

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025

HAMBO100

3-YEAR-OLDS CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN ON THE HAMBLETONIAN TRAIL

*Ranking the current top 2025 Hambletonian contenders
+ Commentary from the connections & next target race*

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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

 [@harnesseveguy](https://twitter.com/harnesseveguy)

Believe it or not, the 100th Hambletonian is now just six weeks away. With most of the likely contenders having finally made at least one appearance on the track, this seemed like the perfect time to put together my top contenders list.

Before I run down my top 10 and the critique and discussion begins, I consider this to be a very much fluid list based solely on what we have seen on the track so far and maybe my thoughts on latent ability. Ask me to put together the same list in three weeks and the horse names could

be jumbled in a completely different order. That said, I welcome your insights. Feel free to email me at dgiwner@drf.com or reach out on social media.

One certainty is we'll know more by July 3 as most on this list are targeting the Harry M. Zweig Trot at Vernon Downs that day. The race offers an estimated \$300,000 purse for the top nine money winners (lifetime) and \$50,000 consolation events (seven horses required per consolation for race to be guaranteed).

1-EMOTICON LEGACY

Absolutely crushed his foes by more than three lengths in the Goodtimes at Woodbine Mohawk Park (June 14) in a Canadian record 1:50 2/5, a mark he now shares with three older horses –

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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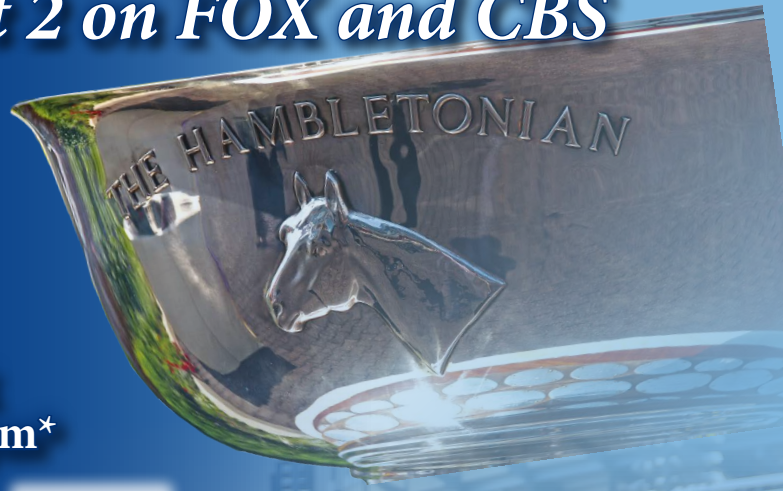
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Alrajah One It, Atlanta and Gaines Hanover. At the end of the mile he was clearly pulling away from Gap Kronos S (who appears on this list) and it stamped this son of Walner as the current leader of the division.

Trainer Luc Blais after the Goodtimes win: "I know he has lots of speed. He just has to control his emotions."

What's next: Zweig on July 3 at Vernon Downs

2-MARYLAND

Dan Patch winner from 2024 didn't have the smoothest road to his first start of the year in the Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon Downs on June 13, but he certainly seemed to be back on track finishing second in 1:51 1/5. Son of Chapter Seven posted a final quarter in 26 2/5 and clearly had something left in the tank as driver Dexter Dunn just tracked Super Chapter home knowing he couldn't beat him due to a rated 58 middle half.

Trainer Marcus Melander on both Maryland and Super Chapter: "I was very happy with both of them [in the EBC]. They looked great and finished in-hand so I couldn't be happier with the race. Both of them came out of it good."

What's next: Zweig on July 3 at Vernon Downs

3-GO DOG GO

Greenshoe-sired colt got big checks in races like the Breeders Crown and Valley Victory last year. His 2025 campaign started out with a powerful 4 3/4 length win in 1:52 3/5 over a track listed as sloppy at The Downs at Pocono. That effort certainly stamped him as a top contender if he wasn't already firmly cemented on the list.

Trainer Carter Pinske on Go Dog Go's debut: "I was very pleased with the debut. He went better than expected considering the weather and it being his first start."

What's next: Reynolds Memorial on June 28 at The Meadowlands

4-SUPER CHAPTER



FOTOWON

Super Chapter winning the Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon.

Kentucky champion from 2024 has come back sharp this year and just reeled off a 1:50 4/5 Empire Breeders Classic win at Vernon Downs to improve to two-for-two. Some will say that EBC win over Maryland should place him above that foe but I'm not there quite yet. A huge plus for this guy will be an easy race likely next time as the Yonkers Trot won't require elimination races and he'll only have to face four – Hard Seven, Happy Jack B, Chat Room and Variegated – in the final.

What's next: Yonkers Trot at Yonkers Raceway on June 27

5-ONAJETPLANE

Like Maryland, this guy had a slow start to the year but was certainly dialed in when the real racing started. He blew away the competition in 1:52 1/5 in the second leg of the NJ Sire Stakes and wasn't embarrassed at all closing to be second in the final behind a well-rated Hildago on June 13 at The Meadowlands.

Trainer Noel Daley on his NJSS race: "He was a little flat. [I thought he was] much better the week before."

What's next: Zweig on July 3 at Vernon Downs



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Emoticon Legacy is the co-fastest trotter in Canadian history.

6-MR WALNER FASHION

Jim Campbell trainee seemed to be moving in the right direction with hobbles added until a late-stretch break in the NJ Sire Stakes final at The Meadowlands on June 13. You can certainly make the case that he was going to zoom past Hidalgo for the win when he rolled into a break. The talent is there if he can behave.

Campbell on the break: "[I was] very disappointed in the break and still have to tweak some things with him."

What's next: Probably Reynolds Memorial on June 28 at The Meadowlands

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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7-GAP KRONOS S

Son of Face Time Bourbon was the co-fastest 2-year-old on 2024 with a 1:51 4/5 win. He came up flat in his seasonal debut before some equipment changes in the Goodtimes final really perked him up. Trainer Ake Svanstedt pulled the shoes and went from an open to a blind bridle, resulting in a solid second behind Emoticon Legacy while being clocked in 1:51.

Assistant trainer Sarah Svanstedt on the benefit of the equipment changes: "There was a big difference in his focus with the closed bridle. He did race barefoot once last year. His performance was five stars considering it was only his second of the year."

What's next: Reynolds Memorial on June 28 at The Meadowlands

8-HIDALGO

Former \$600,000 yearling purchase has been a bit of a project but finally seems to be putting it all together at perhaps the perfect time. Trotting hobbles went on three starts back and the results have been great, with a NJ Sire Stakes victory on June 13 the biggest win of his career. Best of all, driver Yannick Gingras was able to push his charge in the lane and he kept to task without making a break.

Yannick Gingras on the NJSS win: "Today he did [dig in for the win]. I'd still like him better off a helmet, I think he'd go faster and beat better horses. Today [being on the lead] worked but I don't think it will work against the best in the world."

What's next: Zweig on July 3 at Vernon Downs

9-MONSERRATE

Chapter Seven colt took some time finding himself as a 2-year-old before closing out his year with a 1:52 1/5 win in the Valley Victory at The Meadowlands. He finished second behind Super Chapter to start the year and third most recently behind Hambletonian contenders Chat Room and Variegated in the Empire Breeders Classic. The ability is there and

"I'm very confident. We had to do some vet work on him but nothing major. We didn't want to push anything with him."

-Trainer Lucas Wallin on Maximus Mearas S

maybe he's just a slow starter each year.

Trainer Andrew Harris on first two starts: "In his first race he wasn't getting ahold of the track so Dave [Miller] had to nurse him around the last turn and Super Chapter got away from him. [In his last start] he had cover that stalled and he had to tip three wide too early in the turn and couldn't get his momentum going."

What's next: Zweig on July 3 at Vernon Downs

10-MAXIMUS MEARAS S

This guy is the only horse on the list who we haven't seen yet this year. He was second in the Breeders Crown to close out 2024, so you know the talent is there. The question is whether trainer Lucas Wallin has enough time to properly prepare him with only six weeks until the Hambletonian.

Trainer Lucas Wallin on whether his horse will be ready for the Hambletonian: "Absolutely. I'm very confident. We had to do some vet work on him but nothing major. We didn't want to push anything with him."

What's next: Will qualify June 28 if everything goes smoothly

EVEN MORE CONTENDERS TO CONSIDER

There are obviously more than 10 contenders for the Hambletonian on August 2. Others on the right path are Chat Room, Meshuggah, Mountcastle, Top Gun Hanover and Variegated, to name a few.



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Papi Rob Hanover fillies showing their worth in PA Sire Stakes



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

In the game of sires it's hard to draw quick conclusions. Just look at Papi Rob Hanover. The son of Somebeachsomewhere standing at Hanover Shoe Farms saw his first crop hit the track in 2024 to modest success, offering pause to some as they looked towards his second crop.

Within the last few weeks of this year, suddenly a pair of fillies emerged that reflect an entirely different image on the stallion. Specifically, two Pennsylvania Sire Stakes winners named Good As You and Asphalt from the opening leg at The Meadows gave strong indication that they were far more advanced as sophomores than as freshmen. The pair will join last year's brightest daughter of Papi Rob Hanover – Papi Grad – in one of two Sire Stakes divisions on Saturday (6/21) at Pocono.

Trainer Trent Stohler is based in Indiana and he's sent Aaron Lambert the homebred Good As You for her second Sire Stakes start. "I'm just babysitting," said Lambert, who got the call from Stohler prior to the Meadows victory. "It was easier for them than shipping her all the way from Indiana."

Good As You had a limited number of starts at Hoosier Park last year. "We liked her," said Stohler. "But she got sick on us and we just thought it best to stop and bring her back this year."

A bigger and stronger Good As You returned this year and impressed Stohler enough in her first few starts to think about stakes races on her schedule.

"That first start (May 15) she had some problems and got sideways behind the starting car," said Stohler. "They had her 18 lengths back at the half. It was a horribly windy night and horses were getting home in 30 seconds, but she came her last quarter in 27 1/5."

The big closing mile was followed up by a couple of victories, with the second a front-end score that impressed the trainer.

"She's not much of a trainer and I wasn't sure how she'd be on the front end," said Stohler.

The homebred Good As You drew off easily with a 26 4/5 final quarter at Hoosier, giving him confidence to send her to The Meadows for the June 7 stakes event.

Stohler thought Good As You would have a shot starting from the rail in a field that included the stakes savvy Looksgoodinloulou, a two-time sub-1:49 winner as a freshman that included a Breeders Crown elimination score for trainer Ron Burke.

"That wasn't the trip I envisioned," said Stohler about the first-over grind that Andrew McCarthy would have to employ with Looksgoodinloulou, the 2-5 favorite, cutting the pace. "She paced really hard down the backstretch and Andy took a hold of her on the final turn. He said when Ronnie (Wrenn Jr. driving Looksgoodinloulou) started to chirp to his filly ours took off."

Good As You paced a 54 1/5 final half, drawing off at the wire in a career-best 1:50 3/5 clocking. The Pennsylvania Sire Stakes victory coming overland showed a filly with power and determination, qualities

that perhaps extend from her young sire.

"She looks like a lot of the Papi Robs," said Stohler. "Big and strong."

Good As You drew post five among seven fillies in a division of the second leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes on Saturday and she'll be outside of another Papi Rob Hanover-sired filly in Asphalt.

Asphalt's freshman year resembled that of Good As You in that she only started a handful of times with just one victory.

"She has a funny kind of gait," said trainer Brett Pelling. "We knew last year that she would need to develop in order to work things out."

For Asphalt the transformation has been astounding, though those that follow pedigrees probably could have anticipated her arrival. The homebred from the Bettor's Delight-sired Road Bet is a half-sister to champions Cattlewash and Niki Hill, with the dam hitting with the top NYSS fillies of the last few years in Earthwindfire and Tarrific.

Asphalt captured a pair of minor stakes events at The Meadows and Pocono before making her Pennsylvania Sire Stakes debut at The Meadows. Raced more aggressively by Jack Pelling, Asphalt zipped an opening quarter in 27 1/5 and parked a rival nearly to the half in 54 2/5. Pelling pulled on the backstretch and Asphalt just wore down the leader and paced off to a 1:50 career-best effort looking totally in-hand.

"She just wants to do it. She wants to go out and beat you," said Pelling of the characteristics of Asphalt that would have been hard to assess last

year but now make her look like a horse that may live up to the stakes ability of her more famous siblings.

Good As You and Asphalt managed to avoid Fan Hanover winner Miki And Minnie in this leg of the Sire Stakes as the division leader drew into the other \$56,120 (race 8) split, but they won't be able to sidestep Papi Grad, the daughter of Papi Rob Hanover that came out swinging as a freshman and for some time appeared the best filly in North America. That time would not last with Papi Grad finishing second in four of her last five starts as a freshman.

Papi Grad made her sophomore debut in the opening Sire Stakes leg

and drew post seven in a field that included Asphalt. She was taken to the back of the pack and showed solid pace finishing out her mile. Despite being second again, given the fast clocking it was a useful prep for the coming weeks. Whether Papi Grad will regain her spot in the division or just among daughters of Papi Rob Hanover this year remains to be seen.

What may prove more interesting in the long run is whether the more lightly-raced fillies can challenge Miki And Minnie at the elite level of this division. For Stohler's Good As You that is likely not to be the case.

"In addition to the Sire Stakes she's got the Adioo Volo at The Meadows and is eligible to all of the late-season races here at Hoosier Park," said Stohler of Good As You.

No stranger to top pacing mares, Stohler campaigned the Breeders Crown champion Extreme Velocity in the late 90's. The daughter of Camtastic won \$856K with 40 wins during six years on the racetrack.

Good As You, as impressive as she's been as a sophomore, will need to do a lot more before she can be compared to Extreme Velocity.

"She's only had a couple of races," said Stohler. "Extreme Velocity was a horse that could win from anywhere on the track and did it over a long career."

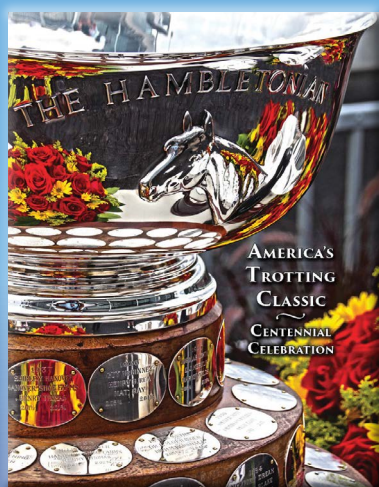


CHRIS GOODEN

Good As You blew away her foes in a 1:50 3/5 PA Sire Stakes victory at The Meadows on June 7.



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ATLANTA, a bay filly by Chapter Seven out of the Cantab Hall mare Hemi Blue Chip blazed into racing's consciousness in the 2018 Hambletonian. She set the fastest recorded fractions to date in her elimination heat even though she finished second by a neck to Crystal Fashion.

She returned in the final heat that day in rein to Scott Zeron to become the first filly in 22 years to win

the Hambletonian, going down in history next to legendary names like Continentalvictory, Duenna and Rosalind.

There have been very few Breyer Standardbred stablemates issued, most notably a trotter done for the 75th Hambletonian anniversary in 2000 and the pacer Foiled Again, the leading money winner Standardbred of all time with earnings of \$7,635,588.

The full scale model of Atlanta was released by Breyer in 2024 and packaged with a reprint of Marguerite Henry's Book Born To Trot, about the 1936 Hambletonian filly winner Rosalind. The stablemate version was commissioned by the Hambletonian Society in honor of the 100th edition of the Hambletonian. (\$7⁰⁰)

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Feeling nostalgic for the glaring bulbs and bright lights



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

I readily admit to being an aspiring Luddite, My Internet network is called GetOffMyLawn, and I 100% believe Baz Luhrmann when he said, “Accept certain inalienable truths, prices will rise, politicians will philander, you too will get old. And when you do, you’ll fantasize that when you were young prices were reasonable, politicians were noble and children respected their elders.”

So, it may not surprise you to hear me say that I miss the toteboard. The honest-to-goodness, thousands of lightbulbs, is that horse 1-5 or 15-1, toteboard which showed all pools. A good one gave you so much information – not just win pools and exacta or daily double will-pays, but place pools and show pools. You didn’t have to wait for a pool to come up on a rotating basis. Some tracks still have them, but they are an endangered species these days.

Yes, analog toteboards have their problems. Reading the board during Little Brown Jug week in bright sunshine, especially with sunglasses on, can be nearly impossible. But I had the same issue a couple years back with the Jumbotron at Oak Grove.

Although “JumboTron” is a registered trademark owned by the Sony Corporation, Sony stopped manufacturing the devices under that name in 2001 and the word Jumbotron has since become generic, according to Bobby Mercer in his book Manventions.

The classic toteboard showed odds plus win, place and show pools, with rotating exacta/Daily Double displays. Many newer tracks moved to a smaller board that showed odds but rotated the win, place and show pools. Roosevelt Raceway is generally considered to have had the best classic toteboard, and these days on the Thoroughbred side Santa Anita is pretty classic.

Northfield Park installed a video only toteboard in late 2022 and nobody in management had information on when the previous board was installed. I am not a huge fan, but Michael Carter, Manager and Assistant Race Secretary at the track says it has been a hit with customers.

“Fan response has been great,” he told me. “They are glad they can watch Northfield’s races on the big screen outside. It also allows us to broadcast Northfield’s races and other events.”

One of the great advantages of the old style toteboard was the Teletimer, a running timer so you could get splits by the 1/8 mile, instead of having to wait for the video screen to flash a quarter time, as most do.

The Meadows, which recently installed a video screen, found a workaround. Announcer Jeff Zidek told me, “The old board is still there, but covered up and only used for the Teletimer. I haven’t heard anything negative, and it’s been over a year.”

I posed the question – Old style toteboards with all the pools listed or the new Jumbotron video toteboard? – to the popular Harness Racing

History Group on Facebook, which has over 47,000 members. The vast majority of responders liked the old toteboard better than the video screens. That’s a non-scientific poll, since most of the members of the group skew older than the overall population. The folks who did like the video board were generally younger.

Poster Ken Gee commented: “Love being nostalgic with the old school infield toteboards. But the new jumbo are better. Just wish that the tracks wouldn’t make them so busy that you can’t see the odds and the pools.”

One idea that interests me is what I call a hybrid board. It incorporates a video screen but also features many elements of a traditional toteboard.



(ABOVE) STOCK PHOTO / (BELOW) GABE PREWITT

The toteboard at Roosevelt Raceway (above) provided win, place and show prices for all horses in the race. (below) The video board at Hoosier Park provides plenty of information in a different format.



Tioga Downs and Running Aces are two tracks that feature this type of system, although the traditional information is not available at all times.

Darin Gagne, Running Aces announcer told me: “I definitely think the board is important for the fans – the odds board of course lets the public see the trends and movement of the odds, which can influence their selections. The video board is important for our fans on the apron because most of them cannot see the action on the backstretch. With the video board they can follow the race better. I think the newest version of the board, which are all digital, are the best, but our hybrid board is the next best thing.”

In my opinion, the video boards limit the information available. But Hoosier Park has a solution. They use multiple screens and although their board is all digital, the odds and pools are presented old-school style on either side of the video screen. The more I watch that, the more I start to like it. And you don’t have to worry about light bulbs burning out.

COLUMN ASIDE: I am bringing my Handicapping Herpetologist display to Vernon Downs on Saturday, June 21 from 4:45-7:45 PM and to Tioga Downs Sunday, June 22 from 12:30-3:30 PM.

That’s it for this column. Now check the toteboard and go cash. See you in New York!

Captain Albano back for next bout in third leg of Graduate

By Jay Bergman

A lot of thought went into bringing last year's champion 3-year-old back to the races this year and just where to begin. For trainer Noel Daley, three consecutive weeks of qualifying got the screws tightened a bit for Captain Albano but still there was concern about making a first start.

"We got invited to the race at Chester (Joe Auger Memorial) and we could have gone to the Battle of Lake Erie," said Daley of the potential first starts. "I just didn't think they would be best for him, so we waited for the Graduate."

The decision was a solid one and Captain Albano made his long-anticipated debut on June 13 facing a field of more seasoned horses.

"I wanted to win the race, but I didn't want to overdo it," said Daley, mindful of the competition as well as the potential for a quicker pace that might not have been welcomed at first asking.

What Captain Albano accomplished in that first trip competitively was a 1:49 2/5 victory where he worked out a near-perfect trip and sprinted home in 26 1/5 while looking sharp in the process.

"He was always a great-looking horse," said Daley. "This year he's broadened out across his rear end." The added muscle will certainly go a long way this year for a horse that needs to be tougher with 4-year-olds first and then against older horses later.

Captain Albano drew post 10 in a field of 12 in Saturday's third round of the Graduate (race 9) at The Meadowlands and that will be a bit more challenging for the son of Captaintreacherous, but Daley is less concerned about the second start and more about the seasoned foes.

"Nijinsky (post 5) is a very good horse and he proved that last year," said Daley. "He's had a few more starts than my guy and has looked pretty good."

Indeed, Nijinsky, last year's North America Cup winner, has prepped at Woodbine Mohawk Park with some solid efforts including a win in the opening round of the Graduate, a race strictly for 4-year-olds, on May 31. Nijinsky, a son of Bettor's Delight, made a couple of moves and was dominant pacing to a 1:48 3/5 mile for his first win in 2025.

Last Saturday (June 14), Nijinsky was in with older foes in the Mohawk Gold Cup and never got the room he was looking for chasing Brue Hanover to the wire while finishing second.

Though the outside draw was not appreciated by Daley, he doesn't believe it will prevent Captain Albano from winning this week. "I still think he's the best horse in there," said Daley. "And Todd (driver McCarthy) can be more aggressive with him with the race under his belt."

While Captain Albano will start from the outside of the starting gate, Daley has another in the field with Chain Gang (post 11) making his second start for the stable after shipping in from Ontario.

"They (Nick Gallucci) called me up and asked me if I'd take him," said Daley. "I said under just one condition, that I'm not going to keep him."

A few years back Daley had a similar opportunity with world-record setting Bulldog Hanover, and it worked out quite well.

Thus far Chain Gang has not shown the capacity to pace in 1:45 but did impress Daley with a fifth-place finish in the Graduate on June 13. "They told me he was very fast if you just use him one time and he showed that," said Daley.

Chain Gang, a 4-year-old by Bettor's Delight, will have Andrew McCarthy in the bike again on Saturday.

The Graduate division could find Calicojack Hanover (post 3) in a good spot. The Luc Blais trainee has already earned more as a 4-year-old than he did throughout his sophomore campaign. Calicojack Hanover overcame post 10 in his Graduate leg at The Meadowlands on June 13 and was a respectable second behind Captain Albano. Prior to that he was second behind Nijinsky in the first round and captured both elimination and final of the Charles Juravinski at Flamboro Downs.

Trainer Andrew Harris will send out a pair in Captain Luke (post 2) and Funtime Bayama (post 4). Captain Luke has a leg victory taken at Woodbine Mohawk Park on May 31 and was third in the Meadowlands division to Captain Albano. Funtime Bayama has yet to find firm footing this year racing overland in both Graduate legs and coming up short.

Some equipment changes were made by trainer Brett Pelling to Sabonis, who made his first start for new ownership in the Graduate on June 13 but didn't fire in the stretch. Sabonis drew post seven. Pelling also sends out Arbitrage Hanover (post 8), a runner-up in the first leg of the series at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Arbitrage Hanover was a fast-closing seventh in the second leg.



NIKKI SHERMAN/DRF HARNESS

Captain Albano was a 1:49 2/5 winner in his 2025 debut.

Daley will also send the unbeaten sophomore Smooth Dream (post 1) in the \$48,000 New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund stakes for 3-year-old male pacers on Saturday night (race 3). "He came to me ready and I haven't changed a thing," said Daley, not wishing to take credit for a horse he didn't train as a 2-year-old.

"There was some talk about supplementing him to the Messenger (Yonkers) or The Meadowlands Pace," said Daley. "I think if we're going to supplement him, we're going to have to pick our spots."

Daley suggested the Adios could be a spot for Smooth Dream, a son of Cattlewash that will be a very short-odds favorite on Saturday.

The 14-race Meadowlands Saturday card also includes a NJSDF final for pacing fillies and a Graduate division for trotters. Post time is 6:20 PM (EDT).

Follow

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'Rocket' looks to land spot in MGM Grand Messenger final

By Ken Weingartner

Papi's Rocket has a touch of mom in him, which has proved to be a good thing for the 3-year-old male pacer.

Out of the mare Real Touch, Papi's Rocket has hit the board in 16 of 19 career races, winning six and earning \$320,601 as he prepares for his start in Friday's second of two MGM Grand Messenger Stakes eliminations at MGM Yonkers Raceway. The Messenger, for 3-year-old pacers, is the first jewel in the Pacing Triple Crown.

Papi's Rocket, a 2024 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion and multiple Grand Circuit winner, is Real Touch's fifth foal to surpass six figures in purses.

"It's very special," said Kris Brechler, whose family's Knox Services Inc. bred Papi's Rocket with Slaughter Racing Stable and owns the colt with Slaughter Racing, Burke Racing Stable, and Weaver Brussemi LLC. "It's always nice to see your homebreds do well. Real Touch did it the hard way as a racehorse, and she's definitely been a blessing as a broodmare."

The Brechler family's connection with Papi's Rocket's family extends back decades to the colt's great-granddam, Laags Winterwood, who raced for Brechler's father, Ronald, in 1993 and then was kept as a broodmare. Real Touch won 11 of 36 races, hit the board an additional 10 times, and earned \$150,251 on the racetrack. In addition to Papi's Rocket, her offspring include Summer Touch, who was an Ohio Sire Stakes champ in 2020.

Papi's Rocket, in addition to his PASS title, counted divisions of the Arden Downs Stakes and Kindergarten Classic Series among his triumphs last season. The son of stallion Papi Rob Hanover won the consolation final of the Kindergarten and capped his campaign with a third-place finish from post 10 in the Governor's Cup at The Meadowlands. Over his last six starts of the season, he posted three victories, a second and a third.

"He's done well for us," Brechler said. "One thing about him is that he tries. He will give it his all, all the way through the wire. A lot of that is from (Real Touch). She was that way; she always came flying on the end of it. She's passed that on. She's passed on her heart, her speed, to a lot of her foals."

Papi's Rocket heads to his Messenger elimination with three seconds and a third in four races this year, all in Pennsylvania stakes action. He will start the second elim from post eight, the outermost spot on the gate at Yonkers, with Yannick Gingras driving for trainer Ron Burke. He is 5-1 on the morning line.

"We got the eight-hole, but somebody's got to draw it," Brechler said. "We'll take our chance. He deserves a shot. He's raced against some of the best in the country and been right there with them."

"I think he's pretty versatile. He can leave a little bit, or he can sit in the hole and then come on the end of it. He's just a nice horse. We're very happy with him."

Thirsty Thursday is the 2-1 morning-line favorite in the second Messenger elimination, leaving from post one with Tyler Buter driving



LISA PHOTO

Papi's Rocket makes his first career start on a half-mile track on Friday at Yonkers Raceway.

for trainer Hunter Oakes. The gelding has made two starts this season, posting a win and a third on the New York Sire Stakes circuit.

Fast Choice is the 3-1 favorite in the first Messenger elimination. The gelding is winless in three starts this season, but heads to the race off a third-place finish in the Grade 1 Pepsi North America Cup this past Saturday. He will leave from post five with Jordan Stratton driving for trainer Jared Bako.

The top four finishers from each elimination will advance to the \$200,000 Grade 2 Messenger Stakes final on June 27 at Yonkers.

Racing begins at 6:45 p.m. (EDT) at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

\$300,000 MGM YONKERS TROT FIELD

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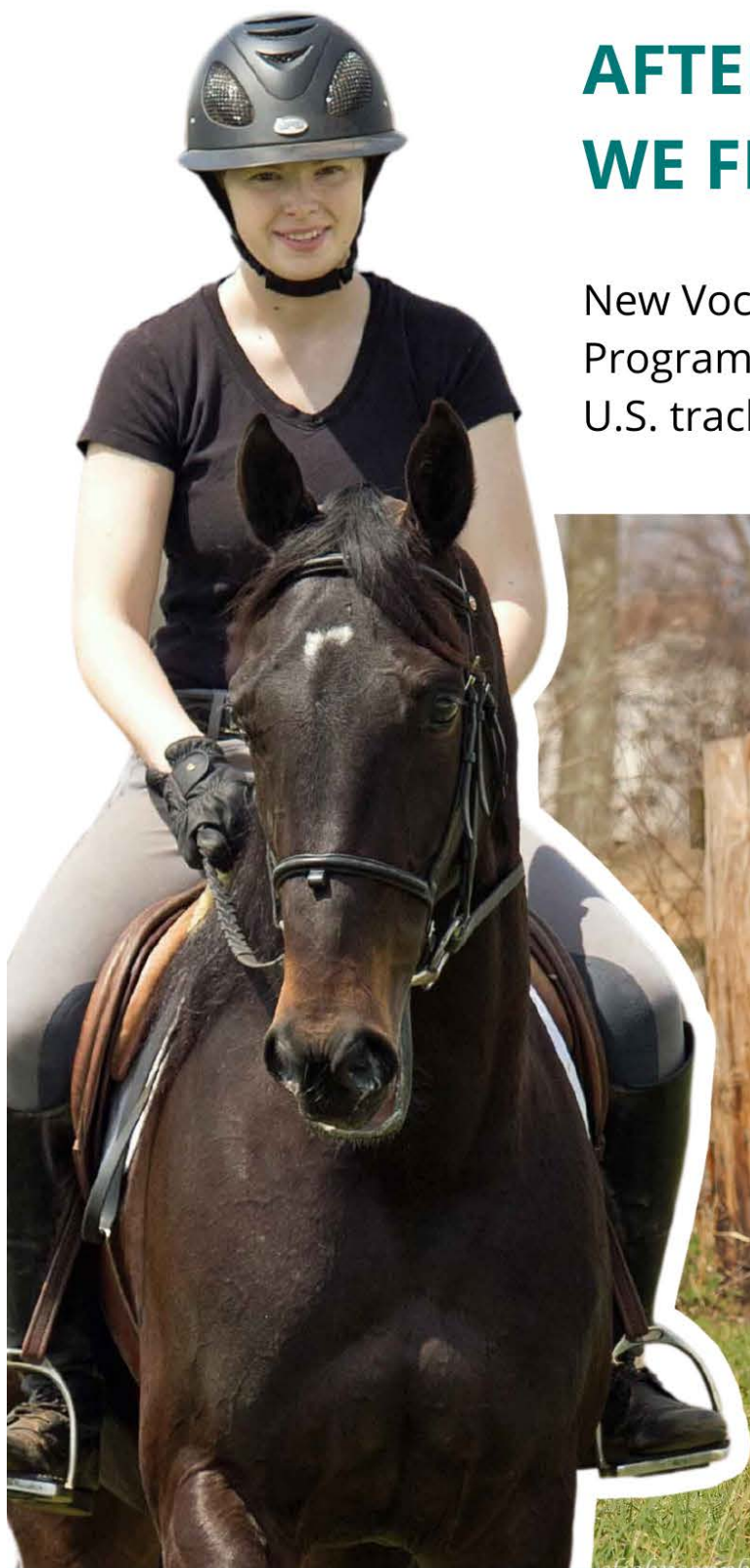


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BABY TALK

UGOTTABKIDNME STEPS OUT IN STYLE AT GAITWAY QUALIFIERS

By Ken Weingartner

Ugottabkidnme represents the entirety of breeder/owner Kevin Kelly's racing stable, so needless to say, there was a good deal of anticipation ahead of the 2-year-old male trotter's qualifying debut Wednesday at Gaitway Farm.

After watching Ugottabkidnme circle the training center's mile oval in 1:59 – the fastest of the day's four trots for the freshmen – Kelly was understandably delighted.

"I'm tickled pink right now," said Kelly, a Florida resident who also bred and raced Ugottabkidnme's mom, Sunshine State standout Gold Star Briana. "I expected him to go in 2:00, maybe 2:01, and I was hoping he would behave himself, which he did. So, he beat my expectations."

Gold Star Briana began her career with 17 consecutive wins, primarily on the Florida stakes circuit, and earned \$132,970 lifetime. Ugottabkidnme, a son of stallion Play Trix On Me, got his own career off on the right foot Wednesday, winning by 1-1/2 lengths with Andy Miller driving for trainer Julie Miller. Finishing second was Bricco, a \$425,000 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale purchase and half-brother to 2024 Dan Patch Award 3-year-old champ Sig Sauer.

"He's a chip off the old block," Kelly said about Ugottabkidnme, who trained down with Marlin Fry in Florida before joining Team Miller in New Jersey about a month ago. "He's a little quirky, just like his dam, but both would trot from the time they hit the ground forward. All winter long, everybody was looking over their shoulders at him. He's a striking animal. The guy has got a pretty gait, and that's what I fell in love with right away. He's got a pretty gait, and he's big and strong."

Julie Miller sent out six 2-year-olds on Wednesday, all making their qualifying debuts, and came away with two seconds and a third in addition to Ugottabkidnme's triumph. Miller's runner-up finishes came with pacing colt He Is Stingin (Perfect Sting-Hidden Cove) and trotting filly French Echo (Father Patrick-French Souffle), both with Andy Miller in the sulky. Trotting filly Blonds Havemorefun (Walner-Hey Blondie) was third, with Tyler Miller in the bike.

"It was relatively a good day," Julie Miller said. "This was their first experiences, and we just wanted them to mind their manners, stay flat, and be good behind the gate. When Andy and Tyler hop off the bike, they say any adjustments to make with the horse, and whether they were good finishing. No complaints. We had a couple good ones, and a couple that we have to tinker with, but that's the journey of horseracing."

Ron Burke sent out seven of the day's 10 freshmen winners Wednesday. Two of them, pacing filly She's A Bulldog and trotting filly Atlantic Summer, also were winners in last week's first round of qualifiers at Gaitway. This week, She's A Bulldog (Bulldog Hanover-Band Stand) scored in 1:54 3/5 and Atlantic Summer (Captain Corey-Perfect Summer K) won in 1:59 1/5, both with Yannick Gingras driving.

Other Burke winners were pacing colts Dax Seelster (Bulldog Hanover-Deb) in 1:54 3/5 and Watch Em Win (He's Watching-Winners Over) in 1:55, both with Tim Tetrick in the sulky, and Melillo (Sweet Lou-Rosemary Rose) in 1:55 with Gingras; pacing filly Perfect Lynn (Perfect Sting-Meghan Lynn) in 1:55 1/5 with Gingras, and trotting filly No Promises (Tactical Landing-It's Hallright) in 1:59 3/5 with Gingras.

Melillo is a full brother to 2024 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion filly Rose.

Rounding out Wednesday 2-year-old winners in the qualifiers were pacing filly Yama Gonna Win (Bettor's Wish-Yaris Bayama) in 1:55 with Scott Zeron driving for trainer Linda Toscano and trotting colt Ajax Blue Chip (Six Pack-Shesa Sweetheart) in 2:00 with Dan Dube driving for trainer Pierre Paradis.

For Wednesday's complete charts, click [here](#). Watch replays [here](#).

CALLAHAN / BUTENSCHOEN TOUGH IN POCONO BABY TROTS

Two-year-olds had to face a sloppy surface on a warm Wednesday morning at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, and many came through with flying colors – none more so than the first-time starters trained by John Butenschoen, for whom Corey Callahan drove four winners.

Team Callahan / Butenschoen swept the three trots for males, with the

fastest being the Swan For All – Kaikoura gelding San Patricio, a first-over winner in 2:00 1/5 with his own back figures 59 - 29 for owners Tony and Michael Holmes, June Zent, and Timothy Thornton. Second was stablemate Nofreak Volo (a Father Patrick – No I'm Not gelding).

Another 1-2 Butenschoen finish was headed the Chapter Seven – Got You BR NO gelding Rubens, who defeated Stormy Seas (a Captain Corey – Tsunami Blue Chip gelding) in 2:03 4/5 - 29 4/5. The trainer's sweep of this section was rounded off by the gelding Be Green (Greenshoe – Bright Baby Blues) in 2:01 3/5, last half 59 3/5 first-over.

Butenschoen also had a 1-2 finish in the baby filly trotter ranks, with Litt Up (Bar Hopping – Miss Fidget) vacating the pocket for Callahan and coming home in 29 4/5 to win in 2:05 2/5 over barnmate Avenzee (Gimpanzee – Avenir). The other winner in this group was a filly who won at Saratoga in her bow then came to Pocono and won again: Alexandriabluechip, a daughter of Greenshoe – Queendom who went in 2:03 3/5 - 59 4/5 - 29 4/5 for driver Braxten Boyd, trainer Emily Bost, and owners Frank Salino Jr., Bruce Potter, Guy Roemer, and Theresa Naylor.

Tyler Buter drove a pair of Hunter Oakes trainees to their second straight baby wins in the pacing filly ranks. Imagine Heaven (Papi Rob Hanover -OK Heavenly) was the fastest freshman of the sloppy session when she went wire-to-wire in 1:56 3/5 - 57 1/5 - 28 2/5 for owners Flying A Racing Stable, Lucky Strike, and Charles Oakes.

Tall Dark Stranger sired the other pacing filly winners, including the Team Buter/Oakes miss Tall Dark Tequila (dam Tequila Monday), home in 1:58 out of the pocket. Tall Dark Stranger also sired Beatrice Hanover (dam Beyond Ecstasy), who won on the engine score in 1:58 3/5 - 29.

Travis Alexander had a pair of American Ideal colts within a nose of each other in one section of that group's races, with American Renegade (dam Hathaway Anne) outclosing Hard To Forget (dam Nota Fool Bluechip) while winning in 2:00 2/5 - 58 4/5 for driver Ridge Warren.

The faster winner in the two battles among this division went to the Huntsville gelding Wish You The Best (dam Regal Wish), coming on in 58 28 to get the win in 1:57 3/5 for owners Donald Mac Rae, Nick Kareotes, and Daguet Racing LLC while marking the second win of the day for Buter and trainer Deborah Daguet.

The baby races can be viewed at www.ppha.org.

-edited release (Pocono/PHHA)

YOUNG STARS TAKE SHAPE AT THE MEADOWS

As Stakes season rapidly approaches, 2-year-old qualifiers go from learning experiences to serious prep work. On Tuesday morning (6/17) Hollywood Casino at The Meadows hosted 17 qualifiers for that specific purpose.

"To see where we are going forward," is how Brady Brown, primary driver and longtime second trainer for Steve Schoeffel, explained their use of final qualifiers. "We need to determine what's best for them, and these races at this point of the season allow for that."

The Schoeffel/Brown combo qualified nine 2-year-olds with four winners, including two sub 2:00 colts in Ur Ride Is Here and Worldly Dream.

"It's very important," Ronnie Wrenn Jr. stressed when asked the importance of being in attendance for 2-year-old qualifiers. "Anytime I'm asked to qualify a young horse, whether here or Delaware for Brian Brown, I'll happily go with them. It's important to find the young talent and develop a rapport with them."

Wrenn piloted three winners for trainer Ron Burke including repeat winner Shehasarealenergy. The Papi Rob Hanover filly was unfazed by the sloppy going to sprint home in 27 1/5 for the 1:57 1/5 victory.

Following Thai Hanover's second and Quill Gordons third-place finish, respectively, driver Jeremy Indof said that today was about putting "finishing touches" on the two Stay Hungry freshman. "With stake season right around the corner, Mitch [York] wants his colts to be as race ready as possible, and now he and I are both excited about the season ahead."

For the day Ron Burke had five winners from 28 starters which gave him top training honors while Brady Brown's four Steve Schoeffel-trained winners gave him driving honors.

-edited release (Tyler Stillings for MSOA)

MALLAR, TETRICK AND DIDOMENICO DO DAMAGE IN TUESDAY BABY RACES

Trainer Roland "Polie" Mallar continued on a roll with his 2-year-old pacers during the Tuesday morning session at Harrah's Philadelphia, with three of his pupils winning, but even hotter was the combination of driver Tim Tetrick and trainer Scott Di Domenico, who linked up for victories with five first-time starters spread across the divisions.

[READ MORE](#)

RACE OF THE WEEK

7 MEADOWLANDS SAT

1 Mile Trot. GRADUATE SERIES. 4 YEAR OLD OPEN 3RD LEG (DECLARATION FEE - \$1,500) Purse \$75,000

EXACTA AND TRIFECTA | 10 CENT SUPERFECTA | PICK 3 (7-8-9)

1 #SIR PINOCCHIO (L)

41:51.3 (1) \$11,786

3-1 J. Bartlett 228-59-42-29 (259)

13 Jun25	6M1	fst73 ⁹	281	56 ³	1:25	1:51	Graduate	50000	1	3 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ² ₁	1 ² ₁	1 ¹ ₁	JaBartitt	EdHart	282	281	282	263	1:51.3	92	+1.5w	25 M1	4	1	1	0	\$31,875	25	5	1	2	0	\$58,930
16 Jun25	10M1	fst77 ⁹	271	55	1:23	1:50	Opn	27500	6	1 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	JaBartitt	EdHart	271	28	281	27	1:50 ²	100	+4.4w	24 M1	1	0	1	0	\$17,361	24 Tot	17	11	4	0	\$640,902
25 May25	11Ph1	fst67 ⁹	272	55 ²	1:22	1:51	M Lee Inv	100000	4	1 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	JaBartitt	EdHart	272	281	272	281	1:51	100	-1.9w	23 M1	0	0	0	0	-	Life	29	14	7	2	\$748,259
17 May25	10M1	fst74 ⁹	28	55	1:23	1:51	Cutler	158000	8	1 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	6 ¹ ₁	JaBartitt	EdHart	28	27	28	29	1:52	88	+7.3w												
10 May25	8M1	fst67 ⁹	28	55	1:23	1:51	WO12500Hcp	25000	6	1 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	4 ¹ ₁	6 ¹ ₁	JaBartitt	EdHart	28	28	28	29	1:53	85	+5.4w												
2 May25	10M1	fst75 ⁹					W/O	25000																											

br g 4, by Met's Hall, Lady Cromwell by Chapter Seven
Carolyn Atherton, Scarsdale, NY
E. Hart 8-2-1-1 (250)

Last 5 Sts-\$56,875
1:51.4 PoD 5/8

25 M1 4 1 1 0
24 M1 1 0 1 0
23 M1 0 0 0 0

\$31,875 25
\$17,361 24 Tot
- Life

5 1 2 0
17 11 4 0
29 14 7 2

\$58,930
\$640,902
\$748,259

2 ELISTA HANOVER

31:51.3 (1) \$5,348 SHS-HBG \$240,000

8-1 Dv. Miller 318-55-40-40 (173)

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ch m 4, by International Moni, Evermore by Deweycheatunnhowe
R Lynn & Philomena P Curry, West Chester, PA; C Annie Stoebe, New Egypt, NJ
A. Stoebe 2-0-1-0 (000)

Last 5 Sts-\$91,044
1:51.3 M1

25 M1 2 0 1 0
24 M1 7 3 0 3
23 M1 1 0 0 0

\$14,000 25
\$129,974 24 Tot
\$0 Life

3 0 1 0
18 12 1 3
30 13 4 4

\$16,044
\$462,244
\$495,876

3 DATE NIGHT HANOVER

31:50.1 (1) \$6,250 SHS-HBG \$600,000

6-1 S. Zeron 155-14-12-21 (090)

13 Jun25	12M1	fst73 ⁹	274	56 ³	1:25 ³	1:52 ²	Graduate	50000	4	5 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	SoZeron	MarMeindr	284	284	283	261	1:52	89	+1.5w	25 M1	1	0	1	0	\$12,500	25 Tot	2	0	1	0	\$12,500
31 May25	6Vbs	fst48 ⁹	272	56 ²	1:24 ²	1:52 ³	Graduate	74460	4	5 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	9 ¹ ₁	9 ¹ ₁	JaMacdnld	MarMeindr	283	29	283				+6.7w	24 M1	5	0	1	2	\$27,250	24 Tot	16	5	2	4	\$491,391
17 May25	8M1	fst72 ⁹	281	57	1:25 ⁴	1:52 ⁴	Qua		4	4 ¹ ₁	4 ¹ ₁	4 ¹ ₁	4 ¹ ₁	4 ¹ ₁	DeDunn	MarMeindr	291	283	284	264	1:53														
26 Oct24	5M1	fst54 ⁹	274	55 ⁴	1:23 ²	1:51 ¹	D-Br Crown	600000	7	6 ¹ ₁	6 ¹ ₁	6 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	6 ¹ ₁	DeDunn	MarMeindr	29	28	271	291	1:53	86	+4.3w	23 M1	1	0	1	0	\$0	Life	9	3	5	5	\$131,136
19 Oct24	4M1	fst60 ⁹	27	55 ³	1:23 ¹	1:51 ¹	D-Br Crown	25000	7	6 ¹ ₁	4 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	DeDunn	MarMeindr	281	274	271	281	1:51	94	+4.4w												
6 Oct24	10LX1A	fst83 ⁹	264	53 ²	1:22 ¹	1:50 ¹	KY-FEIT	301550	10	9 ¹ ₁	9 ¹ ₁	9 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	5 ¹ ₁	DeDunn	MarMeindr	282	262	281	282	1:51	98	+2.4w												

b m 4, by Chapter Seven, Don't Wait Up by Credit Winner
Jeffrey S Snyder, New York, NY; Onda Racing Stable LLC, Jersey City, NJ
M. Melander 35-4-7-7 (114)

Last 5 Sts-\$33,828
1:50.1 Lx1

25 M1 1 0 1 0
24 M1 5 0 1 2
23 M1 1 0 0 0

\$12,500 25
\$27,250 24 Tot
\$0 Life

2 0 1 0
16 5 2 4
9 3 5 5

\$12,500
\$491,391
\$131,136

4 PRIVATE ACCESS(L)

31:52.1 (7/8) \$31,115 SHS-HBG \$250,000

7-2 Lo. Roy 21-1-0 (500)

13 Jun25	12M1	fst7 ³⁰	274	:56:1	1:25:3	1:52:2	Graduate																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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br h 4, by Muscle Hill, Open Access by Credit Winner
Determination, Montreal, QC, CA
L. Blais 2-1-1-0 (500)

Last 5 Sts-\$132,430
1:52.1 MD 7/8

25 M1 1 0 1 0
24 M1 4 0 1 0
23 M1 0 0 0 0

\$25,200 25
\$66,722 24 Tot
- Life

2 0 1 0
14 1 5 1
24 5 6 2

\$62,220
\$233,392
\$430,606

5 AMAZING CATCH

31:51.4 (7/8) \$4,862 LEX-SEL \$310,000

8-1 D. Dunn 197-26-18-21 (190)

13 Jun25	12M1	fst73°	274	563	1:253	1:522	Graduate	50000	7	111	211	211	311	311	DeDunn	AkSvnsttd	274	29	29	264	1:52	87	+1.5w	25 M1	1	0	1	0	\$6,000	25 Tot	2	0	1	0	\$9,723
31 May25	6Vbs	fst48°	272	562	1:242	1:523	Graduate	74460	6	711	711	611	511	511	DeDunn	AkSvnsttd	291	29	272	28	1:53	87	+6.7w	24 M1	6	0	1	3	\$214,875	24 Tot	12	2	3	5	\$707,330
17 May25	5M1	fst72°	282	583	1:263	1:534	Qua		6	111	111	111	111	111	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	282	301	28	271	1:53														
2 May25	3M1	fst70°	283	571	1:262	1:531	Qua		6	611	611	611	611	511	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	30	283	284	271	1:54														
26 Oct24	7M1	fst54°	281	551	1:222	1:504	D-Br Crown F	600000	3	511	411	211	211	311	DeDunn	AkSvnsttd	28	273	272	274	1:50	100	+4.3w	23 M1	3	1	0	0	\$13,900	Life	20	3	5	7	\$880,553
19 Oct24	2M1	fst60°	273	563	1:243	1:511	D-Br Crown E	25000	7	311	311	311	311	311	DeDunn	AkSvnsttd	281	284	28	27	1:52	94	+4.4w												

b h 4, by Walner, Mets Life by Kadabra
Greg Luthar Racing LLC, Blacklick, OH
A. Vandenstedt 26-3-3-5 (115)

Last 5 Sts-\$207,973
1:53.4 M1Q
1:51.4 Wbs 7/8

25 M1 1 0 1 0
24 M1 6 0 1 3
23 M1 3 1 0 0

\$6,000 25
\$214,875 24 Tot
\$13,900 Life

2 0 1 0
12 2 3 5
20 3 5 7

\$9,723
\$707,330
\$

\$22K Pick 5 Carryover at Big M

This Friday (June 20) night at The Meadowlands is one for the bettors, as a monster 20-cent Pick 5 pool – the result of a Saturday night carryover – as well as the sixth edition of the track's Monthly Handicapping Challenge will get the weekend off to a rollicking start.

The Pick-5 pool has the potential to be enormous.

The only other time there has been a carryover in the Pick 5 during 2025, a total of \$183,943 of "new money" was poured into the pot on Jan. 25 chasing a carryover of \$28,744 for a grand total of \$212,687.

That night, the Pick 5 saw a sequence where the winner's odds were 6-1, 17-1, 3-2, 13-1 and 1-5, with winning tickets being exchanged for \$2,787.26.

"The low minimum bet of 20 cents allows players to spread their tickets, so quite a few of our players had that last carryover Pick 5," said Big M Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "When you have a carryover situation like this, where the pool figures to be in the \$200,000 range, all of our players get excited. And since the Pick 5 begins with race one, it engages all of our players from the start of the card and should create some good action on our 50-cent Pick 4s, which begin in races six and 10, respectively."

The Pick 5 carryover heading into Friday night is \$22,989.

The carryover was set up by three bombs that went off at the start of the card on June 14. Races one through three were taken by 10-1, 70-1 and 19-1 shots, respectively, meaning that even after the sequence concluded with a 9-5 and a 7-2, a sizable carryover was assured.

The 20-cent Pick-5 is offered nightly on races one through five.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S ALRIGHT: Yes, Friday will be great, but Saturday is going to be stacked with star performers on the track.

Smooth Dream will look to stay perfect in seven seasonal tries in the \$48,000 New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund final for 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers. The son of Cattlewash-Dreamlands Latte, the only horse at The Big M during 2025 to win six consecutive races at the mile oval, won the New Jersey Sire Stakes final on May 24.

There are also a pair of \$75,000, leg three Graduate Series dashes for 4-year-olds, one on the trot and another on the pace.

The trot features Sir Pinocchio, 14 wins from just 29 lifetime starts to go along with a bankroll of almost \$750,000, and Private Access, a lifetime earner of over \$400,000. Both off victories in leg two last week at The Big M.

Captain Albano, the 3-year-old Dan Patch divisional champion of the year from 2024, tops the pacing split. The Noel Daley trainee was a winner in leg two a week ago, stopping the clock in 1:49 2/5 in his first outing of the season. Staying perfect in two starts won't be easy, as the son of Captaintreacherous-Angelou has drawn post 10.

-edited release (Meadowlands)

DERICK GIWNER'S FRIDAY MEADOWLANDS PICK 5 TICKET

This \$22,989 Pick 5 carryover starting in race one is a tricky sequence with two amateur races and two of the lowest Trackmaster conditioned races. I'm going to go shallow early and spread later in the sequence.

Race 1: Two deep here with (3) CAPTAIN TERMINATOR, who's done well in the amateur ranks and (7) FERDINAND A, who tends to get brave on the lead and may just land there tonight.

Race 2: It is hard to get excited about many in this field and some people will spread. I'm going to keep my equity by focusing on (1) COUNTRY DANCING. Three-year-old has some excuses lately in terms of trip, post and driver. This is a spot where she can shine.

Race 3: While more than two can win, I'm going to focus on (4) GOOD ROCKIN and (3) ARTIST BEST. The former gets a key switch back to Yogi in the bike and the latter blew them away by four lengths in 1:51 in his last amateur start.

Race 4: (6) BRONSONS DELIGHT made a big move into contention and simply hung in the late stages. I'm going to give him a pass since it was only his third start after two years off. Others on my ticket include (4) MY WISH CAME TRUE, (1) URBAN RENEWAL, (3) SERGEANT WALT and (8) RAPTORS FLIGHT N.

Race 5: While I'll be spreading here as well in this wide-open event, I will also have an extra ticket with my top pick as a single. (8) ODDS ON SARA SARA has come to life with some big miles lately. If she can repeat any of those from this outside post the rest of the field is in some trouble. Others to include are (4) TESLA POWER, (5) LYONS MIKI, (1) FIRSTUP, (9) POLKS IMAGE, (2) DARLIN'S DREAM and (7) DEFININGTHE MOMENT.

.20 Ticket: 3/7/1/3/4/1,3,4,6,8/1,2,4,5,7,8,9 = \$28

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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 19

RACE 9

(7) CORA CORA CORA was a strong second in her latest, which was her best effort in a while. She races off the claim for the Malik Smith barn which tends to have them ready to fire on first asking.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

RACE 13

(1) JAVA JUKEBOX brushed to the front and went a very game mile in his career debut. The performance looks even better since the winner Chat Room went on to Vernon to take the Empire Breeders Classic over some other good 3-year-olds.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 4

(6) WALKIN ON SUNSHINE put in her usual good effort last week but was unable to repeat out of the eight hole; she's assigned outside again but this time she faces only five rivals and also she returns to Bartlett.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, JUNE 21

RACE 5

(7) FALLOUT hasn't raced in a couple of weeks and won't race for two more after this start. Stand-out 3-year-old gets a confidence building win at short odds.

-Giwner



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

LOUPRINT HEADS 1ST HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY/BREEDERS CROWN POLL

Pepsi North America Cup winner Louprint received 26 first-place votes and a total of 340 points to rank No. 1 in the year's first Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday (June 18).

A 3-year-old pacing colt, Louprint is undefeated in five races this season and leads the sport in earnings with \$449,132. The Ron Burke trainee was a Dan Patch Award winner last year.

Twin B Joe Fresh, the 2024 Dan Patch Horse of the Year, received the remaining nine first-place votes and was No. 2 in the rankings. The 5-year-old pacing mare is unbeaten in two races this season for trainer Chris Ryder, with her most recent score coming this past Saturday in the Roses Are Red Stakes.

Completing the top five in the poll were Fan Hanover Stakes winner Miki And Minnie, Goodtimes Stakes winner Emoticon Legacy, and undefeated Chantilly.

Armbr Flight Stakes winner Dial Square S was No. 6, followed by Mohawk Gold Cup winner Brue Hanover, Battle of Lake Erie winner Ken Hanover, MGM Borgata Pacing Series champion Mossdale Ben N, and Blue Chip Matchmaker Series champ Aardie B Miki N.

A total of 40 horses received at least one point in the poll.

The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll, which will continue weekly on Wednesdays through the Grand Circuit season, does not determine year-end awards. The members of the U.S. Harness Writers Association vote on all Dan Patch Award division winners plus Trotter of the Year, Pacer of the Year, and Horse of the Year.

Rankings based on the votes of harness racing media representatives on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll: Week 1

Rank-Name (1st Votes)	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1 -Louprint (26) 3cp	5-5-0-0	\$449,132	340	--
2 -Twin B Joe Fresh (9) 5mp	2-2-0-0	\$156,190	311	--
3 -Miki And Minnie 3fp	3-3-0-0	\$172,075	243	--
4 -Emoticon Legacy 3ct	2-2-0-0	\$94,940	169	--
5 -Chantilly 3fp	3-3-0-0	\$111,939	121	--
6 -Dial Square S 5mt	3-3-0-0	\$110,475	117	--
7 -Brue Hanover 5gp	14-11-0-1	\$186,192	110	--
8 -Ken Hanover 5hp	4-3-0-1	\$120,500	95	--
9 -Mossdale Ben N 7gp	12-8-2-1	\$430,500	92	--
10 -Aardie B Miki N 5mp	7-5-0-1	\$373,956	44	--

ALSO: Super Chapter 40; Captain Albano 26; Aetos Kronos S, Madden Oaks 22; Smooth Dream 20; Antognoni S 18; Desperate Man 16; Bythemissal, Periculum 14; Conversano, Nijinsky 10; Logan Park, Overthemoonforyou 8; Private Access 7; Maryland, Odds On Chesapeake 6; Variegated 5; Rocket Deo, Twisted Destiny 4; Lite Up The World, Ponda Jet, Sir Pinocchio, Women Layer 3; Call Me Goo, Captain Optimistic, On To Norway, Walkin On Sunshine 2; Captain Luke, Seaside Diva, Soaring Now 1.

-release (Ken Weingartner)

MIKI AND MINNIE TO PERFORM ON SATURDAY AT POCONO

Miki And Minnie, last season's Dan Patch Award-winning 2-year-old pacing filly and coming off a win in last Saturday's \$288,600 Fan Hanover Final at Woodbine Mohawk that earned the #3 ranking in the season's first Top Ten poll, will be racing on Saturday afternoon at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania. She is set to go in one of two divisions of the second preliminary leg of her group's Pennsylvania Sire Stakes action, which combined with six divisions of Pennsylvania Stallion Series racing that day will find the fillies racing for an aggregate \$222,240.

[READ MORE](#)

LIBERTY STYLE RINGS THE BELL IN HER FIRST CAREER OUTING

It was the first start of her career, and Liberty Style (\$3.10) started it in grand style by demolishing the field in the \$112,100 New York Sire Stakes for 2-year-old pacing fillies at Buffalo Raceway on Wednesday afternoon (June 18). She beat stablemate Bueckers by 5 3/4 widening lengths in an impressive 1:57 1/5 over the fast track.

[READ MORE](#)

CANADIAN TROTTING RECORD MATCHED BY FASHION FRENZIE

Fashion Frenzie became the co-fastest trotter in Canadian harness racing history on Monday night at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Shooting up the inside to win the \$36,000 Preferred trot, Fashion Frenzie stopped the clock in 1:50 2/5 to match the all-age Mohawk and Canadian record for driver Louis-Philippe Roy and trainer Eric Nadeau.

[READ MORE](#)

MEADOWLANDS QUALIFIERS SHIFT TO FRIDAY MORNING

The Meadowlands qualifiers/baby races will be raced on Friday this week (June 20) on a trial basis due to requests from several horsepersons shipping each weekend to Meadowlands to race Friday, qualify Saturday morning then back to race Saturday night.

Post time on Friday will be 9:00am.

-edited release (Meadowlands)

MEADOWLANDS HANDICAPPING CONTEST THIS FRIDAY

The Meadowlands' sixth handicapping contest of the year takes place this Friday, June 20. Players must register and check in at the Clubhouse Lobby by 6:20 p.m.

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

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

Contest Format:

- Contestants must bet a minimum of 5 Meadowlands races.
- No minimum and no maximum bet per race.
- Open to any wager on the Meadowlands live wagering menu. This includes W/P/S, Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3/4/5/6, Daily Double, Superfecta, and Pick X wagers.
- Contestants keep all pari-mutuel winnings
- Unlimited entries are allowed per person.

Remaining 2025 Contest Schedule:

Friday, July 18, Saturday, August 30, Saturday, October 25

Friday, November 21, Invite Only \$10,000 Contest - Saturday, December 13

Players that have already qualified for the December contest:

- January Qualifiers: Nick Montemurro & Gary Scogna
- February Qualifiers: Michael Grasso & Nick Montemurro
- March Qualifiers: Sean Loeb & Joe Barre
- April Qualifiers: Robert Glaser & Jim Bohnczyk
- May Qualifiers: Karen Fossili & Russ Slader

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

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PACING FOR THE CURE 5K WALK/RUN RETURNS TO THE MEADOWS

Lace up your sneakers and join the movement! The annual Pacing for the Cure 5K Walk/Run is set to take place on Sunday, July 20 at The Meadows Racetrack & Casino, with the event starting promptly at 10:00 a.m.

This family-friendly event combines fitness and philanthropy, raising awareness and funds for individuals living with Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, ALS, Parkinson's Disease, and Cancer and supporting their families with essential mobility and medical equipment. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just want to walk in support of a meaningful cause, this event is open to all.

Participants will enjoy a scenic course around the racetrack grounds, community camaraderie, and the chance to make a real difference — one step at a time. Stick around after the race for refreshments, giveaways, and an opportunity to meet members of the harness racing community who help make this event possible.

Registration is now open [here](#).

All proceeds go directly to Pacing for the Cure's mission of support, hope, and mobility.

Sponsorships are available by contacting Jeff Gesek at (609) 354-8992.