

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

Equal Footing

Atlanta (L) and Ramona Hill (R) both won the Hambletonian against the boys, but should they be required to face them to race for \$1,000,000?



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

[X @harnessseyeguy](#)

Whether dealing with the human race or Standardbreds, when it comes to women's rights the battle is never ending and it can certainly be argued that the equine variety of females are way behind the curve.

As a father of two daughters, it is not lost on me that women only got the right to vote in the United States about 100 years ago. While things have certainly improved over time, depending on the source, women still only make 80-85% of what men make in the working world. Whether our society will reach the finish line of equal pay regardless of sex is unknown, but it is worth pointing out that we are well ahead of the racing world when it comes to equal pay for equal performance of our on-track athletes.

Almost regardless of track, event, or breed, fillies and mares race for less money than colts and horses. Of course, in many cases our female performers have the option of taking on the boys for higher purses, but should they need to do that

for the opportunity to earn an equal amount of money?

Before proceeding, let's look at the purse evidence with a few examples. The Hambletonian goes for \$1,000,000 and the Hambletonian Oaks checks in 50% less at \$500,000. Last year's Little Brown Jug offered a final purse of \$525,000 while the Jugette female companion race had a \$310,000 prize (41% less). The Yonkers Trot went for \$300,000 in 2025 while the NY NY Mile for the girls had a total purse (race was contested in divisions) of \$120,000 (60% less). The Breeders Crown Mare Pace went for \$400,000 in 2024 while the Open division had a \$600,000 purse (33% less).

To be fair, there are many races where the purses are more comparable. The Breeders Crown races for 2- and 3-year-olds are identical for both sexes. The main divisions of the Delmonica Hanover and James Lynch (\$250,000) at Pocono Downs come close to the boys' races – Max Hempt and Early Beal (\$300,000). In fact, the 16% reduction in purse for the Pocono female races falls exactly in line with the national average for women vs. men mentioned earlier.

"It all goes into a Breeders Crown fund and we set the purses based on what that fund is," said

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A CAESARS REWARDS. DESTINATION

Hambletonian Society President and CEO John Campbell on how the Breeders Crown purses are structured and why the freshmen and sophomore boys and girls race for the same money. “There is a Breeders Crown committee made up of board members who determine that. We meet a couple of times a year and determine what the purses will be. They’ve been pretty equal in terms of the fillies for 2- and 3-year-olds for quite a long time.

“The Open Mare Trot and Pace went for \$250,000 not that long ago and we got them up to \$400,000. When we had extra dollars for the Breeders Crown we certainly looked at the mares and thought they deserved a raise.”

Earning discrepancy is certainly not limited to racing. With basketball, WNBA players earn far less than NBA players, but there is no denying that one league has been around much longer and its current earning power in terms of media and sales is way higher. Meanwhile, there really is no difference between male and female horses on the track. They both perform the same task and race in front of the same number of fans and bettors.

Again, the argument can be made that a 3-year-old filly trotter could try her luck against the boys in the Hambletonian. It has happened a number of times and in the last decade alone we’ve seen some successes – Atlanta (2018) and Ramona Hill (2020). The question is whether that should be necessary for them to earn the same amount of money. You could also argue that when a filly enters the Hambletonian and wins it takes away a potential stallion career from a male that would’ve won the race.

“We are very cognizant of the hype created by a filly racing against the boys and see the benefit of having the purse for the Open division higher to provide that attraction for a filly to take a shot,” said Campbell, who disagreed with the notion that it takes away an opportunity for a colt to get a statement win. “If the colt is good enough he should beat the filly and even if he doesn’t there is ample opportunity for him to win other major races.”

Not to say that nominations should be the sole determiner of final purse, but there were actually more fillies (98) eligible to the Oaks than colts and geldings for the Hambletonian (95) in 2025. Fillies do pay lower

sustaining and entrance fees for the Oaks than the Hambletonian (\$8,750 vs. \$17,500). Certainly they would be willing to pay the full amount if they were racing for \$1,000,000, right?

Using 2025 numbers, with 98 eligible and 23 entering the eliminations that would create another \$295,000 for the purse (98 x \$1,250 + 23 x \$7,500), making it in theory a \$795,000 final with the current added money. That’s still a big gap from the million-dollar mark and Campbell said it all comes down to that added money.

“There is \$300,000 added to the fillies division and \$600,000 to the open division from the track. Those are rough numbers. It varies depending on payments. It is all about the added money to make it equitable,” said Campbell, who agreed that having both races at \$1,000,000 or higher would be nice. “In a perfect world the fillies would go for as much as the colts, but in the economic model we have I just don’t see it happening.”

Going back to the MGM Yonkers Trot/NY NY Mile mentioned above, it also costs twice as much to get into the open division versus the race solely for fillies. The total additional cost is \$2,150 and if the fillies paid that amount there would be about another \$100,000 available, bringing the total purse to \$220,000. Again, making the fillies second-class citizens racing for \$80,000 less than the colts.

What’s really interesting is when you compare the value of male and female horses at the yearling sales. You would think that the boys would sell for much more, but they don’t. At the two largest Standardbred yearling sales – Lexington Selected Sale and Standardbred Horse Sale – during the last two years (2023 and 2024), fillies have outsold the boys by a small margin of \$103.5 million to \$102.9 million, or \$617,500 total. If the girls are more valuable at auction, why aren’t they at least as valuable on the track?

“All horses should race for the same purses and same staking,” said two-time Hambletonian-winning trainer Nancy Takter. “It costs the same to train them and often fillies cost more at the sale.”

We’ve mentioned a number of individual races but consider this fact: In 2024, 3-year-old males raced for approx. \$1.7 million more in stakes money (Sire Stakes not included) on the trotting side and \$2.7 million more on the pacing end. So our Standardbred 3-year-old fillies are competing for about 74% of what the males race for on a yearly basis. Certainly we can do better than that.

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Miki And Minnie/Chantilly showdown didn't disappoint



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [Bergmanjay](#)

The first encounter between Miki And Minnie and Chantilly proved to be the thriller we had hoped for. The 2024 Canadian Horse of the Year Chantilly's first meeting with any horse on a track outside of Ontario proved that the daughter of Big Jim can travel and can go around a smaller oval. Driver James MacDonald had an ace up his sleeve and that was the brilliant quick foot his filly had at the outset. That Miki And Minnie's trainer Chris Ryder had been aware of that fact hours earlier was a cautionary tale for the \$250,000 Lynch at Pocono on Saturday.

"Chantilly can leave very quick, and I hope we can stay with her," Ryder said a few hours before the battle.

When the Lynch began Chantilly exploded and was instantly in front despite starting from post six. That Dexter Dunn was able to work past one horse to his inside with Miki And Minnie and secure the pocket was good fortune.

Still, there was plenty of uncertainty how the race would play out with the two top fillies in racing one-two and MacDonald having the advantage of controlling the pace to his liking. For a moment when Dexter Dunn pulled Miki And Minnie on the final turn and then ducked back in behind Chantilly it appeared that perhaps the leader was going to pull away in the stretch. Whether Miki And Minnie needed to compose herself with cover on the turn or not the move was enough to catapult the daughter of Always B Miki in the homestretch where her determination got the better of Chantilly, with the runner-up giving all indication that little separates the two talent-wise. However, we may have to wait a while before the two fillies are on the same track for the same race again.

Ryder's 2024 Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh is taking a brief vacation from the races following her last race on Hambletonian Day. "We're going to bring her back for the Milton," said Ryder on Sun Stakes Day, pointing towards the race at Woodbine Mohawk Park that has eliminations scheduled for September 6, if necessary, with the final on September 13.

Twin B Joe Fresh wasn't the only horse coming out of Hambletonian Day that needed more time before returning to stakes action. Trainer Marcus Melander indicated that Maryland won't return until September 13's Canadian Trotting Classic eliminations at Woodbine Mohawk Park. "He got sick after the Hambletonian," Melander said of last year's 2-year-old champion that has now taken a back seat to stablemate Super Chapter following that one's 1:50 victory last Saturday in the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial over the Pocono five-eighths mile track. Super Chapter followed up his second-place finish in the Hambletonian with an extraordinary effort outsprinting a game Emoticon Legacy in the closest finish of the day.

Melander has one of the most promising 2-year-old trotting fillies racing as the aptly named Setyoursightshigh has spanned two states with some impressive miles this year. A filly from the first crop of In Range has shown versatility and talent in just a handful of starts most recently capturing a pair of \$80,000 Kentucky Championship Series events at The Red Mile.

"We're going back to Ohio with her and hopefully get enough points so that she can qualify for both the Ohio Sire Stakes championships and the Kentucky Championships," said Melander of Setyoursightshigh.

Melander recalled some similarities between In Range, a son of Bar Hopping he trained as a 2-year-old and his offspring. "In Range was not a good training horse," Melander said. "We brought him up to The Meadows before his first baby race and he struggled to train in 2:05."

"Then I put him in a qualifier, and he was good and won his first start a week later in 1:55 (1/5)," said Melander.

Setyoursightshigh only trotted in around 2:00 in her Meadowlands debut on June 7 but was timed in 1:57 in a second-place finish in her career debut at Oak Grove two weeks later. Setyoursightshigh won three straight stakes races in July coming from off the pace in the Next Generation (July 5 at Scioto Downs), the Kentucky Sire Stakes final at Oak Grove on July 14 and the first leg of the Kentucky Championship at The Red Mile on July 30 in a career best 1:53 1/5 mile.

Trainer Andrew Harris has a stable filled with 2-year-olds that got plenty of attention at last year's yearling sales. The \$1 million price tag for Cambridge Hanover may have seemed steep to some but for Harris and his principal owners the three-quarter brother to Maryland may prove a bargain. Cambridge Hanover showed some class in his Wellwood elimination at Woodbine Mohawk Park this past Friday getting beat in a win photo following a first-over journey.

"I was very happy with him," said Harris. "He keeps getting better. He may finally be the one that breaks the curse." The curse is that none of the other seven-figure yearling purchases have matched race performance with lofty price point. Cambridge Hanover will get tested in Saturday's Wellwood final. "Todd McCarthy will drive him," Harris said with understanding that Dexter Dunn has opted for elimination winner Magic Punk.



NIKKI SHERMAN

Miki And Minnie taking the victory walk to the winner's circle.

On the pacing side Harris' Brandon Blvd remained unbeaten following another victory in an \$80,000 Kentucky Championships leg at The Red Mile on Sunday (August 17). The son of Downbytheseaside is the first colt and second foal from Alexis Faith, a \$586K winner and half-sister to Test Of Faith. Brandon Blvd was a \$425,000 Lexington Selected purchase last fall and is unbeaten in four career starts with a 1:49 3/5 career best.

"He's eligible to The Metro," said Harris of possible future engagements for Brandon Blvd. "It's a \$1 million race this year but it conflicts with the Kentucky Championship Series final." The Metro has eliminations on September 13 with the rich final on September 20. At this point in the season Brandon Blvd looks as good as any 2-year-old pacer in North America.

Congratulations to trainer John Butenschoen on his 2,000th career victory. "I've got a lot more losses," said Butenschoen on Saturday with a laugh. The veteran trainer who suggested his age and an unwillingness to try any other profession have gotten him to this milestone once again sent out a Sun Stakes afternoon winner with R Dutchess capturing the \$125,000 Delmonica Hanover consolation in 1:52 2/5 for driver Tim Tetrick.

They generally give out awards following the racing season but it's going to be hard for any driver to match Jason Bartlett's extraordinary success with minimal extended travel. Bartlett drove Hempt winner Dandy Ideal like he was the best and got the American Ideal-sired gelding home to the delight of a large local rooting section. Bartlett wouldn't take no for an answer in his pursuit of the front in this race and while others relented, including race favorite Prince Hal Hanover who got away third, Dandy Ideal marched to the front in :25 4/5 and managed to rate a :54 3/5 half over a very fast piece of dirt. From there it was a sprint and Bartlett got everything he could out of Dandy Ideal who posted a career best 1:48 2/5 clocking.

While Dandy Ideal was among the favorites, Bartlett drove 48-1 shot Snack Attack in the \$200,000 Hempt consolation as aggressively snapping to the lead from post five with a :26 3/5 opener before yielding. Snack Attack avoided trouble and managed to come off the pylons on the final turn with Bartlett not waiting for the passing lane to open. That move allowed Snack Attack to gain momentum and survive a 3-horse photo for his biggest career payday.

Bartlett's mounts have earned \$9 million already this year with the driver's UDRS rating a scorching .442.

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Major stakes action this Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park

By Jay Bergman

The top 2-year-old trotters in North America will see action on Saturday night as Woodbine Mohawk Park hosts an enormous stakes-filled program with the C\$485,000 William Wellwood Memorial the featured event on the 13-race extravaganza. Magic Punk, a winner in three of his first four career starts, is likely to be the favorite having drawn post two for trainer Ake Svanstedt.

The Wellwood is slated as race 10 and the 2-year-old colts and geldings will be racing for the highest purse money of their short careers. For Magic Punk, a son of Wishing Stone from a solid maternal family, the race will be a test to see if he's as good as he looked trotting to a 1:54 4/5 mile with a :26 4/5 final quarter in his elimination heat on August 15.

"He's from a good family," said Svanstedt. "There's Mr. Musclemann and Plunge Blue Chip." The latter was one of the top fillies trained by Svanstedt and Magic Punk appears to be falling in line with some of the high-class horses within his maternal line.

"He can do it on his own or following horses," Svanstedt said, giving high praise to a colt that appeared quite handy and racy in his elimination heat.

Ardonne was the other Wellwood elimination winner and he drew post six for the final but driver Scott Zeron hardly seemed deterred with the spot. "I really didn't want to draw inside, and I think the six is a better spot than the five right behind the starting car," Zeron said when asked. Ardonne, the runner-up in the New Jersey Sire Stakes final on Hambletonian Day at The Meadowlands, rallied from off the pace to track down Cambridge Hanover in an identical 1:54 4/5 clocking as the other elimination race. It was a final-quarter sprint of :27 flat that catapulted the son of Tactical Landing trained by Megan Scran to the winner's circle.

Zeron is quite astute when assessing his horse and the competition. "He's a horse that can give you a :27 quarter at best," said Zeron. "I think he'll be fine going good fractions the entire mile." Ardonne showed that versatility in his New Jersey Sire Stakes final where he left the gate fast and tracked speed most of the way only to get stymied when the leader faltered on the final turn.

Directly inside Ardonne will be the \$1 million yearling purchase from last year's Harrisburg sale Cambridge Hanover. Winless in three career starts, the half-brother to last year's Wellwood winner Maryland left the gate and then went first over in his elimination losing by just a head to Ardonne.

"I think Dexter wanted to get away behind Scott (Zeron)," said Andrew Harris, who trains Cambridge Hanover. "Even though it wasn't the best trip he raced well."

Cambridge Hanover will pick up Todd McCarthy for the Wellwood final with Dunn opting for Magic Punk. McCarthy drove the colt in two previous starts at The Meadowlands.

Ontario-based horses will likely be longshots in the Wellwood, but they shouldn't be counted out. Greenarrow Hanover (post 1) made a couple of moves in his elimination race and held gamely while second best to Magic Punk. A gelded son of Greenshoe, Greenarrow Hanover was a winner of the Millar Farms final on August 4 over this surface.

Trainer Blake MacIntosh will send out Ontario Gold winner



DEAN GILLETTE

The connections of Dan Patch winner Sabonis ponied up \$40,000 to supplement to the Canadian Pacing Derby.

Crunchintheodds (post 10) with leading driver James MacDonald in the sulky. A colt by Green Manalishi S, Crunchintheodds was under the gun in the final half of his preliminary and eventually faded to fourth.

While the Wellwood and companion Peaceful Way finals are the richest events on Saturday's Woodbine Mohawk program, the aged pacers will go at it in two \$50,000 eliminations for the Canadian Pacing Derby. Sabonis, a \$40,000 supplemental entry, drew post six in the fifth race and first division. The 4-year-old was a recent winner of the Grade 2 Dan Patch at Hoosier Park and the connections rolled the dice with the supplemental payment.

The same connections supplemented Allywag Hanover to the 2021 edition of the Canadian Pacing Derby and captured the classic. Trainer Brett Pelling was hoping that this year's edition would also be a straight-to-final event but when 17 horses entered that did not happen. Haughton Memorial winner Oakwood Ardan IR (post 2) and Huntinthelastdolar (post 3) add depth to this division.

Trainer Andrew Harris has a pair in the second Derby elimination (race 8) with Captain Luke (post 2) and Abuckabett Hanover (post 7) seeking spots in the lucrative final. Dan Patch runner-up Bythemissal (post 6) may be peaking for trainer Ron Burke.

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A possible Michigan resurgence, Ohio-breds and more



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

WOLVERINES! Michigan has a great history of harness racing. Hazel Park. Wolverine Downs. Jackson. Sports Creek. Northville. Northville was the last man standing when it closed down in February of 2024. For the rest of 2024, stalwart Michigan horsemen had to depend on the county fairs – Hastings, Charlotte (Char-lot, not Char-lit) Crosswell, Bad Axe, Luddington (in the upper peninsula - talk about a ship) and others. The purses for young horses were generous, with various divisions going for \$8-15,000 and the Final going for \$90-100,000. But horsemen with overnight stock were somewhat limited.

Those horsemen were stuck shipping to Northfield Park, a 3 ½ hour ship. If they wanted to race at Hoosier Park, Scioto Downs, Miami Valley or Dayton Raceway it would be four hours or more. Hawthorne? Five hours.

Michigan has been the home of many classic names and families in the sport and the sport's fans deserve better. With the tradition of the Borings, Wrenns, Buters, McIlmurrays, Harmons, Dokeys and others, that history is rich... And horses like Red Roan, Albert Albert and Coltforsix just add to it. The state has a great tradition of harness racing that was severely threatened when the planned redevelopment of Northville Downs fell through.

But like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, Northville Downs is back. Sort of. A two month long Northville at Hastings meet kicked off on August 12 with eight races and a pretty unusual wagering model. Fields were a bit short (again, it is a fair track) but purses for the card averaged \$6,125.

For those who think pari-mutuel racing meets at county fairs can't work, have a look at Shenandoah Downs (at the Woodstock, Virginia fairgrounds) or Buffalo Raceway (at the Hamburg, New York fairgrounds), I won't count Delaware. And if anyone can make this meet work, it would be the Carlo family. They operated Ohio's Lebanon Raceway (at the Warren County fairgrounds) for decades, until Miami Valley took over the market.

Due to logistics, there is no on-track wagering. Wagers can be placed only through NYRA Bets, Xpressbet and TVG FanDuel. Look for Twins-Spires to be added to that menu after Churchill Downs won a Federal Court case against the Michigan Gaming Control Board. Churchill had a previous working relationship with Northville, so it is logical to expect they will be involved.

Will the Northville/Hastings meet be extended or race more than two days a week? Will on-track pari-mutuel racing come the track? Will a new Northville be built? We reached out to Northville's Mike Carlo but he did not respond by deadline time.

Standardbred Horse Sales Company roster available

The Standardbred Horse Sale Company yearling roster for 2025 is now on their website in sire order. Hip numbers have been sent to the consignors for their consideration and as soon as they are confirmed a "sortable roster" will be posted on the website.

We are now accepting entries to the Harrisburg Mixed Sale. The deadline for entries is October 6, 2025.

-edited release (Standardbred Horse Sales Co.)

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FREE SPEECH- As a journalist, I have to rely on sources. I need track execs, employees and the like to get me the information I need for my columns. It is a shame that so many of these corporate megaliths won't let their employees speak, even if for a basic quote about a particular race. Ironically, these are the same people who are often writing press releases for general consumption. Okay, rant over.

BABIES- I will be previewing the Ohio Select Yearling Sale in my next column, but there are some awfully good-looking babies at next week's Blooded Horse Sales Company August Mixed Sale. Often looked upon as the weak sister to the Select sale and the Buckeye Classic, this sale sold two-time Ohio Divisional Trotting Champ Sugar Instead for \$11,000 a couple years back. This year, Hip# 5, Firey Lips (Catch The Fire-Lipspeak) could be a bargain. She is a late foal and could use some weight, but her video is awesome. The sale also features several yearlings by the highly in demand Monte Miki. With as many babies as he has sired, it will be interesting to see how the prices compare among the sales. On the trotting side, you could do worse than Hip# 20 Bonus Chapter by In Range. His dam Norse Comer had produced 11 winners from 15 foals, including Victory Is Coming, who earned \$711,000+ and at one time held track records at all four Ohio tracks. Norse Comer produced three other \$100K+ winners. Hip# 26 is Dublins Ferani, a filly whose second dam is the great Buck I St Pat.

Ohio's program is already a strong one and know, with the introduction of the Buckeye Owner's Bonus, it will even get better. Modeled after the Ohio Breeder's Bonus program, the owner of a horse who earns money in the Ohio program will earn a bonus. The payment is made to the horse owner as of November 1 of the racing year and begins with this year's yearlings (next year's two-year-olds). It will be extended to also include three year olds the following year. Any Ohio bred is eligible – public auction, private sale or homebred). This appears to be a pretty innovative program.

That's all for this time. Not gonna cash any tickets this month. I'll be gambling on a couple Ohio-bred yearlings.



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Equine stars in action Saturday night at Scioto Downs

By Jay Bergman

Ohio harness racing fans will get a treat on Saturday with the leading pacing mare in North America Sylvia Hanover stopping in with an eye on the top prize in the \$100,000 Cleopatra Pace at Scioto Downs, part of a star-studded stakes program. A 5-year-old daughter of Always B Miki, Sylvia Hanover enters the Cleopatra following a pair of stakes wins where she defeated the 2024 Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh.

"We gave her a few days off following the Lady Liberty (August 2)," said Shawn Steacy, who trains the mare. "We schooled her last Friday (August 15) at Woodbine Mohawk Park, and she went a good mile. She's not much for training but she knows when it's time to race."

Sylvia Hanover may be making her first career start at Scioto Downs, but the mare can handle herself around a five-eighths mile oval. In the Clara Barton stakes at Plainridge Park on July 20 Sylvia Hanover came from off the pace and romped in a world record 1:47 2/5 clocking. She followed up that mile with a 1:48 2/5 victory in the Lady Liberty at The Meadowslands.

"She's gotten bigger and stronger this year," said Steacy. At times during her career Sylvia Hanover would seem to lose focus within a race but Steacy believes over time some of those tendencies have gone away and Sylvia Hanover has been more professional on the racetrack.

On Saturday night there will be no rivalry with Twin B Joe Fresh as her connections have passed on the Cleopatra. Sylvia Hanover drew post three with regular driver Tim Tetrick in the sulky. With no Twin B Joe Fresh to tackle this time she'll meet eight others all trying to make a name for themselves. Bath Bomb (post 7) is a 4-year-old by Ohio sire Lather Up that has enjoyed a big year primarily racing in Kentucky. Bath Bomb has eight wins in 11 starts this year for trainer Per Engblom and has earned slightly more than Sylvia Hanover with \$276K banked just this season.

The Cleopatra will go as race 11 of 16 on the Scioto Downs program with a first post listed at 5:52 p.m. Two \$100,000 stakes events for sophomores are co-featured with the \$100,000 Moni Maker (race 6) and the \$100,000 Nadia Lobell (race 10) offering some local talent Grand Circuit exposure.

In the Moni Maker trainer Chris Beaver sends out a pair with Mega Money (post 1) looking for her sixth win of the season. Pennsylvania Sire Stakes leg winner Country Victory (post 3) may not have the win total of her rival, but she's been racing well with Grand Circuit-types much of the year.

Seven fillies showed up for the \$100,000 Nadia Lobell with trainer Virgil Morgan's Ohio-sired fillies likely to take center stage. Odds On Chesapeake (post 2) and Odds On Hialeah (post 5) are multiple stakes winners. Odds On Hialeah took a month off following her only defeat of the season then came back to capture a pair of Ohio Sire Stakes including one over the Scioto five-eighths oval in 1:51 on August 1.

Trainer Joe Bongiorno will send out recent New York Sire Stakes upset winner Fansville (post 4) in the Nadia Lobell. The daughter of Huntsville won for the first time this year in the August 15 \$174,000 state-bred event at Yonkers coming from well off the pace in a 1:54 mile.

The \$100,000 #Senditin Invitational (race 9) is likely to be the better's race it was named for with 10 horses entered. Little Rocket Man (post 6) got back on the winning track after fading in the stretch in the Dan Patch Stakes. The 9-year-old son of Rockin Image prepped for this race with a wire-to-wire 1:48 2/5 mile on August 16 over this surface.

The \$2.3 million winner Charlie May makes his 101st career start in the #Senditin and gets the pole position trying to regain winning form. Charlie May paced to a 1:49 1/5 mark over this track in June but has gone winless since.

Joe Gerrity Memorial champion Binge On Yankee (post 5) will try to light up the board again on Saturday for trainer Todd Luther. The 5-year-old by Stay Hungry was a 43-1 winner in the \$250,000 Gerrity at Saratoga on July 19.

The winningest horse this year in the #Senditin Invitational is Women Layer. The Virgil Morgan Jr.-trained 4-year-old has captured 10 of his 11 starts this year with many of those wins coming in Kentucky. The son of Sweet Lou overcame post seven to win an Open at Scioto on August 9 pacing to a career best 1:47 3/5 mile on that occasion. Women Layer drew post 10 in the second tier for Saturday's contest.

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DRF Harness editor Giwner among five headed for Hall

The United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), in conjunction with the Harness Racing Hall Of Fame, is pleased to announce the election of Dr. John Egloff, Marvin Katz, and David Reid to the greatest honor in the industry, membership to the Hall Of Fame.

USHWA has also elected Derick Giwner and Ellen Taylor to the pinnacles of their professions, membership in the Communicators Hall Of Fame.

HALL OF FAME

Dr. John (Tad) Egloff received an early education in the sport on several fronts – Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, and even Australia -- before filling the veterinarian slot at Lana Lobell Farms (NJ), where he worked with Alan Leavitt, Jim Harrison, and Hal Jones, Hall Of Famers all, to produce racehorses and acquire stallions that made Lana Lobell one of the sport's top-level operations.

Egloff then established his own Vieux Carre Farm (French for "old quarter," reflecting his Louisiana heritage) near Gettysburg PA, working with such prominent entities as Hanover Shoe Farms and Max C. Hempt. Vieux Carre breeds and races horses under its own name (Babe Ruthless was a Broodmare of the Year), and was the nursery of such stars as Always B Miki and Pine Chip. Dr. Egloff is a member of the PA Horse Racing Commission, vice president of the Standardbred Breeders of PA, and a director of the Hambletonian Society.

Marvin Katz went to Greenwood Raceway in Toronto with his father as a youth; later, while establishing himself in the real estate market, he purchased racehorses, some in partnership with former football teammate Sam Goldband. Some early purchases may not have been the most successful, but Katz's luck seemed to change when in 1997 Dream Away won the Meadowlands Pace, starting nearly three decades of success. (Katz isn't all about the glory and glamour of racing, either; he is the organizer of the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge, a big success, and serves as a Director of the Hambletonian Society.)

It would take paragraphs and paragraphs to list all of the good horses with whom Katz has been associated, but certainly ranking highly would be 2020 Horse of the Year Tall Dark Stranger, the great trotting female Peaceful Way, and 2010 Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive. Katz, along with another longtime partner, Al Libfeld, bred Maverick, who sold for a record \$1,100,000 as a yearling in 2019.

David Reid is known best as the president of Preferred Equine Marketing, a full-service bloodstock agency and the operator of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, with consignments to other top sales, with legends such as Niatross and Moni Maker among many horses bringing luster to their "pedigree." Reid started Preferred with Geoff Stein in 1988, with the pair's backgrounds and abilities complementing each other's talents; Stein's passing in 2012 caused pause, but it has not slowed Preferred, which services breeders and buyers, and has a Thoroughbred component as well. Preferred Equine has sold in excess of \$500 million of horses.

Reid is currently a trustee of the Harness Racing Museum / Hall of Fame and a director of the Hambletonian Society. In 2024 Reid received the U.S. Trotting Association's President's Award. He has also been active in the Standardbred Transitional Alliance and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.

Egloff, Katz, and Reid will be joined in entrance to the Hall Of Fame by Michael G. Kimelman, who was elected into the Hall through the special Veterans designation in July.

COMMUNICATORS HALL OF FAME

Derick Giwner is a two-time winner of the prestigious Hervey Award for writing who serves as editor for the Daily Racing Form's DRF Harness. He started his career at Sports Eye in 1996 and established the Form's DRF Harness brand in 2012. His weekly DRF Harness Racing Digest is must reading for many segments of the harness community.

In addition to his 2020 and 2023 Hervey Awards, Giwner has been honored with the Phil Pines Award and the Clyde Hirt Media Award, and



COURTESY USHWA

Derick Giwner's long, successful and passionate run in the Harness Racing industry has earned him a spot in the Hall of Fame.

he was named USHWA's of the Year in 2020. Derick is a member of the New York City Chapter of USHWA, has served as its Chapter Director on several occasions, and is chairman of USHWA's important Integrity Committee.

Tara Ellen Taylor has served for over thirty years as the Executive Director of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, an industry organization which introduces young people to harness racing through hands-on involvement with horses, seeking to live up to the Foundation's theme of "Kids + Horses = Magic!" Starting in 1996, she has been the person behind the efforts of several summer camps run annually by the Foundation in association with racetracks and horsemen's groups, and is a contributor to both HHYF's many promotional and educational pieces and several trade publications.

Recently elected to the Indiana Harness Racing Hall of Fame and a many-time award winner (including USHWA's own prestigious Stan Bergstein Proximity Award in 2009), Ellen follows in the tradition of her mother Margot, who is an Immortal of the Hall of Fame.

Egloff, Katz, Reid, Kimelman, Giwner, and Taylor will be honored in two upcoming ceremonies. They will receive their first formal recognition at the U. S. Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Awards Banquet, to be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando FL on Sunday, February 22, 2026. The second event will, of course, be their formal introductions to their Halls at Goshen on the first Sunday of July 2026. More information on these events will be available on USHWA's website (www.usharnesswriters.com) in the upcoming months.

The United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) is the leading group of communicators about the Standardbred horse. USHWA conducts the official annual balloting for the sport's most prestigious honors: induction to the Hall of Fame and Communicators Hall of Fame, along with the selection of the Horse of the Year, Trotter and Pacer of the Year, and the leading divisional horses of each season.

Each year USHWA hosts the Dan Patch Awards Banquet, honoring the best and brightest performers in North American harness racing. This banquet is the Association's principal source of funding, and with generous financial support from the harness racing and breeding industry, USHWA is able to host the banquet at a world-class facility in a world-class manner.

-edited release (USHWA)

'Minnie' extends lead in Top 10 Poll; 'Tillie', Super Chapter movin' on up

By Ken Weingartner

Miki And Minnie strengthened her hold on No. 1 while Yo Tillie and Super Chapter moved into the top five in the Week 10 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday.

Coming off a win in this past Saturday's Grade 1 James M. Lynch Memorial at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, Miki And Minnie received 19 of 35 first-place votes (up seven from a week ago) and increased her lead over No. 2 Sylvia Hanover from 11 points to 45 points. This is Miki And Minnie's third week at No. 1.

Yo Tillie, unbeaten in six races this season, moved from sixth to third in the rankings following her win in the Grade 1 Delmonica Hanover at Pocono. The field included No. 10 Conversano, the Hambletonian Oaks champ.

Super Chapter went from eighth to fifth after his victory in the Grade 2 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial, also at Pocono. Super Chapter is now the season's leading money winner, with \$698,505, thanks to six wins and a second in seven starts.

Sylvia Hanover and No. 4 Louprint were idle last week.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Twin B Joe Fresh, Nordic Catcher S, Periculum, Prince Hal Hanover and Conversano. The only one, in addition to Conversano, to race last week was Prince Hal Hanover. He finished sixth in the Grade 2 Max C. Hempt Memorial at Pocono.

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 10 - 8/20/2025:

Rank	Name (First-Place Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Miki And Minnie (19)	3fp	9-8-1-0	\$520,091	316	1
2	Sylvia Hanover (4)	5mp	7-4-2-1	\$275,379	271	2
3	Yo Tillie (3)	3ft	6-6-0-0	\$287,083	225	6
4	Louprint (9)	3cp	5-5-0-0	\$449,132	217	3
5	Super Chapter	3ct	7-6-1-0	\$698,505	194	8
6	Twin B Joe Fresh	5mp	6-3-2-1	\$299,114	167	5
7	Nordic Catcher S	3ct	5-3-1-1	\$573,322	141	4
8	Periculum	6ht	4-3-1-0	\$353,980	102	9
9	Prince Hal Hanover	3cp	11-4-4-1	\$581,633	73	7
10	Conversano	3ft	10-7-1-1	\$496,011	45	10

ALSO: Beau Jangles 38; Emoticon Legacy 33; Warrawee Michelle 32; Ken Hanover 21; Madden Oaks 15; Chantilly 13; Captain Albano 7; A Clean Deal, Elista Hanover 3; Endurance, Miki Shan N 2; Captain Optimistic, Dandy Ideal, Little Rocket Man, On To Norway, Shark Week 1.

Captain Albano, Desperate Man lead \$100K Kane Memorial at Batavia Saturday

On Saturday (Aug. 23), Batavia Downs will present the 19th Robert J. Kane Memorial Invitational Pace. The race is named in honor of the former chairman of the Western Regional Off Track Betting Corporation (WROTB) and his vision for a defunct racetrack.

In 1998, Kane saw the opportunity for WROTB to keep harness racing alive in Western New York and convinced the group to purchase the shuttered Batavia Downs. He then worked diligently for four years to obtain a racing license from the state of New York in order to re-open the track in 2002. Since that time, the track and facilities has seen numerous investments and upgrades by WROTB to help improve the racing product and as a result, the sport is currently thriving at the area's premier entertainment destination.

Through the efforts of Race Secretary Tom Agosti, the 2025 edition of this signature event will have one of the most impressive groups of Open-class pacing horses ever assembled in Genesee County and is led by two millionaires named Captain Albano and Desperate Man.

Although he's only four, Captain Albano has already had a storied career. He was named the United States Harness Writers Dan Patch 2-year-old Pacer of the Year in 2023 after winning seven out of nine starts and pacing the fastest 2-year-old mile (by a male) of the season in 1:49 2/5. Then he came back the following year and was named the 3-year-old Dan Patch Pacer of the Year in 2024, making him only the sixth male pacer this century to receive a Dan Patch Award at ages two and three, joining Perfect Sting, Tall Dark Stranger, Somebeachsomewhere, Captaintreachers and Bettors Delight.

During his sophomore year Captain Albano won 12 of 18 races, including 10 of his final 13 of the season, with stake victories in the Adios and Little Brown Jug while earning \$1.125 million.

After it looked like he would leave the racing ranks in lieu of stud duty, it was decided to return him to the track this year and he hasn't let anyone down. So far he has won two out of his six starts and taken a mark of 1:48 2/5 at Pocono Downs.

Despite the majority of his races being contested over larger ovals, Captain Albano is undefeated over a half-mile track. Those starts came in the Little Brown Jug in Delaware, Ohio where he won his \$50,000 elimination in 1:49 2/5 and then came back two hours later to win the \$525,000 final in 1:50 1/5.

Although Todd McCarthy has driven Captain Albano in 31 of his 33 lifetime starts, Tyler Buter, who will drive him Saturday, did sit behind him once as a 2-year-old and finished second in a leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes. This will be Captain Albano's first start

ever at Batavia Downs.

For his career, Captain Albano is 21 out of 33 with \$1,715,694 million made and a lifetime mark of 1:48 1/5.

Captain Albano has drawn post four for trainer Noel Daley.

The 7-year-old Desperate Man is a bit more tenured than Captain Albano, and he comes into this race as the defending champion after winning the 2024 Kane in 1:51 3/5.

Desperate Man earned \$162,747 as a 2-year-old, mainly in the Ontario Sire Stakes and then came back at three and was a dominant fixture on that circuit again. But he also won the \$790,000 North America Cup where he beat Bulldog Hanover, Perfect Sting and Abuckabett Hanover. Since that season, as an aged gelding has won a litany of Invitationals and Opens across North America.

His fastest win time over a half was 1:50 3/5 at Grand River in 2023, but he was race-timed in 1:48.3 at Northfield in June of this year while finishing second to Ken Hanover in the Battle Of Lake Erie after cutting the mile. That race was a world record as Ken Hanover became the fastest older pacing stallion ever over a half-mile track.

All tallied, Desperate Man has won 32 of 83 starts with \$1,754,279 million in purses earned and his best career mile rate was 1:48 2/5.

Desperate Man will have his regular reinsman Matt Kakaley aboard and will start from post three for trainer Travis Alexander.

Here is the entire field for the \$100,000 Robert J. Kane Memorial Invitational Pace which will go as race 10 with an estimated post time of 9 p.m.

1 Livonjaxandqueens - Drew Monti/James Rothfuss

2 Buzzsaw Russ - Jason Bartlett/Melissa Essig

3 Desperate Man - Matt Kakaley/Travis Alexander

4 Captain Albano - Tyler Buter/Noel Daley

5 Birthday - Jim Morrill Jr./Ron Burke

6 Blazing Home N - Larry Stalbaum/Larry Stalbaum

7 Typhoon Banner N - Brett Beckwith/Joe Bongiorno

8 Natameri - Kevin Cummings/Jessica Okusko

Saturday's card will also feature two divisions of the New York Sire Stakes. The 3-year-old trotting fillies will go for \$121,800 and the 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters will compete for \$114,900.

Post time for the first race of the card with a total purse value of \$468,300 is at 6 p.m.

-edited release (Tim Bojarski for Batavia Downs)

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

RACE 10

(5) MEADOWVIEW ROTHY sustained a first-over move despite not being able to clear the leader and was still battling at the wire. It was a big effort that merits respect tonight.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

RACE 10

(5) PRIVATE ACCESS had the dubious distinction of towing Periculum into the perfect trip on Hambo Day. He puts forth a good effort every time and is a horse I'll take a shot with to steal this elimination.

-Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 7

(3) GHOSTLY CASPER overcame post seven to win the Open at Saratoga most recently and was in the top class at Woodbine Mohawk Park prior to that. He finds a pretty soft spot here and got the nod from Bartlett over an Engblom trainee.

-Greg Reinhart



SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

RACE 16

(6) GEM QUALITY shipped in from Canada and won in 1:48 4/5 at short odds. He can step up and win again from this post.

-Mike Pribozie



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis [Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Scioto Analysis [Saturday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

TOP JUG CONTENDERS - WEEK #3

For the next four weeks, Little Brown Jug Publicity Director Jay Wolf will rank the top 10 horses eligible for the 80th edition of the Little Brown Jug (Grade 1) to be contested on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Top 10 Little Brown Jug Eligibles - Week #3 – August 19, 2025

- (Last Week #2) Louprint (1:47 1/5s; \$1,187,071)
Owners: Burke Racing Stable (PA), Weaver Brusceci (PA), Phillip Collura (PA) & Lawrence Karr (NJ)
Trainer: Ron Burke
Driver: Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.
- (Last Week #1) Prince Hal Hanover (1:48. 1/5f; \$868,954)
Owners: Prince Hal Hanover Stable (ON)
Trainer: Dr. Ian Moore
Driver: Todd McCarthy
- (Last Week #3) Captain Optimistic (1:48 1/5; \$714,728)
Owners: 3 Brothers Stables (NY), M. Katz (ON) & Caviart Farms (VA)
Trainer: Nancy Takter
Driver: Dexter Dunn
- (Last Week #8) Crack Shot (1:50 2/5s; \$320,428)
Owner: G. McNair (ON), D. Hunter (ON), F. Brundle (ON) & G. Kerr (ON)
Trainer: Gregg McNair
Driver: Doug McNair
- (Last Week #4) Papi's Rocket (1:50 4/5f; \$355,411)
Owner: Burke Racing Stable (PA), Weaver Brusceci (PA), Knox Services (OH) & Slaughter Racing Stable (KY)
Trainer: Ron Burke
Driver: Yannick Gingras
- (Last Week #9) Fallout (1:48 4/5; \$647,180)
Owners: R.LeBlanc (NY), Pryde Stables (ON) & Caviart Farms (VA)
Trainer: Tony Alagna
Driver: Tim Tetrick
- (Last Week #6) Papi's Pistol (1:48s; \$327,532)
Owner: Shannon DePinto (NJ), Chris Arvanitis (NJ), Anthony Perretti (NJ) & Brad Shackman (AB)
Trainer: Sam De Pinto
Driver: David Miller
- (Last Week #7) Thirsty Thursday (1:50 4/5f; \$300,637)
Owner: Flying A Racing Stable (PA) & Chuck Pompey (PA)
Trainer: Hunter Oakes
Driver: Tyler Buter
- (Last Week #NR) Snack Attack (1:50 4/5f; \$194,697)
Owners: Philip Steinberg (FL), Joe Sbrocco (OH) & JAF Racing (NY)
Trainer: Joe Bongorno
Driver: Jason Bartlett/Joe Bongorno
- (Last Week #NR) Makes Sense (1:50 3/5f; \$121,982)
Owners: Let It Rise Stable (FL), Celtic Racig (NJ) & Carl Howard (OH)
Trainer: Robert Cleary
Drivers: James MacDonald

Upcoming Events:

August 22 - Harrah's Hoosier Park - Indiana Sire Stakes Leg
August 24 - Tioga Downs - Empire Breeders
August 24 - The Red Mile - Kentucky Sire Stakes Leg
August 27 - MGM Northfield Park - Ohio Sire Stakes Leg
August 30 - Hollywood Casino at the Meadows - PA Sire Stakes Leg
August 30 - Woodbine Mohawk Park - Ontario Sire Stakes Gold Leg
September 2 - The Red Mile - Kentucky Sire Stakes Leg

Supplement Information:

Any three-year-old pacer not currently eligible for the 80th Little Brown Jug may, with a payment of \$45,000, supplement to the 2025 Little Brown Jug. Supplemental entries are due by Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Those currently eligible must submit their entry by Monday, September 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Ticket Information:

For ticket information, please visit www.littlebrownjug.com/admission or call toll free 1-(800) DEL-FAIR.

-edited release (Jay Wolf)

SBOANJ ANNOUNCES INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The SBOANJ is proud to announce the 2025 - 2026 New Jersey Incentive Programs. The Incentive Programs include breeders awards, New Jersey sired owner awards, and the Resident Mare Rebates.

The New Jersey breeder awards pay 12% of the purse amount earned by each horse in division and finals of designated NJ races. The award amounts are determined each year based on the number of horses raced. The following races are included in the program:

NJSS Renaissance Pace
NJSS Premier Races
NJSS Development Fund Races
SBOANJ Garden State Trot
SBOANJ Home Grown Pace
New Jersey Classic

New Jersey owners' awards are payments to New Jersey Sired horses racing in overnight events at the Meadowlands racetrack. The owner of a New Jersey sired horse who is 6-year-old or under will be paid a monetary amount based on finish; 1st \$1,000, 2nd \$900, 3rd \$800, 4th \$700 and 5th \$600.

The Resident Mare Rebates are a \$1,000 rebate paid to the first owner of record of a mare who has resided in New Jersey for 150 days, up to and including foaling.

The SBOANJ oversees all three of these programs, therefore a SBOANJ membership and W9 form are required for payments. Rebates are subject to change based on available funding. For more information visit www.sboanj.com or call the office 732-462-2357.

-edited release (SBOANJ)

2-YEAR-OLD TROTTERS VISITED BATAVIA DOWNS

Titans Mischief (E L Titan-Morosita Bi) was on his best behavior as he stifled his opponents in the \$108,300 New York Sire Stakes contest for 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters at Batavia Downs on Wednesday (Aug. 20) evening.

With no challengers off the wings, Titans Mischief (Matt Kakaley) inherited the lead from a pole position start and dominated a fractured field due to three breakers. With Who's Eyes Blues (Jim Morrill Jr.) and AI (Tyler Buter) following loosely in chase, Titans Mischief set quarters of 30, 1:00 2/5 and 1:28 4/5 before heading into turn four and the eventual payoff. At the head of the lane, Titans Mischief was on top by three and on cruise control, finishing under Kakaley wraps in 1:57 4/5.

It was the third win in six lifetime starts for Titans Mischief (\$5.00), who is owned by his trainer Bruce Clarke, in partnership with John Coffey. With \$170,775 now on his card, Titans Mischief moved into fourth-place for earnings among all 2-year-old trotters in North America.

The live racing schedule at Batavia Downs shifts from Thursday to Friday (Aug. 22) this week, but post time remains the same at 6 p.m. (EDT).

On Saturday (Aug. 23), the New York Sire Stakes returns for the second time this week with a doubleheader on the bill. The 3-year-old filly trotters will line up for \$121,800 in purses and the 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters will also vie for \$114,900 in loot.

Saturday will also feature Batavia Downs' signature race, the \$100,000 Robert J. Kane Memorial Invitational Pace that features some of the best older Open pacers in North America, including millionaires Captain Albano and Desperate Man.

-edited release (Batavia)