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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Penny breakage comes to New York

Daley set up for big night in NJ Classic events at The Big M

Bahama Momma looks to turn up the heat in PASS finals at Philly

Darin Zoccali: Reliving International Trot past & excited for the 2025 edition

Field set for Yonkers International Trot

North American leaders to compete in \$2.4 million NY Night of Champions

Captain Albano seeks to capture Ewart

Best Bets & Analysis

NJ Classic to appear on Fox Sports; Hanover to sell yearlings online; Miki And Minnie remains #1 in Top 10 poll

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DIGITAL HARNESS EYE HARNESS PPS

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NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

WEEKEND STAKES GUIDE

• What Tracks to Watch

Free Past Performances

Where to Watch Special Offers





Two undefeated-in-2025 horses will race this weekend, including Yo Tillie (left) on Friday night at The Meadowlands and Louprint (right) at The Meadows on Saturday afteroon.



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner **Marnesseyeguy**

Buckle your seat belts and gets ready for a thrilling stakes ride!

If you enjoy watching and wagering on harness racing, the powers that be have set forth a demanding yet enjoyable schedule for your enjoyment this weekend. You'll have your mornings free to stock up on refreshments and run errands but from noon until midnight there is hardly a break in the action.

Just about every age group and sex will be in action at six different tracks as over \$7.1 million (USD) in purse money is offered up on Friday and Saturday. To prepare for this convergence of harness racing events into one mega weekend, we have provided a highlights guide below so you don't miss a minute of the festivities and know when to schedule your dinner break.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Harrah's Philadelphia

The card technically begins at 12:25 p.m. Eastern time but we all know in harness racing terms that is really closer to 12:30. The featured races are four \$300,000 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes finals for 2-year-olds but there are also a quartet of \$50,000 consolation events and a \$50,000 #Senditin Invitational Pace.

When: 12:30 to 5:30 PM (EDT) - Featured races 2:30 to 4:00

Where to Watch: At the track or on ADW FREE Past Performances: https://www. phha.org/harrahspps.html

FEATURED HORSES

GINGER TREE LEX (Race 7): 2YO filly trotter has won six straight. PA regulars Steven Cook and Sam Beegle have been the listed trainer on the daughter of Bar Hopping.

BAHAMA MOMMA vs. LOUA DIPA (Race 9): Bahama Momma is perfect in two PASS starts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

\$2.4 MILLION NY NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

Batavia Downs

Saturday, September 6 | Post Time 6:00 PM (EDT)

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

POST TIME 6:00 PM

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and takes on a Loua Dipa, whose only PASS loss in four starts came by a head to her rival. It is an intriguing Tall Dark Stranger versus Sweet Lou showdown in the 2YO pacing filly division.

FRANTIC HANOVER (Race 11): Stay Hungry-sired 2YO is perfect in five career starts, all in Pennsylvania. Colt is also one of three from the Ron Burke barn in the race including 1:49 2/5 winner (at The Meadows) Al Papi.

Meadowlands

Here again post time is listed at 6:20 p.m. but the first race is unlikely to go off before 6:30. The first of 10 consecutive stakes begin in race three with total purses of \$1.74 million. The New Jersey Classic series for 2-and 3-year-olds is the main draw but we also get to see the fifth leg of the Miss Versatility for older trotting mares. Both Pick 4s are guaranteed at \$50.000 in races six and 10.

When: 6:30 to 11:50 PM (EDT) – Featured races 7:10 to 11:00 Where to Watch: At the track, on FOX Sports 2 or on ADW FREE Past Performances: https://playmeadowlands.com/down-load-programs/

FEATURED HORSES

EMMAS MYSTERY CCL (Race 5): 2YO filly trotter has won four of five career starts including the NJ Sire Stakes Final and Garden State. The daughter of Muscle Hill has unlimited potential at this point but tackles a strong field including recent Peaceful Way winner Sugar Packet.

ELISTA HANOVER (Race 6): She has now won the Hambletonian Maturity and Girl Power as the 4-year-old mare continues to make her mark as an older trotting mare.

APEX (Race 10): The royally bred son of Walner and Mission Brief already has a NJ Sire Stakes win under his belt and he looks to add another stakes title. Marcus Melander trains the colt.

YO TILLIE (Race 11): She's the marquee name on a card full of potential future stars. Trainer Andrew Harris has her perfect in seven starts this year and she'll get a serious test this week from Hambletonian Oaks winner Conversano and runner-up Walspea.

Woodbine Mohawk Park

Fillies take the spotlight on Friday with a listed post time of 6:35 p.m. and an actual off time most likely edging close to 6:45. The Champlain and Simcoe are the two stakes with purses around C\$160,000 but don't miss the Milton prep with Sylvia Hanover or the \$75,000 promised Pick 5 pool in the opener.

When: 6:40 to 10:45 PM (EDT) – Featured races 8:25 to 10:00 Where to Watch: At the track, Mohawk website or on ADW FREE Past Performances: https://woodbine.com/mohawk/freeprograms/

FEATURED HORSES

DAYA (Race 5): Bulldog Hanover-sired filly has now won the Battle of the Belles and Eternal Camnation as part of a 6-4-1-0 career record in her first season of racing. Post 10 could provide some issues on Friday.

SYLVIA HANOVER (Race 9): 5YO hasn't raced since August 2 because she scratched out of the Cleopatra on August 23 at Scioto Downs. She has won three of her last four stakes starts and prepares for next week's Milton final in this C\$50,000 race.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

The Meadows

First race is scheduled for 12:45 p.m. but last Saturday it went off at 12:53. The card offers \$1.4 million worth of Sire Stakes money and four \$300,000 finals for 3-year-olds. Arguably the biggest stars of the weekend will be here as two of the top five horses in the sport will be in action. Also note a \$10,000 guaranteed Pick 4 starting in race five.

When: 12:50 to 3:30 PM (EDT) - Featured races 2:20 to 3:30

Where to Watch: At the track or on ADW

FREE Past Performances: https://meadowsharnessracing.com/ meadows-race-program/

> Special Wagering Offer: Bet \$50, Get \$10 FEATURED HORSES

MIKI AND MINNIE (Race 7): She's the top ranked horse in the sport and certainly deserves that spot with nine wins in 10 starts this year. She'll clearly be the 1-9 favorite starting from pylon position for driver Dexter Dunn and trainer Chris Ryder.

LOUPRINT (Race 8): Son of Sweet Lou made his return to the races last weekend and ran his perfect record this year to 6-for-6. North America Cup winner will be heavily favored despite the presence of Adios winner Prince Hal Hanover in the field.

Scioto Downs

More than \$1.2 million will be up for grabs via a pair of \$250,000 stakes and a dozen Ohio Sire Stakes races. Post time is set for 5:52 p.m. and will occur a few minutes later at 5:56. While the scheduled Jug Preview didn't fill, the \$250,000 Jim Ewart Memorial sticks out as a race you don't want to miss.

When: 5:56 to 11:55 PM (EDT) – Featured races 5:56 to 11:35 Where to Watch: At the track, live on DRF or on ADW

FREE Past Performances: https://www.caesars.com/scioto-downs/racing/racing-info/race-programs

Special Wagering Offer: 5% Rebate on WIN wagers FEATURED HORSES

SHE'SAFIREWOMAN (Race 3): She owns a stellar six wins in seven career starts and puts her win streak on the line in a \$50,000 2YO filly pace. Can she best her already speedy 1:51 4/5 lifetime mark?

ODDS ON HIALEAH (Race 7): 3YO daughter of Lather Up has accumulated 11 wins in 14 career starts and should be the heavy favorite in this filly pace for trainer Virgil Morgan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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BYTHEMISSAL (Race 12): Top billing goes to Bythemissal in the Jim Ewart because he won two starts back in 1:46 4/5 at Woodbine Mohawk Park and at Scioto earlier this year in 1:47 1/5, but this field is stacked! The ageless Little Rocket Man, Canadian star Ervin Hanover, Dan Patch winner Captain Albano and upstart Women Layer are all in the lineup.

Batavia Downs

New York Night of Champions includes eight \$300,000 finals for 2- and 3-year-olds as the series returns to the upstate half-mile oval for the first time since 2019. The post time drag is typically five minutes and off time should be about 6:05 p.m. The card features a pair of \$7,500 guaranteed Pick 4 wagers starting in races three and seven.

When: 6:05 to 10:00 PM (EDT) – Featured races 6:25 to 9:40 Where to Watch: At the track, live on DRF, Batavia YouTube or on ADW

FREE Harness Eye Past Performances: https://promos.drf.com/bataviadowns25

FEATURED HORSES

AI (Race 6): Buffalo Raceway track-record holder reeled off four straight wins earlier this year and drew well here versus a solid group of 2YO male trotters that includes Seven Grand, who is riding a two-race winning streak.

FRAGMENT (Race 8): Huntsville-sired 2YO has won five of his seven races this year, all in the NY Sire Stakes series. The Per Engblom trainee faces off versus four-time NYSS winner Hunt Off The Press.

DANDY IDEAL (Race 10): American Ideal-sired horses still have a strong foothold in the Empire State and this son is perhaps the marquee name on the program. He has won six straight races including the Empire Breeders Classic and Max Hempt versus Grand Circuit foes.

Woodbine Mohawk Park

While the girls get the attention on Friday, the boys get to shine on Saturday with split divisions of the Simcoe and one rich Champlain. The 12-race card also features the \$75,000 guaranteed Pick 5 pool in the opener.

When: 6:40 to 10:45 PM (EDT) – Featured races 7:55 to 9:45 Where to Watch: At the track, Mohawk website or on ADW FREE Past Performances: https://woodbine.com/mohawk/freeprograms/

FEATURED HORSES

TILTHECOWSCOMEHOME (Race 6): He hasn't been able to handle the undefeated Beau Jangles but second to that foe isn't a bad finish at all. When avoiding him in the Nassagaweya two starts back he posted a sizzling 1:50 3/5 win at Mohawk Park.

For those still craving more action, The Red Mile has Sire Stakes for 3-year-old filly pacers and colt trotters on Sunday featuring Super Chapter, Go Dog Go and Mr Mouton. The following weekend is hardly a letdown on the stakes front. The \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot is the focal point on a Saturday that also features another matchup of Sylvia Hanover versus Twin B Joe Fresh in the Milton at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Then on Sunday The Red Mile will offer up eight \$400,000 Sire Stakes finals with many of the sports' best 2- and 3-year-olds in attendance.

The dog days of summer are over but the harness racing action is just heating up with about two and a half months left in the season.

Penny breakage comes to New York

New York officially joined states like Kentucky in offering penny breakage on payouts starting September 1. The rule requires tracks to pay to the nearest penny rather than dime, so a win payoff that used to be \$10.20 could conceivably become \$10.28, netting the winning bettor at extra .08 cents for every \$2 wagered.

Vernon Downs, Tioga Downs and Batavia Downs all raced and complied this week. Monticello Raceway and Yonkers Raceway each raced multiple dates and continued with nickel breakage until Thursday afternoon when Monticello adjusted.

According to a source with the NY Gaming Commission, "For bets made on NY races, the law is in effect and all NY Tracks must be in compliance. We are reviewing the matter with Monticello and Yonkers."



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3 YEAR OLD COLT TROT

3 YEAR OLD FILLY PACE

3 YEAR OLD FILLY TROT



POST TIME: 5:45





Daley set up for big night in New Jersey Classic races at Big M

By Jay Bergman

Trainer Noel Daley finds himself in the garden spot in the Garden State on Friday night with a list of top contenders as The Meadowlands hosts a series of New Jersey Classic events for freshman and sophomores. Daley could have three favorites of his six finalists on the stakes-filled program, with the top 2-year-old trotting filly Emmas Mystery CCL a likely favorite in the \$250,000 event carded as race five of 14 on the card.

"I always liked her," said Daley of the Muscle Hillsired Emmas Mystery CCL. "She could do things wrong."

Daley's concerns about the \$100,000 Lexington Selected purchase were typical of any young trotter learning her lessons in that there were miscues when top behavior was anticipated. Since making the races, Emmas Mystery CCL has given Daley less reasons for worry and more indication that she could be among the elite, not just in the New Jersey class but beyond.

On Hambletonian Day, driver Andrew McCarthy was able to race parked from post nine and circle the field in the \$225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final

over the Big M strip, with the filly winning in 1:53 2/5 despite covering the extra distance. In one of two eliminations last Friday (August 29), Emmas Mystery CCL responded in similar fashion and outkicked Sugar Packet, a recent winner in the Peaceful Way at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

"She's so smart and mature," said Daley of his frosh filly that will have plenty on her dance card following Friday's contest.

"We've got her staked pretty well," Daley said. "She's eligible for the races at Hoosier Park (Doherty Memorial), The Red Mile and in Canada. I'll probably have to skip some."

A winner in four of her five starts this year, Emmas Mystery CCL looks to add to her \$165,500 in career earnings with the lucrative purse in the New Jersey Classic.

Daley's Worklifebalance is one of the fillies to beat in the \$150,000 New Jersey Classic for 3-year-old pacing fillies. The daughter of Cattlewash landed post five of six in the evening's 12th race.

"I've been racing her at Yonkers because of the purses and to keep her sharp," said Daley of Worklifebalance, who enters the Classic following a victory over the half-mile track on August 23.

Worklifebalance returns to The Meadowlands where she captured the \$225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final in late May, defeating four of the five fillies she'll meet on Friday. That fifth filly, Asphalt (post 6), is one Daley is concerned about despite a disappointing finish in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at The Meadows last week.

"Brett's filly (Asphalt) was uncontrollable in her last start. I'm sure they will get her to race from behind this week," Daley said of the Brett Pelling trainee that cut a 26 1/5 opening quarter and had little left in the late stages of her race.

Daley was not happy with the performance of Onajetplane in last week's New Jersey Classic elimination as the heavily favored son of Muscle Hill struggled to get his nose in front on the wire. "He did get the job done but kind of lost his focus," said Daley. "I spoke with Andy (driver McCarthy) and he said he'd have to keep him engaged while he's in motion and not let him relax."

Onajetplane drew post six in the \$250,000 New Jersey Classic for sophomore colt and gelding trotters (race 8) and will likely be the favorite with Daley hoping for a bounce-back effort.

"I'm probably going to take the shoes off this week," said Daley of the loss of some equipment for Friday's contest. "I raced him with shoes in the Hambletonian elimination with the idea that I would take them off for the final."

Onajetplane did not reach the Hambletonian final, but Daley had his shoes removed for the \$50,000 Muscle Hill on the Hambo Day program and Onajetplane trotted to a personal best 1:51 mile on that day.

"I could have taken them off for the Beal (August 16 at Pocono) but I really don't think he would have been better than third that day if I had," Daley said.



LISA PHOTO

Emmas Mystery CCL is favored to win the NJ Classic for 2YO filliy trotters.

Callmebigpapi drew post seven in the \$150,000 New Jersey Classic for freshman pacing colts and geldings carded as race three and Daley is hoping for improvement for the son of Papi Rob Hanover. "He's a better horse than he showed in his last race," said Daley of the seventh-place finish in a Kindergarten leg at The Meadowlands on August 23. Callmebigpapi has a second- and third-place finish in prior legs of that series and is looking for his first career win in this just his sixth start.

Miss Belmar was among the favorites in this year's Hambletonian Oaks but broke on that occasion and has been trying to regain her form since. The filly by Muscle Hill landed post eight but will really be up against it in the \$250,000 Classic for sophomore trotting fillies (race 11).

"Andy's going to drive the other filly," Daley said, noting that Oaks winner Conversano (post 2) was McCarthy's preference, with David Miller driving Miss Belmar.

Also drawing inside was division leader Yo Tillie (post 5), the prohibitive choice in the field looking for her eighth straight win in 2025 without defeat. While she cruised to an easy 1:52 win on paper, Yo Tillie drifted out in the lane and hardly looked unbeatable.

"She scoped sick after the race at Pocono and I really didn't get to train her much," said trainer Andrew Harris, who mentioned that driver Todd McCarthy said she was on the left line a bit.

In addition to Emmas Mystery CCL, Daley has another top flight trotting filly in Carve, a daughter of Captain Corey that captured a Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship leg on Monday (September 1) at The Red Mile.

"She was a professional from the start," Daley said of Carve, who earned a spot in the \$400,000 final at The Red Mile on September 14. Carve took a 1:52 3/5 mark with her first career win.

Daley will also have Captain Albano in Saturday's Ewart Memorial at Scioto Downs and feels the 4-year-old by Captaintreacherous has a solid schedule pointing towards the Breeders Crown. "He'll go in the \$200,000 invitational at Yonkers on International Day (September 13) and then come back two weeks later in the Dayton Derby (September 27)," said Daley.

Captain Albano is coming off a pair of sharp efforts in the Always B Miki invite at Pocono and then a track-record setting 1:50 1/5 effort in the Kane at Batavia on August 23.



Bahama Momma looks to turn up the heat in PASS final at Philly



JAYWALKING

The breeding business comes with no guarantees. Theoretically breeding a mare with more than \$1 million in career earnings to a stallion with even better credentials should produce a foal with the capacity to race in stakes events. Reality suggests often the results don't bear fruit.

In the case of Bahama Momma, the 2-year-old filly by Tall Dark Stranger, the breeders have mixed the perfect cocktail with a chance at capturing two significant Sire Stakes final in the coming weeks.

Bahama Momma will first take on the best fillies in Pennsylvania on Friday (September 5) in the \$300,000 Sire Stakes championship at Harrah's Philadelphia then tackle the best in Kentucky nine days later in the \$400,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final at The Red Mile. That Bahama Momma was able to quality for both is quite the accomplishment regardless of how those races play out.

"She wasn't an easy horse to break," said Bongiorno when asked about the talented filly that captured two straight Pennsylvania Sire Stakes races first before moving to The Red Mile for three Kentucky events. "She always showed speed, but we spent a lot of time teaching her how to race."

The education process was critical given the tightness in the stakes races and the limits ownership had put on Bahama Momma's 2-year-old schedule.

"Eric Cherry (co-owner) has a lot of horses and he doesn't believe in staking them to everything as 2-year-olds," said Bongiorno when asked about the filly's engagements later this year. "She's got these two races and that's it." $\,$

The abbreviated 2-year-old schedule is by design and thus far those designs have worked out fabulously. While the outcome was far from a given before the filly reached the races, Bongiorno made certain that she gained experience and confidence in her prep for the big time.

"When I baby raced her, I made sure to sit in behind other horses and keep her covered up," said Bongiorno of two qualifying races in June at Gaitway Farms where he sat on the pylons for much of the mile and only allowed Bahama Momma the freedom to finish her miles in sub-27 quarters and little else.

The experience paid off for Bahama Momma and her connections in a big way as she debuted in Pennsylvania Sire Stakes company at The Meadows on July 5 and rallied home in 26 2/5 to capture her first race in a 1:51 4/5 mile. Scott Zeron was in the bike with Bongiorno making a commitment to the catch-driver for the rest of the campaign.

A tougher trip in the second leg of the Sire Stakes at Pocono on July 20 was more indicative of the type of filly Bahama Momma was as she dug in and rallied past pacesetter Loua Dipa in the final yards of a 1:52 mile.

With two wins in Pennsylvania Sire Stakes company the filly had secured a spot in the final and was sent to Kentucky. Bahama Momma would taste defeat for the first time in her debut at The Red Mile, but perhaps it came from a horse she never saw sprinting by and through no fault of her own, losing by a half-length in a 1:50 3/5 mile on July 29.

Like all good horses Bahama Momma learned from experience and driver Scott Zeron had tested her from off the pace enough to have confidence to put her on the front end in her next start, a 1:51 1/5 two-move victory that left little in doubt. A third leg of the Kentucky Series saw

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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AMANDA STEPHENS

Scott Zeron drives Bahama Momma in Friday's PA Sire Stakes final for 2-year-old pacing fillies at Harrah's Philadelphia.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Zeron take a more conservative approach from the outside draw and rally sharply for second behind Topville Lucky, a probable favorite for the final.

"I think Scott wanted to leave out of there with her but a few others inside went forward so he just took back," said Bongiorno, commenting on Bahama Momma's last race. "I don't question Scottie. He's won a lot of big races.

"Topville Lucky is a really nice filly," said Bongiorno, having watched the daughter of Sweet Lou capture Sunday's (August 31) fourth leg of the Sire Stakes in 1:50 2/5 at The Red Mile with speed to spare.

Bahama Momma drew post two in Friday's rich final and that should give driver Zeron a few options, though the eight-filly grouping has three from the Ron Burke stable. Kissedbyastranger (post 1), Im A Lou Lou (post 4) and Loua Dipa (post 6) are all in with chances. Loua Dipa bounced back from her defeat at the hooves of Bahama Momma with three consecutive wins including a 1:50 3/5 career-best effort on August 15 in the final Sire Stakes preliminary leg at The Meadows.

Bahama Momma's bloodlines are quite unique in that her dam Idyllic Beach and granddam Idyllic were both multiple stakes winners that banked over \$1 million during their racing careers. The 2010 She's A Great Lady and Three Diamonds winner Idyllic produced only one foal during her second career, with Idyllic Beach duplicating her dam's success in capturing the 2016 She's A Great Lady as well. Perhaps only limited staking will prevent Bahama Momma from those major 2-year-old Grand Circuit titles.

Bongiorno is poised for another rich Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final this weekend, sending out Go Go Grasshopper in Saturday's \$300,000 championship at The Meadows. It's a tall order for the son of Sweet Lou that's on the comeback trail after an injury sidelined him for a significant part of his sophomore season.

"We're lucky that he's healthy right now and that despite not starting in a few legs of the Sire Stakes that he had the points to qualify for the final," said Bongiorno.

Go Go Grasshopper qualified just once in advance of Saturday's final and Bongiorno is hoping that will be enough to have him ready to tackle the sport's leading sophomore Louprint in Saturday's contest.

"He qualified very well with the plugs still in," said Bongiorno. "He followed Twin B Joe Fresh and was strong finishing up."

The qualifier, timed in 1:51 1/5, was the first appearance on the track for Go Go Grasshopper since a third-place finish behind Louprint in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes leg at Harrah's Philadelphia on May 25. Go Go Grasshopper made only one other start this year and that was an electrifying 1:50 score in a Sire Stakes division on May 3 at The Meadows.

"He's probably one of the fastest horses I've ever driven," said Bongiorno of Go Go Grasshopper, who finished second in last year's Sire Stakes final.

"I'm not sure off of just one qualifier how he'll be (Saturday) but hopefully we can have him good for the Breeders Crown," said Bongiorno.

S Jarmos

9/12 OHIO JUG SALE

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#94, FEAR THE HEAT, P, C, OH/KY

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Family of Bulldog Hanover, p, 1:45.4 (\$2,414,647)

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Catch The Fire-Freedom Crossing-Artiscape

•1/2-sister to Silent Crossing, p, 1:51.2s -'23 (\$227,364)

#190, MIND ON MY MONI, T, C, OH

Ready For Moni-JJ's Jordyn-Angus Hall

•1/2-brother to Blogmaster, 1:54 -'23 (\$171,902)

#220, IGNITE THE FIRE, P, C, OH

Catch The Fire-Marietta Hall-Cambest

Dam is Marietta Hall, p, 1:51.1s (\$603,207)

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Reliving International Trot past & excited for the 2025 edition



AT THE TRACK



Next week marks the 45th edition of the International Trot, now the MGM Yonkers International Trot, and it will once again feature one of the best trotting fields assembled anywhere in the world this year. It was announced this week that Lexus Kody and Periculum will be completing the field of 10, which only added to the horsepower.

The International Trot is a race with such tremendous history.

The inaugural edition took place in 1959, where a French invader by the name of Jamin came across the pond with a story that the media ate-up, literally. He was the artichoke-eating horse from France who was struggling because of an artichoke shortage. Then Roosevelt Raceway publicist Joey Goldstein placed ads in the press, including the New York Times, searching for artichokes to feed the horse. As the story goes, local fans brought home-grown artichokes to the racetrack and other artichokes were flown in from California. Much like Popeye when he got to eat his spinach, Jamin got his artichokes and triumphed in the first-ever International Trot, which carried a purse of \$50,000, the equivalent of \$555,000 today.

The great Su Mac Lad contested the International Trot each year from 1961 through 1963, winning the 1961 and 1963 editions and finishing second to Tie Silk in 1962. In 1961, a similar story unfolded to that of Jamin in 1959. This time, the French horse Kracovie never went anywhere without his stablemate companion, which was a goat. He would not eat if the goat was not around and due quarantine regulations, the goat was unable to travel to the United States with Kravocie. After another press blitz, the American actress Tina Louise (famously played Ginger on Gilligan's Island) brought a goat to Roosevelt Raceway for Kravocie, but alas he could only manage to be second that year to Su Mac Lad and Stanley Dancer

French dominance of the historic race was apparent in its early years as from 1965 through 1971, France won five of seven International Trots, with Roquepine going back-to-back in 1967 and 1968 and Une de Mai winning in 1969 and 1971.

The United States would then string together four consecutive victories from 1972 through 1975. Speedy Crown became the first Hambletonian winner to capture the International Trot in 1972. In 1973 and 1974 the great Delmonica Hanover scored victories for the United States, and in that second win she became the first North American-owned horse to win the Prix d'Amerique in France.

Another French period of superiority emerged in the early 1980's as they carried the International Trot flag five consecutive years from 1981 through 1985. That stretch included the only time in the event's history a horse won three consecutive editions of the race, as Ideal du Gazeau triumphed in 1981, 1982 and 1983. His third win was an epic perfor-

mance in which he was first over for the entire mile and quarter and still prevailed. He wasn't far from winning four straight as he finished second in 1980 to the American trotting mare Classical Way.

Following the closing of Roosevelt Raceway, the International Trot moved to Yonkers Raceway in 1988 and the great Mack Lobell was able to regain glory for the United States with his then track-record performance, giving John Campbell his first and only victory in the event.

The 1995 edition would mark the last time the event would be held for 20 years and it was a wild race where C R Kay Suzie set torrid fractions, opening up a commanding seven length lead which she maintained for much of the first mile of the race before fading through the stretch. That allowed Sweden's His Majesty to power home for the country's third win in eight years.

In the first 37 editions of the International Trot six different countries earned a victory in the event:

United States (14)

France (13)

Italy (3)

Sweden (3)

Canada (3)

Netherlands (1)

In 2015, the International Trot returned to Yonkers Raceway, this time carrying a \$1 million purse for the first time in the events history and it bolstered an all-star field. In the end, Norway scored it's first victory in the race, as Papagayo E worked out a perfect pocket trip behind the American-sired Creatine and parlayed that into an International Trot triumph. The French champion Timoko launched a three-wide move and Brian Sears surged four wide with the Canadian champion mare Bee A Magician as horses were suddenly coming from everywhere. But Papagayo E saved every inch of ground and came up the passing lane to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



GATES OPEN 11:00 am POST TIME 12:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

earn a Norwegian triumph and the Yonkers International Trot was back. The following year, Resolve gave the United States a victory in wire to wire fashion, in a final time of 2:23 4/5, which shattered the stakes and track record of 2:26.

Italy and Sweden would trade blows the next three years, including Twister Bi's powerhouse performance in 2:22 1/5, the fasted mile and a quarter ever trotted. He would win the race by five lengths over U.S. Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder in a breathtaking performance, giving Italy their first win in the race since 1977.

The race would hit a hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but returned in 2022 with a 20-1 upset as Cokstile scored a decisive victory in 2:23 for Norway.

Italy returned to the winner's circle in 2023 as Vivid Wise As took no prisoners leading from start to finish over a track rated sloppy in 2:23 1/5, marking Italy's fourth victory in the event. Jiggy Jog S could only manage to be second on the day, but she would have her revenge the following year as she powered away from Periculum to score under the Swedish flag.

Periculum will get his chance to do one better than last year as he is the top American trotter in this year's edition. He will have to turn the tables on Lexus Kody, who has been a trotting dynamo the last month, including a dynamic 1:49 1/5 performance in the Maple Leaf Trot, the fastest mile ever trotted in Canada.

The International contingent is led by Aetos Kronos for Sweden and Hohneck for France. Aetos Kronos has been racing in North American this year and was defeated in the Maple Leaf Trot, but did win his elimination for that event in 1:49 4/5.

Hohneck won the 2023 Elitloppet and this year established a new track record for his victory in the Criterium de Vitesse de Basse-Normandie. The International Trot may mark the last race of his incredible career.

Gio Cash will be a formidable presence for Germany, a country looking for it's first victory in the race. He has won 15 of 28 lifetime starts including the Group 1 Norbottens Stora Prix

Diva EK is in the field and is an Italian daughter of Hambletonian winner Trixton who has won 20 of 40 lifetime starts including the prestigious Copenhagen Cup this year.

The 2025 renewal of the MGM Yonkers International Trot is shaping up to be a tremendous race with representatives from seven different countries.

The following articles were used in researching facts for this column: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Trot

https://www.yonkersinternationaltrot.com/history

https://icrapoport.com/the-french-trotting-horse-that-ate-artichokes/https://www.alamy.com/french-horse-kracovie-is-presented-with-new-pet-goat-by-american-actress-tina-louise-at-roosevelt-raceway-in-westbury-new-york-july-7-1961-roger-vercruysse-who-will-drive-kracovie-in-the-international-trot-at-roosevelt-on-july-15-watches-the-presentation-kracovie-was-lonely-without-its-french-pet-goat-which-was-not-allowed-to-enter-the-united-states-ap-photo-image524850720.html

https://standardbredcanada.ca/news/8-14-15/racing-gilligans-island-goat html



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Field set for \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot

Canada's fastest trotter Lexus Kody and multi-millionaire Periculum have been named the final two horses for the \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot. The pair now complete a 10-horse field that will compete on September 13 at MGM Yonkers Raceway in the 1-1/4 mile classic.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Canadian entrant Lexus Kody.

Lexus Kody has truly proven that some horses get better with age. The Ron Burke

trainee, who put up a career-best \$215,170 in earnings and posted a $1:49\,4/5$ mark in 2024, has easily eclipsed both of those milestones this year. The now 7-year-old has already amassed \$379,472 in earnings and on August 30 stopped the timer at Woodbine Mohawk Park in a Canadian record $1:49\,1/5$ to take the Maple Leaf Trot.

A son of Canadian sire Archangel, Lexus Kody will carry the banner for that country with regular driver Yannick Gingras - another of Canadian descent - likely to be in the bike for the ownership group of Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscemi and Phil Collura.

"He's always been a fast horse. We under-staked him the last couple of years and didn't give him a chance. This year we staked him to everything," said co-owner Mark Weaver, who is looking forward to the race. "I don't think I've ever had one in the International Trot, and it is a pretty cool honor to race against some of the best in the world for a million dollars."

Just under two lengths behind Lexus Kody in the Maple Leaf Trot was Periculum, and he will represent the United States in the international event. One of two horses from the Marcus Melander barn in the race along with Aetos Kronos, Periculum looks for revenge in the MGM Yonkers International Trot after finishing second in the race behind Jiggy Jog S in 2024.

For the year Periculum has compiled a stellar 6-3-3-0 record while leading North America in earnings for older trotters at \$466,458 for owners Brixton Medical Inc., Holly Lane Stud East Limited.

"It's a good field. I've seen them all race and it will be a good race for sure," said Melander, who trains in the U.S. but is originally from Sweden. "Both of my horses are coming into the race in good form, and we have some 'home field' advantage because we don't need to travel far. I think both will do well."

Below is the complete field for the \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot in alphabetical order with the country each horse is representing. Post positions will be drawn next week.

Aetos Kronos (Sweden)

Diva EK (Italy)

Double Deceiver (United States)

Gamin Jaba (France)

Gio Cash (Germany)

Hohneck (France)

Ideal Ligneries (France)

Lexus Kody (Canada)

Periculum (United States)

Powwow (Norway)

The \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot will be part of a huge card on September 13 that also includes the \$200,000 MGM Aria Invitational Pace and \$200,000 Robert Miecuna Invitational Trot. Post time is set for 12:00 P.M. (EDT) and the Empire Terrace dining room will be open for a buffet lunch.

MGM Yonkers Raceway is currently operating on a Monday-Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday live racing schedule with post time each night at 6:45 p.m. (EDT). Exceptions to that schedule include the addition of live racing on Wednesday, September 10 and 17. There will be no live racing on Friday, September 12.

-release (Yonkers)

North American leaders start in \$2.4 million Night of Champions

By Tim Bojarski for Batavia Downs

All eyes will be on Batavia Downs on Saturday (Sept. 6) as the track hosts the \$2.4 million New York Sire Stakes Night of Champions, which is the richest card of racing scheduled to take place that night.

Eight races valued at \$300,000 each will go to post and feature some of the top first and second-year performers in North America that were bred in the Empire State.

Here is a preview of the stellar resumes of each divisional leader.

2-year-old trotting filly - Sharp Seven (Chapter Seven-Lookin Sharp) - Jeff Gregory/George Ducharme

Sharp Seven comes in first or second in five of her seven lifetime starts that includes three wins, two of which were in her last two outings. She is tied as the third-richest 2-year-old trotting filly in North America (\$205,250) and also tied as the fourth-richest 2-year-old trotter overall regardless of gender.

Sharp Seven is the substantial leader in points (205) and earnings (\$205,250) in NYSS action for this group and has the fastest win time (1:55) of anyone in the field.

2-year-old trotting colt - Titans Mischief (E L Titan-Morosita Bi) - Matt Kakaley/Bruce Clarke

Titans Mischief has been the picture of consistency this year, winning three races and finishing second four more times in his seven starts. He is the second-richest (\$198,800) 2-year-old trotting colt in North America and fifth-richest 2-year-old trotter overall regardless of gender.

Titans Mischief tops his NYSS division for points (250) and earnings (\$198,800) and also posts the fastest win time ($1:55\ 2/5$) of any of his competitors tonight.

2-year-old pacing filly - Liberty Style (American Ideal-Fly In Style) -Jason Bartlett/Andrew Stafford

Liberty Style has four wins in seven starts this year including three gate-to-wire victories in her last four starts. She is the fourth-richest (\$146,309) 2-year-old pacing filly in North America and ninth-richest 2-year-old pacing filly overall regardless of gender.

Liberty Style narrowly tops her division in points (213) and earnings (\$146,309) but has the fastest win time (1:52 1/5) by a good margin coming in.

2-year-old pacing colt - Fragment (Huntsville-The Show Returns) - Jason Bartlett/Per Engblom

In a division that is almost a dead heat, Fragment has had an outstanding year and boasts five wins and one second in his seven starts. Those wins have him placed as the second-richest (\$213,475) 2-year-old pacer overall regardless of gender in North America.

Fragment sits first by a small margin in NYSS points (275) and earnings (\$213,475) and his mark (1:52) is just one-fifth of a second faster than his competition here.

2-year-old pacing gelding - Hunt Off The Press (Huntsville-Off The Press) - Tyler Buter/Jared Bako

Hunt Off The Press will give Fragment all he can handle as his stats are almost identical to the leader. And he has beaten Fragment twice in the past. Hunt Off The Press has four wins in seven starts along with two seconds. His \$213,368 in earnings has him as the third-richest 2-year-old pacer overall regardless of gender in North America, right behind Fragment and only by only \$107.

In NYSS action, Hunt Off The Press is second for points (258) and earnings (\$213,368) and has a mark of 1:52 1/5.

3-year-old trotting filly - My Debt Collector (Chapter Seven-Magic Presto) Tyler Buter/Nifty Norman

My Debt Collector set the Batavia Downs track record (1:56 4/5)

for 2-year-old trotting fillies last year in NYSS action during her very successful freshman season. This year she has come back even better, as she has not missed the board in her 12 starts while posting seven wins, three seconds and two thirds and banking \$344,772. That total makes her a standout in North America as the second-richest (\$344,772) 3-year-old trotting filly (behind only Hambo Oaks winner Conversano), fifth-richest 3-year-old trotter overall and eighth-richest trotter regardless of age. She has also lowered her lifetime mark to 1:54 3/5 along the way.

As the big leader among this NYSS group, My Debt Collector has 312 points and \$284,135 in earnings, which are both the most accumulated by any NYSS competitor this year.

3-year-old trotting colt - Variegated (Chapter Seven-White Cheetah) -Jason Bartlett/Marcus Melander

Variegated, who was the NYSS Champion at 2, is a four-time winner this year in nine starts with two second-place finishes as well, and those placements have earned him \$257,405 in purses. That makes him the fifth-richest 3-year-old trotting colt in North America and eighth-richest 3-year-old trotter overall regardless of gender.

Variegated has only raced in three of the seven NYSS preliminary legs due to Grand Circuit commitments that included an elimination of the Hambletonian. However he is still the points leader (155) but sits second for earnings (\$105,530) closely behind Seven Layer (\$140,091), who raced in all seven legs leading up to this final.

3-year-old pacing filly - The Last Martini (Huntsville-Martinique) - Jason Bartlett/Jared Bako

The Last Martini is another 2-year-old NYSS Champion looking to repeat and has the ability to do it. She has four wins, three seconds and one third in her 10 starts and comes into this race after being narrowly beaten by only one-quarter length by Unreasonable in 1:50 2/5 in the Empire Breeders Classic. Her \$286,037 earnings slot her as the second-richest 3-year-old pacing filly (behind only Miki And Minnie) in North America and eighth-richest 3-year-old pacer overall regardless of gender.

The Last Martini is also the points (191) and earnings (\$177,190) leader in her NYSS division.

3-year-old pacing colt - Dandy Ideal (American Ideal-OK Heavenly) -Jason Bartlett/Hunter Oakes

Dandy Ideal's year has been nothing less than spectacular. He comes into this final on a six-race winning streak that includes stake victories in the Empire Breeders Classic and the Hempt, and a sizzling 1:48 2/5 win at Mohegan Sun Pocono in an overnight event at the beginning of this streak. He is nine of 11 on the board with earnings of \$467,405 which makes him the fourth-richest 3-year-old pacing male in North America, and fifth-richest pacer overall regardless of age or gender. And his 1:48 2/5 mark also has him tied as the fourth-fastest 3-year-old pacer overall regardless of gender.

Dandy Ideal narrowly leads his NYSS division in points (150) and earnings (\$145,550) as a result of his only four series starts.

3-year-old pacing colt - Courts On Fire (Courtly Choice-Ashlee's Spitfire) - Yannick Gingras/Blake Macintosh

Courts On Fire was the NYSS 2-year-old Champion of this group and sits right behind Dandy Ideal in the standings this year. Overall, he's hit the board seven of 12 starts with three wins while amassing \$179,724 in purses.

In NYSS action, Courts On Fire is second for points (149) and earnings (\$136,135), right behind Dandy Ideal. He too has a speedy mark this year with his 1:49 1/5 outing at Woodbine/Mohawk Park.

The New York Sire Stake final events are programmed as race two, three, five, six, eight, nine, 10 and 11.

Batavia Downs has also announced that there will be two guaranteed pools on Saturday that involve six of the eight finals.

Both Pick-4 wagers will be guaranteed at \$7,500. The first is race three, four, five and six, which includes three NYSS finals, and the second is in race seven, eight, nine and 10, which also include three NYSS finals.

Captain Albano looks to take Jim Ewart title at Scioto Downs

By Ken Weingartner

Captain Albano, who set the track record at Batavia Downs in his most recent start, will go for his third win in a row Saturday (Sept. 6) when he faces nine rivals in the \$250,000 Grade 2 Jim Ewart Memorial at Eldorado Scioto Downs

Captain Albano is one of three Dan Patch Award winners in the field of older male pacers, along with Bythemissal and Abuckabett Hanover. In addition, past Ewart Memorial winners Little Rocket Man, the defending champ, and Charlie May are in the group of 10.

Saturday's card also features the \$250,000 Grade 2 Charlie Hill Memorial for older trotters as well as Ohio Sire Stakes action for 2- and 3-year-olds.

Captain Albano heads to the Ewart Memorial off his 1:50 1/5 triumph in the Grade 3 Robert J. Kane Memorial Invitational on Aug. 23 at Batavia Downs. The time broke the track's all-time pacing record of 1:50 2/5 set by American Dealer N in the 2022 Kane.

In his previous start on Aug. 16, Captain Albano won the Grade 3 Always B Miki Invitational at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs in 1:48 2/5.

For the season, the 4-year-old stallion has won three of seven races and earned \$194,941 for trainer Noel Daley and owners Patricia Stable, LA Express & Sjoblom Inc., Sjoblom Racing, and Michael Dolan. Lifetime, the son of Captaintreacherous-Angelou has captured 22 of 34 starts and banked \$1.76 million. He received Dan Patch Awards following his 2- and 3-year-old campaigns.

"You never know how they're going to come back at 4, but the only time I was disappointed with him was his one start at The Meadowlands (finishing fourth in a division of the Sam McKee Memorial on Aug. 2)," Daley said. "He wasn't any good that day, but he's been great in his next two starts. I'm real happy with him and where we're at now.

"He's just a medium-sized horse, but he's a real bulldog of a horse. He ended last year as good as he'd been all year. He appears to be a horse that gets better as the year goes on, which is always good."

Daley considered sending Captain Albano to the Canadian Pacing Derby at Ontario's Woodbine Mohawk Park, which contested its eliminations on Aug. 23 and final on Aug. 30, but decided to keep the horse in the U.S. based on racing opportunities leading up to the Breeders Crown at Mohawk in October.

"I can race him two weeks and then skip a week all the way through to the Breeders Crown, so I decided to do it this way," Daley said. "We can keep him in a good little routine here."



WENDY J. LOWERY PHOTO

Captain Albano posted a track-record performance last time at Batavia Downs.

Captain Albano and driver Todd McCarthy will leave from the second row's post 10 in the Ewart Memorial.

"We've got the second line, but Todd will work something out there," Daley said. "(Captain Albano) has got an advantage on the smaller tracks because he gets around them so well when some of them don't. If he's having a good day, I don't have to worry about him because I know I'm competitive with anyone."

Abuckabett Hanover, coming off a win in the Open at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Aug. 30, will start from post eight. Bythemissal, who equaled Canada's all-time pacing record of 1:46 4/5 while winning his elimination of the Canadian Pacing Derby at Mohawk, will leave from post nine. Abuckabett Hanover and Bythemissal have both surpassed \$2 million in career earnings, as has 2022 Ewart winner Charlie May (post six).

Other horses in the field include Ervin Hanover, who saw a three-race win streak snapped when he missed by a head in the Grade 1 Canadian Pacing Derby final on Aug. 30, multiple Kentucky Sire Stakes champion Women Layer and McKee Memorial division winner Captain Luke.

The 10-horse field for the Charlie Hill Memorial includes millionaire Hillexotic, who finished third in the Grade 1 Maple Leaf Trot at Mohawk on Aug. 30.

Miki And Minnie stays #1 in Top 10

By Ken Weingartner

Miki And Minnie remained No. 1 in the Week 12 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday while the race tightened behind her for spots two through four and a newcomer joined the Top 10.

Miki And Minnie, who was idle, held the top spot for the fifth consecutive week but saw one of her first-place votes transferred to Louprint, who after being sidelined for several weeks returned to action with a victory in a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes.

Louprint, who remained fourth in the rankings, added 42 points to get within nine of idle No. 2 Sylvia Hanover. Third-ranked Yo Tillie, who won a New Jersey Classic elimination, was only two points behind Sylvia Hanover after adding 34 points from a week ago.

Ontario Sire Stakes leg winner Beau Jangles and Pennsylvania Sire Stakes division winner Prince Hal Hanover both moved up two spots in the poll, to No. 7 and No. 8, respectively. Emoticon Legacy jumped into the Top 10, at No. 9, following his stakes-record 1:50.3 triumph in the Grade 3 Simcoe last week.

Periculum, who finished second to Lexus Kody in his Canadian-record 1:49 1/5 score in the Grade 1 Maple Leaf Trot, fell from eighth to 10th. Nordic Catcher S 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 12 – 9/3/2025

Rank	Name (1st Votes) Ag	e/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Miki And Minnie (20)	3fp	10-9-1-0	\$560,091	319	1
2	Sylvia Hanover (4)	5mp	7-4-2-1	\$275,379	270	2
3	Yo Tillie (2)	3ft	7-7-0-0	\$299,583	268	3
4	Louprint (9)	3ср	6-6-0-0	\$478,773	261	4
5	Twin B Joe Fresh	5mp	6-3-2-1	\$299,114	146	6
6	Super Chapter	3ct	8-6-1-0	\$698,505	135	5
7	Beau Jangles	2cp	6-6-0-0	\$328,330	100	9
8	Prince Hal Hanover	3ср	12-5-4-1	\$611,274	89	10
9	Emoticon Legacy	3ct	7-5-1-0	\$474,430	79	
10	Periculum	6ht	6-3-3-0	\$466,458	70	8

ALSO: Nordic Catcher S 60; Lexus Kody 39; Captain Albano 13; Elista Hanover 11; Conversano, Ken Hanover 10; Aetos Kronos S 7; Maximus Miki 6; Bythemissal, Endurance, R Dutchess 4; A Clean Deal, Ardonne, Sippinonsearoc 3; Ervin Hanover, On To Norway, Rodeo Drive Deo, Warrawee Michelle 2; Dandy Ideal, Go Dog Go, Little Rocket Man 1.

RACE OF THE WEEK

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New Jersey Classic Finals to be shown on FOX Sports

The New Jersey Classic finals for 2- and 3-year-olds of each sex and gait will be featured Friday (Sept. 5) night at The Meadowlands with eight championship events going for purses totaling \$1.6 million, and, once again, FOX Sports will broadcast the action live nationwide.

The show begins at 8 p.m. and can be seen on FOX Sports 2 (FS2). There will be three hours of coverage. Gabe Prewitt and Jessica Otten will be at The Big M with analysis and interviews while Chris Griffin and Paul Verderosa will be in-studio anchoring the festivities.

"This is the first show we've had since FOX televised the 100th Hambletonian live coast-to-coast," said Big M Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. "And it's great once again to be partnering up with the TV crew at the New York Racing Association (NYRA) as part of their 'America's Day at the Races' series to show some of our best stakes events to such a big audience. This is the fifth year that we've had a presence on FOX and we hope that continues for the foreseeable future."

Some of the star performers who will be seen on the card include:

- Race 5: New Jersey Sire Stakes champion Emmas Mystery CCL taking on Peaceful Way winner Sugar Packet in the 2-year-old filly trot
- Race 8: Muscle Hill winner Onajetplane in the 3-year-old colt and gelding trot
- Race 9: Captain Optimistic and Manolete face-off again after the latter won last week's matchup in the New Jersey Classic 3-year-old colt and gelding pace prep
- Race 10: Two-year-old colt and gelding trotters square off again in Round 3 of their rivalry as Apex looks to go up three wins to none over Diabolic Hill
- Race 11: Yo Tillie, the top 3-year-old trotting filly in training, looks to stay perfect in eight seasonal starts. She's currently No. 3 in the weekly Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll

Here is the schedule for the remaining FOX Sports shows, with the event(s) that will be featured and the time the show will be broadcast. Which FOX network the show can be found on – FS1 or FS2 – will be determined:

- September 5 New Jersey Classic Series finals, 8-11 p.m., FS2
- November 1 Kindergarten finals, 8-11 p.m., TBA
- November 15 Fall Final Four, 8-11 p.m., TBA

HALL OF FAMER IN THE HOUSE: This weekend, track announcer Ken Warkentin, simulcast show host Dave Little and back paddock interviewer/FanDuel TV commentator Joe Romanelli will be in their usual roles on the nightly broadcast that gets underway at 5:45 p.m. There will, however, be different faces in the co-host chair.

Derick Giwner, the editor at DRF Harness who was recently elected to the Communicators Hall of Fame, will be back for a second consecutive Friday night alongside Little on the Sam McKee Memorial Broadcast Set as they tackle the New Jersey Classic finals card.

On Saturday, Mike Bozich, last heard at The Big M calling the races on Aug. 9, is back, but this time he'll be giving his commentary and selections on set with Little. Bozich is the long-time voice of Harrah's Philadelphia.

WINNERS, WINNERS EVERYWHERE: If you didn't cash a bunch of tickets last weekend at The Meadowlands after watching the simulcast presentation, don't blame the talent.

On Friday (Aug. 29), the red-hot Giwner gave out eight winners on top along with two cold Trifectas and five Exactas.

Little was just behind the DRF Harness Editor with seven on top, and also had a pair of scores along the way, giving out a Pick-4 ticket that his followers used to cash in for \$383. He also hit "Little's Late Double", which created a \$365 score. Both of those hits came as a result of Little correctly selecting Practical Man in the 13th race, who paid \$37.80 to win.

Little gave out six more winners on Saturday as his late double gave his followers an \$82 hit. His first time on set was a good one for PIX11's Marc Malusis. The "Moose" had five on top, including the last three in a row, good for an ice-cold Pick-3 where \$10 bettors cashed in for \$120.

Finally, sitting atop the heap was back-paddock interviewer Joe Romanelli, whose eight winners on Friday and six more on Saturday led all track touts with 14 correct selections.

-edited release (Meadowlands)



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, SEPTEMBER 4

RACE 3

(4) EXPLOSIVE LANDING was going to be a heavily bet favorite on debut after his dominant and excellent looking win in his lone morning prep. Unfortunately, he was scratched sick when entered, but is back to try again.



-Kevin Plowcha

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

RACE 9

(3) CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC is the best horse in this race and I'll be a bit surprised if he finds a way to lose. Let's look for much more aggressive tactics this week and hope for 4-5.



-Derick Giwner

RACE 1

(4) AUSTRAL HANOVER has raced pretty well while up higher in class through four starts after being claimed for \$60K; Engblom trainee drops to the winning spot.



EMPIRE CIT

-Matt Rose

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

RACE 7

(5) ODDS ON HIALEAH is much the best in here and it doesn't hurt that she picks up Dunn in the bike. Take the 1-5 free space and move on in the Pick 4.



-Giwner

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Scioto Downs Analysis

<u>Saturday</u>

Mohawk Park Analysis

<u>sday Friday Saturday</u>

Friday

Meadowlands Analysis

<u>Friday</u> <u>Saturday</u>

Yonkers Analysis

<u>Saturday</u>

DHP PPS HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

Thursday

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNESS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

\$1.4 MILLION PA SIRE STAKES CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE MEADOWS

The spotlight will shine on Pennsylvania's top 3-year-olds this Saturday (Sept. 6) as Hollywood Casino at The Meadows hosts the \$1.4 million Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Championships. The blockbuster card features four \$50,000 consolations and four \$300,000 championship finals, with first post at 12:45 p.m.

The championship action begins in Race 5, the 3-Year-Old Filly Trot Final, led by Hangover, the divisional points leader with two wins and two seconds in the prelims. Trained by Ake Svanstedt, she will leave from post 1 at 6-5 morning-line odds with Hall of Famer Dave Palone in the sulky. Local contender Payback Moni (15-1), trained by Steve Schoeffel and driven by Brady Brown, enters ranked second in the standings and starts from post 7.

Race 6 showcases the 3-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Trot Final, where co-point leaders The Fix Is In (Charlie Norris, post 1, 20-1) and Hey Porter (Tony Alagna/Dexter Dunn, post 5, 7-1) square off. Adding intrigue is Fashion Green (5-2), the division's richest performer this year, leaving from post 8 for trainer Jim Campbell and driver Tim Tetrick.

The pacing fillies take the stage in Race 7, headlined by 8-5 favorite Miki and Minnie, who rides a six-race winning streak and starts from the rail for trainer Chris Ryder and driver Dexter Dunn. Her only loss this season came to Rodeo Drive Deo (Ron Burke /David Miller, post 6, 4-1), who returns for a rematch.

The action concludes with a heavyweight clash in Race 8, the 3-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Pace Championship. North America Cup champion Louprint (3-1) will look to stay unbeaten in 2025, entering the race a perfect 6-for-6. With Ronnie Wrenn Jr. at the lines for trainer Burke, he starts from post 7 but faces a deep field, including Adios winner Prince Hal Hanover (Dr. Ian Moore/Todd McCarthy, post 8, 4-1), and Twisted Destiny (Chris Ryder/Dexter Dunn, post 1, 5-2), runner-up in divisional points.

With championship glory on the line, a \$10,000 Guaranteed Pick 4 (Races 5-8) including those races will be offered.

-release (MSOA)

OSS GRASSROOTS GIVES EXTRA OPPORTUNITY TO QUALIFY FOR FINALS

With the Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Grassroots Finals and Consolations coming up at the end of September, horsepeople are reminded that this year there are additional racing opportunities in the program to help them qualify for those year-end events.

In 2025, there are six Grassroots Series events in each division – up from five in 2024 – giving horsepeople an extra chance to qualify for either each division's \$75,000 Grassroots Final or its \$25,000 Grassroots Consolation.

The Grassroots year-end events will be held over three consecutive nights at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The Consolations for 2-year-olds will be go to post on Thursday, Sept. 25, followed by the Consolations for 3-year-olds on Friday, Sept. 26. On Saturday, Sept. 27 all eight Grassroots Finals will be held.

OSS rules state that the top 10 horses by points in each Grassroots division will qualify for Grassroots Finals, while the next 10 horses in the points standings will draw into the Consolation.

A horse must start in a minimum of two Grassroots Series legs to be eligible for either their division's Final or Consolation. That's where the additional Grassroots Series event could come in handy to qualify for the year-end Finals and Consolations. There are no starting fees for Grassroots Finals or Consolations.

Current Grassroots Standings can be viewed by going to the OSS Grassroots Leaderboard, selecting "Grassroots Leaders" in the Category pull-down menu and then the appropriate division in the "Age/Sex/Gait" pull-down menu.

-edited release (Dave Briggs for Ontario Racing)

HANOVER SHOE FARMS TO SELL YEARLINGS ONLINE

Hanover Shoe Farms is selling ten yearlings with Preferred Equine Online on Monday, September 8th. The group includes trotters by Captain Corey, Greenshoe, International Moni and Six Pack, pacers by Stay Hungry, Tall Dark Stranger and Bettor's Delight.

Complete pedigrees and videos are available at both the Hanover Shoe Farms and Preferred Equine Online websites. Hanoverpa.com, preferred equineonline.com.

The yearlings are available for inspection at the Hanover Fairgrounds. For further information please contact Patti Murphy at 908-442-4051, or Mark Loewe at 515-418-7011.

-release (Hanover Shoe Farms)

THE RACEWAY AT WESTERN FAIR GEARS UP FOR EXCITING FALL SEASON

The countdown is on for the return of live harness racing at The Raceway at Western Fair District, with the 2025-2026 season kicking off on Friday, October 3. The 125-day meet will feature thrilling racing action, fan-favourite promotions, and a robust lineup of special events throughout the fall and winter.

Racegoers will also notice several facility upgrades designed to enhance the on-track experience. These include:

- New stadium seating in the grandstand offering improved comfort and viewing.
- · Return of the Homestretch Food Concession on the main floor
- New starting gate vehicle, designed and built locally in partnership with the Western University Engineering program.
 - New stalls in the race paddock built locally by System Equine.
- New water truck, also built locally, to improve track maintenance

Live racing will take place three nights a week this Fall, every Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 5:50 p.m.. For more details, visit www.theraceway-wfd.com

-edited release (Western Fair)

ANNUAL STABLE OF MEMORIES PARTY SET FOR SEPT. 28

The Stable of Memories, the historic Round Barn located adjacent to the Red Mile in Lexington, Ky., will host its annual party on Sunday night, Sept. 28, from 6-9 pm. The Lexington Selected Yearling Sale begins the following night, Monday, Sept. 29.

This year's Stable of Memories event will honor Kathryn "Kit" Glenn McKinley for her many years of dedication to preserving Floral Hall, the original name of the Round Barn, and its collection of harness racing memorabilia. The evening will include music and a barbeque buffet dinner.

Tickets are available online at stableofmemories.square.site.

The Stable of Memories Museum, featuring the trophy collection of George Segal's Brittany Farms, will be open on Red Mile race days from 11 am-2pm. Some horse memorabilia, old magazines and art will be available for purchase.

-release (Stable of Memories)

SBOANJ ANNOUNCES RESIDENT MARE REBATE FOR 2025 FOALS

The SBOANJ's resident mare rebate for 2025 is \$1000, designated for mares who reside in New Jersey 150 days up to and including foaling.

Please register foals early and include USTA foal registration along with the application and send to the SBOANJ no later than October, 31. Foal registration must be included with application.

You must be a current SBOANJ member and have a 2025 W9 on file in order to receive your resident mare awards money.

For more information, please visit www.sboanj.com or call 732-462-2357. There are membership and W9 forms on the SBOANJ website for your convenience.

-release (SBOANJ)

SUNDAY RACING TO REPLACE THURSDAYS LATER THIS YEAR

Woodbine Entertainment today announced a change to its 2025 live Standardbred racing schedule for the months of November and December at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

READ MORE

DAVID MCDUFFEE TO THE LBJ WALL OF FAME

David McDuffee, a prominent figure in harness racing and a two-time Little Brown Jug-winning owner, has been selected as the 40th inductee into the prestigious Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame by the Delaware County Fair.