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Email the Editor DGiwner@DRF.com

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

LAST CALL IN LEXINGTON



DERICK GIWNER PHOTO

Buyers have one last chance to bid on Friday night at the Lexington Selected Sale and Keith Gisser takes us through his selections



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

The fifth night of the Lexington Selected sale used to be called the regional session. And while it still features numerous Ohio and Indiana stallions, among others, there are New York yearlings, Pennsylvania yearlings, babies from Illinois and everywhere in between listed among the 127 choices available at the right price on Friday starting at 7 PM (EDT).

A whopping 43 stallions are represented, led by 25 Downbytheseaside babies. Add in eight from his son Pebble Beach and you account for about a quarter of those being sold. There are also six

from Captain Crunch on the pacing side and four from Cuatro De Julio as we move on to the trotters. First-crop Indiana sire Rebuff is represented by seven yearlings in this session. Sixteen stallions are represented with just one foal.

I have never understood why an Ohio- or Indiana- or Massachusetts-bred yearling would go to sell at Lexington, where they face stiff competition from the Sweet Lous, the Captaintreacherouses and Walners of the stallion world. Ohio money will be spent in Ohio. Indiana money in Indiana, I thought. But as I looked at this year's catalog, nearly every yearling listed was dual eligible. Some were even triple eligible! Take a look at Pebble Beach's racing career. He was an Ohio bred who after his first career start, never set foot in the Buckeye State again, until he moved into the breeding shed. He earned \$1.7 million in his career.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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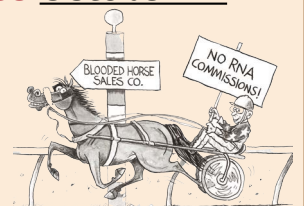
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Hip 221 Ingot

Pebble Beach x Rocknificent filly
Daughter of the accomplished racing
mare **ROCKNIFICENT** (\$1,152,822)
from the maternal family of Dan Patch
Mare **ROCKLAMATION** (\$2,77,384).

Hip 242 Water Hazard

Pebble Beach x Dolphins Can Talk filly
From a producing mare with
multiple stakes-winning offspring and the
family of **PUT ON A SHOW** (\$2,406,628).

Hip 628 Kevin's Bud

Pebble Beach x Tularosa colt
Family of **IN THE ARSENAL** (\$1,035,898).
DOWNBYTHESEASIDE half-brother is a
stakes winner in Ohio and Kentucky.



DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - SANTA ROSA
(1:48.1, \$1,720,875)

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Taking the expert advice I got from Bob Boni, Myron Bell and Joe Sbrocco last week, I took a look and picked out about a dozen yearlings who interested me. They all had solid videos (let's face it, if the video stinks, it gets redone until it doesn't stink). Some are early foals, others mid-May. All had decent size.

The most interesting yearling in the sale, at least for me, is **HIP 883 REDICE**, a May foal by Indiana sire Rebuff from the International Moni mare Fuzzy Dice. Her third dam is the second dam of an Ohio-bred filly my partnership bought at the Ohio Select Sale that we are very high on, Moni Tree. That may not be the best way to pick a filly, but both fillies go back to Moni Maker, albeit on different sides of the pedigree. And Miss Garland, the dam of the great Vivid Photo, shows up a few generations back in both pedigrees. Several fillies from this maternal family have been successful on the track.

I have a gut feeling, looking at the mares he got in his first season, that Rebuff may supplant Swan For All as the dominant Indiana sire. The son of Walner got a good book of mares and if you don't get a Rebuff baby at Lexington, there will be plenty more at the Indiana Classic sale.

Another Rebuff offspring I like is **HIP 840**, an April colt named **MUNICH**, from the Andover Hall mare Angelina Chip. She has been a solid, but not great producer, with five of eight to the races and three with earnings over \$100,000. The dam's full brother is World Champion Adrian Chip. I love this one's video and he could be a relative bargain.

HIP 822 SPEEDO KING is one of the Pebble Beach colts being offered. A February foal, his dam Thong (1:50 2/5, \$705,185) was a great race mare. She is also a solid producer. The second dam, Bikini Line, is also the second dam of Abuckabett Hanover, with over \$2,000,000 on his card.

We are seeing more and more of the European influence in our American trotters and **HIP 870 OENONE** exhibits that as well as any horse in the sale. The filly is the only Centurion ATM in the sale. Her dam Destiny K S is by Cocktail Jet, from the Probe mare Gabriella K. If Gabriella K sounds familiar, it would be because she is the dam of the great Sebastian K, who made nearly \$3,000,000 in his career. As the late Stan Lee would say, "Nuff said."

That European influence also shows up in the Ecurie D Dk filly **HIP 878 SOUTHWIND FUSHA**. While there is not a lot of pedigree in the first few generations, her fourth dam is Blur, a millionaire Dan Patch, Nova and O'Brien award winner. Blur is the dam of World Champion Bluff. While the first three generations are a bit thin, those mares are relatively young, so I will give this one a shout out.

More Europe? Take a look at **HIP 852 IMPERIUM**, a February colt by Maharajah and first foal from the Robert Bi mare Demoiselle IT. The second dam is Mariu, by Varenne, and she is the dam of Alrajah One IT (also by Maharajah). This one could be very interesting as he appears muscular and long barreled in his video.

I admit a bias toward Ohio-breds, and the Ohio/Kentucky eligible filly **HIP 881 PRISCILLA STATION**, by Downbytheseaside, has the potential to be a very good one. Her dam, Pace Baby Pace, took a mark of 1:50 3/5 while earning nearly \$400,000. Pace Baby Pace's first foal Pacey Station already has a 2-year-old mark of 1:53 at Lexington. Her second dam Breakheart Pass was not only a very good race mare, but is a perfect eight-for-eight producer, including Pass Line and Birthday, who both made over \$500,000. This is a solid maternal line.

HIP 811 is a Monte Miki filly named **SWEET BABY JATE**. She is a



HIP 916 One Phone Call will be one of the last yearlings sold and could be the bargain Captain Corey trotter you're looking for.

DERICK GIWNER

half-sister to Skippin By, who earned almost \$900,000 and is a successful producing mare herself. Her dam Southern Magnolia has gotten eight of nine foals to the races, with five in 1:55. The dam is a Jate Lobell sister to Metropolitan (\$1,175,630). Other than two Mach Three foals this is arguably the best stallion she has been bred to.

HIP 818 SWEET TEA N CEREAL is an April colt by Captain Crunch. His 2-year-old sister has a beaten time of 1:52 3/5. The dam, Sweet Tea Baby, is half-sister to World Champion and O'Brien award winner State Treasurer, who earned almost \$2,000,000 in his career. Go down the pedigree a bit further and you find Art Matters, the dam of three sub-1:50 pacers including Ideal Matters. This pedigree is loaded.

If you are still awake and still have money left by the end of the fifth session, check out **HIP 916 ONE PHONE CALL**. He is a Captain Corey from the 1:55 Donato Hanover mare Murderers Row. Her first foal, now 2, has hit the board in all four lifetime starts. The second dam is millionaire Dan Patch and Nova winner Housethatruthbuilt, who has gotten 10 of 12 to the races. Go back another generation. The third dam is Super Shann, the dam of Master Lavec.

Finally, let's discuss an interesting filly, **HIP 854 OH MY BLISS**. She is by White Bliss, and it's not often you see the dam with a faster record than the sire, but Bon Mot's 1:53 4/5 mark makes her one second faster than White Bliss. Bon Mot has gotten seven of nine foals to the races. Unlike her sire, the filly is a bay and videoed well, and if you are reading the pedigree from the bottom up you will also find Towner's Big Guy and Lustra's Big Guy, who were both very good racehorses.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive. With over 900 yearlings being offered this week, there should be something for everyone. But don't count out the final session babies. Pick one out and you could cash. See you next time.

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Many contenders in the 133rd Kentucky Futurity

Delaney Hanover headlines 60th Filly Futurity

By Derick Givner

The crown jewels of a spectacular Sunday afternoon 11-race card at The Red Mile are the \$500,000 Kentucky Futurity and \$300,000 Kentucky Filly Futurity for 3-year-old trotters. The 2025 editions of both races produced full fields of 11 and no shortage of contenders.

The 133rd Kentucky Futurity (race 11) is arguably led by Earl Beal Memorial and Kentucky Sire Stakes champion Super Chapter, one of five horses being sent out for trainer Marcus Melander. The unquestioned leader among 3-year-old male trotters in terms of earnings at \$960,255, Super Chapter is coming into the Futurity off a half-length second-place finish behind Warrior, an effort that didn't exactly thrill his trainer.

"He should've won," said Melander bluntly on the second-place finish in the Bluegrass last weekend. "But we didn't find much on him. [Driver] Dexter [Dunn] said he was a little flat and I don't really know why. Hopefully he'll be sharper this week."

On the plus side, Melander indicated in a post-draw interview that Super Chapter trained Thursday morning and "felt super" ahead of his Kentucky Futurity date from post four with Dunn again in tow.

In theory Maryland is next best on the list of Melander's contenders. Following a divisional-winning campaign in 2024, the son of Chapter Seven has struggled to reach the winner's circle with no

appearances in seven starts. His last race resulted in a second behind Emoticon Legacy in the Canadian Trotting Classic at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

"He raced good up there and he got tired, which was good. That should move his form forward," said Melander on Maryland. "He feels great and came out of it good. It is going to be a tough race with the 3-year-old colts. He's good enough to win it and I think we'll have him ready."

Maryland starts from post 11 in the second tier.

Melander's remaining trio include Meshuggah (post two), Variegated (post five) and Mountcastle (post nine). All three have seen good moments this year, with Meshuggah winning a Bluegrass division at The Red Mile last Saturday in 1:50 1/5, Variegated a runner-up in the Yonkers Trot and NY Sire Stakes final, and Mountcastle a NJ Classic winner but disqualified and placed second due to pacing late in the mile.

"They are good horses but maybe they need others to have a bad day," said Melander on his remaining horses. "Meshuggah raced really well last Saturday. He might be an outsider with a chance. Variegated has done well in New York and we may take a shot and pull the shoes; he can pick up a check."

The "now" horse in the Kentucky Futurity field has to be Go Dog Go after posting the fastest mile by a 3-year-old trotter in last weekend's Bluegrass series. With regular driver Todd McCarthy in the bike, Go Dog Go floated away from the gate before settling in fourth and was able to come first over without any issues in the 1:49 3/5 winning performance.



DERICK GIVNER

Marcus Melander has five horses in the Kentucky Futurity and two in the Filly Futurity.



#891, BUFF MICHELLE, T, F, IN/KY
REBUFF-HAPPY MICHELLE-EXPLOSIVE MATTER

Yearlings from Winning Families

**Featured in 9/30-10/3 Lexington
Day 5 Sale Starts at 7 pm**

#812, WICKED SHOT, P, C, ON

McWicked-Sportsfancy-Sportsmaster

- Dam is Sportsfancy, p, 1:49.4 (\$1,001,957)

#822, SPEEDO KING*, P, C, KY

Pebble Beach-Thong-Western Hanover

- Dam is Thong, p, 3, 1:50.2 (\$705,185)

#889, HAPPY HALLIE, P, F, ON

Cattlewash-Hallie Gallie-Village Jolt

- 1/2-sister to Seaside Wishes, p, 3, 1:53f -'25; BT1:50.1f-'25 (\$98,210)

#891, BUFF MICHELLE*, T, F, IN/KY

Rebuff-Happy Michelle-Explosive Matter

- Second dam is Miss Michelle H, 3, 1:55.2s (\$291,324)

#906, FLASHY PATRICK, T, C, PA

Father Patrick-Lovely Lynnly-Credit Winner

- Second dam is Fitness Girl, 2, 1:56s (\$246,302)

#916, ONE PHONE CALL, T, C, PA

Captain Corey-Murderers Row-Donato Hanover

- Second dam is Housethatruthbuilt, 3, 1:52.4 (\$1,165,183)

#930, KISS OF DELIGHT, P, F, ON

Bettor's Delight-Ruffle's Kiss-Blissfull Hall

- Full-sister to Bellows Binge, p, 1:50.1f (\$440,730)
- 1/2-sister to Ideal Kiss, p, 1:49.3f (\$263,226)

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[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7](#)



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CAPTAIN COREY



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“The instructions to Todd going out were ‘make sure he trots,’” said trainer Carter Pinske, all too aware about Go Dog Go making breaks in his previous two starts. “I’ve known he has incredible speed his whole life, it was just putting it all together. I wasn’t expecting that mile but it didn’t surprise me.”

The trainer made a boatload of changes going into the race that seemed to get the best out of Go Dog Go and allowed him to showcase his raw speed without having to worry about making a miscue.

“I made a lot of changes; closed up his bridle; changed his shoes; put the hobbles on; kind of changed his routine around during the week and it worked out,” said Pinske. “I gave the horse a bit more work [during the week before the race] and perhaps the hobbles gave the horse a bit more confidence. Todd said he liked him with the closed bridle and he had his mind more on business. I think the shoes definitely helped. At The Red Mile maybe one percent of the horses don’t get along with it and he may be one of them.”

Having landed post seven, Go Dog Go could be lined up nicely to flash early speed and settle for a pocket trip either behind an inside leaver like Super Chapter or Emoticon Legacy, another contender who drew post 10 for the team of driver Louis Roy and trainer Luc Blais.

After a disappointing fifth-place finish in the Hambletonian in early August, the light has gone back on for Emoticon Legacy. He finished a good second in the Beal and followed that up with victories in both the Simcoe and Canadian Trotting Classic, with the latter a 1:49 3/5 Canadian record mile.

“He’s feeling good right now and had a great week last week,” said Blais, who was at the Lexington Selected sale on Tuesday but flew home Wednesday to train the son of Walner to make sure he was good to ship down Friday ahead of the Futurity. “It is tough to be better than he has been.”

Fashion Green owns one of the best records in the 11-horse field with nine wins and a second in 12 career starts to his credit. His placing came in the Bluegrass last Saturday where he did the heavy lifting on the lead in Go Dog Go’s sub-1:50 mile.

The Jim Campbell trainee missed most of the spring and part of the early summer with a foot abscess that made it difficult to properly prepare for the Hambletonian, but since he has registered three wins in five starts.



AMANDA STEPHENS

Go Dog Go blazed to a 1:49 3/5 win in the Bluegrass. He’ll start from post seven in the Kentucky Futurity.

Tim Tetrick is listed to drive Fashion Green from post one.

Trainer Ake Svanstedt sends out a pair of players in the Futurity with \$217K winner Gap Kronos S starting from post six and NY Sire Stakes champion Happy Jack B landing the eight hole.

Rounding out the field is Onajetplane, a fringe player in major stakes who has been able to step up at times when trainer Noel Daley pulls the shoes, something that is likely on the foot-kind Red Mile clay surface. Onajetplane starts from post three.

Unlike the boys division, the 60th Kentucky Filly Futurity (race nine) has more of a clear favorite in Delaney Hanover. The Lucas Wallin-trained charge is off a career-best 1:50 2/5 win in the Bluegrass on September 27 where she defeated the formerly 9-for-9 in 2025 Yo Tillie.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Kentucky Futurity

133rd \$500,000 Grade 1 Kentucky Futurity
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"The ownership group and I had a plan to have her ready for this meet and hopefully I didn't have her ready one week too early," said Wallin before adding, "she should be ok."

The Bluegrass victory was the second straight for Delaney Hanover (post three on Sunday) and while those who didn't back her at 4-1 in the race versus the 1-9 Yo Tillie, Wallin wasn't one of them.

"There are a lot of other good fillies out there and obviously Yo Tillie is very good," said Wallin. "I think we have the best filly even if Yo Tillie was in the race, but I'm the trainer of Delaney Hanover so I obviously think she is very good."



AMANDA STEPHENS

Delaney Hanover put up a career best 1:50 2/5 win in the Bluegrass series on Sept. 27. She starts from post three in the Filly Futurity.

Yo Tillie wasn't eligible to the Filly Futurity and the connections elected not to supplement.

The aforementioned Marcus Melander has a pair of starters in this race as well, with Kadena (post seven) and Royal Mission (post 10) representing his barn. The former is off a 1:51 Bluegrass win of her own and has historically raced well over the Red Mile surface. Royal Mission wasn't as good in the Bluegrass with just a seventh-place finish behind Delaney Hanover, but Melander has some tricks up his sleeve for Sunday.

"Royal Mission needed the race the other day but she is an outsider. We will pull her shoes and try to see if that helps a little bit," said Melander.

Trainer Nancy Takter is another who has a contender in the field with Champagne Problems (post 11). The Tactical Landing-sired filly was second, timed in 1:51 2/5 in her Bluegrass engagement, the fourth straight time she has finished in that position, all in stakes races.

"Her last three starts have been tremendous and I'm really happy with her," said Takter at the post draw.

Certainly a horse to watch in the Filly Futurity is What A Bid Hanover. A 1-2 favorite in her Hambletonian Oaks elimination and one of the favorites to win the final, she broke in the elimination round and never made it to the big dance. The Ake Svanstedt filly also made a miscue the following week in the Contiental victory over the same track. Fast Forward six weeks and she was more than a 25 length winner in 1:56 3/5 in a Harrah's Philadelphia qualifier.

If anyone can have What A Bid Hanover "right" off the break in action, it's Svanstedt. She'll start from post six.

Miss Belmar was one of the Hambletonian Oaks favorites and wound up breaking in the race. Since then her form had stayed sour until last weekend when she perked up with a solid third-place showing at The Red Mile. Trainer Noel Daley could have her ready on Sunday as she starts from a cozy spot in the two-hole.

Others in the field include stakes winners Country Victory (post one), R Charm (post four), Deja Blu (post five), Stash Some Cash (post eight) and R Dutchess (post nine).

Other standout performers competing on the all-stakes card include Periculum in the 2nd race \$160,000 Allerage Open Trot, a virtual match race as Twin B Joe Fresh and Sylvia Hanover hook up in a three-horse \$64,000 Allerage split for Mare Pacers, Madden Oaks and Captain Optimistic in the first \$220,000 Tattersalls carded as race six, Captain Albano in the \$145,500 Allerage Open Pace one race later, Juliette winner Rodeo Drive Deo in the eighth race \$241,000 Glen Garnsey, and the undefeated-in-2025 3-year-old pacing divisional leader Louprint in the second Tattersalls division (race 10).

Post time for the card is 1 PM (EDT).

Red Mile Sunday \$7.5K GTD Pick 4 Analysis

By Derick Gwerner

The Red Mile has a stellar 11-race all-stakes card on Sunday afternoon highlighted by the \$500,000 Kentucky Futurity. Below we'll take a look at the \$7,500 Guaranteed Pick 4 as well as the featured Futurity.

RACE 6: \$220K TATTERSALLS PACE

On paper this sort of looks like a two horse race between (3) Captain Optimistic and (6) MADDEN OAKS. For me, I like the latter much better and he'll be my single in the sequence. Madden Oaks was perhaps raced too aggressively last time in his first start after a six-week absence. That effort should've done him some good and it just comes down to Boyd giving him a reasonable trip.

RACE 7: \$145.5K ALLERAGE PACE

There is plenty of uncertainty here with all but one horse having to race off Lasix due to state regulations in stakes races. I've been led to believe that (5) CAPTAIN ALBANO takes a lower dose of Lasix and might not be affected from the loss. There is no doubt he is the sharpest and only a bit of doubt that he is currently the best horse in the field. He has some questions to answer on the big track but this certainly looks like the right spot; was 2-for-2 at Red Mile in 2023. (6) KEN HANOVER was my pick last time in the Dayton Derby and he was never put in play. I have to think he'll be hustled off the gate in this spot and could pull off the upset.

RACE 8: \$241K GARNSEY MEMORIAL

The Garnsey highlights the 3-year-old filly pacers and despite the absence of the divisional leaders Miki And Minnie and Chantilly, this field came up strong. (5) RODEO DRIVE DEO was super winning the Juliette and notice that the only horses to beat her since early August are the aforementioned pair. Burke trainee lands in a great spot on the middle of the gate and seems like the one to beat; only concern is she loses Lasix today. (10) LOOKSGOODINLOULOU is a filly I've always known could pop a big mile and she did just that last time in the KYSS final. The outside post hurts some but her early speed could get her into the right spot. (1) Champagne Room has won two of her last three but rates as more of a trip threat to me.

RACE 9: \$300K KENTUCKY FILLY FUTURITY

(3) DELANEY HANOVER flashed speed at both ends of her mile last week when winning the Bluegrass in a career best 1:50 2/5, easily making her the fastest in the field. Lucas Wallin has been patient with her and she seems to be peaking at the right time to win the Futurity and maybe the Breeders Crown. (6) WHAT A BID HANOVER is the mystery horse in the group and one I want on my tickets in case trainer Ake Svanstedt has her ready. She's loaded with talent and capable of any kind of performance. (11) Champagne Problems has finished second in four straight stakes starts. I don't fault her for losing to Yo Tillie but you have to beat Ms Prada. Using her underneath only. (2) Miss Belmar is a filly I have respect for but one that has to show up with a big mile or offer 20-1-plus before I'd consider her.

\$1 Ticket: 6 / 5,6 / 5,10 / 3,6 = \$8

RACE 11: \$500K KENTUCKY FUTURITY

I'm going to take a bit of a flyer here that (11) MARYLAND can finally pick up the first win of his year. I was encouraged by the effort last time in the Canadian Trotting Classic and I can see some mayhem in this race with plenty of potential early speed players and many with enough talent to make some noise. (7) GO DOG GO showed how good he is last time with a 1:49 3/5 win. My only concern is that he has good early speed to his outside and tactically it is going to be key for McCarthy to put in a perfect steer. (4) SUPER CHAPTER could be the favorite here over #7 but it will be close. You have to respect his chances. (3) ONAJET-PLANE has been a notch below the top ones all year but he does step up when the shoes are pulled and that tends to happen here.

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DAY 5 LINEUP SELLING OCTOBER 3



HIP#804 EMMA DEO

Bay filly • Six Pack - Uf Lindsay Lou Who

Full-sister to BLAZING DEO 2, 1:54.4 (\$168,839) and CINDY LOU WHO DEO 2, 1:56.1-'25. Half-sister to PRIMADONNA DEO 3, 1:52 (\$277,580).



HIP#832 BIG SKY DEO

Bay colt • Six Pack - Yalta Hanover

Brother to the winners of over \$1.1 million including World Champion PERFECT ALLIANCE 4, 1:51.2 (\$249,788) and FASHION FOREVER 3, 1:55f (\$352,312).



HIP#861 VALENTINO DEO

Bay colt • Six Pack - Contepartiro Deo

From CONTEPARTIRO DEO 3, 1:54.3f (\$63,161), she a sister to World Champion PERFECT ALLIANCE 4, 1:51.2 (\$249,788) and FASHION FOREVER 3, 1:55f (\$352,312).



HIP#902 SOLAR ECLIPSE DEO

Bay colt • International Moni - Say My Name

Half-brother to SCOTTY DEO 4, 1:54.1f (\$146,635). From a half-sister to MR RIGHT 4, 1:54.1f (\$346,593) and GIRL TALK 3, 1:55.4f (\$122,126).

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Jay Bergman: **LEXUS KODY** is the Horse of the Year



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

While we are moving into the final two months of the stakes season and there are still numerous major races to be contested, there is one horse that comes to mind that may have already earned the Horse of the Year title.

Lexus Kody!

As October begins, with apologies to the Breeders Crown (It All Comes Down To), Lexus Kody's six-week surge in one of the sport's most competitive divisions has set him apart from all other horses that I've watched and witnessed throughout the campaign. Undeclared Louprint's victory in the North America Cup was monumental, but his absence for some major races leaves some blanks on the résumé. His victory in the Little Brown Jug was impressive but it's hard to say just how competitive that race turned out to be once archrival Prince Hal Hanover elected to take the first turn off in their elimination and failed to reach the final.

Until this past week there was certainly enough for Yo Tillie to deserve strong consideration for Trotter of the Year and in turn Horse of the Year consideration. The filly's loss wasn't a major blow



Older trotter Lexus Kody has won five straight stakes races.

DERICK GIWNER

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 11](#)

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE RACES

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to that but at the same time, the fact she was ineligible to the Hambletonian Oaks and also Kentucky Filly Futurity raises some questions on her dance card.

Both Yo Tillie and Louprint can still finish out the year without a blemish and that may elevate them to the title, but at the same time, I find it incomprehensible at this moment that they will find rivals or enough races to match the epic performances of Lexus Kody over a span of time when most horses skip races to remain sharp. For me it's the fact that the Burke stable historically doesn't skip races that horses are scheduled for unless something is materially wrong with their horses. That's why Louprint had to step aside for a portion of this year's sophomore pacing schedule and it's why Lexus Kody didn't rest on his laurels following a victory in the richest event for his class, the \$1 million MGM Yonkers International Trot.

What Lexus Kody did prior to the International was also earthshaking and unquestionably different than some of the horse's races in prior years. A speed freak that made the most of beating up on horses just a notch below the best in the past, Lexus Kody has suddenly turned into the horse that can race on or off the pace with incredible ease and effectiveness. His victories in both Maple Leaf Trot elimination and final were among his best to date, with driver Yannick Gingras getting the most out of the son of Archangel with a first-over grinding win in his elimination, easily holding off last year's champion Periculum, who followed perfect cover. The 1:51 mile was just a tip of the iceberg as Lexus Kody was manageable and lethal in the rich Maple Leaf final, trotting to a 1:49 1/5 Canadian record-setting performance and dusting a solid field with a 27 flat final quarter that easily kept rival Periculum at bay.

Just two weeks later, Lexus Kody drew the rail for the International and his driver made no mistakes, dissuading a few horses on the outside as the field hit the first turn and controlling the pace under steady pressure the rest of the mile-and-one-quarter distance. There were no track records or world records but the look on trainer Ron Burke's face after that race and his glee in sharing 50 percent of the \$1 million "American" purse was what the victory truly meant.

That Lexus Kody even raced in the \$200,000 Caesars Trotting Classic six days following the International – given the long ship to Indiana – suggested the trainer was extremely confident in his horse and he was spot on. While Lexus Kody would in fact win the race at Hoosier Park, he would have to share the winner's circle with rival Periculum. It was one of those typical

races at Hoosier Park where the finish line just couldn't come fast enough. As he did in the Maple Leaf elimination, Lexus Kody provided perfect cover for Periculum in the Caesars and sped away from him in the early stretch only to get tracked down on the wire in the 1:51 1/5 dead-heat mile.

While that string of success in and of itself earned Lexus Kody high marks and consideration for the top year-end honor, I believe his effort in Saturday's (September 27) Dayton Trotting Derby showed a side of him that no one has ever seen before and may not soon see again. The Dayton Derby once again had Lexus Kody with the rail but unlike that spot at Yonkers where the first turn hits all horses quickly, the five-eighths mile track in Dayton allows horses plenty of yardage before hitting a bend and that left Yannick Gingras in an entirely different position than the one he claimed at Yonkers.

With half the field on the gate, Gingras had to decide whether to fight early or fight late and he elected the latter. No fewer than five horses left the gate at the start of the Dayton Derby and 50 yards into the race it was obvious Lexus Kody was locked on the pylons with a horse to his outside. One horse that didn't leave the gate that hard either was rival Aetos Kronos S with Dexter Dunn in the bike. Dunn was forward thinking as the field hit the opening bend and took to the outside quickly. He saw the chance to get on the move while at the same time keeping the heavily favored Lexus Kody pinned down.

The mad scramble to the front had Up Your Deo parked in a 26 4/5 first panel before clearing with a second tier of horses progressing towards him. Dunn had Aetos Kronos N in the outer flow and Gingras, desperate to get out of an obvious jam, moved Lexus Kody between horses trying to make a hole that didn't exist. Dunn didn't flinch and Gingras had no choice but to sit inside and find himself shuffled to last in the field of nine by the three-quarter station.

To me the race set up perfectly for Dunn and Aetos Kronos N, a horse with enough talent to win a race like this with an ideal journey. Perhaps what Dunn didn't see coming – or couldn't prevent once he did – was Lexus Kody marching rapidly on the final turn, circling wide and effortlessly picking up every horse in the field to win going away in a 1:51 4/5 mile.

Gingras correctly gave proper credit to his horse for making up in the final quarter what he got him into in the very first quarter.

Lexus Kody will finally take a bit of time off while skipping the Allegras scheduled for Sunday (October 5) at The Red Mile to prepare for the Breeders Crown a couple of weeks later.

With five straight major victories in six weeks, Lexus Kody has elevated his stature and in my opinion surpassed all horses in all divisions as a potential Horse of the Year.

Lexington Selected Yearling Sale By the Numbers

By Greg Reinhart

The 2025 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale has just one day remaining after Thursday's fourth session went into the books.

As was the case on Monday and Tuesday, there were declines in both average and gross year-over-year. The average went down from \$28,216 to \$22,400, and the gross dipped from \$5,689,000 for 208 horses sold to \$4,368,000 for 195 yearlings today. Overall, the average has gone from \$79,171 through four days in 2024 to \$74,265 this year, and the gross is down from \$61,041,000 for 779 horses to \$56,887,000 for 766 horses.

Thursday's action saw three yearlings make it to six figures, led by HIP 727 Ebb N Flow, a Green Manalishi filly consigned by Kentuckiana Farms as agent. She went to agent Sabine Kagebrant for Courant Inc. at \$145,000. Behind her were HIPs 730 Ivy Station and 740 Sun Hawk, who went to Rick Berks for \$110,000 and Brandon Arsenaault, an agent for Gregg McNair, for \$100,000. Consigned by Spring Station Bloodstock LLC., Ivy Station is a daughter of Papi Rob Hanover, while Sun Hawk, a Bulldog Hanover colt, was from the consignment of Hunterton Sales Agency, agent.

Switching to an overall look at things through four days, Walner is the leading sire in terms of gross with his 80 yearlings bringing in a total \$10,495,000. He is followed by Chapter Seven (\$7,076,000 for 63 yearlings), Muscle Hill (\$4,143,000 for 37 yearlings), Captain Corey (\$3,716,000 for 41 yearlings) and Bulldog Hanover (\$3,501,000 for 44 yearlings). Downbytheseaside leads on the average side at \$189,875 for four yearlings, trailed by Walner (\$131,188), Chapter Seven (\$112,317), Muscle Hill (\$111,973) and Alrajah One (\$95,375 for eight yearlings).

In terms of gait and sex, trotting fillies lead the gross at \$20,414,000 for 222 offerings, followed by trotting colts (\$18,184,000 / 230), pacing colts (\$9,542,000 / 160) and pacing fillies (\$8,747,000 / 154). Trotters lead pacers \$38,598,000 for 452 yearlings to \$18,289,000 for 314 yearlings and fillies are beating colts \$29,161,000 for 376 yearlings to \$27,726,000 for 390 yearlings.

Hunterton Sales Agency, Inc. is the leading consignor by gross at \$11,272,000 for 106 yearlings. Behind Hunterton are Preferred Equine, Inc., (\$8,106,000 / 111), Kentuckiana Farms (\$7,049,000 / 113), Crawford Farms (\$4,489,000 / 46) and Cameo Hills Farm (\$4,210,000 / 42). Indiana's Kountry Lane Standardbred LLC. has the nod in terms of average at \$155,286 for their seven offerings, with Armitage Farm LLC. second at \$123,143 for 14 yearlings. Next are All American Harnessbreds (\$114,250 / 8), Hunterton Sales Agency, Inc. (\$106,340) and Cameo Hills Farm (\$100,238).

Finally, the top buyer thus far is Ake Svanstedt, who has shelled out \$2,580,000 to buy 15 yearlings. Andrew Harris, as agent for William Pollock, has paid \$2,285,000 for eight horses, followed by agent Marcus Melander (\$1,883,000 / 14), M & L of Delaware / Armitage Farm (\$1,550,000 / 4) and Andy Miller Stable Inc., Agent (\$1,540,000 / 16).

The 2025 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale will conclude on Friday night starting at 7 p.m. (EDT) with HIPs 801 through 930 available for purchase.



DERICK GWINNER

Sofia Zingale signs the ticket on HIP 44 for Andrew Harris.

Burkholder looks to keep momentum on Friday at Red Mile

By Ken Weingartner

Matthew Burkholder, in the midst of his first million-dollar season, picked up his first Grand Circuit victory last week and will look to maintain the momentum on Friday when he sends out two morning-line favorites in divisions of the Grade 3 International Stallion Stakes at The Red Mile.

Requiem, coming off a 1:52 3/5 win in a division of last week's Grade 3 Bluegrass Stakes at The Red Mile, will get the action started for the 28-year-old trainer in Friday's first race, the first of four divisions of the International Stallion Stakes for 2-year-old male trotters. He is the 6-5 morning-line choice in the \$72,000 event, leaving from post six in a field of seven.

In the third division, going for a purse of \$73,000, Burkholder trainee Silverstein is the 9-5 morning-line chalk. He is coming off a third-place finish in the Mohawk Million and will start Friday from post four.

David Miller will drive both trotters for Burkholder.

"It's definitely been a great year for us," said Burkholder, an Ohio native and resident who has seen his stable bank \$1.02 million this year, smashing his previous high of \$664,539 set just last season. "I try not to have many expectations; you just focus on doing your work, having the horses the best they can be, and the rest will take care of itself.

"We've gradually built the stable, and every year we try to get a little better. It's nice when you advance every year. That's the most important thing, I think. With success, you gain confidence, and I don't think confidence is a bad thing. Hopefully, we can build off this."

Requiem and Silverstein, two of the 30 horses in Burkholder's stable, are both owned by David McElrath's Dark Horse Farm. Silverstein was purchased for \$80,000 at the 2024 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale while Requiem was a \$45,000 buy at the same auction. The two trotters have combined to earn nearly \$367,000 this season.

"It's not just me; I have to thank the owners for buying me good horses," Burkholder said. "I really appreciate it, and the work of all the people around me."

Prior to having his own stable, Burkholder spent six years working with Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame trainer Marty Wollam.

"He's a great guy, and was a great guy to learn from," Burkholder said. "He taught me so much about conditioning."

Requiem, a son of Muscle Hill-Ostrich Blue Chip whose family includes past New York circuit standout Quincy Blue Chip, has hit the board in seven of eight races, winning three and earning \$102,500. His 1:52 3/5 Bluegrass triumph was a career best and the fourth consecutive start in which he lowered his time.

He began his season by racing in the Kentucky Sire Stakes at Oak Grove, posting two third-place finishes, then moved to the KYSS Commonwealth Series at The Red Mile. He finished third in the \$100,000 Commonwealth final on Sept. 15 and 10 days later won his \$82,000 Bluegrass division.

"He trained down really good; I was pretty high on him all winter long," Burkholder said. "Then at Oak Grove, he raced good, but he didn't race great. So, we started him in the Commonwealth (series), and he's improved every start. Last week, he was very good. David deserves credit for that too. He's developed him and brought him along and hasn't forced



AMANDA STEPHENS

Silverstein is the 9-5 morning-line favorite in Friday's International Stallion Stake at The Red Mile.

him to do anything.

"He's a very nice horse. He's even keeled. He's not aggressive, he just does what you ask him to do. Hopefully, he can continue forward."

Silverstein, a son of Chapter Seven-Shining Brightly out of the family of two-time Dan Patch Award-winner Passionate Glide, has hit the board in eight of nine races, with one victory and five second-place finishes. He has earned \$263,840.

His win came in a preliminary leg of the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series and was followed by three consecutive seconds, with two of them behind eventual Championship Series final winner (and Mohawk Million runner-up) Endurance.

Silverstein, who was second to Endurance in the \$100,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final at Oak Grove in mid-July, finished third in the Championship Series final on Sept. 14. In the Mohawk Million on Sept. 20 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Silverstein was timed in 1:52.1 as he finished behind Apex and Endurance.

"It was a big thrill (to be in the Mohawk Million), especially at the top of the stretch when it looked like he had a chance," Burkholder said. "That was great. He raced super."

"But what a surprise he is. He didn't train down very good, made a lot of breaks. It seems like when he got behind the starting gate, he just started to figure it out, he started getting it. He's super consistent. He's trotted (1):53 or better every week since his second start at Oak Grove. He's not a very big horse, but he's got a big heart. I'm very happy with him."

Neither Silverstein nor Requiem is Breeders Crown eligible, but the two trotters could continue their campaigns at Kentucky's Cumberland Run following the end of the meet at The Red Mile.

"We'll see how they are, but as long as they're doing good, we'll probably go," Burkholder said. "If they're healthy, I don't see why not."

Racing begins at 1 p.m. on Friday at The Red Mile. In addition to the International Stallion Stakes divisions for the trotters, there are three splits for 2-year-old female pacers.



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10 RED MILE SAT

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EXACTA & TRIFECTA | 20 CENT SUPERFECTA | PICK 4 (10-11-12-13) 12% TAKEOUT

1 SHOW ME YOUR ACE

21:52.2 (1) Q \$4,340 LEX-SEL \$150,000

15-1 **Dv. Miller** 1434-207-208-205 (144)

15 Sep25	11Lx1	fst8 ⁸⁰	27 ¹	:54 ²	1:22 ⁴	1:49 ¹	Bluegrass	74500	1	5 ⁴ ₂	5 ⁷ ₂	5 ⁰ ₅	5 ² ₃	4 ¹ ₂	DaMiller	ChRyder	281	274	274	253	1:49 ²	106	38.10	BmndBlvd AntrnCtNt ThiagoHnv	-7
26 Aug25	12Lx1	fst7 ⁴⁰	28	:56 ²	1:24	1:51 ²	COMMONWLTH	100000	9	9 ⁹ ₉	9 ⁰ ₈	8 ⁰ ₅ ₃	8 ⁴ ₄	6 ⁶ ₆	PaRyder	ChRyder	297	28	271	271	1:52	94	60.02	CapnAple DrkToTtH UpInPlace	Moved up p.3-7
17 Aug25	2Lx1	fst9 ¹⁰	27 ²	:56	1:23 ⁴	1:51 ¹	COMMONWLTH	30000	9	9 ¹¹ ₉	9 ⁰ ₉	9 ⁹ ₄	8 ³ ₄	5 ² ₂	DeDunn	ChRyder	293	281	274	26	1:51	95	8.72	TobyOrrTt Wincrcs CoupStain	-9
6 Aug25	3Lx1	fst7 ⁴⁰	27 ¹	:55	1:23 ¹	1:51 ²	COMMONWLTH	30000	1	6 ⁹ ₁	7 ⁸ ₈	6 ⁵ ₁	9 ¹¹ ₁	10 ¹¹ ₁	DeDunn	ChRyder	297	273	292	1:53	84	nb	UpInPlace Downbythl DrkToTtH	-10	
27 July25	3Lx1	fst9 ⁰⁰	28 ²	:57	1:25 ²	1:52 ²	COMMONWLTH	30000	1	3 ³ ₃	3 ³ ₃	3 ⁰ ₃ ₂	2 ² ₂	1 ¹ ₁	DeDunn	ChRyder	29	283	282	262	1:52	92	2.89	ShowMYAc CoupStain Wincrcs	-7
18 July25	5M1	fst7 ⁹⁰					2yocH2nd	15500				scratched-sick													-8

b c 2, by American Ideal, Trip Aces Hanover by Bettor's Delight

C Ryder,Ahtn,NJ;A Demers,GC;L Minowitz,Gmwh,CT;A Svanstedt,Wrohtstn,NJ

C. Ryder 379-71-60-56(187)

NWLTH	100000	9	9 ⁹	9 ⁰ ₈	8 ⁰ ₅ ₃	8 ⁴	6 ⁶	
NWLTH	30000	6	7 ⁸	7 ⁶	5 ⁰ ₄	3 ¹ ₂	4 ³ ₃	
NWLTH	30000	9	9 ¹¹	9 ⁰ ₉	9 ⁹	8 ³ ₄	5 ² ₂	
NWLTH	30000	1	6 ⁹ ₁	7 ⁸	6 ⁵ ₁	9 ¹¹	10 ¹¹	
NWLTH	30000	1	3 ³	3 ³	3 ⁰ ₃ ₂	2 ²	1 ¹	hd
nd	15500		scratched-sick					

2 FUNKY BUDDHA

21:52.4 (5/8) Q \$4,978 SHS-HBG \$50,000

6-1 **S. Zeron** 1246-166-168-188 (133)

26 Sep25	6Lx1	fst770	272	:543	1:224	1:491	Bluegrass	74500	7	4 ³ ₃	4 ⁵ ₃	4 ⁰ ₃	3 ¹ ₁	6 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	28	273	274	262	1:494	104	14.95	BmndBlvd AntrnCtNt ThiagoHnv	-7
14 Sep25	4Lx1	fst840					KYSS	40000				scratched-jg-trainer under suspension													-9
26 Aug25	10Lx1	fst740	281	:563	1:242	1:501	KYSS	80000	1	4 ⁰ ₄	4 ³ ₃	3 ² ₂	4 ³ ₃	3 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	284	283	272	263	1:512	97	9.25	Ubrute BmndBlvd FunkyBdha	-7
17 Aug25	10Lx1	fst830	271	:551	1:234	1:501	KYSS	80000	3	3 ³ ₃	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	3 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	274	272	283	27	1:50	101	7.25	BmndBlvd Ubrute FunkyBdha	-8
6 Aug25	7Lx1	fst740	271	:544	1:222	1:493	KYSS	80000	8	1 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ² ₂	2 ² ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	274	273	273	1:51	104	104	4.26	BmndBlvd Ubrute FunkyBdha	-9
27 Jul25	9Lx1	fst900	293	:584	1:281	1:541	KYSS	80000	3	1 ¹ ₁	3 ³ ₃	1 ⁰ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	3 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	293	294	284	26	1:54	84	10.08	BmndBlvd PanthHl FunkyBdha	-8
14 Jul25	9QAG	fst870	272	:57	1:24	1:53	F-KYSS2YOC	100000	4	3 ³ ₃	3 ³ ₃	2 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	28	293	263	284	1:53	97	*.82	FunkyBdha ProficBlD WhtNcoWay	-8

b c 2, by Sweet Lou, The Double Deuce by Captaintreacherous

Rick Berks,Boca Raton,FL

T. Dinges 247-36-34-37(146)

26 Sep25	6Lx1	fst770	272	:543	1:224	1:491	Bluegrass	74500	7	4 ³ ₃	4 ⁵ ₃	4 ⁰ ₃	3 ¹ ₁	6 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	28	273	274	262	1:494	104	14.95	BmndBlvd AntrnCtNt ThiagoHnv	-7
14 Sep25	4Lx1	fst840					KYSS	40000				scratched-jg-trainer under suspension													-9
26 Aug25	10Lx1	fst740	281	:563	1:242	1:501	KYSS	80000	1	4 ⁰ ₄	4 ³ ₃	3 ² ₂	4 ³ ₃	3 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	284	283	272	263	1:512	97	9.25	Ubrute BmndBlvd FunkyBdha	-7
17 Aug25	10Lx1	fst830	271	:551	1:234	1:501	KYSS	80000	3	3 ³ ₃	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	3 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	274	272	283	27	1:50	101	7.25	BmndBlvd Ubrute FunkyBdha	-8
6 Aug25	7Lx1	fst740	271	:544	1:222	1:493	KYSS	80000	8	1 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ² ₂	2 ² ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	274	273	273	1:51	104	104	4.26	BmndBlvd Ubrute FunkyBdha	-9
27 Jul25	9Lx1	fst900	293	:584	1:281	1:541	KYSS	80000	3	1 ¹ ₁	3 ³ ₃	1 ⁰ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	3 ³ ₂	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	293	294	284	26	1:54	84	10.08	BmndBlvd PanthHl FunkyBdha	-8
14 Jul25	9QAG	fst870	272	:57	1:24	1:53	F-KYSS2YOC	100000	4	3 ³ ₃	3 ³ ₃	2 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	ToMcCrthy	ToDinges	28	293	263	284	1:53	97	*.82	FunkyBdha ProficBlD WhtNcoWay	-8

3 UP IN PLACE

21:51.2 (1) Q \$8,504 LEX-SEL \$22,000

15-1 **M. Luna** 1169-150-172-128 (172)

26 Sep25	4Lx1	fst770	274	:554	1:234	1:501	Bluegrass	74500	4	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₂	2 ² ₂	2 ² ₂	MaLuna	ToAlagna	274	28	281	264	1:504	98	21.21	MellioUpInPlace Downbythl	-7
15 Sep25	11Lx1	fst880	271	:542	1:224	1:504	COMMONWLTH	100000	1	4 ³ ₃	5 ³ ₃	7 ⁴ ₄	4 ² ₂	3 ² ₂	MaLuna	ToAlagna	274	282	282	273	1:51	96	113.10	CapnAple DrkToTtH UpInPlace	-9
26 Aug25	6Lx1	fst740	282	:562	1:241	1:504	COMMONWLTH	30000	4	3 ¹ ₁	5 ³ ₃	5 ² ₃	5 ⁶ ₄	5 ¹ ₁	TiTrick	ToAlagna	284	281	274	281	1:53	87	25.78	ThiagoHnv Downbythl CapnAple	-7
17 Aug25	4Lx1	fst910	283	:562	1:25	1:514	COMMONWLTH	30000	1	4 ² ₃	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	4 ² ₂	5 ³ ₃	TiTrick	ToAlagna	291	271	283	272	1:52	91	4.26	CapnAple DrkToTtH PapRlcr	-9
6 Aug25	3Lx1	fst740	271	:55	1:231	1:512	COMMONWLTH	30000	9	2 ¹ ₂	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₂	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	AnMcCrthy	ToAlagna	273	273	281	28	1:51	95	4.26	UpInPlace Downbythl DrkToTtH	-10
27 Jul25	3Lx1	fst900	282	:57	1:252	1:522	COMMONWLTH	30000	6	6 ⁹ ₃	6 ⁸ ₃	5 ⁰ ₄	5 ³ ₃	4 ² ₂	AnMcCrthy	ToAlagna	302	281	281	26	1:52	89	5.50	ShowMYAc CoupStain Wincrcs	-9
18 Jul25	12M1	fst870	283	:571	1:26	1:533	QUA 2YO C		5	4 ⁴ ₄	4 ⁴ ₄	4 ⁴ ₄	4 ⁴ ₄	4 ⁴ ₄	AnMcCrthy	ToAlagna	292	283	284	272	1:541		nb	CvAndersTreachersUpInPlace	Inside ang in pace-5

b c 2, by Lather Up, Helen's Place Girl by Park Place

John E Barnard,Miami,FL;Alagna Racing LLC,Jackson,NJ

T. Alagna 511-66-77(129)

NWLTH	100000	1	4 ³	5 ⁴ ₁	7 ⁴ ₁	4 ² ₁	3 ² ₁
NWLTH	30000	4	3 ¹³ ₄	5 ³ ₂	5 ² ₃	5 ⁶ ₄	5 ¹ ₃
NWLTH	30000	1	4 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₂	4 ² ₂	5 ³ ₃
NWLTH	30000	9	2 ¹³ ₃	2 ¹ ₂	2 ¹ ₃	1 ¹ ₁	1no
NWLTH	30000	6	6 ⁹ ₃	6 ⁸ ₁	5 ⁰ ₄	5 ³ ₃	4 ² ₁
2YO C		5	4 ⁴ ₁	4 ⁴ ₄	4 ⁴ ₄	4 ⁴ ₄	3 ³ ₄

Inaugural Big Apple elimination to take place Saturday at Vernon

Vernon Downs welcomes freshmen pacers & trotters for the Big Apple eliminations on Saturday (October 4). The inaugural Big Apple will have \$250,000 finals on the following Saturday.

The Big Apple is divided into four classes: 2-Year-old colts & gelding pacers, 2-year-old filly pacers, 2-year-old trotting colts & geldings, and 2-year-old trotting fillies. The top four in each division and a random fifth-place finisher will qualify for the finals.

Fragment (Jason Bartlett) and Hunt Off The Press (Tyler Buter) are set to square off in the first of the two eliminations for colts & gelding pacers. Fragment is a 2-year-old colt by Huntsville-The Show Returns. Trained by Per Engblom, the colt has six wins this season including the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) final, bankrolling almost \$400,000. The Jared Bakot-trained Hunt Off The Press is a gelding by Huntsville-Off The Press. He was the distant runner-up to Fragment in the NYSS final, but has four wins to go along with \$300,000 in purses won.

The Kevin Lare-trained Southwind Iron (Jason Bartlett) is the 9-5 favorite in the second elimination. The colt by American Ideal-Southwind Inertia has six wins this season including the New York Excelsior final.

In the filly pacers eliminations, Odds On Enigma (Jim Marohn Jr.) is the one to beat in the first division. She has two wins including a NYSS win at Vernon. Odds On Enigma (Huntsville-Yellow Diamond) is trained by Scott Di Domenico.

Andrew Stafford trains the overwhelming favorite Liberty Style (Jason Bartlett) in the second elimination. She has won five of her eight career starts including the NYSS final. Liberty Style (American Style-Fly In Style) has won over \$296,000.

NYSS final winner AI (Brett Beckwith) is the one to beat in the first elimination for trotting colts & geldings. Ron Burke trains five-time winning colt by Chapter Seven-Image Of Bee. He has won over \$333,000 in his career.

Bruce Clarke trains Titans Mischief, the morning line favorite in the second elimination. The colt by E L Titan-Morosita Bi has three wins and six seconds in nine starts with over \$282,000 in earnings.

Nezuko Kamado S (Jason Bartlett) is the one to beat in the first elimination for trotting fillies. She is trained by Marcus Melander. Nezuko Kamado S (Chapter Seven-Zefira Kronos It) has three wins and over \$217,000 in earnings.

The favorite to win the second elimination is the George Ducharme trained Sharp Seven (Matt Kakaley). The filly by Chapter Seven-Lookin Sharp has won five races including the NYSS final and banked nearly \$370,000 in her young career.

The 15-race card starts at 5:05 p.m.

-edited release (Vernon)

\$75,000 Guaranteed Pick 5 on tap Friday at The Red Mile


The Friday (Oct. 3) card at The Red Mile will feature a \$75,000 guarantee in the 50-cent Pick 5, which begins in Race 3.

Following the Saturday (Sept. 27) card, in which longshots thrived including a pair of winners that returned over \$60 to win, the 50-cent Pick 5 generated a double carryover totaling \$19,846.16. Because of the large carryover coming into Friday's racing, The Red Mile will guarantee a \$75,000 pool for the Pick 5 sequence, which also features an industry-low takeout of 12 percent.

The Pick-5 sequence covers Races 3 through 7, including three divisions of International Stallion Stakes. Race 3 is estimated to go to post at 1:40 p.m. (EDT).


First-race post time at The Red Mile is 1 p.m. (EDT).

-release (Red Mile)



Handicapper's Corner

SIGN UP NOW



At DRF Harness we strive to provide the best handicapping information in the sport. Each week we'll use this space to bring you some of our handicappers' best bets and value plays. Use this information as one of your tools when wagering or simply click on the link above for more insight on building a winning wager!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

RACE 9

(1) CRACK SHOT has the slight edge over his main rival in my opinion because he has a recent qualifier under his belt. He has had a good season and should add to it tonight.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

RACE 8

(1) I'M KRONOS S is a horse that is blessed with a special turn of speed. He isn't quite a finished product yet so I wouldn't want to bet him as the 4-5 chalk, but if he drifts up to 2-1 or so, jump on board and hope he gets a clean journey.

-Derick Giwner



RACE 10

(7) UNDETERRED crushed at Philly in her debut for new connections after arriving from Ohio and I'll give her the opportunity to show even more as she arrives at Yonkers.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

RACE 9

(2) NIJINSKY got a prep drive when returning, and the bettors seemed to know that. He was favored, but not overwhelmingly. He towers over this field, and now with a tightener under this belt, that statement holds even more weight.

-Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS



INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES



NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

DAYTON WINNERS MOVE UP IN TOP 10

Louprint was idle last week but increased his lead at No. 1 in the Week 16 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday while Dayton Derby winners Twin B Joe Fresh, Lexus Kody and Ervin Hanover all moved up in the rankings.

Louprint received 32 of 35 first-place votes, an increase of nine, after No. 2-ranked Yo Tillie lost for the first time this season, finishing second in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes. Yo Tillie remained second in the poll but saw her deficit behind Louprint go from 39 points in Week 15 to 93 points this week.

Twin B Joe Fresh, who won the Dayton Distaff Derby (Grade 2) in a track-record 1:48.4 at Hollywood Dayton Raceway, vaulted from fifth to third in the poll. Lexus Kody, who captured the Dayton Trotting Derby (G2) by rallying from ninth place with a quarter mile to go and became this season's first millionaire, improved from seventh to sixth. Positions four through six were separated by only 11 points.

Ervin Hanover, who won the Dayton Pacing Derby (G2) with the fastest mile ever at Dayton, 1:47.2, joined the Top 10 at No. 10.

Apex, who was idle, 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 16 – 10/1/2025

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Louprint (32)	3cp	9-9-0-0	\$903,773	347	1
2	Yo Tillie	3ft	10-9-1-0	\$636,783	254	2
3	Twin B Joe Fresh	5mp	8-5-2-1	\$494,714	237	5
4	Miki And Minnie (2)	3fp	12-10-2-0	\$810,091	217	3
5	Beau Jangles (1)	2cp	9-9-0-0	\$758,130	213	4
6	Lexus Kody	7gt	18-9-3-3	\$1,074,472	206	7
7	Sylvia Hanover	5mp	11-6-4-1	\$417,292	106	6
8	Emoticon Legacy	3ct	8-6-1-0	\$698,905	100	9
9	Super Chapter	3ct	11-8-2-0	\$960,255	68	8
10	Ervin Hanover	5hp	14-8-1-1	\$532,218	48	--

ALSO: Apex 41; Prince Hal Hanover 27; Loua Dipa 19; Captain Albano 14; Periculum 8; Maximus Miki 6; M-M's Dream 5; Go Dog Go 4; Elista Hanover 2; Aetos Kronos S, Big Ranger, Frantic Hanover 1.

-release (by Ken Weingartner)

MEADOWLANDS TO QUALIFY NEXT WEEK

The Meadowlands, in preparation for the upcoming Fall meet, will offer qualifiers next Wednesday, October 8 @ 10 am. The entry box is live and will close Tuesday @ 10 am.

First live racing card back will be on Saturday, October 18 with entry box closing on Tuesday.

-release (Meadowlands)

CRAWFORD FARMS TO HOST FRIDAY BRUNCH WITH KARL

Crawford Farms, and the ownership group of Karl, are excited to invite harness racing fans, owners, breeders, etc., to a 'Brunch with Karl' on Friday (Oct. 3) at 10 am at Crawford Farms in Versailles, Kentucky.

"We love to showcase Karl and show people what a beautiful horse he is, up close and personal," noted Michelle Crawford.

The Hambletonian-winning son of Tactical Landing who earned over \$2 million in his career will greet guests from 10 am until 12 noon at the renowned nursery's Kentucky location at 3065 Lexington Road in Versailles.

Brunch will be served and all are invited and welcome to bring guests.

Karl will stand his first season at stud in 2026 in New Jersey at Southwind Farms.

-release (Crawford Farms)

OHHA ENCOURAGES USE OF OHIOHORSEJOBS.COM

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) continues to encourage Ohio's horse racing industry professionals to take advantage of OhioHorseJobs.com, an online platform designed to connect job seekers with opportunities in the state's growing Standardbred industry.

Launched in February, OhioHorseJobs.com is a resource to support the state's horse racing industry by providing a centralized hub for employment opportunities. The site offers a wide range of positions in training and caretaking, track maintenance, veterinary technicians, and administrative roles within the harness racing community.

Promoted with a state-wide advertising campaign that includes digital and video advertising, the website is open to all individuals, from seasoned professionals to those interested in beginning a career in the equine field. It is free to use, and job listings are updated regularly to reflect the industry's evolving needs.

OHHA members with job openings can send information about the available positions to Susan Schroeder at sschroeder@ohha.com.

To browse job opportunities, visit www.ohiohorsejobs.com.

-release (OHHA)

SBOANJ RESIDENT MARE REBATE REMINDER

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)

NYS GAMING BOARD ANNOUNCES FOUR CAC-APPROVED APPLICANTS

The following four Applicants have been approved by their respective Community Advisory Committees and met all required entitlements, and therefore are undergoing evaluation by the Gaming Facility Location Board:

Bally's Bronx

Proposed Site: Ferry Point, The Bronx

Location: 450 Hutchinson Parkways, The Bronx

MGM Empire City

Proposed Site: Empire City Casino, Yonkers

Location: 810 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers

Metropolitan Park

Proposed Site: Willets Point, Queens

Location: 126th Street, Willet Point, Queens

Resorts World New York City

Proposed Site: Aqueduct Racetrack, Queens

Location: 110-00 Rockaway Boulevard, Jamaica

The four Applicants will submit supplemental application material – including a proposed tax rate – to the Board for evaluation and consideration by October 14. Guidance and a worksheet matrix will be released to each remaining bidder.

-release (NY Gaming Commission)

DE LONG, GRABER JR. CLEAN UP IN INDIANA SIRE STAKES

The final legs of Indiana Sire Stakes for 2-year-old pacing fillies and 3-year-old trotting fillies were contested at Harrah's Hoosier Park on Wednesday (Oct. 1), with driver John De Long sweeping both divisions for pacers and trainer Henry Graber Jr. taking both tests for trotters.

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