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### 100TH HAMBLETONIAN FIELD

POST-HORSE	DRIVER	M/L
1-Meshuggah	B. Goop	20-1
2-Super Chapter	Y. Gingras	5-2
3-Emoticon Legacy	L. Roy	4-1
4-Maryland	D. Dunn	3-1
5-Maximus Mearas S...	S. Zeron	6-1
6-Nordic Catcher S.....	A. Svanstedt	9-2
7-Gap Kronos S.....	T. Tetric	20-1
8-Blank	A. McCarthy	25-1
9-Greenma	T. Smedshammer	25-1
10-Go Dog Go	T. McCarthy	10-1

\*Hambletonian PPs on page 21

# Hambletonian path could go through Melander/Wallin family trees



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

In March we profiled brothers-in-law Marcus Melander and Lucas Wallin projecting that the pair might have the two leading candidates for Saturday's 100th edition of The Hambletonian. At the time, the one-two finishers in last year's Breeders Crown final – Maryland and Maximus Mearas S – were just beginning the training for their sophomore seasons and appeared destined to meet in the sport's signature race in the summer.

Projections and assurances don't always align and there were many hurdles to get over, specifically last week's Hambletonian eliminations and Tuesday's (July 29) post-position draw. The positives for both coming out of those hurdles came to fruition when three of Melander's four finalists landed inside spots in the 10-horse field and Wallin's Maximus Mearas S drew post five.

What stands out from March's forecast is that both top horses we looked at before the season got underway arrive in the Hambletonian winless to this point in their sophomore seasons. Maryland, last year's Dan Patch Award winner, was expected to be winning races as he prepared for the Hambletonian but that hasn't been the case. A rare break in stride in a qualifier perhaps made his connections a bit more cautious as he was conservatively driven along the journey to Saturday's contest.

"I know he hasn't won a race yet, but he's been getting stronger every race," said Melander of the Chapter Seven-sired colt. "Even though he lost last week he kept fighting to the finish and trotted home in 26."

Melander stressed the fighting part in Maryland's demeanor and though there have been

close losses, the trainer is hoping for better luck in Saturday's Hambletonian, a race that by no stretch will be simple to navigate.

"There's a lot of solid horses in the field," said Melander. "Maximus [Mearas S] is solid. Emoticon Legacy, though nobody thought he was that great last week, has Luc Blais as his trainer, and he always has them ready. Ake's colt [elimination winner Nordic Catcher S] went a big mile."



JESSICA HALLETT/DRF HARNESS PHOTO

**Driver Dexter Dunn (right) has taken four winner's circle pictures with Super Chapter but will drive Maryland in the \$1,000,000 Hambletonian final at The Meadowlands.**

Emoticon Legacy has an unblemished record in four starts this year but as Melander mentioned, won his elimination by just a nose and in the slowest time (1:51 3/5) of the three elimination winners. Despite the narrow margin, that victory landed him post three.

"It was good. He won the race and maybe he should be better next week because we just qualified him [between the Zweig and Hambletonian elim]. I asked [driver] Louis [Roy] if he was tired, and he said no, he was not tired. He just loafed [on the lead] and when they came, he went again. I was happy when he said that," said Blais about the elimination effort.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4](#)

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### Hambletonian Information and History

Hambletonian Website: [hambletonian.com](http://hambletonian.com)

Meadowlands Website: [playmeadowlands.com](http://playmeadowlands.com)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Melander also has a lot more power in this Hambletonian than he's had in the previous ones. Three of his four landed prime real estate behind the starting car, with Meshuggah (post 1), the undefeated sophomore and morning-line favorite Super Chapter (post 2), and Maryland (post 4) dominating the inside part of the gate. Blank, a colt from the first crop of Gimpanzee, landed post eight.

"Super Chapter is also a great horse and he's done everything we asked of him. He's been great on all sized tracks," said Melander, clearly cognizant that his other Chapter Seven-sired finalists have all the credentials to provide the 33-year-old trainer his first Hambletonian trophy.

Maryland had to deal with the fastest and likely the deepest of the three Hambletonian eliminations held on July 26 and driver Dexter Dunn had to navigate an outside draw as well with favored Go Dog Go to his inside. Maryland got away fourth as Todd McCarthy eagerly opened a hole with Go Dog Go for Maryland to drop in to. This scenario allowed Ake Svanstedt with Nordic Catcher S to get control of the race from the start and go on a speed mission that saw him control the pace without objection through much of the first three quarters.

Maryland would come first over and tow Go Dog Go into the race, but Dunn did not come to attack the leader, attempting to gain slowly instead. "It's an elimination and you want to reach the final," said Melander of the drive. "If you go too fast on the turn and make it break, that's it."

Maryland would save his sprinting for the straight and made up a ton of ground late – missing a nose at the wire to Nordic Catcher S, who will



COURTESY LUCAS WALLIN

Mason Wallin points to his father Lucas's horse Delaney Hanover in the Hambo Oaks.

start from post six in the final – in his fastest and likely best performance as a sophomore.

According to Svanstedt, a bridle change on Nordic Catch S was perhaps contributory to his colt's performance: "I think it helped him. Last year, he was so hot and was pulling too much, so we switched to an open bridle.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# OHIO STATE FAIR

## FIRST LEG OF THE OHIO TRIPLE CROWN

ELDORADO SCIOTO DOWNS  
POST TIME 5:45 PM



THURSDAY, JULY 31 –  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2



Then he was relaxed, but maybe too relaxed, so I thought maybe we could use a pulldown blind and get an extra gear. And it was an extra gear," said the trainer.

Wallin's side of the picture is in stark contrast to Melander's as his colt had a hiccup as well along the path that needed to be resolved.

"My colt is getting stronger and stronger each week," Wallin said following Tuesday's draw. "Coming into the season I was thinking that he would have had three starts prior to the Hambletonian; the Tompkins Geers, Stanley Dancer and Hambletonian eliminations. He's only missed one."

Maximus Mearas S has raced from off the pace in both starts for driver Scott Zeron and exploded home in his elimination, flashing 26 second speed in the final quarter to gain second while not threatening Melander's Super Chapter on the wire.

A four-time winner in his six starts as a freshman, Maximus Mearas S will face his toughest task to date in the Hambletonian and his trainer believes he's more than up to the challenge.

"I was very happy with the draw. Either four or five would have been great and he drew five," said Wallin, who gets the benefit of multiple Hambletonian-winning driver Scott Zeron in the sulky.

While Wallin loves his horse and likes his chances, he also gets to witness Melander's horses in training and on the racetrack, and has his own ideas of which of the four may rise up on Saturday.

"If you put a gun to my head, I would have to say Maryland is Marcus' best one," said Wallin.

Wallin and Melander were in similar positions a few years back heading into the 2022 edition of the Hambletonian, with Wallin sending out the favorite Rebuff and Melander the second choice in Joviality S. Cool Papa Bell would pass Joviality S, who finished second, with Rebuff the pacesetter fading in the stretch.

This year Melander appears to have a deeper group than in the past and Wallin won't have the same pressure of sending out a favorite while perhaps emboldened with a driver that's been tested under these conditions in the past.

Melander obviously likes the top two horses but also has hope for Meshuggah with international driving star Bjorn Goop filling the sulky since regular pilot Zeron opted to stick with Wallin's horse.

"Scottie (Zeron) has done a great job figuring him out," said Melander. "We've had trouble with his steering and are going to have to put gaiting poles on. We're bringing over Bjorn because he's driven many horses in Europe with gaiting poles and knows how to handle them."

Meshuggah means crazy or foolish in Yiddish but the horse was actually named for the Swedish metal band of the same moniker. He is by Greenshoe, the runner-up as one of three Hambletonian finalists for Melander in 2019. Greenshoe, Gimpanzee and Green Manalishi S have all gone on to successful stallion careers.



COURTESY MARCUS MELANDER

Trainer Marcus Melander with his daughter Hailey, whose favorite horse is Vic Zelenskyy.

With half of the Hambletonian field representing the Melander family in some way, we asked both Marcus and Wallin if either of their young children had a particular horse they were backing.

"My daughter loves the horses and loves going to the track," said Melander of his soon to be 4-year-old daughter Hailey. "As far as her favorite horse, it's Vic Zelenskyy."

Lucas' son Mason is 2 and a half years old and has yet to form an opinion on horses. "He's been in the sulky with me," said Wallin. "And he's been around the stable and pet horses, but right now he's much more interested in tractors and cars."

Both families will be watching Saturday's Hambletonian in person and don't be surprised if the 100th edition of the race finds Hailey and Mason in the picture somehow.

## Hambletonian Day Schedule & Wagering Menu

OFF TIME	RACE #	PURSE	CONDITIONS	WAGERING MENU
12:00	1	\$30,000	Continentalvictory - 3YO Filly Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Double, \$50K GTD Pick 6
12:23	2	\$95,650	Shady Daisy - 3YO Filly Pace	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
12:48	3	\$50,000	Muscle Hill - 3YO C&G Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, \$75K GTD Pick 5
1:13	4	\$50,000	Muscle Hill - 3YO C&G Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
1:36	5	\$227,350	Cane Pace - 3YO Open Pace	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 4
1:59	6	\$181,000	Dr. John R. Steele Mem. - Mare Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Survivor 7
2:22	7	\$225,000	NJ Sire Stakes - 2YO Filly Trot Final	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
2:45	8	\$131,650	Sam McKee Mem. - FFA Pace	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
3:11	9	\$60,000	Vincennes Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, \$125K GTD Pick 4
3:37	10	\$500,000	Hambletonian Oaks Final - 3YO Filly Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
4:00	11	\$300,000	John Cashman Mem. - FFA Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
4:47	12	\$1,000,000	Hambletonian Final - 3YO Open Trot	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, \$100K GTD Pick 4
5:34	13	\$225,000	NJ Sire Stakes - 2YO C&G Trot Final	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
6:02	14	\$130,400	Sam McKee Mem. - FFA Pace	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Pick 3
6:29	15	\$139,000	Lady Liberty - FFA Mare Pace	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Double
6:56	16	\$20,000	Winners 3-7 races lifetime	WPS, EX, TRI, Super, Hi-5

# HAMBLETONIAN 100

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# New players emerge as Oaks favorites ahead of \$500K final

By Derick Gwerner

If we could turn back time to the start of 2025 and ask anyone involved in harness racing to name the three elimination winners of the Hambletonian Oaks, it is doubtful they would have landed on even two of the three. They didn't win any stakes races as 2-year-olds and accumulated just four wins in 22 starts last year, but when the gate opens for the \$500,000 final on Saturday at The Meadowlands, Conversano, Miss Belmar and Delaney Hanover will be among the favorites to win the top race in the sport for 3-year-old trotting fillies.

Conversano was the most unassuming of the trio with just \$30,125 earned in 2024 and only one Open stakes appearance in the Breeders Crown elimination where she broke and finished 90 lengths back. The results were similar in the New Jersey Classic (broke, 50 lengths back) and New Jersey Sire Stakes (broke, 81 lengths back) finals for Garden State eligibles. There was no serious inclination that the Juan Cano trainee was destined to win her Oaks elimination in 1:52 4/5 as the 1-5 favorite, unless you were perhaps the trainer.

"When she was a 2-year-old she was hard to drive but now she's good. She was immature but now you can do whatever you want," said Cano about the difference being her maturation as opposed to talent.



DERICK GWINNER

**Trainer Juan Cano will eclipse his single-season career high in earnings with a 3rd place finish or higher in the Hambo Oaks.**

who saw his fortunes improve dramatically thanks to his girlfriend and another trainer. "I started my own business thanks to my girlfriend [Adrienne Hall] in 2018. We never had these kind of horses, we always had claiming horses and cheaper ones. Now I have a good guy [Parisi] who has given me a chance to prove that I can do it with babies.

"Brett Pelling used to have horses with [Parisi] and one day he told them to give me one horse to try. He gave me the horse and I proved that I could do it," continued Cano on the horse that got him started on the new high-end path. That was YS Tallia and this year he is expecting to break her first baby Windstorm Tallia.

"Never in my life," said Cano on whether he thought he'd have one of the favorites in the Hambletonian Oaks. "I was always dreaming about it and now my dream has come true."

Conversano drew post six in the Hambletonian Oaks and will have a new driver in James MacDonald after Andrew McCarthy opted for Miss Belmar. Cano said he understood the decision and that this is a business where people have to do what is best for themselves. The change hardly dampers his expectations for the horse and her ability, but there could be a bit of a learning curve with Conversano as she sometimes waits on

Although the road was rocky at the start, it has been a completely different story for Conversano as a sophomore. She's won six of eight starts and already banked \$233,511 in 2025 for Joseph Parisi's Hot Lead Farm. The Muscle Hill filly's story mirrors that of her trainer in some ways.

Cano came to the U.S. from his native Guatemala in 2000 as a 17-year-old and was working construction. Soon after he began as a groom in Florida. Those early days were difficult.

"I was making \$323 a week in 2001 working for Brian Pinske. I went for so many years making so little money," said Cano,

## \$500,000 HAMBLETONIAN OAKS - RACE 10 AT MEADOWLANDS SATURDAY

POST-HORSE	DRIVER	TRAINER	MORNING LINE
1-Miss Belmar	Andrew McCarthy	Noel Daley	5-2
2-Deja Blu	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	5-1
3-Sound Judgement	Kevin Oscarsson	Jim Oscarsson	20-1
4-R Charm	David Miller	Linda Toscano	10-1
5-Delaney Hanover	Scott Zeron	Lucas Wallin	3-1
6-Conversano	James MacDonald	Juan Cano	9-2
7-Aperfect Annie	Todd McCarthy	Carter Pinske	20-1
8-Walspea	Trond Smedshammer	Trond Smedshammer	12-1
9-Champagne Problems	Dexter Dunn	Nancy Takter	6-1
10-Torrizi	Tim Tetrick	Nancy Takter	20-1

horses and was doing that in her elimination.

"I'm confident in my horse but I know Noel Daley has a nice horse too," said Cano. "This is the kind of horse that when she goes by she thinks she's done. When they come at her, she comes right back. The driver has to know to still ask her. She will fight back and won't let the other horses win."

The Noel Daley horse Cano referenced is Miss Belmar. While she similarly had trouble winning (0-for-7) in 2024, the expectations were certainly high after her second-place finish in the Breeders Crown.

"From day one she had the talent but she was a bit goofy, would run off the track, stop and start, whatever," recalled Daley.

The new year didn't bring immediate success for Miss Belmar as she started out slowly with a pair of off the board finishes in the New Jersey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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Sire Stakes. After a win versus lesser in the consolation of that series, she was a well-beaten sixth in the Zweig Filly Trot. Then the light bulb went back on and she won the Reynolds in 1:52 1/5 ahead of her 1:52 3/5 Oaks elimination win.

Despite the victory last week, Miss Belmar did take a bad step while cruising along on the lead in the stretch. "She stands like a duck and she does hit her knees. She gets over it when she's rolling and Andy said that he let her relax because she had it won and she just gets a little fumbly-gaited. He did a good job to grab her there, really," said Daley about the miscue.

Daley is ultra-confident in Miss Belmar's ability and called her "the one I think they have to beat". At the same time, he admitted that her Achilles heel can be her ability to stay sound, something he can work around, as he did last year with 3-year-old Dan Patch Award winner Sig Sauer.

"She's my Sig Sauer for this year," joked Daley. "It's a matter of keeping her sound. She'll be alright. We'll just keep her in the pool all week."

Miss Belmar, who will leave from post one with McCarthy driving, is expected to get an equipment reduction for the \$500,000 final as Daley will remove her shoes. "She'll have them off. She's been better when I do pull them off but I haven't done it all year waiting for next week."

With Conversano winning by just a nose and Miss Belmar a half-length in their Oaks eliminations, it is plausible that fellow preliminary round winner Delaney Hanover (1 1/4 lengths in 1:52 3/5) will garner the most public attention as the post time favorite.

Unlike her main competition on Saturday, Delaney Hanover started her career strong with a pair of wins as a 2-year-old but then things started to go a bit south and she finished 2024 with just those two victories in seven starts.

"In her first couple of starts I thought she was the most impressive filly out there," said trainer Lucas Wallin. "I kind of over-raced her when we shipped to Hoosier Park for the Jim Doherty and after that she was not herself. She raced ok at the Red Mile and Breeders Crown elimination but she wasn't herself. So she got a well-deserved rest. I put it all on my shoulders."

Wallin has taken a conservative approach in 2025, starting Delaney Hanover just twice ahead of the Oaks elimination. She finished just third and fifth in those preliminary stakes before absolutely exploding off cover to win last Saturday very easily.

"We've aimed for this since October of last year. She had her ups and downs but we were always high on her and had patient owners that let us do our work. Looks like it is paying off," said Wallin, who is hardly counting the winner's share of the Oaks just yet. "I think it is a wide-open race but we are definitely one of them that can win. I don't think anyone else looked more impressive than her."

Like all elimination winners, Delaney Hanover drew for an inside post (1-6) and landed the five hole with regular driver Scott Zeron in the bike.

The complexion of the Oaks, race 10 on the 16-race Meadowlands card that starts at noon, changed dramatically when both expected favorites - Lady Landia and What A Bid Hanover - came up lacking in their eliminations. While the elimination winners lead the way into the final, it remains a wide-open race with a number of legitimate fringe players.

Trainer Nancy Takter has a pair of contenders who finished second in their eliminations in Champagne Problems and Deja Blu. Neither horse has stood out in 2025, with less than \$60,000 earned for each this year. That said, Champagne Problems was the Dan Patch Award winner for her division in 2024 and Deja Blu is tied as the fourth-fastest 3-year-old filly trotter of 2025 with a 1:52 mile.

"I feel like Champagne Problems needed the race," said Takter about the elimination effort before adding that she may race the daughter of Tactical Landing with no shoes in the final.

"I think all of my fillies are peaking at the right time," said Takter, also including her Torrisi, who made it into the final as the highest-earning fourth-place finisher in the elimination round.

Champagne Problems will leave from post nine with Dexter Dunn driving while Deja Blu has the services of regular driver Yannick Gingras from post two. Torrisi picks up new driver Tim Tetrick and will start her mile from the furthest point on the gate in post 10.

Not to be forgotten is the other second-place elimination finisher R Charm. Just behind Conversano last week, the Linda Toscano charge perhaps went the best mile of her year in that race. Starting from post four, the daughter of Propulsion gets a driver change to Hall of Famer Dave Miller this week since Zeron chose Delaney Hanover.



DERICK GIWNER

**Trainer Noel Daley won the Hambletonian in 2011 with Broad Bahn and seeks his first Oaks trophy on Saturday with Miss Belmar.**

Perhaps no horse put in a braver effort in the elimination round than Sound Judgement. With Kevin Oscarsson driving for Jim Oscarsson, the Muscle Hill filly made two moves to the front before ultimately settling for third timed in 1:53. This week the team will leave from the three hole in search of Sound Judgement's first win of the year.

Rounding out the field are a pair of third-place elimination fillies who hardly rate as huge longshots on paper despite what the final odds might offer. Walspea (post eight) has won three of seven starts this year and goes out for driver/trainer Trond Smedshammer, who won the Oaks in 2008 with Creamy Mimi. Aperfect Annie (post seven) lost by just two lengths last Saturday and the Carter Pinske trainee has the services of Todd McCarthy in the bike. He pulled off a Hambletonian shocker at 52-1 with Cool Papa Bell in the 2022 Hambletonian.

It has been nine years since the favorite in the Hambletonian Oaks went off at odds of 2-1 or higher and that was only the second time it has occurred this century. The 2025 edition could very well become the third time and provide the type of race that fans, bettors and industry participants can debate the outcome of until approximately two minutes after the starting gate lets the horses go.

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# Racing participants recall fondest Hambletonian moments



## EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner [@harnesseveguy](#)

In some ways it is hard to believe we've reached 100 years of the Hambletonian. I've only watched the last 35 or so live but it seems like a lifetime ago that American Winner won in 1993.

With this being a monumental year for America's Trotting Classic, I thought it was fitting to ask a bunch of people in the industry to provide their favorite Hambletonian moment. There were no restrictions on the assignment as long as it involved the Hambletonian. I'll be the leadoff hitter...

I'm pretty sure this will be my 25th straight Hambletonian in person dating back to Scarlet Knight in 2001. I had to work Saturdays at Sports Eye from 1997 to 2000 until I somehow conned my way out of it, but I did attend a few in the early to mid-1990s.

There are four that stick out in my mind. The first is Market Share in 2012 because I remember following him and caretaker Shelly Grieco around the winner's circle while taking pictures of them after the victory. She just seemed so pleased with his achievement and is still showering him with love more than a decade later. Second is 2017 when What The Hill was disqualified and Perfect Spirit was vaulted to the top spot. I'll never forget standing there watching David Miller and Ron Burke on the track with eyes planted on the big screen and waiting for a decision by the Judges. I'm hopeful one day it goes their way. Ramona Hill winning in 2020 was a bit surreal because of COVID. The place was so empty and everyone had masks. I wouldn't say it was a great memory, yet it certainly is prominent in my head.

Without a doubt my favorite Hambletonian memory occurred just last year when Karl splashed home to provide Yannick Gingras his first victory in the historic race. He had so many disappointments along the way that is was great to see the monkey finally lifted from his back. But more than that were the conditions. Everyone was rain-soaked in the winner's circle, myself included, and it just didn't matter. We were experiencing it together and it was glorious.

### GARNET BARNSDALE – MOHAWK PROGRAM ANALYST

"My favorite Hambo moment was for sure Atlanta's win. After her first heat where she set an unsustainably fast pace and got caught, there was plenty of speculation and talk that she would either be spent, looking to take back and trip out, or both. Once Six Pack was eliminated from the final, I said: "There is no way she is taking back, she's the lone speed now!" I could have trampled someone stampeding to the window with \$200 to bet on her nose. The race played out exactly as I expected, which was almost as satisfying as cashing \$680 U.S., which is a lot of money to a Canadian!"

### TOM CHARTERS – HALL OF FAMER



HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY PHOTO

"Trying to pick my favorite is nearly impossible," said Charters when asked.

He provided a list of a number of big moments from before and after his time with the Hambletonian Society and Breeders Crown where on many times he got to present the trophy to the winners. We picked two moments from his submission.

"It could be my first in 1968 — Nevele Pride. I was a groom at the Carlisle fair; Max Hempt offered me a free flight to Carbondale. Max owned Keystone Spartan which would finish second both heats to



DERICK GIWNER

Karl's rain-soaked victory in 2024 got some love from the panelists.

Pride. However, I only went as far as Columbus where I joined friends and we drove out to DuQuoin. I went back to school (as an art major at Miami University) with many, many tales of the Grand Circuit that summer, more determined than ever to find a career in harness racing. And I did!

"I hope I can still to go to the Hambletonian every year now as an enthusiastic fan. But if you had to pin me down, the most personally satisfying, pure joy in fact, and probably most popular in my experience, was Roger Hammer, a very good friend of almost half a century, winning with Vivid Photo in 2005. And when I'm in the area, I stop by Bedford, Pennsylvania to see both of the old boys, Vivid & Roger. Vivid at 23 is retired; Roger, 79, is not."

### MOIRA FANNING - HALL OF FAMER/HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY COO

"I have to say every Hambletonian is a favorite for some reason or another. But I would have to settle on the dead heat. Not just because we lost the drama of Valley Victory and Peace Corps match-up and were expecting a humdrum race but because the heat format with the race off did provide some extra drama and for a good 20 minutes everybody - the connections of both horses - were happy thinking they won.

"It was an unprecedented happenstance and resulted in a lot of legal drama and condition changing.

"Also the Meadowlands could devote an enormous amount of money, resources and some brilliant PR minds to putting on the event. I remember journalists literally from all over the world and the coverage of the dead heat was on the New York Times front page the next morning.

"Plus they threw tremendous post-race parties that were an entire event in themselves.

"So I pick 1989 out of a hundred extremely memorable races."

### DEAN HOFFMAN – HALL OF FAMER

"I saw my first Hambo in 1978 and I've seen most of them since then. That makes it very difficult to pick out just one, but I will do so anyway.

"In 1983, Stanley Dancer started the season with the winter book favorite for the Hambo in a good colt called Dancer's Crown. But he died prior to the Hambletonian and Stanley Dancer's hopes for winning again were shattered. They were until another Dancer owner Norman Woolworth entered his filly Duenna against the Colts. Most people, including myself, didn't think she stood much of a chance, but Stanley Dancer was magical in the big races and with trotters. Duenna won 1983 Hambletonian redeeming the season for Stanley Dancer and giving Norman Woolworth his biggest thrill in the sport."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

**MELISSA KEITH – RIDEAU ANNOUNCER/HANDICAPPER**

“Author Walter Farley once said that the ill-fated Thoroughbred filly Ruffian was the closest real-life embodiment of his fictional “Black Stallion” character. If he had lived to witness Continentalvictory’s 1996 Hambletonian, the harness racing fan would have seen a trotting filly with The Black Stallion’s unmarked dark coat, flagging tail, and unmatched desire to win. Continentalvictory’s two-heat victory for Mike Lachance began with a world record-equaling 1:52 1/5 first heat. She went gate to wire, holding off a late bid by Lindy Lane, to take the 1:52 4/5 second heat. What Continentalvictory achieved that day remains mind-boggling. For perspective, the 1996 Hambletonian Oaks was won by Moni Maker in 1:55 3/5.”

**BOB MARKS - HALL OF FAMER**

“Muscle Hill in 2009 - We had a deal to buy in and eventually stand him before his final 2-year-old race but for a variety of reasons it never happened. I’ll never know how good he actually was as I don’t believe he was ever fully extended in any of his races. That said, I’ve never seen a better trotter.

“Others that have a personal connection in one way or another through Perretti Farm are Muscle Yankee, Scarlet Knight and Muscle Massive.”

**BOB PANDOLFO – USTA HANDICAPPER**

“My favorite Hambletonian was the 1975 four-heat world record win by Bonefish, who hung on by a nose to defeat Yankee Bambino at DuQuoin. I still think that was the bravest performance by a trotter I’ve ever seen, and it will never be duplicated. He never raced again but had a fine career as a sire.”

**MIKE PRIBOZIE – NAHU PICKS/ITM MEDIA**

“My favorite Hambo moment by far was the 2005 Vivid Photo with Roger “The” Hammer getting the win. I have been locked into the Meadows since I started watching racing in 1995, and the odds of The Hammer winning the biggest trotting race with a PA Fair horse are unbelievable. I honestly think nothing like that will ever happen again.”

**GREG REINHART – DRF HARNESS**

“Since I was there, I would say my favorite Hambletonian is 2007. Apart from that, the race also had a unique confluence of the top colt trotter in Donato Hanover, a top European invader in Adrian Chip and a top filly in Pampered Princess competing against each other. On a personal note, it was also very thrilling seeing my friend David Scharf win as a co-owner of Donato Hanover.”

**MATT ROSE – DRF HARNESS**

“Without a doubt my favorite Hambletonian moment was in 2005 when Vivid Photo took home the trophy. There’s two things that most fans can agree on – loving to see our equine stars stay on the track for a long time,



LISA PHOTO

**Vivid Photo got a few mentions as a favorite Hambo win with Roger Hammer in the bike.**

and also witnessing when the “little guy” wins. Vivid Photo fits both of those bills. The trotter was trained and driven by Roger Hammer, who at the time was probably best known for being one of the leaders on the Pennsylvania fair circuit. Watching him roll by all the big-name drivers, trainers and owners en route to Hambo glory was very satisfying. In addition, we got to enjoy seeing Vivid Photo race for almost seven more years before retiring in 2012 with over \$3.2 million in earnings.”

**JEFF SNYDER - OWNER**

“When Mal Burroughs won with Malabar Man in 1997. It was just amazing that an owner could drive and win that race.”

**MIKE TANNER - USTA**

“Muscle Hill’s complete domination of the 2009 Hambo field is unforgettable - electric, powerful, pick your adjective. He was 1/5 that day, so it wasn’t like his victory was unexpected, but it was how he did it. He equaled a world record and looked like he could have gone a second faster had he wanted.

“I remember thinking then that he might be the greatest trotter I had ever seen, and, 16 years later, I don’t believe I was wrong.”

**GORDON WATERSTONE – HALL OF FAMER**

“Every Hambletonian is a memorable chapter of its own but standing out now for me was last year’s 99th renewal when we saw the raw emotion of driver Yannick Gingras — who had come away disappointed in the trotting classic so many times over his career — celebrating with his family in a driving rainstorm after guiding Karl to victory and filling a giant hole on his Hall of Fame resume.

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# Pace night standouts look to make noise on Hambo undercard

By Jay Bergman

The Meadowlands on Saturday is fortunate to have a stellar “undercard” to accompany the featured 100th Hambletonian as well as companion Oaks and two of the star performers from Meadowlands Pace night will be favored in major stakes during the afternoon. Hambletonian Maturity champion Elista Hanover faces 10 mares in the \$181,000 Dr. John R. Steele Memorial while Meadowlands Pace winner Madden Oaks returns to East Rutherford as the prohibitive choice in the \$227,350 Cane Pace for sophomores.

Trainer Annie Stoebe couldn't be happier with the current condition and form of her 4-year-old standout Elista Hanover as the mare shoots for her third straight stakes triumph.

“She's feeling great,” said Stoebe. “She's always been a good feeling horse and in the long run I think that will help her through the season.”

The daughter of International Moni has been more impressive this year than her first two years on the track and that may have something to do with less equipment.

“She wore elbow boots all last year and we took them off and she's learned to race well without them,” said Stoebe.

Adding another dimension to Elista Hanover's arsenal has been Dave Miller's execution in the sulky and his immense confidence in the mare. The two paired for an extraordinary performance in the Hambletonian Maturity on July 12 trotting to a record 2:03 mile and an eighth while making multiple moves to the lead.

Asked if that effort had taxed her mare, Stoebe said: “She was pretty much the same after the race and was throwing herself around. We gave her the usual two days in the field and she was ready for training the following day.”

Of course, utilizing the enormous talent of Hall of Fame driver David Miller has been a blessing. “David's been driving her for close to two years now and knows her so well,” Stoebe said.

On Saturday, Elista Hanover faces a solid group of mares in a race that won't be a walkover given her post seven draw. Many of the mares she raced against in the Hambletonian Maturity will be back for the Steele, as well as mares she defeated in the July 26 leg of the Miss Versatility at The Meadowlands. Warrawee Michelle, second in the Maturity, hopes to turn the tables as last year's Hambletonian Oaks champion starts from post 11 in the second tier. She's one of four mares from the Ake Svanstedt stable in the field.

Trainer Luc Blais has two solid mares in Emoji Hanover (post 5) and Drawn Impression (post 9). The latter was parked the entire way in the Hambletonian Maturity and still managed a fifth-place check.

Last year's Breeders Crown champion trotting mare Call Me Goo (post 6) finished second in the Armbrø Flight but has strung together a pair of stakes wins at The Meadowlands in advance of the Steele, annexing the Six Pack and Miss Versatility for trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt. Call Me Goo picks up Tim Tetrick for Saturday's contest.

Bravo Angel S joins a host of Swedish-breds on the Hambletonian Day program with two in this field and three in the \$1 million Hambletonian. The Per Engblom-trained daughter of Ready Express has trotted home powerfully in her last two Meadowlands starts and put a scare into Elista Hanover with an eye-catching 25 4/5 final quarter in last week's Miss Versatility.

The Cane Pace is listed as race five, one before the Steele on the 16-race Meadowlands afternoon program and Madden Oaks hopes to continue his winning form, having landed the rail in a field of just six horses.

“Going into Saturday we feel like we have the best horse,” said Cam Capone, who trains the sophomore sensation.

Capone was uttering the same words in advance of this year's Meadowlands Pace and driver Braxten Boyd drove the sophomore with ultimate confidence, ultimately getting crowded in the stretch while making a winning move and being placed first by the judges. There should be less traffic in this field given that few of the five rivals have been the kind of speed Madden Oaks has shown.

Capone has been relatively light on the training of Madden Oaks while prepping for the Cane. “He raced last Sunday (July 27), which was a good start,” said Capone. “He basically got two weeks off, straight down time (after The Pace), and raced off a few days of work.”

Madden Oaks won his prep in 1:52 by a measured head and while



JESSICA HALLETT/DRF HARNESS PHOTO

**The chestnut Elista Hanover was an easy winner in the Hambletonian Maturity on Meadowlands Pace night.**

bettors at 1-20 may have been concerned with the margin, Capone and his driver were not.

“He performed just how we wanted him to,” said Capone.

Madden Oaks, a winner in four of his nine starts this year with earnings above \$514k, will look for his second major stakes win at The Meadowlands this year and bring a Triple Crown stake victory to his family. His dad Mark raced Allamerican Native in the 2003 Cane Pace contested at Freehold Raceway and finished third to No Pan Intended as the heavy favorite.

Madden Oaks' competition on Saturday includes some horses he's beaten before like Captain Optimistic, Manolete and Papis Pistol, as well as some new shooters like Sugar Man and Waffle Blue Chip.

Stoebe's work won't be done until after the 13th race on Saturday since she'll be sending out a pair including favored Diabolic Hill in the \$225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final for 2-year-old trotting colts and geldings.

“I've loved him since the first time I saw him at Concord Farms,” said Stoebe of the \$300,000 Lexington Selected purchase she made along with Mazza Racing Stables last fall.

“We changed his name to match his personality.”

Thus far in three career starts Diabolic Hill, a son of Muscle Hill, has been more impressive with each of his winning performances and enters the final following a near-wire-to-wire 1:54 blowout from post 10 on July 25. Andrew McCarthy will drive from post one

“He's all business on the track,” said Stoebe of Diabolic Hill.

Mega Shark (post 8) is Stoebe's other finalist and while she's been satisfied with his efforts the trainer has a more long-range attitude about his future. “I was glad we got into the final,” Stoebe said. “He was 11th on points. He's still growing and I think we're going to get him some experience and try to point him towards his 3-year-old season.”

Mega Shark has finished second, third and fourth in three lifetime starts and is a son of Tactical Landing.

The other one to watch in the field is Apex. The \$525,000 Harrisburg yearling purchase was an easy winner in his last start and could give co-owner Jeff Snyder a Hambo/Sire Stakes double if Super Chapter takes the \$1,000,000 event one race earlier.

The 16-race card at The Meadowlands gets underway at noon on Saturday.

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# HAMBLETONIAN DAY HANDICAPPING

**Race 1**  
\$30,000  
*Continentalvictory*

**Race 2**  
\$95,650  
*Shady Daisys*

**Race 3**  
\$50,000  
*Muscle Hill*

**Race 4**  
\$50,000  
*Muscle Hill*

**Race 5**  
\$227,350  
*Cane Pace*

**Race 6**  
\$181,000 *John R Steele Memorial*

## \$50K GTD PICK 6

## \$75K GTD PICK 5



GARNET BARNSDALE

(6) LASTING DREAM was live at the wire in her Hambo Oaks Elim.  
(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER  
(1) HIGHLANDSTARBURST

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE just wins no matter what trip she gets.  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO  
(7) GIGGLINGONTHEBEACH

(3) JAMAIS VU's only bad race this year came from post 11.  
(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES  
(8) FAVE GUY

(7) ONAJETPLANE was shuffled last week; leads all the way today.  
(1) LANDING ON TIME  
(4) GO AHEAD MAKEMYDAY

(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC got back on track last week; repeats here.  
(1) MADDEN OAKS  
(6) MANOLETE

(7) ELISTA HANOVER may be just too good for these currently.  
(6) CALL ME GOO  
(9) DRAWN IMPRESSION



JAY BERGMAN

(3) GLOBAL HERITAGE impressed against older at Plainridge  
(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER  
(1) HIGHLANDSTARBURST

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE has a lethal brush in compact field.  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO  
(7) GIGGLINGONTHEBEACH

(6) HAPPY JACK B faces much weaker and has the talent.  
(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES  
(5) KARINCHAK

(4) GO AHEAD MAKEMYDAY was overmatched in last; more competitive here.  
(1) LANDING ON TIME  
(7) ONAJETPLANE

(1) MADDEN OAKS should be in optimal position following needed work.  
(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC  
(6) MANOLETE

(9) DRAWN IMPRESSION was unlucky in Hambo Maturity and seems worth a price.  
(7) ELISTA HANOVER  
(11) WARRAWEE MICHELLE



RAY COTOLO

(6) LASTING DREAM had loads of trot in traffic. Should be sharp.  
(1) HIGHLANDSTARBURST  
(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE is simply too good.  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO  
(1) THEBEAUTIFULTHINGS

(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES usually fights at the end. Could work a trip.  
(3) JAMAIS VU  
(7) TRAVOLTA HANOVER

(7) ONAJETPLANE is in form, especially if the shoes come off.  
(8) WARRIOR  
(2) HEY PORTER

(3) PAPIS PISTOL may land into a golden spot with the draw.  
(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC  
(1) MADDEN OAKS

(7) ELISTA HANOVER seems in sharper form than everyone else here.  
(4) BRAVO ANGEL S  
(6) CALL ME GOO



DERICK GWINN

(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER is much the best if she behaves.  
(6) LASTING DREAM  
(1) HIGHLANDSTARBURST

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE lays over this field on paper and in reality.  
(1) THEBEAUTIFULTHINGS  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO

(3) JAMAIS VU's only loss came to Go Dog Go and Mr Mouton.  
(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES  
(7) TRAVOLTA HANOVER

(7) ONAJETPLANE gets class relief and hopefully sheds the shoes.  
(1) LANDING ON TIME  
(2) HEY PORTER

(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC seems to be back on track now.  
(1) MADDEN OAKS  
(3) PAPIS PISTOL

(7) ELISTA HANOVER has been racing on another level lately.  
(6) CALL ME GOO  
(11) WARRAWEE MICHELLE



MELISSA KEITH

(6) LASTING DREAM lacked room/changed course late in Oaks elim.  
(8) WHAT BID HANOVER  
(3) GLOBAL HERITAGE

(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO hesitated when Tie The Knot bore out in Tompkins-Geers.  
(6) MIKI AND MINNIE  
(7) GIGGLINGONTHEBEACH

(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES gained ground three-wide in fastest Tompkins-Geers final quarter.  
(7) TRAVOLTA HANOVER  
(5) KARINCHAK

(1) LANDING ON TIME adds Scott Zeron after two-move Hambo elim mile.  
(7) ONAJETPLANE  
(8) WARRIOR

(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC easily held off Sugar Man in Tompkins-Geers.  
(1) MADDEN OAKS  
(6) MANOLETE

(11) WARRAWEE MICHELLE was a strong second in two-move Hambo Maturity.  
(7) ELISTA HANOVER  
(3) DIAL SQUARE S



MIKE PRIBOZIE

(6) LASTING DREAM was better than line suggests in Oaks Elim.  
(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER  
(4) DEARLY BELOVED

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE just keeps getting better and can fly home.  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO  
(1) THEBEAUTIFULTHINGS

(3) JAMAIS VU has shown talent this year winning 3 of 4 starts; last was a prep.  
(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES  
(8) FAVE GUY

(8) WARRIOR kicked home in 26 2/5 in last. Should provide value from this post.  
(7) ONAJETPLANE  
(2) HEY PORTER

(1) MADDEN OAKS has a class edge over these; can win with any trip.  
(6) MANOLETTE  
(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC

(3) DIAL SQUARE S gets JMac back after needed tightener. Needs pace to chase.  
(7) ELISTA HANOVER  
(2) M-M's DREAM



GREG REINHART

(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER towers over this field if she trots.  
(6) LASTING DREAM  
(1) HIGHLANDSTARBURST

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE has been awesome since adding Lasix.  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO  
(1) THEBEAUTIFULTHINGS

(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES closed well in last start with Dunn.  
(7) TRAVOLTA HANOVER  
(2) THEMONEYISBACK S

(1) LANDING ON TIME exits the toughest Hambletonian elim.  
(7) ONAJETPLANE  
(2) HEY PORTER

(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC comes in off his best mile in a bit.  
(2) SUGAR MAN  
(1) MADDEN OAKS

(4) BRAVO ANGEL S finished off her last two miles powerfully.  
(7) ELISTA HANOVER  
(6) CALL ME GOO



MATT ROSE

(4) DEARLY BELOVED picked a bad time to misbehave last week; won prior three.  
(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER  
(3) GLOBAL HERITAGE

(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO is due for a better trip; small field helps.  
(6) MIKI AND MINNIE  
(5) BEACH BABE

(3) JAMAIS VU was in tough in lone stakes engagement; this is a better spot.  
(5) KARINCHAK  
(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES

(8) WARRIOR is the least experienced but has plenty of upside for aggressive Ake.  
(1) LANDING ON TIME  
(7) ONAJETPLANE

(3) PAPIS PISTOL was swallowed up in the Adios elim but was solid in prior Big M races.  
(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC  
(1) MADDEN OAKS

(7) ELISTA HANOVER is separating herself from the rest of the pack.  
(2) M-M'S DREAM  
(11) WARRAWEE MICHELLE



DARIN ZOCCALI

(6) LASTING DREAM should be in the Oaks; Loaded with trot with no space in her elim.  
(8) WHAT A BID HANOVER  
(1) HIGHLANDSTARBURST

(6) MIKI AND MINNIE is head and shoulders above this field and should crush.  
(1) THEBEAUTIFULTHINGS  
(2) RODEO DRIVE DEO

(4) LEFTIES RIGHTIES had good late trot in the Geers and looms the major danger.  
(1) PORTOBAROSSO AS NL  
(3) JAMAIS VU

(7) ONAJETPLANE raced well in the Hambo Elim and appears tough in here.  
(1) LANDING ON TIME  
(2) HEY PORTER

(5) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC looked straight and strong last week; has a big race with his name on it.  
(1) MADDEN OAKS  
(2) SUGAR MAN

(4) BRAVO ANGEL rallied boldly into soft fractions and is poised to spring the upset.  
(6) CALL ME GOO  
(3) DIAL SQUARE S

# HAMBLETONIAN DAY HANDICAPPING

## Race 7 \$225,000 NJSS 2YO Filly Final

## Race 8 \$131,650 Sam McKee Memorial

## Race 9 \$60,000 Vincennes Trot

## Race 10 \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks

## Race 11 \$300,000 John Cashman Memorial

## Race 12 \$1,000,000 Hambletonian

### \$125K GTD PICK 4

### \$100K GTD PICK 4



GARNET BARNSDALE

(6) LEADING LADY was an impressive winner on debut; draws perfectly.  
(2) SUGAR PACKET  
(4) SOUTHWIND CHASKA

(3) BYTHEMISSAL gets his nose on the gate now, look out!  
(2) MAXIMUS MIKI  
(7) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR

(1) AETOS KRONOS S showed two starts back he can trot fast here.  
(5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE  
(6) S I P

(1) MISS BELMAR looked like she had more at the wire last week.  
(6) CONVERSANO  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER

(6) PERICULUM gets back to the big track where he thrives.  
(3) UP YOUR DEO  
(2) SECURITY PROTECTED

(6) NORDIC CATCHER S is peaking at the right time; upset special.  
(4) MARYLAND  
(3) EMOTICON LEGACY



JAY BERGMAN

(3) R CANDY hails from a stable that peaks for the big ones.  
(5) DAYS AWAY  
(1) WALDON FASHION

(5) FUNTIME BAYAMA has regained top form and finally gets chance to shine.  
(2) MAXIMUS MIKI  
(7) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR

(1) AETOS KRONOS S should take advantage of draw and weaker rivals.  
(9) RESOLVE TO WIN  
(5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE

(4) R CHARM didn't disgrace in defeat and offers position and value.  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER  
(1) MISS BELMAR

(3) UP YOUR DEO may have tripped out in last but still is razor sharp.  
(6) PERICULUM  
(10) HILLEXOTIC

(4) MARYLAND couldn't be sharper heading into the big dance.  
(3) EMOTICON LEGACY  
(2) SUPER CHAPTER



RAY COTOLO

(2) SUGAR PACKET gets a good draw and has shown heart.  
(6) LEADING LADY  
(4) SOUTHWIND CHASKA

(5) FUNTIME BAYAMA is ready. Just needs to avoid a death shuffle.  
(3) BYTHEMISSAL  
(2) MAXIMUS MIKI

(5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE could pounce from an opportune trip.  
(1) AETOS KRONOS S  
(6) S I P

(1) MISS BELMAR is getting good when it matters. Great post, too.  
(8) WALSPEA  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER

(6) PERICULUM returns to the bigger track and should work his trip.  
(5) PRIVATE ACCESS  
(2) SECURITY PROTECTED

(4) MARYLAND has a potentially beautiful path before him.  
(5) MAXIMUS MEARAS S  
(8) BLANK



DERICK GWERNER

(1) WALDON FASHION could provide value after the recent loss.  
(5) DAYS AWAY  
(4) SOUTHWIND CHASKA

(2) MAXIMUS MIKI got stuck in a bad spot last time; very sharp now.  
(5) FUNTIME BAYAMA  
(1) COACHES CORNER

(1) AETOS KRONOS S gets major class relief and adds Lasix.  
(6) S I P  
(8) OUTSIDE THE FIRE

(1) MISS BELMAR has been on my radar for some time; shoes come off!  
(2) DEJA BLU  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER

(6) PERICULUM has proven to be the best in this division.  
(8) LEXUS KODY  
(5) PRIVATE ACCESS

(4) MARYLAND has had one goal all year and it's "GO" time.  
(10) GO DOG GO  
(6) NORDIC CATCHER S



MELISSA KEITH

(5) DAYS AWAY hunted down fave Sugar Packet TWICE in latest NJSS match-up.  
(4) SOUTHWIND CHASKA  
(1) WALDON FASHION

(7) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR paced lifetime-best 1:47 3/5 outspringing everyone in Haughton.  
(2) MAXIMUS MIKI  
(5) FUNTIME BAYAMA

(1) AETOS KRONOS S finds post/class relief after overland trip at Plainridge.  
(6) S I P  
(9) RESOLVE TO WIN

(8) WALSPEA set early pace; pocketed up under tight lines in elim.  
(6) CONVERSANO  
(1) MISS BELMAR

(6) PERICULUM dodged breaker/three-wide late rally in Spirit of Massachusetts.  
(1) SIR PINOCCHIO  
(5) PRIVATE ACCESS

(9) GREENMA missed by a nose at 17/1 in Hambo elim.  
(3) EMOTICON LEGACY  
(1) MESHUGGAH



MIKE PRIBOZIE

(5) DAYS AWAY had speed at both ends of the mile in latest; offers value again.  
(1) WALDON FASHION  
(6) LEADING LADY

(2) MAXIMUS MIKI is too sharp for these right now; moves inside with a strong kick.  
(5) FUNTIME BAYAMA  
(7) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR

(1) AETOS KRONOS S gets class relief. Can move early and boss these.  
(7) AMAZING CATCH  
(3) CHULO

(2) DEJA BLU flew late in Elim at big odds. Pedigree is impeccable for Hambo day.  
(1) MISS BELMAR  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER

(8) LEXUS KODY loves this track. Toss latest and his speed is dangerous again.  
(6) PERICULUM  
(7) GRUESOME TWOSOME

(4) MARYLAND looks ready to resume control of the division after Elim effort.  
(2) SUPER CHAPTER  
(3) EMOTICON LEGACY



GREG REINHART

(1) WALDON FASHION can rebound here and should be sitting a trip.  
(6) LEADING LADY  
(5) DAYS AWAY

(2) MAXIMUS MIKI won in the Haughton and finished his prep well.  
(7) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR  
(5) FUNTIME BAYAMA

(6) S I P should have gained confidence off his win last time.  
(1) AETOS KRONOS S  
(5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE

(2) DEJA BLU bounced back with a strong mile in her elim.  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER  
(1) MISS BELMAR

(8) LEXUS KODY looks like the controlling speed.  
(6) PERICULUM  
(3) UP YOUR DEO

(6) NORDIC CATCHER S likely has more to offer without shoes.  
(4) MARYLAND  
(2) SUPER CHAPTER



MATT ROSE

(5) DAYS AWAY showed big improvement to upset in lifetime start #2; price again.  
(6) LEADING LADY  
(2) SUGAR PACKET

(6) CAPTAIN LUKE tired after a shuffle in the Haughton but knocking on door prior; gets Dex.  
(3) BYTHEMISSAL  
(2) MAXIMUS MIKI

(1) AETOS KRONOS S gets major class relief and will be tough to beat.  
(5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE  
(9) RESOLVE TO WIN

(1) MISS BELMAR comes in razor sharp and figures to have control by the half.  
(4) R CHARM  
(5) DELANEY HANOVER

(6) PERICULUM will be within striking range this time and gets it done.  
(5) PRIVATE ACCESS  
(8) LEXUS KODY

(4) MARYLAND has done nothing wrong through his four seasonal losses; perfect spot.  
(5) MAXIMUS MEARAS S  
(2) SUPER CHAPTER



DARIN ZOCCALI

(4) SOUTHWIND CHASKA has finished full of trot in both starts to this point.  
(6) LEADING LADY  
(1) WALDON FASHION

(2) MAXIMUS MIKI had the perfect prep for this and remains razor sharp.  
(6) CAPTAIN LUKE  
(7) OAKWOOD ARDAN IR

(1) AETOS KRONOS had no chance in the Spirit and is the class of the field.  
(8) OUTSIDE THE FIRE  
(5) LITTLE EXPENSIVE

(2) DEJA BLU is a sneaky player if she can build off her Oaks elimination at a nice number.  
(4) R CHARM  
(1) MISS BELMAR

(6) PERICULUM will get back to his winning ways off a trip where he had too much to do.  
(8) LEXUS KODY  
(3) UP YOUR DEO

(1) MESHUGGAH had the most trot in the stretch of his elimination; upset chance for Goop.  
(4) MARYLAND  
(2) SUPER CHAPTER



# HAMBLETONIAN DAY HANDICAPPING

**Race 13**  
\$225,000 NJSS  
2YO C&G Final

**Race 14**  
\$130,400  
Sam McKee  
Memorial

**Race 15**  
\$139,000  
Lady Liberty

**Race 16**  
Winners 3-7  
races lifetime



GARNET BARNSDALE

(1) DIABOLIC HILL has been dominant and will be tough here.  
(2) APEX  
(9) I'M KRONOS S

(5) KEN HANOVER's trip was too tough in Haughton, rebounds here.  
(3) CAPTAIN ALBANO  
(4) SABONIS

(5) SYLVIA HANOVER has recaptured her dominant 3YO form this summer.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE gets Dunn today; call to upset.  
(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A  
(6) PINEAPPLE CRUNCH

**\$125K Pick 4 Tickets**  
Races 9-12

**1,5,6 / 1,5,6 / 6 / 2,3,4,5,6**

Cost = \$22.50 (all tickets .50)



JAY BERGMAN

(1) DIABOLIC HILL has been exceptional and professional from the start.  
(2) APEX  
(6) ARDONNE

(3) CAPTAIN ALBANO finally gets the post relief he needs  
(6) RUTHLESS HANOVER  
(7) ABUCKABETT HANOVER

**(5) SYLVIA HANOVER** is in magnificent form and will be hard to derail.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(6) PINEAPPLE CRUNCH has a ton of heart and can upset with a trip.  
(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A  
(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE

**1 / 1,4,5,6 / 3,6,10 / 3,4**

Cost = \$12



RAY COTOLO

(1) DIABOLIC HILL is a speed freak. Maybe even just a freak.  
(5) NIX NACKEN  
(2) APEX

(3) CAPTAIN ALBANO has a chance to work his trip with a good draw.  
(4) SABONIS  
(5) KEN HANOVER

(5) SYLVIA HANOVER enters off an astounding performance and still has upside.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A has been solid since coming to the states.  
(5) RHYDS SUPERFLY GB  
(8) IKNOWBETTER

**1,5 / 1,5,8 / 6 / 4**

Cost = \$3



DERICK GIVNER

(2) APEX will be second choice but could be first best.  
(9) I'M KRONOS S  
(1) DIABOLIC HILL

(5) KEN HANOVER was fried in the Haughton; better post tonight.  
(6) RUTHLESS HANOVER  
(4) SABONIS

(5) SYLVIA HANOVER may have a tactical edge this week on her rival.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A is perfect since coming to the U.S.  
(8) IKNOWBETTER  
(10) NUCLEAR

**1 / 1,2 / 6,8 / 4,6,10**

Cost = \$6



MELISSA KEITH

(1) DIABOLIC HILL is a perfect 3 for 3 for Andrew McCarthy.  
(2) APEX  
(6) ARDONNE

(3) CAPTAIN ALBANO: beaten fave was parked first-over against Sabonis in Haughton  
(4) SABONIS  
(2) HUNTINTHELASTDOLAR

**(5) SYLVIA HANOVER** crushed similar mares in World Record Barton.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(3) KOBE'S GIGI

(6) PINEAPPLE CRUNCH swarmed late on lead July 19; equalled his lifetime mark.  
(5) RHYDS SUPERFLY GB  
(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE

**1,6 / 1,6,8 / 1,5,6 / 9**

Cost = \$9



MIKE PRIBOZIE

(2) APEX has two straight sharp kicks leading into this. Mom was 2nd in Hambo.  
(1) DIABOLIC HILL  
(4) MEGA HILL

(6) RUTHLESS HANOVER was speedy 7/19 and could upset these if right.  
(4) SABONIS  
(5) KEN HANOVER

(5) SYLVIA HANOVER is back to herself this year and capable of record miles.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A just went 1:48 3/5 at Pocono; could be the real deal.  
(8) IKNOWBETTER  
(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE

**1 / 1,2,4,5,6 / 6,8 / 4**

Cost = \$5



GREG REINHART

(1) DIABOLIC HILL has passed every test thus far.  
(2) APEX  
(4) MAGA HILL

(5) KEN HANOVER should have a much smoother trip today.  
(7) ABUCKABETT HANOVER  
(4) SABONIS

(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH normally bounces back after defeats.  
(5) SYLVIA HANOVER  
(1) MY GIRL EJ

(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A blistered Pocono in 1:48 3/5 last week.  
(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE  
(8) IKNOWBETTER

**1,6 / 1,2,4,5,6 / 3,6,8 / 6**

Cost = \$15



MATT ROSE

(2) APEX has looked the part so far for top connections.  
(4) MAGA HILL  
(1) DIABOLIC HILL

(3) CAPTAIN ALBANO is overdue for a smoother trip and gets it from this spot.  
(4) SABONIS  
(5) KEN HANOVER

(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH as potential second choice in wagering? Who would have thought?  
(5) SYLVIA HANOVER  
(3) KOBE'S GIGI

(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A's connections have done well with recent imports.  
(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE  
(8) IKNOWBETTER

**1 / 1,4,5 / 1,5,6,8 / 4,5**

Cost = \$12



DARIN ZOCCALI

(1) DIABOLIC HILL has looked like a monster up to this point. Can't pick against.  
(6) ARDONNE  
(2) APEX

(3) CAPTAIN ALBANO is a player against this group with the right trip.  
(5) KEN HANOVER  
(4) SABONIS

(5) SYLVIA HANOVER can become the leader of the division with a win here.  
(6) TWIN B JOE FRESH  
(3) KOBE'S GIGI

(3) ODDS ON WILDFIRE may have needed a lap around the track off the respite.  
(4) JAMAICAN ROCK A  
(6) PINEAPPLE CRUNCH

**1 / 1,2,4,5,6 / 6 / 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10**

Cost = \$20



## CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

### A night at the races

I'll be honest, I don't spend as much time at the track as I used to. If I am at the track, it is usually to see one of my horses race, and I will arrive a few races early to watch the warmup and stay for a few more afterwards, either celebrating or commiserating with my friends or partners.

Don't get me wrong, I am still watching a lot of races. But usually it is from the comfort of my home, on my phone or on my computer. I can watch entire fair cards thanks to the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association live-stream program (although I cannot wager) and I can log in to 1stbetpro.com (formerly DRFBets) and I can watch and wager at most any entire card I want. But I miss the at-the-track experience.

So, last week, after doing reptile programs at a couple of Columbus area libraries on Tuesday and Wednesday, and with an OHHA board meeting Thursday, I decided rather than drive home and back (a five hour round trip), I would get a room and head to Scioto Downs (ironically where Thursday's OHHA meeting would be held) for a Wednesday night of racing.

First race post is listed at 5:45, but is actually scheduled for 5:52. I had a horse racing at The Meadows at 4:30, and while I could have stayed in my room and watched on the computer, I figured I would check out the track's simulcast area. That would also give me an hour to handicap the night's card (and enjoy a Dominican toro). And I probably owe the other folks in the simulcast room an apology for yelling too loudly as our filly got up in the final stride, to win by a nose and equal her lifetime mark.

Scioto Downs is a very different facility than I remember. Although I have been there for meetings, I had not seen the races since the new, compact grandstand replaced the massive, hulking original building, where a concession stand sold roast beef sandwiches with the roast beef heated in an old pot. The seats are comfortable and close to the action (although I spent most of my time on the apron (cigars, you know)). Much has been written about the new state-of-the-sport paddock, which allowed the track to earn the Breeders Crown races in 2026, so I will not comment further except to say that from the outside it looks awesome and every horseman I have talked to loves it.

It was a very strange night. With Northfield hosting both Ohio Sires Stakes and Buckeye Stallion Series races, 10 of Scioto's top 12 drivers were competing at the Route 8 Oval. Only Sam Widger (who would go on to win four races on the 14-race card) and Luke Hanners (who posted a double) represented the top 12. They were joined by top-15 drivers Sandy Beatty and Marc St.Louis Jr., who posted a double and was also disqualified on what would have been a third winning drive.

Only two favorites found their way to the winners circle, although eight finished second. Prices were pretty square for the most part (not that I cashed on many of them) and it's always nice to hear the dulcet tones of Barry Vicroy calling races. He does a nice handicapping segment before each race, teaming with Jenna Otten. The pair have very different handicapping philosophies and that makes for some pretty good advice.

On most nights, my handicapping is pretty good and my money management stinks. On this night, the opposite was true - I just couldn't get a feel for the driver changes, but by picking my spots on some exacta boxes, I hung in. The night ended up coasting me \$28, which included two beers and a \$3 program.

Highlights of the night: Our filly winning at The Meadows and a dark beer called "Toasty," from the Brew Brothers Brewery, which is located on property.

Lowlights: Several faded banners hang from a rope or chain and while sightlines from the grandstand are good, these banners block the view of the toteboard for anyone on the apron. And I didn't get to see my friend, track photographer Brad Conrad, who was off covering for one of his photographers who was involved in an accident at a fair.

That's it for this time. Now go cash. Maybe on a race from Scioto Downs.

### Hambletonian elimination trip and equipment change notes

By Derick Givner

If past performance is any indicator for the future and potential changes could produce improved results, you've landed in the right place to come away from the \$1,000,000 Hambletonian with a profit.

Below I'll review the elimination trips for each of the finalists and provide any known equipment changes from last week or expected ones for Saturday.

#### MESHUGGAH

Flashed early speed to gain the pocket, was shuffled back to fourth on the inside, angled for stretch clearance and was never asked while trying to navigate traffic much of the final eighth.

Equipment: None known.

#### SUPER CHAPTER

Floated away from the gate, made his way to the front passing the three-eighths, opened up a couple of lengths and was an easy winner while under light taps to keep his attention in the lane.

Equipment: Might add earplugs in the final.

#### EMOTICON LEGACY

Tucked fourth, had brief cover, made the top around the half and held off a host of challengers (barely) while perhaps a bit short after missing more than three weeks.

Equipment: Switching shoes from flip flops to full swedge.

#### MARYLAND

Floated away from the gate and tucked fourth, moved uncovered by the half, saved a bit of ground in the half-path of the pocket into the stretch, angled and came home very willingly in 26 seconds to just miss.

Equipment: Might add earplugs in the final.

#### MAXIMUS MEARAS S

Moved third over, swung wide at the top of the stretch, was urged and finished full of trot with an elimination round best 26-second final quarter.

Equipment: Possibility of lightening shoes for final.

#### NORDIC CATCHER S

Insisted on the front, set reasonable yet hardly sizzling fractions and lasted under urging.

Equipment: Open to SL blind bridle in elimination. Will pull shoes in the final weather permitting, and the early forecast is very promising.

#### GAP KRONOS S

Went to the front, yielded his way back to third on the rail, pulled passing five-eighths, pressed uncovered and was all out while not looking very smooth late.

Equipment: Added pop out earplugs in the elim. Likely to race without shoes in the final as he did in the Goodtimes.

#### BLANK

Followed third over and finished willingly in 26 3/5, though the final quarter of the race was just 27 3/5, more than a second slower than the other two elim.

Equipment: Raced barefoot in the elimination.

#### GREENMA

Was a bit off the gate, picked up live cover and closed in willingly to just miss.

Equipment: Removed front shoes for elimination. Changes expected to make him more manageable.

#### GO DOG GO

Settled in fifth, picked up live cover at the half and seemed flat in the stretch despite a 26 3/5 final quarter.

Equipment: None known.



# **HAMBLETONIAN DAY AT THE MEADOWLANDS!**

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# Smedshammer duo set for Hambletonian, Oaks challenges

By Ken Weingartner

Trond Smedshammer has won both the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks during his career - one of 12 trainers to accomplish that feat - and he will have the opportunity to add to his trophy collection Saturday when he sends out a horse in each of those trotting classics for 3-year-olds at the Meadowlands.

Smedshammer captured the 2004 Hambletonian with Windsong's Legacy, who went on to complete the Trotting Triple Crown by adding the Yonkers Trot and Kentucky Futurity. The colt, who was driven by Smedshammer, was the first horse to collect all three jewels since Super Bowl in 1972 and the seventh trotter overall to accomplish the feat. Glidemaster and Marion Marauder later added their names to the list.

On Saturday, Smedshammer will drive Greenma in the 100th edition of the Hambletonian Stakes at The Big M. The gelding finished second in his Hambletonian elimination last week, missing by a nose against Emoticon Legacy in 1:51 4/5. He drew post nine for the \$1 million Grade 1 final and was made 25-1 on the morning line.

Smedshammer also will drive Walspea in the \$500,000 Grade 1 final of the Hambletonian Oaks for sophomore female trotters. She finished third in her Oaks elim, one length behind 1:52 3/5 winner Miss Belmar. Walspea drew post eight for the final and was made 12-1 on the morning line. Smedshammer's Oaks triumph came in 2008 with Creamy Mimi, who was driven by Andy Miller, and triumphed at odds of 12-1.

Greenma heads to the Hambletonian final having hit the board in all nine of his races this season, including four wins and four second-place finishes. It was after a second-place effort behind Meshuggah, another Hambletonian finalist, in a June 8 division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs, that Smedshammer told owner Wanda Polisseni of Purple Haze Stables the son of Greenshoe-Ma Was Right was a Hambletonian prospect.

"He was able to close when he shouldn't have been able to up there, three-wide in 26 4/5," Smedshammer said. "That's just real difficult. I told Wanda after that start that I think we've got a Hambo horse if he continues to race like he did that day.

"He's still very green. He got real excited up there Saturday night (for the Hambletonian eliminations), he was a real handful, but he almost pulled it off. But we've got an uphill battle this Saturday."

Smedshammer, of course, looks back fondly at his time with Windsong's Legacy in 2004.

"That was something else," Smedshammer said. "I can't believe it was 21 years ago already. He was a cool horse, no doubt.

"He usually got beat in the eliminations, but in the finals, he showed up."

Walspea, whose family includes 1995 Hambletonian Oaks winner Lookout Victory, has won three of seven races this year and added a second and two thirds. In her start prior to the Oaks elim, she finished third behind Yo Tillie and Lady Landia in a division of the Del Miller Memorial at the Meadowlands. The daughter of Walner-Speak To Me is owned by Purple Haze Stables and M3 Racing Stable.

"She's real handy, so quick and so good gaited," Smedshammer said. "It's just a shame that she doesn't try a little bit harder. But she raced good (in the elimination). We came the last quarter 27 seconds flat, and most of these trotters can't go too much more than that."

Two of the Oaks eliminations were won in 1:52 3/5 and the other was won in 1:52 4/5.

"(Walspea) can do that," Smedshammer said.

Racing begins at noon (EDT) on Saturday at the Meadowlands.

## Crawford Farms bred three Oaks starters

Any breeder would tell you that getting a foal from the ground to the winner's circle on Hambletonian Day is nothing short of a miracle. With that fact in mind, Crawford Farms has plenty to be grateful for.

Having already bred two (Karl, Ramona Hill) of the last seven winners of the million dollar Hambletonian, while sharing ownership in a third (Atlanta), now the Crawfords are cheering for three entrants in this year's \$500,000 Grade 1 Hambletonian Oaks on Saturday (Aug. 2) at the Meadowlands Racetrack.

Following last week's elimination races the Crawfords were fortunate enough to have bred a trio of fillies that advanced to the lucrative final, one homebred from previous champion Atlanta (Deja Blu) and another pair (Torrissi and R Charm) that were offered at public auction.

"Deja Blu raced super in her Hambo [Oaks] elimination," noted back-to-back Hambletonian winning trainer Nancy Takter. "She is unbelievably quick and she's a perfect example of when you breed the best they show up in these major stakes."

While 'royally-bred' is a term that is often used to describe racehorses with strong pedigrees, in the case of Deja Blu, the term may be a relative understatement.

From Muscle Hill, arguably the best trotting sire since Speedy Crown, and she the first foal from the multiple World Champion mare Atlanta 1:49 (\$3,533,707), Deja Blu was retained by the Crawfords with co-ownership now including Thomas Pontone.

Trained by Nancy Takter, Deja Blue 2,1:53, 3,1:52—'25 (\$178,052) has post two in the Oaks final with Yannick Gingras listed as the driver, who said after her elim, "Very happy with how she raced last week. Had tons of trot finishing and is coming into the final in great form."

Another Takter trainee in the Oaks final is Torrissi 2,1:54 1/5, 3,1:54—'25 (\$307,816) who was bred and sold by Crawford Farms for \$110,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

By the hot sire Walner and from the top mare Barn Girl 1:53 2/5 (\$860,478), the \$135,000 Zweig Filly Stake winner is now owned by Pryde Stables, John Fielding, Caviart Farms and Herb Liverman. Torrissi scores from post ten with driver Tim Tetrick.

Rounding out the Crawford Farms troika is R Charm 2,1:53 3/5 (\$244,241) who finished a fast closing second by a nose to Conversano in her Oaks elim, race timed in 1:52 4/5.

The daughter of Propulsion from the Credit Winner mare Jewels In Hock 4,1:51 4/5 (\$533,215) was a \$55,000 yearling purchase by Armitage Farm, whose ownership now includes lessee M&L of Delaware. Trained by Hambletonian-winning trainer Linda Toscano, the filly leaves from post four in the Oaks final with David Miller listed to drive.

Fans can watch the 100th renewal of the sport's most prestigious trotting race, The Hambletonian (and the Hambletonian Oaks), live on the nationally televised broadcast by Fox Sports, as part of the Saratoga Saturday series from 3 pm to 6 pm (EDT) live from the Meadowlands Racetrack.

While yearling season may be a few short months away, Crawford Farms is pleased to offer an International Moni half-brother to R Charm, and an Ecurie D half-brother to Torrissi at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale in October.

A proven breeder of champions, whose progeny continue to inspire and succeed, be sure to schedule your yearling tour today. Visit our website: [CrawfordFarms.com](http://CrawfordFarms.com) for more information, or call Michelle Crawford at 315-382-5378 to visit our New York yearling farm in Chittenango.

-edited release (Chris Tully for Crawford Farms)

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# RACE OF THE WEEK

## 12 MEADOWLANDS SAT

1 Mile Trot HAMBLETONIAN NO.100 - FINAL. 3 YEAR OLD OPEN - GRADE 1. Purse \$1,000,000

EXACTA AND TRIFECTA | 10 CENT SUPERFACTA | 50 CENT PICK 4 (12-13-14-15) (\$100,000 GUARANTEED POOL) (TAKEOUT 15%)

<b>1 MESHUGGAH</b> 3:154.1 (5/8) \$15,782 LEX-SEL \$120,000	b c 3, by Greenhouse, Starita by Triton		Last 5 Sts-\$81,457		1:54.1 PoD 5/8	25 MI	1 0 0 0	\$5,684 25 Tot	6 1 2 1	\$94,689
	Courant Inc, Delray Beach, FL		83550 3		1:54.4 Mw 5/8	24 MI	2 0 1 0	\$6,250 24 Tot	10 2 5 2	\$323,368
	M. Melander 84-12-12-17 (143)		3 2 1 4 3 7 6 7 2 4 3		Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	16 3 7 3

<b>2 SUPER CHAPTER</b> 3:150.3 (1) Q \$64,701 SHS-HBG \$300,000	b c 3, by Chapter Seven, Lifetime Pursuit by Cantab Hall		Last 5 Sts-\$324,700		1:50.3 M1	25 MI	2 2 0 0	\$10,525 25	* 5 0 0	\$323,905
	Jeffrey S Snyder, NY, NY; Arthur S Pronti, Jersey City, NJ; Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, Hanover, PA		83550 3		1:52 Lx1	24 MI	3 0 2 0	\$153,000 24 Tot	11 5 3 1	\$521,260
	M. Melander 84-12-12-17 (143)		3 2 1 4 3 7 6 7 2 4 3		Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	16 10 3 1

<b>3 #EMOTICON LEGACY</b> 3:150.2 (7/8) * \$74,179	b c 3, by Walner, Emoticon Hanover by Kadabra		Last 5 Sts-\$296,715		*1:50.2 Wbs 7/8	25 MI	1 1 0 0	\$41,775 25	* 4 0 0	\$236,715
	Determination, Montreal, QC, CA		83550 2		1:52.3 M1	24 MI	2 1 0 0	\$12,500 24	* 7 4 0 0	\$162,656
	L. Blais 11-3-1-1 (273)		2 4 2 1 1 1 1 1 2		Br.- Determination, Montreal, Qc		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	11 8 0 0

<b>4 MARYLAND</b> 2:151.4 (1) \$37,994 LEX-SEL \$475,000	b c 3, by Chapter Seven, Crucial by Father Patrick		Last 5 Sts-\$239,225		*1:51.4 M1	25 MI	2 0 2 0	\$50,763 25 Tot	4 0 4 0	\$151,976
	Courant & Powe Rco & Holly Lane Stud East, FL; Stewartherm Sbk, KY		83550 7		1:52.3 M1	24 MI	5 3 1 0	\$451,650 24	* 9 6 1 0	\$1,227,695
	M. Melander 84-12-12-17 (143)		7 4 4 1 4 2 3 2 2 2 2		Br.- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	13 6 5 1

<b>5 MAXIMUS MEARAS</b> 2:152.4 (1) \$15,128	br c 3, by Chapter Seven, Darling Mearas S by Cantab Hall		Last 5 Sts-\$237,948		1:54.4 M1Q	25 MI	2 0 1 0	\$30,448 25 Tot	2 0 1 0	\$30,255
	Kjell Magne Andersen, Walchwil, SZ		83550 6		1:52.4 M1	24 MI	3 2 1 0	\$195,500 24	* 6 4 2 0	\$242,255
	L. Wallin 21-2-1-2 (2,095)		6 7 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 2		Br.- Snogarps Gard Inc, FL		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	8 4 3 0

<b>6 NORDIC CATCHER</b> 3:150.3 (1) \$18,331	br c 3, by Six Pack, That Woman Hanover by Somebeachsomewhere		Last 5 Sts-\$178,821		1:50.3 M1	25 MI	4 2 1 0	\$72,446 25 Tot	4 2 1 1	\$73,322
	Ake Svannstedt Inc, Wrightstown, NJ; Little E LLC, New York, NY		83550 1		1:53.3 M1	24 MI	3 2 1 0	\$138,750 24 Tot	5 2 3 0	\$239,963
	A. Svannstedt 82-11-11-17 (134)		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		Br.- Nordic Horse Farm Ab, SD; Joie De Vie Farm LLC		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	9 4 4 1

<b>7 GAP KRONOS</b> 2:151.4 (1) \$14,555	br c 3, by Face Time Bourbon, I'm Really Special by Muscle Hill		Last 5 Sts-\$76,253		1:51.4 M1	25 MI	3 0 2 1	\$33,163 25 Tot	5 1 1 1	\$72,773
	Bruni Racing Team Inc, Delray Beach, FL; Part Of Dream Inc, Delray Beach, FL		83550 3		*1:51.4 Lx1	24 MI	5 0 1 0	\$10,130 24 Tot	8 3 1 1	\$95,528
	A. Svannstedt 82-11-11-17 (134)		3 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 2 2		Br.- Winged Lion Breeding Ab, SD		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	14 5 2 2

<b>8 BLANK</b> 2:154.4 (1) \$5,845 LEX-SEL \$150,000	b c 3, by Gimpanzee, Cover Girl by Muscle Hill		Last 5 Sts-\$27,834		1:54.4 Lx1	25 MI	3 0 2 1	\$26,082 25 Tot	5 0 2 2	\$29,227
	S R F Stable, Del Ray Beach, FL; Holly Lane Stud East, FL; Vero Beach, FL		83550 7		1:52.4 M1	24 MI	3 0 2 1	\$10,130 24 Tot	10 2 1 1	\$164,520
	M. Melander 84-12-12-17 (143)		7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7		Br.- Diamond Creek Farm LLC, PA		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	15 2 1 3

<b>9 GREENMA</b> 3:153.4 (5/8) \$9,573 LEX-SEL \$40,000	br g 3, by Greenhouse, Ma Was Right by Muscle Hill		Last 5 Sts-\$68,187		1:53.4 Phl 5/8	25 MI	3 0 2 1	\$26,863 25 Tot	9 4 4 1	\$86,156
	Purple Haze Stables LLC, Fairport, NY		83550 5		1:53 Lx1	24 MI	1 0 0 0	\$1,000 24 Tot	2 0 0 0	\$5,598
	T. Smedhammer 15-2-4-4 (133)		5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6		Br.- Kentuckiana Fms LLC, KY; All Laird Out Sbk Inc		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	11 4 4 1

<b>10 GO DOGG GO</b> 3:150.4 (1) \$28,065 LEX-SEL \$110,000	b c 3, by Greenhouse, Primary Target by Muscle Hill		Last 5 Sts-\$167,094		1:50.4 M1	25 MI	3 2 0 1	\$87,188 25	* 4 3 0 1	\$112,259
	Wiesman Farms LLC, Middle River, MD; A J Libfeld, Plover, ON, CA		83550 3		1:53 Lx1	24 MI	3 0 2 1	\$139,640 24 Tot	10 2 2 2	\$307,959
	C. Pinsky 12-3-1-4 (250)		3 5 3 5 3 5 3 5 3 5		Br.- Wiesman Farms LLC, PA		23 MI	0 0 0 0	-Life	14 5 2 3

No coupled entries per NJRC. All horses in this race have participated in a pre-race stakes barn since 8 PM Friday. 6-last receive 1% of purse after winner's 50%. Elimination winners drew 1-6. \*\* NO LASIX PERMITTED \*\* PICK 4 - Mandatory Payout\*\* Bjorn Goop - Courant - red-ye.



**BY DERICK GIWNER**

Owner Jeff Snyder has been involved in harness racing a long time and few can match his level of success. He's owned multiple Horse of the Year winners, double-digit millionaires and a number of stallions dating back for decades.

While Snyder started out buying claimers, he now seeks out the cream of the crop at the yearling sales and often walks away with stars. His Super Chapter is the morning-line favorite for the Hambletonian and that is just one of many horses he has in-to-go on that major stakes card at The Meadowlands.

The always gracious Snyder took some time out of his day on the week leading up to the Hambletonian to discuss his path in the sport, his role in selecting yearlings, owner participation, his reasoning for selling part of Super Chapter to Hanover Shoe Farms and much more. Enjoy!

## OWNER JEFF SNYDER

### How did you get started in harness racing?

I was a gambler way back. I used to go to Yonkers and Roosevelt when I was 16 years old. I got over [gambling] by buying horses, which is a big gamble in itself. My first trainer in New York was Buddy Regan. He was the leading trainer at Yonkers and Roosevelt back in the days when they used to have 25 to 30,000 people a night.

### When did you get your first horse?

When I was about 19 years old. It was a horse named Senator Flin, a pacing colt I bought off someone in Monticello. When I was in the Army Reserves there was a trainer there named Larry Wolfson. I got to know him well and I started buying claimers.

### You mentioned gambling. Do you still like to play the horses?

Not on the horses but I do play blackjack.

### You have owned at least 10 millionaire horses including Horses of the Year Cam's Card Shark and Rocknroll Hanover. Do you attribute that more to luck or skill?

You need a combination of both. I go over the pedigrees very carefully and Dr. Goodrow, who recently passed away, helped me quite a bit regarding the conformation of the horses. I try to go to the best pedigree horses and I've had a lot of luck doing that, but I put in a lot of effort, time studying the pedigrees and if possible I got to the farms.

### So you are pretty hands-on with the yearling selections process?

I pick all of the horses myself and get it down to maybe 10 at each sale. I don't look at horses where the page doesn't look appealing.

### As a buyer on the upper end of the yearling market, have you changed your purchasing habits over the years?

Not really. The only thing I've done is switch from buying pacers to trotters over the last few years. I usually don't stop bidding until I get the horse I like because I don't have too many on my list.

### Many owners say it is difficult to show a profit buying yearlings. Do you feel you've been able to buck that trend?

Well, this year it looks like we will for sure. We have Super Chapter, Date Night Hanover and Apex. It isn't easy to show a profit but we have



Owner Jeff Snyder with Hambletonian favorite Super Chapter.

different stallions that have helped us out like Cam's Card Shark, Rocknroll Hanover, Well Said, and now Super Chapter which we expect to stand at Hanover Shoe Farms next year.

### Are you an easy owner to work for?

Yes, very easy. I don't call the trainers every day, especially when things are going well. I'm very easy to get along with and I'm that way in my own business as well. You have to treat people respectfully and not get on their case. Trainers have plenty of work to do without having me bother them every day.

### What is your favorite track to visit? Why?

I've had a lot of luck up at Woodbine [Mohawk Park] and I like The Meadowlands as well. We have a home up in Saratoga and that has a nice half-mile track that we like to go to when we have a Sire Stakes horse racing there.

### What is your favorite big event in racing? Why?

We've won the Meadowlands Pace three times, the Little Brown Jug three times and the North America Cup four times and the Adios three times. All of those four [laughing]. We like it where we win. Those tracks absolutely do things right for the big cards.

### What is your favorite thing to do outside of harness racing?

Sports workouts. I keep in shape doing aerobics and try to work out every day. I also try to spend as much time as possible with my family. My daughter and my son are also involved in harness racing and we'll all be at Hambletonian Day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

### You are typically in attendance at the track with your wife and son. How much is your daughter involved?

She sang the national anthem at The Meadowlands on Hambletonian Day three times. We had a Jugette winner named Alexa's Power as she owned 25 percent of that one. We are selling a yearling by Sweet Lou in Lexington this year that she has a piece of. My son Michael likes the European racing. He learned how to read by reading Sports Eye in the old days when Clyde Hirt and Jay Bergman were there.

### What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Exciting and distraction. It distracts from the everyday world.

### What was your best moment in harness racing?

The most exciting time for us was our first big horse Cam's Card Shark. At the time he set a seasonal record of \$2.2 million and he was scratched lame from the Little Brown Jug. He was 1-9 in the Little Brown Jug. He was the first stallion we had and he was the Horse of the Year in 1994.

### Which is the best horse you've ever owned?

We've had many of them. Rocknroll Hanover, Well Said and Michael's Power. I'd have to think it was Cam's Card Shark. Aetos Kronos was excellent as well before he had a serious injury. It is amazing how he's come back for us.

### How many horses do you currently own?

Including broodmares and yearlings, about 20. With racehorses I have eight here in the States with Marcus Melander. I also have a homebred pacer that is turned out.

### You have the undefeated-in-2025 Super Chapter starting in Saturday's Hambletonian. How confident are you going in?

I think it will be a very tough race. He won easily the other night. I'm just hoping for the best. I think there will be a lot of speed but he can do it on or off the pace. You can't be overconfident in a race like this because in the past different horses like Tactical Approach and Cool Papa Bell have upset and some of the top horses like Greenshoe and Father Patrick didn't quite make it.

### You mentioned all of the pacing races you've won. What would a Hambletonian victory mean?

It would be super-great. I just like to win as many Grade 1 races as possible. Winning a Hambletonian would be very important, particularly in terms of the breeding situation. It will enhance his reputation, but everything has to go perfect to win. The horse has to be sharp, he can't be sick or dehydrated, you have to get luck with the draw and the way the trip works out. It is all very important.

### You brought up selling a piece of Super Chapter to Hanover Shoe Farms. What made you do that so early rather than waiting?

I'd rather get the pressure off and have a place to stand the horse at the best farm in harness racing. I've had Cam's Card Shark and Well Said stand there. They are very reliable and honest. They also have the top broodmare band in the business and I felt that was the best place for him. We sold a piece before the Stanley Dancer and I'm very happy and excited about it. You never know in harness racing what could happen so I'm glad we made the deal early.

### Would you say you are more risk adverse?

Yeah. I'd rather have a place for the horse to stand. Maybe if he wins the Hambo he'll be worth more, but it wasn't a question of money. It was about finding a place for the horse to stand and removing that issue from the table.

### You mentioned Apex, who will race on the Hambletonian undercard in the 2-year-old male NJ Sire Stakes final. Are you already Hambletonian dreaming for him in 2026?

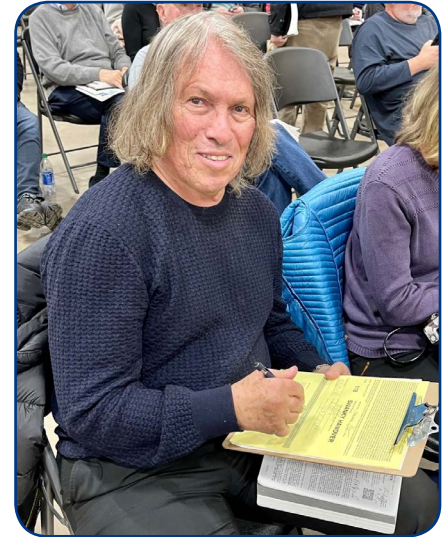
No. I don't think about that. It is a year away. I'm really excited about him. He was tremendous in his last race, well in-hand in 1:54 3/5 with a last quarter in 27 flat.

### From The Meadowlands to the Delaware County Fairgrounds you are often a present owner when your horses win. Is it important for owners to show up at the track?

I think so. Today with RTN a lot of people don't go. I had something to do over the weekend and that's why I wasn't there for the eliminations. My partner Arthur Pronti was there.

### Where do you see your horse operation in 5 to 10 years?

I'm going to keep on going as long as I can. We are having an excellent year this year and we have a few filly broodmares that are worth a lot of money. Date Night Hanover qualified extremely well the other day.



DERICK GWINNER  
Jeff Snyder can often be found signing for horses at the Harrisburg sale.

### If you had the power to change one thing in the sport, what would it be?

I would add more promotional giveaways like they do up in Saratoga; t-shirts, hats. That will help get more people to the track.

### How do you view the future of harness racing?

As long as the economy and stock market is good with all the tariff confusion, I think people will have money to spend and the breeders and yearling market will do well, and the stakes races will do well. If things go bad and people don't have enough money to spend gambling or buying horses, then it won't do well.

### Time for the stretch drive:

**Best Horse you ever saw:** Cam's Card Shark. I'll be selfish. He was great and he wasn't sound. He also sired one of the greatest horses in history Bettor's Delight, sire of sires who gave us Roll With Joe, Bettor's Wish and many others.

**Favorite TV Show:** Fox News.

**Trotters or Pacers:** Right now I'm into trotters and European racing.



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 | POST TIME 12:00 PM EDT**

- ✔ 7% Rebate on Exotic Wagers
- ✔ Free Harness Eye PPs
- ✔ Video Analysis

**HAMBLETONIAN DAY AT THE MEADOWLANDS!**

[Learn More](#)

# Muscle Hill to greet fans on Hambo Day

As if the plethora of activities weren't enough to get you off the couch and heading to The Meadowlands for Hambletonian 100 Day on Saturday (Aug. 2), once track-goers get to the mile oval, they will have an opportunity to meet and greet one of the best of all time.

The great Muscle Hill, regarded by many in the harness game as the greatest horse the sport has ever seen, will be in the Backyard from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The 2009 Hambletonian champion, unbeaten in 12 starts during his 3-year-old campaign, will be available for picture taking. For those looking for a cool souvenir, patrons can enter the "losing ticket drawing" for a chance to win a Muscle Hill hoof print autograph or poster.

Need more? How about Muscle Hill won't be the only star in the house.

Market Share, winner of the 2012 Hambletonian, will be on hand leading the post parade for the Hambletonian as the track's Alumni Ambassador.

For more Hambletonian Day fun, the Backyard will be filled with inflatables, a mechanical shark, carnival games, music by DJ ALX and face painters.

For those who'd like to meet their favorite horsemen face-to-face, they should head to the HarnessRacing.com tent between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to get autographs and take some photos with many of the trainers and drivers who will be participating on the Hambo Day program.

**NEED TO KNOW BASIS:** What follows is a list of things fans attending the Hambletonian need to know before attending the races:

- Gates open at 10 a.m.
- Admission is \$5; all paying adults will receive a Hambletonian baseball cap
- There will be a cigar roller on the Paddock Level
- Food trucks will be on the East Apron and throughout the Backyard
- Kiddie rides will be available from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Hambletonian Hat contest: 1:40 p.m. (after race 5; will be judged by TV personality Carson Kressley)
- Best-dressed contest: 2:05 p.m. (after race 6; will be judged by influencer Caitlyn Warakowski)
- Interviews with Kressley, New York Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman, Big M Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Gural, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hambletonian Society John Campbell and Editor of DRF Harness Derick Giwner will be conducted during the course of the card on the in-house simulcast show
- Hambletonian drivers' parade: 4:05 p.m.

-edited release (Meadowlands)

## GREENFIELD ELECTED HARNESS RACING MUSEUM TRUSTEE

The annual meeting of the trustees of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame was held on Sunday, July 6, 2025 where the Board elected R. Kevin Greenfield a trustee of the Museum.

Greenfield has been involved in harness racing since the late 1980s and is the co-owner, president and treasurer of Hickory Lane Horse Farm in Findlay, Ohio. He is syndicate manager for stallions Tactical Landing and Ecurie D DK both standing at Southwind Farms of New Jersey, as well as the syndicate manager for stallions Uncle Peter, What The Hill, In Range, Racing Hill and Branded By Lindy, all standing at Hickory Lane, and Dover Dan and Don't Let'Em, both standing at Ivy Lane Farm in Indiana.

Greenfield earned a B.A. degree from Bowling Green State University and a J.D. degree from the University of Toledo. He is a member of the Ohio State and Toledo Bar Associations. He was voted by his legal peers as outstanding lawyer in Toledo for labor and employment law. He is a director of the Standardbred Transition Alliance, a past president of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and past treasurer of the Ohio Harness Horse Breeders Inc.

With Greenfield's considerable knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for the sport of harness racing, he is an exceptional addition to the leadership of this institution.

Also at the trustees meeting, Seth Rosenfeld was elected president of the institution, and Max J. Hempt chairman of the Executive Committee. Stephen Oldford will hold both vice president and treasurer positions.

The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is located at 240 Main Street in Goshen, New York and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For information on the Museum, special events, gift shop services and educational programs the Museum offers, please call (845) 294-6330 or visit [www.harnessmuseum.com](http://www.harnessmuseum.com).

-release (Harness Museum and Hall of Fame)

## DRF Bets 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, JULY 31

RACE 8

(9) IN THE BLACK already has a win at the Gold level and continues to improve. He was being heavily bet before the cancellation last week. He can overcome the post.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE  
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

RACE 4

(2) CAMBRIDGE HANOVER overcame post 10 nicely to finish third in his career debut while losing to the 1-2 favorite and another foe that got the jump on him. He moves to the inside of the gate here and has a big shot.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 10

(2) MISSISSIPPI STORM is getting up there in age but he can still bring it at a high level. Millionaire trotter returns to his preferred venue at a softer level, returns to Holland and draws well.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

RACE 9

(1) AETOS KRONOS S gets major class relief, a much better post and adds Lasix. Nine-year-old looks like an obvious single to start the \$125K GTD Pick 4.

-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

## NEW MEADOWLANDS CALENDAR ADDS THURSDAYS STARTING NOV. 6

According to the racing calendar on the track's Facebook page, The Meadowlands has added Thursday racing on November 6, 13, 20 and December 4, 11, 18. Post time each night is 6:20 PM.

The Meadowlands has six more nights of racing in August and four in September before going on hiatus from September 14 to October 17. Racing then resumes on October 18 and continues on Friday and Saturday until the Thursdays are added.

## THREE INDIANA SIRE STAKES DIVISIONS CONTESTED AT HOOSIER

A trio of Indiana Sire Stakes divisions headlined the Wednesday (July 30) card at Harrah's Hoosier Park with a pair of \$66,000 divisions of leg two for 2-year-old pacing colts and geldings and a lone \$96,000 division of the fifth leg for 3-year-old trotting fillies featured on the 14-race card.

[READ MORE](#)

## SEYOURSIGHTSHIGH SHINES AGAIN IN KENTUCKY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Setyoursightshigh won her third straight stakes event - all at different tracks - after she took the \$80,000 first leg of the Kentucky Championship Series for 2-year-old trotting fillies on Wednesday evening at The Red Mile in a national season's record 1:53 1/5.

[READ MORE](#)

## INDUSTRY DAY STAKES TO OCCUR NEXT MONDAY AT GRAND RIVER

Grand River Raceway (GRR) is thrilled to welcome guests for the 36th annual Industry Day, happening on Civic Holiday Monday, August 4, with a 12:30 p.m. (EDT) post time. It's an exciting afternoon packed with top-tier harness racing and fun for the entire family!

[READ MORE](#)

## MEADOWLANDS ANNOUNCES "GIRL POWER" MARE TROT

The Meadowlands is pleased to announce a new race for the 10 highest money winning 4 & 5 year-old trotting mares as of the date of entry to be named "Girl Power", scheduled for Friday, August 29.

The race is scheduled to fill a month long gap in the stakes schedule for a division that lacks opportunities after the Dr. John Steele Memorial on Hambo Day.

The purse will be \$100,000 with a fee of \$2,500 due at the time of entry. No other fees are required, just enter for the race as it is listed on the condition sheet and if your entry is among the top 10 she will race if not your entry fee will be returned.

[-release \(Meadowlands\)](#)

## EIGHT POINTS SEPARATE TOP THREE IN TOP 10 POLL

The top three horses in the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll remained unchanged in the Week 7 edition of the rankings released Wednesday, but the gap between the trio was reduced to a mere eight points.

Louprint continued to hold the No. 1 spot, as he has all season, but by only two points over Twin B Joe Fresh. Hambletonian elimination winner Emoticon Legacy remained third.

Super Chapter, another Hambletonian elim winner, moved from fifth to fourth in a swap of places with Tompkins-Geers Stakes winner Miki And Minnie. Those two horses were separated by four points.

Adios champion Prince Hal Hanover was the only newcomer to the Top 10, finishing tied for ninth with Madden Oaks.

Go Dog Go dropped out of the Top 10.

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 7 - 7/30/2025

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	A/S/G	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Louprint (19)	3cp	5-5-0-0	\$449,132	265	1
2	Twin B Joe Fresh (5)	5mp	5-3-1-1	\$264,712	263	2
3	Emoticon Legacy (5)	3ct	4-4-0-0	\$296,715	257	3
4	Super Chapter (2)	3ct	5-5-0-0	\$323,505	215	5
5	Miki And Minnie	3fp	6-5-1-0	\$293,502	211	4
6	Sylvia Hanover (2)	5mp	6-3-2-1	\$206,574	150	6
7	Yo Tillie (2)	3ft	4-4-0-0	\$122,083	118	7
8	Elista Hanover	4mt	7-2-3-0	\$321,919	106	10
T9	Madden Oaks	3cp	9-4-3-2	\$514,567	61	9
T9	Prince Hal Hanover	3cp	9-3-4-1	\$431,633	61	--

[-release \(By Ken Weingartner\)](#)

## OHHA HOSTING TV & TICKETS GIVEAWAY AT SCIOTO DOWNS ON AUGUST 2

Some great prizes will be up for grabs when the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) hosts its TV and Tickets Giveaway at Eldorado Scioto Downs on Saturday (Aug. 2).

The five grand prizes include tickets to a local college football game, 55-inch television, Roku stick, and a one-month subscription to Racetrack Television Network.

The contest is free to enter and open to anyone 18 years and older. No purchase is required, but contestants must be present to win.

Contestants will be selected randomly from entries collected that day. Those selected will draw an envelope that will have the name of a horse for the corresponding race. If that horse wins, the contestant will win the prize package. All other contestants will receive a \$25 gift card to The Brew Brothers restaurant.

Prizes will be given away in races 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10.

The TV and Tickets Giveaway is part of the three-day Ohio State Fair meet at Scioto Downs from Thursday (July 31) through Saturday (Aug. 2) that serves as the first leg of the Ohio Triple Crown.

First-race post time at Eldorado Scioto Downs on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday is 5:45 p.m.

[-edited release \(OHHA\)](#)

## NEW BIOGRAPHY CELEBRATES HARNESS RACING'S TROTTER OF THE CENTURY

From award-winning author, researcher, and equine professional, Cheryl L. Eriksen comes Greyhound, the most complete biographical portrait of the greatest racehorse history (nearly) forgot.

Eriksen will host several book signing events during the historic 100th Hambletonian celebration week. Greyhound aficionados can purchase a signed copy of Greyhound at the Hambletonian Homecoming Party on Friday, Aug 1 at the Meadowlands Racetrack and on Hambletonian day at the Harness Racing Fan Zone in the Backyard at the Meadowlands.

Greyhound set twenty-five world records in six seasons of racing. His greatest record—the fastest trotting mile—stood for over 30 years! With his enigmatic personality (often described as almost human), a generous entrepreneurial owner, a tough but kindly veteran trainer-driver, and a young groom (a.k.a. valet and PR agent), Greyhound charmed the American public during the dark years of the Great Depression.

Greyhound is a meticulously researched and completely factual account of the great trotter's life from his birth in 1932 to his death in 1965. With elements of creative nonfiction, it reads like a novel, bringing to life Greyhound's greatest victories and a few surprising moments that were lost to history—until now.

With nearly 200 pictures—some that have never been shared with the public before—a complete racing record, and a glimpse into the grand history of the sport that was once more popular than baseball, this biography is sure to satisfy any harness racing enthusiast.

But just as the Champion did in life, Greyhound goes beyond the sport and touches something deeper. It is a book for anyone who has known the love of a great horse and everyone who finds inspiration in a true underdog tale.

Greyhound is available from book stores and online retailers, from the publisher [www.trafalgarbooks.com](http://www.trafalgarbooks.com), or [www.simonandschuster.com](http://www.simonandschuster.com).

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