

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

Reignited Rivalry

SYLVIA HANOVER →

← **TWIN B JOE FRESH**



JESSICA HALLETT/DRF HARNESS PHOTOS

After Sylvia Hanover dominated at age 3 and Twin B Joe Fresh did at age 4, the two powerhouse mares appear on more equal footing as 5-year-olds in 2025



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman X [BergmanJay](#)

There was a time when it was thought the sport could only thrive if its male pacing stars continued to race after their sophomore season. That time has come and gone, but in 2025 a new lesson has been learned by an industry looking for a good storyline.

The fact that owners of top pacing mares had the wisdom to keep them racing as opposed to breeding has led to a three-year rivalry that has provided multiple twists and turns. This past Sunday (July 20) a new chapter was written and the record books adjusted as well when Sylvia Hanover put on a display of speed and power for driver Tim Tetrick in capturing the \$100,000 Clara Barton at Plainridge Park while handing the 2024 Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh her second defeat in the pair's last three meetings.

What's fascinating about the return to prominence of Sylvia Hanover, the daughter of Always B Miki that dominated her rivals for consecutive seasons in 2022-23, is how well she's responded with

driver Tim Tetrick in the sulky. "I've only driven her four or five times," said Tetrick following her Sunday victory, a 1:47 2/5 personal best and world record effort over the five-eighths Plainridge oval.

Despite her victory over Twin B Joe Fresh just two starts before, the betting public had sent last year's Horse of the Year to post as a 1-20 favorite while elevating Sylvia Hanover to an overlaid 4-1 proposition. Between the two starts was a dominating performance by Twin B Joe Fresh in the Dorothy Haughton, yet the public didn't necessarily see exactly how Sylvia Hanover lost the lead in the Haughton and was never able to regain it.

"She fell asleep on me," said Tetrick. "That's Sylvia Hanover."

Often through her racing career, despite an incredible set of lungs, Sylvia Hanover could lose her focus, as regular driver Bob McClure found out on numerous occasions. Despite those quirks in her arsenal, the Mark Steacy-trained mare managed to overcome those obstacles and generally go on to victory.

Yet Tetrick was blunt in what he witnessed first-hand. "Everyone knows how she can get and Dexter (Dunn, driving Twin B Joe Fresh)

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Adios honors memory of Burke family patriarch; Burke has five in Adios

Smedshammer, Butenschoen seek Hambletonian Oaks wins

Derick Giwner: Anatomy of a Hambletonian winner

Darin Zoccali: My Hambletonian Top 5

Monseratte provides Harris his best chance of reaching Hambo final

Best Bets and Analysis + Adios Day \$15K Pick 6 Analysis

Wally Hennessey gets win 12,000; Chantilly returns with a win

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bull-rushed us,” said Tetrick. “Sylvia’s a big mare and it took some time to get her up to speed.”

The Haughton loss may have disillusioned the betting public but Tetrick was far from disappointed in the second-place finish and at Plainridge raced the mare from off the pace, where she made her rivals appear as if they were asleep, pacing a vicious last half to a dominating victory with Twin B Joe Fresh eventually fading to third.

“She’s fine,” said trainer Chris Ryder a day after the defeat. “She just got to the three quarters too fast (1:20 1/5).”

Ryder of course gave full credit to Sylvia Hanover’s awesome performance. “To me it was the same thing that happened to her in the Breeders Crown (2023) at Hoosier Park,” said Ryder, recalling the night Twin B Joe Fresh appeared to have the race won entering the stretch but faded as Sylvia Hanover re-rallied for the victory.

The reality of this mare rivalry is that both have incredible talent but also Achilles heels that at times come up and make an anticipated head-to-head stretch duel turn into a one-mare romp as it did this past Sunday.

The two mares are likely to meet up again on Hambletonian Day in the Lady Liberty. In last year’s edition, Tetrick had to use Sylvia Hanover hard during the first half and didn’t have the power to match strides with Twin B Joe Fresh in the stretch of a 1:48 flat blowout.

Ryder met Twin B Joe Fresh’s defeat in a manner that suggested he knew that 2024 was magical for his horse and that winning may not come as often this time around. Fortunately for him there was Sunday night and the unveiling and perhaps the next filly in line as the Hall of Fame trainer continues to showcase pacing fillies with extraordinary talent on an annual basis.

Sunday saw two of his fillies capture divisions of the Pennsylvania All Stars at Pocono, with his young and ever-improving driving son Patrick in the sulky.

A wicked rainstorm had the track sloppy when Need You Now made her racing debut and paced to a 1:54 4/5 victory, gutting it out between horses in the stretch. The Captaintreacherous-sired filly is a full sister to Catch The Fire, currently one of the top stallions in Ohio.

The Ryders returned later in the card with a filly that appeared an

outsider on paper but proved far different on a racetrack. Bettor Be A Star patiently sat third while betting favorite Part Of Your World cut out pedestrian fractions over a track that had dried out by this point in the card. Patrick pulled Bettor Be A Star from third midway down the backstretch and the daughter of Bettor’s Wish from an Art Major-sired mare exploded onto the scene and wore down the leader with a 27 1/5 final quarter under minimal urging.

“We’ve liked her all along,” said Ryder.

Bettor Be A Star was just a \$10,000 yearling purchase at last year’s Harrisburg auction and Ryder had no intentions of buying her at first.

“It was the last day of the sale and I was already done with my purchases,” said Ryder. “I saw this filly and she was out of a mare that Diamond Creek had culled. I had seen the dam’s first two foals and they didn’t look very good.”

With the final yearling session ending, Ryder tried to point out the good-looking filly to another trainer. “Todd Schadel was still around and I approached him and told him he should buy this filly, that there was nothing wrong with her,” Ryder said. “He told me he was only going to go to \$6,000 on her and I thought that wasn’t going to be enough. I bid \$10,000 and took her home.”

Whether Bettor Be A Star follows in the footsteps of her more celebrated stablemates remains to be seen, but Ryder is following a familiar game plan.

“We’ll send her to The Red Mile and start her below the top level of the Sire Stakes,” said Ryder, laying out the groundwork for the path he took last year with Miki And Minnie.

Miki And Minnie returns to action on Saturday in the \$52,500 Tomkins-Geers for sophomore pacing fillies at The Meadowlands as part of an 11-filly field. The defending Dan Patch award winner drew post six.

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Adios honors memory of Burke family patriarch

Burke sends out five in quest for \$385,000 Adios victory

By Derick Gwerner

The Grade 1 \$385,000 Adios Pace for the Orchids has a bit of a different twist in 2025 as it now has a title sponsor of The Mickey Burke Family. In many cases adding a sponsor to a race is just a monetary exchange but with the Adios it is personal.

"When they came to us it was really an easy decision. [The Adios] was really something my father lived for. Growing up it was the big race he wanted to win and when he finally won it with May June Character [2007] it was probably one of the best days we've ever had in the game," said trainer Ron Burke, who took over the stable from his dad Mickey in 2008 and wanted to honor the recently deceased elder statesman of the Burke clan.

While he has barns in various parts of the country, Burke's base of operation is at The Meadows and that makes Adios Day the one event where everyone under the Burke Racing umbrella can gather and enjoy the experience.

"It probably means more to my family than it does to me. For my family it is home. This is the race they see every year. I go to every race and everywhere," said Burke. "It is the one time when we are all together; my family, Mark's [Weaver] family, Mike's [Brusecmi] family. That makes it special."

According to Burke, the sponsorship with The Meadows – the Adios companion race is now called the Mickey Burke Adios Volo as well – wasn't just a Ron Burke and family commitment. Many of his vendors chipped in and amateur driver/trainer Tom Svrcek also played a huge role.

"Honestly I think I'm going to get more involved, whether it is just us or us with other people," said Burke about future sponsorships of the Adios or other events. "I have to give Tommy Svrcek credit. He reached out to me first and then my people to get it done. If he can do it in two weeks, what could we do if we started right now [for next year]? There will be people there at the races who have a good time and we can get them to be part of it next year."

Burke will train five of the nine finalists for Saturday's (July 26) Adios (race 15) but he won't have his top 3-year-old gun after Louprint was sidelined due to a minor surgery. That \$740,000 North America Cup winner is doing well and aiming for an August return.

"Now it is not a matter of if he is going to race but when he is going to race. He'll tell us. I want to get at least one good qualifier in him before I drop him in to race," said Burke, who indicated Louprint may qualify in a couple of weeks.

Burke's quintet for the Adios includes Papi's Rocket (Mike Wilder, post one, 20-1), Rick Wink (Chris Page, post two, 6-1), Swingtown (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr., post four, 4-1), Railroad Station (Tim Tetrick, post six, 10-1) and Sippinonsearoc (Yannick Gingras, post nine, 12-1).

Swingtown won his elimination on July 19 in 1:50 1/5, more than two seconds slower than Twisted Destiny's final time of 1:48. That discrepancy has Twisted Destiny (post three) and driver Dexter Dunn as the 2-1 morning-line favorite and the horse he bested by a half-length, Prince Hal Hanover (Todd McCarthy), as the 3-1 second choice. The other two horses in the field are Makes Sense (Andrew McCarthy, post five, 20-1) and Wedlock Blue Chip (David Miller, post seven, 12-1).

"I don't think any horse stands out," said Burke on the field in general. "I know they think that 1:48 mile is so much better than the second division but they don't understand that if you time from the top of the lane to the wire, they went the same speed. Fallout stopped so badly [in the second elimination] that every horse in that other division was stopped to a walk and had to restart. I learned a long time ago that time doesn't mean anything. My horses finished fresh and raging."

Burke provided a brief rundown of each of his horses' current form or chances on Saturday:

"Papi's Rocket, I need him to be better. I made a lot of changes this week."

"Rick Wink, I thought he needed the start versus that competition and he bled a little bit last week, just enough that I think Lasix will help him,

but he didn't bleed enough that it will hurt him for this week."

"Sippinonsearoc, Yannick will get him to the front. At some point him and Prince Hal Hanover will hook up. We aren't coming to pull back to ninth."

"Railroad Station trained incredible and had tons of pace [last week]."

"I think Swingtown [has the best chance] because of where he drew. I picture a great trip working out for him."

Should one of Burke's five fail to win the Adios, the trainer can quickly start looking to the 2026 Pace for the Orchids with one of the many 2-year-old colts he has on the card. Al Papi and Melillo (race 10) as well as Frantic Hanover (race 13) are coming off wins and will compete in split \$69,982 divisions of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes. He also has Loumelo Ball in race 13 who he called a sleeper.

"We definitely have the next year contenders. Those are really good colts; especially Frantic Hanover and Al Papi, and Melillo showed off a little bit last week coming home in 26 flat under grips here," said Burke. "Loumelo Ball was sneaky good. I know people expected me to put him in the Stallion Series instead but Ronnie [Wrenn Jr.] told me no. I went back and watched the replay. He was loaded."

The Hall of Fame trainer decided to bring in a few extra horses just to have the opportunity to win as often as possible. "I brought a couple of fillies just because it is Adios Day. With The Fur and Loua Dipa are in good spots," said Burke. "We love to win races on that day. It is a day when people actually go to the winner's circle. It's fun and we want people to have fun and come back."

In total Burke will start 23 horses on the 16-race card at The Meadows which starts at 11:30 AM (EDT) and will be nationally televised on FOX from 3 PM to 6PM. The program will feature \$160,000 in guaranteed wagers including a \$15,000 Adios Pick 6 that starts in race 11.

ADIOS PAST PERFORMANCES ON PAGE 15



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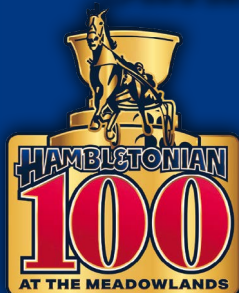
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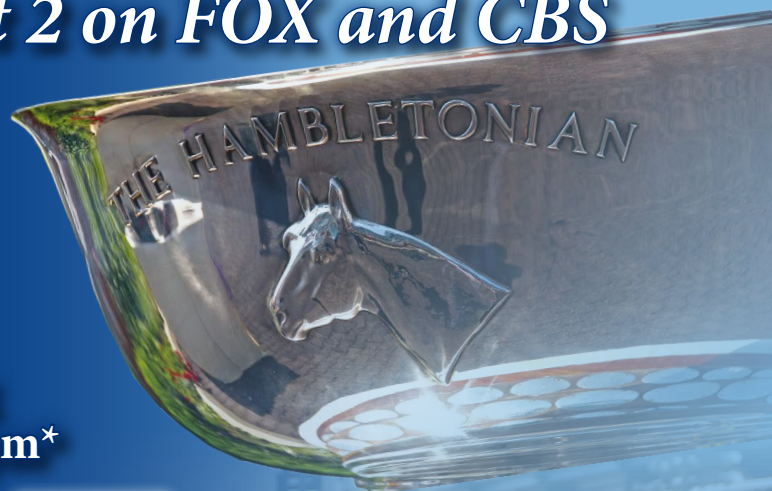
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Smedshammer, Butenschoen seek Hambletonian Oaks wins

By Jay Bergman

With division leader Yo Tillie ineligible, the names of 23 trotting fillies were revealed on Tuesday when the box opened for Saturday's Hambletonian Oaks at The Meadowlands. Three \$50,000 eliminations were necessary to pare down the field to 10 that will go behind the starting gate for the August 2nd \$500,000 final. A pair of veteran trainers with plenty of experience in major trotting races will hope to find their spots with improving fillies that have yet to fully distinguish themselves in this class.

Trainer Trond Smedshammer's Windsong Legacy captured the 2004 Hambletonian on his way to a Triple Crown season and he captured the Oaks in 2008 with Creamy Mimi. While he has Greenma in the first Hambletonian elimination in 2025, his best chance to end the long dryspell figures to be with the Walner-sired Walspea in the Oaks.

A winner just once in six starts as a freshman, Walspea has elevated her game this year with three wins in six starts. In her prep for the Oaks she finished a solid third behind Yo Tillie after starting from the second tier and racing parked out the entire mile.

"She was a bit temperamental as a 2-year-old," said Smedshammer of Walspea. "On the five-eighths track before the Del Miller she really finished out her mile strongly."

Though Smedshammer was somewhat satisfied with her final prep, he's concerned that his filly will keep her focus in the final quarter. "I'm hoping she can finish the same way on the mile track, but she hasn't shown that yet," said Smedshammer, cautiously optimistic that the best of Walspea is still to come and may arrive at within the next two starts.

Walspea landed post four in the second elimination (race 9) and that will put her inside one of the likely favorites in What A Bid Hanover (post 6).

"I would say that Ake's (Svanstedt) two fillies are likely second and third behind Yo Tillie right now," said Smedshammer, pointing first to last year's Breeders Crown champion Lady Landia (race 7) and What A Bid Hanover.

Walspea need only finish in the top three to advance to final or at worst be the highest purse earner of the three fourth-place finishers.

The eight-filly field has some of 2024's best freshman fillies looking to find their footing as well, with Luna Lovegood (post 1), a winner in five of her 10 starts as a freshman, making just her second start of the year and looking to bounce back in a good way following a break in stride in her Del Miller division.

Voguish (post 2) was also a five-time winner as a freshman that has gone winless in three starts this season for trainer Andrew Harris.

Deja Blu (post 3) brings a Hambletonian-like pedigree to the Oaks as a daughter of the 2018 Hambletonian champion Atlanta by the 2009 winner Muscle Hill. That parentage needs to be respected, yet the Nancy Takter-trainee has missed the board in her last three starts.

Trainer John Butenschoen sent out a Hambletonian Oaks elimination winner just a year ago when R Melina scored impressively, but he admits that none of the two fillies he's entered in Saturday's contest can be compared. That said, R Dutchess (post 1) faces just six rivals in the seventh race and first \$50,000 elimination and would seem to be more than capable of reaching the final.

"We've prepped her for this race from the start," said Butenschoen of his and ownership's strategy to attempt to peak at the right time and then plan accordingly after the Oaks. "Everything has gone as planned other than we would have liked some of those second-place finishes to be wins."

Butenschoen has kept R Dutchess at The Meadowlands for her first four starts, with a win and three seconds in advance of the Oaks. "She's done everything we've asked of her. Last year she had some big races, but they didn't carry over to the next start. She roared by Champagne Problems (Peaceful Way elimination) but came up flat in the final."

Tim Tetrick guides R Dutchess with the benefit of the draw as Lady Landia and trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt starts from post seven as the



JESSICA HALLETT/DRF HARNESS

Walspea hopes to build on a third-place finish in the Del Miller when she starts in Saturday's ninth race Hambletonian Oaks elimination.

logical favorite in this division. Lady Landia rallied from the back of the pack to be a solid second behind Yo Tillie in the Del Miller on July 12, her first start of the year following a pair of qualifiers. Svanstedt won the Oaks last year with Warrawee Michelle.

Lasting Dream was second to Maryland in last year's Mohawk Million but failed to qualify for the Breeders Crown when she last raced at The Meadowlands last fall. Trainer Luc Blais returns with the daughter of Cantab Hall from post two. Lasting Dream is also a daughter of Dream Together, the third place finisher in the 2017 Hambletonian Oaks behind Ariana G.

Butenschoen's second entry R Cee Cee (post 3) in the final Oaks elimination carded as race 11 has won just one time in 12 career starts but has the confidence of both trainer and driver heading into Saturday's contest.

"We've been getting her ready for this race," said Butenschoen. "She was much better in her last start."

That race was a seventh place finish on July 12 behind Yo Tillie in the Del Miller that inspired her ownership.

"I've had horses for the Paul's (M & L of Delaware) for 35 years," said Butenschoen. "One of the first horses I trained for them was a horse called Roz's Man. He was an Illinois bred that won an Illinois-sired race at DuQuoin. His division was two seconds faster than the other and I suggested we race him in an Illinois stake at Sportsman's Park in his next start. Ralph Paul wanted to race him in the American-National and told me to put him in."

Paul wanted to race against the best and wasn't afraid to put his money up to find out. Roz's Man would win that American National and Butenschoen would never again question ownership that wanted to race against the best no matter what the odds appeared.

R Cee Cee, a daughter of Googoo Gaagaa, is a full sister to the 2021 Hambletonian winner Captain Corey.

Conversano (post 1) enters this elimination with five wins in seven starts this year for trainer Juan Cano. A filly by Muscle Hill, Conversano finished third in her Del Miller division on July 12 despite starting from post 10.

R Charm gives M & L of Delaware and Armitage Farm a second filly in the field and this daughter of Propulsion is trending in the right direction for trainer Linda Toscano. R Charm drew post five for driver Scott Zeron.

Aperfect Annie was a top filly in Kentucky as a 2-year-old in 2024 and has returned to take on all comers in the Oaks for trainer Carter Pinske. Aperfect Annie landed post four.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)

The three Oaks eliminations are part of a power-packed card at The Meadowlands on Saturday that also features a trio of Hambletonian eliminations for 21 male trotters. Post time is 6:20 PM (EDT).

HAMBLETONIAN OAKS ELIMINATION #1 - RACE 7

1-R Dutchess	Tim Tetrick	John Butenschoen
2-Lasting Dream	Louis Roy	Luc Blais
3-Champagne Problems	Dexter Dunn	Nancy Takter
4-Delaney Hanover	Scott Zeron	Lucas Wallin
5-Kadena	Andy McCarthy	Marcus Melander
6-Sound Judgement	Kevin Oscarsson	Jim Oscarsson
7-Lady Landia	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt

HAMBLETONIAN OAKS ELIMINATION #2 - RACE 9

1-Luna Lovegood	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander
2-Voguish	Todd McCarthy	Andrew Harris
3-Deja Blu	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter
4-Walspea	Trond Smedshammer	Trond Smedshammer
5-Miss Belmar	Andy McCarthy	Noel Daley
6-What A Bid Hanover	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt
7-R Lady W	Scott Zeron	Linda Toscano
8-Grand Reserve	Tim Tetrick	Mark Steacy

HAMBLETONIAN OAKS ELIMINATION #3 - RACE 11

1-Conversano	Andy McCarthy	Juan Cano
2-Dearly Beloved	David Miller	Jenny Melander
3-R Cee Cee	James MacDonald	John Butenschoen
4-Aperfect Annie	Todd McCarthy	Carter Pinske
5-R Charm	Scott Zeron	Linda Toscano
6-EL Nightwish	Dexter Dunn	Lucas Wallin
7-Torri	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter
8-Goodgirl Bi It	Mattias Melander	Marcus Melander

HAMBLETONIAN ELIMINATION #1 - RACE 6

1-Fashion Green	Tim Tetrick	Jim Campbell
2-Emoticon Legacy	Louis Roy	Luc Blais
3-Meshuggah	Scott Zeron	Marcus Melander
4-Monserrate	David Miller	Andrew Harris
5-Greenma	Trond Smedshammer	Trond Smedshammer
6-Mr Mouton	Dexter Dunn	Ake Svanstedt
7-Blank	Andy McCarthy	Marcus Melander

HAMBLETONIAN ELIMINATION #2 - RACE 8

1-Grande Via	David Miller	Andrew Harris
2-Gimpanzee Dancer	Aaron Merriman	Chris Beaver
3-Gap Kronos S	Yannick Gingras	Ake Svanstedt
4-Super Chapter	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander
5-Variegated	Todd McCarthy	Marcus Melander
6-Onajetplane	Andy McCarthy	Noel Daley
7-Maximus Mearas S	Scott Zeron	Lucas Wallin

HAMBLETONIAN ELIMINATION #3 - RACE 10

1-Nordic Catcher S	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt
2-Hidalgo	Yannick Gingras	Ron Burke
3-Go Dog Go	Todd McCarthy	Carter Pinske
4-Landing On Time	James MacDonald	Rick Zeron
5-Go Ahead Makemyday	David Miller	Blake Macintosh
6-The Rogue Prince	Tim Tetrick	Lucas Wallin
7-Maryland	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander

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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner ✉ @harnesseveguy

Anatomy of a Hambletonian winner

As 21 horses go behind the gate in three divisions of the Hambletonian with dreams of winning the most prestigious prize in North American Standardbred racing, victory is up for grabs, even for those horses that perhaps seem like outsiders. You see, there is no single factor which guarantees success in the Hambletonian and winners seemingly come from everywhere.

While in many cases history can be your guide, when it comes to the last quarter-century of winners in the 3-year-old trotting classic, there really are no clear indicators of success when it comes to origin stories.

The most common themes revolve around sale location and just being sold in general. Every Hambletonian winner in the last 25 years except Royalty For Life was sold at public auction. So for those who feel like breeders sometimes keep the best yearlings for themselves, clearly that is not the case. The other near certainty is that the winner is going to come from the Lexington Selected Sale or Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg. Fourteen horses were sold at Lexington and 10 at Harrisburg.

After that, the similarities drop off dramatically, unless you want to focus on price. The average yearling sale price for the eventual Hambletonian winner two years later is \$88,167 over the last 25 years. If you pare that down to just the last five years, the cost of winning has gone up, but not substantially, to \$108,000. Those numbers give almost anyone (or at least any group of owners) hope that they can show up at Lexington or Harrisburg and walk away with a future champion.

There are of course anomalies in the pricing scale. Trixton (2014 Hambletonian winner) cost \$360,000 and Muscle Massive was a \$425,000 (2010) yearling. Both of those horses would go for well north of those figures in today's numbers. The lowest-costing Hambletonian winner since 2000 was Glidemaster (2006) at just \$10,000, though it is highly unlikely you'll be able to find such a cheap trotting champion in the current environment. In the last 10 years only one Hambletonian winner has sold for under \$60,000 and that was Marion Marauder at \$37,000, a far cry from \$10,000.

Looking at the entrants for 2025, six of the 21 did not sell at public auction and the pricing range of those that did is \$17,000 to \$600,000. The likelihood that we are going to see a high-priced yearling in the Hambletonian winner's circle at The Meadowlands on August 2 is high considering that the average sale price of the elimination participants is \$222,466.

There are some names that have been constants over the last 10 years. Someone with the last name Takter (Nancy two; Jimmy three) has trained three of the last 10 winners and five of the previous 25. Driver Scott Zeron has won three of the last nine Hambletonians for three different trainers, which is a feat in itself. Brian Sears is the only other driver to pull off that feat in the last 25 years. Ake Svanstedt, who has horses in all three divisions (he is driving just one), is the only person in this year's Hambletonian with a chance to join the three-win club as both a driver and trainer.

Who is the most prolific breeder since the turn of the century? Steve Stewart leads the way with three winners to his credit, followed by Crawford Farms, who has won two of the last five, and is joined by Hanover Shoe Farms and Winbak Farm with a pair of wins. Incidentally, Hanover Shoe Farms holds the all-time record for breeding Hambletonian winners at 11, and that is unlikely to ever be broken since the closest active breeder to them is Stewart at three. He can narrow the margin since he bred two – Monserrate and Grande Via – of this year's group of 21. However, Hanover has a trio in Meshuggah, Super Chapter and Maryland, two of which are considered top five contenders for the final.

Hambletonian winners in this century also come from various regions in North America. Just in the last 10 years we've seen stallions standing in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ontario, and breeders have come from many more locations including Kentucky, Indiana and other states.

The bottom line is that while some of the 21 Hambletonian elimination entrants have a better chance of being crowned the 100th champion in the long history of the race, as of elimination morning it's anyone's trophy. May the best 3-year-old trotter win!

HAMBLETONIAN ROAD BEGINS AS A YEARLING

By now everyone knows that filly Yo Tillie, perhaps the best 3-year-old trotter right now, can't participate in the Hambletonian Oaks because she isn't eligible. Unlike some races, the Hambletonian and Oaks do not allow for late supplements to the race. Maybe enough time has passed that the rule needs to change.

One of the connections of Yo Tillie mentioned to me that they would've supplemented to the Hambletonian if it was permitted. That's right, you read correctly, the Hambletonian, not the Oaks. And Yo Tillie isn't the first horse ineligible to the Hambletonian over the last quarter century that was unable to complete.

Currently the journey begins with a yearling payment of \$25 on May 15. If that deadline is missed an option exists to supplement on August 15 at the cost of just \$125. After that all bets are off. If the breeder of a horse elects to bypass the only two opportunities to make a horse eligible to the Hambletonian then the eventual buyer – at the yearling sale or privately later – is out of luck.

At the very least couldn't there be a supplemental payment on March 15 as a 2-year-old so a new buyer could have an opportunity to act or the current owner could make a more informed decision? Currently the March 15 payment to sustain as a 2-year-old is \$500, so how about a \$1,500 payment to supplement at that point? Some might balk at that number, but the Hambletonian is the most prestigious race in the sport and making entry easy should be a viable option.

Personally I would take things a step further and allow the connections of ineligible horses the opportunity to pay a hefty sum to enter the Hambletonian. To me the right number is \$200,000, which means if you don't finish second in the final you lose money. The price has to be extraordinary, high enough that someone with extra cash to burn isn't going to do it just for the sake of saying they got to see their horse in the race.

There is plenty of precedent for supplements as many top stakes offer the option. You can buy into the \$300,000 Yonkers Trot – another Triple Crown race – for \$25,000. The price to enter the Meadowlands Pace is 20% of all nomination/sustaining fees plus starting fees. In 2025 that cost would be \$64,220 to race for about \$700,000.

So paying \$200,000 to race for a \$1,000,000 purse is well above market price for the Hambletonian. But hey, if someone really wants to roll the dice, what's the harm in offering the option?



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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [X AtTheTrack7](#)

MY HAMBLETONIAN TOP 5

This week, the entries for the 100th edition of The Hambletonian were taken, with 21 3-year-olds set to compete in the American Trotting Classic. Given the historic nature of this year's renewal, I wanted to write about my five favorite Hambletonians. Granted, I was born in 1983, so this list won't go back to the years of the event at Duquoin or Goshen, but it's still a list I feel will resonate with many readers.

#1 1989, PARK AVENUE JOE/PROBE

It's the greatest Hambletonian of all-time and it isn't close. Park Avenue Joe and Probe faced one another three times on that day and in the third and final race, they could not be separated at the finish line. That scenario is nearly impossible to fathom in 2025. I attended nearly every Hambletonian at The Meadowlands from 1987 onward and while I was just 6 years old at this event, I remember my dad saying "I wonder if this means they have to race again?"

I had the good fortune to speak with Tom Durkin years ago and despite all the historic Thoroughbred races he had the good fortune to call he referred to the 1989 Hambletonian as the greatest race he ever announced. This Hambletonian tops the list because it was an historic moment that we will never see again.

#2 2009, MUSCLE HILL

The sheer brilliance of Muscle Hill and his complete dominance of the 3-year-old division in 2009 is certainly enough to put this Hambletonian



LISA PHOTO

Muscle Hill winning the 2009 Hambletonian at The Meadowlands.

high on my list. It is entirely possible that Muscle Hill is the greatest trotter I ever saw. But this race ranks high for me for another reason. It was the only Hambletonian that Sam McKee ever called. Ken Warkentin, who always called The Hambletonian, was working the NBC broadcast of the event that day and Sam was the track announcer. Even better, I had to "man the announcers booth" after the Hambletonian was contested, which means I was the first person to see Sam after the race. He opened the door to the booth and just looked at me and said "that was awesome!" I then got to actually be the voice who said "returning to the winner's circle is Muscle Hill..." Muscle Hill put on one of the greatest displays of speed and power in Hambletonian history that day. The entire day is a great memory for me and one I will always cherish.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 12](#)

WINBAK FARM

Congratulates

A CLEAN DEAL

**WINNER OF \$140,000 ONTARIO SIRES STAKES
GOLD LEG IN 1:51.3 AT WOODBINE-MOHAWK!**

**Cattleshaw-Ideal Talker-Western Ideal
p, 2, 1:50.4s -'25 (\$148,000) CAD**

Trainer: Robert Fellows / **Driver:** Doug McNair

Owners: N. Yolanda Fellows, Blair C. Corbeil, Windermere Stable LLC. & James A. Ross

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AUDREY'S CHOICE, a Courtly Choice half-sister, sells at Harrisburg!



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#3 1996, CONTINENTALVICTORY

I always had a soft spot for fillies, whether it was Thoroughbred or Standardbred racing. On the Thoroughbred side I was enamored with a filly named Serena's Song, who won the Haskell Stakes at Monmouth in 1995 against the boys. The following year, Continentalvictory won the Yonkers Trot and another filly named Act Of Grace beat the boys in the Budweiser Beacon Course (now Stanley Dancer Memorial), and both loomed as major players in the Hambletonian against the boys.

Continentalvictory dominated the first elimination, with Act Of Grace a well-beaten second, establishing a world record for a filly trotter in the process. She then encountered the 2-year-old trotting champion Lindy Lane and prevailed in an epic stretch battle to win the Hambletonian. Often forgotten that year was that the magnificent Moni Maker won the Hambletonian Oaks. Talk about the year of the filly!

#4 1987, MACK LOBELL

This was the first Hambletonian I saw in person. Mack Lobell won his first heat in 1:54. Napoletano was also impressive winning his heat in 1:56 2/5. In between the first and second heat, Chuck Sylvester put a set of pads on Mack Lobell, citing that John Campbell said his feet were stinging him a bit in the first heat as the track was a bit hard that day. Mack Lobell's sire, Mystic Park, made a break in the first heat of the Hambletonian, a rare blemish on a remarkable 3-year-old season. Mystic Park had to nearly be euthanized due to horrible foot issues stemming from Potomac Horse Fever, but he fought back and became the sire of one of the greatest trotters of all time – Mack Lobell, who would go on to win the Hambletonian in 1:53 3/5, the fastest Hambletonian of all-time to that point.

After the Hambletonian, John Campbell famously said, "He is even better than I thought he was. His feet were stinging him all day today and he went off-stride right after the wire because of it." It was a heroic performance by a brilliant champion and Tom Durkin's call of the race is one of the most memorable in harness racing history. "It's Mack Lobell and he's pouring it on!"

#5 2005, VIVID PHOTO

LISA PHOTO

Vivid Photo took the Hambletonian with Roger Hammer in the bike.

Vivid Photo may not be remembered in the same breath as Mack Lobell or Muscle Hill, but he is one of the coolest stories to ever come out of the Hambletonian. Prior to the Hambletonian, Vivid Photo had never raced at The Meadowlands and the largest purse he ever raced for was just over \$22,000 on the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes circuit. He had won events that year on the Pennsylvania fair circuit for as little as \$3,100. Vivid Photo won his elimination in wire to wire fashion and then famously stalked favored Classic Photo and powered past that rival in the Hambletonian Final, leading to one of the greatest Hambletonian calls in the race's history as Ken Warkentin exclaimed, "From the Pennsylvania fairs to the Hambletonian winner's circle!" The indelible image of Roger Hammer waving his whip in the air nearing the finish line was a great Hambletonian moment.

Honorable Mention

Malabar Man was a great story, winning the Hambletonian for Mal Burroughs, an amateur driver who owned the trotter and steered him to victory up the pylons. The image of Burroughs walking back to the front side of the track overcome with emotion is one synonymous with Hambletonian lure.

Market Share giving trainer Linda Toscano a Hambletonian victory was another great edition. Tim Tetrick drove Market Share after heavily favored Check Me Out dropped a knee boot and made a break in the Oaks. Watching Linda Toscano run up the stretch to meet Tetrick and Market Share is another one of those moments that will never be forgotten.

I look forward to seeing what the 100th edition of the American Trotting Classic has in store for us. Hopefully it provides a moment that someone will be writing about decades from now.

30 & under handicapping contest on Saturday

The Meadowlands is hosting its annual 30 & Under Handicapping contest on Saturday, July 26. The free handicapping contest is exclusively for fans between 18 and 30 and offers a \$5,000 total prize pool, with prize payouts to the top five finishers.

Contestants may register here and must check in the Clubhouse Lobby until 6:30 p.m. on the night of the contest. There is no entry fee.

The contest format requires players to make a mythical \$2 "across the board" wager on one horse in races 2 – 11 at the Meadowlands. The winner is the contestant who amasses the highest mythical bankroll from their selections.

The prize payouts to the top five finishers are as follows:

1st – \$2,000 - 2nd – \$1,500 - 3rd – \$1,000 - 4th – \$500

All contest participants will receive a free program and a \$20 betting voucher.

Saturday also features the track's annual Seafood Festival and eliminations for the Hambletonian 100 and \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks.

-edited release (Meadowlands)



Winbak Farm

Congratulates

WATER SLIDE

**WINNER OF \$50,000
OHIO SIRE STAKES LEG
IN 1:58.1 AT NORTHFIELD!**

2, 1:58.1h -'25 (\$38,580)

Ready For Moni-Above The Clouds-Explosive Matter

Trainer: Christopher Beaver

Driver: Aaron Merriman

Owners: Christopher Beaver, Michael Carter,
Barry Carter & Vip Internet Stable LLC

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Monserate provides Harris his best chance of reaching Hambo

By Ken Weingartner

Monserate will bring a streak of eight consecutive top-three finishes to his Hambletonian Stakes elimination Saturday at The Meadowlands, where another on-the-board result will guarantee the colt a spot in the million-dollar final of America's Trotting Classic.

The 100th edition of the Hambletonian attracted 21 3-year-old male trotters, requiring three eliminations. The top-three finishers from each elim plus the fourth-place finisher with the highest lifetime earnings will make up the 10 horses in the Grade 1 Hambletonian final on Aug. 2 at The Meadowlands.

Monserate will compete in the first of the three \$83,550 elims, leaving from post four with David Miller driving for trainer Andrew Harris. He is 4-1 on the morning line, the third choice behind Emoticon Legacy at 2-1 and Fashion Green at 7-2.

In his most recent start on July 12, Monserate finished second behind Super Chapter in a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial at The Big M. Super Chapter is the No. 1-ranked horse in Meadowlands announcer/analyst Ken Warkentin's Road to the Hambletonian and the 9-5 morning-line favorite in Saturday's second Hambletonian elim.

Super Chapter won the Dancer division by 1-1/4 lengths in 1:50 3/5. Monserate closed with a 26 4/5 last quarter to reach the finish one-fifth of a second later.

"I think (Monserate) is coming into the race real good," Harris said. "He's sharp, had a great couple of weeks. He got stretched out in that mile against Super Chapter last time, so I think he's coming in about as good as he can come into a race."

In his past eight starts, dating back to October, Monserate has posted four wins, three seconds and a third. Among his triumphs was a 1:52 1/5 score in the Valley Victory Stakes, by a half-length over Super Chapter, on Nov. 30 at The Meadowlands. His time equaled the stakes record set in 2023 by Karl, who returned in 2024 to capture the Hambletonian.

Monserate's only finish worse than second during his streak came on June 13 at Vernon Downs in a division of the Empire Breeders Classic.

"He wasn't himself at Vernon," Harris said. "He raced OK, but he raced OK because he's got talent. But he didn't race to his potential because I think the ship took too much out of him."

Monserate, son of Chapter Seven-Guinevere Hall who is fifth in the Road to the Hambletonian rankings, rebounded with a win over older rivals in a conditioned race on June 27 at The Big M. He came home in 26 3/5.

"That's probably his best asset," Harris said about the colt's finishing kick. "Now, mind you, I don't think you can sit far back in these types of

races, but if they do any sort of racing, he can close well. He's got a big engine on the end, but I do think you have to sit closer. I don't think he's going to get into the final hoping to just pass a bunch of these horses finishing. I think you have to work yourself into the race and make them pass you."

For his career, Monserate has hit the board in 11 of 17 races, winning five and earning \$395,833 for owners Harris, Bill Pollock and Bruce Areman.

Monserate is not Harris' only Hambletonian hopeful. He will send out Grande Via in the second elimination, which features Super Chapter, who is 4-for-4 this year and counts the first jewel of the Trotting Triple Crown, the MGM Yonkers Trot, among his victories. The Hambletonian is the second leg of the Crown.

Grande Via will leave from post one with Miller in the sulky and is 15-1 on the morning line.

In his two most recent races, Grande Via won a leg of the Kentucky Sire Stakes at Oak Grove on July 8 and finished fourth a week later in the \$100,000 final. The son of Muscle Hill-Megadolce is owned by the same group as Monserate. He has one victory and a second in seven starts this season.

"I do like the horse quite a bit," Harris said. "He's not the easiest horse to drive, but he's fast and he's been real good his last two starts. When he's right, I think he can go with them. He's just got to be right for when we do go with them. He's one that is an absolute fringe player, but we want to take a shot."

The favorite in the third Hambletonian elimination is Go Dog Go at 5-2, followed by Dan Patch and O'Brien awards winner Maryland at 3-1. Go Dog Go, unbeaten in three races this year, will leave from post three with Todd McCarthy driving for trainer Carter Pinsky. Maryland, with three second-place finishes in three races this season, will start from post seven with Dexter Dunn in the sulky for Marcus Melander.

Elim winners will draw for post positions one through six followed by the remaining finalists receiving their posts in an open draw. The draws for the Hambletonian and companion filly event, the \$500,000 Grade 1 Hambletonian Oaks, will be conducted July 29 during a luncheon from 2-5 p.m. at The Chateau Grande in East Brunswick, N.J.

Met's Rival passes at 24

Winbak Farm is saddened to announce the passing of 24-year-old, Met's Rival. She passed away on July 3rd.

"Met's Rival was a very important member of the Winbak Farm trotting broodmare band," said Jack Burke, Winbak Farm General Manager. "Her bloodlines are globally sought after."

Met's Rival is the daughter of 2009 Trotting Broodmare of the Year, Yankee Blondie, 3, 1:59 4/5f (\$8,434), the dam of Harness Racing Hall of Fame Inductee, Muscle Hill, 2, 1:53 3/5; 3, 1:50 1/5 (\$3,266,835).

Met's Rival is the dam of Met's Inn, 3, 1:57 4/5s; 1:56 4/5s (\$184,034), and Commando Queen, 3, Q1:59 1/5 (\$124,941). Met's Inn is the dam of Met's Hall, 2, 1:52 4/5; 3, 1:51 2/5 (\$1,295,306), 2025 New York Sire Stakes Winner, Inn Of The Stars, 2, 1:57f -'24 (\$154,525), and Inn At Rodanthe, 3, 1:56 2/5s; 1:55 1/5f -'25 (\$161,642). Met's Life is the second dam of 2024 Canadian Trotting Classic Winner, Amazing Catch, 2, 1:55 1/5; 3, 1:51 4/5s -'24 (\$887,103). Commando Queen is the dam of Order By Commander, 3, 1:58.2s; 1:55 1/5s (\$164,215), and Kaleun, 2, 1:58 3/5f; 3, 1:56 4/5f -'23 (\$108,670). Commando Queen is the dam of recent Hall Of Fame Inductee, Steamy Windows, the dam of Gimpanzee, 2, 1:54.3s; 3, 1:51 1/5f; 1:50 (\$2,701,051), and Iteration, 2, 1:53 3/5; 3, 1:53 1/5s (\$780,818).

"We have three daughters and two granddaughters of Met's Rival in the broodmare band and her grandson, Met's Hall, stands at Winbak Farm of New York," said Joe Thomson, Winbak Farm Owner. "Met's Rival's legacy will continue at Winbak Farm for years to come."

-edited release (Winbak Farm)

Winbak Farm Congratulates

FAST CHOICE

**WINNER OF \$58,000
NEW YORK SIRE STAKES LEG
IN 1:53 AT MONTICELLO!**

**p, 2, 1:50.3s -'24 (\$296,390)
Courtly Choice-Fashion Guru-Rustler Hanover**

Trainer: Jared Bako

Driver: Jason Bartlett

Owner: Ashley Bako

Bred, Raised & Sold by Winbak Farm!

[Click here for Winbak Farm's 2025 Yearling Lineup!](#)

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners

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1 PAPIS ROCKET (L)

21:50.4 (5/8) \$7,189

20-1 M. Wilder 576-77-84-89 (134)

b c 3, by Papi Rob Hanover, Real Touch by Real Desire

Burke Rco Stb & Weaver Brusconi, PA; Knox Services, OH; Slaughter Rco Stb, KY

R. Burke 531-132-105-75 (249)

Last 4 Sts - \$18,250

1:50.4 Mw 5/8

25 Mw	2	0	1	0	\$12,280	25 Tot	8	0	4	1	\$57,508
24	3	7	4	1	\$17,747	24 Tot	15	6	4	2	\$287,903
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	23	6	8	3	\$345,411

2 RICK WINK (L)

31:49 (5/8) Q \$22,100 OH-SEL \$27,000

6-1 Ch. Page 132-345 (154)

b c 3, by Bit Of A Legend N, McGrin N McBare It by McArdle

Burke Rco Stb & Weaver Brusconi, PA; R A S Rco & Knox Services, OH; J & T Silva - Purnell & Libby, FL

R. Burke 531-132-105-75 (249)

Last 4 Sts - \$78,000

1:49 ScD 5/8

25 Mw	1	0	1	0	\$3,000	25 Tot	5	4	0	1	\$110,500
24 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	24	4	9	8	0	\$275,750
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	14	12	0	2	\$386,250

3 TWISTED DESTINY

31:48 (5/8) Q \$26,100

2-1 D. Dunn 16-4-3-1 (250)

b c 3, by Bettor's Wish, Tug River Princess by Badlands Hanover

Let It Ride Stables, FL; Albright Rco, NJ; Enviro Stbs, FL; Jesmeral Stb, NY

C. Ryder 4-2-0-0 (500)

Last 4 Sts - \$145,161

1:48 Mw 5/8

25	2	2	0	0	\$33,060	25 Tot	7	6	1	0	\$182,701
24 Mw	2	1	0	0	\$12,401	24 Tot	7	4	1	0	\$67,133
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	14	10	2	0	\$249,914

4 SWINGTOWN

31:43.9 (5/8) Q \$12,130 OH-SEL \$160,000

4-1 R. Wrenn Jr. 838-229-173-111 (273)

b c 3, by Downbytheseaside, Swinging Beauty by Art Major

Burke Rco Stb & Weaver Brusconi, PA; Hatfield Stbs, OH; Knox Services, OH; Vm, OH; R A S Rco, PA; Pwl, OH

R. Burke 531-132-105-75 (249)

Last 4 Sts - \$49,380

1:49.3 Mw 5/8

25	2	1	0	0	\$12,500	25 Tot	6	3	0	0	\$72,780
24 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	24 Tot	11	6	2	1	\$474,454
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	14	9	2	2	\$547,234

5 MAKES SENSE

31:50.3 (5/8) Q \$6,033

20-1 A. McCarthy 61-6-1 (167)

b g 3, by Papi Rob Hanover, Freakonomics by Western Terror

Let It Ride Stables, FL; Boca Raton, FL; Celtic Racing, E Windsor, NJ; Carl T Howard, PA; Powell, OH

R. Cleary 3-0-0-0 (1,000)

Last 4 Sts - \$11,200

1:50.3 Pcd 5/8

25 Mw	1	0	0	0	\$1,250	25 Tot	6	3	0	0	\$36,200
24 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	24 Tot	7	2	2	2	\$34,932
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	13	5	2	2	\$71,132

6 RAILROAD STATION (L)

31:50.4 (5/8) Q \$6,832 LEX-SEL \$110,000

10-1 T. Tetrick 29-3-4 (103)

b c 3, by Sweet Lou, Rodeo Rosie by Well Said

Burke Rco Stb & Weaver Brusconi, PA; Hatfield Stbs, OH; Knox Services, OH; J & T Silva - Purnell & Libby, FL

R. Burke 531-132-105-75 (249)

Last 4 Sts - \$9,115

1:50.4 Pcd 5/8

25 Mw	2	0	1	1	\$13,280	25 Tot	8	1	4	2	\$54,655
24 Mw	4	2	1	2	\$80,268	24 Tot	14	3	5	2	\$171,489
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	22	4	9	4	\$265,144

7 WEDLOCK BLUE CHIP

31:50.3 (5/8) \$6,365 SHS-HBG \$10,000

12-1 Dv. Miller 11-2-12 (182)

b c 3, by Bettor's Wish, Heavenly Bride by Rock N Roll Heaven

Richard Cortese, Schenectady, NY; Donald G Hawk, Kannapolis, NC

R. Maller 3-0-1-0 (1,000)

Last 4 Sts - \$7,000

1:50.3 Pcd 5/8

25 Mw	2	0	0	0	\$2,000	25 Tot	8	2	0	2	\$50,922
24 Mw	4	2	1	1	\$47,639	24 Tot	11	5	3	0	\$112,304
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	19	7	3	2	\$163,226

8 PRINCE HAL HANOVER

31:49.3 (5/8) *** \$29,892 LEX-SEL \$130,000

3-1 T. McCarthy 9-0-1-0 (1,000)

b c 3, by Captain Treacherous, Percy Bluechip by Shadow Play

Prince Hal Hanover Stable, Cambridge, ON, CA

la. Moore 3-0-1-0 (1,000)

Last 4 Sts - \$174,690

1:49.3 Pcd 5/8

25 Mw	2	0	1	1	\$11,185	25 Tot	8	2	1	1	\$233,133
24 Mw	3	0	1	1	\$23,972	24 Tot	10	2	4	1	\$287,321
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	18	4	8	2	\$526,454

9 SIPPINONSEAROC

21:48.2 (1) \$7,017 LEX-SEL \$77,000

12-1 Y. Gingras 11-1-21 (891)

b c 3, by Downbytheseaside, Queen Ann M by Big Bad John

Burke Rco Stb & Weaver Brusconi, PA; R A S Rco & Knox Services, OH

R. Burke 531-132-105-75 (249)

Last 4 Sts - \$22,500

1:49.4 ScD 5/8

25 Mw	1	0	1	0	\$6,250	25 Tot	6	1	2	1	\$42,100
24	2	1	0	0	\$5,000	24 Tot	11	6	2	1	\$568,000
23 Mw	0	0	0	0	-	Life	17	7	4	2	\$610,100

MORNING LINE: 3-8-4-2-6 DETENTION BARN - 4:30PM FRIDAY NO. 2 - FIRST TIME LASIX NO S 1,2,4,6 & 9; 3 & 5- UNCOUPLED BY PERMISSION OF PHRC

ADIOS DAY \$10K GTD PICK 6

By Derick Giwner

The Meadows will host its most important card of the year on Saturday with over \$800,000 in purses boosted by the \$385,000 Delvin Miller Adios for 3-year-old pacers. The day features multiple guaranteed wagers with two backed by the USTA's Strategic Wagering Program - \$10K Pick 5 (Race 6) and \$10K Pick 6 (Race 11). Below we'll take a look at the latter.

RACE 11: NW \$3,200 IN LAST 4

Tricky race to start the sequence as there isn't much form to grab onto. (5) PATRIKTHEPIRANHA A showed good speed in a rather fast half, was shuffled and steady once clear. The trip should be a bit cleaner this time. (2) DELESTON moves inside and picks up a new driver. He had pace at both ends of the mile last time. (9) CHIEF MATE has the early speed to overcome the outside draw and has typically performed well in this class.

RACE 12: MICKEY BURKE ADIOO VOLO

(7) GOOD AS YOU somehow lost last time but that mile was irrelevant in the overall scheme of things against overnight foes. She's back in stakes action now and figures to be primed for a top effort. (4) SHES A STREAKER has proven capable of some big miles and she seems to be on an every other start pattern of winning with today being an "on" date.

RACE 13: PA SIRE STAKES

(4) APOCALYPSEBLUECHIP and (5) CALLMEBIGPAPI come out of a stacked Kindergarten race where the pace was slow and it became a pure stretch sprint. The former was shuffled and the latter dropped five seconds off his qualifier. Don't see these two short. (6) AIN'TPLAYINNICE went a monster debut mile. (3) LOUMELO BALL ran into traffic when he hit his best gear and could be a sneaky play. (7) Frantic Hanover won't be on my ticket due to lack of value but he has talent.

RACE 14: MICKEY BURKE ADIOO VOLO

(8) ASPHALT has only tasted defeat once this year and that came at the hands of the talented Papi Grad. As long as the trip isn't brutal, she'll prove tough to beat. (2) ALWAYS DAWN is perfect in two Pennsylvania starts. This is a tougher test but one she may be able to handle. (4) Always Ana Hanover has turned things around versus overnight foes with Lasix added; new test today. Another worth consideration if your budget allows.

RACE 15: ADIOS PACE FINAL

Some will view this as an easy race and lean on the faster elimination winner (3) TWISTED DESTINY, but it is more complicated than that due to the presence of a lot of outside speed. I can see things working in the favor of the supplemented (2) RICK WINK, who took a nice step forward last time when first-over as this track isn't as fast as Scioto. Lasix is added and we'll see what he's made of today. (6) Railroad Station was absolutely full of pace at the end of his elimination. He was always thought to have talent and hasn't put it together this year. I've seen worse huge longshots if your budget allows. (8) Prince Hal Hanover clearly has a shot but I predict he'll need a huge two-move effort to win and the price won't be great.

RACE 16: NW \$1,775 IN LAST 4


(3) PRINCIPLE INTEREST should be tight after chasing in a 1:48 2/5 mile at Pocono last time. I have faith that the return to the Palone barn will have him on track; potential single. (5) DRAGON CITY has nine wins the last two years while the rest of the field has 13 combined; big threat on best.

.50 PICK 6 TICKET: 2,5,9 / 4,7 / 3,4,5,6 / 2,8 / 2,3 / 3,5 = \$96




ADIOS PACE HEADQUARTERS
The Meadows | Saturday, July 26
Post Time: 11:30 AM (ET)
Live Video & Analysis Free Past Performances Bet \$100, Get \$15

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THURSDAY, JULY 24

RACE 7

(10) THE GREEN GAZOO was the easiest of winners on debut and takes the next step into Gold company. I think he can repeat despite the wide draw.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, JULY 25

RACE 4

(8) WOW LOVE enters a new barn and gets a big driver upgrade to Tetrack tonight. Mare has been trotting in the 1:56 and 1:57 range at Vernon and should easily be able to get a 1:55 mile here.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 9

(2) GOLDEN RAIN S is five for six at Yonkers this year and the Engblom mare seems hard to go against, especially with Bartlett now back in the bike.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, JULY 26

RACE 11

(1) CONVERSANO was stuck in post 10 last time and while the trip wasn't bad, she just couldn't find enough late versus two fillies that would likely be the favorite in here. Inside post here is a huge plus.

-Giwner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

The Meadows Analysis

[Saturday](#)

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

WALLY HENNESSEY REACHES 12,000 CAREER DRIVING VICTORIES

With multiple Hall of Fame honors to his name and having recently surpassed \$80 million earnings in his illustrious career, Wally Hennessey's driving resume is nothing short of spectacular. Just when you thought there was no room left on that resume, Hennessey passed 12,000 career driving wins on Tuesday (July 22) at Saratoga Casino Hotel.

[READ MORE](#)

CHANTILLY RETURNS WITH AUTHORITY IN OSS GOLD SERIES

After being scratched sick in her last two scheduled starts, Chantilly is back in rare form after winning the C\$140,000 Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold Series event for 3-year-old pacing fillies on Tuesday (July 22) at Woodbine Mohawk Park in 1:50 2/5.

[READ MORE](#)

POSITIVE CHANGES AS 2025 BATAVIA MEET OPENS SATURDAY

As the 2025 summer/fall harness racing season at Batavia Downs gets underway on Saturday (July 26), a new era at the oldest lighted harness track in North America will begin as the facility itself celebrates 85 years since holding its first pari-mutuel harness race back on September 20, 1940.

[READ MORE](#)

EIGHT GO STRAIGHT TO FINAL IN GRAND RIVER'S BATTLE OF WATERLOO

The entry box for the 2025 Battle of Waterloo at Grand River Raceway closed Wednesday with eight entrants, sending the race directly to the final.

[READ MORE](#)

READY FOR MONI GELDINGS CLEAN UP IN OHIO SIRE STAKES

It was a banner night for first-crop sire Ready For Moni as his progeny won all three \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes divisions for 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters on Wednesday at MGM Northfield Park.

[READ MORE](#)

\$160K IN GUARANTEED POOLS ON THE WAGERING MENU FOR ADIOS DAY

Hollywood Casino at The Meadows has announced that \$160,000 in combined guaranteed pools will be offered this coming Saturday (July 26).

[READ MORE](#)

FAST CHOICE, DANDY IDEAL STRIKE IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES

Fast Choice and Dandy Ideal gave Jason Bartlett wins in the featured New York Sire Stakes races for 3-year-old male pacers on Monday afternoon at Monticello Raceway.

[READ MORE](#)

SUCCESSFUL 2025 COMES TO AN END AT BUFFALO RACEWAY

"It was another successful season," stated Buffalo Raceway General Manager Jon Cramer as he looked back on the 2025 live racing season that was completed on Sunday afternoon (July 20).

[READ MORE](#)

TOP PACER TO LEAD MEADOWS TROTting STAKE SATURDAY

When the field steps onto the track for Saturday afternoon's Dwane Parker Arden Downs three-year-old filly trot, the horse leading the parade might just be pacing.

Wild Wild Western, a standout pacer for several years, will lead the field onto the track. It will mark his final appearance on The Meadows' 5/8 mile oval. The now 9-year-old stallion last raced in November of 2024 and the decision was recently made to retire him from racing. The son of Western Ideal currently stands at stud at Lindwood Farm in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, where he has been breeding mares part-time for the past three years while continuing to race. His first crop is now 2 years old, and

one of that select group of first-year horses is Western Raptor, who has already taken a mark of 1:52 4/5.

Wild Wild Western retires as one of the top Open pacers in recent Meadows history, winning 45 of 132 races with a mark of 1:48 1/5 and earnings of more than \$723,000. Mike Wilder drove Wild Wild Western to 31 of his victories.

The race he will lead is named for the late Dwane Parker, father of a harness racing family that includes son Norm Parker and daughters Kathy Parker and Sally Parker Bolon. Norm Parker was Wild Wild Western's trainer throughout his career.

"He's the nicest all-around horse I've ever trained," said Norm Parker. "From manners to racing to everything. Just a consistent, honest horse. In fact, the best compliment I've ever gotten about him came from Ron Burke. When Wild Wild Western was at the top of his game in the Open pace, Ronnie said that he brought more than a dozen horses in here to try to knock him off the top, and he couldn't do it. He said Western was like the Foiled Again of The Meadows."

Among the 6 horses drawn into the \$31,233 stake, two have direct ties to the race's namesake. Norm Parker is the trainer of Backswing, leaving from post position 2, while his sister, Sally, owns #4 Dianne Hanover, trained by her husband Rodney. Kyle Bolon, Dwane Parker's grandson, will drive Dianne Hanover.

The Dwane Parker Trot will be Race #7 on The Meadows' Adios Day 16-race card on Saturday afternoon, with first race post set for 11:30am.

-edited release (The Meadows)

USTA RELEASES SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON CHERRY'S VIOLATIONS

On July 15, 2025, the United States Trotting Association entered a ruling finding Eric Cherry in violation of several USTA rules and imposing fines for those violations.

Mr. Cherry has since made public statements concerning the factual bases for the USTA's ruling and the process by which it was reached. In response to Mr. Cherry's public comments, the USTA is releasing the **Report** prepared by the Special Investigative Committee that investigated Mr. Cherry, which was considered by the USTA Executive Committee in reaching a final determination on violations and sanctions in Mr. Cherry's case.

-release (USTA) Communications)

SHENANDOAH TO HAVE \$5,000 "OWN A HORSE FOR A DAY" PROMOTION

This past spring, Shenandoah Downs gave eight lucky female racing fans a chance to "Own a Horse for a Day" and compete for a \$5,000 purse on Mother's Day. With the fall racing season just around the corner, the track announced that eight male sports-oriented fans will get that same lucrative opportunity on Saturday September 27.

Billed as a "Sports Fans Own a Horse for a Day" promotion, all male fans that attend the harness card sporting their favorite team or athlete's jersey will receive an entry into the Virginia Harness Horse Association's (VHHA) popular promotion that afternoon --- where \$5,000 is divided among eight contestants based on where their horse finishes.

Eight names will be drawn at random after the third race. Those jersey-sporting winners will then select a horse in the ninth race that day via random draw --- that they will "own" for the rest of the afternoon. The eight winners will enjoy a complimentary lunch for themselves and a guest, then will meet their horse, driver and trainer in the paddock after the sixth race. The contestants will watch the race together on Shenandoah's VIP trackside viewing deck and cheer their horses on.

Prize money is doled out in the same manner normal purse winnings are --- on a 50-25-12-8-5 percent basis. The winner will receive \$2,500 while the runner-up gets \$1,250 followed by \$600, \$400 and \$250 for the third thru fifth place finishers. The sixth, seventh and eighth place contestants will go home with \$100 as a thank you gift for participating --- and a memory.

The Shenandoah Downs fall pari-mutuel season, its tenth in Woodstock, will run from September 13 - October 26 with racing scheduled every Saturday and Sunday at 1:05 PM. Horsemen racing applications are available at shenandoahdowns.com and are due back to the racing office by August 13. A four-day non-wagering meet will precede the fall campaign and take place during the Shenandoah County Fair on August 27-30 with a daily 12 Noon post time.

-edited release (Shenandoah Downs)