

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Worlds collide in battle for MGM Yonkers International Trot Trophy

By Derick Giwner

On a picture-perfect late summer day at the hilltop half-mile track called MGM Yonkers Raceway, horses from varied countries will convene to compete for \$1,000,000 and one of the best trophies in the sport of harness racing. The G1 MGM Yonkers International Trot brings together seven nations on Saturday afternoon and the comradery will have begun long before the starter says go for the field of 10 elite competitors.

While stallions coming from foreign countries must remain housed at Yonkers Raceway in more of a quarantine situation, geldings are afforded the opportunity to stay on a farm away from the "city" life. That led trainer Daniel Redén, who has two starters in the International affair, to find a temporary home with Marcus Melander, who has a pair of contenders in the race as well.

"I think so but he will be buying me dinner all week," quipped Redén when asked if he would owe Melander a meal if his Double Deceiver or Gamin Jaba were to get the best of his host's Aetos Kronos or Periculum on Saturday.

Ironically, Redén, who is from Sweden, comes to Yonkers with one horse representing the United States and another from France. Double Deceiver is one of three in the field carrying the U.S. flag and he represents the trainer's best chance at victory.

"I think my horses have the best advantage of the European horses because they are geldings. In Sweden and in France we use a lot of paddocks and they are outside. [Being at Yonkers] is a new thing for most of the horses."

-Trainer Daniel Redén

"He has beaten all of the best horses in Europe and Sweden this year. It took a year for him to adapt to the Swedish races but now he is there," said Redén. "I wasn't supposed to come here but it is a very big race and he can handle the track."

In what seems like a lifetime ago, Double Deceiver won 11 of 25 races in the U.S. as a 2- and 3-year-old, including finishing second in the 2022 MGM Yonkers Trot over this surface. He

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Could Double Deceiver spend more time in North America?

Derick Giwner: Ultimate weekend recap

Keith Gisser: Plenty of Buckeye pedigree available in Ohio Select Jug Sale

Bob Marks: Goshen Yearling Sale offers strong bloodline upgrade in 2025

Eicher hopes to roll a winner with "Yahtzee" in Doherty Memorial

Gingras has sights set on \$200K Miecuta victory with Antognoni

Hohneck looks to make more memories in International Trot

Two 'Littles' better than one at The Big M; Cup Finals at Trois Rivières Sunday

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was then purchased by Redén and brought to Sweden where there is lucrative money available for 4-year-olds and older. He was perfect in four starts in his first year overseas but won just once in four tries last year before exploding on the scene with six wins in nine starts this year.

Double Deceiver, who will start from post six at 5-1 on the morning line in Saturday's race with regular driver Örjan Kihlström in the bike, has won two straight graded races in Europe. On July 20 he captured the G1 St Michel-Ajo at a distance of one mile in Finland and on August 9 he took home the G2 Jamtlands Stora Pris in Sweden.

Strategy will be key in the 10-horse field with two horses starting in the second tier behind the #1 and #2, but Redén isn't necessarily expecting his driver to be too aggressive. "[Double Deceiver] can go very fast but Örjan doesn't always want to use him like that and I think over this distance he won't want to push him too much at the beginning. He is very tough to the end of the mile."

Any driving decisions on Redén's other starter will be solely at his discretion since the 45-year-old will be in the bike behind the French-bred. He took over the lines in the G2 Jamtlands Stora Pris, and while Gamin Jaba finished just sixth behind his stablemate, the trainer/driver was encouraged.

"We started over with him before the last race. He wasn't good in Finland in a very long distance but I decided to drive him myself last time to see what was wrong with him and he raced like last year," said Redén, who has been driving more in Sweden lately with success. "The last trainer told me that when he doesn't like the driver he is difficult. He was very good in his last race, so when I got the invitation I didn't blink because when he is at his best he is very good."

A 9-year-old, Gamin Jaba has put together a nice career with 21 wins from 83 races. While he has only made it to the winner's circle once in 2025, he did win five times the previous year. His current form however has earned him longshot status at 30-1 on the morning line despite drawing post two on the inside of the gate.

"He's like a very big boat at the start. I will lose some ground there but he is very strong to the end," said Redén about the gelding's lack of early speed. "You never know with these French horses. You think they aren't going to like the 800 meter track [half mile] but they can be very good on it too. He can be a surprise. He trained today [at Melander's farm] and took the trip very good."

Redén sees being able to stay with Melander on a farm as a huge advantage over his fellow European competitors.

"I think my horses have the best advantage of the European horses because they are geldings," said the trainer. "In Sweden and in France we use a lot of paddocks and they are outside. [Being at Yonkers] is a new thing for most of the horses."

"I fear Hohneck. He is a very good horse and he likes the small tracks but now that he got post 10 I think it will be very tough for him. And starting behind Gamin Jaba is not a very good spot. I know Gio Cash is very good but with the rules of him having to stay at Yonkers it could be tough for him."

Redén's pair will also have to contend with a strong duo from Melander's barn in millionaires Periculum and Aetos Kronos. Interestingly, both horses have raced in Sweden and Redén was even the trainer for Periculum during his time in the country.



COURTESY MARCUS MELANDER

(left) Marcus Melander with Periculum and Daniel Reden with Double Deceiver will face each other in Saturday's \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot.



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Periculum's first year back in the U.S. was stellar with six wins in 17 starts and over \$821K earned. He has picked up right where he left off in 2025 with a 6-3-3-0 record and already \$466K earned. Those stats earned him status as the 5-2 morning-line favorite despite landing in the second tier.

"We got post nine and I'd still rather have that better than seven or eight. I still think it was a decent draw," said Melander.

Periculum was able to overcome starting in the second flight in 2024 when he finished second behind the now retired Jiggy Jog in the International Trot from post 10. Whether or not the smaller track is to his advantage is not a known quantity.

"He raced very good at Yonkers last year and he's a strong horse. He went around the turns very well and he raced earlier this year at the Plainridge and was good on the five-eighths, so I think he'll be fine. I think a mile and a quarter benefits him as well," said Melander, who has Scott Zeron in the bike behind Periculum for owners Brixton Medical Inc. and Holly Lane Stud East LTD.

Aetos Kronos came over from Sweden to the U.S. this year for New York based owners Jeffrey and Michael Snyder with hopes of resurrecting the career of the winner of \$1.5 million. He had fallen on hard times due to some health issues which limited him to just three starts in 2024, but the results have been spectacular since the calendar turned to 2025.

Under the care of Melander, Aetos Kronos has won six of 10 starts while setting a lifetime mark of 1:49 4/5 just a few weeks ago in a Maple Leaf Trot elimination at Woodbine Mohawk Park. While he was just sixth in the final, the trainer feels his horse is sharp and ready.

"It was tough going first over with Lexus Kody winning in 1:49 1/5. He had a good week coming back from Canada and he seems fine," said Melander about Aetos Kronos. "In Sweden there are a lot of long distance races so he's done that before and it seems like the Lasix really helped him."

Aetos Kronos will make his half-mile track debut on Saturday, something Melander said the horse should be well prepared for having raced over a number of five-eighths tracks in Sweden with banked turns.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Lexus Kody is 7-2 on the morning line with Yannick Gingras driving in the International Trot.

Dexter Dunn will be in the bike behind the 9-year-old from post five as the 7-2 co-second choice, an odds assignment he shares with the fastest horse in the land this year, Lexus Kody.

Based in the U.S. for trainer Ron Burke, Lexus Kody actually races under the Canadian banner since he was sired by Archangel in that country. The 7-year-old has always been a good horse but has really broken out of his shell this year with a career high \$379K in earnings and a lifetime best 1:49 1/5 mark set on August 30 in the Maple Leaf Trot. His current-year earnings total beats any two previous seasons during his five-year career.

Yannick Gingras has been the regular driver for Lexus Kody during

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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many of his 32 career wins and he wasn't at all surprised by the sizzling Maple Leaf performance or anything Lexus Kody has accomplished this year. The driver said something clicked for the gelding this year which has allowed him to reach the next level.

"He's a big strong horse with an efficient gait. I really do believe the sky is the limit. I've said it for years," said Gingras. "Mentally he's come leaps and bounds over the last four months and I just hope he stays like this and can do the talking on the track."

Of concern to some is that Lexus Kody has made a break in four of his five appearances at Yonkers Raceway. Two of those starts came this year, with the first going well and one not so well.

"His gait is not the problem. He can get around the turns faster than the straightaways. It is his behavior and hopefully those issues are behind him," said Gingras. "If you watch his first race [at Yonkers in 2025], he got around there like hoops around a barrel; he jogged in 1:55 1/5 like it was a walk in the park. The next week, the minute he hit the post parade I knew it wasn't going to work. He was a different horse. He went behind the gate and he was hangry and ran as the gate was opening."

Gingras added that you can watch Lexus Kody in the post parade and know quickly whether he might be willing to comply with the rules of racing. "If he is nice and relaxed in the post parade, that is usually when he's at his best, and he's been like that most of the year. Lately I've had to tap him on the ass to actually jog," laughed Gingras.

While many people expect Gingras to leave hard from the coveted inside position in post one, the driver wasn't willing to commit to a strategy just yet, citing the versatility of Lexus Kody and the speed of some of the competitors.

"I know some of the Europeans have crazy gate speed. That is just how the races go there. The gait goes so slow and then they have quick acceleration that we don't really have here," said Gingras. "My horse does not have to be on the lead and I think he's shown that. If he gets off on the right foot and seems good going into the first turn, I have no problem stepping on the gas. I think my horse has humungous lungs and he can take the pressure, but it doesn't have to be that way. I'd be really happy coming away third or fourth and coming first up on them."

When referring to the early speed factors of the European horses, Gingras was clearly referencing Gio Cash, who starts from post three for trainer/driver Daniel Wäjersten. Racing for Denmark, the 6-year-old just missed a neck behind Double Deceiver in his last start from a second-tier spot but raced on the lead and proved victorious in his previous two outings.

Despite his 12-1 status on the morning-line, Gio Cash, who is 15 for 29 lifetime, figures to be put in play early and will likely take more action than expected at the windows. According to his trainer the son of Victor Gio It has acclimated nicely.

"He's only been jogging so far but he seems happy and has eaten well," said Wäjersten.

Another strong contender is Hohnneck from France. The 8-year-old is a career winner of more than \$3 million who excels on smaller tracks. The issue for the Philippe Allaire trainee is starting from post 10 in the second tier where his early speed will not be a factor. Gabriele Gelormini will have the task of overcoming the obstacle as he sits in the bike behind the 6-1 offering.

Others with longer odds in the race include Norway's Powwow (post four, Bjorn Goop, 50-1), Southwind Coors (post seven, Jason Bartlett, 20-1), who got into the race after the French bred Lignerier Ideal scratched, and Diva EK (15-1), who represents Italy for trainer/driver Alessandro Gocciadoro.

The \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot (race six) is part of a strong 10-race card that also includes the \$200,000 Aria Pace (race five) and \$200,000 Bob Miecuta Trot (race seven). Post time is 12:20 PM, with the main event, which can be viewed on Fox Sports 2, set for 3:00 PM (EDT).

Double Deceiver could become a North American semi-regular

While the \$1,000,000 prize for the MGM Yonkers International Trot may be what lured trainer Daniel Redén to the U.S. this week, it may not be a one-and-done appearance for the 6-year-old son of Cantab Hall.

Redén said he would "absolutely" welcome an invitation to the Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park and that he would consider future stakes engagements in 2026.

"The world is getting smaller. After seeing how easy it is and seeing Marcus' place where I can borrow some boxes [stalls] to race one or two months, it would be nice," said Redén. "We may see Double Deceiver more in the United States because it is so easy with a gelding. Maybe I will see this winter about choosing some races to pay into after I see the schedule."

Being a gelding, Double Deceiver could have many more years ahead of him on the track and Redén said he loves racing his horses deep into their career, mentioning his 9-year-old former Elitlopp winner Don Fanucci Zet as an example.

Redén added that he does plenty of shopping for U.S.-based horses via the Ongait.com platform and he has seen American buyers in the Swedish market as well.

-Derick Giwner

FIELD FOR \$1,000,000 MGM YONKERS INTERNATIONAL TROT

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1-Lexus Kody (Canada) | 6-Double Deceiver (United States) |
| 2-Gamin Jaba (France) | 7-Southwind Coors (United States) |
| 3-Gio Cash (Germany) | 8-Diva EK (Italy) |
| 4-Powwow (Norway) | 9-Periculum (United States) |
| 5-Aetos Kronos (Sweden) | 10-Hohnneck (France) |

(past performances on page 20)



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#161, LETFREEDOMRING, P, F, OH

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

• 1/2-brother to Unstoppable Hall, p, 1:53.2 -'23 (\$185,130)

#238, MONI TREE, T, F, OH

Ready For Moni-New Leaf-Muscles Yankee

• 1/2-sister to Highly Motivated, 3, 1:56f -'24 (\$136,161)

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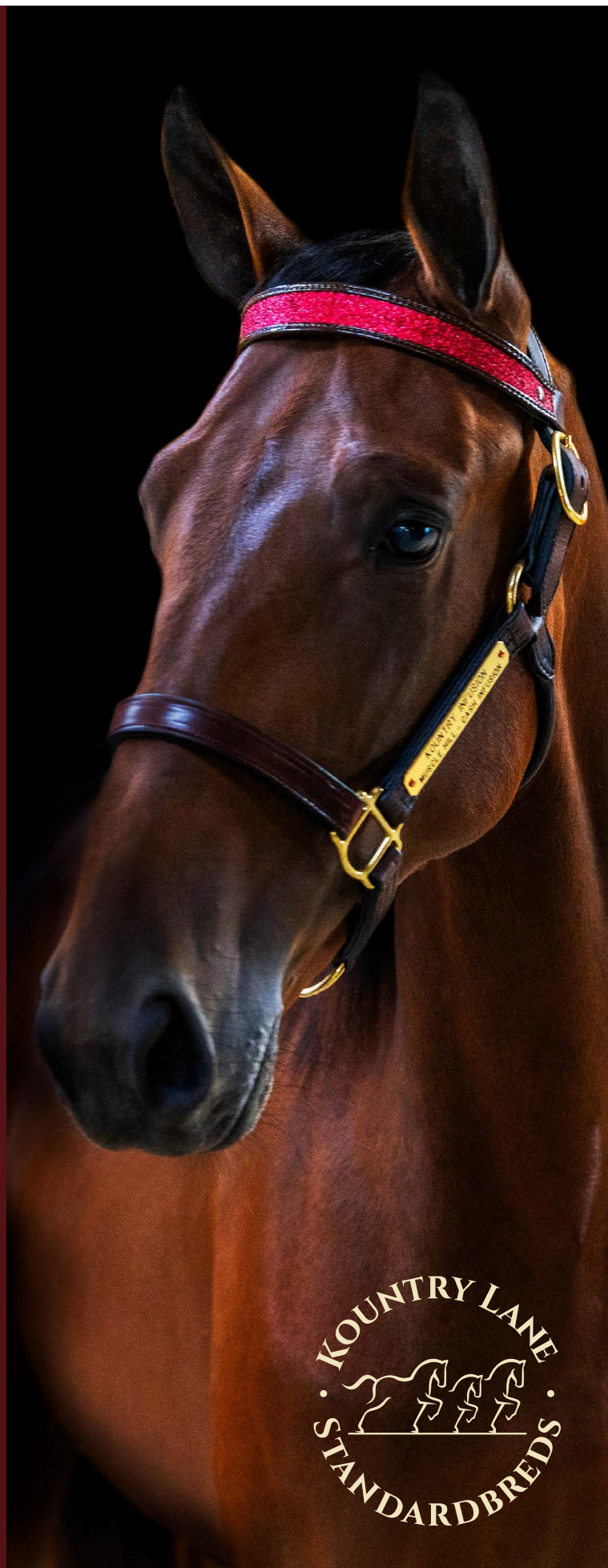
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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner X [@harnessyeguy](#)

ULTIMATE WEEKEND RECAP

Editor Derick Giwner provides commentary and insight on the stakes action from last weekend.

Who put in the best performances?

What's next for some of the winners?

Last week we took you around the sport highlighting the biggest races and equine stars competing in them. Having watched virtually all of the Standardbred action, it was difficult not to come away impressed by the heart of some and the pure speed and ability of others.

From the four \$300,000 Pennsylvania championship races for 2-year-olds at Harrah's Philadelphia on Friday afternoon, two performers rose above the rest. First it was Ginger Tree Lex, who not only set a track record for filly trotters but also did all the work on the front while winning her seventh straight start after failing in her career debut. The daughter of Bar Hopping, who along with the Captain Corey-sired Dublin Hanover (tied track record for colts) completed a Sire Stakes sweep for Hanover Shoe Farms, was just an \$18,000 purchase for Sam Beegle, Ginger Tree Ventures, Knollview Stable 2 and Robert Reber Jr.

"In the back of my mind I thought she would go for half-a-hundred [thousand] and I started wondering if I missed something," said Sam Beegle, who placed all of the credit for the filly's success with his son-in-



GRACE ZIMMERS

Ginger Tree Lex has won seven of eight career starts including the PA Sire Stakes final at Harrah's Philadelphia.

law trainer Steve Cook and daughter Beth.

Now a winner of \$272,440, Ginger Tree Lex won't have the opportunity to add much more to her totals as she is only eligible to smaller stakes like the Keystone Classic, Simpson and Liberty Bell. Beegle confirmed that after the Keystone Classic at The Meadows on September 26 her season will likely be over.

"Those other races are in late October and early November. It doesn't make sense to keep her around for them," said Beegle, who added that she will not be sold and will be better staked in 2026 now that she has proven her ability on the track. "We have no interest in selling her. The owners are all a bunch of older gentlemen like me and who knows when we'll

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)

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HAPPY JACK B

**WINNER OF \$300,000 NEW YORK SIRE STAKES FINAL
IN 1:55.3 AT BATAVIA DOWNS!**

Chapter Seven-Exotic Form-Malabar Man

2, 1:54.1; 3, 1:52 -'25 (\$455,414)

Trainer/Driver: Ake Svanstedt

Owners: B Nasstrom Holding Inc, Wolfgang A Stable Inc & Joe Sbrocco & Jaf Racing

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have another opportunity like this. Everyone is on board to do what we need to do [in terms of staking].”

As good as Ginger Tree Lexi has been in 2025 and was in the Sire Stakes final, the undefeated Frantic Hanover certainly stole the show on Friday afternoon. Another from Hanover Shoe Farms and purchased by trainer Ron Burke for his Burke Racing Stable, Brad Grant, Knox Services and Weaver Bruscelli for just \$35,000, the son of Stay Hungry demolished the track record for rookie pacing colts with a 1:49 1/5 winning mile.

Now perfect in six career starts, the sky seems to be the limit for Frantic Hanover. Along with stablemate Al Papi, who finished 1-3/5 lengths behind timed in 1:49 3/5 on Friday, they are entered in Saturday's Metro Pace eliminations at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Friday evening saw the focus switch slightly north to The Meadowlands where eight New Jersey Classic finals were contested for 2- and 3-year-olds. Let's shine the light on three horses which all stood out in stellar performances.

We have to lead off with sophomore trotting filly Yo Tillie. Not because she ran her current-year unbeaten streak to eight but because of how she accomplished it. The Andrew Harris trainee had won her elimination the previous week while hardly looking spectacular as she drifted out a bit through the stretch. What a difference a week makes as the conditioner worked his magic and the daughter of Tactical Landing was awesome, tucking third, coming first over and absolutely refusing to lose to a dead-game Champagne Problems in a career best 1:50 2/5 mile.

“That’s all class. You can’t teach that,” said Harris in a post-race interview on Yo Tillie getting the neck victory.

Yo Tillie will race on Sunday at The Red Mile in the \$400,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final before likely taking a little break ahead of the Breeders Crown. “She’s eligible to [the Kentucky Filly Futurity] but I haven’t decided yet. We’ll let her tell us,” continued Harris to The Meadowlands’ Dave Little.

If Yo Tillie is the best 3-year-old trotter in the sport right now, an argument can certainly be made that Apex is the best 2-year-old on that gait. He sat a pocket trip and powered away to a 5-3/4 length victory in his \$250,000 New Jersey Classic. The impeccably-bred son of Walner and Mission Brief has now won four of six career starts and appears far more composed than the siblings that came before her.

“His full sister Jaya Bae, she was very talented and she was fast, but she had so many soreness issues. The other ones, Vic Zelenskyy and Kadena, they’re such big horses, almost too big to be too fast too early. Obviously Vic Zelenskyy is a fast horse now because he is 4 and Kadena has been doing good and has made right under \$200,000,” said trainer Marcus Melander, who handled Apex’s brothers and sisters. “[Apex] is more the right size. He showed right away when we broke him, he just had the right gait right away. You never know but he felt right away training down that he could be the best one so far.”

Melander, along with owners Jeff Snyder, SRF Stable and Steve Stewart, had some decisions to make on mapping out the colt’s immediate future and elected for Friday’s \$368,950 Peter Haughton Memorial (race 11) at Harrah’s Hoosier Park over Sunday’s \$400,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final at The Red Mile. Of course there is also another possibility the following week.

“Hunterton Farm has a ticket and Steve Stewart owns a piece of this one,” said Melander on the possibility of racing in the Mohawk Million on September 20 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Wrapping up the Friday group is Papis Pistol. The 3-year-old pacing colt put his nose down and drilled fractions of 26, 54 1/5 and 1:21 3/5 en route to a 1:47 4/5 victory with Jason Bartlett in the bike (more on him later) for trainer Sam DePinto. The final time is the second-fastest of the year by a 3-year-old behind just North America Cup winner Louprint (1:47 1/5).

DePinto told Little that Papis Pistol will head to Lexington for the Bluegrass and Tattersalls before the Breeders Crown at Woodbine

Mohawk Park near the end of October.

Nothing mind-blowing really came from the quartet of 3-year-old finals at The Meadows on Saturday afternoon. That said, it is certainly worth mentioning that the current number one horse as ranked by the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll – Miki And Minnie – did what she does best and won for the 10th time in 11 starts this year. Similarly, the top-ranked colt pacer Louprint extended his 2025 unbeaten streak to seven after a nice pocket trip.

On Saturday evening, at least at Batavia Downs where eight \$300,000 New York Sire Stakes finals for 2- and 3-year-olds unfolded, driver Jason Bartlett was the star, just as he has been all year. The 44-year-old won four finals and finished second in another to extend his lead atop the earnings leaderboard for drivers with over \$10.8 million, more than \$2.7 million ahead of Yannick Gingras in second.

When asked about the possibility of securing his first-ever Driver of the Year title, Bartlett was all business, literally. “I’m just trying to make a living for my family. I’m a worker. I love to work, so I’m going to try to continue to be there for the opportunities that are given to me,” said Bartlett. “I don’t really think about that stuff but this year I’m really close. You still have to finish out the year strong.”

Bartlett placed all the credit with those that have given him the opportunities in 2025. “It is the owners and the trainers to be honest with you. I’m driving good horses and they are putting me back on even when I’m

away and come back. I have to do my job, obviously, but I’m getting the opportunities so I have to credit everybody else,” said Bartlett.

On the equine side a pair of rookies deserve mention. Fragment shattered the track record for pacing colts with a 1:52 1/5 mile off a pocket trip. The son of Huntsville has now won \$336,475 this year under the care of trainer Per Engblom. On the trotting side, AI, a track record holder at Buffalo and Yonkers Raceways, also sat a cozy pocket and was a 1:57 2/5 victor for Yannick Gingras and trainer Ron Burke. The Chapter Seven-sired youngster is likely going to aim for the Grand Circuit next.

“I believe we will try the Mohawk Million,” said Mark Weaver, who co-owns AI with

Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services and Weaver Bruscelli. “The Hatfield’s have a spot. I’d say he earned the opportunity.”

About 370 miles away from Batavia and racing at the same time was Scioto Downs. They offered up a dozen Ohio Sire Stakes races and a pair of \$250K Grand Circuit events. It was no surprise that trainer Ron Burke won five of the Sire Stakes races and perhaps his two most impressive performers were 2-year-old filly pacer Shacarri, who dominated in 1:53 3/5 by five lengths, and Lindy Dragonwater, a 1:51 4/5 winner in a freshman colt pacing division. Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr also sent out an ultra-impressive winner Odds On Chesapeake to a 1:50 1/5 romp against her fellow 3-year-old filly pacers.

Hillextotic picked up a much-deserved stakes win in the Charlie Hill and ditto for Ervin Hanover, whose 1:47 2/5 neck win over roughed up and unbelievably game Captain Albano, was a career best for him in the Ewart Memorial.

Other horses of note

While it wasn’t a stakes race, Extra Suds deserves a mention. The 3-year-old son of Lather Up lowered his own mark as the fastest pinto ever when he stopped the timer at The Red Mile in 1:48 3/5 on Sunday evening.

Twin B Joe Fresh sat third and sprinted home in 25 seconds to win under a death grip from driver Patrick Ryder in a 1:51 qualifier at The Meadowlands to prepare for another rematch with Sylvia Hanover in this Saturday’s C\$210,000 Milton Pace (race 10). Sylvia Hanover prepped in an Open at Woodbine Mohawk Park and won in 1:50 2/5.

Finally, Super Chapter proved very game in defeating Mr Mouton by a head in 1:52 1/5 at The Red Mile as the pair both powered home in 26 2/5. They’ll meet up again on Sunday in the \$400,000 KYSS final.



LISA PHOTO

Apex took the NJ Classic final on September 5 and now has his sights set on the Peter Haughton Memorial at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

THE SALE OF CHAMPIONS

WEEKEND WINNERS *Extravaganza*

GINGER TREE LEX

2,1:53.4f-'25 (\$274,440)

Bar Hopping-Perfect Chance

\$300,000 PASS Final Winner on 9/5

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

FRANTIC HANOVER

p,2,1:49.1f-'25 (\$303,564)

Stay Hungry-Francia

\$300,000 PASS Final Winner on 9/5

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

APEX 2,1:52.2-'25 (\$272,100)

Walner-Mission Brief

\$250,000 NJ Classic Final Winner on 9/5

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

WORKLIFEBALANCE

p,3,1:49.4-'25 (\$309,771)

Cattlewash-Ubettergo Go

\$150,000 NJ Classic Final Winner on 9/5

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

FABULOUS HANOVER

p,2,1:52-'25 (\$78,714)

Captaintreacherous-Fashion Katie

\$164,225 Champlain Stakes Winner on 9/5

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

PERFECTLY CHIC

p,3,1:50.4-'25 (\$309,068)

Betterthancheddar-Fit N Bad

\$158,225 Simcoe Stakes Winner on 9/5

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

SHARP SEVEN

2,1:55-'25 (\$355,250)

Chapter Seven-Lookin Sharp

\$300,000 NYSS Final Winner on 9/6

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

LIBERTY STYLE

p,2,1:52.1f-'25 (\$296,309)

American Ideal-Fly In Style

\$300,000 NYSS Final Winner on 9/6

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

FRAGMENT

p,2,1:52f-'25 (\$363,475)

Huntsville-The Show Returns

\$300,000 NYSS Final Winner on 9/6

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

DANDY IDEAL

p,3,1:48.2f-'25 (\$754,880)

American Ideal-OK Heavenly

\$300,000 NYSS Final Winner on 9/6

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

MY DEBT COLLECTOR

3,1:54.3f-'25 (\$738,518)

Chapter Seven-Magic Presto

\$300,000 NYSS Final Winner on 9/6

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

HILLEXOTIC 1:50.2f (\$1,540,443)

Muscle Hill-Exotic Destination

\$250,000 Charlie Hill Mem. Winner on 9/6

2018 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

ERVIN HANOVER

p,1:47.2f-'25 (\$846,410)

Captaintreacherous-Eloquent Grace

\$250,000 Jim Ewart Mem. Winner on 9/6

2021 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

ELAN HANOVER

3,Q1:54-'25 (\$218,908)

Bar Hopping-Expect A Lot

\$50,000 PASS Cons. Winner on 9/6

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

WESTWINDS

p,3,1:50.3f-'25 (\$185,402)

Captaintreacherous-Muskoka Moonlight

\$50,000 PASS Cons. Winner on 9/6

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

SIGNAL CALLER

p,2,1:52.1-'25 (\$53,439)

Captaintreacherous-Square Dancer

\$50,000 PASS Cons. Winner on 9/5

2024 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

DURANTE HANOVER

3,1:54.1-'25 (\$124,254)

Walner-Dancing For Money

\$100,000 NJ Classic Cons. Winner on 9/5

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

PELICAN HANOVER

3,1:53f-'25 (\$110,460)

Uncle Peter-Piney's Schooner

\$65,000 OHSS Winner on 9/6

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad

SUPER CHAPTER

3,1:50f-'25 (\$1,259,765)

Chapter Seven-Lifetime Pursuit

\$80,000 KYSS Winner on 9/7

2023 Standardbred Yearling Sale Grad



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Plenty of Buckeye pedigree available in Ohio Select Jug Sale



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

There are plenty of opportunities to buy Ohio-bred yearlings – the Blooded Horse Sale, the Buckeye Classic, even Lexington or Harrisburg. But the best source for the most winners is the Ohio Select Jug sale, which is held the Friday before Jug Week at the Pickaway Agricultural Center in Circleville, Ohio.

In previous years, anywhere from six to 10 babies have brought in \$100,000 or more. The 2024 sale topper was Rose Run Butler (Downbytheseaside) at \$140,000, while in 2023 Catch the Cowboy (Catch the Fire) brought \$225,000, the second straight year the sales leader topped \$200,000.

On Friday, September 12, 280 Ohio-bred yearlings will enter the ring, including 43 pacers from first crop sire Monte Miki, 36 sired by Summa Cum Laude and 32 Downbytheseasides. The trotting roster features 26 yearlings by Long Tom, 24 by In Range and 20 by Volstead, sire of 2024 Ohio Horse of the Year (and two time divisional champ) Sugar Instead.

And speaking of Sugar Instead, her full sister Vel Sugar is HIP #28. An early April foal, she has a good video and looks the part. But Sugar Instead was the first of three foals by dam Sugar Pop to get to the races. Is she an aberration or is this the start of a dynasty? I think Vel Sugar will bring a good price, but probably won't top the sale. She is consigned by Spring Haven Farm.

Senena Esty, the Grand Dam of Spring Haven Farm (OK, husband Jeff is a big part of the program there, too) is sending 39 yearlings to

Circleville. She is particularly high on her diversified consignment, which features yearlings by 14 different stallions.

Asked to pick highlights, Esty said, "It's hard to choose. But we really like HIP #106 Blue Ranger. She is a full sister to Big Ranger, who won the Next Generation and several Sires Stakes legs. She's an extremely nice filly."

Senena seems very high on the trotters. "HIP #110 Dynasty Moni is the first foal out of a sister to Tactical Dynasty. He is a gorgeous black colt," she said.

HIP #145 is A Strong Face. By long-time top Ohio stallion What The Hill, he is a brother to A Fancy Face (\$400K+), A Doll Face and A Handsome Face (1:54 3/5). Esty says he is an outstanding colt.

Esty did mention one pacer, a grey colt by Summa Cum Laude, HIP #80, Spring Ice. Esty said he is a great individual and I particularly liked his video.

Spurwood Farm had the sale topper at the Blooded Horse Sales Company August sale and sends a strong contingent of 11, including three Monte Miki yearlings that Kelsey Brinkman is very high on.

HIP #17 Sky Miki is from the 100% producing Panderosa mare Rose Run Skyler, who took a mark of 1:51 2/5 and is from the immediate family of A And G's Confusion, with \$1.47 million on his card. An April foal, his video is worth watching.

HIP #40 Tamale is the first living foal of Mayabelle, a McArdle mare who earned over \$250,000. She is a January foal and looks the part.

Spurwood's third Monte Miki is HIP# 151 Smoochin, a filly from the 100% producing Sweet Lou mare Ever After, making her a sister to Sweet Cheyenne (1:50 3/5), Henceforth (the winningest 3-year-old in the sport last year), and Aintnothingucando, who paced in 1:50 2/5 at Lexington

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 11](#)



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Saturday. Her third dam is the great Loyal Opposition.

Brinkman also really likes her Downbytheseaside filly Big Heart Is Kei. She is Ohio and Kentucky eligible and is the first foal of the fast Prairie Cougar, who posted 22 career wins. This filly sells late (HIP #261) and could be a bargain. I will be watching her closely.

Finally, she points out the Catch The Fire colt Don't truck with me, HIP #78. His dam, Age Of Consent (by Real Desire), has had five previous foals, all taking marks, with three earning over \$100,000, and all from (arguably) second-level Ohio Sires. This one goes back to Ohio royalty, from the maternal family of Toy Poodle and Poodle Party.

As usual, Midland Acres has the largest consignment at the sale, featuring 48 yearlings, many by their own stallions Monte Miki, Ready For Moni and Summa Cum Laude. This is Monte Miki's first crop. Jake Mossbarger, the fourth generation of Mossbargers at the farm, singles out seven top choices from the consignment. Not surprisingly, the Monte Miki yearlings top his list and his comments are in quotes below.

HIP #97 Monte N The Safe – "Super athletic filly from the millionaire dam Safe From Terror. This Monte Miki filly is her first foal by a commercial stallion ever being offered at auction."

The dam of this April foal is a half-sister to Foiled Again.

HIP #136, Monte B Good – "An extremely great-looking individual with the pedigree to back him up. He could be our best pacing colt and is exactly what we were looking for in the Monte Miki's."

The dam, Dancin Carroll, is a 100% producer and a half-sister to World Champion Dancin Yankee.

Among the Summa Cum Laude yearlings, Mossbarger points out HIP #105 Blink Twice – "Summa Cum Laude colt that's streamlined and proportionate with great size. Fast dam and great race horse pedigree. This colt is a looker."

A February foal, he is the first foal of Quite A Sight, with a mark of 1:51 1/5. I was impressed with his video.

HIP #222 MBT The Tanks is a "pretty" (according to Mossbarger) Summa filly who does not have a pedigree that jumps out at you, but he points out that she tied the Somebeachsomewhere bloodline to the maternal family of Sea Silk. "She has great conformation and feet, and she has the size to take the training needed in today's sport."

On the trotting side, Mossbarger singled out two Ready For Moni yearlings and a Long Tom. The Long Tom, HIP #213, is the aptly named Take Her Home. An April foal, she "videod like a good horse and the foundation to her pedigree has the potential to take her to the top of her class."

As for the Ready For Moni pair, HIP #123, Obsessed With Me is the brother to the dam of 2025 Hambleonian Oaks champ Conversano. "This is a family we have loved for years. Look for updates from the 2-year-old full brother!" That full brother, Soulful Sal, has banked over \$30K this year with a mark of 1:59 1/5.

HIP #160 Lindy's Moni is a filly whose "pedigree does a lot of the talking for her." She is a sister to LT Lover Boy (2-year-old Ohio Trotting Colt of the Year in 2024), to Commander Tom (with \$156K on his card), and to two Ohio Sires Stakes leg winners – Ready Russell and Vivi D. I can't find much wrong here. "She is a mid-May foal, but from her video appears decent sized."

We reached out to several other farms, but got no responses, so here are a couple of my picks. These are yearlings I think will go in the \$25,000-\$35,000 range, so accessible to anyone not named Sbrocco or Burke (I kid, I kid). The first is HIP #129 Rose Run Celebrity, by Creatine from a 100% producing mare and consigned by Rose Run Farm. This one has a solid maternal family. And if you want a pacer, Hickory Lane has a couple nice Catch The Fire yearlings. I like HIP #179 Tempting Flames, the first foal of the McArdle mare Hotshot Temptress, with a mark of 1:51 2/5 at 2. The second and third dams have combined to get 14 of 17 foals to the races!

Bottom line, there is plenty to choose from at nearly any price point from \$10,000 on up. I will be at the sale, so say hello. I hope you cash... on a future champion. See you next time.



#90, CHOOSE HAPPINESS, P, C, NY
COURTLY CHOICE-HAPPY BECKY-CAM'S CARD SHARK

Yearlings from \$100,000+ Earning Dams

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#4, SHELTON'S LEGACY, P, C, NY

Courtly Choice-Modern Cinderella-Modern Art

- Dam is Modern Cinderella, p, 1:52s (\$187,364)
- 1/2-brother to Cinderella Delight, p, 1:53h; BT1:51.4f (\$243,105)

#5, BAKERS MAN, T, C, NY

Devious Man-Mom's Apple Pie-Striking Sahbra

- Dam is Moms Apple Pie, 2, 1:56.4s (\$123,248)
- 1/2-brother to Mr Fritter, 3, 1:54.2s (\$126,776)

#28, FOOLS GAME, T, C, NY, Agent

Met's Hall-Sing Me To Sleep-Conway Hall

- Dam is Sing Me To Sleep, 1:55.2 (\$237,283)
- Family of Barn Doll, 3, 1:52.1s (\$874,083)

#90, CHOOSE HAPPINESS, P, C, NY

Courtly Choice-Happy Becky-Cam's Card Shark

- Dam is Happy Becky, p, 2, 1:52.2s (\$118,384)
- 1/2-brother to High Impression, p, 1:50f -'23 (\$322,964)

#108, LILLY ROCKS, P, F, NY

Courtly Choice-Lillywhites-Artiscape

- Dam is Lillywhites, p, 1:52.4f (\$246,245)
- Second dam is White Ruffles, p, 1:52 (\$485,123)

**Yearlings are available for preview on Sunday
(9/14) at the Mark Ford Training Center!**

[Click to view Winbak Farm's 2025 Goshen Lineup!](#)

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Goshen Yearling Sale offers strong bloodline upgrade for 2025



ON THE MARK

By Bob Marks

Well, what do you know? It's yearling sales time again, and on Monday, September 15 we have the annual Goshen Yearling Sale at the Mark Ford training center in Middletown, New York.

Among the consignors are the New York traditional Blue Chip and Cameo Hills Farms while Winbak Farm sends a contingent from Maryland.

There's also Eric Taddeo, Leatherstocking Equine and one from Silver Tradition Stables.

All in all, a total of 112 yearlings with some interesting bloodlines for offer will be available when they start hammering them down starting at the noon hour that Monday.

Let's look at a few:

HIP #14 PIN HUNTER

Huntsville-Please Me Please
Cameo Hills Farm

Huntsville leads all pacing sires in the production of money-winning 3-year-old pacers and ranks a close third for money-winning 2-year-old pacers. Any of his colts at this sale will be on the showing floor all day and the dam Please Me Please – a speed merchant in her own right – gets winners, including a quartet of \$345K-plus earners.

HIP # 15 PRETTY CRUNCHIE

Captain Crunch-Pretty Katherine
Cameo Hills Farm

Captain Crunch gets his winners, as does the well-regarded Pretty Katherine, with four having earned over \$155K from her nine foals. You get added eligibility here as she offers Pennsylvania along with Kentucky. This filly could have a future as a broodmare when her racing days are over.

HIP # 26 BONA FIDE BLUECHIP

Shadow Play-Lotsa Matzah
Blue Chip Farms, Agent

Just look at the maternal family, and Shadow Play, sire of Bulldog Hanover, is still quite functional. The second dam Shot Togo Bluechip takes up most of the page, with a pair of millionaires on top in Heston Blue Chip and Sunfire Blue Chip.

HIP # 31 HUNTSTER

Huntsville-Spreester
Cameo Hills Farm, Agent

It's a Huntsville, which alone will draw the onlookers. The dam made \$800,000 plus and comes from a good family. This colt will be looked at all day long.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 14](#)

WINBAK FARM

Congratulates

PERFECTLY CHIC

**WINNER OF \$158,225 SIMCOE STAKES
IN 1:52.1 AT WOODBINE-MOHAWK!**

**Betterthancheddar-Fit N Bad-Badlands Hanover
p, 2, 1:52.3s; 3, 1:50.4s -'25 (\$422,838) CAD**

Trainer: John Pentland / **Driver:** Bob McClure

Owners: Steve Mihalic, John Pentland & 2729346 Ontario Inc.

Bred, Raised & Sold by Winbak Farm

LEXINGTON #255, FIT N FIERCE, is a Bettor's Delight half-sister!



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

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners / Jack Burke, General Manager

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HIP # 51 DUKE'S CHOICE

Courtly Choice-Acey Deucey
Winbak Farm

Courtly Choice does well in New York and the dam gets winners. The second dam takes up three-quarters of the catalog page with Elusive Prey (\$802K) leading the way. Colt hails from a longstanding solid racing family.

HIP # 56 BAREFOOT PAPI

Papi Rob Hanover-Barefoot'npregnant
Cameo Hills Farm, Agent

Being one of the two Papi Rob Hanover's in the sale guarantees inspection. The dam already has a winner and the rest of the maternal line is solid. Knowing how the Papi Rob's do at other sales, there will be those looking to possibly "steal" one here figuring many of their powerful bidding rivals might not be in attendance. The added benefit of dual eligibility in Pennsylvania and Kentucky is another enticing plus.

HIP # 57 COWBOY IN ME

American Ideal-Beachofcheyenne
Cameo Hills Farm

American Ideal is still a significant sire and got a NY Sire Stakes championship winner in Liberty Style last weekend at Batavia. The dam is a full sister to current siring sensation Huntsville. That alone guarantees they'll be inspecting him all day!

HIP # 67 BUTTER BLUE CHIP

Perfect Sting- Warrawee Sunshine
Blue Chip Farms, Agent

Perfect Sting has made it with his first crop and just took down some New Jersey Classic hardware. Look at that spectacular second dam Great Memories, who takes up most of the catalog page with horses like Warrawee Ubeaut. This Jersey eligible will attract a lot of attention.

HIP # 75 AZURA SOLEIL

Greenshoe-Dominica
Cameo Hills Farm, Agent

The only Greenshoe in the sale from a daughter of the brilliant Classic Martine, a million-dollar plus winner who took home a Dan Patch award. This filly not only has Pennsylvania and Kentucky eligibility for her racing days but a breeding future when her on-track career is finished.

HIP # 85 HURRIKANE TRACKER

Hurrikane Emperor-Gigi Deo
Eric Taddeo

It's the first crop of Hurrikane Emperor. He showed extreme speed in his racing days and what a maternal family he gets to work with here. The dam Gigi Deo gets her winners, as does the second dam See And Be Seen. Next is the foundation mare Must See, who produced the outstanding Well Said, etc. Hurrikane Tracker will have his lookers.

HIP # 87 GOVERNMENT MAN

Devious Man-Graceful Deo
Eric Taddeo

Devious Man has 16 2-year-old starters from just 21 foals this season and it's doubtful if any of them is from as strong a maternal line as Government Man happens to be. This is the family of the great Keystone Profile dam of the well-remembered Act Of Grace, among other standouts. Any trotting buff in attendance will ultimately amble over to his stall for an inspection.

HIP # 107 BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Perfect Sting- Let'er Buck
Cameo Hills Farm

Again, Perfect Sting has made it with his first crop this year and here

he gets a Betting Line sister to the red hot Huntsville, who has already produced a Perfect Sting starter this year. New Jersey eligibility on this guy.

HIP # 110 COUNTRY MONEY

Huntsville-Limestone Cowgirl
Cameo Hills Farm

It's a Huntsville filly from the productive Limestone Cowgirl, she in turn from the highly productive Odds On J P. That alone guarantees a breeding future when Country Money's racing days are done, and one can pick out many productive broodmares from both her first and second dams. Being a Huntsville, those racing days are eligible to be rather substantial in New York circles.

Once again, without seeing any of these yearlings, one can only forecast on the basis of pedigree and pedigree history. Just because many of the above named will have been looked at most of the selling day, doesn't guarantee racing success. Still I'd imagine some of the names listed might make a favorable impression next year and the year after.

Given the favorable climate for Harness Racing these days, and what looks like an upgrade in pedigree power this year, the Goshen Yearling Sale should be well attended.

Cameo Hills consignment at Goshen Sale offers some potential higher-end talent

With a strong catalog, an increase in Sire Stakes finals, and the addition of four \$250,000 races for 2-year-olds in New York, the Goshen Yearling Sale has the potential to hit new heights in 2025.

It is believed that the highest-priced horse to sell at Goshen was Stop Staring at \$95,000 and that along with a new top for sale average could certainly be in jeopardy according to one of the leading consignors Steve Jones.

"I've got a Captain Corey colt in there, HIP #60 [Strapped], who is outstanding, and if I knew how well Captain Corey was going to be received I might've thrown him in the Lexington sale, but I think he'll be fine at Goshen," said Jones. "If he gets looked at by enough people, he is in the conversation [as sale-topper]."

Jones also mentioned HIP 91 Happy Papi as deserving strong consideration as a sale standout from the ones he owns in his consignment. After showing some success with Huntsville, the mare Happy Hannah was bred to Papi Rob Hanover to get this filly.

Jones will also sell quite a few for Crawford Farms as they diversify rather than selling everything at the Lexington Selected Sale this year.

"I think that now being back in New York, Crazy Wow will do well," said Michelle Panebianco. "The Crazy Wow's do show up, they make money, they are solid, they get around the half and they can go to Lexington and race the fairs."

Panebianco called out HIP 49 Adelynne as being a nice individual worth taking a look at during the Monday sale. "Wrangler Magic has been a top producer. All of her foals are racing. That filly could be anything."

"Even our two Captain Crunch's in there. They are good individuals with good videos. I'm hoping Goshen is really strong and we sent them to the right place."

According to Jones, bidders can show up to Goshen with confidence knowing that what we've seen with the purses for New York breds this year is expected to stay in place going forward. That includes the four \$250,000 Big Apple 2-year-old races scheduled for Vernon Downs in October.

"That will be voted on between Goshen and Lexington but I see no signs of those races going away. It isn't official but it is pretty close to being official," said Jones.

The Goshen Yearling Sale starts at noon on September 15.

-Derick Gwerner




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Eicher hopes to roll a winner with “Yahtzee” in Doherty Memorial

By Ken Weingartner

Sam Eicher calls his homebred Michigan-stakes star Westwinds Yahtzee a blessing, and the breeder-owner is happy for the opportunity to roll the dice with her in Friday’s \$464,400 Grade 1 Jim Doherty Memorial, for 2-year-old female trotters, at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

Westwinds Yahtzee, who has five wins and a second in six races this season, heads to the Doherty Memorial off a seven-length victory in her Michigan Sire Stakes championship on Aug. 27. The final was held as part of the Northville Downs meet at the Barry Expo Center in Hastings, and Westwinds Yahtzee’s time of 2:01 4/5 lowered the fair-ground’s track record for freshman filly trotters by two and two-fifths seconds.

Her wins also include a career-best 2:01 1/5 score in the Great Lake Stakes, which she captured by 3-3/4 lengths at the Fowlerville Fair in July.

“It’s a dream come true,” Eicher said when talking about Westwinds Yahtzee’s season. “We didn’t think we would be here when we broke her, but it’s what we shot for. She was kind of flighty as a foal. When we got her going and got her jogging good, she shied from something and hurt her left front. We thought we were out of the picture, but all the X-rays and everything came back 100 percent. We gave her some time off, and now here we are today. It’s unbelievable. We can’t be more blessed.”

Westwinds Yahtzee is a daughter of Eicher’s stallion Celebrity Pegasus out of his mare Keep The Cash. Westwinds Yahtzee’s 3-year-old sister, Westwinds Pegasus, also won a Michigan Sire Stakes title and Great Lake Stakes this year. She has won eight of 11 career races, including a career-best 1:57 1/5 triumph in a conditioned race at Harrah’s Hoosier Park last year at age 2.

“In the back of our minds, we thought that (Westwinds Yahtzee) would be all right,” Eicher said. “We were kind of going off her sister, and we thought this one was a tick better. And as she’s continued to go, she just keeps getting better and better.”

Westwinds Yahtzee will bring a five-race win streak to the Doherty Memorial.

“We were happy with how she raced in the sire stakes,” Eicher said. “The horses that were there that day, she stood right with the best of them, we thought.”

“I really like the way she can finish (a race), and you can’t beat her stable manners. Her personality is really good, just awesome.”

Westwinds Yahtzee is trained by LeWayne Miller, who also has served as her driver. In the Doherty, however, Miller will be behind Swan Gracelyn, a filly he also trains and co-owns. Westwinds Yahtzee will have Kyle Wilfong in the sulky and leave from post six. She is 5-1 on the morning line.

“LeWayne has done a heck of a job with her,” Eicher said. “We don’t have any expectations (for Friday), but it will be exciting. It’s an honor just to be there. We just want to have a good showing with her. Anything that she does special is just a bonus.”

Westwinds Yahtzee is eligible to the Grade 2 Kentuckiana Stallion Management Trot, which will be Sept. 19 at Hoosier, but Eicher will see how the filly does this week before deciding whether to enter that event.

“If she does good, we can put her in the Kentuckiana,” Eicher said. “If not, we’ll probably get her ready for next year.”

As for her Westwinds Yahtzee’s name, it resulted, appropriately, from a game of Yahtzee.

“It just clicked,” Eicher said with a laugh. “We were playing while talking about what to name her, and it was like, Yahtzee, Yahtzee, and it just kind of stuck. We just agreed that was it.”

The morning-line favorite in the Doherty Memorial is Atlantic Summer, at 2-1 for driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and trainer Ron Burke. The filly was a 1:56 winner in a preliminary leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes on July 2 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows and finished third in the PASS championship on Sept. 5 at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

Also on Friday’s card is the \$368,950 Grade 1 Peter Haughton Memorial, for 2-year-old male trotters. Apex, the winner of the New Jersey Sire Stakes and New Jersey Classic for the freshman boys, is the even-money favorite for driver Dexter Dunn and trainer Marcus Melander.

The Haughton and Doherty will offer “Win and You’re In” status for the 2025 Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The official winner of each race, if Breeders Crown eligible as of June 1, will be eligible to advance directly to their respective final, with no entry fee, and the opportunity to draw for post one through five.

Racing begins at 5:30 p.m. (EDT) at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. The Doherty Memorial is race nine and the Haughton Memorial is race 11.



COURTESY SAM EICHER

Westwinds Yahtzee with Orva Eicher, owner/breeder Sam Eicher’s brother.

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Gingras has sights set on \$200K Miecuna victory with Antognoni

By Derick Giwner

All eyes will certainly be on the \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 PM (EDT), but fans of the sport may not want to tune out too quickly as less than 30 minutes later Yonkers Raceway will host the \$200,000 Bob Miecuna Invitational, also for trotters going 1 1/4 miles.

Despite landing post eight in the field of 10, Antognoni was installed as the 5-2 morning-line favorite and co-owner/driver Yannick Gingras wasn't deterred at all by the bad luck at the draw.

"I think he can win the race from anywhere," said Gingras, who had dreams of his charge starting one race earlier in the International Trot. "I really wish I had him in the other race because I think he is that kind of horse. I have all the confidence in the world in him."

Antognoni is perfect in seven career starts at Yonkers and even has a win at the distance, having captured the John Brennan Memorial final in 2:24 3/5 back in April. He took a bit more than two months off during the summer since there were no races for him but has since come back strong, winning in 1:54 1/5 at Yonkers and 1:51 4/5 at Harrah's Philadelphia.

"He's changed a lot in the two months he was off. The last two times he raced he was two fingers [to drive]. He was his own enemy at times early in the year. He was really aggressive and I had a hard time putting him in the right spots; he was driving me more than I was driving him," said Gingras. "At Chester [Harrah's Philadelphia] I was able to press in the first turn to make sure the pace was fast enough that I didn't have to move to the lead early. I would never have been able to start him up and stop him three months ago before he was turned out. He sat in the hole, I pulled him and he went."

Gingras said Antognoni can "fly around the turns" at Yonkers and he wasn't shy in revealing his strategy in the Miecuna. "We are going to

blast out of there and see if we can make the front or get a spot."

While for some Antognoni is the horse to beat, the task won't be easy with some nice trotters lined up on the inside of the gate. One of them is Security Protected, who has Scott Zeron in the bike from post two for trainer Marcus Melander.

Security Protected has dealt with outside posts lately and hasn't been able to get involved but back on August 2 he displayed his raw ability by rallying to finish second in the Cashman Memorial at The Meadowlands in 1:50 1/5.

"If he gets a little bit closer he's not a bad horse actually, so hopefully from the two hole he can get a good spot and finish well," said Melander, who does think the horse can show more early interest. "He has some early speed as well. At Pocono he tried leaving and got parked. Maybe that sat in Andrew's [McCarthy] head as well. Hopefully we get a good trip."

Up Your Deo is another in with a big chance. He broke at the start last time from post 10 in the Maple Leaf Trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park but did pick up a big win in the Spirit of Massachusetts at Plainridge Park back on July 20. Trainer Ake Svanstedt won't be in the bike this time around as he hands the lines over to Dexter Dunn from post three.

Perhaps the fastest horse off the gate has drawn pylon position. Sir Pinocchio beat an easier field last week at Yonkers but hasn't really stepped up this year versus some of the best trotters in the sport. The speedster figures prominently here with the track's leading driver Jason Bartlett if he can get the 4-year-old to last the 1 1/4 mile distance.

The Miecuna Invitational is race seven on the track's 10-race card that starts at 12:20 PM (EDT). The race also starts a \$10,000 guaranteed \$2 Pick 4 sequence.

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Hohneck looks to make more memories in International Trot

By Ken Weingartner

Philippe Allaire might have been a bit disappointed when his MGM Yonkers International Trot contender Hohneck drew post 10 for Saturday's \$1 million Grade 1 invitational for older trotters at MGM Yonkers Raceway, but it hasn't diminished his enthusiasm for participating in the event.

"I am thrilled to race in this famous race, the International Trot," said Allaire, who bred, owns and trains Hohneck, an 8-year-old French star who counts the 2023 Elitlopp among his 25 lifetime wins. "It is my American dream."

Hohneck brings a career bankroll in excess of \$3 million to the MGM Yonkers International Trot, which will be contested at the distance of 1-1/4 miles around The Hilltop's half-mile oval. He will line up in the second tier in Saturday's 10-horse field, with regular driver Gabriele Gelormini in the sulky, and is 6-1 on the morning line.

No horse has won the MGM International Trot from post 10 since the race returned in 2015 following a 20-year absence, but Periculum (this year's 5-2 morning-line favorite) finished second from that starting spot in 2024.

"I regret a little bit not coming last year; he was a year younger, and the level of the race seemed easier," Allaire said. "This year, seeing the competitors, and his (post) 10, the race will be tough."

Nonetheless, Allaire is pleased with the way Hohneck is coming into the race.

"He is a very easygoing horse, nice and calm," Allaire said. "He has no leg problems and is in good shape. He loves to change racetracks, turns well, and never breaks his gait. He has been jogging every day and worked light Wednesday, no problems."

A son of Royal Dream out of the Ready Cash mare Caranca, Hohneck has won more than a dozen Group 1 or Group 2 races in his career. His most recent Group 1 victory came in August when he won the one-mile Criterium de Vitesse de Basse-Normandie in 1:51 2/5 to lower the race record by two-fifths of a second.

Among his other notable finishes this season, Hohneck was third in the Group 1 Elitlopp and second in the Group 2 Prix de Washington, behind Elitlopp winner Go On Boy. Hohneck won the Prix de Washington in 2024, ahead of Go On Boy, was well as in 2022.

Of course, the stallion's top triumph to date was his 2023 victory in the Group 1 Elitlopp, in 1:50.4, equaling the race record.

"That has been the most memorable moment with Hohneck," Allaire said. "Fantastic!"

Hohneck could add to his memorable moments with a win in the MGM Yonkers International Trot on Saturday. A victory would make him the first French-bred to capture the race since Reve d'Udon in 1990.

Regardless of Saturday's outcome, Hohneck has been special to Allaire. "For me, he is such a great horse in all ways," Allaire said. "A long story of many years of breeding and friendship. And today, he is an accomplished and sought-after stallion in France; his progeny is ready to follow his lead."

With his career as a sire already started, Hohneck's future on the race-track will be determined at a later time.

"He will tell us his future," Allaire said. "But maybe Holland in autumn and Sweden in spring."

Racing begins at 12:20 p.m. (EDT) Saturday at MGM Yonkers Raceway. The MGM Yonkers International Trot is race six on the card, between the \$200,000 Grade 2 Aria Invitational Pace (race five) and \$200,000 Grade 2 Bob Miecuna Invitational Trot (race seven). Post time for the MGM Yonkers Invitational Trot will be approximately 3 p.m. and the race will be shown on FS2 as part of America's Day at the Races.



Hohneck won the 2023 Elitlopp at Solvalla in Sweden.

EDISON HATTER PHOTO



\$1,000,000 MGM YONKERS INTERNATIONAL TROT

Saturday, September 13 | Post Time 12:20 PM (EDT)

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"Duelling Littles" return to Big M after 30-year-layoff

In 1995, when in his first go-round as a member of the Meadowlands' TV team, Dave Little paired up with his wife, Debbie, to do a segment called 'The Duelling Littles', where the married then-New York tabloid harness handicappers went head-to-head for household bragging rights.

It was Debbie who came out as the more prolific picker.

Now, 30 years later, it may not be a competition, but the partnership, which reached 36 years of marriage on Wednesday (Sept. 10), is as strong as ever, as the duo will once again appear together on the "Racing from The Meadowlands" live simulcast show on Friday (Sept. 12). The pregame show gets underway at 5:45 p.m. with the first race heading to the gate at 6:20 p.m.

"It's been quite some time since I've done live television," said Debbie, the associate editor and 'Meadowlands Matters' columnist at Harness Racing Update (HRU). "I'm looking forward to doing the show. I handicapped many a harness race while at The New York Post for nearly 27 years and look forward to trying to pick as many winners as I can."

She then said, with a laugh: "Hopefully, more than my husband does."

Debbie was inducted into the Communicators Hall of Fame in early July, making the Littles the only married couple to be enshrined there together. Debbie wrote about harness racing and tabbed winners at The Post from 1993-2020 before getting her gig at HRU.

CARRYOVER CRAZY: There will be two carryovers waiting for players after the popular puzzles went unhit last Saturday night.

There were no winning tickets sold on the 20-cent Pick-6, creating a carryover of \$3,727 for Friday's card. The wager spans races eight through 13.

In addition, nobody had a ticket that read 4-9-3-2-7 on the 14th race 10-cent Hi-5 (Pentafecta), meaning that wager will have a carryover of \$18,290 heading into Friday's finale.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: This Friday and Saturday (Sept. 12-13) mark the final two live harness racing programs at The Big M for a while.

Harness will take a four-week break while Monmouth Park conducts a Thoroughbred turf meeting at the mile oval. The nine turf programs are scheduled for Sept. 19, 20, 26, 27; Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11 and 17.

Harness racing returns on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Post time for harness racing is 6:20 p.m., while the Thoroughbreds get underway at 7 p.m.

-release (Meadowlands)

HIPPODROME TROIS RIVIERES HOSTS CUP FINALS ON SUNDAY

The Quebec stakes finals - the Coupe de l'Avenir and the Trophée des Éleveurs - on Sunday at Hippodrome Trois Rivières will highlight the best 2- and 3-year-olds in the province. Nearly a half-million dollars is up for grabs on the 10-race card that kicks off at noon.

Drivers Dan Dube and Louis Roy will be in town to compete alongside some of the top regulars at the track located midway between Montreal and Quebec City in Canada.

On the track the horses are the stars and one of the brightest is Bernard, a 2-year-old son of Sportswriter who has yet to taste defeat in five career starts. He is the 9-5 morning line favorite in the C\$55,000 final for male pacers (race two).

A Cattlewash filly takes the spotlight in the 2-year-old pace for the females (race four) as Cattlekiss has won four straight heading into her C\$55,000 final. She is the 4-5 morning line favorite for driver/trainer Guy Gagnon.

The biggest standout on the 3-year-old front comes in the C\$65,000 final for male pacers. The Magic Moment, a gelded son of Control The Moment, has won five of his last six starts. He leaves from post four with Roy driving in the ninth race.



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

RACE 9

(6) **BLINDED BY DELIGHT** was an easy winner when picking up J-Mac last week. She looms as the clear horse to beat tonight.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

RACE 10

(1) **SOUTHWIND CHASKA** really got a great steer by driver Tim Tetrick but he didn't plan on Lipstick showing up with a career-best mile. Having known that he may've done things differently. Either way, she jumps off the page in this spot.

-Derick Giwner



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

RACE 4

It is hard to look past (6) **ROCKET DEO** on the win end. She's won four of her last five starts with her only defeat coming from post eight at Pocono. Bartlett should be pointing her to the front early and down the road.

-Giwner



RACE 2

(7) **TOM HORN** won the last time he was in an overnight race over at Pocono on 7-29 and was fourth with a 26 and change last quarter in the New Jersey Classic final.

-Greg Reinhart



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

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

Meadowlands Analysis

[Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

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INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

SORTABLE ROSTERS AVAILABLE FOR STANDARDBRED HORSE SALE

Standardbred Horse Sales Company is proud to announce that our 87th Annual Yearling Sale Preview is now available on our website, www.theblackbook.com, including a sortable roster.

Pedigrees will be coming soon and yearling video links will be posted closer to the sale.

[READ MORE](#)

CANADIAN TROTTING CLASSIC & ELEGANTIMAGE STRAIGHT TO FINALS

Woodbine Mohawk Park's Race Office has released entry details for this weekend's stakes events.

The entry box closed Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. for several marquee races, including the Metro Pace (G1), Canadian Trotting Classic (G1), Shes A Great Lady (G1) and Elegantimage (G1).

[READ MORE](#)

DOHERTY, HAUGHTON MEMORIALS UPCOMING ON FRIDAY

Two stellar fields of ten 2-year-old trotters have been assembled for the \$368,950 Peter Haughton Memorial for colts/geldings and \$464,400 Jim Doherty Memorial for fillies. The Grade 1 affairs headline a 15-race stakes-filled card on Friday, Sept. 12 at Harrah's Hoosier Park which gets underway with a first post of 5:30 p.m. (EDT).

[READ MORE](#)

BARTLETT TRIPLES IN NEW YORK EXCELSIOR SERIES FINALS

Fresh off winning four New York Sire Stakes finals on Saturday, Jason Bartlett captured three of the eight \$100,000 New York Excelsior Series championships on Tuesday afternoon at Saratoga Casino Hotel.

Bartlett took the 2-year-old filly pace with Two Twenty Swift (by Huntsville and bred by Ross Bonafield, paid \$4.82 to win) in 1:55 3/5 for trainer Deborah Daguet and owners Donald MacRae and Beastly LLC., the 2-year-old filly trot with Elqueen (by E L Titan and bred by Ross Bonafield, paid \$11.48 to win) in 1:58 1/5 for trainer George Ducharme and owner Purple Haze Stables LLC. and the 2-year-old colt and gelding pace with Southwind Iron (by American Ideal and bred by Southwind Farms, paid \$2.36 to win) in 1:54 3/5 for trainer Kevin Lare and owner Frank Chick.

[READ MORE](#)

KEN HANOVER QUALIFIES IN 1:50 4/5 AT PHILLY

Ken Hanover, near or at the top of his class of the free-for-all pacers for months on end now, was sent out to qualify at Harrah's Philadelphia on Tuesday morning, and the son of Captaintreacherous showed he retained serious form with a victory in 1:50 4/5.

Some folks may not remember that "Ken"'s trainer Roland (Polie) Mallar has over 1000 career driving victories (including 235 in 1986), and it was Mallar who was behind his prime pupil as he went right down the road in 29 1/5, 56 3/5, and 1:24 1/5 en route to the very fast triumph. The last quarter of 26 3/5 catches the eye – but so does the fact that he covered his last three-quarters in 1:21 3/5 in a qualifier.

Ken Hanover, owned by Mallar in partnership with Patrick Leavitt, William Jordan, and Dennis Osterholt, has a 2025 record of 9-6-0-2, with seasonal earnings of \$251,671 and a lifetime bankroll of \$945,075. Among his biggest victories of this campaign are the Battle of Lake Erie and divisions of the Brower and McKee Memorials.

-edited release (PHHA/Harrah's Philadelphia)

ELLEN TAYLOR SELECTED AS 2025 LADY PACE HONOREE BY LITTLE BROWN JUG

Ellen Taylor, the long-time executive director of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, will be saluted as the 2025 Lady Pace honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

A native of Hamilton County, IN, Taylor was introduced to harness racing at an early age by her parents Richard and Margot, both of whom

all inductees into the Indiana Standardbred Hall of Fame.

She began working with the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) as camp coordinator at the age of 16. In 1990, Taylor stepped seamlessly into the role of executive director. Each summer, HHYF travels the Midwest and East coast introducing and educating thousands of young people to harness racing. As a result, she was the HTA's Special Achievement Medal recipient in 2002 and was honored again with the Stan Bergstein Proximity Award in 2009.

Taylor has been cited by numerous organizations for her dedication to the sport, including the United States Trotting Association's President's Award (2015) and the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Alan Prince Member of the Year Award (2015).

She was inducted into the Indiana Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2024 and will be enshrined into the Communicators Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY next summer.

Taylor resides in Anderson, IN with her longtime significant other, Robert "Hollywood" Heyden.

Taylor will be honored after the Ohio Breeders Championship for three-year-old filly pacers in a winner's circle ceremony on Jug Day (Thursday, Sept. 18).

Supplements due for Little Brown Jug

Just a reminder that any three-year-old pacer not currently eligible for the 80th Little Brown Jug (Grade 1) 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, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Any three-year-old filly pacers not currently eligible for the 55th Juette (Grade 1) may, with a payment of \$15,000, supplement to the 2025 Juette. Supplemental entries are due by Friday, September 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Those currently eligible must submit their entry by Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The 2025 Little Brown Jug is sponsored by the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association and the Juette by UMH Properties, Inc.

-release (Little Brown Jug Society)

OAKWOOD STUD ONLINE AUCTION COMING TUESDAY

Tuesday September 16 is the inaugural Oakwood Stud auction on Ongait - the world's leading standardbred auction platform, this is a groundbreaking event — the very first Irish-bred International Online Auction.

Oakwood Stud offers up six of the highest quality standardbred yearlings bred in Ireland.

Featuring a colt out of the sub 1:50 producing TREND SETTER. This colt is a half-brother to OAKWOOD ARDAN (\$366,406), winner of the William Haughton Memorial in 1:47 3/5 and most recently a strong third in the Canadian Pacing Derby. This colt is staked to the U.S. and foaled April 10.

A yearling filly from the 1st crop of Breeders Crown winner PEBBLE BEACH p,2,1:48 4/5; 3,1:48 1/5 (\$1,720,875) and half-sister to stakes-winning and Juette placing Oakwood Annabella (\$212,960). This filly is staked to the U.S. She is a bay filly foaled on April 7.

A yearling colt by Breeders Crown winner and multiple 1:50 sire CAPTAIN CRUNCH and 1st foal from the brilliant race mare OAKWOOD ANABELLA IR p,3,1:49 3/5, 4,1:49 2/5 (\$212,960). He is a bay colt foaled on March 30. This colt is staked to the U.S.

A yearling gelding by super-sire SWEET LOU out of a daughter of stakes winner and sub 1:49 producer CAPRI HANOVER p,2,1:52 4/5. He is a bay gelding foaled on May 18.

A yearling filly by FORECLOSURE and from a producing AMERICAN IDEAL half-sister to WINE SNOB p,2,1:53 4/5; 4,1:52 2/5; BT1:51 1/5 (\$201,066), etc. She is a bay filly foaled on February 14.

A yearling filly by FORECLOSURE from the immediate family of the legendary NADIA LOBELL; bay filly, foaled February 6.

To register to bid visit www.ongait.com.

-edited release (Oakwood Stud)