

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

Sweeter than 'Lou'?



NEW IMAGE MEDIA PHOTO

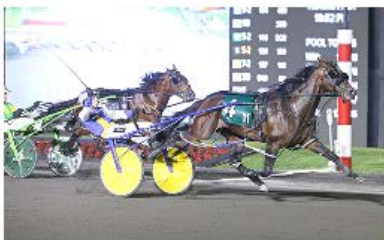
LOUPRINT takes aim at Saturday's
C\$1,000,000 North America Cup for the same
ownership group that tasted defeat with Sweet Lou in 2012



NORTH AMERICA CUP NIGHT AT WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

Post Time 6:35 PM (EDT)

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jay Bergman: Madden Oaks exploded onto NA Cup scene in eliminations

'Joe' and 'Miki' set to dazzle in Mohawk Park undercard stakes

Mohawk stakes selections & analysis

Darin Zoccali: Scioto, Meadowlands trying to appeal to larger audiences

Maryland makes 2025 debut in EBC at Vernon Downs

Mr Walner Fashion looks to flash more winning style in NJSS final at Big M

Best bets & Analysis

Yonkers adjusts starting point; Pick 6 carryover at Big M; Freehold Raceway sold; DRF Bets to become 1/ST BET PRO

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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

[@harnesseveguy](#)

Even for a champion, winning the North America Cup is a monumental task. On Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Dan Patch Award winner Louprint will attempt to buck a scary trend and bring victory to the same ownership group that was denied that joy with 2011 divisional leader Sweet Lou.

While it is logical to think that just being the best 2-year-old colt pacer would equate to success the following year in sophomore stake races like the North America Cup, the statistics tell a different story. Dating back to 2000, only six horses – Bettor's Delight, Somebeachsomewhere, Sportswriter, Captaintreacherous, Captain Crunch and Tall Dark Stranger – were voted Dan Patch winners as the best 2-year-old male pacer and then were able to come back the following year to win the first major stakes race for that same crop as 3-year-olds. The "hit" rate is a low 25%, yet there may be hope.

Louprint is expected to be the favorite in the C\$1,000,000 event. A total of seven 2-year-olds made

appearances in the North America Cup the following year as the favorite and four came away with wins. Interestingly one of the heaviest favorites of the group was Sweet Lou at 1-2 back in 2012. He sat fourth through fractions of 25 1/5 and 52 4/5 before being sent to the rim by driver Dave Palone and getting a clear lead in the stretch only to weaken to fourth in the late stages of the 1:47 4/5 mile.

"One of the first times I went to Canada for an important stakes race was for that North America Cup night with my dad, who has since passed, and my brother. I thought Sweet Lou raced very well but got involved in a speed duel and just couldn't last the final eighth of the mile. It reminded me very much of when I went to Indiana for the Knicks/Pacers game and they lost. When you travel for anything, a race or an event, the trip home always seems longer when you lose," said Larry Karr, who co-owns Louprint with a core group that has owned horses together for well over a decade – Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brussemi and Phillip Collura. "To have it be the same group that owned Sweet Lou, from my perspective the best horse I ever had, does make it even more special. We'll see if he can get it done when his dad was not able to."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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For Burke, he was starting Louprint in his first baby races at The Meadows a year ago and knew he had something special. "I told everybody when Louprint was training down that he was the best colt we've had since Sweet Lou. From the first time he stepped on the track I thought he could be Confederate," said Burke, pointing to the 2023 Dan Patch Horse of the Year.

As luck would have it, Burke said that it was a last minute decision by him and Mark Weaver to bring in Karr and Collura on Louprint just before the colt was born. Perhaps it was fate considering the horse's lineage and ability.

While the ownership is the same and ironically so is the starting post position of the four hole in the North America Cup final, there are many differences between Sweet Lou and Louprint. One was purchased at the Harrisburg Sale yearling sale for \$38,000 while Louprint is a homebred.

According to Karr, perhaps there is another difference as well. "Thinking back on Sweet Lou, I thought he came into the race having been pretty hard used in some of his races at 2 and leading into the race at 3. I feel like Louprint has been managed very well and raced pretty conservatively despite his record, so I kind of feel like he still has more in his tank."

The man in charge of the training completely agreed with Karr's assessment. "A lot of it is that I'm a better trainer than I was with Sweet Lou," said Burke. "You learn as you go. Anybody who doesn't think they can learn as they go should quit."

Getting back to the difficulty of returning champions winning major stakes, the trend isn't limited to the North America Cup. Only four Dan Patch winners since 2000 – Tall Dark Stranger, Huntsville, He's Watching and Captaintreacherous – have gone on to win the Meadowlands Pace, currently the second marquee event on the 3-year-old pacing colt calendar. That win rate checks in at a paltry 16.6%.

Some will toss the stats out of the window and argue the case that each Standardbred holds his own fate independent of those that came before. That's the standpoint of Burke, who clearly isn't a numbers guy when it comes post positions either.

"I don't give a sh**. It doesn't matter," said Burke bluntly when we brought up the poor record of Dan Patch winners in the Cup. "They say things like #6 is the winningest post or #4 is the winningest post in the North America Cup; well Ronnie Wrenn doesn't race there, so he isn't going to drive to the standard way of driving there and you can throw those stats out."

Burke is the only person on the Louprint team to have previously won the North America Cup as he was the trainer of 2014 winner JK Endofanera. Still, as a homebred son of the stallion he owned and trained, a victory on Saturday would be extra sweet.

"It is our mare; our stud. [Sweet Lou] was the impetus to us doing things differently," said Burke on the number of homebreds he currently owns and trains.

Louprint is far and away the leading money-winner in the field with earnings of \$817,071. He enters the North America Cup on a five race winning streak dating back to 2024 and has won each of his four starts this year, including his elimination. He tucked fourth in that mile before brushing to the front before a comfortable half in 55 3/5. On paper he won by just a head in 1:49 1/5 and at the wire he was seemingly under heavy urging, but that is perhaps just a piece of the picture.

Driver Ronnie Wrenn, Jr never pulled the colt's earplugs, typically done to signal the horse that more "go" is needed as he'll better hear the horses around him. One could also argue that Wrenn wasn't pushing his charge for a good portion of the late stretch expecting an easily win only to be somewhat surprised by the late charge from Prince Hal Hanover.

"I thought he raced good. Ronnie [Wrenn] was like: 'I had more. I thought the race was put away and didn't think David [Miller on Prince Hal Hanover] could back out or get his horse going,'" said Burke, remembering his post-race conversation with his driver. "Ronnie has all the confidence in the world in the horse, which is really important."

While Burke agreed that a number of horses could win the 2025 North America Cup, he then uttered words which should make the competition concerned. "We haven't cranked him yet," said the Hall of Fame trainer. "He hasn't had his earplugs out this year. He's been well taken care of. That is where Ronnie has done a great job. He has never stretched the horse out this year. That is what we talked about. This is a week we may have to stretch."

Along with Louprint, Burke brings Swingtown to the North America Cup for the partnership group of Burke Racing Stables LLC, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc., and R A S Racing. While the Ohio-bred



DERICK GIWNER

Sweet Lou is the horse that started the Burke/Weaver Brussemi breeding operation.



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owns an impressive bankroll of \$494,834, the son of Down-by-the-sea is still searching for a signature win outside of his home state of Ohio.

Swingtown made the front just past the quarter in 26 1/5 in his elimination and was able to rate a very soft 57 3/5 middle half but couldn't fend off the first-over Captain Optimistic while finishing third in a 1:50 2/5 mile. Saturday he'll have to navigate post seven with Yannick Gingras in the bike and Burke saw enough in the elimination to take a positive view.

"I was [disappointed] until I watched the replay. He was actually coming back on when the horse got alongside him. He was probably the only horse that got parked that finished so close. 26 [seconds] is 26, I don't care. He is the one that hasn't been stretched on the mile track so I expect he'll come back even better," said Burke. "He's not good enough to win by just going out and bullying horses around yet. Whereas I think with the other colt [Louprint] maybe you can if you have to do that."

Certain to be on the minds of handicappers is 4-1 second choice Lite Up The World from post five. From the barn of Anthony Beaton, who captured last year's Cup Final with Nijinsky, Lite Up The World uncorked a powerful 26-second final quarter to come from last to win his elimination in sizzling 1:48 3/5.

A son of American Ideal owned by Mac and Carol Nichol, Lite Up The World is one of the more lightly raced colts in the lineup with only eight career starts. From that he's put up five wins and driver James MacDonald is hoping another one is coming on Saturday.

"Anyone that watched him early last year knew that he was a top horse. He was trending in the direction to be Louprint or that kind of horse and it just didn't work out last year," said MacDonald at the post draw press conference. "He's fresh and some of those horses are 10 starts in and maybe some rough trips in. He's been finishing well every time he's raced. He's done it on the front and he's done it from dead last now. Hopefully Tony [Beaton] will have him in tip-top form Saturday and I can find him a trip."

Captain Optimistic will perhaps be the forgotten elimination winner on the toteboard due to his final time of just 1:50 2/5. Those putting weight on the final time would be wise to consider that the son of 2013 Cup champion Captaintreacherous showed some early speed and overcame a tough uncovered trip to find the wire first over horses with much easier journeys. Trainer Nancy Takter was hardly surprised by the gutsy performance.

"I know he's an honest horse who does what he can," said Takter, who is a two-time winner of the North America Cup. "I knew he would go forward after his last start as far as conditioning and I expect him to do the same from his elimination start. His name is Captain Optimistic for a reason."

Captain Optimistic starts from post six with five-time Driver of the Year Dexter Dunn in the bike.

Trainer Dr. Ian Moore is seeking his first North America Cup win and has a pair of contenders in the field. Prince Hal Hanover, already a 1:49 3/5 winner this season, starts from post nine with David Miller in the bike while Joel And The Jets gets underway from post three with Louis Philippe Roy behind the lines. Both horses finished second in their eliminations and Moore is hoping for revenge on Saturday.

"He's had limited racing opportunities and some issues along the way, but right now everything seems to be good and I'm hoping he'll be a lot better than he was last Saturday," said Moore at the press conference about Joel And The Jets, before touching on the outside post that Prince Hal Hanover will need to overcome. "We kind of expected that [outside draw] with three of the top post positions gone in the race to the [elimination] winners. Hopefully David [Miller] can work out a trip and have something left on the end."

The rest of the field for the North America Cup, race 11 on a 13-race card that starts at 6:35 PM (EDT), includes Fast Choice (Scott Zeron, post one), Dandy Ideal (Jason Bartlett, post two), Crack Shot (Doug McNair, post eight) and Madden Oaks (Braxton Boyd, post 10).

In total, there are five stakes finals and a C\$100,000 Invitational for older pacers along with plenty of wagering opportunities on the Woodbine Mohawk Park card. A \$100,000 Guaranteed Pick 5 starts in races one and seven, plus there will be a mandatory payout of the \$421,607 Jackpot Hi-5 in the 13th and final race.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA (ABOVE) / MICHAEL BURNS (BELOW)

Captain Optimistic (above) refused to lose his North America Cup elimination while Lite Up The World looks to give Anthony Beaton his second straight Cup.



\$1,000,000 North America Cup - Race 11 Saturday, June 14 - Woodbine Mohawk Park

1	FAST CHOICE	SCOTT ZERON	20-1
2	DANDY IDEAL	JASON BARTLETT	12-1
3	JOEL AND THE JETS	LOUIS ROY	20-1
4	LOUPRINT	RONNIE WRENN JR	7-5
5	LITE UP THE WORLD	JAMES MACDONALD	4-1
6	CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC	DEXTER DUNN	9-2
7	SWINGTOWN	YANNICK GINGRAS	15-1
8	CRACK SHOT	DOUG MCNAIR	6-1
9	PRINCE HAL HANOVER	DAVID MILLER	8-1
10	MADDEN OAKS	BRAXTEN BOYD	20-1
11	PANTS ON FIRE	TBD	

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Madden Oaks exploded onto North America Cup scene in Elims



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman



The beauty of racing is that on any given day a horse can come out of nowhere and surprise. For all the time and effort that goes into developing a horse for competition there is always the unknown of what will happen when the lights are shining bright and everything is on the line.

In this sport often plans are made and need to be changed in a second to achieve the best outcome. Drivers must not only react to what's in front of them with four legs, but what's happening with the competition and the pace of the race.

Trainer Cameron Capone and driver Braxten Boyd had plenty of time to go over strategy as the two drove north from the U.S. to Woodbine Mohawk Park in Canada last week for the North America Cup. Madden Oaks, a lightly-raced son of Huntsville, drew outside in one of three elimination races and was an outsider looking for a way to reach the C\$1 million final.

"We drove up together," said Capone. "We talked about all the outcomes we thought possible. But none of them looked like what happened."

What happened to Madden Oaks and specifically driver Boyd was a potential nightmare scenario that in the end proved Boyd's driving ability and showcased a horse with enough talent to overcome even the worst of times and still battle fiercely to the wire. Madden Oaks earned a berth in Saturday's (June 14) final at Woodbine Mohawk Park and will likely go in representing the youngest trainer-driver combination in the rich race's history.

Both 25 year-olds will be making their first start in the North America Cup final with a ton of optimism and a horse that may be peaking at just the right time. Boyd was more than impressed with Madden Oaks following an elimination that saw him three-wide shortly past the quarter and making a blistering move to the lead in the fastest half-mile of the three elimination heats.

"I went into the race and had no problems racing him from behind," said Boyd. "I knew that Yannick (Gingras- Sippinsearoc) and Tim (Tetrick-Fallout) would be going out of there and that there would be enough pace. Going into the first turn he took a hold of me, but I was able to get him back and go up to follow Tim."

With position behind one of the favorites and last year's Metro champion, Boyd appeared to be following the right horse. Sippinsearoc had made the front in 26 1/5 and Fallout was in the second lane and making progress.

"Then he took hold of me again," said Boyd. "And I had no choice but to move him."

Madden Oaks would circle the field, making a second-quarter move that is most times reserved for the stretch run, and reach the half in 53 2/5. Suddenly he appeared to be in more danger than he was at first with the favorite creeping down his back and a host of closers ready to take advantage of the hot pace.

Madden Oaks was in unfamiliar territory racing against the best field he'd faced in just his seventh lifetime start. "When Yannick pulled he just swelled right up again," said Boyd, describing the response Madden Oaks had when put under pressure by race-favorite Sippinsearoc prior to the 1:21 1/5 three quarters call.

Madden Oaks would battle hard through the stretch, fighting horses to his right most of the way. Race-winner Lite Up The World circled the

field with a single-quarter sprint to win the race, a scenario that perhaps Boyd and Capone had conjured would befall their horse. Crack Shot came along the pylons to squeeze in for second after enjoying the best of trips.

"That was a rookie mistake," said Boyd of allowing a rival to pass on the left with so much on the line.

Closing in on 1,300 career victories, Boyd is more than appreciative of the moment. "It's been a lot of hard work to get to this point and these are the kind of races you want to get in to," Boyd said. "I know there are a lot of talented horses in the field. I'm not sure if any have the kind of speed I saw from him in the second quarter."

For his part, Capone was delighted with the performance and the way Madden Oaks came out of the race. "He came out of it well. He was resting in his stall the next day but that's just the way he is. He takes good care of himself," said Capone.

While few on the national stage knew Madden Oaks prior to this past weekend, the colt was a \$50,000 Harrisburg yearling purchase with Cameron and his dad Mark, a longtime veteran trainer who sent out the 2003 North America Cup favorite Allamerican Native to a second-place finish behind Yankee Cruiser that year, looking for New York-bred pacers.

"We had a budget," said Capone, recalling the moment. "There was a filly on our list that didn't go for much money, but my dad wanted to wait on this one (Madden Oaks) because he really loved the way he looked."

Madden Oaks was a big horse and tested his connections, unable to make his first scheduled qualifying start due to hitting a race bike that was far too small for his comfort.

There were just three starts as a freshman, with Capone hoping to minimize the races while preparing for the biggest ones. Madden Oaks was scheduled to race in last year's Breeders Crown eliminations but that didn't happen. "The state vet scratched him," said Capone. "That was probably a blessing in disguise."

It's hard to say how Madden Oaks would have done as an inexperienced 2-year-old racing at the top level last October. What's apparent following his elimination performance is that he belongs in this company and can have

a say in the outcome.

"We don't want to race him too often but have him ready for the big stakes," said Capone.

Madden Oaks landed post 10 on the outside of Saturday's strong North America Cup field (race 11). He'll sacrifice starting position, with the three elimination winners – Louprint, Lite Up The World and Captain Optimistic – midway on the starting gate from posts four, five and six, respectively. For Boyd there is hope that last week's issues were perhaps a one-time event.

"Matt (Kakaley) took him off the gate in the Somebeachsomewhere and he was fine," Boyd said. "I think maybe last week he got a bit excited second time on the big track and under the lights."

Though the post makes Madden Oaks an obvious outsider in the field, Boyd is hoping that the elimination experience will be a net positive for the horse. "Sometimes after blowing out a mile like that it's easier for them the second time they have to go that speed," said Boyd.

Madden Oaks may have a pedigree that appears a bit light on the surface but there's plenty of speed and determination in proximity on the maternal line. Specifically, Madden Oaks' second dam Makes You Wonder is a full sister to the \$1 million-winning Shanghai Lil and a half-sister to the \$1.8 million winner Bolt The Duer. The third dam Wonderbolt had just seven foals, and in addition to the two seven-figure champions birthed, a first foal named Devilfish, a son of Cams Card Shark that displayed ridiculous speed winning at The Meadowlands in January of 2007 in 1:48 3/5.

No matter Saturday's outcome, Madden Oaks is likely to be one of the contenders in just a few weeks for this year's Meadowlands Pace.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA PHOTOS

Driver Braxten Boyd (left) and trainer Cam Capone are the team behind NA Cup starter Madden Oaks.

'Joe' and 'Miki' ready to dazzle in Mohawk undercard stakes

By Jay Bergman

Saturday could be just another day at the office for trainer Chris Ryder as he sends out a pair of superstars in featured events for female pacers at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Saturday night (June 14). His defending 2024 Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh is likely to be the overwhelming choice in the C\$287,000 Roses Are Red while sophomore sensation Miki And Minnie will be making her second start in Canada in the C\$390,000 Fan Hanover with hopes of upending the undefeated Chantilly.

How does Ryder feel about Miki And Minnie's chance versus Canada's 2024 Horse of the Year Chantilly?

"If I were James MacDonald, I'd be nervous," Ryder said of Chantilly's driver, who more than likely has never had to face a horse with Miki And Minnie's résumé.

"I would say that Miki And Minnie has found more speed this year," Ryder said of the Always B Miki-sired homebred. That extra gear has given Ryder more confidence and no doubt that also reflects about driver Dexter Dunn, who sat patiently in last week's trials and then overpowered their rivals with a stunning 25 1/5 final quarter.

Chantilly was impressive as well, drawing off from her rivals in another dominant performance while running her winning streak to 12 races for trainer Nick Gallucci. In Saturday's final (race 10) Chantilly drew post three while Miki And Minnie starts from post five.

Breeders Crown runner-up The Last Martini was a distant second to Chantilly in last week's trial, but the daughter of Huntsville was making just her second start as a sophomore for trainer Jared Bako. The Last Martini drew post two.

Rodeo Drive Deo (post 10) made an inopportune break in stride in her trial last week but recovered well enough to make the final. Third from the exact same post 10 in last year's Breeders Crown finale, Rodeo Drive Deo has the service of Hall of Famer David Miller in the sulky.

Ryder believes that his filly has been racing against better horses over her career and thinks she is more than up to this task. "I think she faced a better group of horses in last year's Breeders Crown," Ryder said.

Miki And Minnie not only overcame post nine in that Breeders Crown contest last October at The Meadowlands, but she also went first over and outmuscled a three-filly attack from leading trainer Ron Burke in capturing the title. This year she's perfect in two starts and Ryder sees her talent measuring up to the level of Twin B Joe Fresh and a long list of other top fillies the new Hall of Famer has conditioned.

Unlike Miki And Minnie, Twin B Joe Fresh will be meeting some of the same faces she's been accustomed to dominating over the last few years. With limited racing opportunities, Twin B Joe Fresh has four qualifying miles this year and just one race. The Betsy Ross on May 25 was the lone competitive event and Twin B Joe Fresh showed no rust from her winter vacation, dominating as usual.



NEW IMAGE PHOTOS (TOP AND RIGHT) / GRACE ZIMMERS (BELOW)

Trainer Chris Ryder (right) sends out a dynamic pair of ladies on Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park in Miki And Minnie (top) and Twin B Joe Fresh.

Some three weeks later Ryder is confident with the prep. "She's feeling good, and I expect her to do what she does," said Ryder, who has become more than familiar with this approach and the impressive results as Twin B Joe Fresh embarks on her fourth year on the racetrack.

Saturday's Roses Are Red (race 3) has just seven rivals, with only two returning from last year's edition where Twin B Joe Fresh was a powerful 1:48 winner over Sylvia Hanover, the sophomore champion from 2023 that will renew her rivalry on Saturday night.

Twin B Joe Fresh drew post four, with Sylvia Hanover, a 1:50 2/5 winner last Saturday (June 7) in a prep over this surface, landing post seven. Valar Dohaeris, third in the Betsy Ross and a competitor in last year's Roses Are Red drew post eight.

Adding some new flavor to the mix is Blue Chip Matchmaker champion Aardie B Miki N (post 3). Undefeated this year until she met up with Twin B Joe Fresh in the Betsy Ross, Aardie B Miki N was compromised with an outside draw and now will start inside of Twin B Joe Fresh. Per Engblom trains Aardie B Miki N with Jason Bartlett scheduled to drive.

The 13-race Woodbine Mohawk Park program is highlighted by the C\$1 million North America Cup as well as three other six-figure races.



NORTH AMERICA CUP NIGHT HANDICAPPING

START OF 100K PICK 5

Race 3
\$287k Roses Are Red Final

Race 7
\$210K Armbro Flight Final

Race 8
\$100K Mohawk Gold Cup

Race 9
\$227K Goodtimes Final

Race 10
\$390K Fan Hanover Final

Race 11
\$1,000,000 NA Cup Final



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH hasn't seemed to let up at all starting her 5YO campaign; hard to go against.
(3) AARDIE B MIKI N
(7) SYLVIA HANOVER

(8) DRAWN IMPRESSION missed a nose in her seasonal debut; can be even better now.
(4) CALL ME GOO
(5) DIAL SQUARE S

(2) CLEVER CODY saves and waits for Red Seas to part in hotly-contested race.
(8) ABUCKABETT HANOVER
(5) NIJINSKY

(4) EMOTICON LEGACY returned sharp off a series of qualifiers; clearly best.
(1) FADEAWAY HANOVER
(8) EUGENE THE GENIUS

(5) MIKI AND MINNIE gets a major test from the undefeated Chantilly; rare chance for a price on her.
(3) CHANTILLY
(10) RODEO DRIVE DEO

(5) LITE UP THE WORLD had pace to chase and was shot from a cannon in elim.
(9) PRINCE HAL HANOVER
(6) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH has the speed and power needed to dominate.
(1) MY GIRL EJ
(7) SYLVIA HANOVER

(4) CALL ME GOO needed last week's prep to get tight; ready now.
(5) DIAL SQUARE S
(8) DRAWN IMPRESSION

(3) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR prepped nicely and may be poised to upset.
(6) BRUE HANOVER
(5) NIJINSKY

(4) EMOTICON LEGACY has immense ability from solid trotting connections.
(8) EUGENE THE GENIUS
(6) LANDING ON TIME

(5) MIKI AND MINNIE has looked even better this year than as a 2-year-old.
(3) CHANTILLY
(10) RODEO DRIVE DEO

(4) LOUPRINT was better than that head margin suggests; loves to win.
(6) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC
(10) MADDEN OAKS



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH goes another paid workout. I could even drive her here.
(1) MY GIRL EJ
(7) SYLVIA HANOVER

(5) DIAL SQUARE S is more manageable and likely works the best trip.
(7) EMOJI HANOVER
(8) DRAWN IMPRESSION

(7) COACH STEFANOS reunites with J. Mac and maybe can sit closer.
(8) ABUCKABETT HANOVER
(6) BRUE HANOVER

(4) EMOTICON LEGACY just has to stay focused. He's the best here.
(8) EUGENE THE GENIUS
(5) LMC WAGON WHEEL

(3) CHANTILLY maybe works the tactical edge in this race. Coin flip.
(5) MIKI AND MINNIE
(10) RODEO DRIVE DEO

(9) PRINCE HAL HANOVER is fast and handy. Could get a setup.
(4) LOUPRINT
(10) MADDEN OAKS



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH has been an unstoppable force of nature.
(3) AARDIE B MIKI N
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(7) EMOJI HANOVER rallied nicely from a tough spot in elim; improves 2nd start back
(4) CALL ME GOO
(5) DIAL SQUARE S

(5) NIJINSKY perked up as expected in start two. He's the real deal.
(6) BRUE HANOVER
(3) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR

(4) EMOTICON LEGACY won at first asking in 2025; skies the limit!
(6) LANDING ON TIME
(8) EUGENE THE GENIUS

(5) MIKI AND MINNIE just keeps getting better and you'll get a better price tonight.
(3) CHANTILLY
(10) RODEO DRIVE DEO

(4) LOUPRINT was better than his line looks in last; hasn't been unleashed yet.
(6) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC
(2) DANDY IDEAL



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH is the 2024 Dan Patch Horse of the Year; flawless so far.
(7) SYLVIA HANOVER
(2) ODDS ON PLATINUM

(5) DIAL SQUARE S debuts for Canada's leading driver James MacDonald.
(9) NELSONBRITEAGLE NO
(8) DRAWN IMPRESSION

(1) ERVIN HANOVER dominated late season WMP Preferred last year.
(5) NIJINSKY
(8) ABUCKABETT HANOVER

(4) EMOTICON LEGACY looked every part the 1/9 winner in elim.
(2) GAP KRONOS S
(6) LANDING ON TIME

(3) CHANTILLY is an undefeated O'Brien HOY who crushed going away in elim.
(5) MIKI AND MINNIE
(7) THEBEAUTIFULTHINGS

(5) LITE UP THE WORLD posted a stunning stretch drive in elim.
(9) PRINCE HAL HANOVER
(6) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH hasn't lost in awhile and won't here.
(7) SYLVIA HANOVER
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(4) CALL ME GOO likely needed his last; has the speed to win; Ake's Choice.
(5) DIAL SQUARE S
(9) NELSONBRITEAGLE NO

(5) NIJINSKY faces older here but he's tactical, speedy and ready to step up.
(6) BRUE HANOVER
(1) ERVIN HANOVER

(4) EMOTICON LEGACY could be a star this season. Elim win was stellar.
(2) GAP KRONOS S
(6) LANDING ON TIME

(5) MIKI AND MINNIE is a classy filly that can fly home; 2nd choice on the tote?
(3) CHANTILLY
(4) PERFECTLY CHIC

(6) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC is off a solid prep; race-shape suits grinding style.
(9) PRINCE HAL HANOVER
(7) SWINGTOWN



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH's resume speaks for itself.
(1) MY GIRL EJ
(3) AARDIE B MIKI N

(7) EMOJI HANOVER closed with a ton of trot in her elim.
(8) DRAWN IMPRESSION
(4) CALL ME GOO

(7) COACH STEFANOS got a key vote of confidence from MacDonald.
(5) NIJINSKY
(6) BRUE HANOVER

(6) LANDING ON TIME just got rolling too late in his elim.
(4) EMOTICON LEGACY
(3) GALEN ERSO

(5) MIKI AND MINNIE prepped perfectly and probably won't be favored.
(3) CHANTILLY
(2) THE LAST MARTINI

(5) LITE UP THE WORLD could get a hot pace to set up his closing kick again.
(4) LOUPRINT
(9) PRINCE HAL HANOVER



(4) TWIN B JOE FRESH returns as the Queen until she is dethroned.
(7) SYLVIA HANOVER
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(4) CALL ME GOO is second off the layoff; at a better price than stablemate.
(5) DIAL SQUARE S
(8) DRAWN IMPRESSION

(5) NIJINSKY can turn the tables on the favorite with two starts under his belt.
(6) BRUE HANOVER
(1) ERVIN HANOVER

(6) LANDING ON TIME couldn't have finished any better last week; looks primed.
(4) EMOTICON LEGACY
(5) LMC WAGON WHEEL

(3) CHANTILLY - You're braver than I am if you pick against her.
(5) MIKI AND MINNIE
(2) THE LAST MARTINI

(8) CRACK SHOT was close to wicked pace and still had fight at the end.
(5) LITE UP THE WORLD
(9) PRINCE HAL HANOVER



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Scioto, Meadowlands trying to appeal to larger audiences



AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali



Over the past month I have been encouraged by two racetracks who have implemented some ideas to try and create new harness racing bettors and fans in two very different ways.

The first is Scioto Downs. The five-eighths mile track in Ohio has a new facility, a new paddock, and will be hosting the Breeders Crown in 2026. It marks the first time Scioto Downs will be hosting a full slate of Breeders Crown races. The last time a Breeders Crown race was contested at Scioto was the 1988 Open Pace, at a time where singular races moved from track to track, rather than an entire Breeders Crown being held at one venue. I look forward to seeing them host the event.

But the news out of Scioto that excited me last month was the advent of a simplified racing program offered as an alternative to the more detailed racing program that seasoned handicappers utilize. During my term at The Meadowlands I suggested such a concept, but the cost associated at the time was a blocker. I am thrilled to see that Scioto figured out a cost-effective solution.

The simplified version of the program offers only two race lines for each horse with just the racetrack, purse, post position, position at every point of call, finish position, final time and final odds in hyphenated form for each of the two races. Sure, this is far too simple for any horse handicapper and it is missing important information. But the traditional program is intimidating to newcomers. When I have gone to racetracks with friends who have not been around racing, I have to spend a great deal of time attempting to explain the program lines and what the data means. It typically leads to my friend giving in and saying “just tell me what we are betting and how much I have to give you.”

Is there great data in this simplified program? No, of course not. But that is not its purpose. It is a stepping stone to help create a horseplayer. It gives a newcomer a resource that is easier to understand and less intimidating, and they can utilize that resource until they are comfortable enough to advance to the standard program. I believe this was a great idea by Scioto Downs and I applaud their efforts.

The second track is The Meadowlands. Admittedly, I am a horseplayer and at times the parade of ostrich races, camel races and other events that were not about the actual horse racing landed flat with me. But over the past two years, my son and his friends have attended a night at The Meadowlands to watch a local independent wrestling show in “The Backyard” during a night of racing.

Last year I was able to attend the event and my son asked for a program and was reading it, picking out names of horses he liked and relying on me to help him try and pick some winners. He asked if I could make some bets for him and I started to see the connection. Then he asked if I could take him to Hambletonian Day, where he sat next to me just watching the races and having me make a bet for him each race of the day. He still

brings up “that Rocknroll horse who won at 70-1,” referring to Rocknroll Runa’s win in the Sam McKee Memorial.

This year, I had to attend a wedding so I could not take my son to The Meadowlands the night of the wrestling show. But he organized it with his friends and a couple of other dads took the group. Incredibly, eight boys went to the racetrack for this event with a few of their fathers. My son asked if I could give him some money for the races and when I saw him the next day, he told me all about the races and not just the wrestling.

This truly opened my eyes to seeing that doing these types of events can really expose racing to a group of people who otherwise may never go to a night of horse racing.

When I looked at calendar of events at The Meadowlands and saw things like Food Truck night, Weiner Dog races, Beerfest, etc., I thought to myself that you could get people in the door, but how do you get them interested in racing and how do you get them to come back?

In order to become interested in racing, they have to place a wager,



COURTESY MEADOWLANDS

Wrestling was a good draw for new fans at The Meadowlands.

so the easiest answer for that is any person of legal gambling age who attends one of these events receives a voucher to wager on the way in and they receive a voucher to wager on the way out. By doing this, you get them to place a bet that night, which hopefully gets them engaged in racing and then you build a bridge to try and get them to come back with a wagering voucher for a future night of racing.

Perhaps that is too simple, but using a marketing tool or special event to get people in the door and then giving them a tool to wager on the races seems like the most logical plan. I am not sure if that was done at The Meadowlands, since I was not there, but if not, it is certainly something I would encourage them to try.

This was a job well done by both racetracks and I hope to see more of this in the industry as well as building that bridge from getting the customer in the door to getting them interested in the racing.

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Hambletonian winter book favorite makes 2025 debut in EBC

By Jay Bergman

There are generally bumps on the road to the Hambletonian. Even if few may have thought that the leading candidate would experience any, Maryland made an unexpected break in stride in his second Meadowlands qualifier on May 31 before recovering his gait to finish the mile.

Trainer Marcus Melander is generally not one to get too excited or stressed and entered Maryland for his first start of the season in the Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon Downs on Friday afternoon (June 13).

"It rained the night before and was going to rain again so they had the track screened and it was hard," said Melander. "That's the only thing I can think of as to why he would make a break."

"He's come back fine, and he feels great. Dexter (Dunn) was happy with the way he finished his mile."

Melander knows that to be ready for the Hambletonian Maryland will need some races. "I don't think he's ready to be at 100 percent. He needs races, they are not the same as qualifiers," Melander said.

Maryland drew post five in the first of two Empire Breeders Classic divisions (race 8) for 3-year-old male trotters. He'll meet stablemate Super Chapter and three others including Dexter Cup champion Hard Seven in this division.

"They didn't go fast fractions but Super Chapter finished strong," said Melander of the \$550K career earner. "That was a solid mile off just one qualifier. He's a great horse too."

Super Chapter had a solid juvenile campaign as well and has started his sophomore season in good form. On Friday there will be a driver change since Dunn, his regular pilot, is committed to Maryland. "Scott Zeron will drive him," Melander said.

Super Chapter, like Maryland and the entire Empire Breeders Classic division, are sons of Chapter Seven.

Variegated, another by Chapter Seven, has been a pleasant surprise for

Melander this year. Variegated has won a pair of stakes races in advance of the Empire Breeders Classic, scoring in the Bunker Hill at Plainridge on May 15 and then a New York Sire Stakes event in a career best 1:52 3/5 mile here at Vernon Downs.

"He was a good horse last year," said Melander of Variegated. "He didn't show the speed some of the others so we kept him on the half-mile tracks and New York Sire Stakes. He did win the final but that was a little bit of luck."

"This year he's a bit faster," said Melander of Variegated, who drew post three among six in the \$89,000 division carded as race 10.

Variegated will have competition in the form of Monserrate (post 2). Last year's Valley Victory champion was a solid second in his season's debut versus Super Chapter in a New York Sire Stakes division on May 26 at Vernon. Racing from off the pace after slow fractions, Monserrate trotted home in 27 in his sophomore debut.

Trainer John Butenschoen will send out Chat Room in just his third start of the year. Chat Room enters the Empire Breeders Classic following a solid 1:52 3/5 win at The Meadowlands on June 6. He starts from post four.

Melander has mapped out a course for both Maryland and Super Chapter, and the two could meet up again at The Meadowlands in July and August but likely not before then.

"We will come back with Maryland again for the Zweig (July 3)," said Melander. "Super Chapter will go in the Yonkers Trot (eliminations if needed are on June 20)."

Both Maryland and Super Chapter are eligible to the Stanley Dancer, the final prep at The Meadowlands for the Hambletonian.

The Friday afternoon Vernon program is stakes-filled with a pair of Empire Breeders Classic events for sophomore trotting fillies (races 7 and 9) and two New York Sire Stakes races (5 and 6) for sophomore pacing colts and geldings.

The 11-race program has a first post at 12:15 p.m..

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Mr Walner Fashion looks to flash winning style in NJSS Final

By Ken Weingartner

A field of 10 Hambletonian-eligible trotters will go behind the starting gate Friday in the \$225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes championship for 3-year-old male trotters at The Meadowlands. The lineup includes three of this season's four fastest sophomore boys: Mr Walner Fashion, Mountcastle and Onajetplane.

The morning-line favorite, Mr Walner Fashion at 3-1, heads to the race 2-for-2 this year and is coming off a 1:51 2/5 score in a \$25,000 second-round NJSS division June 6 at The Big M. The mark is tied for the season's best; Mountcastle also trotted 1:51 2/5 in his NJSS prelim later that same night. Both horses won by a head.

Mr Walner Fashion showed ability last year – he came a last quarter in 26 to finish a head behind eventual Dan Patch Award-winner Maryland in his career debut – but went off stride in three of five starts for the season. After making a break in a qualifier on May 2 this year, trainer Jim Campbell put trotting hobbles on the gelding.

"Since we've added them, they just seem to steady him a little bit," Campbell said. "For some horses, they feel them there, and it keeps them paying attention to what they're supposed to be doing. The speed has always been there, it's just been a question of getting him to mind his manners and put everything together."

Campbell recognized assistant Manny Quevedo for his work with Mr Walner Fashion in the offseason, teaching the son of Walner-Cooler Schooner to relax and follow horses.

"When we started training him back, our main focus was to work on his manners and keep him a little bit calmer," Campbell said. "Manny worked with him all winter long. He did a tremendous job with him to get him to where his manners are under control. There has been a big difference this year. Manny deserves the credit for that."

Mr Walner Fashion was bred by owner Jules Siegel's Fashion Farms. He is a half-brother to Real Cool Sam, a Dan Patch Award-winner in 2019. His mom, Cooler Schooner, was a world-record-setter and full sister to Dan Patch Award winner Broadway Schooner, who herself produced two-time Dan Patch honoree Broadway Donna and 2022 Hambletonian Oaks winner Fashion Schooner.

On Friday, Mr Walner Fashion will leave from post seven with Todd McCarthy in the sulky.

"He's got a good attitude," Campbell said about Mr Walner Fashion. "When Todd shows him racetrack, he wants to pass horses. Obviously, he's got the speed; it does come naturally to him. But, this year, he's made himself pretty handy. Todd can pretty much do whatever he wants with him right now."

"He's still got a long way to go. It's going to be a good test for him this weekend. As the year goes on, everyone's horses have got to start bringing their 'A' game, and he's no exception. He's got to bring an 'A' game to it."

Onajetplane, who won his seasonal debut June 6 with a 1:52 1/5 score in the NJSS prelims, is the 7-2 second choice on the morning line. He will leave from post two with Andy McCarthy driving for trainer Noel Daley. His mark puts him behind Mr Walner Fashion and Mountcastle (and tied with Canada's Emoticon Legacy) on the sophomore boys' speed list.

Mountcastle, starting from post three with Scott Zeron driving for trainer Marcus Melander, is 4-1 on the morning line. Hidalgo (post four, Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke) and Top Gun Hanover (post eight, David Miller, Nancy Takter) are both 9-2.

Hidalgo was second behind Mr Walner Fashion last week and Top Gun Hanover was runner-up to Mountcastle.

Onajetplane, Mr Walner Fashion and Hidalgo occupy spots 8-9-10, respectively, on Ken Warkentin's Road to the Hambletonian Top 10. The



DERICK GWINNER

Mr Walner Fashion looks to stay on the Hambletonian trail on Friday at The Meadowlands.

100th edition of the Hambletonian Stakes is Aug. 2 at The Meadowlands.

Hidalgo, a multiple-stakes-winner who banked \$200,575 last year, is another horse to recently add trotting hobbles. He made breaks in his first two races this season but has a 1:53 1/5 triumph and his near-miss setback to Mr Walner Fashion since then.

"He hasn't been sure of what he's doing, but now it seems like he's getting it," trainer Burke said. "I don't think he's a horse that will have to wear them his whole career, I just think he had lost a little faith in himself. Now, it seems like he knows he can stay at it even when he's going the high, high speed."

"It seems like every week he's getting more confident, and if Yannick can turn him loose in the final, I think that will be a big difference."

The Meadowlands on Friday also hosts Graduate Series events for 4-year-old pacers and trotters (including the seasonal debut of two-time Dan Patch Award-winning pacer Captain Albano)

and the \$225,000 final of the New Jersey Sire Stakes for 3-year-old female trotters.

What A Bid Hanover, who captured last year's Goldsmith Maid Stakes, is the 7-2 morning-line favorite in the NJSS championship. She will leave from post two with trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt.

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

MacDonald, Schnittker clean up in NY Sire Stakes, Excelsior Series

Driver Mark MacDonald and trainer Ray Schnittker had a feast on Wednesday afternoon (June 11) at Buffalo Raceway. The pair had an appetizer of three victories in the \$20,000 Excelsior events for the 3-year-old filly pacers, then had the main course by having Send It Down Slim (\$3.00) take the \$113,400 New York Sire Stakes, giving them a clean sweep of the stakes races on the program.

A smiling MacDonald said of his day after taking the win aboard Send It Down Slim, "Yeah, it was a pretty good day and a good day for the horses too."

[READ MORE](#)

Graber Jr-trained trifecta in Indiana Sire Stakes at Hoosier Park

Indiana Sire Stakes action returned to Harrah's Hoosier Park on Wednesday (June 11) with a lone \$96,000 division of the second leg for sophomore trotting fillies. Trainer Henry Graber Jr. completed a clean sweep of the trifecta as Miracle Maven nosed out her stablemate, Better Tak'em, to score in 1:54 2/5.

Sent off as the 2-5 favorite with regular pilot John De Long in the bike, Miracle Maven floated into the pocket from post two as Swan Jewel (Marcus Miller) trotted to an early lead through an opening quarter of 27 4/5. De Long moved Miracle Maven to the top on the backstretch, leading to the half in 57 seconds while her stablemates Classical Jane (Trace Tetrack) and Better Tak'em (Jordan Ross) started the outer flow from mid-pack.

[READ MORE](#)

BABY TALK

BURKE WINS 11 OF 12 FRESHMEN QUALIFIERS AT GAITWAY

By Ken Weingartner

Ron Burke sent out nearly three dozen 2-year-olds for their first action in qualifiers Wednesday (June 11) at Gaitway Farm, resulting in 11 winners in the 12 events for the freshmen. Among the trainer's group was pacing colt Another C Note, who produced the day's fastest mile.

Yannick Gingras drove 10 of Burke's winners while Scott Zeron was in the sulky for the remaining one. The only non-Burke winner was pacing colt Apocalypsebluechip, who was guided to victory by trainer Joe Bongiorno.

Another C Note, a son of Captaintreacherous-Kate Can't Wait, stopped the timer in 1:55 2/5 in the first of four qualifiers for pacing colts. Another C Note was bred by Let It Ride Stables, which shares ownership with Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brussemi LLC, and Scott Dillon.

Al Papi was just one-fifth of a second off his stablemate's time, winning in 1:55 3/5. The homebred son of Papi Rob Hanover-Baron Remy is owned by Burke Racing Stable, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby, Larry Karr, and Weaver Brussemi.

Ubrute (Tall Dark Stranger-Warrawee Ubeaut) posted a 1:57 2/5 victory (with 26 last quarter) for Burke and owners Burke Racing Stable, Crawford Farms Racing, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby, and Phil Collura. The same group bred the colt. Warrawee Ubeaut was a two-time Dan Patch Award winner, and the family also includes O'Brien Award winner Warrawee Needy.

Bongiorno's Apocalypsebluechip (Papi Rob Hanover-Queen Of Darkness) also triumphed in 1:57 2/5. He was purchased for \$100,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and is owned by Country Club Acres, Joe Sbrocco & JAF Racing, Joseph Bongiorno LLC, and Don Latore. He was bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock, Stephen Demeter, and Stephen Giagni. The colt's family includes 2017 Pacer of the Year Downbytheseaside.

Kissedbyastranger (Tall Dark Stranger-Kissinyougoodbye) was the fastest pacing filly, with a time of 1:56 1/5. She was bred by owners Thomas Dillon and Scott Dillon. Her family includes Hall of Famer Always B Miki.

She's A Bulldog (Bulldog Hanover-Band Stand) and Sandyboots Yankee (Always B Miki-A Beach Cowgirl) were next on the list, both winning in 1:56 3/5. She's A Bulldog is a homebred for owner Brad Grant. Sandyboots Yankee was purchased for \$30,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brussemi, Larry Karr, and Phil Collura. She was bred by Yankeeland Partners.

Winning the remaining event for the pacing fillies was With The Fur (Tall Dark Stranger-Apple Bottom Jeans) in 1:56 4/5 for owner Howard Taylor, who bred the filly with Robert Cooper Stables and Ed Gold. She was purchased for \$40,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

Zeron drove the day's fastest trotting colt, piloting Maga Hill (Muscle Hill-Goo Doo Doll) to victory in 1:59 1/5. Bred by Frank Canzone, he is owned by Zippett Racing Stable and Bill Elliott.

In the two remaining qualifiers for trotting colts, Who's Eyes Blues (Chapter Seven-Behindblueyes) won in 2:00 and AI (Chapter Seven-Image Of Bee) won in 2:00 2/5.

Who's Eyes Blues was purchased for \$125,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale and is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Frank Baldachino, Hatfield Stables, and Weaver Brussemi. He was bred by Fair Winds Farm. AI was purchased for \$150,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and is owned by Burke Racing, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc., and Weaver Brussemi. He was bred by Steve Jones. His second dam is Hall of Famer Bee A Magician.

Completing the list of Wednesday winners was trotting filly Atlantic Summer (Captain Corey-Perfect Summer K), who scored in 1:59 for owners Burke Racing, James Simpson, Larry Karr, and Weaver Brussemi. Bred by Winning Key Inc., she was purchased for \$50,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale.

"Atlantic Summer is a filly we've loved the whole way training down," Burke said. "Ubrute is a really good colt. The Tall Dark Strangers, I had four qualify today that looked really good. Overall, I thought it was very good."

Gaitway will again host qualifiers for 2-year-olds on June 18 and June 25.

For Wednesday's complete charts, click [here](#). To watch a replay of Wednesday's qualifiers, courtesy of The First Mile, click [here](#).

ROOKIE STANDOUTS HIGHLIGHT TUESDAY QUAS AT THE MEADOWS

Tuesday June 10th morning qualifiers at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows provided horsemen a glimpse of future locals as well as national stars of harness racing.

Trainer Tim Twaddle's 16 freshman starters were 2nd to Ron Burke's 19 entrants, but his five victories gave him top honors for the day, and victories weren't the only thing Twaddle was looking for today.

"Ideally from the owners down we want to win, but at this stage a good experience and developing good manners is the main goal," said Twaddle between qualifiers.

One of Twaddle and regular driver Anthony MacDonald's victories was the Tactical Landing filly Jailbird Jog. What made the 2:00 3/5 (LQ 27 3/5) three-length romp even more impressive was the fact she was three lengths behind after an opening quarter of 34 seconds. On the day Twaddle sent out 10 trotters and 6 pacers, all 16 successfully qualified.

Larger stables were not alone in showing off young talent. Two smaller operations are setting themselves up nicely for the 2-year-old summer stake season.

Mitchell York has developed a reputation for buying moderately priced yearlings and turning them into sire stake contenders. Thai Hanover and Quill Gordon seem headed in the right direction in keeping that reputation.

York explained afterwards that Thai Hanover has "shown talent and ability from the beginning" and Quill Gordon is "pretty green and will need to race on a helmet for a start or two." Both colts are scheduled to qualify once more before making their pari-mutuel debuts.

Spoon Fed, owned and bred locally by Jan and Doug Snyder, made the most of her debut with a 1:57 3/5 (27 3/5) victory. The Stay Hungry filly, trained by Doug Snyder, made a few uncertain steps past the half that driver Mike Wilder described as "taking her over some tire tracks she was looking at" and concluded that "other than that she is a very nice, very fast filly."

-edited release (Tyler Stillings for MSOA)

BAKERS DOZEN OF BABY RACES OVER THE STRIP AT POCONO

Seven horses who won their first start in a qualifying race at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania last Tuesday morning were back in action this Tuesday during 13 events of baby action.

There were six male winners coming back, but none of them could repeat. The only two-time winner emerging was the Greenshoe - Tricky Sister trotting miss Shoestrings, who reduced her clocking from 2:04 first time out to 2:01 4/5 - LQ 29 1/5 for driver-trainer-owner D. R. Ackerman. She was also the only non-debutant/debutante to win Tuesday except for the pacing colt division - more on those in a minute.

The other baby trotting filly winner went faster: Modesty Blaise (Chapter Seven - Diffident), who won in 2:01 1/5 by a nose over Dubraska Hanover for driver-trainer Åke Svanstedt and owner S R F Stable.

Svanstedt also won the two divisions for freshman trotting males which were clocked in 1:59 3/5, fastest of the day in that grouping. One was another winner sired by Chapter Seven, the colt Read The Room (dam Debra Hall), finishing in 59 (29 2/5) on the engine for Åke Svanstedt Inc., Little E LLC, B Nasstrom Holding Inc., and Nils Munkhaugen. The other was the Wishing Stone - I D Entity NO colt Magic Punk, who surmounted a first-over journey with a final quarter of 28 4/5 for owner Rune Hansen.

Three of the six freshmen winning last week and returning Tuesday came from the trotting colt ranks, and three from the pacing colts. As noted, none repeated - but, interestingly, the four pacing colt sectors were all won by horses who did not win their first starts, but were the best on this Tuesday. Two of them were driven by Jason Bartlett; two of them were driven by trainer Todd Schadel.

Fastest baby seen yet at Pocono is the Huntsville - The Show Returns colt Fragment, who got to the lead past the quarter, set the pace, then finished out in 27 1/5 to freeze the clock at 1:54 4/5 for trainer Per Engblom and the partnership of Douglas Sipple and Engblom Stable LLC; Bartlett also had the ride behind another son of Huntsville, the gelding Hunt Off The Press, who won for trainer Jared Bako in 1:55 1/5 (28).

The two winners in this group for Todd Schadel were the Tall Dark Stranger - Viva La Deo gelding Venom Hanover in 1:56 1/5, and the Always B Miki - Luvthebeachlife gelding Beach Legacy in 1:58 1/5.

Pocono's leading driver Tyler Buter guided two winners in the pacing filly ranks including the fastest in the section, the Papi Rob Hanover - One Last Kiss miss Say Goodnight, who put in her own back fractions of 57 4/5 - 28 2/5 in a 1:58 4/5 win for trainer Nicholas Devita and owners David Hamm and Glenn Phillips.

-edited release (Pocono/PHHA)

FanDuel named presenting sponsor of 100th Hambletonian

The \$1-million Hambletonian, America's premier trotting race, will celebrate its 100th edition on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, NJ. FanDuel, the largest advance-deposit wagering (ADW) platform in the United States, will serve as the presenting sponsor for the milestone event.

The 100th Hambletonian, presented by FanDuel, will headline a stakes-loaded race card and be nationally televised on FOX Sports and CBS Sports Network.

First contested in 1926, the Hambletonian was created by the Hambletonian Society to promote the Standardbred trotting breed. Over the past century, it has endured through rain delays, economic shifts, venue changes, world wars and a global pandemic to consistently crown the champion trotter of the year.

FanDuel, a dominant force in New Jersey's sports-wagering landscape, owns and operates FanDuel TV, a channel synonymous with delivering racing excellence for the past quarter century, and the FanDuel Sportsbook at the Meadowlands – the top-performing sportsbook in North America.

"It's only fitting that the track's two biggest partners team up for the 100th anniversary of the Hambletonian," said Meadowlands Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "New Jersey's No. 1 sportsbook partnering with the world's No. 1 trotting race is a match made in wagering heaven."

The Hambletonian has been hosted by The Meadowlands since 1981, the longest-running venue for the sought-after event. New Jersey is also a pioneer state for sports wagering, with a victorious 2018 legislative battle ending the ban on sports betting, opening a new frontier for the Meadowlands Racing and Gaming/FanDuel partnership, both the premier organizations in their respective brands.

"We are proud to be able to celebrate the 100th edition of the Hambletonian with the Meadowlands and FanDuel," said Hambletonian Society President and Chief Executive Officer John Campbell. "The Hambletonian has only grown in purse, prestige and stature since the move to the Meadowlands in 1981, and this will be the biggest event to date."

Hambletonian Day at The Meadowlands is consistently the highest-handling event in harness racing, generating more than \$107 million in single-day wagering since 2010. This year's 100th celebration will feature a Hambletonian Homecoming Party, autograph sessions by alumni and today's racetrack stars, appearances by past Hambletonian winners, a commemorative book, memorabilia displays and much more.

FanDuel will be the presenting sponsor of the Hambletonian Winter Book Favorites, the FanDuel Road to the Hambletonian and the 100th Hambletonian broadcast on CBS Sports Network.

-release (Hambletonian Society)

\$6,630 PICK 6 CARRYOVER FRIDAY AT THE MEADOWLANDS

With many of the track's A-list drivers out of town Saturday (June 14) racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park on their biggest night of the year, The Meadowlands will shift the stronger of its two weekend programs to Friday (June 13) night this week.

A happy coincidence will add some more juice to the squeeze, as the already big card – which features a pair of \$225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes finals for 3-year-old trotters – will also offer a 20-cent Pick-6 carryover to the multitude of Meadowlands multi-leg players.

Last Saturday (June 7), after Blue Collar Man lit up the board at odds of 53-1 in the 13th race, a 20-cent Pick-6 carryover was the result. A total of \$6,630 will be sitting in the pool when the Pick-6 gets underway in race eight Friday night.


Recent history tells us that the action figures to be hot and heavy.

On May 31, a carryover of just over \$5,000 led to players pouring almost \$35,000 into the pool for a grand total of just under \$40,000.

Were \$34,000 in new action put in play Friday, that would create a total pool of \$40,630, but because the carryover is not subject to the low 15 per cent takeout, there would be \$35,530 up for grabs, creating a surplus of \$1,530, or a return of 105 per cent, instead of the usual 85.

That's the kind of opportunity that bettors crave.

-release (Meadowlands)



Handicapper's Corner

SIGN UP NOW

At DRF Harness we strive to provide the best handicapping information in the sport. Each week we'll use this space to bring you some of our handicappers' best bets and value plays. Use this information as one of your tools when wagering or simply click on the link above and head to DRF Bets to wager now.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

RACE 6

(3) P L STEVIE was one I pegged on top last week after a sneaky good effort two starts ago. She flashed some good trot when she was able to get a clear shot and this is one I'll give top honors to once again, especially with a much improved draw.

-John Rallis



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

RACE 7

(7) MR WALNER FASHION seems to have left his issues behind him with the hobbles added and tonight he gets the true test of whether he is a serious Hambletonian contender or just a fringe player.

-Derick Gwerner



RACE 9

(1) LUCKY ARTIST A drops to the basement and draws best; I'm hopeful this classy veteran still has what it takes to get the job done. Bucci trainee dominated when last in NW5000.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, JUNE 14

RACE 9

(7) NANDOLO N has raced at The Meadowlands a number of times since coming to the U.S. and I'd argue that this is the softest spot he has ever seen.

-Gwerner



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

MGM YONKERS RACEWAY ADJUSTS RACE STARTING POINT

As the finish line has moved positions over the years at MGM Yonkers Raceway, so has the starting point of each race. Somewhere along the line, it was decided to “quick start” the races well before the actual starting point to allow horses on the outside of the gate a better opportunity to leave for position. That practice was officially halted on June 5.

This was done in order to comply with USTA rule 16.05 - which states: *“The starting point will be appropriately marked a distance of not less than two hundred feet from the first turn. The starter shall give the word “go” at the starting point.”* - and in the interest of consistency from track to track, races are now starting much closer to the finish line, which at Yonkers is just before the first turn.

“Horses were racing at distances well over a mile for way too long, and it wasn’t fair to the public to list the races as one mile,” said Racing Secretary Joe Frasure, who was part of the conversation to make the change, along with the Presiding Judge and Starter. “It is important for us to be consistent with the other tracks in the state and the country.”

Triple Crown elimination races on the horizon

Entries for the eliminations of the Grade 2 MGM Yonkers Trot and Grade 2 MGM Grand Messenger Pace are due on Monday, June 16. The eliminations, if necessary, will whittle the fields down to eight entrants for the finals on Friday, June 27.

There are 41 trotting colts eligible to the \$300K MGM Yonkers Trot and 37 pacing colts eligible to enter the \$225K (est.) MGM Grand Messenger Pace. Both races represent the first legs of the Trotting and Pacing Triple Crowns, respectively.

Horses not eligible may supplement to either race for \$25,000.

MGM Yonkers Raceway will have an altered schedule during the week of June 16, with live racing daily from Monday through Saturday. New York Sire Stakes for 2-year-old colt pacers will take place on Thursday, June 19.

-release (Yonkers Raceway Media)

DRF BETS SOLD TO 1/ST TECHNOLOGY, REBRANDED AS 1/ST BET PRO

DRF Bets, the account-wagering operation launched by Daily Racing Form in 2011, has been sold to 1/ST Technology, a subsidiary of 1/ST Racing and Gaming, and all customers of the operation will be immediately transitioned to 1/ST’s XpressBet account-wagering operation on Tuesday (June 10), the two companies announced.

[READ MORE](#)

FREEHOLD RACEWAY SOLD; NO RACING IN ITS FUTURE

A report on the Asbury Park Press website (app.com) cites that Freehold Raceway has been sold to Raceway RE Partners and will not serve as a racetrack in the future. The plan is to redevelop the property according to a press release from the purchasers. Click here to [read more](#).

BELMONT STAKES BROADCAST ON FOX MOST WATCHED SPORTING EVENT

Viewership of the Belmont Stakes on Saturday night at Saratoga Race Course on FOX’s flagship network station peaked at 5 million viewers while the race was being run, according to the network.

The broadcast on FOX and a separate broadcast on FS1 averaged 3.83 million viewers, according to FOX, up 5 percent over the average viewership for the two programs last year.

FOX said that the 5 million number made the race the most watched sporting event on Saturday. The Saturday broadcast schedule included a rivalry game between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

FOX holds the broadcast rights to the Belmont Stakes through 2030. The rights to the Derby are held by NBC, in a contract that runs through 2032. NBC also has the rights to the Preakness, but that contract expires after next year’s race.

FOX is expected to make a run at the Preakness rights next year, at a time when many broadcasters have coalesced behind the idea of extending the Triple Crown by putting five weeks between the races.

-by Matt Hegarty

GO DOG GO ROUTS PA SIRE STAKES RIVALS IN HIS SOPHOMORE DEBUT

\$185,066 was on the line in competition for Pennsylvania-sired 3-year-old trotting males Sunday night at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, as the second prelim leg saw two divisions of PA Sire Stakes and four cuts of PA Stallion Series action contested over a track that was rated “sloppy” for all of the stakes races.

[READ MORE](#)

\$3,896 PICK 5 CARRYOVER AT MGM NORTHFIELD PARK

When live racing resumes on Sunday night (Jun. 15th) there will be a special bonus awaiting the faithful fans of Northfield Park.

The \$1 pick-5 wager beginning in race 6 has a carryover of \$3,896 and features an estimated pool of \$15,000. As always it 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 Sunday is 6 p.m.

-release (MGM Northfield)

EARLY HIGH 5 CARRYOVER, GUARANTEED POOLS THURSDAY AT HOOSIER

The 14-race card on Thursday (June 12) at Harrah’s Hoosier Park will be a bettor’s delight as it features a \$8,454.72 carryover in the Early Hoosier High 5 (race 7) in addition to the traditional trio of \$10,000 Thursday night guarantees.

The Thursday action gets underway with a first post of 6:15 p.m. and will kick off with a \$10,000 guaranteed Early Pick 5 (races 1-5). There are additional \$10,000 guaranteed pools in the Late Pick 4 (races 11-14) and Late Hoosier High 5 (race 14), with those two wagers done in partnership with the USTA’s Strategic Wagering Program.

With changes made to the Hoosier Park wagering menu in advance of the 2025 racing season, takeout has been reduced on all Pick 5 wagers to 15%, while takeout on all Pick 4 and Hoosier High 5 wagers is an industry low 12%.

For more information on the 2025 live racing season at Harrah’s Hoosier Park, guests are encouraged to visit www.harrahshoosierpark.com.

-edited release (Harrah’s Hoosier)

THE FIRST MILE TO STREAM NEW JERSEY 2-YEAR-OLD RACES

The First Mile, presented by onGait, returned Wednesday (June 11) with the first of five dates of 2-year-old qualifying races at Gaitway Farm and Magical Acres through the month of June.

Gaitway Farm will host 2-year-old races on Wednesdays, June 11, 18 and 25, beginning at 10 a.m.; Magical Acres will host races on Thursdays, June 19 and 26, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Broadcasts will begin 10 minutes before first post on each day.

To watch The First Mile, visit the 412 Communications [YouTube page](#).

-edited release (412 Communications)

OHHA TO LIVE STREAM OHIO COUNTY FAIR RACES IN 2025

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association (OHHA) will stream Ohio county fair races again this summer. The OHHA is scheduled to livestream 127 race cards from 66 county and independent fairs.

The OHHA kicked off the 2025 schedule with coverage from the Paulding County Fairgrounds in Paulding, Ohio.

“We are excited to again bring Ohio county fair racing to harness racing fans in Ohio, the United States, and across the world,” OHHA Executive Director Frank Fraas said.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association’s fair coverage will include “Five Days in Delaware” coverage of the Little Brown Jug from the Delaware, Ohio, county fairgrounds.

A complete Ohio county fair racing schedule is available at Harness-RacingOhio.com.

-edited release (OHHA)