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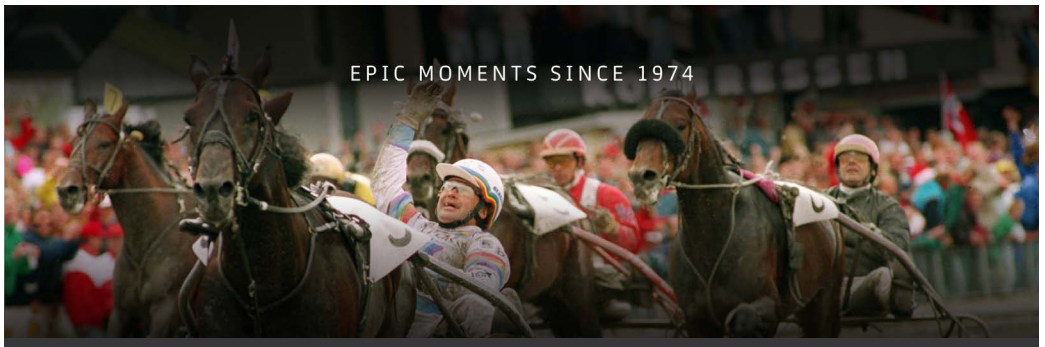
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025



FORMER CHAMPIONS BATTLE IN ELITLOPPET

By Greg Reinhart

Solvalla Racecourse in Stockholm, Sweden is set to host many of the world's top trotters in the 2025 edition of the Elitlopp on Sunday (May 25). The Elitlopp will go in a same-day elimination/final format, with the top four finishers from each elimination in races six and seven moving on to the final in race 11. The Elitlopp eliminations and final are one mile races from behind a starting car.

While 2024 champion Horsy Dream is not entered, the winners of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Elitlopps are all set to compete. The 2022 champion is Etonnant, who has post one in the opening elimination for driver Anthony Barrier and owner/trainer Richard Westerink. The son of Timoko, the winner of the 2017 Elitlopp, was a regular at the top level across the world, including two appearances in the MGM Yonkers International Trot in 2022 and 2023, but the 11-year-old made just one start in 2024 due to some physical issues that popped up.

"It was all in his muscles. We didn't know what he had. He was sick, but we couldn't find it," Westerink offered. "Now the horse is good. He's in good shape and in great form, so we put him in the race again."

Etonnant's prep races included a second in the Group 1 Grand Critérium de Vitesse de la Côte d'Azur at Cagnes-sur-Mer on March 9 and a fourth in the Group 2 Prix Kerjacques at Vincennes on April 5. He did tire in a sixth-place finish in his last outing in the Group 1 Prix de L'Atlantique on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

DERICK GIWNER PHOTO

Etonnant captured the 2022 Elitlopp for trainer Richard Westerink.

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WHO WILL BE THE
NEXT LEGEND?
elitloppet® 25
Solvalla may 23-25
ATG MAJOR RACES

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April 19 at Enghien, but Westerink wasn't discouraged by that performance.

"He raced very well in Cagnes-sur-Mer and then in Vincennes. Enghien, he was a little bit tired I think. For some time he was not racing and then he raced three times with not a long time between his races," he noted. "Now he's got five weeks in between races, and I think he will be good. In training he worked very, very, very well, so we will see in the race."

While on paper the pole position is a coveted spot on the five-eighths-mile track, Westerink remarked that it may not be the easiest spot for his horse and that a change in his normal racing style may be needed.

"I think we can win the Elitlopp, but now it's a little bit complicated. There are so many people who want post one in the race, but for Etonnant, behind the gate with post one, it's not so simple I think," he said. "He can make a fast start, but we always take him back because we don't want to take the risk to make a break. I'll talk with Anthony, but I think we must take a little bit more risk. He'll race with the same bridle, otherwise no changes (with his equipment)."

Among the horses that Etonnant will face in his elimination are Francesco Zet, one of the pre-race favorites and the fourth-place finisher from 2024's Elitlopp final, Go On Boy, who was third in the 2023 Elitlopp final for trainer/driver Romain Derieux and then won his elimination last year but broke stride in the final, and multiple Grand Circuit stakes winner Logan Park, who is the lone North American representative with Doug McNair in to drive the Rob Fellows trainee.

(above) Edison Hatter photo / (below) Solvalla X account

Hohneck (above) won the 2023 Elitlopp while trainer Daniel Reden (right, below) won the 2021 Elite race with Don Fanucci Zet.

"It was a great draw for him," trainer Daniel Redén stated on his Stall Zet website in regards to Francesco Zet, who landed post two for driver Örjan Kihlström. "He had a (hard training) day on Thursday and a medium training today (Monday). He is moving fantastically well and mentally he is in a different place than he was all last year. He is calmer, so now we will see if he is ready to make it to an Elite race. We have told him to take it easy and now he should not take it easy, so there will be a bit of a double signal, but I think we have him where he should be.

"He raced and waited for the competitors last time. He has never liked to run away from the competitors, but he ran a 1.09 (kilometer) time at Rättvik, and it was quite cold outside, so that was good. Now it will be Norwegian headgear and hood as usual. We will run barefoot in the back and then we will run barefoot all around if he makes it to the final."

In the other elimination, 2023 Elitlopp winner Hohneck, who will be piloted by Gabriele Gelormini for trainer Philippe Allaire and 2021 champion Don Fanucci Zet, another Redén trainee who will be steered by Paul-Philippe Ploquin, are set to meet from posts one and three, respectively. However, the likely favorite in the race is Sweden's Borups Victory from post six for trainer/driver Daniel Wäjersten as the son of Googoo Gaagaa comes in off a victory in the Group 1 Paralympiatravet at Åby on May 4. Borups Victory was also second in last year's Elitlopp final.

"He looks really good, he is happy and alert. He knows these routines and conditions," Redén wrote about Don Fanucci Zet. "It's the first time with Ploquin in Sweden, but Fanucci is quite easy to drive and Ploquin knows the horse since (he drove him at) Vincennes in two big races. It was a good situation, and I think the driver will charge and the horse will grow when he is up there. He probably has a good performance in him as it feels. He is getting old but he doesn't feel worse now than before and it seems that the neck surgery has at least had something to do with it. He wears shoes to be stable from the start so he can charge properly."

Post times for the first and second eliminations are 9:28 a.m. (EDT) and 9:55 a.m. (EDT) with the final at 11:45 a.m. (EDT). The program also includes the Group 2 Montéeliten for horses under saddle (race three), the Group 1 Breeders Course for 3-year-old trotting fillies (race four), the Group 2 Delicious race for 4-year-old mare trotters (race eight), the Group 1 Breeders Course for 3-year-old male trotters (race nine) and the Group 2 Tommy Hannés for 4-year-old male trotters (race ten). The Delicious features the second outing in Sweden for Allegiant, the 2024 Dan Patch Award winner for top 3-year-old trotting filly in the U.S.

ELIMINATION 1 - RACE 6 (MAY 25 AT SOLVALLA)

Post - Horse (Country) - Driver - Trainer

1. **Etonnant (France) - Anthony Barrier - Richard Westerink**
2. **Francesco Zet (Sweden) - Örjan Kihlström - Daniel Redén**
3. **Go On Boy (France) - Romain Derieux - Romain Derieux**
4. **Mellby Jinx (Sweden) - Mats E. Djuse - Daniel Wäjersten**
5. **Logan Park (Canada) - Doug McNair - Robert Fellows**
6. **A Fair Day (Sweden) - Oscar Ginman - Elisabeth Almheden**
7. **Charron (Norway) - Magnus Teien Gundersen - Geir Vegard Gundersen**
8. **Always EK (Italy) - Alessandro Gocciadoro - Alessandro Gocciadoro**

ELIMINATION 2 - RACE 7 (MAY 25 AT SOLVALLA)

Post - Horse (Country) - Driver - Trainer

1. **Hohneck (France) - Gabriele Gelormini - Philippe Allaire**
2. **Hooker Berry (France) - Nicolas Bazire - Franck Leblanc**
3. **Don Fanucci Zet (Sweden) - Paul-Philippe Ploquin - Daniel Redén**
4. **Mellby Knekt (Sweden) - Magnus A. Djuse - Timo Nurmos**
5. **Hussard Du Landret (France) - Benoît Robin - Benoît Robin**
6. **Borups Victory (Sweden) - Daniel Wäjersten - Daniel Wäjersten**
7. **The Locomotive (Australia) - Brad Hewitt - Brad Hewitt**
8. **Massimo Hoist (Finland) - Hannu Torvinen - Jukka Hakkarainen**

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Harris trio set to roll for Sunday Invitationals in Chester

By Jay Bergman

Trainer Andrew Harris has built a stable of solid older pacers and a pair of them will be on debut Sunday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia, with 2024 Dan Patch Award winner Abuckabett Hanover racing in the $100,000 Joseph Auger Memorial and My Girl EJ meeting 2024 Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh in the $100,000 Betsy Ross.

"I'm really happy the way Abuckabett has come back," said Harris. "That first qualifier he got excited and worked up before the race and kind of choked a bit. He was much better in the second qualifier, only Sabonis was a bit better. Still, he came home in 25 3/5 and that's not bad."

Abuckabett Hanover, a son of Betting Line, had a brilliant campaign last year winning seven of his 15 starts and seeing career earnings balloon over $2 million. He returns on Sunday against a solid and more seasoned field of horses, with MGM Borgata series champion Mossdale Ben N (post 7) and the classy Bythemissal (post 4) joining 2024 Auger champion and track-record holder Ruthless Hanover (post 8). The deep field also includes the rugged Coaches Corner (post 1), a three-leg winner in the Borgata that fell victim to post eight in the lucrative final.

As for Abuckabett Hanover in his first start of the year, Harris didn't seem worried. "Generally, he's not at his best racing on the front so the qualifier was really solid," Harris said. "He was exactly the same when we started him last year, with the second qualifier better than the first."

Last year Coaches Corner drew post seven for the Auger and this year he'll be inside, affording driver Jason Bartlett significantly more options.

Bythemissal drew post eight for last year's edition and now finds post four more promising for the Hall of Fame team of trainer Ron Burke and driver Yannick Gingras. Bythemissal started just eight times last year and was the favorite in the Breeders Crown following an impressive effort in the eliminations. This year he enters the Auger following a 1:48 3/5 effort in an Open event at Scioto on May 10.

Despite drawing post eight Ruthless Hanover clearly has an advantage over the Harrah's Philadelphia five-eighths-of-a-mile surface with his brilliant early speed and staying power. An explosive 1:51 qualifier over this surface on May 13 should have him fit enough for competition.

The Auger Memorial goes as race 12 among 16 on the stakes-filled Harrah's Philadelphia program.

Harris sends out My Girl EJ in the $100,000 Betsy Ross, an Invitational for mares carded as race 13.

"She's come back great," said Harris "It's going to be tough going against Twin B Joe Fresh."

The 4-year-old My Girl EJ already has experience racing against the 2024 Horse of the Year as the two met in last year's Fan Duel at The Meadowlands with the then sophomore filly finishing second behind Twin B Joe Fresh.

"She's a two-time Breeders Crown champion," said Harris. "In the first qualifier there was no reason to do anything but sit behind Twin B Joe Fresh. In the second qualifier she was strong."

My Girl E J won on May 17 at The Meadowlands in 1:50 2/5 with a 26 4/5 final quarter, her final prep for this contest.

The Betsy Ross has My Girl EJ squeezed between Twin B Joe Fresh (post 5) and Aardie B Miki N (post 7). The latter has won five straight races without defeat including a victory in the $490,000 Blue Chip Matchmaker at Yonkers on May 9.

Seven Colors has Harris excited about a better season in 2025. The 5-year-old makes his second start of the year in the $50,000 Send It In Invitational (race 8). "He's going to be a much easier horse to drive this year," said Harris, hoping versatility will give drivers more options.

Seven Colors finished fourth behind Desperate Man in a $25,000 event at Pocono on May 17 and the two will meet once again in the Send It In on Sunday. Desperate Man took a personal best 1:48 2/5 clocking while regaining winning form for trainer Travis Alexander.

The Send It In field also includes Southwind Gendry (post 3), a $1.3 million winner from the Ron Burke stable that enters the contest following a 1:47 4/5 victory at The Meadowlands on May 17.

Trainer Tom Cancelliere sends out Maximus Miki (post 7), a 6-year-old that was first or second in 17 of his 23 starts last year and has prepped nicely for his 2025 debut.

Sunday's Harrah's card also includes the $100,000 Maxie Lee Invitational trot, with Antognoni S (post 1) and Aetos Kronos S (post 2) topping a field of eight, and three divisions of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes headlined by last year's Dan Patch Award winner Louprint. The Ron Burke trainee is looking for his third straight win in the Sire Stakes before shipping to Canada for the North America Cup trials on June 7.

The 16-race Harrah's Philadelphia program has a first post of 12:40 p.m. (EDT) and features a $10,000 Guaranteed Pick 4 starting in race 10.

Hugh Ducey (Lisa Photo)

Abuckabett Hanover won the Dan Patch Award for older pacers in 2024 and makes his first start of the year on Sunday.

$100,000 MAXIE LEE MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL TROT - RACE 11

1-Antognoni S	Yannick Gingras	Ron Burke
2-Aetos Kronos S	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander
3-Amigo Volo	Todd McCarthy	Nifty Norman
4-Sir Pinocchio	Jason Bartlett	Ed Hart
5-Benjamin Hanover	Tim Tetrick	Scott Di Domenico
6-College Tuition	Andy McCarthy	Eric Foster
7-Usain Hanover	Dave Miller	Jeff Cullipher
8-Secret Agent Man	Andy Miller	Julie Miller

$100,000 JOE AUGER MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL PACE - RACE 12

1-Coaches Corner	Jason Bartlett	Per Engblom
2-Oakwood Ardan IR	Andy McCarthy	Robert Cleary
3-Abuckabett Hanover	Dexter Dunn	Andrew Harris
4-Bythemissal	Yannick Gingras	Ron Burke
5-Dunkin'	Matt Kakaley	Scott Di Domenico
6-Spring Inhis Step A	Tim Tetrick	Jeff Cullipher
7-Mossdale Ben N	Jordan Stratton	Peter Tritton
8-Ruthless Hanover	George Napolitano Jr.	Tom Cancelliere

$100,000 BETSY ROSS F&M INVITATIONAL PACE - RACE 13

1-Valar Dohaeris	Tim Tetrick	Ake Svanstedt
2-Turn The Page N	Ron Cushing	Heidi Cushing
3-Seaside Diva	Yannick Gingras	Ron Burke
4-Talk Curdy To Me	Dave Miller	Jeff Cullipher
5-Twin B Joe Fresh	Dexter Dunn	Chris Ryder
6-My Girl EJ	Todd McCarthy	Andrew Harris
7-Aardie B Miki N	Jason Bartlett	Per Engblom
8-Rocket Deo	Andy McCarthy	Brett Pelling

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Handicappers should err on the side of being studious

EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner 𝕏 @harnesseyeguy

One of the nuisances when it comes to wagering on harness racing is learning driver tendencies. While every driver will have you believe that they take each situation differently and can perform well from on or off the pace, they do fall back on certain habits, if you will.

Considering the mindset of drivers is especially important during these late spring and early summer months when 3-year-olds are returning to the races and 2-year-olds will get their first taste of pari-mutuel life.

Ignoring the fact that some drivers are better than others and certain situations will lead to different tactics, in theory we can safely lump each driver into one of three buckets – aggressive, adaptable and conservative. Almost every driver will say they fall into adaptable, but it is my contention that provided no instruction from the trainer on a horse making its first couple of starts of the year especially, most drivers will default to their habitual category.

Since The Meadowlands is my main focus during the year, let's dissect that colony of drivers below. I've included the people who competed in the most 2-year-old races in recent years as well as three of the leading drivers in 2025 who figure to pick up additional drives.

Aggressive	Adaptable	Conservative
Yannick Gingras	Andrew McCarthy	Dexter Dunn
Jason Bartlett	Todd McCarthy	Jordan Stratton
David Miller		Brett Beckwith
Ake Svanstedt		Tim Tetrick
Andy Miller		Scott Zeron

The rankings are relatively self-explanatory. From my perspective, the aggressive drivers are more likely than not to put their horses in play early in the mile or make a strong move to towards front in the middle of the race. This assumes a level playing field. Meaning that if Gingras is driving a horse who doesn't seem to have any early speed, I wouldn't expect him to automatically go hard off the wings of the gate. That said, I expect all of the aggressive drivers to err on the side of aggression. That's really the key term. If there is a choice to make at any point during the mile, a more aggressive driver is less likely to sit along the pylons while a conservative driver is prone to "sitting a trip" in hopes things work out.

At least in my mind, guys in the "conservative" group are going to look to "save" a young horse for the right spots and not use "win at all cost" tactics. Again, this is a general statement and not saying that every circumstance is the same. I have Brett Beckwith under conservative after just a limited sample of races because he's shown to be a bit more careful with young horses like Making History. This could certainly change if his brand grows and he starts getting more opportunities for other stables that cater to 2- and 3-year-olds.

Trying to prove my theory in which drivers belong in which category, I decided to go back and check all of the 2-year-old races at The Meadowlands from the last week in June through the last week in July over the last three years. I recorded every driver who was on the lead at the quarter or half in a race for rookie trotters or pacers. The results were a bit eye-opening and have me rethinking my logic a bit.

With a sample size of approximately 120 races (I didn't record the actual number), the driver whose horses were on the lead the most early in the mile was Dexter Dunn (27 instances). How could one of my conservative drivers lead the way? The more I thought about it, a lot of that likely has to do with who his main clients are in these types of races. Trainers like Nancy Takter or Marcus Melander tend to send their horses out to the track ready to roll and thus Dunn is highly likely to put them in play.

Running down the list, David Miller was next at 23, followed by Todd McCarthy (22), Gingras and Scott Zeron (19), and Tim Tetrick and Andrew McCarthy (18). With much fewer drives, Ake Svanstedt came in at 10 and Andy Miller at seven. Interestingly, Zeron led all drivers with 11 horses leading at either the quarter or half in 2024, so it just goes to show that he's willing to put horses in play when he has the right talent in front of him, even if I still consider him conservative.

So, what conclusions can we make from everything above?

I still believe in my initial list as a general statement but I may have a bit more of an open mind depending on the horse and the barn. For example, nine of the 11 times Zeron was on the lead in 2024 occurred when he drove for the Toscano barn. Maybe he is driving those horses differently than others.

I have to admit that I much prefer an aggressive driver. While in an ideal world bettors would like a perfect drive every time, that scenario simply isn't realistic to expect. Everyone makes mistakes and even the best drivers fall into that category. That said, what we as bettors want most is to get a run for our money. We want to feel like the driver is giving us the best opportunity to win.

When a 3-5 favorite who appears to have some early speed is taken to the back of the pack and does nothing it is frustrating. Perhaps the horse wasn't feeling good that night, but as bettors the only thing we saw is the perceived lack of effort. Remember, perception is reality. If that same horse was placed on the lead (or tried to leave) and ultimately tired to last, bettors would walk away satisfied. I'm not sure drivers take that into account, and in some respects I'm not sure they should. Drivers needs to steer their horses in a way to provide them the best opportunity to win regardless of the odds. There have been plenty of times where a driver took the conservative route and I disagreed with it in the moment but that decision was the sole reason they won. Just as drivers can make errors in judgement, we as onlookers can make similar bad calls.

There is a very fine line between what is good for the bettors and what is best for the connections of the horse. While winning is the ultimate goal of bettors it is not always the case for the connections. Maybe some people want to sweep that fact under the rug, but it is true. In a way that is just another piece to the handicapping puzzle. Some races have 10 pieces and a 4-year-old can figure it out and others have 1,000 pieces and require deeper thought.

Handicapping isn't as simple as looking at the last line and heading to the windows. Bettors need to evaluate everything and consult the value on the odds board or will-pays. Only then should you consider making a wager, whether on a perceived conservative driver or an aggressive one.

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Anticipation building for possible 3YO filly battle at Mohawk

JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman 𝕏 BergmanJay

The regionalization of the standardbred sport has a way of segregating the sports' best horses while at the same time offering unique opportunities to trainers and owners to maximize the returns on their investments. As programs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York and most recently Kentucky have grown, the need for horses to step out of their comfort zones has been limited, upending the depth once created by the Grand Circuit. It is not a longing for the past but just a wish that racing fans would have the opportunity to have a reason to root on the home team when regional powers collide.

There are still a few weeks remaining, but the hope is that perhaps June 7 or June 14 will be one of those day(s) where the best horses from North America convene at one track and in one race. While those dates may coincide with the C$1 million North America Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park with eliminations followed by the rich final, the hope here comes that the Fan Hanover, the co-feature on the pacing side, provides all the elements of a must-see event. With still some time for the connections to consider, there is a chance that Canada's reigning Horse of the Year Chantilly would meet the 2024 Dan Patch winner Miki And Minnie along with Ohio champion Odds On Hialeah for the first time. With double eligibility, the ball is in the court of those making the decisions, with Chantilly double-staked and eligible at this moment to both the North America Cup and Fan Hanover.

CONRAD PHOTO

Odds On Hialeah should meet up with Chantilly and Miki And Minnie in 2025.

Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. has a pair of extremely talented Ohio-sired fillies in Odds On Hialeah and Odds On Chesapeake. The pair made their sophomore debuts in Ohio Sire Stakes action at Scioto Downs last Friday (May 16) and were equally impressive while dominating.

"I was happy with both of them," said Morgan about the pair before touching on where the fillies would be racing in the future. "There's an Ohio Sire Stakes (June 7 at Northfield Park), so I'm going to have to talk it over with Dana (Parham-Odds on Racing) and see what he wants to do."

Visually, Odds On Hialeah put on an impressive display of speed going first-over with a 26 1/5 burst of speed to clear the lead and open five lengths on her rivals in her debut. A winning margin of just over a length in a quick 1:50 3/5 mile was deceptive.

"Brett (driver Miller) shut her down," said Morgan. "You don't get anything extra for setting track records, so I was very happy about that."

A daughter of Lather Up, the 2018 North America Cup champion, Odds On Hialeah won seven of her eight starts as a freshman, dominating in her home state but giving strong indication that her ability would stretch outside that locale.

"I think she'll be competitive," said Morgan when asked about the potential to race in the Fan Hanover. "She beat a pretty nice filly in Papi Grad at Delaware last year and everyone was talking about that one." Papi Grad had gained plenty of attention in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes but proved powerless when Odds On Hialeah rolled by her in 1:51 4/5 in the Standardbred Stake.

Chantilly also made her 2025 debut last weekend and did so in style, winning the SBOA Final for sophomore pacing fillies in 1:52 with runner-up Millie May Hanover keeping pace with her to the wire but unable to re-rally. Chantilly remained perfect in her career. It's difficult to be critical of any horse making a first start of the season, especially in stakes competition, but questions remain whether a match against colts is really in her best interest at this point in the season. A pair of North America Cup eligibles competed and won on the same card, including the Bettor's Delight-sired Crack Shot, who showed Nijinsky-like power in capturing his SBOA event with driver Doug McNair on obvious cruise control to the wire in a solid 1:51 clocking.

Trainer Chris Ryder is pointing Miki And Minnie for the Fan Hanover and unlike the other connections has no conflicts to consider. The Always B Miki-sired filly has made just one start this year and that came on May 12 when she overcame post eight to win a Pennsylvania All Stars event at Pocono in a crisp 1:51 mile.

Miki And Minnie is eligible in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, so the Fan Hanover may be one of the only chances she'll have this year to meet Chantilly, at least prior to the Breeders Crown, which is why the hope for a potential rivalry looms so large in June.

Morgan also believes that Odds On Chesapeake has the talent to go beyond Ohio but the Downbytheseaside-sired filly has a broader stakes package that could prove more lucrative. "She's dual eligible in Kentucky," Morgan said, giving rise to the thought that she could be meeting Miki And Minnie down the road on occasion.

There are a lot of elements to seeing great races take shape and the nuances of the racing schedule offer only a few times when it's everyone's interest to join the party. To the connections behind these championship-caliber fillies there is already the willingness to double stake and spend extra money just to give them the opportunity. Now it will be a question of which road is taken and whether those roads will cross at Woodbine Mohawk Park in the coming weeks.

Chantilly has the home field advantage as Odds On Hialeah raced exclusively in Ohio last year, and Miki And Minnie did travel but spent a majority of her time in Kentucky and New Jersey while culminating her season with a Breeders Crown title.

While the need to race in Grand Circuit events may be different today than it was 30 years ago, of interest is just how strong some of these Sire Stakes programs have become and how champion-caliber horses need not be defined by location or theoretical strength of sire. Odds On Hialeah is by a young sire in Lather Up.

"I think he's been a lot better than some people expected," said Morgan in defense of the descendant of Bettor's Delight.

While the sons and daughters of Bettor's Delight have been dominant in Ontario, Chantilly's rise to glory has brought along with it the ability of Big Jim to climb out from the shadows and give the Western Ideal-stallion line voice in Ontario.

The stars may have to align for the race to play out but hopefully Chantilly, Miki And Minnie and Odds On Hialeah will be behind the same starting car at Woodbine Mohawk Park this June 14.

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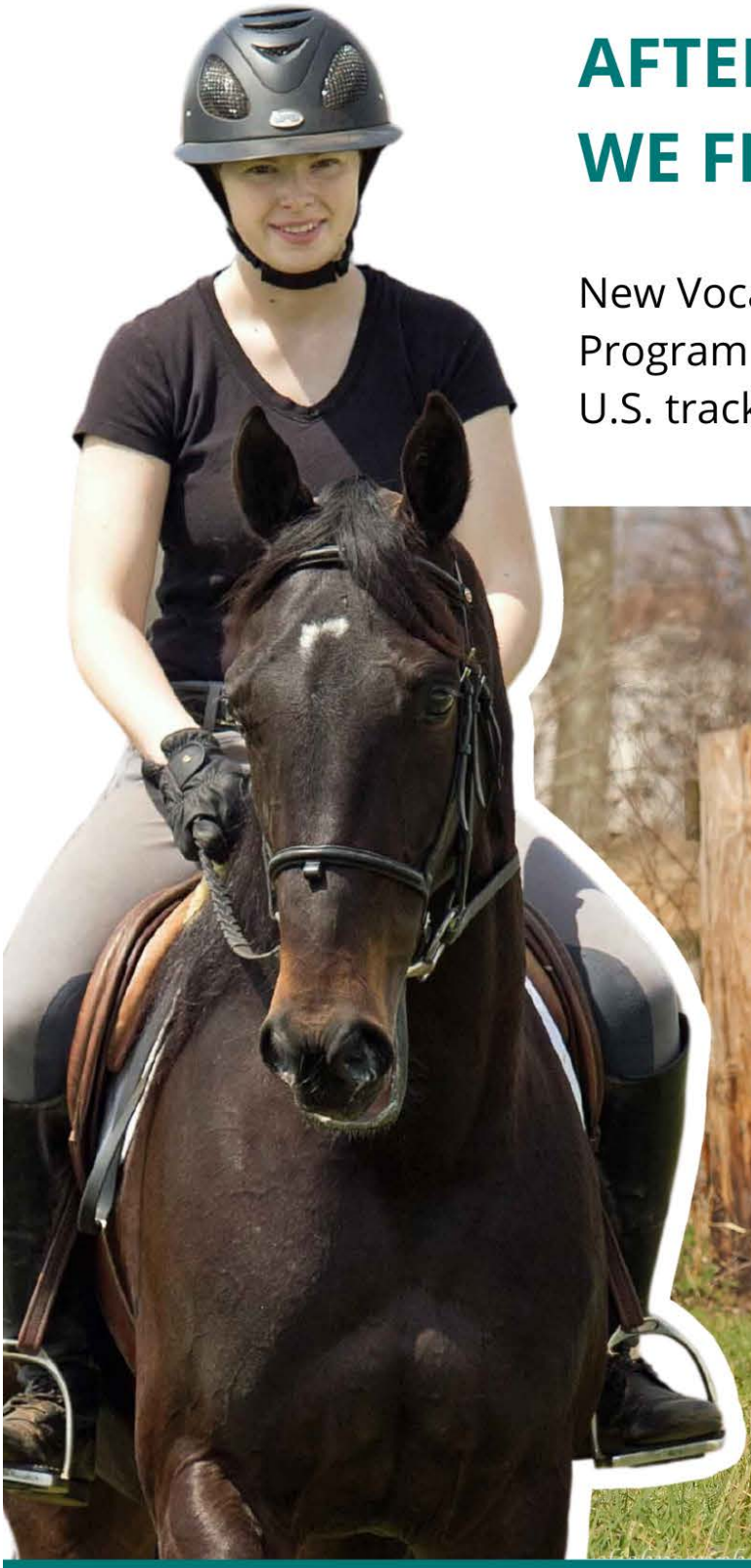

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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali AtTheTrack7

Fixing the Harness Racing Triple Crown

It didn't take long after the announcement that Sovereignty would skip the Preakness Stakes for the debate on whether or not the Thoroughbred Triple Crown should be changed to create more time between each of the three legs.

Thoroughbred racing faces a much different problem than Standardbred racing. For the Thoroughbred industry, its Triple Crown is by far the most watched event in the sport. Its success is critical to the overall health of the industry and the recent trend of fewer Kentucky Derby horses and even those winners skipping the Preakness has created a divide within the industry. That split seems to be binary. You either want the Triple Crown to remain the same or you want the races more spread out over a longer period of time.

The Standardbred issue focuses on the lack of brand awareness. It adds little to the overall health of the sport and there are many people who wager on harness racing who couldn't tell you what three races make up the pacing and trotting Triple Crowns. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if someone reading this column may not know.

For those wondering, the trotting Triple Crown is comprised of the Hambletonian, Yonkers Trot and the Kentucky Futurity. The pacing Triple Crown is made up of the Messenger, the Cane Pace and the Little Brown Jug.

In 2025, harness racing implemented a graded stakes program for the first time and that is where this conversation needs to begin. A race should not be a part of the Triple Crown series if it does not maintain Grade One status. This year, the Hambletonian and Kentucky Futurity both carry purses to achieve that Grade One status, the Yonkers Trot has not. Based on the rules put in place, the final of the Yonkers Trot falls $50,000 short of the required $350,000 for the race to be considered for Grade One status. On the pacing side, neither the Messenger Stakes nor the Cane Pace reached Grade One status due to their purses also falling short of the $350,000 requirement.

If a racetrack does not want to add more money to the purse of a stakes race, that is fine of course, but it should be a requirement of the Triple Crown that all of its races must be at least $350,000.

In addition, these tracks should work together to promote the Triple Crown series. Assuming the races remain the same, The Meadowlands, Yonkers, The Red Mile and The Delaware County Fair should build a television series around the Triple Crown, all contributing financing to fund the event. The racetracks should pursue a sponsor of the event in which a bonus is given to a horse who sweeps the series, perhaps a lesser bonus in a non-Triple Crown year for the horse who performs best across the series. This can be done by allotting points to each horse based on their finishing position in each race and the horse with the highest point total wins the bonus. All of the above could increase participation in the events, something that is clearly needed based on the five-horse field in the Cane Pace last year.

When the debate came up around the importance of grading stakes in harness racing, one argument was "on the list of things that need to be fixed, how important is this?" I imagine the same question will be raised related to my concerns around the Triple Crown. But we opened this door by grading our stakes races and I don't think the industry can accept Grade Two races being included in the Triple Crown.

This should be viewed as an opportunity to make changes that will help the Triple Crown. Furthermore, harness racing has a big advantage over the Thoroughbreds and that is the frequency in which horses race. Right now, the Thoroughbred industry is splintered over the question of whether the Preakness should be held two weeks after the Kentucky Derby because of the lack of participation in the middle leg of the series. Harness Racing does not have that same issue when it comes to the timing of the races. If all the events carried Grade One status – making them some of the richest races in their division each year – and carried a bonus program, large and competitive fields would not be an issue at all.

The industry really needs to decide what the Triple Crown should be. If it continues on its current path, then it is sadly almost an afterthought. As Thoroughbred racing has shown, if marketed correctly, a Triple Crown series can help an industry. These are some rather simple ways to promote and enhance the event for harness racing. Is it harness racing's biggest problem? Of course not, but it is a rather simple one to fix, so why not fix it?

R Melina to make season's debut in Miss Versatility at The Meadowlands

By Ken Weingartner

R Melina is the type of horse that is difficult to evaluate from appearance alone. But after leading all 3-year-old female trotters in earnings last season, and ranking as the division's co-fastest performer, it is clear there is more to her than meets the eye.

"She's a hard horse to judge," trainer John Butenschoen said. "She's not imposing to look at. When you sit behind her, until you really ask her to go, there is nothing that stands out. You don't sit behind her and think she's a powerhouse or a brute like some other horses that I've had.

"But it's what she does when she faces competition. She's one that's always there. You ask her to do something, and she does it. She keeps going and she doesn't get tired. When she's in a race and somebody comes at her or she goes at somebody, she takes off. She just can do it. She kind of tricks you a little bit that way."

Last year, R Melina hit the board in 14 of 18 races, winning eight and earning $817,469 for Butenschoen and owners M And L of Delaware and Armitage Farm. She won the Kentucky Filly Futurity in 1:50 1/5, equaling the fastest mile of the season for a sophomore female trotter, and also counted the New York Sire Stakes championship, a division of the Delvin Miller Memorial, and a Hambletonian Oaks elimination among her triumphs.

In addition, the daughter of Chapter Seven-Goodtogo Hanover finished second in the Breeders Crown, Matron Stakes and Empire Breeders Classic, and was third in the Elegantimage Stakes.

"She showed up every week," Butenschoen said. "The thing that I like about Melina is she's raced on every sized racetrack, any kind of racetrack, and she can do it. It's kind of fun to have one like that."

R Melina went off stride in three of her off-the-board finishes last season, including the season-ending FanDuel Mare Trot championship against older rivals in late November at The Meadowlands, but the trainer said he shared in the responsibility.

"I think I messed up a couple starts by having her over-rigged because she could kind of be aggressive," Butenschoen said. "We just had to tinker around.

"I take a little bit of blame for her last start when she made a mistake at The Meadowlands. We had good results when I pulled her shoes in the Kentucky (Filly) Futurity and then the Breeders Crown. I tried the same against the aged mares, but that track was a little different track later in the year. She warmed up good, but the temperature dropped and the track kind of froze up a little bit. It was a judgement call that I made. In hindsight, I was kicking myself a little bit."

R Melina returns to The Meadowlands on Saturday for her first start as a 4-year-old. She will meet nine rivals in the $40,000 opening leg of the Miss Versatility Series for older female trotters. The field includes 2024 FanDuel winner Nelsonbriteagle NO, millionaire M-M's Dream, and multiple stakes-winner Elista Hanover, also making her 4-year-old debut.

Butenschoen gave R Melina two qualifiers ahead of Saturday's race. She won the first in 1:56 3/5 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs on May 7 and the most recent on May 17 at The Meadowlands in 1:52 4/5 with a 26 4/5 last quarter.

"She seems really good," Butenschoen said. "You kind of always hold your breath coming back because you just don't know how much the 3-year-old year took out of them, and are they bigger and strong enough to go against the older ones?

"But so far, she's had two nice qualifiers. At Pocono, we got the right kind of mile into her that we wanted to see and then Todd (driver McCarthy) was able to keep her in a hole and sprint her off cover the other day in a pretty nice mile. All things considered, she's on schedule and acting as good as she did last year. Fingers crossed."

In addition to the Miss Versatility, The Meadowlands on Saturday will host the New Jersey Sire Stakes championships for 3-year-old male and female pacers, plus the first-round divisions of the NJSS for 3-year-old male and female trotters.

Racing begins at 6:20 p.m. (EDT) at The Meadowlands.

Saunders eyes another 'A' effort from Manolete in NJSS final

By Ken Weingartner

Manolete is the type of horse who always strives to deliver a top effort, and trainer Bruce Saunders is expecting nothing less when the colt gets behind the starting gate for Saturday's (May 24) $225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes championship for 3-year-old male pacers at The Meadowlands.

Ranked No. 7 in Dave Little's Road to the Meadowlands Pace Top 10, Manolete has finished no worse than second in 13 of 16 career races, winning six and earning $250,993. In his two NJSS preliminary starts this season, he missed by a nose on May 3 and posted a career-best 1:50.3 victory on May 10 at The Big M.

In Saturday's final, Manolete will leave from post one with driver Scott Zeron. He is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line behind Noel Daley's Smooth Dream at 2-1.

"Manolete is going into the race in good shape," said Saunders, who trains the son of Cattlewash-Glancewithme for owners M And L of Delaware and M & M Harness Racing. "The week off did him good. He always brings his 'A' game, so we're all looking forward to it.

"He's just a terrific horse. He loves his job, loves his life. I think that's part of the reason he shows up. His caretaker (Doreen Dailey) pampers him like a pet, and he responds."

Last year, Manolete had five wins and five seconds in 12 races. He won both of his NJSS prelims and finished second by a head against McCusker in the final. In his next start, he was second to Captain Optimistic in the New Jersey Classic.

Two of Manolete's victories in 2024 were on the Grand Circuit, including a division of the Kindergarten Classic Series. He was second to Papis Pistol in the Kindergarten final.

This year, Manolete was sixth against older horses in his seasonal debut, then second to Smooth Dream in the Home Grown Pace prior to his NJSS starts.

"He's not going to win every race," Saunders said. "He's not going to be 1-2-3 every race. But I know for a fact he'll show up and do his very best. That's the kind of horse he is."

Saunders said last year that Manolete might have been the smartest 2-year-old he ever trained.

"That hasn't changed," Saunders said. "He's really intelligent. From day one, he knew exactly what to do.

"He's a little bit more of a man this year as opposed to a boy. He doesn't do anything stupid, but he doesn't mind expressing himself or hollering at the girls. He makes sure they know he's there. But once he gets his gear on, he forgets all that and is focused on his job."

Manolete's stakes list, aside from the Meadowlands Pace, includes the MGM Grand Messenger at MGM Yonkers Raceway, Tompkins-Geers and Cane Pace at The Big M, and Matron and Progress Pace at Bally's Dover.

"We chose to stay close to home," Saunders said. "There is plenty of money here if we are good enough to get it. I think we did the right thing for our horse."

Manolete and Smooth Dream both head into Saturday's NJSS final off wins. Smooth Dream, who will leave from post eight with driver Todd McCarthy, is undefeated in four races this season. Making History, who nipped Manolete in the event's first round, is the 4-1 third choice from post three with Brett Beckwith in the sulky for trainer Tony Alagna.

"Noel's horse was — and maybe still is — the best of the group, and there are several other horses that are viable in this event," Saunders said. "Making History, when it became a brush race, used his quick speed to brush past us (in the first round). I don't think it's going to be a brush race this time, I think there is going to be continuous action because there are so many horses with speed that are on the outside.

Lisa Photo

Manolete hopes to parlay a win in the final preliminary leg of the New Jersey Sire Stakes into Saturday's final.

"It's going to be an interesting race. With the rail, Scott only has to look to his right side to see what's going on and make his decision. We have a lot of confidence in Scott. He's familiar with our horse and, to a certain extent, he'll determine how fast the fractions are based on what he's got in his mind, or how fast we push off the gate as well. But our guy will be ready."

In Saturday's $225,000 NJSS final for 3-year-old female pacers, defending series champion Reckless Abandon is the 9-5 morning line favorite. She won her second-round start in the event by a head over Worklifebalance after finishing second by a head against Beach Babe in the first round. Reckless Abandon will leave from post six with Todd McCarthy driving for trainer Brett Pelling.

Saturday's Big M card also includes first-round NJSS action for 3-year-old male and female trotters, plus the first leg of the Miss Versatility Series for older female trotters.

Racing begins at 6:20 p.m. (EDT) at The Meadowlands.

EARLY HAMBLETONIAN FAVORITE MARYLAND RETURNS

Maryland, the Hambletonian winter book favorite, is set to make his 2025 debut in the first qualifier on Saturday at The Meadowlands and will face one of his main competitors in Go Dog Go.

Other horses entered include stakes winners Blank, Voguish, Captain Optimistic (also in-to-go Sunday at Harrah's Philadelphia), My Sweet Lily, Funtime Bayama and two-time Dan Patch Award winner Captain Albano.

Post time for the Saturday qualifying card is 9:00 AM (EDT) and can be streamed live on the track's website.

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1 COACHES CORNER

4 1:49.3 $18,079 HOOSIER $13,000

7-2 J. Bartlett 1084-348-190-133 (.321)

b g 5, by Always A Virgin, Carobbean Pacetry by Somebeachsomewhere — Last 4 Sts–$88,300

Jeff Fought Racing,Astor,FL;Brian K Carsey,Cambridge City,IN

P. Engblom 712-161-114-90(.226) — Br.- Black Creek Farm & Hickory Hollow Stables,IN

1:50.4 YR 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 Tot 7 3 2 0 $126,550
1:49.3 Stg 24 Phl 1 0 0 1 $12,000 24 Tot 25 7 11 3 $645,345
23 ★ 1 1 0 0 $7,200 Life 72 30 14 7 $915,494

9 May25	8YR	wf58⁰	26⁴	:553	1:23	1:51²	D-BORG F G1	516000	8	8¹²	6⁴³	7⁵¹	6⁶	5⁴¹	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	29¹	27²	27²	28¹	1:52¹	102	+1 2w	17.30	MsdlBn ChsHHnv Vrdn	Sat,4th ov,fnd out,stdy-8
28 Apr25	5YR	fst⁷¹ᵖ	28¹	:564	1:25	1:52¹	BORG #5	50000	1	1¹¹	1¹²	1¹²	1¹²	1hd	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	28¹	28³	28¹	27¹	1:52¹	103	+6 7w	★.10	CochsCrnrBingOnYnkShrlckN	Led,dug in,gamely-7
21 Apr25	8YR	fst⁵⁴ᵒ	26⁴	:561	1:24³	1:52²	BORG #4	50000	5	4⁵¹	4⁶³³	2⁰³	2¹	2nk	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	27⁴	29¹	27⁴	27³	1:52²	105	+5 4w	★.40	FrOncInmCchsCrnrFnvrrA	1st up,loomd,game 2nd-6
14 Apr25	8YR	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	27³	:562	1:23³	1:50⁴	BORG #3	50000	4	1¹²	1¹²	1¹²	1¹³	1½	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	27³	28⁴	27¹	27¹	1:50⁴	110	+6 6w	★1.15	CochsCrnrMosdleBenWhyNtNw	Led,dug in,safely-6
7 Apr25	8YR	gd⁴²ᵒ	27¹	:553	1:23³	1:51¹	BORG #2	50000	7	2no	2¹²	2¹²	2¹	1¹½	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	27¹	28³	28	27²	1:51¹	107	+5 8w	1.35	CchsCrnrDsprtMnBngOnYnk	Ld,yld,ang lst trn,hndy-8
31 Mar25	6YR	gd⁶³ᵒ	27²	:552	1:23²	1:51	BORG #1	50000	7	2no	2¹²	2¹²	2¹⁴	2²	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	27²	28¹	28	27²	1:51	108	+4 4w	★1.30	ForOncInmCchsCrnrDnkn	Ld,yld,ang lst trn,stdy-7
22 Mar25	10M¹	fst⁵²ᵒ	27¹	:541	1:21²	1:50	W/O	25000	9	9¹²	9⁶⁹³	7⁶⁵³	7³¹	6²¹	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	29³	26³	26²	27⁴	1:50²	100	+3 7w	2.20	SlsbrkVcMdMxHnvMcsDlght	Traild,2w bf 3/4,pace-9
15 Mar25	7M¹	fst⁵⁰ᵒ	29⁴	1:00	1:28	1:53⁴	Qua		5	1³	1no	2¹¹	2¹⁴	1⅜	JaBartltt	PeEngblom	29⁴	30¹	28¹	25³	1:53⁴		nb	CchsCrnrCmrMmntHntnthls	Multiple moves,handily-7

2 OAKWOOD ARDAN IR(L)

5 1:48 (1)

10-1 A. McCarthy 228-36-26-33 (.158)

b g 6, by Sweet Lou, Trend Setter by Grinfromeartoear — Last 4 Sts–$57,084

Royal Wire Products Inc,North Royalton,Oh

R. Cleary 101-39-14-10(.386) — Br.- Oakwood Stud,IR

1:53.1 Phl 5/8Q 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 –
1:48 M1 24 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 24 ★ 16 9 3 1 $174,499
23 Phl 0 0 0 0 – Life 46 20 5 6 $217,427

17 May25	9M¹	fst⁷²ᵒ	28¹	:561	1:24¹	1:49⁴	Qua		3	3³	3²³	3²¹	3³	3¹³	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	28⁴	28	27⁴	25³	1:50¹			Lnb	SabonisAbckbtHnvOakwdArdn	3hole,ang ln,pace-6
6 May25	9Phl	fst⁶⁸ᵒ	28¹	:572	1:25³	1:53¹	Qua		4	3³¹	3³	3⁰²	2¹	1³¹	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	28⁴	29¹	28	27¹	1:53¹			Lnb	OakwdArdn Sprocket RockJager	-5
19 Oct24	10M¹	fst⁶⁰ᵒ	26²	:542	1:21¹	1:48¹	D-Br Crown E	25000	1	6⁶¹	6⁶⁶¹	8⁰⁷	7⁶²	6³¹	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	27³	28	27	26¹	1:48⁴	108	+4 4w	L5.70	RthlsHnvAbckbtHnvSthBchStr	3rd ov,dull cvr,stdy-9
10 Oct24	16M¹	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	28²	:56	1:22¹	1:49	Qua		1	2¹¹	2¹¹	2¹²	2¹²	2¹³	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	28³	27³	26¹	27	1:49²			Lnb	RuthIsHnv OakwdArdn HmrngHank	Pkt,even finish-6
14 Sep24	7Wbs	fst⁶⁴ᵒ	26²	:552	1:22⁴	1:49¹	Prf	26640	4	7¹⁰	7⁸⁸³	7⁵¹²	6³¹	4dh3¼	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	28²	28⁴	26³	26	1:49⁴	107	+8 7w	L★.95	Fortify Taurasi PacinoHnv	3d ov,little-10
31 Aug24	8Wbs	fst⁷¹ᵖ	26	:534	1:21¹	1:48¹	CDN DERBY	399600	1	6⁸¹	5⁶⁴¹	4⁶²	3¹³	3¾	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	27³	27	27	26⁴	1:48²	114	+8 6w	L3.40	ItsMyShowAbckbtHnvOkwdArdn	Grt cvr,outkicked-10
24 Aug24	9Wbs	fst⁷³ᵒ	27¹	:55	1:22²	1:49¹	Prf	29600	7	4⁴²	4⁴¹²	3⁰²	1¹²	2no	AnMcCrthy	RoCleary	28	27⁴	27	26²	1:49¹	110	+8 2w	L★1.05	AbckbtHnvOakwdArdnItsMyShow	Tck,chall,nailed-7
17 Aug24	9Wbs	fst⁷¹ᵖ	27¹	:543	1:20⁴	1:48²	Prf	26280	5	6⁷¹	6⁸²	6¹⁰	4¹⁰	2¹²	JaMacdnld	RoCleary	28³	27³	26³	25⁴	1:48³	112	+9 3w	L★.80	Taurasi OakwdArdn Jaberwcky	Strong finish-7

3 ABUCKABETT HANOVER

5 1:47.2 (7/8) SHS-HBG $160,000

4-1 D. Dunn 165-34-22-29 (.206)

b h 7, by Betting Line, All Tucked Up by Western Ideal — Last 4 Sts–$231,250

William A Pollock,Freehold,NJ;Bruce M Areman,Freehold,NJ;Andrew S Harris,Allentown,NJ

A. Harris 85-21-15-19(.247) — Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc,PA

1:47.3 M1 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 –
24 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 24 ● 15 7 4 1 $833,022
23 Phl 0 0 0 0 – Life 74 22 10 12 $2,049,901

17 May25	9M¹	fst⁷²ᵒ	28¹	:561	1:24¹	1:49⁴	Qua		2	1¹¹	1¹¹	1¹¹	1¹²	2²	DeDunn	AnHarris	28¹	28	28	25³	1:49⁴			nb	SabonisAbckbtHnvOkwdArdn	Ld,game,ovrtkn late-6
2 May25	11M¹	fst⁷⁰ᵒ	28	:57	1:25	1:51³	Qua		2	2¹¹	2¹³	2¹³	3²¹	3⁸³	DeDunn	AnHarris	28¹	29¹	28	28	1:53²			nb	SevenClrs Voukefals AbckbtHnv	Pkt,gapd,no bid-3
30 Nov24	12M¹	fst³³ᵒ	26²	:542	1:21²	1:48¹	D-FanDuel	325000	1	2²²	2¹¹	2¹¹	1hd	1³½	DeDunn	AnHarris	26⁴	27⁴	27	26³	1:48¹	109	+6 5w	★.90	AbckbtHnvRthlsHnvSvnClrs	Pkt,2w pst 3/4,handy-10
17 Nov24	11RcR	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	25⁴	:541	1:20³	1:47⁴	POTOMAC	125000	2	2¹³	2¹¹	2²	2¹³	1¾	DeDunn	AnHarris	26¹	28¹	26³	26⁴	1:47⁴	117		3.80	AbckbtHnv RuthIsHnv CharleMay	-7
26 Oct24	8M¹	fst⁵⁴ᵒ	26	:532	1:21¹	1:48³	D-Br Crown F	600000	8	3⁰¹¹	1¹¹	1¹¹	1no	7³¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	26¹	27¹	27⁴	28	1:49¹	106	+4 3w	3.20	CchStfnsSvnClrsElRy	2w pst 1/4,led,trd lane-10
19 Oct24	10M¹	fst⁶⁰ᵒ	26²	:542	1:21¹	1:48¹	D-Br Crown E	25000	8	4³¹	4⁴³³	4⁰⁴¹	3³¹	2nk	DeDunn	AnHarris	27	28¹	26⁴	26¹	1:48¹	110	+4 4w	★1.00	RthlsHnvAbckbtHnvSthBchStr	1st up,grind,pace lane-9
6 Oct24	11Lx1	fst⁸³ᵒ	26²	:534	1:21¹	1:47²	Allerage	159000	7	6⁷¹	5⁶⁴	5⁰⁴²	3²	2hd	DeDunn	AnHarris	27⁴	27¹	27	25²	1:47²	116		2.23	BythemisI AbckbtHnv MusktrHnv	-10
28 Sep24	11Dtn	wf66ᵒ	26²	:542	1:22¹	1:49³	DTN DERBY	250000	1	1¹	2¹²	3¹	2²	1nk	DeDunn	AnHarris	26²	28¹	27⁴	27¹	1:49³	111		★.80	AbckbtHnv LitlRcktM MusktrHnv	-9

4 BYTHEMISSAL(L)

4 1:47.1 (1) $12,500 LEX-SEL $135,000

9-2 Y. Gingras 737-134-122-81 (.182)

b g 6, by Downbytheseaside, Dismissal by Western Terror — Last 4 Sts–$55,000

Burke Rcg Stb,PA;E Good,MD;Rich Lombardo Rcg,OH;Weaver Bruscemi,PA

R. Burke 1582-332-266-204(.210) — Br.- Stephen P Dey III,NJ

*1:48.3 ScD 5/8 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 ● 2 1 0 1 $25,000
1:47.2 Lx1 24 Phl 1 0 0 0 $5,000 24 Tot 8 2 0 1 $173,800
23 Phl 0 0 0 0 – Life 43 28 4 4 $2,352,391

10 May25	8ScD	fst⁷²ᵒ	26	:544	1:21³	1:48³	Opn	26000	5	3⁰¹³	1¹²	1¹²	1¹²	1⁴¼	ChPage	RoBurke	26²	28²	26⁴	27	1:48³	117		L★.50	BythemisI Carbine ArtatacA	-8
3 May25	12MVR	sly⁵⁷ᵒ	26²	:55	1:22³	1:49³	PACEY	100000	5	6⁶³	5⁵³	4⁵²¹	3²	3³⁴	ChPage	RoBurke	27⁴	27⁴	27²	27¹	1:50¹	114		L4.10	LitlRcktM PjLou BythemisI	-9
19 Apr25	6M¹	fst⁶⁹ᵒ	28⁴	:563	1:24³	1:51¹	Qua		6	3³	3²¹	3²³	2¹¹	2nk	YaGingras	RoBurke	29²	27³	28¹	26	1:51¹			Lnb	ElReyBythemisISpringInh	3hole,2w pst 3/4,pace-6
12 Apr25	3M¹	gd³⁸ᵒ	28³	:564	1:24⁴	1:52²	Qua		6	6⁹¹⁴	6⁷	6⁷	5⁵¹	4⁴	YaGingras	RoBurke	30²	27⁴	28	27	1:53¹			Lnb	MadMaxHnvSthBchStrFntrnBym	Traild,ang ln,pace-6
17 Nov24	11RcR	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	25⁴	:541	1:20³	1:47⁴	POTOMAC	125000	5	7blpu¹³				dnf	YaGingras	RoBurke	28²							L★.80	AbckbtHnv RuthIsHnv CharleMay	-7
26 Oct24	8M¹	fst⁵⁴ᵒ	26	:532	1:21¹	1:48³	D-Br Crown F	600000	6	4¹²	4⁰³	2⁰¹¹	4¹	5²³	YaGingras	RoBurke	26¹	27⁴	27²	27⁴	1:49¹	108	+4 3w	L★.40	CochStfnsSevenClrsElRey	1st up,stalld,trd lane-10
19 Oct24	8M¹	fst⁶⁰ᵒ	27¹	:551	1:22⁴	1:48⁴	D-Br Crown E	25000	8	4⁰¹³	1¹¹	1¹	1²	1¹	YaGingras	RoBurke	27³	27³	27³	26	1:48⁴	107	+4 4w	L★.20	BythmsICchStfnsSvnClrs	2w pst 1/4,led,handily-8
6 Oct24	11Lx1	fst⁸³ᵒ	26²	:534	1:21¹	1:47²	Allerage	159000	10	2⁰¹²	1¹³	1¹²	1²	1hd	YaGingras	RoBurke	26³	27¹	27²	26¹	1:47²	117		2.54	BythemisI AbckbtHnv MusktrHnv	-10

5 DUNKIN

4 1:49.1 (7/8) Q $7,708 SHS-HBG $7,000

9-1 *Ma. Kakaley* 1059-113-139-165 (.107)

b g 5, by Pet Rock, Skinny Dip by Western Ideal — Last 4 Sts–$63,500

Kimber Cleqq,Matamoras,PA

S. DiDomenico 478-67-77-75(.140) — Br.- Stonegate Stdbred Fms Inc,NJ

1:51.1 YR 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 Tot 12 3 4 1 $92,500
1:49.1 HoP 7/8 24 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 24 Tot 35 9 4 7 $419,228
23 Phl 0 0 0 0 – Life 106 39 20 10 $761,672

19 May25	7YR	fst⁶³ᵒ	27	:57	1:24²	1:52³	Inv	39000	5	2²	2¹²	3²⁴	2¹²	1hd	GeBrennan	ScDiDomnc	27²	29⁴	27³	27⁴	1:52³	99		2.40	Dunkin ChaseHHnv HzaChrtpr	-6
12 May25	8YR	fst⁷¹ᵖ	27⁴	:563	1:24¹	1:51¹	NW35001L5	30000	4	1¹²	1¹²	1¹¹	1²²	1²¼	GeBrennan	ScDiDomnc	27⁴	28⁴	27³	27	1:51¹	108	+6 4w	★.90	Dunkin SmfysTerr CarabaoA	Led,won handily-8
5 May25	8YR	gd⁶⁰ᵒ	28³	:571	1:25³	2:20⁴	BORG ELIG	50000	5	1²	1²	1²	1³	1⁴¼	GeBrennan	ScDiDomnc	28³	28³	28²	55¹	2:20⁴		+6 7w	2.75	Dunkin AmmoCarabaoA	1¼Led,won handily-6
28 Apr25	5YR	fst⁷¹ᵖ	28¹	:564	1:25	1:52¹	BORG #5	50000	4	4⁴¹	4⁴¹	3⁰¹¹	3¹³	4²¹	TiTetrick	ScDiDomnc	29	28³	27³	27²	1:52³	101	+6 7w	22.80	CochsCrnrBingOnYnkShrlckN	1st up,stalld,trd ln-7
14 Apr25	8YR	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	27³	:562	1:23³	1:50⁴	BORG #3	50000	6	6⁹	6⁹	6⁶	6⁵	6⁵¹	TiTetrick	ScDiDomnc	29²	28⁴	26³	27	1:51⁴	103	+6 6w	33.50	CochsCrnrMosdleBenWhyNotNow	Traild,rail,no bid-6
7 Apr25	8YR	gd⁴²ᵒ	27¹	:553	1:23³	1:51¹	BORG #2	50000	5	6⁹³	6⁹	6⁹	5⁰⁶	6⁶	TiTetrick	ScDiDomnc	29¹	28¹	27²	28	1:52⁴	100	+5 8w	25.50	CochsCrnrDsprteManBingOnYnk	1st up,stalld,trd-8
31 Mar25	6YR	gd⁶³ᵒ	27²	:552	1:23²	1:51	BORG #1	50000	2	4⁴	4⁴³	4⁰⁴³	5⁶¹	3⁷³	TiTetrick	ScDiDomnc	28¹	28¹	28	28¹	1:52³	101	+4 4w	5.90	FrOncInmCchsCrnrDnkn	2nd ov,bad cvr,no bid-7
24 Mar25	4YR	gd⁴⁷ᵒ	27⁴	:564	1:24¹	1:52³	3-6 YO OPN	35000	2	x5¹¹	5²⁰	5ds	5ds	5ds	GeBrennan	ScDiDomnc	30	30⁴		29⁴	2:00	63	+5 4w	4.90	HzaChrtpr VerdunBlznqHome	Pkt,brk bf 1/4-5

6 SPRING INHIS STEP A(L)

7 1:48.4 (1) Q $8,000

12-1 Ti. Tetrick 701-157-115-90 (.224)

b g 8, by Somebeachsomewhere, Summa Of Dreams by Live Or Die — Last 4 Sts–$31,250

Pollack Racing LLC,Venetia,PA

J. Cullipher 540-115-86-83(.213) — Br.- T S Rivett & W M Rivett,AS

1:49.3 PcD 5/8 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 Tot 7 2 5 0 $56,000
1:48.4 M1 24 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 24 Tot 25 7 1 6 $119,414
23 Phl 0 0 0 0 – Life 80 23 15 10 $346,621

17 May25	12PcD	fst⁷⁸ᵒ	25⁴	:533	1:20³	1:48²	wo25000lt	25000	6	1¹²	2¹⁴	2¹⁴	2¹⁴	2¹	TiTetrick	JeCullphr	25⁴	28	27	27⁴	1:48³	113	+12 7w	L8.80	DsprteMan SpringInh Endofstry	Yld,pkt,all out-7
26 Apr25	10PcD	fst⁷²ᵒ	26¹	:544	1:22²	1:50³	wo25000lt	25000	3	3¹	4²¹	4²¹	4²	2¹¹	TiTetrick	JeCullphr	26²	28⁴	27³	28	1:50⁴	100	-1 5w	L3.10	AlwysAThr SpringInh HwlnthhIs	Shuff,gd finish-8
19 Apr25	6M¹	fst⁶⁹ᵒ	28⁴	:563	1:24³	1:51¹	Qua		4	2¹¹	2¹¹	2¹²	3¹³	3¹	TiTetrick	JeCullphr	29	27⁴	28	26³	1:51²			Lnb	ElRey BythemisI SpringInh	Pkt,room rail,stdy-6
15 Mar25	8PcD	fst⁵⁴ᵒ	26³	:554	1:22³	1:49³	wo25000lt	25000	1	2³	2¹¹	2¹¹	2¹	1no	TyButer	JeCullphr	26⁴	29¹	26⁴	26⁴	1:49³	106	+2 10w	L5.50	SpringInh ChaseHHnv IDidItMyw	Pkt,tip,all out-6
8 Mar25	10PcD	fst³⁸ᵒ	27	:553	1:22²	1:49⁴	wo25000lt	25000	3	2¹¹	2¹¹	2¹¹	2¹¹	2¹³	TyButer	JeCullphr	27¹	28³	26⁴	27³	1:50¹	103	-7 8w	L2.60	ChaseHHnv SpringInh IDidItMyw	Pkd,2nd best-7
1 Mar25	10PcD	fst³⁵ᵒ	27	:56	1:23⁴	1:51⁴	wo25000lt	25000	4	1¹¹	1¹¹	1¹¹	1¹¹	1²	TyButer	JeCullphr	27	29	27⁴	28	1:51⁴	97	-7 7w	L★1.20	SpringInh CharleMay BigSkeweyN	Own clip,handy-6
22 Feb25	10PcD	fst³⁸ᵒ	27²	:564	1:24	1:52²	wo25000lt	25000	1	3²¹	3²¹	5²³	4²¹	2¹	TyButer	JeCullphr	27⁴	29²	27²	28	1:52³	91	-11 7w	L★1.90	BrueHnvSpringInhChaseHHnv	Rail,game for 2d-7
25 Jan25	10M¹	fst²⁸ᵒ	28	:56	1:24	1:50⁴	nw20000L4	24000	6	4²³	1⁰¹	1¹¹	1¹	2¹³	TyButer	JeCullphr	28³	27²	28	27¹	1:51¹	97	+1 5w	L2.10	FrOncInmSprngInhChsHHnv	Brsh,ld pst 1/2,hld 2nd-6

7 MOSSDALE BEN N(L)

7 1:51.1 ★ $40,450

3-1 J. Stratton 861-129-133-120 (.150)

br g 7, by A Rocknroll Dance, Mossdale Sue by Bettor's Delight — Last 4 Sts–$308,000

Pit Investments LLC,Madison,CT

P. Tritton 56-13-14-8(.232) — Br.- A G Affleck,NZ

1:51.1 YR 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 ★ 10 8 2 0 $404,500
24 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 24 Tot 12 0 2 0 $14,730
23 Phl 0 0 0 0 – Life 53 16 12 4 $514,489

9 May25	8YR	wf58⁰	26⁴	:553	1:23	1:51²	D-BORG F G1	516000	5	6⁷³	7⁰⁴³	5⁰⁰³¹	2no	1¹	JoStrattn	PeTritton	28²	28¹	27	27⁴	1:51²	108	+1 2w	L★.90	MsdlBnChsHHnvVrdn	3rd ov,3w bf 3/4,handy-8
28 Apr25	6YR	fst⁷¹ᵖ	28	:561	1:23³	1:51	BORG #5	50000	1	3³	3³	3⁰²	2¹²	2¹	JoStrattn	PeTritton	28³	28¹	27¹	27¹	1:51¹	108	+6 7w	L★.15	ChsHHnvMsdlBnMkShnN	3hole,2w bf 3/4,stdy-6
21 Apr25	3YR	fst⁵⁴ᵒ	26¹	:552	1:23²	1:51²	BORG #4	50000	5	4⁵¹	3⁰¹¹	2⁰³	1¹²	1¹¾	JoStrattn	PeTritton	27¹	28²	28	27⁴	1:51²	111	+5 4w	L★.10	MosdleBenHmsIfNChrlMy	1st up,ld lst trn,handy-6
14 Apr25	8YR	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	27³	:562	1:23³	1:50⁴	BORG #3	50000	2	3³¹	3³¹	3⁰²¹	3¹³	2¹	JoStrattn	PeTritton	28¹	28⁴	27	26⁴	1:50⁴	110	+6 6w	L1.25	CchsCrnrMsdlBnWhyNtNw	3hole,1st up,game 2nd-6
7 Apr25	9YR	gd⁴²ᵒ	26⁴	:551	1:23¹	1:51³	BORG #2	50000	6	7¹²	6⁰⁷¹	5⁰⁴	4²³	1¹¼	JoStrattn	PeTritton	29¹	27²	27²	27³	1:51³	107	+5 8w	L1.30	MosdleBenChrlMyVrdn	Traild,2nd ov,ang,handy-7
31 Mar25	8YR	gd⁶³ᵒ	26³	:561	1:22⁴	1:51¹	BORG #1	50000	6	6⁸¹	6⁰⁵²	5⁰⁴³	3³³	1¹	JoStrattn	PeTritton	28¹	29	26³	27²	1:51¹	109	+4 4w	L2.20	MsdlBnItsAMMrDsprtMn	Gpd cvr,3w bf 3/4,sally-7
17 Mar25	7YR	fst⁴⁵ᵒ	27²	:571	1:25¹	1:53³	Inv	35000	2	3³¹	3³	2⁰³	1¹	1¾	JoStrattn	PeTritton	28	29⁴	27³	28¹	1:53³	98	+1 5w	L★.25	MosdleBenFinvarraANndlN	1st up,ld lst trn,hndy-7
10 Mar25	7YR	fst⁵⁵ᵒ	27³	:573	1:25¹	1:52⁴	NW20351L5	22000	6	6⁸³	6⁰⁵¹	4⁰³¹	4³	1¾	JoStrattn	PeTritton	29²	29¹	27¹	27	1:52⁴	100	+5 6w	L★1.25	MosdleBenDnknRckDmnds	Cvr,3w lst trn,handy-8

8 RUTHLESS HANOVER(L)

6 1:46.3 (5/8) SHS-HBG $57,000

8-1 G. Napolitano,Jr. 686-134-103-91 (.195)

b g 8, by Somebeachsomewhere, Rockaroundthetrack by Rocknroll Hanover — Last 4 Sts–$170,500

John Cancelliere,Clark,Nj

T. Cancelliere 59-10-7-11(.169) — Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc,PA

1:51 Phl 5/8Q 25 Phl 0 0 0 0 – 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 –
*1:47.1 Phl 5/8 24 ★ 3 3 0 0 $64,000 24 Tot 14 6 4 1 $357,236
23 ● 7 5 1 0 $96,000 Life 68 28 13 9 $934,231

13 May25	2Phl	fst⁶⁵ᵒ	28	:552	1:23	1:51	Qua		6	1¹³	1²	1²²	1³¹	1⁶¾	GNapltnJr	TCancellr	28	27²	27³	28	1:51			Lnb	RuthIsHnv AgedchHnv JstPlnLco	-6
29 Apr25	2Phl	fst⁶⁹ᵒ	29³	:582	1:25²	1:53³	Qua		4	1¹²	1¹²	1³	1³	1⁴½	GNapltnJr	TCancellr	29³	28⁴	27	28¹	1:53³			Lnb	RuthIsHnv VandmnBlc IntrstFre	-4
14 Dec24	10M¹	fst²⁸ᵒ	26⁴	:544	1:22¹	1:48⁴	Prf Hcp	40000	6	1¹⁴	1¹⁴	1¹⁴	1¹²	2³	GNapltnJr	TCancellr	26⁴	28	27²	26⁴	1:49	107	+3 6w	L★.40	SpringInhRuthIsHnvMxmsMk	Led,dug in,ovrtkn ln-6
30 Nov24	12M¹	fst³³ᵒ	26²	:542	1:21²	1:48¹	D-FanDuel	325000	10	1²¹	1¹¹	1¹¹	2hd	2³¹	GNapltnJr	TCancellr	26²	28	27	27²	1:48⁴	108	+6 5w	L6.20	AbckbtHnvRthlsHnvSvnClrs	Led,ovrtkn ln,held 2nd-10
17 Nov24	11RcR	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	25⁴	:541	1:20³	1:47⁴	POTOMAC	125000	7	1¹³	1¹²	1²	1¹³	2³	GNapltnJr	TCancellr	25⁴	28²	26²	27²	1:48	118		L7.00	AbckbtHnv RuthIsHnv CharleMay	-7
26 Oct24	8M¹	fst⁵⁴ᵒ	26	:532	1:21¹	1:48³	D-Br Crown F	600000	1	1⁰¹	2¹⁴	3¹²	3hd	4¹³	AnMiller	TCancellr	26	27³	27⁴	27³	1:49	107	+4 3w	L7.80	CochStfnsSvnClrsElRy	Ld pst 1/4,yld,no bid-10
19 Oct24	10M¹	fst⁶⁰ᵒ	26²	:542	1:21¹	1:48¹	D-Br Crown E	25000	5	2⁰¹	1¹¹	1²¹	1²¼	1nk	AnMiller	TCancellr	26³	27⁴	26⁴	27	1:48¹	111	+4 4w	L2.00	RthlsHnvAbckbtHnvSthBchStr	2w pst 1/4,led,safely-9
10 Oct24	16M¹	fst⁵⁹ᵒ	28²	:56	1:22¹	1:49	Qua		5	1¹²	1¹¹	1¹²	1¹²	1¹¾	AnMiller	TCancellr	28²	27³	26¹	26⁴	1:49			Lnb	RuthIsHnvOakwdArdnHmrngHank	Led,won handily-6

State Assembly Speaker Coughlin Visits Fair Winds Farm in NJ

New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin on Monday (May 19) visited Fair Winds Farm, where he met with members of the Standardbred community to hear concerns regarding a proposed cut to the state's annual appropriation for horse racing purses in the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Gov. Phil Murphy's budget proposal for 2026 includes a $10 million appropriation for purses, a reduction from the $20 million provided in previous years. The appropriation was first introduced in 2019 as part of a five-year, $100 million allocation that has been renewed in subsequent years with the vital support of Speaker Coughlin.

This past September, Gov. Murphy signed a bill to extend the $20 million funding for purses through fiscal year 2029, but he noted the state Constitution only allows the governor and legislators to budget revenues and expenditures strictly on an annual basis.

"Consequently, the appropriations that this bill purports to require through State fiscal year 2029 are not binding and serve only as a strong expression of intent to provide funding in future fiscal years," the governor said at the time in a statement.

An economic impact study last year, completed with assistance from the SBOANJ, showed horse racing generated $75 million annually in tax revenue for New Jersey.

Speaker Coughlin's visit to Fair Winds Farm, which included a lunch reception and fundraiser, was hosted by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey and the state's Standardbred industry's political action committee TrotPAC.

Among those joining Speaker Coughlin for Monday's event were SBOANJ President Mark Ford as well as fellow officers Mark Mullen, Linda Toscano, and Al Ochsner. The group also included SBOANJ directors Dan Baer, Stephen Dey III, Mike Gulotta, Julie Meirs, Julie Miller, and Chris Ryder. Other industry representatives included John Campbell, Gunjan Patel and Nadia Tarnawa from the Hambletonian Society, Jason Settlemoir from The Meadowlands, and Karyn Malinowski from the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

"We are grateful for Speaker Coughlin's time and continued interest in our industry," Ford said. "We had productive discussions with the Speaker, with a number of people coming out to talk with him about the impact of the appropriations over the years. There is no question the funding has strengthened our industry and fostered growth, whether it be in breeding or racing, while also provide value to the state."

At the conclusion of the visit, Speaker Coughlin took a trip to Fair Winds' nearby yearling farm to catch up with his Andy Miller Stable-bred namesake, trotter Speaker Craig, and watch the horse with other yearlings in the field. Fair Winds Farm's Heather Zitone and Julie Miller provided Speaker Coughlin with additional insight about how young horses are raised.

A Democrat representing the 19th Legislative District in Middlesex County, Speaker Coughlin has served in the State Assembly since 2010. Speaker Coughlin's responsibilities include scheduling meetings and determining which bills will be considered within the Assembly.

-release (SBOANJ)

PRIMETIME RACING TO DEBUT COVERING MAJOR ONTARIO EVENTS

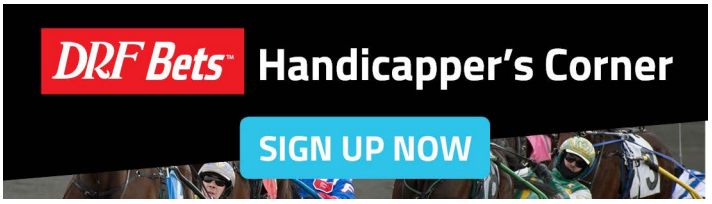
Harness racing enthusiasts are in for a treat as a new broadcast series, Primetime Racing, is set to make its debut on Friday, May 30th. The first broadcast of the season will feature live coverage from The Raceway at Western Fair District, showcasing the prestigious $150,000 Camluck Classic presented by Seelster Farms.

Produced by the O'Brien and Dan Patch award-winning CUJO Entertainment, Primetime Racing promises a high-end, entertaining production and some of the best on-air personalities in the business that will highlight the biggest races from across Ontario. The shows will be available on national television on the Game+ network, available on all major TV providers.

Adding to the excitement, the broadcast will include the return of the Rookie Showcase this June, featuring three weekends of 2-year-old baby races with enhanced coverage live from Woodbine Mohawk Park.

"We are thrilled to bring Primetime Racing to harness racing fans," said CUJO Entertainment's Curtis MacDonald. "Our goal is to deliver top-notch coverage of Ontario's premier racing events and to showcase the incredible talent and excitement of the sport."

-edited release (CUJO Entertainment)



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, MAY 22

Race 3

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

(7) DELON moved off cover at the top of the stretch and trotted by for a win in his career debut. He offers plenty of upside, and appears to have some versatility if you trust the April 25 qualifier. He is a major win candidate.

-Kevin Plowcha

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Race 3

MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

(7) BETTER THAN SOME saved all the ground and had a touch of traffic last week with the trainer in the bike. In the prior start he went way too fast on the engine. New driver this week.

-Derick Giwner

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Race 4

MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

(1) MY BFF ANNEE lived up to her billing with a powerful win to start her 2025 campaign and we should still be able to get a good price on her with Fonseca in the bike.

-Giwner

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Race 15

Harrah's PHILADELPHIA

(5) ODDS ON OUTLIER has looked like the real deal all year and is currently undefeated in 2025. I'm not expecting his streak to end today.

-Giwner

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meadowlands Analysis		Friday	Saturday
Yonkers Analysis	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Harrah's Philadelphia Analysis			Sunday

DHP PPS | HARNESS EYE PPS | TRACKMASTER PPS | FREE PPS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

HOY TWIN B JOE FRESH MAKES 2025 DEBUT ON SUNDAY AT PHILLY

Twin B Joe Fresh, the 2024 Dan Patch Horse of the Year, will return to the races Sunday (May 25) for her 2025 debut when she meets seven rivals in the $100,000 Grade 3 Betsy Ross Invitational for older female pacers at Harrah's Philadelphia.

READ MORE

PRELIMINARIES SET STAGE FOR INAUGURAL LONDON CLASSIC SALE SERIES

The stage is officially set for an electrifying conclusion to the newly-minted London Classic Sale Series, as the preliminary legs have wrapped up, paving the way for four $40,000 division finals on Camluck Classic Night, Friday, May 30th at The Raceway.

Each division features a standout performer who swept both preliminary legs and now eyes a series sweep:

- Silverwalls – Colt & Gelding Pace
- Cleveland Royalty – Colt & Gelding Trot
- Twin B Bodacious – Filly & Mare Pace
- P C Sunshine Girl – Filly & Mare Trot

The current standings, based on money earned during the preliminaries, are now available at www.theracewaywfd.com/horsepeoples-info.

Adding to the excitement, the field for the $150,000 Camluck Classic, presented by Seelster Farms, will be finalized this weekend. The official post position draw will take place Monday evening during The Raceway's pre-game show.

Fans and participants alike can expect a night of top-tier harness racing action on Camluck Classic night featuring food trucks, live entertainment and contests and giveaways as well. For full details, visit www.camluckclassic.ca.

-release (The Raceway at Western Fair)

$10,138 PICK 5 CARRYOVER THURSDAY AT YONKERS

Three winners with odds of 25-1, 14-1 and 9-1 proved too difficult for the bettors in Tuesday night's (May 20) Pick 5 at MGM Yonkers Raceway, leading to a $10,138.08 carryover and a $25,000 guaranteed pool in the sequence when racing returns on Thursday night (May 22).

The guarantee in the Pick 5 is being offered as part of the United States Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering Program. Free Harness Eye past performances for the Pick 5 are available here. The Pick 5, which begins in race five and has a $1 minimum, has a takeout rate of 20 percent.

MGM Yonkers Raceway is now operating on a Monday-Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday live racing schedule with post time each night at 6:45 p.m. (EDT).

-release (Yonkers Raceway)

PENNSYLVANIA SIRE STAKES DATE CHANGE ANNOUNCED

There will be a change of date for the second leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes and Stallion Series for three-year-old trotting colts at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania – originally scheduled for Saturday, June 7, it will now be held a day later, during an evening card at Pocono on Sunday, June 8.

This Sire Stakes / Stallion Series event was scheduled for Saturday, June 7, but so is the first Sire Stakes / Stallion Series leg for three-year-old pacing fillies at The Meadows. To give maximum opportunity to stables having horses at this high level, the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association (PHHA), in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission's Bureau of Standardbred Racing (the official overseeing body of these programs), the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA), and the racetracks and Racing Offices involved thought it best to move the sophomore colt trotters back one day, to a scheduled card when Pocono would be normally presenting a 6 p.m. program.

If there are any further questions, please contact the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission's Standardbred Bureau, or the Racing Offices or horsemen's association at either of the racetracks involved.

-release (PHHA/Pocono)

FRENCH WINE AS GOOD AS EVER IN QUALIFIER

French Wine, the career winner of $1,228,569 who was second in the Hambletonian Maturity, beaten a neck by Chapercraze, in his last start ten months ago, continued on the comeback trail with a second straight victory during Tuesday morning's qualifying action at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Driver Andy Miller sent the son of Bar Hopping right to the lead and ticked off splits of 29 1/5, 58, 1:26 1/5, and 1:55 2/5 after a 1:55 Q victory seven days previously. Julie Miller trains the five-year-old for Andy Miller Stable Inc., Daniel and Jean Plouffe, and One Legend Stable Inc.

Justin Morrison, 35, won in the sulky (according to USTA records) for the first time in limited driving opportunities with Matchmaker contestant Millwood Bliss N in 1:55 3/5, then decided that the thrill was so nice he did it twice, notching a second win on the card with Justasec N in 1:57 2/5.

The Lucas Wallin Stable continues its torrid run with 3-year-old trotters, scoring with the Walner colt The Rogue Prince in 1:59 2/5 and the Muscle Hill filly Titian in 2:00, both driven by Wallin. And going to the other side of the experience spectrum, the 12-year-old I'm Some Graduate, the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Consolation champion at two, showed he's still going well ten years later with a 1:56 triumph.

Harrah's Philadelphia qualifiers can be seen at www.phha.org.

-edited release (PHHA/Harrah's Philadelphia)

IRISH-BRED AUCTION COMING TO ONGAIT.COM

From the stud farm that brought you champions like Oakwood Annabella, Oakwood Ardan, Oakwood Paddy and Oakwood Inittowinit, Oakwood Stud is proud to announce an exciting new partnership with OnGait, the world's leading standardbred auction platform, to bring you a groundbreaking event — the very first Irish-bred International Online Auction.

Mark your calendars for September 16th, 2025, as this historic collaboration promises to showcase some of the finest Irish-bred standardbreds to a global audience. For the first time ever, buyers from around the world will have the opportunity to bid online for elite Irish harness racing prospects — directly from the comfort of their homes.

Building on the legacy of success established by Oakwood-bred stars like Oakwood Annabella, Oakwood Paddy, Oakwood Ardan, and Oakwood Inittowinit, this auction continues the stud's mission to raise the profile of Irish harness racing on the international stage.

Of the six top-class yearlings on offer, three have already been staked into major North American races, making this a unique opportunity for buyers seeking top-tier talent bred for global competition.

This event represents a major step forward for Irish breeding, combining Oakwood Stud's exceptional bloodlines and commitment to excellence with OnGait's trusted digital platform and worldwide reach. Whether you're a seasoned owner, an aspiring trainer, or a global buyer looking for your next champion, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Stay tuned for more information, including the full catalogue and bidding instructions — coming soon at OnGait.com.

-release (Oakwood Stud)

NEW POP-UP SERIES ADDED AT MOHAWK PARK

The Woodbine Mohawk Park race office has released conditions for a pair of new upcoming Pop-Up Series.

The following Pop-Up events have been added to next week's condition sheet.

PACE - Pop Up Series: Horses & Geldings, Claiming $20,000 for Non-Winners of $25,000 (Ontario Sired $31,250) Lifetime. Allowances for Age.

Leg 1- Thursday, May 29 -$12,000 / Leg 2- Thursday, June 05 -$12,000

Final- Thursday, June 12 -$18,000

PACE - Pop Up Series: Horses & Geldings, Claiming $20,000 for Non-Winners of $60,000 (Ontario Sired $75,000) Lifetime. Allowances for Age.

Leg 1- Friday, May 30 -$15,000 / Leg 2- Friday, June 06 -$15,000

Final- Friday, June 13 -$25,000

The entry box for Thursday's card closes Monday morning (10:30 a.m.), while the box for Friday's card closes Tuesday morning (10:30 a.m.).

-release (Woodbine)