

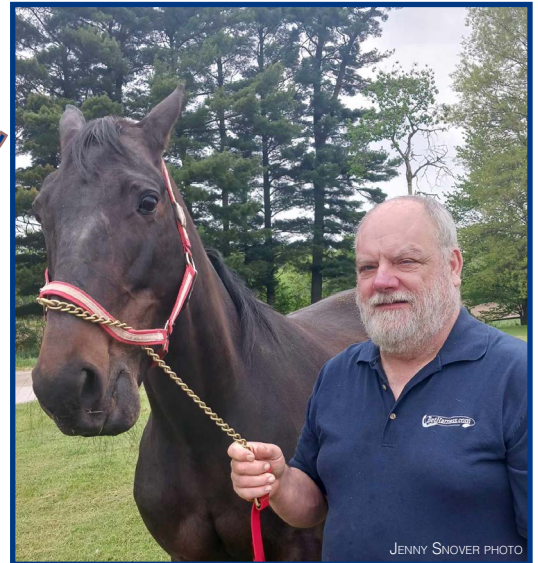
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

An unexpected breeding adventure



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser



JENNY SNOVER PHOTO

We've all heard the old joke: How do you make a million dollars in the horse business? Start with two million. This story is similar, but at a far more economical level. I write it not as a complaint, lament or warning. I write it to tell a story. The story of Maggie's Way.

I remembered Maggie's Way (Dream Away-Stonebridge Memory-Camluck) from her days at Northfield Park where she had a reputation of being a hard-hitting, gutsy \$8-\$10,000 claimer. So, I was surprised when she showed up on the auction site Ongait.com, possibly the most dangerous website in the world for a horse owner since it opens up the door for instant buying at a whim. Maggie's Way had one win in six starts in March 2024, but had been scratched lame at Freehold and was now being sold. On a lark, I bid \$1,000, figuring someone would outbid me. And if by some wild stretch of the imagination I did get her, even if she couldn't race, with a mark of 1:53 on a half and nearly \$200,000 in earnings the 11-year-old would be a good broodmare candidate. I waited to be outbid. But I wasn't.

I called Jess and Cam McCown, who train at the Delaware County Fairgrounds and with whom I was partnered on a couple horses. They agreed to check her out and see what we had. The first order of business (after paying the USTA a \$40 transfer fee) was getting her to Delaware, Ohio.

Thanks to Facebook, a shipper was located and she was on her way; \$600 to ship from New Jersey. My \$1,000 mare was now a \$1640 mare. And that was just the beginning.

She arrived in Delaware and Cam said she jogged sound, but he wanted the vet to go over her and she needed to be reshod (\$175 and \$150). After a month of training (\$1,500), Maggie was ready to qualify. She paced in 2:02 and just didn't seem to want to try. The next week she paced her opening half in 56 3/5 and then appeared to tire badly. Cam said he didn't think she would do at Miami Valley, but her mile was good enough to get her qualified at Northfield. So off she went to Sahbra Farms (\$100 ship) to the care of Luke Ebersole. Luke wanted to work with her for a week before entering her to race, and the fourth day he had her, I got the call you never want to hear. She was lame on her left front and would need time off. My \$1,000 mare was now a \$3,500 mare and she was lame.

That Saturday, we drove out to Sahbra Farms to meet Maggie for the first time. I walked her for about 15 minutes, letting her graze and watch the other horses while my girlfriend Jenny took pictures. While outside on that misty morning, I realized that Maggie owed nobody anything.

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Common sense says I should have sold her at that point. I would only be out \$2,500 or so, depending on what she sold for. But she is not enrolled in the Full Circle program that connects people with a shared concern in a horse (which concerned me for her future) and that big old ankle could scare buyers off. So, illogically, I got into the breeding business, something I know nothing about.

A \$150 ship down to Spurwood Farm in Marysville (who came highly recommended by a couple of my partners) was next. The boarding bill would be \$18.50 a day, between \$550 and \$575 monthly. But who to breed to? It was mid-April, so not too late in the season. As regular readers know, I am a big fan of the Minnesota program, so I contacted Dan Roland, another partner, to inquire about his stallion Karpathian Kid, who had decent success in the state from limited opportunity and whose stud fee at \$1,500 was something I could afford. My \$1,000 mare was now a \$5,600 mare.

Before breeding Maggie, we needed some vet work (\$200) and then made arrangement for semen transport from Minnesota. I was a bit surprised to get a \$575 FedEx bill for that service, but I will refrain from any potential jokes. Maggie did not get in-foal, so at this point I made the one decision about Maggie that I regret. I told the Spurwood folks to try again. That meant another \$200 in vet work to prep her and another \$565 in FedEx charges, and Maggie still did not catch. It's not unusual for a maiden mare, especially one right off the race track, not to get in-foal. The Spurwood folks called and asked if I wanted to try again. My \$1,000 mare was now an \$8,000 mare and I said what Cleveland Indians fans have been saying since 1948: Wait 'til next year. So 2024 becomes 2025 and my \$1,000 mare is now a \$12,500 mare after a season of boarding.

I began studying stallions. This time I was going to breed to an Ohio sire, if for no reason than to save those nasty FedEx charges. And potential punchlines. I had three or four Ohio stallions who I liked and who fit my price range, and I was fortunate enough to cast the winning bid at the OHHA Stallion auction on Sunfire Blue Chip for about 80% of his stud fee. I was pretty happy, though my \$1,000 mare is now a \$14,500 mare. Oh wait -- a few more months of boarding and she is now a \$17,000 mare.

Sunfire Blue Chip had gotten generally poor mares in New Jersey and



VICKI WRIGHT/WWRP

Maggie's Way won the final race of her career at Freehold Raceway on January 12, 2024.

Ontario, but had still produced some nice racehorses with a good percentage of 2-year-old performers. He is a full brother to Heston Blue Chip and a half-brother to Carbine, who is also standing his in Ohio. Charles Taylor's Standing Stallions brought him to Ohio, and, as he told me in an interview, the stallion did not get good mares and that Maggie was a good fit for him.

As I write this, we are coordinating details to breed Maggie. If she gets in-foal, I will have another year of boarding her (\$7,200 due to a price increase), plus vet work, and then come March of 2026, 18 months of boarding the baby before it gets to a yearling sale (\$10,000 in round numbers). Factor in yearling prep and my all-in price is \$30,000. And I will still be boarding Maggie. My \$1,000 mare will become a \$37,000 mare, plus the costs of breeding her back in 2026. Let's call it \$40,000.

It is unlikely a colt from this breeding would bring that much. But, if he brought \$20,000, I would get a lot of money back and I would get it in a lump sum. And, if we can get a few more foals out of Maggie, we can amortize the expenses further. Or I could race the baby myself, win the Ohio Sires Stakes Championship and bank \$300,000-\$400,000 with him. Hey, a guy can dream!

That's it for this time. Now go cash. Hopefully on an offspring of Sunfire Blue Chip. And don't spend it all at Ongait.

Flight In Motion hopes to soar in Weiss

By Derick Gwerner

Eddie Dennis is only bringing one horse to The Downs at Pocono on Saturday and despite his 10-1 morning line odds, the trainer is feeling confident. Flight In Motion is one of eight finalists in the \$50,000 Bobby Weiss Series for 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers, race 10 on a 14-race afternoon card that starts at 1:00 p.m. (EDT).

To put things into perspective, Dennis compared Flight In Motion to one of his former students, the \$1.5 million earner Hellabalou, who won the Adios Pace in 2021 for him before eventually moving on to other trainers.

"The last time we spoke was about Hellabalou and he turned into a nice horse. I think this horse could be on that road too. The only difference between him and Hellabalou is that he had a lot more gate speed than this one, but I think he'll get better at it down the road," said Dennis, who currently trains 14 horses.

Flight In Motion is one of five horses in the Weiss with two wins through the three legs of the series. His first start in the spring series and on Lasix was a 1:52 score, the second-fastest time in the Weiss behind World Of Wishes.

"In the last start at Dover [March 18] I decided to scope him to make sure he was clean and healthy. He ended up bleeding on me so I put him on Lasix and it sure hasn't hurt, that's for sure," said Dennis, who talked about the horse's progression to date. "I don't think he's reached his potential and he's still a little bit green in a sense. Once he puts it all together I think he can pace [1:49 and a piece or 1:50, I really do. He's never really

shown enough gate speed yet, which is why I say he's a little green. He doesn't know how to burst off the gate in 27 to secure position."

World Of Wishes led at every call in the third leg of the Weiss only to lose to Flight In Motion by a neck over a sloppy track. On that occasion World Of Wishes started from post one but he's stuck in the dreaded eight-hole with regular driver Patrick Ryder for Saturday's final while Flight In Motion starts from post four with Ridge Warren taking over the lines for Tyler Buter, who chose Captain Conan (post two).

Dennis will be hoping for plenty of early speed from all parts of the gate to set up Flight Of Motion's late kick and he just may get it since World Of Wishes has left hard each week and the horse to his inside Gold Glove Hanover, another two-leg winner, picks up Hall of Famer David Miller in the bike. Oogleville (post three) is another horse that owns two wins in the series and plenty of early speed. He'll be driven by Jason Bartlett, who leads the nation in both wins and earnings in 2025.

"Usually in these finals they kind of mix it up," said Dennis. "You have horses that have speed and my horse likes to finish. It could play into my hands."

Regardless of how the Weiss unfolds, Dennis expects Flight In Motion to head to the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes next and hopefully improve to the point where he can be competitive in Grand Circuit races like the Adios and Max Hempt.

"I liked him last year but he wasn't eligible to much. He's got some ability. He might disappoint me but I think he has some raw speed he hasn't shown us yet," said Dennis.

The Saturday Pocono card also offers four \$20,000 divisions of the Weiss for 3-year-old fillies and a consolation for the boys. The \$50,000 main event has an estimated post time of 3:45 p.m.

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JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

Mark MacDonald tends to defy the odds

"I feel great." Those were the words of driver Mark MacDonald the morning after he drove two horses in the Borgata Series at Yonkers Raceway, his first drives in nearly six months following a devastating accident at the same track that put him out of action.

"Injuries are part of every sport," MacDonald said plainly about the accident that saw him suffer multiple injuries to his body and instantly shift his focus away from the track and onto the work necessary to get healthy enough to return to action.

"I've had my share," said MacDonald of injuries incurred due to racing accidents, "But you look at any other sport. In football you can take a hit and blow out a knee. In hockey someone can hit you from behind. In baseball you can get hit with a 100 mile an hour fastball to the bean. It's part of the game."

MacDonald's attitude was good following the spill, but he also recognized that unlike some of the other injuries he'd suffered, this time it was different. "It wasn't like breaking a bone where they put you in a cast and tell you it will take six weeks to heal," said MacDonald. "Muscles needed to heal properly. I was in bed and couldn't move for the first month."

Time was the only cure and for MacDonald. There was no specific date put on when his body would repair itself and when some freedom of movement would kick in. Having been sidelined before, MacDonald knew what it would take to get healthy again and closely followed his doctor's advice, giving his body the time required while doing the physical therapy necessary for the best possible outcome.

The issues primarily involved his back, a very delicate area of the body and something vital to the ability to move freely without pain during day-to-day life, let alone getting back behind a horse and needing to be flexible in competition.

"I'm athletic and I wanted to be able to participate in things I like to do physically," said MacDonald, referring to walking and golfing and other sports. "So as much as I wanted to return quickly, I knew it was crucial that everything had to be exactly right before pushing my body further."

Only about a week ago, after months of hard work and nature cooperating, MacDonald was finally able to sit behind a horse in a race-bike and see how he had progressed. "I went to Ray's (Schnittker) and sat behind a 2-year-old and a 3-year-old, and felt pretty good," said MacDonald, keenly aware that it would take time now once healed to acclimate to racing situations and the feel of sitting behind a horse. Months away from the bike can be disruptive to timing and the physical demands on the body.

Whatever the rust was in MacDonald's game it didn't show much when he made his debut on Monday (April 14) with two drives for trainer Larry Stalbaum in the Borgata series. It was somewhat fitting that MacDonald would guide Rocknroll Runa A, the horse he piloted to a major upset in last year's Sam McKee Memorial at The Meadowlands on Hambletonian Day, as his first drive in 2025.

"It felt good out there," said MacDonald of the experience. "I thought he raced very well considering how difficult it is to make up ground when you're that far back at Yonkers. I was thinking about leaving the gate with him, but I saw Patrick (Lachance, guiding Verdun) inside of me on the gate and though he's not a horse he generally leaves with, I knew he could from seeing him before."

MacDonald's insightfulness was fully on display in this conversation, and it reflects in the depths of his experience driving some of the sport's most talented horses over a career that began in his late teens on the racetrack, and now sees him returning to action competitively as a 46-year-old with nearly 30 years driving horses.

It is precisely that awareness of a horse's form and the tendencies of his rivals that has seen MacDonald as a dominant driver on Canada's premier circuit (Woodbine-Mohawk) in past iterations, and more currently showing up in big races and capturing the sport's classic races like the Breeders Crown with King Of The North in 2022 and The Meadowlands Pace with Lawless Shadow in 2021.

In those major stakes races, MacDonald has proven himself time and time again whether driving the best horse in the race or a longshot. Those



JAMES LISA/LISA PHOTO

Mark MacDonald won the 2021 Meadowlands Pace.

on the outside rarely see what it takes to give a longshot a shot in a big race. How position and timing are a crucial element to not exhausting the chances and succeeding when opportunity arises. That was certainly part of the elements that led to Rocknroll Runa's biggest career victory last year and its precisely those moments that MacDonald is hopeful that he will get to live again.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity," said MacDonald, looking forward to hopefully find himself behind some good horses as stakes season approaches. "Ray (Schnittker) has some nice ones. I drove a nice trotting filly for him last year that won the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final," continued the driver, referring to the Greenshoe-sired She's a Shoe In, a filly that he navigated from next-to-last to first as a 16-1 outsider in the \$252K final last September at The Meadows.

As MacDonald looks forward to the 2025 season, he once again is trying to put himself in the right spot to be available when called upon and make the most of any opportunity that arises. "I feel like the backup quarterback in the NFL," said MacDonald, obviously aware of his wisdom from having been successful throughout his career and likely the younger competition that continues to emerge at the elite level driving Standardbreds. "Give me a good team (horse) and I can get the job done."

Days on the sidelines watching the action from afar have unfortunately been a small part of MacDonald's brilliant career. With 6,710 lifetime victories leading to over \$106 million in earnings for his mounts, MacDonald has excelled both in his native Canada and the U.S. Though the days of driving full cards and dominating at Woodbine-Mohawk are nearly 20 years in the past, the activity has been replaced by a keen wisdom with the athletic ability to compete with younger and older drivers alike.

"I love driving young horses," said MacDonald, hoping to get the opportunity this spring and summer to sit behind a few this year. "With Kentucky's purse structure I know there are going to be a lot of drivers going down there. Hopefully that will allow me to get some opportunity to drive in Pennsylvania and New York. I can always go back to drive in Ontario as well."

MacDonald is keeping his options open and hoping to get back to driving on a more regular basis. "I had two drives last night (Monday April 14) and two tonight (April 15), and I've got a few on Saturday (April 19) at Pocono," said MacDonald, who will make his second start behind Rocknroll Runa A in the last of four \$50,000 Borgata divisions on Monday (April 21). Rocknroll Runa A drew the rail but will be a longshot in a field that includes multi-leg winners For Once Inmy Life (post 3) and Coaches Corner (post 6).

MacDonald will once again be driving a longshot in the Borgata, but as we've seen throughout his career, that's not exactly a bad place for him to be.

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Alexander's Borgata hopefuls try to sneak into the May 9 Final

By Jay Bergman

As one of the likely favorites entering the Borgata series it was thought by now that Desperate Man would have guaranteed a spot in the rich final. Yet heading into Monday's (April 21) fourth leg the Travis Alexander-trained gelding has not captured any of the first three rounds and could be on the outside looking in just qualifying for the 2025 final that is rapidly approaching \$550,000 in purse money.

"I thought he was very good the first two legs," said Alexander. "Last week it may have been that first quarter since he really wasn't on the gate leaving, he probably had to go that first quarter in 26 3/5 and that may have stung him."

Despite the disappointment in the first three legs, Alexander has not lost confidence in his horse. "He's a big horse and I think he's going to need a few more starts," said Alexander. "Last week he had only three weeks off before we brought him back. This year he had a six-week break and it's taken more time to get him at his best."

Alexander said that he changed the feed on all his horses since last year and that they have all come back with more muscle. For a horse of his size, the added weight and muscle may have compromised Desperate Man more so than his other horses and the hope is that with the extra work racing fans will begin to see last year's form.

"We're going to race him in this and the final leg and hopefully with the extra time this year between the last leg and the final he'll be at his best," said Alexander, thinking positively about the prospects of Desperate Man returning for the MGM Borgata Final on May 9 at Yonkers.

Desperate Man (post 5) will meet five others including a pair of multi-leg winners in Verdun (post 2) and Huntinthelastdollar (post 6) in the \$50,000 third division on Monday at Yonkers (race 7).

Thus far Desperate Man has been beaten by some solid horses in the series with Mossdale Ben N, Coaches Corner and Verdun capturing the legs he raced in over the first three weeks. "Patrick (Lachance) has done a great job with Verdun, a horse he claimed off of me," said Alexander of Verdun, who stalked Desperate Man last week and then drove by him in the stretch.

Alexander is also thinking positively of Why Not Now (post 2) looking for his first series win after three straight third-place finishes in the series. Why Not Now will have to be at his best in a field that includes Mossdale Ben N (post 5) and Charlie May (post 3).

"I think he's raced great in every leg," said Alexander of Why Not Now. "In that first leg they raced in a monsoon. In the second leg he had to back up to get out on the turn and never regained his momentum. Last week he was very strong following Coaches Corner with Mossdale Ben N on his side."

With no pure speed horse in the third race and second division of the Borgata on Monday, Why Not Now may finally be able to control his own destiny in the series and earn valuable points with time running out to reach the rich final.



MIKE LIZZI PHOTO

Borgata starter Desperate Man has been working his way back into top shape for trainer Travis Alexander.

A pair of two-leg winners in the Borgata will meet for the first time in the series with For Once Inmy Life (post 3) and Coaches Corner (post 6) doing battle in the fourth division (race 8) on Monday. Trainer Cory Stratton gave both of his Borgata horses the third leg intentionally off and now returns with hopes of getting both For Once Inmy Life and Chase H Hanover into the final. For Once Inmy Life has won on the front end both times and has a post position edge on Monday.

Coaches Corner has returned with a vengeance this year for trainer Per Engblom. In last week's third leg he became the first horse to beat Mossdale Ben N in 2025, with a vicious front-end score in a series-best 1:50 4/5 clocking. Equally at home cutting the pace or coming from behind, Coaches Corner is clearly the horse to beat in the series.

Two-time Borgata champion Hellabalou now seems a longshot to reach the final having been off-the-board in the first three legs of the series. Still, the Ron Burke-trained veteran may just need a chance to get on the front end to prove himself. In Monday's fourth round of the series Hellabalou drew post four in the first \$50,000 division (race 2). Hellabalou meets leg winners Aardies Flash N (post 2) as well as Binge On Yankee (post 5) and the consistent Chase H Hanover (post 6).

Alexander was thrilled that Matt Kakaley got his 7,000th victory on Tuesday (April 15) at Pocono.

"I wish it came a night sooner at Yonkers but I'm happy it was able to happen at Pocono with his family there," said Alexander.

"I want to thank Ron Burke and Mark Weaver for firing Matt," joked Alexander. "That changed everything for my stable because Matt's been a big part of our success story."

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Sophomores out in droves in Pennsylvania qualifiers

Harrah's Philadelphia

Many 3-year-olds gave strong indication that they are ready to commence a good sophomore campaign while winning in Tuesday morning qualifiers at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Driver Andrew McCarthy, trainer Juan Cano, and owners Hot Lead Farm led off with a sweep of the "Daily Double." They won with the 2024 Breeders Crown finalist and Pennsylvania Stallion Series champion Gigglingonthebeach, a pacing daughter of Papi Rob Hanover who came out of the pocket and stormed home in 55 1/5 to stop the timer in 1:54 3/5, and with the trotter Conversano, a daughter of Muscle Hill out of the \$500G+ winner Celebrity Ruth, also a pocket rocket in a 1:55 1/5 triumph. Andrew McCarthy would wind up with four qualifying victories on the day.

Fashion Green, the Greenshoe trotting gelding out of another \$500G+ winner, Fashion Athena, was perfect in four starts as a baby, and he resumed his winning ways in his first trip behind the gate of 2025, winning in 1:54 2/5 - 55 1/5 - 27 3/5 as he also rallied from the two-hole. Tim Tetrick had the sulky seat behind the promising sophomore for trainer Jim Campbell and owner Fashion Farms LLC.

Fastest winner of the day was the Captaintreacherous colt Captain Fear, who never looked back while romping by 13 3/4 lengths in 1:53 1/5 -- 55 3/5, the quickest time he's crossed the wire first. Andy Miller handled the sulky chores for trainer Tom Fanning and owners Howard Taylor and Falcon Racing LLC.

Twisted Destiny beat I'm The One by three parts of a length in the PA Stallion Series Championship for two-year-old pacing males last year; they both won their return qualifiers last week, and today they again went head-to-head. And Twisted Destiny won again, but he had to work hard, coming from last and pacing his last half in 53 4/5 to defeat I'm The One by a neck in 1:54 1/5. Patrick Ryder drove the impressive Bettor's Wish colt out of \$1.8M-winning Tug River Princess for trainer/father Chris and the ownership of Let It Ride Stables Inc., Alberg Racing LLC, and Enviro Stables LTD.

-edited release (PHHA/Philadelphia)

Downs at Pocono

Three 3-year-olds, all well-pedigreed but all maidens at two, may show more sign of their bloodlines at three if wins during Wednesday morning qualifiers at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania are any indication.

The Cantab Hall colt Hatfield, a full brother to the \$1.8-million winner T C I, moved to the lead down the backstretch and went on to win in 1:57 3/5. Driver Jason Bartlett was successful three times during the morning session, and the trotter was one of two winning teamings of Bartlett and trainer Andrew Harris.

The other Bartlett / Harris success came with the filly Treacheryinthedark, a daughter of Captaintreacherous and a three-quarter sister to the million dollar winner Seven Colors. Treacheryinthedark gained through most of the last half and stepped her last quarter in 28 1/5 in posting a 1:56 2/5 victory.

Fastest of all the sophomores on the day was the Always B Miki gelding Lifeblood, whose second dam produced American Jewel (\$1.8M+) and Luck Bewith You (\$1.4M+). Lifeblood put out a back half of 56 3/5 to triumph in 1:54 3/5 for driver Braxten Boyd and trainer Hunter Oakes.

The Sweet Lou gelding No Trespassing was not a maiden entering the day - he took a mark of 1:51 1/5 winning a Simpson Stake here last year. He just missed tying the fastest three-year-old clocking by a tick, producing 27 4/5 final quarter speed in winning for driver Scott Zeron and trainer Deborah Daguet.

Fastest of all the winners in the morning set was the veteran Always A Virgin gelding Virgo, who came home in 54 3/5 to win in 1:53 to give Hunter Oakes another success on the day and complete Jason Bartlett's triple.

The Pocono qualifiers can be viewed at www.phha.org.

-edited release (PHHA/Pocono)

Canadian Graduate Series opens Friday at Woodbine Mohawk Park

Stakes action is set to ramp up Friday night at Woodbine Mohawk Park for the opening leg of the Canadian Sired Graduate Series.

Canadian sired 4-year-olds will square off in the Canadian Graduate, which consists of two preliminary legs and an added money final.

This week's opening leg will feature C\$25,000 divisions in the Trot and Mare Pace categories. The Open Pace event did not fill and will now skip to leg two on Saturday, April 26.

The Canadian Graduate Mare Pace will see a field of five clash in Friday's second-race. All five starters have earned between \$158,000 and \$218,000 in their racing careers.

Coco Jo Jo (PP5, James MacDonald) is entering off a fourth-place finish in the Fillies & Mares Preferred on April 4. The Tony Beaton trainee is one for three this season and has multiple top-three finishes in Grand Circuit events.

Sorcha Seelster (PP4, Bob McClure) has also raced in the Mares Preferred this season. The John Pentland student most recently finished third in an overnight event last Friday at Mohawk Park. The daughter of All Bets Off made over \$147,000 last season.

The highest earner in the field is Collusion Hanover (PP2, Tyler Jones) at \$218,089. The Luc Blais trainee made the Breeders Crown Final to cap off her 2024 season and was beat just less than two lengths in her season debut last Friday.

One More Bet (PP1, J.R. Plante) for trainer Jean Tourigny and Resilience (PP3, Louis-Philippe Roy) for trainer Eric Nadeau complete the field for Friday's opening leg.

The top two finishers from last year's Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final are set to make their season debuts in Friday's first leg of the Canadian Graduate for trotters.

Paquet (PP3, Jody Jamieson) captured the OSS Super Final by over four lengths last October as part of a 3-year-old season that saw him post four wins and earn over \$344,000 in eight starts. The Carl Jamieson trainee tuned up for his season debut with a pair of qualifiers at Mohawk.

What About Elmo (PP5, Tyler Jones) ships north for trainer Paul Reid after two qualifiers at Spring Garden Ranch in Florida. The son of Il Sogno Dream was an OSS Gold winner last September and finished off a \$175,000 earning season with a second in the Super Final.

The field of six for the Canadian Graduate Trot opener, scheduled as Race 10 on Friday, is completed by Grambling Hall (PP1, Tyler Borth), R Peaky Blinders (PP2, Louis-Philippe Roy), Hungry Hill (PP4, J.R. Plante) and Mrstery Deal (PP6, Todd Ratchford).

Following this week's first leg, the Canadian Graduate Series continues with the second leg for the Trot and Mare Pace on April 25 and the Open Pace on April 26.

Friday evening's card also features a \$36,000 Fillies & Mares Pace (Race 9).

Post time Friday is 6:35 p.m.

-edited release (Woodbine)

DRF Harness

Entries & Results

DRF Harness has entries and results for all U.S. tracks and live odds for all North American tracks

DRF.COM/HARNESS



RACE OF THE WEEK

10 POCONO SAT

1 Mile Pace. BOBBY WEISS SERIES L.C. NO. 6 - FINAL 3 YR. OLD COLTS & GELDINGS NW 2 EXT. PM RACES OR \$30,000 LIFETIME AS OF & INCLUDING
2/1/2025 Purse \$50,000

EXACTA - 50 CENT TRIFECTA | 50 CENT SUPERFECTA | 50 CENT PICK 4 (10-11-12-13)

1 CHARGE ME UP

3:15.3 (5/8) Q \$6,125 SHS-HBG \$15,000

4-1 Ti. Telrick 469-118-69-63 (252)

12 Apr 25	10PcD	slr40°	274	:554	1:243	1:532	WEISS 3CG	20000	6	11 ¹	21 ¹	31	3 ¹	13	TiTelrick	NiDevita	274	281	284	283	1:532	91	-10	6w	4.30	ChrgMeUp	Ooglevie	CptConan	Yld.pkt.all-out-6
5 Apr 25	10PcD	slr48°	29	:582	1:26	1:542	WEISS 3CG	20000	3	4 ³	4 ³	3 ¹	4 ²	3 ¹	TiTelrick	NiDevita	293	293	271	282	1:544	86	-8	7w	1.80	Ooglevie	OdsNoLimit	ChrgMeUp	Unc.chase.tiring-7
29 Mar 25	10PcD	fst74°	264	:551	1:222	1:51	WEISS 3CG	20000	3	3 ¹	11 ¹	21 ¹	21 ¹	2 ³	TiTelrick	NiDevita	27	281	272	29	1:513	98	-5	7w	*40	WorldOWs	ChrgMeUp	ChfBg	Pkd.yld.pkt.wind-7
11 Mar 25	15DD	fst64°	272	:554	1:241	1:53	WO2/4	12500	2	3 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	TiTelrick	NiDevita	273	281	282	284	1:53	93			*70	ChrgMeUp	Mses	PrettyLou	-9
18 Feb 25	3DD	fst30°	302	1:002	1:282	1:562	NW2	8500	5	4 ⁴	3 ²	11	12	12 ¹	TiTelrick	NiDevita	312	292	273	28	1:562	76			*05	ChrgMeUp	ImahngyShiftyHil		-9
11 Feb 25	1PcD	gd21°	294	1:004	1:293	1:54	Qua		3	2 ²	21 ¹	21 ¹	21 ¹	12 ¹	GNapItJr	NiDevita	301	304	284	282	1:581	-1			nb	ChrgMeUp	BarlyASin	CptConan	-4
10 Sep 24	7PcD	fst73°	273	:57	1:252	1:534	nw1PM CG	12000	3	21 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	1hd	GNapItJr	NiDevita	274	291	282	282	1:534	85	+6	10w	*60	ChrgMeUp	LennonHw	HardblHw	Rtk.all-out-8
2 Sep 24	8PcD	fst72°	274	:571	1:254	1:532	nw2PM 2YrC	14000	1	3 ³	3 ²	5 ³	41 ¹	21 ¹	GNapItJr	NiDevita	282	291	284	27	1:532	87	-2	8w	25.20	LochinHw	ChrgMeUp	KnckItRond	Svd.gd.rally-8

b c 3, by Heston Blue Chip, Lismorebella by Camluck
David R Hamm,Dagsboro,DE;Glenn R Phillips,Frankford,DE
N. Devita 173-43-30-17(249)

Br. - Winbak Farm,MD

Last 4 Sts-\$23,650

1:53 DD 5/8

25 PcD 3 1 1 1

\$17,400 25

5 3 1 1

\$30,625

1:53.4 PcD 5/8

24 * 2 1 1 0

\$9,500 24

4 1 1 1

\$14,373

- Life

9 4 2 2

\$44,998

2 CAPTAIN CONAN(L)

3:15.24 (5/8) Q \$3,080 SHS-HBG \$21,000

6-1 Ty. Buter 470-71-64-68 (151)

12 Apr 25	10PcD	slr40°	274	:554	1:243	1:532	WEISS 3CG	20000	5	6 ⁵	6 ¹	6 ³	5 ²	31 ¹	TyButer	RoCleary	29	284	282	281	1:533	90	-10	6w	11.50	ChrgMeUp	Ooglevie	CptConan	Svd.rail.gd.late-6
5 Apr 25	13PcD	slr48°	281	:554	1:25	1:543	WEISS 3CG	20000	8	4 ³	3 ¹	3 ¹	6 ⁵	8 ¹	TyButer	RoCleary	29	284	272	31	1:561	81	-8	7w	3.90	SquyBlue	Touchback	RjsRedDvl	Tok.unc.caved-8
29 Mar 25	4PcD	fst74°	274	:571	1:244	1:524	WEISS 3CG	20000	6	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	12 ¹	TyButer	RoCleary	274	292	273	28	1:524	92	-5	7w	*90	CptConan	SquyBlue	PseLouPaw	Down road,handy-6
18 Mar 25	15PcD	fst60°	273	:57	1:244	1:53	nw1PM CG	12000	6	x8 ¹⁰	8x9 ³	8ds	8ds	8ds	TyButer	RoCleary	293	292					-3	0w	*30	JkStevS	WhinsHw	PseLouPaw	Left.broke-8
4 Mar 25	5PcD	fst60°	282	:581	1:254	1:534	nw1PM CG	12000	4	21 ¹	21 ¹	21 ¹	31 ¹	21 ¹	TyButer	RoCleary	284	294	273	274	1:534	85	+2	9w	*80	Federer	CptConan	PseLouPaw	Pkt.late.rally-8
22 Feb 25	3M1	fst40°	302	:591	1:28	1:553	Qua		3	3 ²	3 ⁴	3 ⁵	2 ²	11 ¹	BrBeckwth	RoCleary	31	29	291	282	1:553	-1			nb	CptCnnGld	GHwFrzHw		3hole,2w ft 3/4,handy-5
11 Feb 25	1PcD	gd21°	294	1:004	1:293	1:54	Qua		2	3 ³	3 ²	3 ²	3 ³	3 ³	TyButer	RoCleary	303	303	29	281	1:582	-4			nb	ChrgMeUp	BarlyASin	CptConan	Pkt.late.rally-8
1 Feb 25	3M1	fst33°	294	:581	1:262	1:541	Qua		6	8 ¹²	8 ¹³	7x12	yqXds	9ds	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	321	283	28						nb	AfewChc	WmngntC	TmwrthBy	Sat.bck.outIn.bnk-9

b g 3, by Captain Crunch, Cabrini Hanover by Western Ideal
Robert E Corrigan,Yonkers,NY
R. Cleary 72-23-11-8(319)

Br. - David S Willmot & Clay Harland Horner,ON,CA

Last 4 Sts-\$12,400

1:52.4 PcD 5/8

25 PcD 5 1 1 1

\$15,400 25 Tot

5 1 1 1

\$15,400

23 PcD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot

0 0 0 0

- Life

5 1 1 1

\$15,400

3 OOGLEVILLE

3:15.3 (5/8) Q \$8,333

3-1 J. Bartlett 745-256-141-95 (326)

12 Apr 25	10PcD	slr40°	274	:554	1:243	1:532	WEISS 3CG	20000	2	3 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	13	JaBartitt	PeEngblom	281	273	284	29	1:533	92	-10	6w	*90	ChrgMeUp	Ooglevie	CptConan	Bshrs.nailed-6
5 Apr 25	10PcD	slr48°	29	:582	1:26	1:542	WEISS 3CG	20000	1	2 ³	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	JaBartitt	PeEngblom	29	292	273	282	1:542	88	-8	7w	2.00	Ooglevie	OdsNoLimit	ChrgMeUp	Rtk.handy-7
29 Mar 25	14PcD	fst77°	273	:573	1:253	1:53	WEISS 3CG	20000	6	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	11 ¹	JaBartitt	PeEngblom	273	30	28	272	1:53	91	-5	7w	*50	Ooglevie	ZipTime	Touchback	Down road,all-out-6
19 Mar 25	10PcD	fst66°	263	:55	1:231	1:51	Qua		1	21 ¹	24 ¹	4 ²	3 ¹	4 ¹	JaBartitt	PeEngblom	264	29	274	283	1:521	-8			nb	DsprtMan	ARokmS	StoneHw	-8
7 Sep 24	11YR	gd73°	261	:561	1:25	1:533	D-NYSS 2 C&P	225000	6	3 ¹	3 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	512	JaBartitt	PeEngblom	274	29	284	302	1:56	83	+4	6w	39.75	CrsOnFr	HoltHw	ThirstyTh	Inside.gappd.empty-7
25 Aug 24	11YR	gd73°	261	:561	1:25	1:533	D-NYSS 2 C&P	225000	6	3 ¹	3 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	512	JaBartitt	PeEngblom	274	29	284	302	1:56	83	+4	6w	39.75	CrsOnFr	HoltHw	ThirstyTh	Inside.gappd.empty-7
17 Aug 24	11VD	fst78°	264	:54	1:232	1:503	NYSS	110100	3	6 ⁵	6 ⁷	6 ³	6 ⁷	6 ⁹	FraAfrunt	PeEngblom	271	274	282	283	1:523	94	-9		80.00	FastChoc	ThirstyTh	HoltHw	-6
7 Aug 24	6BHV	fst75°	284	:574	1:262	1:543	NYSS	52500	5	4 ⁵	3 ³	2 ¹	31 ¹	4 ⁸	DoMcnaire	PeEngblom	294	283	281	293	1:561	91	-9		9.00	ThirstyTh	CrsOnFr	HoltHw	-6

b c 3, by Huntsville, Oogle Google by Real Desire
Morrison Racing Stables,Indiana,PA
P. Engblom 488-112-84-56(230)

Br. - R Mondillo & M Robinson & D Robinson,OH,etc.

Last 4 Sts-\$36,250

1:53 PcD 5/8

25 + 3 2 1 0

\$25,000 25 Tot

5 2 0 0

\$25,000

1:56.1 Phl 5/8Q

24 PcD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot

8 0 4 1

\$59,104

- Life

11 2 5 1

\$84,104

4 FLIGHT IN MOTION(L)

3:15.2 (5/8) Q \$4,320 LEX-SEL \$14,000

10-1 R. Warren 272-13-35-38 (148)

12 Apr25	17PcD	slr40°	271	:556	1:251	1:541	WEISS 3CG	20000	5	5 ⁵	5 ⁴	5 ³	31 ¹	1nk	TyButer	EdDennis	281	284	284	282	1:541	88	-10	6w	18.90	FlightIn	WorldOWs	AlbamaLcky	Lost.cvr.on.wire-7	
5 Apr25	13PcD	slr48°	281	:573	1:25	1:543	WEISS 3CG	20000	5	5 ⁵	5 ⁴	5 ³	5 ¹	44 ¹	TiTelrick	EdDennis	291	291	271	284	1:552	83	-8	7w	L*110	SquyBlue	Touchback	RjsRedDvl	Cvr.wide.tiring-8	
29 Mar25	8PcD	fst74°	263	:552	1:232	1:52	WEISS 3CG	20000	2	4 ⁵	4 ³	2 ¹	21 ¹	12	TyButer	EdDennis	273	283	272	282	1:52	97	-5	7w	L14.50	FlightIn	M Federer	DuneBuggy	Chall.all-out-8	
18 Mar25	7DD	fst59°	281	:571	1:253	1:542	WO2/4-W	15000	6	912	912	98	96 ¹	94 ¹	EdDennis	EdDennis	303	29	273	281	1:552	79	-5	7w	13.70	PrettyLou	WchMyWr	LuckisUp	Dq.p-8-9	
11 Mar25	15DD	fst64°	272	:554	1:241	1:53	WO2/4	12500	4	5 ⁴	5 ⁷	7 ⁸	6 ¹	5p86 ¹	EdDennis	EdDennis	281	29	283	283	1:542	85	-5	7w	7.00	ChrgMeUp	Mses	PrettyLou	Dq.p-8-9	
26 Feb25	5DD	fst50°	284	:58	1:272	1:553	Qua		8	6 ⁸	6 ⁸	6 ⁵	44 ¹	44 ¹	EdDennis	EdDennis	302	291	284	28	1:562	-7			nb	LevittL	CindyJo	Manalou	-8	
25 Aug24	10PHI	fst84°	273	:561	1:241	1:52	TSS 2CG	20000	4	5 ⁵	5 ⁷	6 ¹	5 ¹	42 ¹	TiTelrick	EdDennis	283	29	274	27	1:522	94	+9	9w	6.50	MakesSnse	WdBlWyt	KnckItRond	-7	
16 Aug24	9Mw	fst80°	:	:	:	:	TSS-2YOCG	20000		scratched-sick																				

b g 3, by Betting Line, Tidewaterdragonfly by Dragon Again
Mulligan Stables,Georgetown,DE;Jason L Johnson,Inc,Dover,DE
E. Dennis 49-7-5-5(143)

Br. - Winbak Farm,MD

Last 4 Sts-\$21,600

1:52 PcD 5/8

25 + 3 2 1 0

\$21,600 25 Tot

5 2 0 0

\$21,600

*1:52.4 Mw 5/8

24 PcD 1 0 0 0

\$2,400 24

* 5 2 0 0

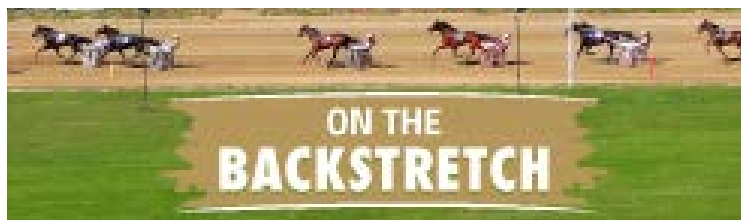
\$27,637

- Life

4 0 4 0

\$49,237

5 COVER THE SPREAD



BY DERICK GIWNER

In 2025, for the second time in his life, driver Colin Kelly packed his back and went on a new adventure. The winner of over 2,000 career races in Canada headed south of the border and for the time being has set up shop at Monticello Raceway in New York.

A native of Nova Scotia, Kelly comes from a harness racing family and is hoping his current move will be a permanent one where he can make a good living. Following a full day of work jogging horses and then driving at Monticello, Kelly took the time on his drive home to chat about his path in the sport and what his future may look like.

DRIVER COLIN KELLY

How did you get started in harness racing?

My grandparents on both my mom and my dad's side had racehorses. I got my first racehorse on my twelfth birthday. I didn't really have much of a choice, you had to go to the barn; just kidding.

Was there any chance you wouldn't be involved in the sport then?

At one point in time when I was playing high school sports I had given it up for a little bit. I was just too busy with sports so I took a step away, but that was long before I could drive. I got my license when I was 19 and I started to catch-drive back in Nova Scotia three days a week during the summertime. One year it was like October I decided to take a job in Ontario. I had just turned 22 and I was picking up the odd catch drive here and there. Come that spring I managed to pick up three or four drives a night and then I started having full cards every night at the B tracks in Ontario. I never really thought about doing anything else.

So you just packed your bags and headed to Ontario one day?

Yeah, pretty much. I had nowhere to live or anything when I went. I stayed in a hotel for a month and then got an apartment.

From 2018 to 2023 your stats in Canada were fairly consistent with an average of 262 wins and \$1.33 million in earnings. What changed to see a drop-off to 182 wins and 920K in 2024?

I took some time away. I kinda hurt myself in mid-winter when a horse jumped something on the track. I got banged up and missed a bunch of time. One thing led to another and it was hard to get work back; kind of an out of sight, out of mind thing.

You made the decision to head south to the U.S. in March of 2025. Why?

A friend of mine asked me to come ride for him in the morning, I've always kind of thought about it and really the only thing that kept me in Canada was that I had a couple of horses of my own to drive. One thing led to another, it was kind of slow with not a lot of tracks racing in Canada, so it seemed like a good time. At the end of April all of the stakes programs start up and the drivers travel, so it will give me an opportunity at a bunch of tracks. I also figured before I get too much older I might as well try it.

I saw you posted on Facebook about how John Campbell came here and made it big, perhaps hoping for the same thing for yourself?

Yeah, actually on the last card John Campbell ever drove up at Clinton I won three that day and he was in all three win pictures.



JAMES LISA/LISA PHOTO

Colin Kelly won his first Meadowlands race on April 12 with Gazoo.

You are working with Jared Bako at the Mark Ford Training Center in New York. Are you busier now than when you were in Canada?

Way busier. There are a lot of horses to drive in the morning. I only had six or seven today and then I go to Monticello. I've been going to The Meadowlands and also Yonkers qualifiers trying to show up. I want to try to do Tioga and see where it goes from there. They go Friday, Saturday and Sunday, so with Monticello that will put me at racing seven days a week. I want to get as much work as possible.

About six weeks in, are you happy with how it has gone?

I'm really enjoying it. The people here are great and are all easy to get along with. I knew it was going to take a minute to get started and I've been lucky that I have almost a full card every day at Monticello now. I drive a couple at The Meadowlands. It's been good.

Do you plan to commit long term to staying in the U.S.?

Things are setting up ok, so hopefully I can make a run at other tracks and stick around.

What is your favorite track to race at? Why?

The Meadowlands, because when I was a kid we would sit in my basement and watch it religiously every night. That was back when [John] Campbell, [Mike] Lachance, [Luc] Ouellette, [Brian] Sears and George Brennan were there. When I won that race there Saturday night it was cool because I never could've dreamed of it. I think it is a very special place to race a horse.

Speaking of that first win at The Meadowlands with Gazoo, what was going through your mind when you were ready to pounce on the field to win that race?

It was pretty surreal. I thought he was going to win last week and he missed by a neck. When I called on him he was pacing out of his skin. It was amazing.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of harness racing?

If I have time I like to play golf, but I'm so busy right now there is not a whole lot of time for anything outside of harness racing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

What is one thing about you most fans/bettors don't know?

The place where I grew up, Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Family.

What is the best advice you've ever gotten about harness racing?

It's a marathon, not a sprint. Everything doesn't happen all at once.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

I won a final on Camluck Classic night in Ontario. It was a 3-year-old filly final with a very cool filly named Significance that hadn't been beaten at that point. The crowd and the atmosphere was great. It was pretty special to me.

Do you think most bettors in the U.S. know that you won driving titles at Grand River and Western Fair in 2021?

I doubt it. I've been here for six weeks and you hardly see Canadian racing on in America because there is so much going on here. Maybe if they've seen it online but probably not.

Ideally, where do you see yourself in five years in terms of your driving career? What tracks are you racing at?

I'd love to try to stay around New York. It seems like a good spot and it is pretty central. Yonkers would be the ideal place, it is an hour down the highway for me. It seems like they race very good horses there on a year-round basis with some of the best trainers right now. I love half-mile racing, so I'd love to be there.

If you had the power to change one thing in the sport, what would it be?

I like what The Meadowlands is doing with no drag time. I feel like the average person or if I brought friends to the track when I was back in Canada, they see the board at zero [minutes to post] and don't understand why the race isn't starting. There is still going to be time between races but we should be behind the gate at zero. For driving, I know when they add time to the clock and you have a warm horse that is the worst. They do it three times a day at Monticello. It is kind of a pet peeve.

If you think Monticello is bad with drag, have you watched Northfield?

Yeah, they play like three songs while they're on the track.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

I think with the way the stakes program is right now, the Ontario Sire Stakes are great, but with the way things are in Kentucky, Ohio and even in New York and the surrounding area, it's awesome to see what is being built. The sales for babies are good and the state programs are going in the right direction. Going forward I think things look great.

What does a day in the life of Colin Kelly look like?

I'm at the barn at 5 a.m. Usually when I'm done I have to jump right into the car to go to Monticello. Then I have a bite to eat, a quick shower, maybe run to the gym and then a quiet evening unless I have to go to a track at night. That's the extent of it.

Time for the stretch drive...

Best Horse you ever saw: Somebeachsomewhere. I actually drove three hours before he ever raced to watch him at Truro Raceway. There was a lot of early buzz about that horse early. That Brent MacGrath had a colt that was a killer. The track was terrible that day. He trained on an icy track in like April.

Lasix – Yes or No: I'm a believer in it for a horse that really needs it.

Favorite TV Show: Landman or Seinfeld.

Trotters or Pacers: Pacers. Where I grew up there really weren't a lot of trotters. I like a nice trotter but to win a big race on the pace is more my thing, I guess.

Kakaley tallies for 7,000th time

Matt Kakaley, three-time defending dash-winning driving champion at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, recorded his 7,000th visit to the winner's circle as a driver when he guided Franco to Victory Lane in the second race at the northeast Pennsylvania oval on Monday afternoon.

Horses whom Kakaley, 37, has driven have earned \$117.4M for their owners, putting him 22nd on the all-time list of money-winning drivers, with many more years of success in front of him. Last year, horses he drove earned a personal yearly best of nearly \$9.9 million, tenth-best figure in North America, and he was sixth on the continent with 539 victories, just below his personal high of 2023, when he triumphed 561 times. This year he is also tenth in North America in the driving earnings category. Kakaley has captured six driving crowns at Pocono during his career – four as the winningest driver and two UDR trophies.

Racing resumes on Saturday at Pocono with a 1 p.m. card, headlined by the \$50,000 Bobby Weiss Series Championship for 3-year-old pacing males in the tenth slot, with five of the eight

entrants having two preliminary wins but nobody achieving a sweep of the three prelims. Their filly counterparts will have four \$20,000 divisions of their Weiss's second leg, with three first-round winners going head-to-head-to-head in race four.

-edited release (PHHA/Pocono)



CURTIS SALONICK PHOTO

Matt Kakaley was joined by family and friends after getting his 7,000th win on Tuesday (April 15) at Pocono Downs.

Monthly handicapping contest a great deal at The Meadowlands

The Meadowlands is always looking for ways to get people to come to the track, and it has something grand to do just that. Make that 10 grand.

For patrons who enjoy the on-track experience, The Big M is providing a competition that not only provides a challenge, but plenty of prize money as well.

And for those who do well during the course of the 2025 Meadowlands Monthly Handicapping Contest, a huge pot of gold awaits at the end of the rainbow.

This Saturday (April 19) will mark the fourth of 10 installments of the contest, each of which offers \$1,000 in prize money, which is divided up among the top four finishers.

The top two finishers from each of the 10 monthly tournaments get to return for an invitation-only end-of-the-year competition where \$10,000 will be up for grabs for just 20 outstanding players on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Sean Loebs, a 34-year-old track regular and horse owner, who was the winner of the March qualifier, sees many good things in the competition.

"The unique format of this contest is what I think is appealing," said Loebs. "Because whether you are a typical win and place bettor or someone like me, who prefers betting Daily Doubles, Pick-3s, Pick-4s, Pick-5s, this format allows you to play to your strengths. It doesn't box you into mandatory bets."

The contest doesn't have a big buy-in. In fact, there is no entry fee at all. There is a \$100 live money bankroll required for those who wish to participate, and players must register/check in at the Clubhouse Lobby by 6:20 p.m.

"I think the bankroll not being so large means you have to be tactical about how you play," said Loebs. "For instance, when I won, I wanted to bet a lot of my money on a chalky Early Double and try to build a lead and I thought there were favorites later on the card I could come back to and make a big win bet if I needed to."

"I think the idea that the Meadowlands came up with of having these "feeder" contests every month is fun because now I have something to look forward to and it also allows me to play and get another seat, or, if I lost earlier in the year, I know another opportunity is coming. Having [a chance at] that big [prize] pool at the end of the year is the goal."

The contest offers something that the once-a-week or once-a-month visitor to the races may not realize. The \$100 betting card is the patron's own money that they keep at the end of the night. So, entering the contest is something that they should be doing no matter what.

"It almost makes no sense to not give the contest a try," said Loebs. "Sometimes, in this contest, you have to turn \$100 into \$300, \$400, \$500, or \$600, which people can do, and because you won the contest [that night], you are now looking at a \$10,000 final. If you are going to the track with \$100, there's really no downside to giving the contest a try, all it takes is having a good night at the track and you could be in the final."

Remaining contest schedule:

- Friday, May 16
- Friday, June 20
- Friday, July 18
- Saturday, August 30
- Saturday, October 25
- Friday, November 21

Players that have already qualified for the December contest are Nick Montemurro and Gary Scogna (the top two finishers from January); Michael Grasso and Montemurro (February); and Loebs and Joe Barre (March).

Complete contest rules and regulations can be found [here](#).

SET YOUR ALARM: Saturday (April 19) morning qualifiers will once again have some big names spread throughout the 12 races, featuring the first appearance of the season of the 2024 Dan Patch 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year.


The Chris Ryder-trained Miki and Minnie, who finished off her \$834,086 season a year ago with victories in the Breeders Crown and Three Diamonds, will depart from post five in the seventh qualifier with Dexter Dunn in the sulky.

Other notables qualifying:

- 1st race – Asteroid, Sir Pinocchio, Cool Papa Bell
- 6th race – El Rey, Captain Luke, Sping Inhis Step A, Bythemissal
- 8th race – Swingtown, Papi's Rocket
- 9th race – Sippinonsearoc


The qualifiers, which begin at 9 a.m., can be seen live on The Meadowlands website (playmeadowlands.com) or [rtn.tv](#) (Racing Television Network).

Pick 6 Carryover: There were no winning tickets in the Pick 6 on April 12 and that resulted in a \$5,569 carryover into race eight on Friday's card.



Handicapper's Corner

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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, APRIL 17

RACE 2

(2) NIGHTINGALE stayed trotting in a pari-mutuel start for the first time in her young career, and was able to flaunt a nice late kick in a 3rd place finish. She made about a lot of ground in a short period of time on a night that favored front end speed.

-John Rallis



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

RACE 12

(4) AINTNOHOLLABACKGRL finished willingly when clear from far back last time. Notice that Beckwith chooses here over (5) EA MUSHU, who has won her last three starts in this class. Last weekend Beckwith chose this barn a couple of times and won.

-Derick Givner



RACE 8

(1) DOROTEA TRIO IT has dominated in her last two starts and the recent import figures to have little trouble stepping up again to make it three straight.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, APRIL 19

RACE 6

(3) MAXIM HANOVER couldn't overcome a first-over trip versus a much better group than he faces this week. Four-year-old is sharp and figures to get an aggressive steer.

-Givner



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

ENGBLOM, BURKE CONTINUE TO DOMINATE BRENNAN TROTTING SERIES

Horses trained by Ron Burke or Per Engblom were the winners of all three \$30,000 divisions of the final preliminary round of the John Brennan Trotting Series on Wednesday night (April 16) at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

Burke's Antognoni S will go for a series sweep after he won his split in 1:56 1/5. Away third from post five, Antognoni S took control from first-up heading to the 1:28 three-quarters and opened up from there to defeat Lucky Mum N (Brent Holland) by 10 lengths. A 5-year-old Father Patrick gelding, Antognoni S (paid \$2.10 to win) is co-owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC., Weaver Brussemi LLC., Fac Racing LLC. and driver Yannick Gingras.

The other victor for Burke was Busy Making Moni, who got up at the wire after he tipped out of the pocket before three-quarters, to defeat Engblom-trained Bellissimo Face S (Jason Bartlett) by a nose in 1:57 2/5. It was the second straight win in the series for Busy Making Moni (paid \$3.70 to win), a 5-year-old gelded son of International Moni owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC. and Weaver Brussemi LLC.

[READ MORE](#)

WALTER CASE JR. BACK IN ACTION OUTSIDE OF MAINE

Walter Case Jr., who has been racing in Maine regularly since 2021, will be in action on Thursday (April 17) at Plainridge Park, the first time he has been permitted to drive outside of Maine in almost two decades.

Case, who is 12th on the all-time wins list among drivers with 11,484, has averaged 140 wins over the last three years in the Pine Tree State. The 64-year-old was incarcerated for multiple years starting in 2004 and unofficially banned from participation in harness racing from 2009 to 2020 (with the exception of 53 starts at Scarborough in 2017).

Case is listed on six horses on the Thursday card at Plainridge and a number of drives at Cumberland in Maine on other days.

ROSECROFT RELEASES AMENDED MAY SCHEDULE

Rosecroft Raceway has released an amended live harness racing schedule for the month of May.

The Washington, D.C.-area track will offer live racing on the following days: Saturday, May 3 (Kentucky Derby Day); Wednesday, May 7; Sunday, May 11 (Mother's Day); Wednesday, May 14; and Sunday, May 18. First post remains 7:15 p.m. (EDT) except for the two Sunday cards, which will begin at 12 noon.

For more information, visit www.rosecroft.com.

-release (Rosecroft)

NOMINATIONS GET BIG BUMP FOR NEW LONDON CLASSIC SALE SERIES

The Raceway at Western Fair District is excited to announce that nominations for the new London Classic Sale Series are now posted on our website. This year, a total of 171 horses have been nominated, marking a remarkable 32% increase over last year when it was known as the City of London Series.

The series, open to both trotters and pacers, will feature four \$40,000 (G) finals taking place on Camluck Classic night, Friday, May 30th. The event is supported in part by the London Classic Yearling Sale, which is expected to showcase one of the strongest catalogues in Canadian history this Fall. Entries for this year's sale close on Monday, April 21st, with the sale slated for October 14 and 15 at the Western Fair District Agriplex.

For more information, visit The Raceway's website at www.theracewaywfd.com or the London Classic Yearling Sale website at www.londonclassic.ca.

-release (WFD Media)

KIRK BREED, SIRE STAKES AT CAL EXPO

Overthemoonforyou, a winner of 12 of 13 starts at the meet; and arch-rivals Graceful Horizon and Divine Art headline Friday night's co-features at Cal Expo.

Overthemoonforyou has top billing in the \$20,000 California Sire Stakes for the 4-year-old pacing mares while Graceful Horizon and Divine Art loom the major players in the \$12,500 Kirk Breed for pacing distaffers.

An 11-race program is on tap with first post set for 6:45 p.m. with the Kirk Breed occupying the 6th race slot while the Sire Stakes follows as the 7th event on the evening.

Overthemoonforyou is having a sensational season for owner Qks Racing, trainer Quentin Schneider and pilot Aaron Lehmann and is seeking a sweep of the Sire Stakes for the division.

Meanwhile, Graceful Horizon comes into the Breed having won six of her 11 starts on the season for Set The Pacing Racing LLC and driver/trainer Nick Roland. After having to settle for minor awards behind Divine Art in four straight outings between March 8 and April 5, she got her revenge in last week's Distaff Open.

Graceful Horizon motored right to the front in that affair, was nicely rated by Roland and held safe by three quarters of a length over Divine Art.

The latter is a 6-year-old daughter of Outrageous Art who is owned, trained and driven by Gerry Longo and is looking for her 41st snapshot from 107 lifetime appearances.

She rattled off four straight impressive victories coming into last week's Open, including wins in the Rod Knittel and Alan Kirschenbaum, that had the pace dynamics working against her in that last tour and went a big mile to complete the exacta.

-release (Mark Ratzky for Cal Expo)

FRESHMAN FOCUS TO FEATURE VIRGIL MORGAN JR.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) will feature Virgil Morgan Jr. and his Ohio two-year-olds in training in this week's edition of Freshman Focus.

Hosted by Roger Huston and Ashley Dailey, Freshman Focus will air at 7 PM on Thursday (April 17) on the OHHA's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Freshman Focus is presented by Eldorado Scioto Downs, Prolific Equine, Sugar Valley Farms, The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center, and Wire to Wire Wealth.

-release (OHHA)

AFTER THEY RACE, WE FIND THEM A PLACE



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