appreciation Night.

"We'd like to thank our fans for a fantastic year," said Settlemoir. "And while we are extremely appreciative of our players who bet us on the various simulcast networks, we like letting our on-track faithful know that we love it when they are inside the building."

There will be discounted concessions offered from 6-11 p.m. that night. For just \$1 in the Cafe, one can purchase hot dogs, pretzels, popcorn and soda.

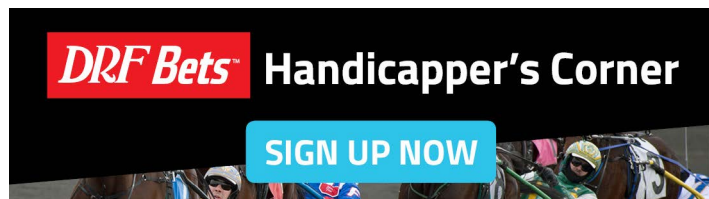
Bud and Bud Light draft, also available at the Café, will be just \$2.

**-edited release (Meadowlands)**

## DERICK GIWNER'S PICK 6 TICKET

As the article above mentions, Thursday's races are far from easy so your options are to go big or take some stands in this sequence. I chose the former.

**.20 TICKET: 1,6,10 / 1,2,7,9 / 2 / 6,7,8 / 3,6,7,8,9,10 / 2,5,10 = \$129.60**



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, DECEMBER 12

#### RACE 1

(4) GREEN MONSTER is fastest in here and he need only get more aggressive earlier in the mile to break his maiden tonight; top call.

**-Garnet Barnsdale**



**WOODBINE**  
MOHAWK PARK

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

#### RACE 10

(7) FACTORY GIRL scored in her first start since February and I don't think that was a fluke since she showed plenty of ability when she was younger. DiDomenico trainee steps up a level but should be able to handle the task at hand.

**-Derick Giwner**



#### RACE 9

(2) WHATINEEDISAMAN just missed last week in her return to the Engblom barn and she was rock-solid for these connections earlier this season.

**-Matt Rose**



### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

#### RACE 10

(7) RUTHLESS HANOVER gets a ton of class relief after facing the best pacers in training lately. Seven-year-old will be firing to the front and it is unlikely he'll be caught.

**-Giwner**



### FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Freehold Analysis

[Friday](#)

Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

**DHP PPS**

**HARNESSEYE PPS**

**TRACKMASTER PPS**

**FREE PPS**

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNESSE

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## MONSTER \$34,963 PENTAFECTA AT DOVER THURSDAY

There will be a \$34,963 Pentafecta carryover at Bally's Dover on Thursday December 12. The wager will be offered on the 15th and final race on the betting card and is a .50-cent wager.

-edited release (Dover)

## MEADOWLANDS AMATEUR DRIVING CLUB RAISES OVER \$100K IN 2024

The Meadowlands Amateur Driving Club (MADC) is making an impact this holiday season with their end-of-season charity donations.

"This year, the MADC is donating \$110,000 to a diverse range of charities in the area. These include horse charities, standardbred retirement homes, food pantries, veteran's charities, St Jude's, Toys For Tots, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society," said Club President Joe Lee, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the club's charitable efforts.

[READ MORE](#)

## LORNE HOUSE TAKES DRIVERS HOLIDAY CHALLENGE IN THRILLING FASHION

The fifth edition of The Raceway's Drivers Holiday Challenge on Tuesday night came right down to the wire and, when the dust settled, it was locally-based Lorne House who took home the title with a one-point victory over 2024 Ontario Regional driving champion Tyler Borth.

[READ MORE](#)

## DR J STALLION MANAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE ON DEC. 18

The second annual Dr. J Stallion Management Open house is scheduled for Wednesday December 18, 2024 from 12-3 pm in The Three Diamonds Room at Scioto Downs racetrack in Columbus Ohio. Please join us for an afternoon of horse talk and camaraderie as we showcase our 5 stallions.

Event highlights include:

- Meet and greet 4 of the 5 stallions. Get up close and personal with Captain Albano, Carbine, It's Academic and Rockyroad Hanover as well as Odds On Racing's Odds On Equuleus. Photos are welcome and encouraged.
- Chat with the human stars of the sport, Hall of Famers Ron Burke and Dave Miller, Scioto Downs' leading trainer Virgil Morgan and leading driver Chris Page.
- Free pedigree matching for your mare to any of our stallions.
- A raffle to win a free breeding to Carbine (owner of mare must be present to win).
- A delicious catered lunch as well as a shuttle service between the clubhouse and paddock area will be provided.

All industry participants are invited, we hope to see you there!

-release (Dr. J. Stallion Management)

## OHHA TV AND TICKETS GIVEAWAY SCHEDULED AT NORTHFIELD PARK

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) will be giving away five large-screen televisions, tickets to a football game, Roku sticks, and subscriptions to Racetrack Television on Saturday, December 14th at MGM Northfield Park in Cleveland. The giveaways are part of Northfield Park's Santa Sack Fan Appreciation night.

The contest is free to enter and open to anyone 18 years and older. No purchase is required, but contestants must be present to win.

Contestants will be selected randomly from entries collected that day. Those selected will draw an envelope that will have the name of a horse for the corresponding race. If that horse wins, the contestant will win the prize package. All other contestants will receive \$50 vouchers.

Televisions will be given away in races 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10.

MGM Northfield Park will also have several promotions as part Santa's Sack including Pick-An-Ornament prize drawing, Ohio Lottery Reindeer races where guests can win up to \$200 in Ohio Lottery tickets, and the Ohio Lottery Spin and Win prize wheel to win Ohio Lottery tickets, promo times, and more.

First race post time at MGM Northfield Park is 6:00 PM.

-release (OHHA)

## MEADOWLANDS TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION DRIVE THIS FRIDAY

This Friday, December 13, is the last night to donate to the Meadowlands Racetrack's Toys for Tots Collection Drive. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, can make a significant difference in a child's life this holiday season.

Quincy Enunwa and PIX 11's Perry Sook will be at the track Friday, beginning at 6:30 pm, to thank all who have donated to this great cause.

The US Marines Toys for Tots and Quincy Enunwa will personally deliver the collected toys to children at SBH Health System, a Safety Net Hospital in the Bronx, NYC, on Tuesday, December 17th, at noon.

"We encourage all of our patrons and horsemen to donate a new unwrapped toy during this holiday season," said Jason M. Settlemoir, GM/COO of the Meadowlands Racetrack. "Helping others in need is what the holiday season is all about."

For more information on the Toys for Tots collection drive and live racing, visit [PlayMeadowlands.com](http://PlayMeadowlands.com).

-release (Meadowlands)

## DREW CAMPBELL TALLIES FOR 6,000TH TIME

Veteran driver Drew Campbell skillfully secured lifetime driving victory number 6,000 on Saturday (Dec. 7) at Cumberland Raceway, winning three races overall on the mid-day racing program. In the tenth race on the card, Campbell fed Sixfingerfreddie racetrack from the start and never looked back, tackling the lofty threshold.

[READ MORE](#)

## CAL EXPO RAISES CURTAIN FRIDAY NIGHT

Watch and Wager LLC is set to kick off its 13th year as operator of Cal Expo harness on Friday evening with an Open Pace featuring Allmyx'sliventexas and Alilthundadownunda and Open Trot that brings out All Champy and Pridecrest.

Following two weeks of Friday racing, the 39-night meet will be conducted on a Friday and Saturday night basis beginning Dec. 27.

First post on Friday evenings will be 6:45 p.m. with a 6:30 p.m. starting time for the Saturday action.

Pridecrest is one of the most popular performers here in recent years and the Kathie Plested trainee has the cozy rail post with Mooney Svendsen doing the honors.

Set to face the trotter on Friday are Valottalove, All Champy, Lous Lancelot, Silverhill Volo and Dylan The Great.

Allmyx'sliventexas and Alilthundadownunda have both gone their share of powerful miles over this course and have been assigned the outside posts in the Open Pace.

There will also be an elimination heat for next week's Funicello/Holt Pace for fillies and mares that kicks off the late-closing events at the meet.

## Low takeout bets highlight wagering menu

Fans will find the return of three bets with a reduced 16 percent takeout rate when the trotters and pacers return to Cal Expo Friday night.

The three wagers with the reduced takeout are the 20-cent early and late Pick 5 and the 20-cent Pick 4.

The Pick 5, along with the Pick 7, will feature an 80% major/20% minor pool payout with an 80% carryover if no correct tickets are sold.

If there are no correct Pick 4 tickets, 90% will carryover and 10% will be distributed to the most winners.

The 20-cent Hi 5, which will be conducted on the final race each night, will have a 100% carryover if no correct tickets is sold.

Looking at the stakes schedule, there will be a total of \$420,000 distributed in the California Sire Stakes with \$230,000 earmarked for the late closing events.

The May 2 Closing night program will feature a pair of \$50,000 races for the 4-year-old pacing colts and geldings and the 4-year-old pacing fillies.

-release (Mark Ratzky for Cal Expo)