

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

# MAKING YONKERS RACEWAY

## Safe Again



Track Superintendent Ed Angell looks over a frosty Yonkers Raceway as snow falls

PHOTO COURTESY ED ANGELL

### ON THE BACKSTRETCH

BY DERICK GIWNER

### TRACK SUPERINTENDENT ED ANGELL

How did you get started in track maintenance?

When people show up at the track to watch and wager on the racing they likely don't spend any time wondering how the surface of the track remains in good shape regardless of the weather. In all cases that is due to the track superintendent, who is in charge of making sure the horses and drivers have a safe environment to do their work.

At Yonkers Raceway that job belongs to Ed Angell, a former military man who got into the business about 10 years ago and has turned around a track that was known for constant cancellations into one that has recently weathered multiple snow events and days of freezing-cold temperatures. The 57-year-old was kind enough to take some time out of his hectic schedule on a week filled with rain, snow and sleet to talk about his journey and track maintenance in general. I think you'll appreciate his work ethic and the knowledge he provides on his craft. Enjoy!

I worked at Plainridge Racetrack in Plainville, Massachusetts. I started out driving the starting gate. One day a friend said to me 'I heard you were in the military' and I told him I used to work in submarines. He asked if I used to drive the submarines and I said, 'yes, we just went straight' [laughing]. He said that was exactly what we need, someone that can drive the car straight. I started in 2015 under Steve O'Toole. Over the years I started staying around and helped out with the track after I was done and as time went on some people who were elderly started leaving and I moved up the chain really quickly, like in a couple of years. Steve O'Toole then asked me if I wanted to be the track manager. I had been doing it for two years and had learned from Steve's 50 years of experience. He was between a rock and a hard place because people left and I ran the track

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

THURSDAYS FREE DIGITAL DRF PPS 

4 NIGHTS A WEEK  
**WOODBINE**  
STANDARD BRED  
**RACING**

\$75,000 GUARANTEED  
EARLY PICK 5

STANDARD BRED

**PICK**

**6**



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Engblom stable ready to roll on opening day at Pocono Downs
- Jay Bergman: Looking at Alliance Bloodstock with Boni & Diamond Creek
- Keith Gisser: Checking to see what condition my condition is in
- Walkin On Sunshine has connections feeling good
- Best Bets & Analysis
- Pick 5 carryover at Miami Valley on Thursday
- Deadlines approaching for February payments; Last call for Dan Patch tickets; Go On Boy takes Prix de France
- Comments? Questions? Email the Editor [DGiwner@DRF.com](mailto:DGiwner@DRF.com)

Advertise with



For more information or to place an ad, contact:

Derick Giwner at [dgiwner@drf.com](mailto:dgiwner@drf.com)

**ADVERTISE  
YOUR  
STALLION  
TODAY**

# **Always **B** Miki**

*New to Kentucky for 2025*

## **Now eligible for the Kentucky Stallion Bonus!**

*Resulting foals from mares who complete the 180-day KY residency will be eligible for a 50% purse bonus in all legs and finals of the **Kentucky Sire Stakes** and **Kentucky Proud** series.*

## **Always BREED THE BEST**



### **MIKI AND MINNIE**

*winner of the \$700,000 Breeders' Crown for 2YO Fillies, \$400,000 KY Sires Stakes, etc. and Dan Patch Award Winning-2YO Filly Pacer of 2024.*

### **DIRECTION**

*winner of the \$400,000 KY Sire Stakes, etc.*

### **STRONG POISION**

*winner of the \$150,000 KY Sires Stakes Series, etc.*

### **SYLVIA HANOVER**

*winner of the \$100,000 Clara Barton S., Allerage Fillies and Mares S., etc.*



**DIAMOND  
CREEK**

2025 FEE: \$7,500

**ALWAYS B MIKI**

ALWAYS A VIRGIN X ARTSTOPPER

717-638-7100 | [OFFICE@DIAMONDCREEKFARM.COM](mailto:OFFICE@DIAMONDCREEKFARM.COM)



for the next three years. The whole thing was simply by coincidence. A friend asked me if I could drive the gate car and the rest is history.

### **What type of education goes into a profession like that? Is it all on the job training?**

I was green to it. I caught on really quick and just kinda understood what it took to keep a horse safe and keep the track going. I had a lot of mentors. My saying has always been that if you are going to give me 50 years of your knowledge for free, I'm going to take it. Over the years that is what has gotten me to where I am now. I've only been doing this for 10 years, being a trackman, but I've leaned on a lot of shoulders and different people.

### **With a track like Yonkers that races five nights a week, does it require more maintenance than one that races just twice a week?**

This is the hardest racetrack in the world. We'd be out there seven days a week if we could. We only work six days a week because management doesn't want us here on Sundays unless there are special circumstances like this past weekend. It was my wife's birthday, Super Bowl Sunday and we didn't leave the track all weekend. We started eight o'clock Saturday night.

This track has a 14 degree banking. It is very hard to hold material on the track. When I got here they told me about all the cancelations they were having and I made it a point to find every quarry I could in New York to ask for material that would bind up and stick together. I went back to Plainridge to take two samples and asked the places if they had something similar. Plainridge is a lot flatter than Yonkers but I happened to find a couple of products that worked. I'm a perfectionist I won't leave the track until it is perfect. I'm here 12 to 14 hours a day from eight or nine in the morning until probably the tenth race every day. I do it for the horses because without them we don't have a job.

### **You touched on the track at Yonkers having a bad reputation for many years but I've heard much more praise lately. What other changes have you made since starting two years ago?**

We got a new trackman named Dillon Auth. I'm not saying that the rest of the track crew isn't amazing but this young kid has done a great job. Over here I can't touch the equipment because it is all union based. This kid has been my superstar. He's just like me, a perfectionist. At five of four last night he wouldn't get off the track. I actually had to tell him to get off. I told him, 'it's good for tonight' because we were there all day on Sunday. Other than me coming in with different ideas, I believe he is the reason this track turned around. To have the track right you have to be out there all day.

Another person I'd like to mention is Gary Wolffe. He is the one that told me I should take the job at Yonkers. At the time I lived five minutes away from the track at Plainridge and I was like 'what are you talking about?' He inspected my track many times at Plainridge and was filling in as a consultant at Yonkers. He told Alex Dadoyan that he had someone that could get the track back racing every night. Alex gave me a call, I showed up that next Monday and I never left. That was October of 2022.

### **So you can't operate any of the equipment?**

I can't touch anything. I can't even pick up a pylon. So that's the toughest part of my job because the track superintendent wants to touch it, feel it, smell it; that's what we do. I have to dictate what I want done to someone else and that is very hard to do. Most people can't catch on to that, which is why I credit Dillon. This kid said 'you have the knowledge and I know how to operate the machinery. You tell me what to do.' So far I think we've only had one cancelation due to Mother Nature. I really couldn't do this job without the crew. I have the wand but they make it happen.

### **Recently you've been dealing with a lot of bad weather – snow, rain, sleet. Has it been difficult to keep the track in top shape?**

Yes, very difficult. We go through a lot of material and a lot of man hours. To get the track ready after snow it is imperative that you get it off the track as soon as you can. I believe in letting the snow fall and taking it off all in one shot. Other people believe in chasing the storm [clearing it as it falls]. I have four or five operators that work with me and they know how to operate every piece of equipment. Without them we would not be able to run the track.



COURTESY ED ANGELL

## **Ed Angell has only been involved in harness racing for 10 years but has secured himself a great position at Yonkers Raceway and has overseen a big turnaround in the quality of the track surface.**

### **Are the hours much longer in the winter than the summer?**

Yes. The first week we were here, we opened on January 20, that week the temperatures didn't get above 20 degrees all week. The track was frozen solid. I got here Saturday at four in the afternoon and we stayed on the track until seven o'clock Monday night. We had over 48 hours of overtime that weekend to make sure we didn't fail on opening night. If you let a track freeze you'll never get it back. You have to freeze dry the track, unfreeze dry the track. It takes several hours.

### **Do you have any other connections to the sport outside of your job? Family?**

The reason why I even got into it was because I love the horses. I used to go to Narraganset Racetrack with my father. I still have memories when I was 11 years old of watching the horses run with him.

My two brothers were involved. They used to work at Narraganset Racetrack. Secretariat ran there. My brother Jack was a bug rider and my brother Jeff was a groom. They both lived at the track in a tack room and I remember going to visit them with my dad. For many years we would go to Rockingham, Foxboro and all over.

### **Have you ever owned a horse?**

No because I've always worked for organizations where if you are the trackman you can't own a horse.

### **Sometimes it seems like a superintendent can make the track more speed favoring or tiring at will. Is it really that easy?**

Yes. You can tighten up a track as fast as you can loosen up a track, but I put the same track out there every day. Sometimes people will come up to me and tell me that their horses have bad feet and ask me to soften that track. I tell them that I can't adjust the track for your horse because that is fixing horse races and I'll lose my job. I try to keep the same track



**2017 Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year  
and Breeders Crown Champion.**

**With the  
Pennsylvania Sire Stakes  
Final Purses increased  
to \$300,000 for 2025,  
Stay Hungry is truly the  
value stallion  
standing for \$6,000.**

**HURRY AND BOOK YOUR  
MARES NOW BEFORE  
ITS TOO LATE.**

**STANDOUT STALLION**  
**STAY HUNGRY**

**Somebeachsomewhere - My Little Dragon | p, 3, 1:47.3 (\$1,303,709)**

STAY HUNGRY has cemented his position as a top sire in Pennsylvania. He consistently throws a uniform, sound, good looking individual.

As trainer **ANDREW HARRIS** stated  
**“they are honest and great gaited”**

Trainer **TONY ALAGNA** praised his two 2024 yearling filly purchases by saying  
**“they show the gait, quick turn of foot and attitude to be top fillies”.**

Hailing from pacing royalty on both sides - Somebeachsomewhere (\$3.3M) - My Little Dragon (\$2.3M) - Stay Hungry was an exceptional racehorse who is now passing on his talent as demonstrated by such standouts as **SEVEN COLORS** p, 3, 1:48.1h (\$1,030,129); **ZANATTA** p, 3, 1:50.1h (\$752,996); **HUNGRY FOR LOVE** p, 3, 1:49 (\$564,436); **SARASOTA HANOVER** p, 3, 1:48.1 (\$251,065); **HUNGRY ANGEL BOY** p, 3, 1:48.2 (\$353,155); etc.



[www.hanoverpa.com](http://www.hanoverpa.com)

Phone: (717) 637-8931 | Fax: (717) 637-6766 | Email: [hanover@hanoverpa.com](mailto:hanover@hanoverpa.com)

Captaintreacherous • Captain Corey • Greenshoe • International Moni • Nuncio • Papi Rob Hanover • Sig Sauer • Stay Hungry • Tall Dark Stranger • Volume Eight

Photo: Barbara Livingston



every day with an inch of cushion out there. But back to your question, all it takes is a shot of water and two screens and it can be like concrete. We are working with stone dust and it is a form of concrete. If you opened up a bag of Quikrete it is almost exactly what we are using on the track. When you add water it hardens up.

**You say that you try to keep the track the same all the time but what about on a big card or for a race like the MGM Yonkers International Trot?**

I never try to fix the track unless there is a reason brought about by Mother Nature. I watch the weather two or three days out. You cannot be a trackman without watching the weather. I don't leave this track if there is bad weather. I sleep here in a chair, sometimes overnight. They think I'm crazy but I have a love for the game. I believe you have to be here for the track to be correct.

**I saw you are newly married in the last few years. If you are sleeping at the track, how does your wife take it?**

My wife [Kimberly] says, 'Ed, it has always been your dream to be a track superintendent and now you have that job at one of the biggest tracks in the world. You do what you do.' She stands by me every minute. Without her there would be no me. She sends food up for the guys every week. I go home on the weekends. I have an apartment in Riverdale that I stay in Monday through Friday and I go home to Providence, Rhode Island on the weekends, weather permitting.

**What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?**

I'm a high school referee. I referee baseball, basketball and football. I'll usually referee two or three games on Saturday and again on Sunday. I try to keep busy.

# Engblom stable ready to roll on opening day at Pocono Downs

By Jay Bergman

The 2025 racing season will get underway on Saturday afternoon at The Downs at Pocono with 15 races on a card that commences at 1:00 p.m. (EST) and features the popular Game of Claims series. The Game of Claims offers seven \$17,000 divisions for horses with a price tag of \$25,000.

One of last year's top trainers, Per Engblom returns to Pocono ready for action with two entered in the Game of Claims and three other talented horses from his large New Jersey-based collection.

Speedy Dominic A has won two of his four starts since arriving from Ohio last December in the Engblom stable and hopes to get back on winning form in the first Game of Claims division and first race on the Pocono card.

"When he's good he's been very good," said Engblom of the 11-year-old Australian-born son of American Ideal. "Last time out he wasn't good, but I expect him to bounce back."

Speedy Dominic A drew post seven on the outside of the first race field and will be dropping in class, having competed with \$30,000 claimers in his prior two starts at Yonkers. He's only raced once on a five-eighths mile track for Engblom but had little chance in a race against conditioned company at Harrah's Philadelphia on the last day of 2024.

Engblom sends out Madelines Blk Jack (post 1) in the second race and second Game of Claims division. "Jeff (Fought) and Brian (Carsey) sent him my way from Ohio," Engblom said. "They've sent some nice horses before. He's trained well and I expect him to race well."

Madelines Blk Jack has drawn outside in three of his last four starts and should be closer to the action in his debut for Engblom.

Engblom welcomed the opening of Pocono as it finally allowed him some flexibility in getting horses from his large stable raced and placing them in classes where they fit. King Alphonso (post 3) is an 8-year-old on the comeback trail that Engblom believes fit the class structure better at Pocono than the Meadowlands this week. King Alphonso will be looking for his second straight win having won at the non-winners of \$7,500 level at The Meadowlands on February 1. Saturday's third contest is a non-winners of \$9,500, a comfortable fit for the veteran son of Muscle Hill. The field does have some classy types with Dejerate Hanover (post 6), a 10-time winner in 2024, in search of his first victory of the year for the sport's top conditioner Ron Burke.

Saturday's featured race at Pocono will be the tenth race with a \$25,000 purse for pacers that are winners over \$25,000 lifetime. The top class brings a solid collection of eight horses and Engblom is delighted to have All Class back to the races after being sidelined since last July.

"He had an issue with a tendon, so we gave him time to recover," said Engblom of All Class' time away from competitive racing. "He qualified back strongly and I'm expecting some big things from him this year."



DERICK GIWNER

**Per Engblom finished third in North America for stable earnings in 2024.**

his decision to enter All Class at Pocono. The five-eighths mile track shouldn't be an issue for the son of Heston Blue Chip since he raced quite often over the Pocono strip as a sophomore in 2023 competing in the Weiss Series.

All Class will face a solid group, with Spring Inhis Step A (post 3) and Sport Secret (post 5) a pair from the powerful Jeff Cullipher stable entering the race in razor-sharp condition.

Primary Colors wraps up the afternoon program for Engblom-based pacers in the 14th race non-winners of \$17,500 with a purse of \$16,500.

"He's another one that I've had difficulty getting in at the Meadowlands," said Engblom. "He prefers the mile track."

Primary Colors has won two of his first three starts of 2025 at The Meadowlands and not only moves up in class but also lands post seven in the field. He will be driven by Tyler Buter and is the only one of Engblom's horses on the afternoon without the services of Jason Bartlett.

Primary Colors will start directly outside of last year's surprise winner in the Sam McKee Memorial Rocknroll Runa A. Trainer Larry Stalbaum gave the 8-year-old minimal time off with both Yonkers and Saratoga shuttered but got his stable's star back into action on Monday (February 10) with a solid third-place finish. Adding depth to this field is the \$1.7 million winner Backstreet Shadow (post 4) for trainer Travis Alexander.



DEO VOLENTE  
FARMS

2025 STALLIONS  
Quality Over Quantity!

## TRIXTON

(Muscle Hill - Emilie Cas El - Garland Lobell) • 2,1:54.4s; 3,1:50.3 (\$968,696)



**Hambo Champ & Sire of Multiple OSS Winner from 1st Ontario Crop!**

- A \$360,000 yearling from two of trotting's greatest families.
- Sire of multiple 2024 OSS winning two-year-old **COUSIN HALIFAX** (2,1:56s -'24; \$46,750).
- Sire of O'Brien Award winner **EVIDENT BEAUTY** 3,1:52.2 (\$890,866).
- Sire of 77, \$100,000+ earners and 79 in 1:55.

Standing in Ontario at Winbak Farm.  
2025 FEE: \$7,500 (U.S.)



## SIX PACK

(Muscle Mass - Pleasing Lady - Cantab Hall) • 3,1:49.1 (\$1,973,661)



**Sire of the Two-Year-Old NJSS Champion in 2024!**

- The **ONLY** trotting stallion to win sub-1:50 twice!
- The sire of 2024 two-year-old NJSS Champion **NORDIC CATCHER S** 2,1:53.3 -'24 (\$329,227).
- The sire of 2024 three-year-old Bluegrass Stakes winner **MR BLUEBIRD** 3,1:53.1 -'24 (\$282,796).
- Already the sire of 10, \$100,000+ winners!

Standing in New York at Winbak Farm.  
2025 FEE: \$7,500 (U.S.)



## PERFECT STING

(Always B Miki - Shebestingin - Bettors Delight) • p,2,1:49.2; 3,1:48.1 (\$1,861,447)



**First Crop of Yearlings Were 'Buzzing' in Lexington!**

- By a World Champion and out of a World Champion!
- Breeders Crown champ at both two & three (undefeated at two).
- His 1st crop colt, **BAALBEK**, brought \$460,000 in the 2024 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.
- His 46 Lexington Yearlings averaged \$68,674.

Standing in New Jersey at Deo Volente Farms.  
2025 FEE: \$10,000 (U.S.)



DEO VOLENTE  
FARMS

908-782-4848

Call and inquire about our  
multiple mare discounts and our  
loyalty discounts!

deovolentefarms.com



# Strength in numbers: Boni's Northwood Bloodstock joins with Diamond Creek to form Alliance Bloodstock



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

For longtime bloodstock agent Bob Boni the recent announcement of a merger between his Northwood Bloodstock company and Diamond Creek's sales force was a long time in the making.

"I've been talking with Adam (Bowden) over the years about something like this," Boni said. "The time was right."

Alliance Bloodstock was announced in January, with Boni and Diamond Creek's Shaun Laungani heading the company. Boni brings years of wisdom to the energetic and efficient team at Diamond Creek. The move suggests that unlike some mergers where businesses contract, the Alliance Bloodstock venture should help the collective expand at many ventures going forward.

"We started selling for outside clients four years ago," said Laungani. "Bob's sold thousands of horses and has built relationships."

Diamond Creek and Northwood have been major agencies at the two primary U.S. Standardbred yearling sales annually and that is not likely to change, though the numbers could escalate.

"I expect that we'll also be selling more horses at the Ohio and Indiana sales," said Boni. "This represents a great opportunity for smaller breeders to sell with us."

the Year Confederate, who in turn became the first homebred stallion to stand at Diamond Creek, with his first foals sprinkling in over the last week.

Boni's Northwood Bloodstock has many ties already with smaller breeding farms and that business will be incorporated into the Alliance sales catalog. What Diamond Creek's connection will get from Boni is the wisdom to dealing with varying types of customers and improving the entire package for both buyer and seller.

"The Diamond Creek team does a great job already," said Boni. "Hopefully I can help them achieve even greater success moving forward."

With his vast experience Boni understands that the yearling sale climate is rife with uncertainty, with many of today's breeding farms also active in the racing business as well. Diamond Creek has done a great job mixing the two over the last few years, selling and owning champions on the track. The difficulty at times is in perception with potential buyers concerned that the cream of any farms crop may already have been taken off the table before they reach the sales.

"I think you have to market where people understand the circumstances going in," said Boni, recognizing that transparency is a must in today's auction business.

Many major farms have retained horses over the years and there has been no study to suggest a higher success rate than with horses sold at public auction. No matter the pedigree or physical prowess exhibited, horses become champions on the racetrack.

Boni also expects that Alliance will be able to garner a greater number of horses to sell in mixed sales, with owners and breeders needing to cull and restock on a regular basis to fine-tune operations.

"With us (Diamond Creek), we're looking to get greater support for our stallions," said Laungani. "We're trying to help people out that help support our stallions. Maybe they need to sell, and we can help them on that side.

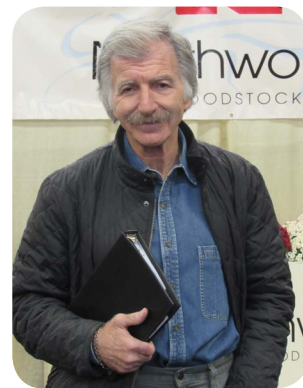
"With Bob we now have a capacity to do more."

What's paramount to any sales success is the level of trust buyers have in the product being sold. Perhaps that's the key element in the Alliance merger since Boni's reputation among buyers and sellers has been forged on years of experience and wisdom shared that has helped buyers purchase with confidence and sellers enjoy realistic returns on their offerings. Boni brings a wealth of experience at yearling sales and that is vital when you consider the number of horses trainers and owners need to examine before any horse heads to the auction ring. Over the years Boni has shown the keen ability to understand the type of horses certain buyers are looking for and steer them in the right direction. This has helped buyers manage time constraints and improve the overall experience.

Horse sales in general are not among the easiest places to find all people smiling when the hammer comes down. For those who market to the sellers, the most important factor is to do the best possible job and getting the horses exposed in a positive way prior to auction. With Boni joining Diamond Creek's team, the overall benefit will be that sellers will see their horses receive a higher level of attention and hopefully have that translate to more bidders and higher prices.

"A lot has do with building traffic," said Laungani. "We'll have something for everybody."

Over the last 20 years Diamond Creek Farms' growth and success appears to be part of a solid business plan. With the merger with Bob Boni's Northwood Bloodstock and emergence of the collective Alliance Bloodstock, the next step is in place to build a force in the bloodstock agency business with the depth to handle an increasing number of breeders' needs going forward.



COURTESY HRU  
Bloodstock agent Bob Boni.

# ALLIANCE BLOODSTOCK **AB**

Boni has done business with Diamond Creek over the years, offering his expertise in evaluations that help assist in insuring many horses. Boni learned the breeding business from the ground up with a career that began at Pine Hollow Stud Farms in New York and would later grow out in a partnership with Lou Guida that landed him front and center in the rollout to champion Niatross' first crop. Boni was part of a team that looked at every yearling from that first crop and tried to purchase the best-looking and hopefully best-qualified to race as 2-year-olds in 1984. From that select group emerged world champion Nihilator, the premier 2- and 3-year-old from Niatross' first crop. Nihilator won 35 of his 38 races in his career with \$3.2 million banked, giving Guida the champion he was looking for and Boni much of the credit for his keen eye in assessing pedigree and conformation.

"It's ironic," said Boni of his first encounter with Diamond Creek's Adam Bowden. "I remember he purchased Western Montana at the Harrisburg Sale (2005)."

Boni didn't know Bowden at the time but the acquisition of a pacing filly with close blood lines to Nihilator was intriguing. Now, nearly 20 years later, it is Bowden's Diamond Creek that has been transformed by that singular purchase as well. Western Montana was not only a stakes-winning filly but has emerged as Diamond Creek's foundation mare over the course of an incredible run in the breeding shed. Most recently her daughter Geothermal produced the 2023 Horse of



*The Hambletonian Society, Inc.*  
Supporting and encouraging the breeding of Standardbred horses for more than 100 years

# PAYMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 15\*

*One list and one check keeps your horses eligible to these top events.*



- 3-year-old Trotters**
- Arden Downs
  - Bally's Randy
  - Battle of Bunker Hill Trot
  - Breeders Crown
  - Carl Erskine
  - Catholic Cowboy Series (NEW)
  - Circle City
  - Colonial / Oaks
  - Crossroads of America
  - Currier & Ives
  - Delmonica Hanover
  - Dexter Cup \* at Meadowlands
  - Earl Beal Jr. Memorial
  - Hambletonian / Oaks
  - Horseman
  - Keystone Classics
  - Landmark
  - Liberty Bell
  - Matron Series
  - NY NY Mile
  - Pegasus Series
  - Pennsylvania All-Stars
  - Phil Langley Memorial
  - W.N. Reynolds Memorial
  - John Simpson Sr. Memorial
  - Star Destroyer Series
  - Thanksgiving Classic Series
  - Tompkins-Geers
  - MGM Yonkers Trot

- 3-year-old Pacers**
- The Delvin Miller Adios / Adioo Volo
  - Bally's Randy
  - Breeders Crown
  - Cane Pace
  - Catholic Cowboy Series (NEW)
  - Circle City
  - Horseman
  - James Lynch Memorial
  - Jenna's Beach Boy
  - Matron Series
  - Keystone Classics
  - Landmark
  - Liberty Bell
  - Matron Series
  - Max Hempt Memorial
  - Matron Series
  - MGM Grand Messenger Stakes
  - Monument Circle
  - Park MGM Pace
  - Paul Revere Pace
  - Pegasus Series
  - Pennsylvania All-Stars
  - Progress Pace
  - W.N. Reynolds Memorial
  - John Simpson Sr. Memorial
  - Star Destroyer Series
  - Thanksgiving Classic Series
  - Tompkins-Geers
  - USS Indianapolis Memorial

- Open Events**
- Breeders Crown
  - Caesar's Trotting Classic
  - Clara Barton Distaff Pace
  - Dan Patch
  - Dayton Trotting & Pacing Derbies
  - Dayton Distaff & Oaks Derbies
  - E.T. Gerry Jr. Hambletonian Maturity (4-year-old only)
  - Hoosier Park Pacing Derby
  - Spirit of Massachusetts Trot

- 2-year-old Events**
- Breeders Crown
  - Kentuckiana Stallion Mgt. Pace
  - Kentuckiana Stallion Mgt. Trot
  - Breeders Crown Win & You're In Races
  - Jim Doherty Memorial
  - Peter Haughton Memorial



*Visit [Hambletonian.com](http://Hambletonian.com) for complete conditions, race dates and payment forms!*





# Just checked in to see what condition my condition is in



## CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

As handicappers we spend hours poring over numbers – speed ratings, last quarter times, money earned, lengths back and so on. Many of us spend additional time watching race replays, checking every driver move, whether a horse was bad-gaited, locked in or stuck behind dead cover. One place where I think we should spend more time as handicappers is with the condition sheet.

The condition sheet is typically issued weekly and lists what races the race secretary hopes to fill on each card. He or she needs to have a knowledge of the horses available (in the old days we would say horses that were on the grounds, but with most track no longer offering stabling that's not the case). They need to know that at certain times of year, certain classes may not be available to fill and they have to work around that.

As one example, here in Ohio, neither Northfield Park nor Miami Valley currently offers a straight non-winners of one pari-mutuel race lifetime. That's because the good young horses have not started their seasons yet, and the ones that remain are perhaps not as talented. So, a conditioned claimer is written, usually with an inflated claiming price but a lower purse. Even there, horsemen need to read the condition sheet carefully. And so do we as handicappers.

Currently, Northfield offers a non-winners of one race claimer with a claiming price of \$10,000 and a purse of \$5,000; a non-winners of one with non-winners of two also eligible (the claiming tag is \$15,000 and the purse is \$8,200); and a non-winners of two with a claiming price of \$22,500 and a purse of \$9,600. These races also have an escalating (or purses won lifetime) condition – \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000. These conditioned claimers get the standard claiming allowance (20% for fillies, 25% for 4-year-olds and 50% for 3-year-olds).

When we realize all these races are available, we can use the information as a handicapping tool. If we see a horse who fits the cheaper condition racing in the middle or higher, we need to analyze why. Is he being protected for the claiming tag or do his connections really think he can compete? Young horses can improve dramatically in a short period of time, so by doing some digging, we can often either find a value or find a horse to pitch off our tickets.

The better example of the value of reading a condition sheet comes because race secretaries want full fields, so they often combine conditions. Here is one from a current Northfield condition sheet:

**Pace - NON WINNERS \$6,500 IN LAST 4 STARTS. AE: N/W \$1500 PER START IN 2024-'25 OR 2025. AE: N/W 6 PARI-MUTUEL RACES OR \$40,000 LIFETIME. AE: N/W 10 PM RACES OR \$50,000 LIFETIME CLAIMING PRICE \$40,000 (W/A). AE: CLAIMING \$22,500 (WITH ALLOWANCES)**

There are FIVE conditions written into this single race. We are not told by the program which condition each horse fits (except for the claimers), but we can figure it out. For me, right off the bat I would tend to eliminate non-winners of six and the non-winners of 10 conditioned claimer, as these are generally younger horses. However, you might get a Sires Stakes champ making a second or third start back who fits. I would give an edge to non-winners of \$6,500 last four (although I really miss the days when conditions were for last five starts as it provided a more honest picture of the horse's current form) over non-winners of \$1,500 a start in 2024-25 or 2025 since their current form is better than the long-term form of those horses. The \$22,500 claimer is a tough one. As with any claiming race, there may

be a couple “pets” who are overpriced and a couple bearcats that are being “jammed down their throats.” I prefer a straight claiming race, but if the track does not have a full field of \$22,500 claimers, we are stuck with this hodgepodge. In time, a regular handicapper of a particular track gets a good feel for which of the conditions tend to perform best.

However, for me, the biggest handicapping benefit of reading a condition sheet comes from knowing the regular class and knowing when it has been “opened up” to allow in a horse who would not otherwise be eligible. If we don't know the regular conditions we may not be aware when this happens. But if the track normally writes non-winners of \$6,500 last four and changes it to non-winners of \$6,600 last four, finding the horse that becomes eligible as a result can be a huge advantage. Similarly, if now winners of \$1,500 per start becomes non winners of \$1,520 a start, find the NW\$1,520. That horse is likely to be competitive at the least and dominant at best.

The final reason to read a condition sheet is what I call “the small print.” It's the stuff on the bottom of the sheet that applies generally. Here are a few from Northfield:

**HORSES MAKING LARGE CLASS DROPS WILL DO SO AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR OF RACING.**

So we see the double class drop which is rarely allowed. The race secretary is looking to fill a field. He is not handicapping the race. While this horse may be overbet, he is still probably a real contender.

**HORSES THAT WIN A CLASS THAT THEY FIT ONLY BY N/W \$\$\$ PER START MUST MOVE UP ONE CLASS OR CARRY A CLAIMING TAG IN NEXT START.**

This explains what may appear to be an unusual or otherwise unnecessary move up in class, and for me, means the horse should still be considered.

These are just a few examples of how being familiar with the condition sheet can help your handicapping. It may not be the biggest factor, but it has always been a factor for me. Now go cash. Hopefully on a non-winner of \$6,510 in his last four starts.



## RICHEST PACING SIRE EVER!

### MCWICKED

p, 2, 1:52f; 3, 1:47.3f; 1:46.2 (\$5,103,271)

McArdle-Western Sahara-Western Ideal

- Canadian Racing Hall of Fame Inductee & Horse Racing Hall of Fame Inductee
- #2 in 2024 ONSS Pacing Offspring Earnings (behind only *Bettor's Delight*)
- Sire of 2024 ONSS Gold Winners including:
  - Wickedpace**, p, 2, 1:52.3s -'24 (\$330,800)
  - Wikipedia**, p, 3, 1:50.3s -'24 (\$284,297)
  - Wicked N Single**, p, 2, 1:53.3 -'24 (\$170,701)

Standing at Winbak Farm of Canada for \$6,500 CAD.

Multiple mare & loyalty discounts are available.

[Click here for more information on McWicked!](#)

905.838.2145 / [www.winbakfarm.com](http://www.winbakfarm.com) / [canada@winbakfarm.com](mailto:canada@winbakfarm.com)





# IT'S THE TACTICAL APPROACH

## 2023 Trotter of the Year

EARNINGS OF  
**\$1,544,489**

Winner of the **\$1 million Hambletonian**,  
Kentucky Futurity, Breeders Crown 3YO Trot,  
Carl Erskine Trot, Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Final, etc.

### HISTORY MAKER

First colt since Muscle Hill to win the  
**Hambletonian, Breeders Crown,**  
and **Kentucky Futurity.**

The only son of  
**TACTICAL LANDING**  
at stud



Standing at  
**DIAMOND CREEK FARM**  
of Pennsylvania  
2025 Fee: **\$12,000**  
Multiple mare discounts available

# TACTICAL APPROACH

Tactical Landing - Sarcy, by Donato Hanover



DIAMOND  
CREEK

office@diamondcreekfarm.com  
717.638.7100



# Walkin On Sunshine has connections feeling good at Yonkers

By Ken Weingartner

Maynard Miller planned on giving Indiana-bred female pacer Walkin On Sunshine a chance to compete out east on the Grand Circuit, but first he wanted to provide her the opportunity to mature and ease into the transition from racing against fillies at age 3 to mares at age 4.

After watching Walkin On Sunshine close out her 4-year-old campaign in 2024 by winning seven of her last 10 races — including the Indiana Sire Stakes championship for pacing mares — and open this season with a victory in the Fillies & Mares Invitational at MGM Yonkers Raceway, even Hannibal Smith would likely be pleased with the way the plan appears to have come together.

Walkin On Sunshine, who is being pointed toward the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers, returns to the F&M Invitational on Friday (Feb. 14) at The Hilltop, where she was assigned post seven in a field of seven and is the 7-5 morning-line favorite. Jason Bartlett will handle the driving for trainer Brett Pelling.

“I wanted to give her the 4-year-old season, because I know it’s tough, the transition from 3 to 4 to go with the big dogs,” said Miller, who owns Walkin On Sunshine with Daniel Lehman and Michael Yoder. “That was kind of the plan, to give her that year to grow up, then send her out east and stake her to some stuff and have her go with some of the big girls. She filled out more and seems a lot stronger.”

“Her first going, we’re getting her ready for the Blue Chip Matchmaker (which begins March 28). Then there will be a few other stakes, and whether she’s good enough to go or not, she is going to have to tell us that. But I think the half-mile Yonkers track will suit her really good because she’s a little smaller horse and she can scoot around a half pretty good. We’ll see.”

Walkin On Sunshine is a daughter of Always A Virgin-Hatsoff Hanover from the family of Hall of Fame broodmare Hattie. She was Hatsoff Hanover’s 15th foal and is a three-quarter sister to two-time New York Sire Stakes champ and 2017 Little Brown Jug runner-up Funknawaffles. The family also includes Meadowlands Pace winners Holborn Hanover and Beach Glass.

Miller and his partners acquired Walkin On Sunshine from breeder Victory Hill Farm following the filly’s 2-year-old season, which saw her win two of eight races, finish third three times, and earn \$15,450.

Walkin On Sunshine, trained throughout her days in Indiana by Jay Cross, came back at 3 to hit the board in 14 of 20 starts, winning five and earning \$147,650. She finished third in the Indiana Sire Stakes championship.

“I bought her after her 2-year-old season, as a racehorse is what I had in mind,” Miller said. “She ended up just being better than that. After her first couple races, I thought she was more than just a regular racehorse. She just continued to get a little bit better, and a little bit better. Ricky Macomber drove her one time (in mid-July) and just kind of went down the pike with her and took a mark of (1):49 4/5. That’s when we knew she was a sire stakes filly.”

“It’s always special when they exceed what you expected.”

Last year, Walkin On Sunshine again hit the board in 14 of 20 races, this time winning eight and earning \$147,714. She got a taste of the Grand Circuit when she competed in the Dayton Distaff Derby, where she finished fourth behind Twin B Joe Fresh, Sylvia Hanover and Always B Naughty. It was one of only two finishes worse than second in her last 10 races of the season.

“I give Jay the credit for getting her to where she’s at,” Miller said. “I think he brought her along just the way you should.”

“She was sharp (to end last year). He had her sharp when we needed her. That’s a credit to him.”

As for Walkin On Sunshine’s best qualities, Miller said, “She’s so versatile and she’s so easy on herself. She will only do what you ask her to do. If you want to leave with her, she’ll leave, and she hasn’t gotten hot. Even in the barn, she’s just a good horse to be around. Normally, you find those good ones are (difficult) to be around. But she’s not.”

Walkin On Sunshine prepped for her 2025 debut with a 1:52.4 win in a qualifier at The Meadowlands on Jan. 18, covering her last quarter-mile in :26. She captured her race at Yonkers by 1-3/4 lengths in 1:54 1/5 from post six. The only downside was Miller was on a cruise and unable to watch the race live. It didn’t take long for him to know the outcome, though, as his phone began receiving congratulatory text messages.

“I asked if she won and they said she jiggy jogged,” Miller said. “That was kind of awesome.”

Racing begins at 6:45 p.m. (EST) at Yonkers.



## FOAL SPOTLIGHT

(left) Winbak Farm of Maryland welcomed a Beach Glass-sired filly on January 28 and Diamond Creek recently delivered the first foal by Confederate and mom Priceless (foal and mom below).



# Deadlines approaching for February stakes payments

Stakes payments for a number of the richest races in the sport are due starting February 15. Below are releases from various sources outlining details on the races, payments and due dates:

## Woodbine Mohawk Park

Woodbine Entertainment would like to remind all owners and trainers that the deadline for nominations to the 2025 major stakes at Woodbine Mohawk Park is Saturday, February 15.

**Nominations close Saturday (February 15) for the following major stakes:**

Pepsi North America Cup (3-Year-Old Pace)  
Mohawk Million (2-Year-Old Trot – Slot Purchase deadline February 18)  
Armbro Flight (Mare Trot)  
Canadian Pacing Derby (Open Pace)  
Canadian Trotting Classic (3-Year-Old Trot)  
Casual Breeze (3-Year-Old Filly Trot)  
Elegantimage (3-Year-Old Filly Trot)  
Eternal Camnation (2-Year-Old Filly Pace)  
Fan Hanover (3-Year-Old Filly Pace)  
Goodtimes (3-Year-Old Trot)  
Maple Leaf Trot (Open Trot)  
Metro Pace (2-Year-Old Pace)  
Milton (Mare Pace)  
Nassagaweya (2-Year-Old Pace)  
Peaceful Way (2-Year-Old Filly Trot)  
Roses Are Red (Mare Pace)  
Shes A Great Lady (2-Year-Old Filly Pace)  
Somebeachsomewhere (3-Year-Old Pace)  
William Wellwood Memorial (2-Year-Old Trot)

**Nominations close Saturday (February 15) for the following stakes at various Ontario racetracks:**

Grand River: Battle of Waterloo (Ontario Sired 2-Year-Old Pace)  
Grand River: Battle of the Belles (Ontario Sired 2-Year-Old Filly Pace)  
Flamboro: Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup (4-Year-Old Pace)  
Hanover: Balanced Image (Ontario Sired 2-Year-Old Trot)  
Hanover: Dream Of Glory (Ontario Sired 3-Year-Old Trot)  
Clinton: Kin Pace (Ontario Sired 3-Year-Old Filly Pace)

**Sustaining payments are due Saturday (February 15) for the following events:**

2025 Simcoe Open (3-Year-Old Trot & Pace)  
2025 Simcoe Filly (3-Year-Old Filly Trot & Pace)  
2025 SBOA Stakes (3-Year-Old Filly, Colt, Pace & Trot)

## Stakes Conditions & Payments

To view the full conditions and details for all Woodbine Standardbred stakes, click [here](#).

To make payments online, click [here](#).

If sending payments by mail, envelopes must be clearly postmarked no later than February 15, 2025 or payment will not be accepted. Registered mail is recommended.

**-release (Woodbine)**

## Delaware, Ohio Grand Circuit Payments Due

Sustaining payments for the Little Brown Jug (Grade 1) and the other Grand Circuit events – Jugette (3-year-old filly pace – Grade 1), Old Oaken Bucket (3-year-old open trot – Grade 3) and the Bucketette (3-year-old filly trot – Grade 3) – are due February 15. These payments are for foals of 2022.

The sustaining payments are as follows: Little Brown Jug (\$750), Jugette (\$500), Old Oaken Bucket (\$500) and Bucketette (\$400).

Three-year-old pacers not eligible after February 15 may, with a payment of \$45,000, supplement to the Little Brown Jug.

The Little Brown Jug, Old Oaken Bucket and Bucketette will be raced Thursday, September 18 and the Jugette on Wednesday, September 17.

The 2025 Delaware Grand Circuit meet will feature five days of racing (Sunday, September 14 through Thursday, September 18).

For payment forms, please visit [www.littlebrownjug.com](http://www.littlebrownjug.com).

Make checks payable and send all entries to: The Delaware County Fair, Tom Wright, P.O. Box 1560, Powell, OH 43065.

**-release (Delaware County Fair)**

## Meadowlands stakes payments

The Meadowlands stakes payments begin in February and with the payment date falling on a weekend and then a holiday, payments with a postmark of February 18 will be accepted as per regulation.

All pertinent information is available on the [track website](#).

Questions should be directed to (607) 972-5500.

**-release (Meadowlands)**

# Ticket deadline approaching for Dan Patch Awards banquet

The U.S. Harness Writers Association's annual Dan Patch Awards banquet, sponsored by Caesars Entertainment, is set for Sunday night, Feb. 23, at Rosen Centre in Orlando, Fla.

If you plan on attending and haven't yet ordered your dinner tickets, the deadline to do so is Monday, Feb. 17.

Tickets for the Dan Patch Awards banquet are \$200, with a filet mignon dinner featured. There is also a reduced-priced menu option for children 12 and under. Tickets can be ordered by contacting Judy Davis-Wilson at [zoe8874@aol.com](mailto:zoe8874@aol.com) or 302.359.3630 or Liz Lewis-House at [Elizabeth.lewis-house@winbakfarm.com](mailto:Elizabeth.lewis-house@winbakfarm.com).

A limited number of rooms at Rosen Centre at the USHWA block rate of \$209 per night (plus applicable taxes) are still available but reservations must be made by calling the hotel directly at 800.204.7234 and asking for the Dan Patch Awards/USHWA rate.

Also, all attendees are invited to the Saturday night, Feb. 22, pool-side Diamond Creek Farm Welcome Cocktail Reception, which will also feature a country concert by rising star Mitch Rossell, presented by Dublin Valley Farms and North American Sales Company. The two-hour reception gets underway at 5:30 p.m., with the concert starting at 6:30 p.m.

Rossell, an award-winning songwriter who has toured as an opening act with Garth Brooks and had success on the TV show

America's Got Talent, will perform during the second half of the two-hour welcome reception that gets underway at 5:30 p.m.

"We are so excited to include Mitch Rossell at Rosen Centre for our weekend gathering," said USHWA President Michael Carter. "In addition to his own songs, Mitch has written hits such as 'Ask Me How I Know' and 'Dive Bar' for Garth Brooks, and he was terrific when I saw him a couple years ago as an opener at a Garth Brooks concert."

In addition, any horsepersons at the nearby training centers are welcome to attend the Saturday welcome reception, which will offer appetizers and open bar, in addition to Rossell's performance.

The Dan Patch Awards banquet annually honors the best and brightest performers, both human and equine, of the previous season. The award winners are selected by USHWA, with all winners announced in advance except for Pacer of the Year, Trotter of the Year, and Horse of the Year, which will be revealed the night of the banquet. USHWA will hold its annual director's meeting on Saturday and its general membership meeting the morning of the banquet.

**-release (U.S. Harness Writers Association)**



# Safety first at The Meadowlands

With a forecast that called for a snowfall of four inches or more, accompanied by ice expected to make for treacherous driving, Meadowlands management made the decision to cancel racing last Saturday (Feb. 8) at approximately 9 a.m.

With a solid betting card that no doubt would have produced big business, it was a tough call to make.

Cynical fans might have questioned the decision, since there wasn't a single flake of snow until approximately an hour (7:30 p.m. or so) after the 14-race program would have started, about 10 hours after the cancellation was announced. But then the weather forecasters picked their own winner, as snow and ice blanketed not only the Bergen County area, but points north and south as well.

The cancellation was all about safety.

"It's true that getting to the track would have been no problem for our customers and horsemen," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. "But we were concerned about what might have happened at the end of the night.

"Out of concern for our equine athletes and the people who are responsible to get them to the track and ready to race, we concluded it was best to cancel. We knew leaving the track after the races were over would not be safe, and the weather forecasters were correct, enabling us to make the right call. We did not want big horse trailers traveling over snow- and ice-covered highways. There's always a chance a storm will blow in one direction or another, but risking the safety of our horsemen is not one we are willing to take."

For locals who could take a look at the roads before making a decision, the track and its off-track betting facility, Winners Bayonne, stayed open for simulcasting.

In the event there is bad weather on a live race night, always check The Big M's website, playmeadowlands.com, for updates.

**A TROTTING HAT TRICK?** Antognoni S has been hot stuff since his arrival from Sweden in mid-January, and the Ron Burke trainee, who has won both of his parimutuel starts in the U.S., will leave from post eight in the Saturday (Feb. 15) night feature, a \$22,000 high-end conditioned event for trotters.

Dave Miller will drive the 5-year-old gelded son of Father Patrick-Bouncing Bax, who is the 9-5 morning-line favorite. Antognoni S has been nothing short of dominant in his two American betting outings, winning by 4 lengths as the 1-5 favorite in 1:52 4/5 on Jan. 25 before a 5½-length romp in 1:53 2/5 as the 1-9 public choice on Feb. 1.

**-edited release (Meadowlands)**

## SIZABLE PICK 5 CARRYOVER AT MIAMI VALLEY THURSDAY

Miami Valley has a \$7,324 Pick 5 carryover up for grabs on Thursday evening. The wager, which begins in race 10, has a \$25,000 guaranteed pool as part of the USTA's Strategic Wagering program.

Post time for the Miami Valley card is 4:00 PM (EST) and the tenth race is scheduled for approximately 7:15 PM.

Free Harness Eye past performances for Miami Valley and many other tracks can be found [here](#).

## Other wagering highlights...

Woodbine Mohawk Park has a \$5,405 carryover in its Pick 6 on Thursday starting in the fourth race. First post time is 6:30 PM.

The Meadowlands has a \$50,000 guaranteed Pick 4 in races 6 and 10 on both Friday and Saturday nights. Those cards start at 6:20 PM.

Cal Expo offers a pair of promised wagers on both Friday and Saturday with a \$20,000 guaranteed Pick 5 in the first race and a \$25,000 guaranteed Pick 4 in race five on Friday and six on Saturday. Post time is 9:45 on Friday and 9:35 on Saturday.



**\$250** + **\$10**  
**DEPOSIT MATCH** + **FREE BET**  
& **FREE DRF PAST PERFORMANCES**

[JOIN NOW](#)

## 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, FEBRUARY 13

#### RACE 10

(5) **BRING YOUR FIRE** was aggressively handled in his latest when he floated out for an early position but stayed in and took a shuffle. He showed live legs late in the mile and is one I'm willing to go back to this evening; best bet.

**-John Rallis**



**WOODBINE**  
MOHAWK PARK

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

#### RACE 11

(7) **SALEM SEELSTER** saved all the ground and was a very willing third when clear last week behind a couple of horses that would be clear favorites in this spot. Four-year-old makes his third start back from a six week layoff and seemed primed for a big mile.

**-Derick Gwerner**



#### RACE 4

(5) **GOLDEN QUEST N** has made a ton of money here over the years and drops to a winning level off a good tightening effort; one to beat on class alone.

**-Matt Rose**



### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

#### RACE 9

(2) **LYONS STEEL** dropped to this level last time, got shut off after a pocket trip and cleared too late. He faces a softer group tonight and can take charge.

**-Gwerner**



### FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

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

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

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

[DHP PPS](#)

[HARNESS EYE PPS](#)

[TRACKMASTER PPS](#)

[FREE PPS](#)

[INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES](#)

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## HARRIS THRILLED TO BE PART OF 'ABUCKABETT'S' CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

Andrew Harris figures he is likely to get emotional when the time arrives later this month for Abuckabett Hanover to be formally honored as harness racing's best older male pacer.

Purchased in October 2022 by Bill Pollock, Bruce Areman, and Harris, Abuckabett Hanover (aka Bucky) hit the board in 12 of 15 races, winning seven and earning a division-best \$833,022 in 2024 as a 6-year-old. The stallion finished worse than second only twice in his final 12 starts and counted the William R. Haughton Memorial, FanDuel Open Pace Championship, Dayton Derby, and Dave Brower Memorial among his triumphs.

[READ MORE](#)

## GO ON BOY BEST IN PRIX DE FRANCE

The next major event during the winter meeting at Vincennes Racecourse in Paris, the Prix de France, took place on Sunday, and Go On Boy, coming off a third in the Prix d'Amerique, would emerge victorious.

With Prix d'Amerique champion Idao de Tillard on the sidelines for now, Go On Boy was the big favorite and didn't disappoint. After getting away in about fifth, trainer-driver Romain Derieux guided Go On Boy three-wide and then two-wide to take the lead away from Inmarosa (Léo Abrivard) with about 1,200 meters to go in the 2,100 meter contest.

[READ MORE](#)

## ENTRIES OPEN FOR 2025 LONDON CLASSIC YEARLING SALE

The fourth annual London Classic Yearling Sale (LCYS) is now accepting entries for the 2025 sale which is slated to take place on October 14 & 15 at the Western Fair District Agriplex in London, Ontario.

A total of 246 yearlings went through the sale ring in 2024 with gross sales topping \$7,015 million for an average of \$28,500.

Recent London sale graduates include 2024 O'Brien Award winners Stonebridge Wizard (2YCP - \$284,100) and Logan Park (Aged Trotter - \$2,009,432), along with 2023 O'Brien winner Stockade Seelster (\$1,621,878). The sale annually offers offspring of Canada's premier stallions and this year's offering will include yearlings from the highly-anticipated first crop of Breeders Crown champion King Of The North along with the second crop from the world's fastest pacer, Bulldog Hanover.

The LCYS will once again be held over two days with yearling showings taking place on Monday, October 13th. For more information and to submit entries, visit [www.londonclassic.ca](http://www.londonclassic.ca). The deadline for entries is Monday, April 21st.

[-release \(London Classic Sale\)](#)

## NEED A 2025 DATE FOR YOUR BROODMARE?

Find her new "mane" squeeze at the Diamond Creek Pa stallion showcase.

There are plenty of single, eligible bachelors in the stud barn waiting behind the barn door to take her on a dream date!

Come meet the "barn bachelors" - tall, handsome, millionaires!

Enjoy some vday refreshments and swag as well!

Anyone who attends can sign up to receive one free collection fee for one mare booked to any PA or KY Diamond Creek stallion (2025 season only).

Stallion Showcase: February 15th 12-2pm

Diamond Creek Pa - 151 Warrington Street Wellsville, Pa 17365

[-edited release \(Diamond Creek\)](#)

## JK ENDOFANERA'S BOOK FULL & CLOSED FOR 2025

The owners of 2024's Indiana Pacing Sire of the Year JK Endofanera p,2,1:51 4/5; 3,1:48 2/5 (\$2,049,580), are pleased to announce that his 2025 book is full and closed.

JK Endofanera led all Indiana pacing sires in 2024 two-year-old earnings and is the sire of two 2024 Indiana Super Final winners - Can'ttouchthese p,2,1:51 1/5-'24 (\$255,370) and Noblesville p,3,1:50-'24 (\$534,493). He is also the sire of Indiana's 2024 Pacer of the Year Lets Go Endofaera p,3,1:49 3/5-'24 (\$705,040).

JK Endofanera has sired the winners of over \$24.4 million with 74 \$100,000 winners, 183 in 1:55 and 14 sub-1:50 winners. He stands at Victory Hill Farm in LaGrange, Indiana.

[-edited release \(JK Endofanera Stable\)](#)

## FEAR THE DRAGON IN OHIO FOR 2025

Abby Stables and Standing Stallions are officially announcing that Fear The Dragon will be standing in Ohio for 2025. Fear The Dragon stood at Midland Acres before moving to Abby Stables. Fear The Dragon has had enormous success and support from Ohio, and we are looking forward to the future champions.

Fear The Dragon p,2,1:50 3/5f; 3,1:48 4/5 (\$1,578,547) from the great sire Dragon Again and the Western Ideal mare Armbr Cinnamon was a dominant force at 2 and 3 on the grand circuit. His wins and dominance included winning the \$1,000,000 North America Cup (Elimination and Final), defeating Downbytheseaside, Huntsville and Filibuster Hanover in taking his lifetime record of 1:48 4/5. At 3, he defeated his competition in impressive fashion including Huntsville (4 out of 4), Downbytheseaside (4 out of 7), Filibuster Hanover (5 out of 7), etc. His other Grand Circuit wins included the \$500,000 Hempt Memorial (Elimination and Final)... defeating Downbytheseaside and Filibuster Hanover; \$400,000 Adios (Elimination and Final)... defeating Filibuster Hanover; \$500,000 Little Brown Jug (First Heat)...defeating Downbytheseaside and Filibuster Hanover; the \$206,000 Tattersalls Pace (Division); \$140,000 Elevation... defeating Filibuster Hanover; and Arden Downs, in addition to six Pennsylvania Sires Stakes legs.

Fear The Dragon has produced winners of close to 15 million dollars with his first 4 crops racing, with 10 in 1:50 or better including grand circuit and sire stakes winners JANELLE GRANNY p,2,1:51 2/5f; 3,1:49 4/5h (\$422,486), PARIS'S DRAGON p,2,1:51 1/5f; 3,1:49 2/5f (\$417,047) and numerous others.

Fear The Dragon will stand for a fee of \$3,000.

To Book Your Mare Call:

Maynard Miller/Abby Stables at (330) 852-0789

Charles Taylor/Standing Stallions at (614) 205-0005

[-edited release \(Standing Stallions\)](#)

## MONTHLY HANDICAPPING CONTEST ON VALENTINE'S DAY AT BIG M

The Meadowlands Racetrack monthly handicapping contest schedule continues on Friday, February 14. Players must register/check in at the Clubhouse Lobby by 6:20 p.m.

There is no entry fee (a \$100 live money bankroll is required) for players, and the prize pool, guaranteed at \$1,000 and funded by the Meadowlands Racetrack, will be paid out to the top four finishers.

The top two from each contest will be eligible to play in the \$10,000 tournament on December 13 (20 total players).

Contest Format:

Contestants must bet a minimum of 5 Meadowlands races.

No minimum and no maximum bet per race.

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

Contestants keep all pari-mutuel winnings

Unlimited entries are allowed per person.

2025 Contest Schedule:

Friday, March 14

Saturday, April 19

Friday, May 16

Friday, June 20

Friday, July 18

Saturday, August 30

Saturday, October 25

Friday, November 21

Invite Only \$10,000 Contest - Saturday, December 13

Complete contest rules/regulations can be found at <https://playmeadowlands.com/handicapping/contests-challenges/>

Must be 18+ to wager on racing. Gambling problem, dial 1-800-Gambler.

[-release \(Meadowlands\)](#)