

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

CONTINUED ALLEGIANCE FOR U.S.-BRED *Allegiant*

Trainer Daniel Redén said he hasn't even pushed former Dan Patch winner Allegiant in training. He speaks on her potential and the success of U.S. horses flourishing in Sweden



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Givner

 @harnesseveguy

Go On Boy won the Elitlopp while racing very well in both heats and taking the historic event for his country of France for the fourth straight year. While his victory was the highlight of the weekend for many near and far to Solvalla Racecourse in Sweden on Sunday, my takeaway was a bit different as I was keen to see the performance of a former North American horse and she took my breath away.

We've seen many European horses – Sebastian K, Ecurie D, Aetos Kronos – travel to our shores over the years and do very well just as some of our horses have gone to Sweden and made a name for themselves. The big difference seems to be that the majority of the horses we send to places like Sweden go at the conclusion of their 3-year-old season while the ones we get are in most cases older. Sebastian K was 7, Ecurie D was 6 when he arrived and Aetos Kronos is racing now as a 9-year-old.

Propulsion is a prime example of a horse that went overseas at a young age (4) and shined, though his dominance was tainted by a nerve



COURTESY DANIEL REDÉN

Allegiant with caretaker Lina Pergenius after winning The Delicious on Elitlopp Day.

procedure he underwent in the U.S. that wasn't permitted in Sweden and wasn't uncovered until later in his career. The newest potential example competed in the race following the Elitlopp eliminations and she had my full attention.

Allegiant, who won the Dan Patch Award in 2024 as the top 3-year-old trotting filly in the United States, was making her second start on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean for new trainer Daniel Redén, who incidentally also conditioned Propulsion. In her first start she trotted away from the field for much of the 2100 meters and safely coasted home. It was the type of performance which would catch even the casual observer's eye, so seeing the follow-up effort 10 days later versus better competition was something that intrigued me.

Racing at the shorter 1640 meter distance (just over a mile), Allegiant was last with 700 meters to go and had eight horses to pass. Driver Örjan

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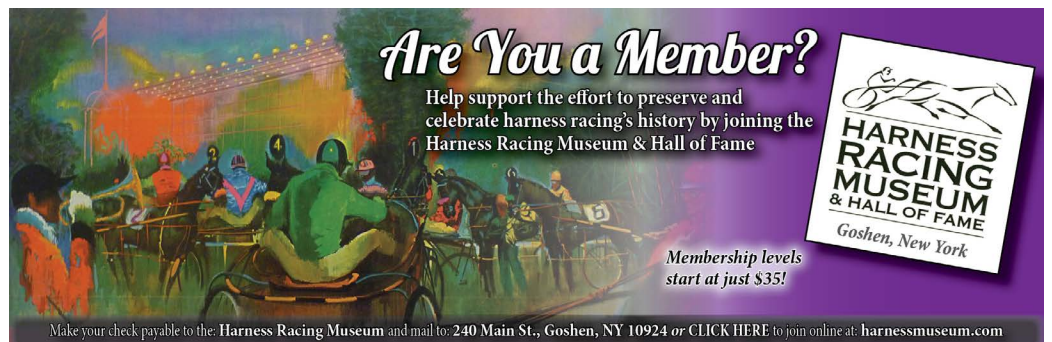
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Kihlström sent her three wide at that point and they began picking off horses as if they were running in place. Just 200 meters later she was moving into third and in the stretch she trotted away from the field about as easily as a horse can win. I'm not even sure she broke a sweat and the buzz is that she is a potential Elitlopp horse for 2026.

This got me thinking, as good as Allegiant was here – winning 11 of 27 races and \$1.04 million – could she be an even better horse overseas? Are the best North American trotters, given the opportunity to mature further and shine as older competitors, as good as any of the horses overseas?

While you're pondering that thought, consider that U.S.-bred Double Deceiver, a \$770K winner here as a 2- and 3-year-old, won the two-heat Sweden Cup at Solvalla on Saturday as a 6-year-old, and Keep Asking, a \$598K winner here in his first two years of racing in 2023 and 2024, won his 4-year-old debut at Solvalla and finished second in a stakes race on the Elitlopp undercard.

"She's an amazing filly. She has everything," said trainer Redén via email on the topic of Allegiant. "I have not started pushing her in training yet, so everything she does is by talent."

That's a scary comment for Allegiant's competition in the future. To think that the two spectacular performances she has put in thus far could be just scratching the surface of what she can do makes her a horse worth tuning in to see worldwide as her season unfolds.

According to Redén, many other good North American horses could probably have very successful careers as older horses if allowed to properly mature. "I don't understand why so many talented 3- and 4-year-olds disappear and never get the chance to show their full potential as older horses. I think the American elite should do better and give more young horses the opportunity to develop," said Redén. "But I'm very grateful that I've found so many top horses in the U.S."

Keep Asking, who made most of his money here in New York and Massachusetts Sire Stakes races, is a great example according to the trainer of a horse that could truly develop into something special.

"He delivered a top performance, finishing 2nd against Europe's best 4-year-olds," said Redén about Keep Asking's Sunday effort. "He arrived in great shape, so we've just kept up the training. I believe he'll compete at the elite level next year — maybe even in the Elitloppet."

Ponder that statement for a second. Keep Asking, who would certainly be behind Karl, Highland Kismet, Gruesome Twosome, R Melina, Amazing Catch and a bunch of others as potential top 4-year-olds here, might be on the Elitlopp track in 2026. It really makes you think about the ceiling of the North American trotter and its place on the worldwide Standardbred spectrum.

Nancy Takter 4-year-olds

As we are on the topic of 4-year-old trotters, trainer Nancy Takter told us she recently got a pair of new additions to her barn. Highland Kismet and Gruesome Twosome will both be trained by Takter going forward.

Unraced as a 2-year-old, Highland Kismet made \$529K while winning the Goodtimes and finishing second in the Hambletonian behind Karl for trainer Mark Etsell in 2024. After a pair of qualifiers and a start where he broke and finished last on May 19 this year the decision was made to switch to Takter.

Gruesome Twosome dominated Indiana as a 3-year-old and showed some limited success getting checks on the Grand Circuit in 2024. Like Highland Kismet, the \$693K career winner came to Takter's barn about a week ago and while both were eligible to the first leg of the Graduate series at Woodbine Mohawk Park on May 31, neither was entered. Gruesome Twosome will qualify at The Meadowlands and is in the fifth race on Saturday. According to Takter, Highland Kismet will train a fast mile prior to the card.

The second leg of the Graduate is June 13 at The Meadowlands and logically it would make sense that both trotters will be entered.

At some point they are likely to meet up with stable star Karl, but that is way down the road as the Hambletonian winner won't be seen until late summer at the earliest.

"He needed a break and he bred all spring, so I haven't really trained him much yet," said Takter about Karl.

With three top 4-year-olds potentially in her barn and a family history that has strong ties to Sweden, I couldn't help but ask whether we could see her at the Elitlopp in 2026.

"I would love it," said Takter, who surprisingly has never been to the race since she is always busy with New Jersey-sired horses here in late May.

Here's hoping both of us get there in 2026 for the first time.

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JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

Another contract battle

The contract between MGM and the SOA of New York is about to run its four-year course on May 31 and to date there has been little to no progress on its renewal. Should the two sides remain as distant as they have been over the last two months, you have to wonder if the immediate future of some major races could be in jeopardy, since planning events such as the \$1 million MGM International Trot would not be possible.

SOA of New York president Joe Faraldo sounded more than frustrated with not just the lack of negotiations, but the suggestion that horsemen should just take whatever is given and not have the means to negotiations.

"It's been radio silent," Faraldo said. "According to the terms of our existing contract we're supposed to have monthly meetings with management. We had a virtual meeting in February and there was no meeting in April or May."

Perhaps adding a bit of insult at least to the horsemen was the notion that MGM, currently gaining momentum for its proposal to New York State to receive a coveted New York City-region full casino license, lacks the "bandwidth" to negotiate with the horsemen at the same time.

Faraldo clearly understood the effort required for MGM to submit its casino proposal to the State. "If they need time we can extend the existing contract to July 1," said Faraldo with the understanding that a deal could be struck at that time on a new agreement.

"We had that situation in May of 2021, and we extended the contract then and got a deal done," Faraldo said with hope that a similar path can be set this year.

Given what's at stake for the MGM property should it be granted a full-casino license, time is of the essence and perhaps that is what has hardened at least one side currently. Faraldo over the course of his tenure as head of the SOA of NY has been through countless negotiations, including the original agreement with the Rooneys that propelled the Yonkers purse structure to industry highs more than 15 years ago. The prospect of a full casino bordering New York City will certainly go a long way towards seeing MGM realize the return on investment it was looking for when it paid \$850 million for the property in 2019.

What Faraldo doesn't want to see is what has happened over the last three months continue unchecked without substantive negotiations taking place. "They've put an offer on the table and told us to sign," Faraldo said. "Then they offered to extend the current contract until December."

An extension of the contract until the end of the year was a non-starter for Faraldo, who can clearly see the handwriting on the wall. Should MGM be granted a full casino license before the end of 2025 without reaching an agreement with its horsemen there would likely be way too much momentum to stop the rush to new construction necessary to revamp the property, putting harness racing at Yonkers in obvious peril.

"I'm not going to allow this track to turn into Pompano," Faraldo said, referring to the South Florida track that ultimately shuttered after losing a long battle to be coupled with alternative gaming.

Frustrating to the horsemen, as outlined in a recent letter to members, is that what appeared to be progress during early discussion in February that would later hit a wall.

Per the letter: "The SOA and MGM commenced negotiations in February of this year. The parties discussed their respective proposals at two separate negotiating sessions, including their views on the term of a new agreement. While MGM suggested a three year contract, the SOA proposed a six year deal. MGM only indicated that they could not agree to anything more than a five year deal. There were also a handful of unresolved issues to be negotiated."

According to the letter, things changed dramatically prior to a third negotiating session in early April.

"...MGM abruptly stated that they were not in a position to negotiate a new contract. Instead, MGM incredulously took the position that MGM, one of the largest casino operators in the world, purportedly did not have the "bandwidth" to even participate in negotiations with the SOA at this time, citing MGM's need to file an RFA by June 27 in connection with its application for a casino license. MGM took the position that all they would be prepared to do was to extend the current contract until the end of the year—not engage in good faith negotiations."



USTA PHOTO

SOA of NY President Joe Faraldo is trying to negotiate a long-term contract between the horseman's association and Yonkers Raceway.

As the deadline approaches there could be some movement that at least puts the parties back in contact with one another, though perhaps not prior to the May 31 deadline.

"In the last few days, MGM has finally agreed to meet regarding the contract on June 4th, after the termination of the current contract. Given the obvious importance of the matter, we have urged that a meeting be held this week, before the termination of the current contract. The SOA's negotiating team is ready to proceed as soon as possible."

The letter to the horsemen concluded with an explanation that there are protections in place within the state in the event of an extended impasse. "The Gaming Commission is aware of what's going on," said Faraldo.

Given the huge potential for a full casino on the Yonkers property there is plenty at stake for both sides as they hopefully come to terms and reach an agreement.

For the sake of the current calendar year and major races still on the calendar, a good faith extension that doesn't push negotiations into December but hopefully wraps them up in the early parts of the summer is critical.

While a minimum number of racing dates is mandated by law, the SOA of New York with its efforts has helped revive the MGM International Trot and its very existence in 2025 could depend largely on whether it can carve out a deal with management in the next few months.

The clock is ticking.



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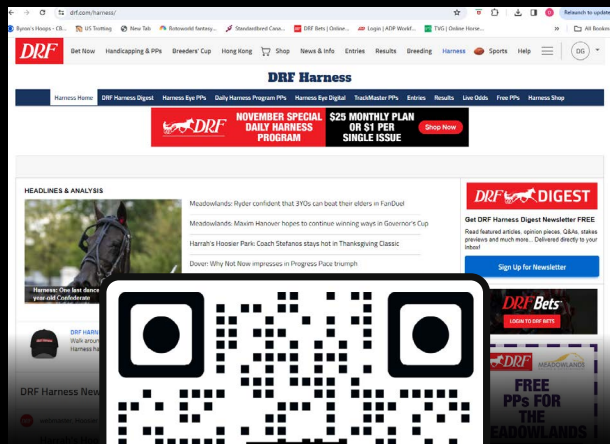
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Beaton takes aim at Graduate, Somebeachsomewhere stakes

By Jay Bergman

Last year trainer Anthony Beaton was in the enviable position of sending out a pair of impressive sophomores in the North America Cup. This Saturday he'll return with the Cup champion Nijinsky making his first start in stakes company as a 4-year-old in one of three Graduate divisions at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Beaton's hopes for a second North America Cup victory could come with his lightly raced but extremely talented Lite Up The World in one of two Somebeachsomewhere divisions, the final tune-up prior to next Saturday's (June 7) Cup eliminations. The five total stakes are part of a 13-race card that kicks off at 6:35 PM (EDT).

"We gave him a few qualifiers and then in his first start he went along nicely and finished well," said Beaton of Nijinsky, who landed post six in the C\$68,000 second Graduate division for pacers (race 10).

"Right now, I'm happy with the way he looks. He's put on weight and kept it, and maybe that has more to do with the weather up here that hasn't even been spring-like yet," said Beaton. "I'm happy with a bit more weight because you know it's going to come off with racing and the warmer weather."

Nijinsky showed incredible improvement from his 2-year-old campaign to his sophomore season and won 11 times while finishing second on four occasions during a brilliant campaign. On Saturday he'll look to get back on the winning track following a solid second-place finish in his season's debut on May 17.

The six rivals on Saturday include Calicojack Hanover, who enters the Graduate riding a two-race win streak after sweeping both the Juravinski elimination and final at Flamboro Downs for trainer Luc Blais. The son of Captaintreacherous has already reached his sophomore earnings level in just four starts this year but will be stepping up in company over the larger surface.

Funtime Bayama (post 1) has taken some time to hit his best stride for trainer Andrew Harris but enters the Graduate having won the Ontario Graduate here on May 3 and more recently a qualifying race at The Meadowlands. Funtime Bayama returns to Woodbine Mohawk Park on the anniversary of his victory in a division of the Somebeachsomewhere.

Beaton is hoping that Nijinsky can get a victory on Saturday and with that pick up enough points in the series so he can stay home until he must ship. "He got invited to the Mohawk Gold Cup (June 14), so if we can get enough points he can skip the next leg at Meadowlands," Beaton said.

Lite Up The World made just four starts as a freshman and Beaton has always been high on the son of American Ideal. "He hurt his tendon when he made a break in the Dream Maker," said Beaton. "We tried to get him back for the Nasssgaweya and Breeders Crown but in the end we thought it would be best to quit for the year and prepare him for his 3-year-old season.

Lite Up The World has shown incredible speed and staying power in two starts this year. "He showed a lot in that 1:51 mile he went (May 17). It was a cold windy night," said Beaton, who will send out Lite Up The World from post six in the eighth race second Somebeachsomewhere division.

"James (MacDonald) really likes him," said Beaton of Mohawk's leading reinsman who last year guided Legendary Hanover to a Meadowlands Pace and Cane Pace victory both in New Jersey.

Lite Up The World faces seven rivals including Joel And The Jets (post 2), a sharp 1:51 3/5 winner in his sophomore debut for trainer Dr. Ian Moore.

The first division of the Graduate goes as race four and finds Juravinski runner-up Howlenthedhills (post 2) the likely favorite in a field of eight. Trained by Travis Alexander, Howlenthedhills was a 13-time winner as a sophomore last year racing in New York and beyond.

Prince Hal Hanover (post 7) leads a competitive first C\$75,000 Somebeachsomewhere division that kicks off the stakes-filled program as race number two. A recent 1:49 3/5 winner over the five-eighths mile track at Pocono, Prince Hal Hanover drew outside of six rivals, including the 1:48 2/5 freshman winner D A Love Boat (post 2) as well as the 1:49 3/5 multiple stakes-winning freshman American Son making just his second start of 2025 for trainer Chris Ryder.

Just one division of the Graduate for 4-year-old trotters was necessary, with C\$102,000 on the line in race six. Last year's Canadian Trotting Classic Champion Amazing Catch (post 6) makes his first start for new owners but the same trainer in Ake Svanstedt. The son of Walner won his most recent qualifier at The Meadowlands on May 17 in 1:53 4/5.

Hambletonian Oaks champion Warrawee Michelle (post 3) is another of four horses in the field from the Svanstedt stable.



KEN WEINGARTNER PHOTO

Trainer Anthony Beaton and 4-year-old pacer Nijinsky.

The huge card at Woodbine Mohawk also finds one of last year's top sophomores and early favorite to capture the 2024 North America Cup – Captains Quarters – making his 4-year-old debut in the first race. Captains Quarters has not raced since the Breeders Crown eliminations last October at The Meadowlands.

RACE 2 - MAY 31 AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK - \$75K SBSW

Post-Horse	Driver	Trainer	Morning Line
1-No Tresspassing	T Cullen	D Daguet	10-1
2-D A Love Boat	L Roy	J Darling	5-1
3-Fifth And Five	J Jamieson	C Jamieson	10-1
4-American Son	D Dunn	C Ryder	7-2
5-Ayeaye Captain Deo	B McClure	G Merner	3-1
6-Madden Oaks	M Kakaley	C Capone	6-1
7-Prince Hal Hanover	D Miller	I Moore	5-2

RACE 8 - MAY 31 AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK - \$75K SBSW

1-Courts On Fire	D Dunn	B Macintosh	6-1
2-Joel And The Jets	D McNair	I Moore	5-1
3-Bourbon County	Trev Henry	P Reid	8-1
4-Aquinas Hanover	B McClure	J Turcotte	10-1
5-Captain Hurley	T Cullen	M Brethour	10-1
6-Lite Up The World	Ja Macdonald	A Beaton	2-1
7-Papis Pistol	A Miller	C De Pinto	3-1
8-Th Kay C Crunch	J Jamieson	C Jamieson	9-2

RACE 4 - MAY 31 AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK - \$68K GRADUATE PACE

1-Captain Luke	D Dunn	A Harris	3-1
2-Howlenthedhills	M Kakaley	T Alexander	5-2
3-Arbitrage Hanover	B Davis	R Fellows	8-1
4-Vandiemmen Bluechip	D McNair	C Capone	10-1
5-Chain Gang	Trev Henry	N Gallucci	6-1
6-Huntingforchrome	Ja Macdonald	T Alexander	4-1
7-A Class Yankee	M Whelan	W Whelan	10-1
8-Gem Quality	D Miller	I Moore	9-2

RACE 10 - MAY 31 AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK - \$68K GRADUATE PACE

1-Funtime Bayama	D Dunn	A Harris	5-2
2-Calicojack Hanover	T Jones	L Blais	7-2
3-Sweet Beach Life	M Kakaley	T Alexander	6-1
4-Timeisonmyside	Ja Macdonald	H Poulton	5-1
5-Storm Shadow	D Miller	I Moore	10-1
6-Nijinsky	L Roy	A Beaton	2-1
7-Remember The Alamo	J Jamieson	T Alagna	8-1

Menary with twice the power in Friday's Camluck Classic

By Derick Gwerner

Every racetrack deserves to have at least one day when it offers high-quality racing and lures fans of all ages to enjoy the experience. For The Raceway at Western Fair that is Camluck Classic night and on Friday (May 30) trainer David Menary is hoping to pick up his first win in the race with 50 years of history.

The C\$150,000 Camluck Classic Invitational Pace has been won by some elite performers since the turn of the century including Foiled Again (2011-12), State Treasurer (2013-15) and Bit Of A Legend N (2017). All of those horses made north of \$2 million in their careers and while the 2025 edition of the Camluck lacks a double millionaire, it does include a very competitive field led by two from the Menary barn.

"It would be nice to get a picture with either horse," said Menary. "They do a really good job at Western Fair. It is their closing night and it will be one of the biggest attendance cards of racing in Ontario this year. It brings out a lot of people. The grandstand is full, the dining room is full, there are people in the infield. It is an electric type of night."

Brue Hanover is a horse that jumps off the page. Since shipping north for Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Brussemi to join Menary the 5-year-old has won seven straight starts including the top-level Preferred at Woodbine Mohawk Park four straight times. Most recently he posted a career-best 1:49 victory over that surface while besting 2024 North America Cup winner Nijinsky.

"He came up for the New Holland series but he's won in the top class at The Meadowlands and the Open at Pocono," said Menary. "His last race [1:49 win] he went the mile of his life. It was cold, dirty and windy. He kind of got things his own way. It was the first starts back for Nijinsky and Ervin [Hanover] and I don't think anyone was looking to re-move [to the front], so he kind of caught a breather and took off."

Brue Hanover, the 8-5 morning line favorite, will start from post five on Friday with regular driver James MacDonald in the bike and Menary likes the spot.

"I think both of my horses being right in the middle of the gate will be put in play and I'm pretty confident in the drivers. Hopefully things shake out ok."

Just to Brue Hanover's inside is the other Menary trainee in Ervin Hanover. Like his stablemate, he's a 5-year-old sent from a top U.S. barn – Jeff Cullipher (Pollack Racing owners) – to take on Canadian foes. Ervin Hanover also had his own run of success at the Preferred level at Mohawk Park when he won three straight – one in 1:47 3/5 – in November and December. Making his first start of 2025, he was third behind Brue Hanover in a May 17 Preferred.

"He had a hellava November and went some scary miles. We turned him out in Kentucky," said Menary about Ervin Hanover, who didn't race the first four months of 2025. "He's come back really well. Hopefully he can have a big year."

While most of their recent miles have been over the seven-eighths track, both are quite familiar with half-mile ovals like the one they will see Friday at The Raceway and have won at Yonkers Raceway in their careers.

"I think the four is an ideal spot for him. The very first start I raced him last year he went the fastest first quarter ever at Flamboro from the eight hole. He went a 25 4/5 first quarter and 54 flat to the half. I don't want to see him have to go that kind of mile so early in the year, but he's a classy horse and I think Dougie [McNair] will be able to do whatever he wants with him.

"Both horses trained really good together today [Tuesday] and we'll warm them up Friday night and see if we need to make any adjustments."



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Brue Hanover has won seven straight races at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

A horse that loves the smaller track is 3-1 second choice Chase H Hanover. He was second in the rich MGM Borgata final at Yonkers Raceway for trainer Cory Stratton and hasn't missed the board in seven tries over the surface this year. The richest horse in the field with \$1.4 million earned starts from post six with Tyler Borth in the bike.

The only trainer or driver in the 2025 Camluck with a chance to repeat have joined forces. Louis-Philippe Roy has won three of the previous five editions of the race and he'll steer Clever Cody (15-1) from post seven for trainer Dr. Ian Moore, who conditioned State Treasurer to his threeppeat a dozen years ago.

Others in the field include Poseidon Seelster (6-1, post one, Bob McClure), Lou's World (8-1, post two, Jody Jamieson), Blue Hunt, (8-1, post three, Jason Ryan) and Fortify (10-1, post eight, D.Dube).

For Menary, he also has a big chance to win the co-featured C\$50,000 Forest City Invitational for pacing mares. The 46-year-old will send out 3-1 second choice Blue Pacific (post three) against a strong group that includes a pair of millionaires in Odds On Platinum (post four) and So Much More (post five).

Blue Pacific has won four of 11 starts on the year but comes into the Forest City off a break on the half-mile track at Flamboro Downs in the Margaret Juravinski, a race won by Odds On Platinum as the 1-5 chalk.

"It is a staggered gate and it is tougher to leave from the rail at Flamboro than it used to be. He kind of drove her off her feet a little. It was her first time on a half and she was just in a bad spot. The surface at Flamboro could've been a little better and the rail could've been a little better," said Menary about Blue Pacific. "She came out of it ok and we made a few adjustments. She trained ok today, too."

The action on the 12-race card at The Raceway starts at 5:50 PM (EDT) and includes a number of guaranteed wagers - \$20K Pick 5 in race 1; \$7.5K Pick 4 in race 2; \$20K Pick 5 in race 8; and \$10K Pick 4 in race 9.

RACE 11 - MAY 30 AT THE RACEWAY - \$150K CAMLUCK CLASSIC

Post-Horse	Driver	Trainer	Morning Line
1-Poseidon Seelster	B McClure	D Lindsey	6-1
2-Lous World	J Jamieson	G Merner	8-1
3-Blue Hunt	J Ryan	J Cullen	8-1
4-Ervin Hanover	D McNair	D Menary	4-1
5-Brue Hanover	Ja Macdonald	D Menary	8-5
6-Chase H Hanover	T Borth	C Stratton	3-1
7-Clever Cody	L Roy	I Moore	15-1
8-Fortify	D Dube	R Bourassa	10-1
AE1 Captain Fear Not			



\$20K Pick 5 Analysis
by Derick Gluener

The Raceway at Western Fair is hosting its biggest card of the year on Friday, May 30. In addition to the featured C\$150,000 Camluck Classic Invitational for older pacers, the track will have a number of guaranteed multi-race wagers for handicappers to dive into. The two largest are a pair of \$20,000 Guaranteed Pick 5 wagers which start in races one and eight. Let's look at the late sequence.

RACE 8: LONDON CLASSIC SALE H&G FINAL

(5) DONTQUITYOURDAYJOB seems to be the fastest off the gate and that places him in prime position to win. The key will be whether a horse tries a quarter-move to the front and how many are following that foe. (8) SILVERWALLS is perfect in five starts this year but won't be able to easily go to the front from the second tier. Plus the #1 doesn't start as quickly as others. If the trip is smooth he'll get a big piece. (6) LATE FOR COFFEE only has three career starts but has dropped time in each one. He's getting better and with the right pace setup could fly by them all. He won't be on my ticket but I couldn't fault you for trying him.

RACE 9: NON-WINNERS \$5,000 LAST 3 OR \$50,000 LIFE - \$10K GTD PK 4

(2) CONTROL THE POWER switched to the smaller track at Flamboro last time and showed speed while a good second behind a wire to wire winner. He figures to take charge in this spot unless #5 demands the top. (4) BEN LOOKIN looks to have thrown in a clunker last time before you see that the mile went in 1:49 2/5 due to a stakes foe being in the field. Four-year-old has won three of seven starts over the track and only needs a reasonable trip to threaten.

RACE 10: FOREST CITY INVITATIONAL MARE PACE

(4) ODDS ON PLATINUM rolled down the road to capture the mares Juravinski race last time at Flamboro. She arguably catches a stronger field here but has that tactical advantage as some of these are not as accustomed to the smaller oval. (5) SO MUCH MORE goes for a threepeat in the Forest City. Her comeback effort wasn't spectacular but notice the 1:55 4/5 qualifier over the track. She'll bring her best and it is just a matter of whether it is good enough. (2) LADYTERRA swept a pop-up series at Mohawk and now returns to a track where she's had success. Five-year-old lacks the class of some of the others but may be sharp enough to pull it off.

RACE 11: CAMLUCK CLASSIC INVITATIONAL PACE

(4) ERVIN HANOVER probably doesn't have the quickest burst off the gate but he has options here to continue on or try to race from behind. He was an absolute killer late last year and the comeback effort was just what you like to see with a 53 final half. (5) BRUE HANOVER has won seven straight races and he shows past speed off the gate on half-mile tracks. This is his race to lose at this point but he's far from a lock. (1) POSEIDON SEELSTER is a fringe player on form and maybe he's lost a step as an 8-year-old. That said, he does have the gate speed to fire out and the trip may play right into driver Bob McClure's hands.

RACE 12: PREFERRED PACE

This is a tricky race with many contenders. (2) P L OLIVER should be able to fire around the rail horse to his inside and secure a pocket trip at worst behind early speedster #5. If the trip is as good as expected he'll have a huge win chance. (8) WOODMERE ROLLNPOP has found himself in the lower ranks at Flamboro and seems to be sharp enough to handle this group if Dube can overcome the second tier. (5) HOLLYS TREASURE fires to the top every week. The big question is the 24 days off between races. He's dangerous on best. (4) FANTOME EN JOIE has done good work on the small track at Flamboro and just posted a nice win at Mohawk.

My ticket is admittedly a bit on the bulky side. That said, I'm leaving out two morning-line favorites at 8-5 and 9-5, so I have enough value to make it work. If you want to play a shorter ticket, try the Pick 4 and eliminate the first leg. That gets you down to \$14.40. Good luck!

.20 TICKET: 5,8 / 2,4 / 2,4,5 / 1,4,5 / 2,4,5,8 = \$28.80

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FRIDAY, MAY 30TH

POST TIME 5:50 PM | London, Ontario

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\$50,000 Forest City Pace
\$40,000 London Classic Series Finals

Plus....OSS races and much more!

Details at camluckclassic.ca





CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

Wagering & Sire Stakes thoughts

As I am writing this on Monday morning, I am looking out my hotel window at horses going through their paces at Running Aces Harness Park. Last night we had a huge crowd for the Handicapping Herpetologist (plus t-shirt giveaways, face painting and cap giveaways) – management said one of their biggest crowds ever – and I again started thinking about tracks like Running Aces and Tioga Downs who so actively promote Family Days. And why do other tracks not do it? Oh well. The 12-hour drive each way from Cleveland, OH to Columbus, MN gives you a lot of time to think. Here is what I thought about:

Joe Faraldo's column in the most recent Hoof Beats regarding problems we have with wagering – poorly priced simulcast product, computer assisted wagering and the threat of legal sports betting – was interesting. But, just as Joe and I can agree on the joys of a good cigar, we don't necessarily agree on the brand or type. First off, the problem with pricing outgoing simulcast is one that was thrust upon us years ago by the Thoroughbred folks – particularly NYRA and Churchill. All we could do is follow around or get left at the altar. Prices to originating tracks have nearly doubled over time, but not (we agree) enough. He also talks about the threat of online sports wagering. As I have written before, this is not a threat, it is an opportunity to partner with the sports apps. FanDuel started offering both horses and sports from a single access point back in December of 2022. It amazes me that MGM has not done the same – after all, they own race tracks.

The big advantage we have, as I have mentioned before, is that we are not limited by state boundaries. I have an MGM sports betting account, but I am not allowed to use it if I am not in Ohio. I can use my DRF Bets horse racing account from anywhere with a single login due to the Interstate Horse Racing Act. It is a huge advantage that our sport did not take advantage of and now we are well behind the sport betting sites in many ways.

Of course, where would we have advertised? These days you can't watch a sporting event without seeing ads and in-broadcast promotions for the sponsoring online sports book. On Cleveland Guardians TV they actually present a suggested three-part parlay of the day! When I see this, I often bet against it and have shown a positive ROI doing so. Since the sport that banned Pete Rose had gotten in bed with the online sites, we are out in the cold. Before that, they would not have accepted our advertising money, even if we had it. So Joe and I can agree on the cigar, we just need to discuss whether it should be a bellicoso or a toro.

Column aside: A couple columns back I told you the story of Maggie's Way. En route to Running Aces, I got a text. It was simply an ultrasound with the note "Baby on Board." So Maggie is in-foal. Now it's 11 months of waiting and nail-biting.

We have a big problem right now in Ohio and it is with our stakes

program. The first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old filly pacers drew 13 horses, for two \$65,000 divisions. The second level Buckeye Stallion Series, with a purse of \$20,000 per split, had 49 entries. It was worse with the sophomore colts, where each OSS division drew just 10 entries. Since they raced at Northfield and there is a new rule limiting the OSS races to one trailer, we had two splits of five horses in each division. Not great betting races. The only people happy with five-horse fields are the entrants, who were guaranteed a \$3,250 check for their \$500 entry fee. Last year, one owner was looking to buy eligible horses prior to a late OSS leg just in order for it to fill! By the way, the first leg of the colt pace Buckeye Stallion Series had 72 entries!

The OHHA Directors (of which I am one) have been discussing ways to fix this disparity, although we have nothing concrete yet. One idea would be to guarantee that any horse who did not pick up an OSS check would get its entry fee refunded. An idea I have is to look the other way and provide a disincentive to race in the Buckeye Stallion Series. This series guarantees a \$20,000 purse per leg. What if we cut it to \$17,500 for three or four legs and \$15,000 for five legs? Right now at Scioto Downs, NW1 race for \$12,000 and NW2 race for \$13,000. Those classes, which many of these Stallion Series horses still fit, are far easier and if we take away some of the financial incentive, maybe horsemen will make different choices. And maybe some of the better horses take a shot moving up. We will need to see what happens when the fairs begin next month. But it actually looks like some divisions of the OSS this year may not fill their \$100,000 Consolation (Gray) Final.

I was at Northfield for those Ohio Sires Stakes races but I was also interested in seeing the Grade III Cutler from The Meadowlands. The 3-year-olds are just starting and the 2-year-olds haven't started, so the older horses are the main show in town. I took an informal poll of a half-dozen or so Northfield regulars including a couple high rollers and a couple who were clearly focused on the M1 simulcast. Of those asked, only two knew the Cutler was a graded stake, but neither could tell me what it meant. It's early and I am still willing to give graded stakes a chance, but my gut feeling remains – this an exercise meant to help breeders more than horse players. Please prove me wrong.

That's it for this time. Now go cash. Hopefully on something more than a five-horse Ohio Sires Stakes field. See you next time.



Winbak Farm Congratulates COURTS ON FIRE

**WINNER OF \$85,500 NEW YORK SIRE
STAKES LEG IN 1:52.2 AT SARATOGA!**

p, 2, 1:53.3h, 3, 1:52.2h -'25 (\$244,718)
Courtly Choice-Ashlee's Spitfire-Roll With Joe

Trainer: Blake Macintosh

Driver: Brett Beckwith

Owners: Hutt Racing Stable, Blake Macintosh,
Tim Klemencic & Daniel Plouffe

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Amazing Catch leads Svanstedt quartet to Graduate at Mohawk

By Ken Weingartner

Greg Luther wasn't necessarily counting down the days until Amazing Catch's first race of this season, but he is happy his trotter's 2025 debut is nearly here.

Amazing Catch, purchased by Luther for a record \$1.85 million during the mixed sale portion of the Standardbred Horse Sale this past November, will compete Saturday in the opening round of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old trotters, going for a purse of C\$102,000 at Woodbine Mohawk Park in Ontario.

The previous record for a Standardbred sold at public auction was set in 2019 when trotting mare Atlanta brought \$1.55 million online at onGait.com. That price topped the \$1.1 million for 2-year-old trotting filly Cameron Hall at the 2001 Tattersalls December Mixed Sale.

On Saturday, Amazing Catch will leave from post six in a field of nine. Dexter Dunn will drive the stallion for trainer Ake Svanstedt, who also was the horse's conditioner last season when his victories included the Canadian Trotting Classic at Mohawk.

Amazing Catch is the 5-2 morning-line favorite.

"As busy as I am with all our broodmares and breeding and everything, breaking yearlings and all that, I kind of put (his first start) on the back-burner," said Luther, an Ohio resident who races as Greg Luther Racing LLC. "One good thing about sending him to Ake is that I didn't have to worry about it much. He's going to do his job, and he knows how to get him ready. But it was always in the back of my mind. I'm glad to get him back racing."

Amazing Catch, a son of Walner-Mets Life, has hit the board in 14 of 18 career races, winning three and earning \$870,830. His five lifetime second-place finishes include last year's Kentucky Futurity and Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial and the 2023 Peter Haughton Memorial. He was third in last year's Breeders Crown, beaten by a neck, and third in the Hambletonian from post 10 at The Meadowlands.

"He was always drawing bad, but he is better from the back," Luther said. "He loves to chase horses. Anytime he's been anywhere in the hunt, he's been flying on the end. And that's a lot of fun when you're racing a horse that's going forward rather than hoping they hold on at the front.

I think it will be a lot of fun if we can draw better and get away mid-pack and not have to come from so far back this year."

Amazing Catch qualified twice in preparation for Saturday's start. He was fifth, timed in 1:54 3/5, on May 2 at The Meadowlands, then won gate-to-wire in 1:53 4/5 on May 17 at The Big M. In both qualifiers, he came home with a 27 1/5 last quarter.

"The first qualifier was just so-so, but the second qualifier was much better, and he trained good after that," Svanstedt said. "He is a good horse. He was one of the better 3-year-olds last year. He had bad posts often, but he raced good."

In addition to the Graduate Series, which concludes July 5 at The Meadowlands, Amazing Catch is eligible to the Hambletonian Maturity on July 12 at The Big M. The Maturity, like the Graduate Series, is restricted to 4-year-olds.

"I've never been in the Maturity," Luther said. "That's the one I'm really pointing to. I think he'll have a fair shot in there, for sure. The Maturity and the Breeders Crown (in October) are the two I'm kind of looking forward to."

Amazing Catch is one of four Svanstedt-trained horses in Saturday's Graduate opener. The others are Warrawee Michelle (one of two females in the field), Mr Bluebird, and Daiquiri Hanover. Svanstedt will drive Warrawee Michelle, who was a Breeders Crown champion at age 2 and won last year's Hambletonian Oaks. She will leave from post three and is the 4-1 third choice on the morning line.

All four of Svanstedt's horses are making their seasonal debut.

"I hope they can do good, all four of them," Svanstedt said. "They are in good form, but not top. They might need a race or two before they're top. Warrawee Michelle was very nice when she qualified (second, timed in 1:53, on May 17 at The Meadowlands). She grew a lot. She's a big horse now. She trained back good after the winter, and she feels very good."

Saturday's Mohawk card also includes two divisions of the opening round of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old pacers as well as two divisions of the Grade 3 Somebeachsomewhere Stakes for 3-year-old pacers.

Racing begins at 6:35 p.m. (EDT) at Woodbine Mohawk Park.



Congratulations to **COURTLY CHOICE'S** **COURTS ON FIRE**

**\$85,500 NEW YORK SIRE STAKES LEG
WINNER AT SARATOGA IN 1:52.2!**

**Courtly Choice-Ashlee's Spitfire-Roll With Joe
p, 2, 1:53.3h; 3, 1:52.2h -'25 (\$244,718)**

Trainer: Blake Macintosh / **Driver:** Brett Beckwith

Owners: Hutt Racing Stable, Blake Macintosh,
Tim Klemencic & Daniel Plouffe

Breeder: Winbak Farm

Courtly Choice son, Fast Choice, was second!



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RACE OF THE WEEK

11 WESTERN FAIR FRI

1 Mile Pace. CAMLUCK CLASSIC INVITATIONAL PACE Purse \$150,000

EXACTA | LATE DOUBLE (RACES 11 and 12) | START OF SUPERFECTA | TRIFECTA

1 POSEIDON SEELSTER(L)

51:48.2 (7/8) \$5,848

b g 8, by Sunshine Beach, Porsche Seelster by Artistic Fella

Last 5 Sts -\$23,320

1:50.1 Wbs 7/8

25 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 15 3 2 4 \$87,720

6-1 B. McClure 423-71-53-61 (168)

Donald Lindsey, Ferqus-Paul Klempke, Orangeville, On-William Alempievic, Lexington, Ky-Garth Bechtel, Meaford, On

Br.- Seelster Farms Inc, Lucan, On

1:51 Wbs 7/8

24 Lon 0 0 0 0

-\$18,000 24 Tot 34 4 8 9 \$187,720

24 May25	1Wbs	fst12 ^o	26	:54	1:22	1:50	1	Nw17000L5cd	24000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	BMcclure	Dlindsey	26	28	28	27	1:50	105	+6.7w	L+.55 PsdnSistrCdmCgBrDgrnthbch	Down road, all out-10
17 May25	9Wbs	fst13 ^o	27	:55	1:23	1:49	Prf		36000	9	9 ¹	9 ¹	9 ¹	9 ¹	9 ¹	BMcclure	LindseyD	30	28	27	25	1:51	99	+7.5w	L117.90 BlueHanover Nijinsky ErvinHanover	Struggled-10
10 May25	10Wbs	fst14 ^o	27	:55	1:23	1:50	Prf 1l		28000	7	7 ⁹	7 ⁹	7 ⁹	7 ⁹	7 ⁹	BMcclure	LindseyD	28	28	28	26	1:51	99	+5.5w	L20.70 Taurus Fortify OddsOnCapitalism	Trail, dull-7
26 Apr25	9Wbs	fst16 ^o	27	:55	1:24	1:50	1	Preferred-2	28000	2	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	BMcclure	LindseyD	27	28	28	26	1:51	105	+1.6w	L3.70 WriteMeARose PsdnSistr Frtly	Pkt, chl, 2nd best-6
19 Apr25	9Wbs	fst16 ^o	26	:55	1:23	1:50	3	Pf	36000	6	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	BMcclure	LindseyD	26	29	27	27	1:51	99	+3.7w	L27.95 BrHvr WrtMARS PsdnSistr	Tok, bwn, outkicked-7
12 Apr25	9Wbs	fst16 ^o	27	:56	1:24	1:50	Prf		36000	1	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	BMcclure	LindseyD	28	29	27	26	1:50	101	+5.7w	L28.05 BlueHanoverOddsOnCplsmPsdnSistr	Saved, lined-6
5 Apr25	3Wbs	gd16 ^o	27	:56	1:24	1:52	Prf		36000	3	4 ²	4 ²	4 ²	4 ²	4 ²	BMcclure	LindseyD	27	29	28	27	1:52	94	-6.6w	L13.00 TaurusOddsOnCapitalismMrqMgc	Btwn, late gain-8

2 LOUS WORLD

41:49.3 (7/8) \$7,403

b h 4, by Sweet Lou, World Apart by Art Major

Last 5 Sts -\$56,150

1:49.3 Wbs 7/8

25 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 8 3 1 3 \$59,224

8-1 J. Jamieson 414-52-48-61 (126)

Gino Tossani, Mount Hope, On

Br.- Willow Oak Ranch, TN

1:51 Wbs 7/8

24 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 23 6 1 7 \$130,353

18 May25	10FID	fst13 ^o	26	:54	1:22	1:50	2	Juravinski	247500	2	3 ³	4 ³	5 ³	3 ¹	3 ¹	BMcclure	GMerner	27	28	28	27	1:50	109		12.95 CalicojackHanover Howlenthehills LousWorld	-9
11 May25	3FID	fst11 ^o	27	:55	1:23	1:51	1	Juravinski	35000	6	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	BMcclure	GMerner	28	27	27	25	1:51	102		7.35 CaptainFearNot CleverCody LousWorld	-6
3 May25	1Wbs	fst16 ^o	26	:54	1:23	1:49	3	Nw16500L5cd	24000	1	2 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	BMcclure	GMerner	26	28	27	27	1:49	106	+7.5w	10.40 LousWorld NoControl WhsOnFr	Rtk, press, game-10
19 Apr25	5Wbs	fst18 ^o	27	:55	1:23	1:51	3	Nw14000L5cd	24000	6	2 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	Jamieson	GMerner	27	28	28	27	1:51	96	+3.7w	7.15 FortifyLousWorldCaptainFearNot	Cvr final, gd try-10
10 Apr25	4FID	gd10 ^o	28	:58	1:25	1:54	3	Nw3500L3cd	8500	3	1 ³	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	AHaughan	GMerner	28	29	27	28	1:54	96		.05 LousWorld PalladiumHanover BottleRocket	-6
3 Apr25	1FID	fst16 ^o	28	:57	1:25	1:53	3	Nw3905L3CD	8500	7	1 ²	1 ³	1 ³	1 ²	1 ²	Henry	GMerner	28	28	28	28	1:53	97		.70 LousWorld PalladiumHanover GingerTreeFirmy	-9
27 Mar25	3FID	fst19 ^o	27	:56	1:26	1:55	3	Nw67000L5cd	10000	4	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	Henry	GMerner	28	28	30	28	1:55	85		1.65 RespectOurFlag IdealPerception LousWorld	-7

3 BLUE HUNT(L)

41:47.3 (7/8) \$2,933

br g 5, by Huntsville, All On Top Hanover by Betterhancheddard

Last 5 Sts -\$26,400

1:49.3 Wbs 7/8

25 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 9 2 1 0 \$26,400

8-1 J. D. Ryan 535-59-85-81 (110)

Donald MAC Rae, Vernon Bridge, Pe-Stephen Klunowski, North York, On-Daquet Racing LLC, Wind-Gap, Pa

Br.- Crawford Farms LLC, NY

1:47.4 Wbs 7/8

24 Lon 0 0 0 0

-\$7,500 24 Tot 34 7 3 3 \$183,773

24 May25	7Wbs	fst12 ^o	26	:53	1:20	1:47	4	Prf	36000	6	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	BDavis	JCullen	27	27	27	26	1:47	115	+6.7w	L7.10 SoaringNowBlueHuntTmsmrysd	Tok, tip, miss-9
12 May25	5Wbs	fst18 ^o	26	:55	1:23	1:49	3	NW9000L5CD	18000	5	1 ²	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	TCullen	CullenJ	26	28	28	26	1:49	108	+7.6w	L+.15 BlueHuntOrdOnTGSgntSgthr	Down road, handy-10
5 May25	9Wbs	fst14 ^o	27	:56	1:25	1:52	3	NW6700L5CD	15000	8	4 ³	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	TCullen	CullenJ	27	29	28	26	1:52	95	+5.5w	L+.15 BlueHuntThunderControl Slsbrkln	Pkd, press, game-9
26 Apr25	4Wbs	fst16 ^o	27	:56	1:25	1:54	3	NW9000L5CD	18000	10	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	PHudson	CullenJ	28	28	28	28	1:54	85	+1.6w	L12.15 LegiorSeelsterStmngTmndCntry	Tok, chl, fired-10
19 Apr25	5Wbs	fst18 ^o	27	:55	1:23	1:51	3	Nw14000L5cd	24000	2	7 ³	8 ³	9 ³	10 ³	9 ³	EHensley	CullenJ	29	28	27	28	1:53	90	+3.7w	L13.50 FortifyLousWorldCaptainFearNot	Empty-10
12 Apr25	1Wbs	fst16 ^o	26	:54	1:22	1:50	1	Nw25500L5cd	28000	5	8 ³	8 ³	7 ⁶	6 ⁵	6 ³	EHensley	CullenJ	27	28	27	27	1:51	99	+5.7w	L7.95 CenturyKomodo EmmettsBody NoControl	No rally-8
24 Mar25	9YR	gd	27	:57	1:25	1:53	4	NW1502L5	27143	7	7 ¹	7 ¹	7 ¹	7 ¹	7 ¹	ANapolit	DaquetD	30	29	27	28	1:54	89	+5.4w	L27.25 SmfysTrmNghtHwKspsBrthr	Sat, ang list, no bid-8

4 ERVIN HANOVER(L)

41:47.3 (7/8) \$4,320

b h 5, by Captaintreacherous, Eloquent Grace by Well Said

Last 5 Sts -\$72,320

1:51 Wbs 7/8

25 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 1 0 0 1 \$4,320

4-1 D. McNair 454-88-69-51 (194)

Polack Racing LLC, Venetia, Pa

Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA

1:47.3 Wbs 7/8

24 Lon 0 0 0 0

-\$14,730 24 Tot 34 8 2 4 \$146,866

17 May25	9Wbs	fst13°	273	:554	1:223	1:49																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												</
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5 BRUE HANOVER(L)

51:49 (7/8) \$15,902

b g 5, by Stay Hungry, Blind Ambition by Art Major

Last 5 Sts -\$106,500

1:49.4 Wbs 7/8

25 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 11 9 0 0 \$174,917

8-5 Ja. A Macdonald 687-116-49 (198)

Burke Racing Stable LLC, Fredericktown-Weaver Buscemi LLC, Canonsburg, Pa

Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, Hanover, Pa

1:49.4 M1

24 Lon 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 31 7 4 3 \$144,266

17 May25	9Wbs	fst13 ^o	27 ³	:55 ⁴	1:22 ³	1:49	Prf		36000	5	1 ²	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	JMacdonld	DMenary	27	28	26	26	1:49	111	+7.5w	L+.05 BrueHanoverNijinskyErvinHanover	Much the best-6
3 May25	8Wbs	fst19 ^o	26	:55 ⁴	1:23 ³	1:49 ³	Prf		36000	5	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	TCullen	DMenary	26	29	27	25	1:49	109	+7.5w	L+.45 BrueHanoverFrtlyOddsOnCplsm	Down road, handy-9
19 Apr25	9Wbs	fst18 ^o	26 ²	:55 ¹	1:23	1:50 ³	Prf		36000	5	2 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	TCullen	DMenary	26	28	27	25	1:50	103	+3.7w	L+.25 BrueHanoverWrtMARS PsdnSistr	Down road, all out-7
12 Apr25	9Wbs	fst16 ^o	27	:56 ²	1:24	1:50	Prf		36000	6	1 ²	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	TCullen	DMenary	27	29	27	26	1:50	106	+5.7w	L+.50 BrHvrOddsOnCplsmPsdnSistr	Down road, handy-6
5 Apr25	9Wbs	gd16 ^o	26 ³	:55 ³	1:23 ³	1:50 ³	3	NewHolland	69000	3	3 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	DMcnair	DMenary	27	28	28	27	1:50	102	-6.6w	L+.55 BrueHanoverJabberwockyPwrtm	Shift, brush, handy-8
22 Mar25	7Wbs	fst14 ^o	27 ³	:55 ³	1:22 ⁴	1:50 ³	3	NewHolland	30000	1	3 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	DMcnair	DMenary	28	27	27	27	1:50	104	-7.4w	L+.75 BrueHanoverEmmetsBodyPwrtm	Brsh, yld, chl, dnt-8
15 Mar25	2Wbs	fst14 ^o	26 ⁴	:55	1:23 ²	1:50	3	NewHolland	30000	7	2 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	1 ³	DMcnair	DMenary	26	28	28	26	1:50	104	+0.4w	L+.05 BrueHanoverNijinskyErvinHanover	Much the best-6

Daley seeks more Big M glory

Noel Daley is a busy man.

The 2024 Dan Patch Trainer of the Year Award winner is a humble sort who was grateful to take home that hardware.

"It's not something you focus on, but it's nice to get it," said Daley, who came to the United States from Australia 36 years ago. "We had a good year, so we'll take it."

The busy part? Daley has a shedrow that is currently packed to capacity. "Unfortunately, we have about 75 horses, which is a lot," said Daley, clearly kidding around. "I'm trying not to have as many racehorses. I've got 45 2-year-olds, which is crazy. I've never had that many. I like doing the young ones."

That's for later in 2025. As for 2024, Daley reflected on a pair of stand-outs under his watch, the 3-year-old male Trotter of the Year, Sig Sauer, and 3-year-old male Pacer of the Year, Captain Albano.

Sig Sauer (Muscle Hill-Sigilwig) won half of his 10 starts a year ago, including the Kentucky Futurity at The Red Mile as well as the Stanley Dancer and Breeders Crown, which were both at The Meadowlands. He banked \$871,812.

"I wasn't quite sure we got there [in the Breeders Crown]," said Daley of his horse's nose win over T C I. "I actually said to [T C I's trainer] Ron Burke, 'Did I win or did you?', but he knew and said 'Yes, you won it.'"

Now a sire at Hanover Shoe Farms, Daley thinks his stud career should be a good one.

"He's got everything that you would want," said Daley. "We paid \$200,000 for him, which was a lot for us. A magnificent horse. He had a lot of attitude to him. He thought he was a good horse."

During a season that saw him win 12 of 18 starts and earn over \$1.1 million, Captain Albano (Captaintreacherous-Angelou) was the winner of the Little Brown Jug, Hempt and Adios, and was nothing short of spectacular in his final outing of the season, when he went parked into an opening quarter of 25 1/5 only to reign supreme at the wire by 2 1/4 lengths in 1:49 1/5 around Dover Downs' five-eighths-mile oval.

He was on his way to stud duty, but that stage of his career will have to wait.

"To be fair to him, we raced him right until the end [of the year]," said Daley. "We test-bred him basically straight off the track and the numbers weren't good enough. We were hoping they would get better, but it was late and we couldn't make people wait, so we said we'll bring him back [and race] this year and try again to breed him next year."

Daley admitted he was OK at the prospect of having 'The Captain' come back this year.

"He really did well [when third in his second qualifier last Saturday]," said Daley. "He's probably too big, so we'll come back next week and put the screws to him."

He should be ready to race in a few weeks.

One horse who is already off to a good start in 2025 is Smooth Dream, who remained perfect in five starts this year after taking the New Jersey Sire Stakes 3-year-old male pacing final in 1:50.3 last Saturday. All of his outings this season have come at the East Rutherford mile oval.

"You know as much about him as I do," said Daley. "I got him three or four weeks before he was ready to qualify. He's been nothing but great. He had a chip in his ankle, so he only had a couple of starts (three) last year. [His connections] didn't know enough about him, so probably the only mistake it looks like they've made so far is under-staking him."

The son of Cattlewash-Dreamlands Latte is a gelding, so it's something not usually done, but is it possible the horse could be supplemented to the Meadowlands Pace?

"We'll have to see. That decision is up to [the owners]. It's a big ask," said Daley. "We'll see what the competition looks like at the time. He basically only has the New Jersey races [on his schedule for this year]. We have looked through to see if there are some races that make sense to supplement to. Being a gelding, that's your challenge there. We'll take him week-to-week."

Daley has little to do when it comes to Smooth Dream, but has some things to improve upon with his Hambletonian hopeful, Onajetplane (Walner-Noble Lover), the winner of the 2024 New Jersey Classic final.

"He was disappointing [last Saturday morning when fifth in his qualifier]," said Daley. "We started a little later with him. This horse trained down good but he'll have to come back next week and show me a little more. He didn't finish last year great. The Hambletonian is your first serious race. Everything you do is surrounded by that race. If he's not ready at that time, well, then he can't be in it. You have to be realistic."

-edited release (Meadowlands)

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THURSDAY, MAY 29

RACE 5

(8) P L SPENCER never left the rail, trotting home in 27 2/5 in sloppy race conditions to score comfortably. He should be able to take another step forward off that effort in a division that looks like it could be wide open all year long.

-John Rallis



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, MAY 30

RACE 8

(6) GET A WISH DK wasn't given much of a chance in his first start of the year but trotted home steadily. He is likely to get lost in the wagering here and might be an interesting in start two since September.

-Derick Givner



RACE 4

(4) HOOLIE NHECTOR is on the comeback trail for the Adamczyk barn and he returns to Yonkers after a sharp win up at Monticello. Veteran picks up Bartlett and looks good from this spot.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, MAY 31

RACE 9

(3) VOUEFALAS has put in two nice races to start his 5-year-old season and last time he really had no shot given the fractions; lands in a great position tonight.

-Givner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Meadowlands Analysis

Friday

Saturday

Yonkers Analysis

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS



INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES



NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

GO ON BOY GIVES FRANCE ANOTHER ELITLOPP CHAMPION

France claimed its fourth straight win in the Elitlopp on Sunday afternoon at Solvalla Racecourse in Stockholm, with Go On Boy rallying to give trainer/driver Romain Derieux his second victory in the event. The time in the final was 1'08"4, a mile rate of 1:50 flat.

The stage for the final was set by two eliminations that were won by Swedish horses Mellby Jinx (Mats E. Djuse, 1:50 4/5) and 2021 champion Don Fanucci Zet (Paul-Philippe Ploquin, 1:52 4/5). Rounding out the finalists were Go On Boy, A Fair Day (Oscar Ginman), Francesco Zet (Orjan Kihlström), Borups Victory (Daniel Wajersten), 2023 champion Hohnneck (Gabriele Gelormini) and Massimo Hoist (Hannu Torvinen). Daniel Wajersten had two of the finalists in Mellby Jinx and Borups Victory, as did Daniel Reden with Don Fanucci Zet and Francesco Zet.

[READ MORE](#)

INDIANA SIRES STAKES SEASON BEGINS

Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino played host to a stakes-filled card on Monday, May 26 as a special Memorial Day card of live racing took place. The evening's 14-race card featured the opening round of Indiana Sires Stakes action for the 3-year-old competitors, with a pair of divisions for each group contested on the night.

[READ MORE](#)

SPRITE SEELSTER SURPRISES IN OSS GOLD SERIES

Sprite Seelster led gate-to-wire and set a lifetime-best of 1:52 4/5 while posting a 15-1 upset in the lone C\$140,000 Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold Series event for 3-year-old trotting fillies on Monday (May 26) at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

She was driven to victory by her co-owner Tyler Borth, who shares her papers with Paul Gangle's Elite Equine LLC.

[READ MORE](#)

MCCARTHY'S SIX-BAGGER INCLUDES KENTUCKY SIRE STAKES GRAND SLAM

Driver Todd McCarthy put forth a driving clinic at Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel on Monday afternoon (May 26) when he won six total races on the afternoon, including four of the five \$50,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes (KYSS) divisions for 4-year-olds. His successes were topped by the Virgil Morgan Jr. pupil Women Layer, who will try again for a KYSS series sweep after his 1:50 2/5 stroll to victory.

[READ MORE](#)

MELANDER'S TROTTERING TRIO SCORE IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES

Filly Royal Mission and colt Variegated, who won their respective New York Sire Stakes finals as 2-year-olds, led a hat trick for trainer Marcus Melander in NYSS action for sophomore trotters on Monday afternoon at Vernon Downs.

[READ MORE](#)

TWIN B JOE FRESH CAPTURES BETSY ROSS INVITATIONAL

Twin B Joe Fresh, the 2024 Dan Patch Horse of the Year, made her seasonal debut a winning one Sunday (May 25), capturing the \$100,000 Grade 3 Betsy Ross Invitational, for older female pacers, by 3 1/4 lengths over My Girl EJ in 1:49 3/5 at Harrah's Philadelphia. Valar Dohaeris finished third.

[READ MORE](#)

BYTHEMISSAL PREVAILS IN JOE AUGER MEMORIAL

On the strength of a decisive 1:48 3/5 score May 10 at Eldorado Scioto Downs, double millionaire Bythemissal landed back in the Grand Circuit spotlight after grittily parrying a late charge from 56-1 outsider Spring Inhis Step A to seal a 1:49 win in the \$100,000 Grade 3 Joseph Auger Memorial, for older pacers, on Sunday (May 25) at Harrah's Philadelphia.

[READ MORE](#)

\$9,473 PICK-5 CARRYOVER SATURDAY NIGHT AT MGM NORTHFIELD PARK

It was "Wacky Wednesday" (May 28th) indeed with a puzzling Pick-5 sequence. The correct combination could not be found spiraling \$9,473 of carryover money over to Saturday evening (May 31).

The \$1 wager beginning in race 6 is expected to pack a punch with an estimated pool of \$50,000 and as always sports the player-friendly 14% takeout. The Pick-5 is offered in conjunction with the U.S. Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering Program.

Post time for the 15-race program on Saturday is 6 p.m.

-release (MGM Northfield)

FAIR WINDS FARM RECEIVES 2025 SERVICE TO YOUTH AWARD

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation is pleased to announce Fair Winds Farm, owned by Mark Mullen, as the 2025 Service To Youth honoree. The award is given to an individual or organization that has contributed significantly to the efforts of introducing and educating young people about Standardbreds and harness racing.

"Mark has always understood the importance of outreach to youth and has hosted many 4-H and pony clubs at his beautiful facility. He and his staff stepped up a few years ago and agreed to take care of the HHYF herd during the off season," explained Executive Director Ellen Taylor. "This is a big commitment and we truly appreciate his willingness to assist."

Mark gives much of the credit to the farm's assistant manager Heather Zitone. "She is a third generation horseman whose family owned, trained, and bred harness horses. She has done a great job engaging with our local equine programs. When it comes to inspiring and engaging youth, it is Heather's enthusiasm and desire to give back that deserves the recognition. I am grateful to Heather and our Fair Winds employees and I appreciate all of their efforts on behalf of the farm and for the community," Mark concluded.

Mark accepted the recognition on behalf of Fair Winds Farm May 28 at the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board Breeders of the Year Awards celebration.

-release (HHYF)

SOPHOMORE DANDY IDEAL IN POCONO 1:50 3/5 QUALIFIER

Jason Bartlett, North America's leading driver in terms of both victories and earnings, won four of the five qualifiers held at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania on Wednesday morning.

The American Ideal sophomore pacing gelding Dandy Ideal won his last four starts of 2024, including the Matron Stake, then won two qualifiers in preparation for his 2025 debut in an NYSS at Saratoga, where he made a break. But the three-year-old showed that his ship was quickly righted by winning in 1:50 3/5 - 54 1/5 - 26 1/5 on the engine for Bartlett, trainer Hunter Oakes, and Flying A Racing Stable, Thaddeus Wier, and Alan Johnston.

The Googoo Gaagaa three-year-old trotting filly R Cee Cee, a full sister to millionaire Captain Corey, may not last as a maiden very far into her 2025 campaign based on a 1:57 1/5 victory in which she stepped her last panel in 28 3/5 for Bartlett, trainer John Butenschoen, and lessees M&L Delaware / Armitage Farm.

Captain Moore A made his first stateside appearance a memorable one, the pacer posting a 1:53 2/5 - 55 1/5 - 27 engine tally for Bartlett and trainer Scott Blackler; the pilot also won with seasoned trotter Frank The Elder in 1:54 3/5 for trainer Deborah Daguet.

Pocono's leading driver and trainer, Tyler Buter and Ron Burke, were the forces behind the other winner in the morning session, the trotter Gone Goodbye, who reported home first in 1:58 2/5.

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

-edited release (Pocono/PHHA)

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