

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



Lexington Sale thoughts & other industry scuttlebutt

By Derick Giwner

[@harnesseveguy](#)

Thankfully September is over. I enjoy great racing perhaps as much or more than anyone, and the sale is always a spectacle to see, but as an industry we sure do cram a lot of activity into 30 days. Think about it for a brief second . . . multiple regions conducted Sire Stakes finals, we had stakes races seemingly every weekend night at tracks ranging from Yonkers Raceway to 700-plus miles away at Hoosier Park. It's a hectic schedule for drivers, trainers, and even owners and writers.

With a few moments to reflect, let's clear the board of thoughts which could've blossomed into at least part of a column but instead stayed dormant in my head due to lack of free time.

With the Lexington Selected sale fresh in my mind, we'll lead off there. There has been plenty of talk about the sale average and gross being down. First off, it was the fourth-highest gross in the sale's history, so I'm not sure that the sky is falling, but no one wants to see a potentially negative trend. Going in I was expecting the sale to be up because there were many more trotters this year and those tend to sell better, but maybe there were too many? The biggest dips in average came with the trotters, about \$7,000 per yearling combined for both fillies and colts. That said, has anyone considered the Hanover Shoe Farms factor?

After selling yearlings in Lexington in 2023 and 2024, Hanover elected to abort that strategy this year. They added \$3.3 million (\$135K average for 25 yearlings) in 2023 and \$2.8 million (\$216K average for 13 yearlings) in 2024 to the Lexington sale. Granted this is simplifying things, but if you assume a similar price for the five trotting



DERICK GIWNER

While the Lexington Selected sale average was down YOY from 2024 to 2025, this year's number was still up 12% over 2019 and 3.8% from 2021.

yearlings Hanover sold in 2024 and added it to the 2025 Lexington average for trotters, it would climb from \$79,613 to \$82,723. That would decrease the trotting decline from 8% to 4.4%.

There was also talk that Andrew Harris (as agent for William Pollock) spent less money and took home fewer horses than in 2024. While both are technically true, it is way too early to draw any conclusions. First, Harris was most definitely outbid a number of times on horses. Perhaps a decision was made to hold back and wait for the sale at Harrisburg. Maybe as his stable has grown over the last few years there wasn't as big of a need for as many yearlings.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

**\$2,240,000
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**Friday, October 10
Post Time: 5:30 PM (EDT)**

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**Comments? Questions?
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\$1,000,000 BIG APPLE FINALS

**Vernon Downs | Saturday, October 11
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2025 BREEDERS CROWN

Woodbine Mohawk Park – Campbellville, Ontario, Canada

Friday, October 24 & Saturday, October 25

Post Time 6:35 p.m.

Visit Woodbine.com/mohawk or Hambletonian.com for more information



Monday, October 13	Supplemental entries due by 12:00 noon [EDT] Mohawk Race Office
Tuesday, October 14	Entries for all eligible horses in all 12 divisions Due by 10:30 a.m. at the Mohawk Race Office. (905) 854-7805
Friday, October 17	Breeders Crown Two-Year-Old Eliminations if needed Post time 6:35 p.m. [EDT] Elimination winners & Win And You're In Horses draw for posts 1-6, all others in open draw
Saturday, October 18 	Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old & Open Elims if needed Post time 6:35 p.m. [EDT]. Elimination winners draw for posts 1-6, all others in open draw
Tuesday, October 21	Breeders Crown Post-position draw and press conference Country Heritage Park Gambrel Barn 6:00 p.m.
Friday, October 24 6:35 p.m. post time  WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK Watch Live: https://woodbine.com/mohawk/watch-races/  Broadcast Time 8:00-11:00 pm ET 	\$7.2 Million USD Breeders Crown Championships \$700,000 USD 2-Year-Old Colt Trot \$700,000 USD 2-Year-Old Filly Trot \$700,000 USD 2-Year-Old Colt Pace \$700,000 USD 2-Year-Old Filly Pace <i>In harness racing, it all comes down to the Breeders Crown</i>  DIAMOND CREEK FARM <u>Visit the Diamond Creek Winner's Lounge!</u> <i>Friday night, Oct. 24 will feature the check presentations for the 7th Annual Breeders Crown Charity Challenge, which has raised nearly \$2 MILLION to date for charities local to Crown host tracks.</i> Post Race Reception @ East End Grand Stand-Sponsored by Wire to Wire Wealth
Saturday, October 25 6:35 p.m. post time  WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK Watch Live: https://woodbine.com/mohawk/watch-races/  Broadcast Time 7:30-11:00 pm ET 	\$600,000 USD 3-Year-Old Colt Trot \$600,000 USD 3-Year-Old Filly Trot \$600,000 USD 3-Year-Old Colt Pace \$600,000 USD 3-Year-Old Filly Pace \$400,000 USD Mare Trot \$400,000 USD Mare Pace \$600,000 USD Open Pace \$600,000 USD Open Trot  DIAMOND CREEK FARM <u>Visit the Diamond Creek Winner's Lounge!</u> <i>In harness racing, it all comes down to the Breeders Crown</i> Post Race Reception @ East End Grand Stand- Sponsored by Ontario Racing

Conversely, other entities decided to play on the higher end and that could've kept guys from Harris and company from getting horses they would've taken in the past. M & L of Delaware bought the same number (four) of horses they purchased in 2024 but spent about \$1.2 million more on them.

Check out the number of horses bought by trainer Tony Alagna as agent over the last three years. He was the leading buyer in 2023 with 35 horses and \$4.6 million spent. That decreased to 30/\$2.3 million in 2024 and 17/\$1.4 million this year. The market changes and the buyers change. Yes, the average was down 5% year over year, but it was still up 12% over 2019 and 3.8% over 2021.

Despite rising purses, my theory is that the market is capped at its current level because there is no reason to spend more. You can compete in Sire Stakes without spending top dollar and the jump up to the Grand Circuit isn't as big of a monetary step in terms of purses as it used to be. Yes, it is prestigious to win the Hambletonian or Breeders Crown and many of the top-end owners are chasing that dream, but you can also stay in your home state, pay little in staking fees and make hundreds of thousands. From a pure business standpoint, why spend \$200,000 for a potential Grand Circuit horse when you can spend \$50,000 for a decent Sire Stakes one? That's why the middle market is struggling in my opinion.

People see the prices paid in the millions for Thoroughbreds and say it would be great if we could get there...well, the Kentucky Derby goes for \$5 million and the Breeders' Cup Classic goes for \$7 million. Thoroughbred owners are paying millions on the top end to chase more millions. Standardbred owners are paying close to a million at the upper levels and our top races go for \$1 million. The math doesn't math.

One final thought on Lexington Selected being down. You probably noticed that many regional sales were up this year. There is an "air" about Lexington yearlings being overpriced and people think the value is closer to home. Seems in 2025 they were wrong and those that were in attendance may've walked away with much better pedigree value for their buck. Perhaps more attention in Lexington is warranted.

Something could go up

Back in mid-September SOA of New York President Joe Faraldo mentioned to me that if MGM Yonkers Raceway got approval from the NY Gaming Commission for a full-blown casino that purses at the track could go from \$50 million to \$70 million. While it certainly won't happen on day one and it likely won't be distributed evenly, that is about \$8,000 per race on a 10-race card for 245 racing days.

Just thinking out loud (and this has been brought up before), but what if that extra money was used to transform Monticello Raceway into a mile track (according to a quick Google search there is more than enough room with 230 total acres). Then both tracks could be combined into one entity sharing the total purses with races written for those who compete in both classes. My quick math says racing five cards a week and 16 races a day would produce approximately the same number of races as both currently contest yearly.

I know that Monticello isn't exactly just outside of NYC like Yonkers, but wouldn't a mile track be better for attracting more horses to the track and stallions to the state, more attractive to the bettors, and provide an avenue for having events like the Hambletonian or Breeders Crown?

On another Yonkers front, my hat goes off to trackman Ed Angell. A few years ago the track at Yonkers was a mess and most considered it one

of the worst in the country. On the day of the MGM Yonkers International Trot everyone seemed to love the surface and I keep hearing it is one of the best around. This guy deserves a round of applause.

Finally, Daniel Wäjersten, who brought Gio Cash to race in the International this year, said he 100% would be back next year if invited. When asked if he would bring Gio Cash again, the trainer said he had a number of horses that could potentially participate.

Looks great to me



AMANDA STEPHENS

Loua Dipa, shown warming up with trainer Ron Burke, became the fastest 2-year-old pacing filly in history when she went in 1:48 at The Red Mile. She is the second of two foals from Looksgoodinaromper to become a world champion.

Could Looksgoodinaromper eventually go down in history as one of the best broodmares ever? From two foals the daughter of Pet Rock-Don't Blame Her has already produced two world champions. First Looksgoodinloulou equaled the world record with a 1:48 3/5 win as a 2-year-old last year and has gone on to earn \$684,337 so far in her career. Now Loua Dipa, who incidentally I watched in her first charted line and later that morning told trainer Ron Burke that she looked special (sure he didn't need my approval), has become the fastest 2-year-old filly pacer in history after her 1:48 win at The Red Mile last week. Certainly there is a long path ahead to reach the top of the charts when you consider there are mares like Artistic Vision, who produced a pair of \$2.7 million winners in Clear Vision and Rock N Roll Heaven, but the early returns are strong.

Looksgoodinaromper won't have a 2-year-old in action for 2026 but does have a weanling filly by Sweet Lou we'll see in 2027 and is currently in-foal to Sweet Lou again. Meanwhile, Michelle Crawford has bought a majority interest in Looksgoodinloulou and she will be bred next year. Should all go well, that foal will eventually be available at a yearling sale and provide others the opportunity to get in on this exciting family.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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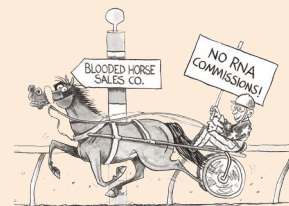
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More on the sweetest "Lou"

The most prominent current foal of Sweet Lou is the undefeated-in-2025 Louprint (9-for-9). He coasted to one of the easiest 1:46 3/5 wins I've ever seen in a division of the Tattersalls at The Red Mile on October 5. I posted that on X and got a bunch of responses. I discredited many of them but I will say the Kirby McGinnis suggestion of Legendary Hanover winning the Cane Pace in 1:46 2/5 warrants consideration for being on par.

As for Louprint, we'll see him next in the Breeders Crown and my sources tell me that his connections would strongly consider taking on older foes in the FanDuel Championship if he comes out of the Crown in good order and gets an invite to the November 15 race at The Meadows. As someone who plans to be in attendance, I'd certainly welcome seeing Louprint against Captain Albano, Ervin Hanover, Maximus Miki and the crew of older male pacers who are battling for year-end honors. With the economics as they are in the sport, that could be Louprint's last on-track appearance before heading to stallion duty.

Hambletonian dreamin'

While at Dayton Raceway for the Ohio Sire Stakes championships I caught up with trainer Chris Beaver to chat about Endurance, his standout 2-year-old son of Captain Corey. The mandatory question with a top rookie trotter is to ask about the future and of course the Hambletonian. Most of the time the trainer gives you a "we're taking it one day at a time" type response. Not Beaver, who admitted he's already looking ahead.

"He's made for the Hambletonian," said Beaver. "He hasn't even grown into himself yet."

Endurance started last in the Mohawk Million on September 20 at Woodbine Mohawk Park and finished second behind divisional leader Apex. Beaver said he'll simply train Endurance up to the Breeders Crown eliminations on October 17 over the Mohawk surface. "I have enough older horses that I can train him a fast mile," said the trainer.

Pylon protection

I'll end with a topic I've commented on a number of times in order to avoid potentially boring you with a full-length column on the subject in the near future. Can we please do something about leading horses drifting off the pylons and serving up a path for those behind in the stretch? The system just doesn't work when sometimes a path is provided to horses sitting the pocket or three hole and other times it isn't. And yes, I understand that horses tend to drift out in the stretch, but drivers can also pull the left line and keep them from doing it. Will it hurt their chances of winning? Perhaps. But it will also provide a more consistent racing experience for the bettors. You remember them, those people who wager about \$2 billion in North America to help the product exist. With that in mind, I propose a \$250 fine for drifting off the inside path enough to let someone pass. If you do it a second time within any one-week period, the fine increases to \$500. That should keep a passing lane from developing where one doesn't exist.

It feels good to lighten the load. I'm pretty sure it won't remain that way for long with the Breeders Crown and Standardbred Horse Sale at Harrisburg around the corner, but I'll enjoy a few days with less occupying my mind. On the other hand, by January 2 we'll all be dreaming of starting the cycle over again and anticipating the start of another year of stakes races. Horses and people, we are all going in circles.



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Ontario Pacing Highlights

BETTERTHANCHEDDAR (4)

#76, TWIST OF CHEDDAR, F, First Foal
Betterthancheddar-Body Express-Shadow Play
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Sports Column**,
p, 1:49.1s (\$650,750), & **I'm All In**,
p, 1:52.3f (\$401,587)

#124, BET ON LOVE, F
Betterthancheddar-Family Love-Western Hanover
Full-sister to **Lovely Donna**,
p, 1:49.3 (\$232,927). 1/2-sister to
Family Roll Call, p, 1:52.1f (\$195,941), &
Family Sports, p, 3, 1:52.1s (\$115,141)

#246, HAVARTI PARTY, C, First Foal
Betterthancheddar-Party In Pink-Well Said
Family of **Big Jim**, p, 2, 1:49.1s (\$1,544,580)

BETTING LINE (6)

#69, DONE BY DAWN, F
Betting Line-Before Dawn-Cambest
1/2-sister to **Best Night Ever**,
p, 3, 1:50.4s -'24 (\$315,046), &
Golden Tree, p, 1:55.4h (\$185,244)

#122, FACE THE FIRE, F
Betting Line-Face To Face-Camluck
1/2-sister to **Two Faced**,
p, 1:53.1h -'24 (\$332,531), & 2025 Buckeye
Stallion Winner, **Fire Country**,
p, 2, 1:54.3f -'25; BT1:53.1f -'25 (\$34,818)

#216, DAD'S BET, C
Betting Line-Mom's Bella-Quik Pulse Mindale
1/2-brother to **BNB**, p, 1:52.3f (\$179,049),
& **JMR Speak Away**,
p, 1:51.4s -'25 (\$137,378)

BETTOR'S DELIGHT (3)

#121, FASHION EXPRESS, F
Bettor's Delight-Express Writer-Sportswriter
1/2-sister to 2025 Prospect Winner,
Espresso Beans,
p, 3, 1:56.1f -'25; BT1:52.4s -'25 (\$38,864), &
2025 Prospect Winner, **Jalapeno Cheddar**,
p, 2, 1:57f -'25; BT1:55.4s -'25 (\$13,240)

#293, ALL SAINTS DAY, C
Bettor's Delight-St Helena-American Ideal
1/2-brother to **Holymotherofmoses**,
p, 1:54.2s -'25 (\$136,223)

CATTLEWASH (1)

#146, DOUBLE HOT PADDY, F
Cattlewash-Hope For Paddy-Mach Three
Dam is **Hope For Paddy**,
p, 1:50.1s (\$572,177)

DANCIN LOU (3)

#222, DANCIN KAREN, F
Dancin Lou-New Writer-Sportswriter
1/2-sister to **Uwaitillgofirst**,
p, 3, 1:54.4f -'25 (\$29,473)

#263, FEELING THE BEAT, F, First Foal
Dancin Lou-Royal Asset Queen-Royal Mattjesty
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **No Better Joy**,
p, 1:51.3f -'23 (\$371,237)

MCWICKED (5)

#9, SHOTGUN ANNIE, F
McWicked-The Assassinator-Richess Hanover
1/2-sister to **Hidden Assassin**,
p, 3, 1:51.3s (\$107,673), &
Silencethewitness, p, 1:54.3h -'25 (\$88,789)

#48, CLOVER ACTION, C, First Foal
McWicked-Action's Delight-Bettor's Delight
Family of **Worldly Beauty**,
p, 1:49.3 (\$2,146,076), &
Captaintreacherous, p, 3, 1:47.1 (\$3,153,541)

#89, WICKED MIND, C, First Foal
McWicked-Cheddarella-Betterthancheddar
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Cinderella Delight**,
p, 1:53h (\$273,720)

SPORTSWRITER (6)

#13, RIDE THE TIDE, F
Sportswriter-Tide Her Over-Roll With Joe
1/2-sister to **Mai Tide**,
p, 3, 1:53s -'25 (\$51,750), & 2025 Prospect
Winner, **Whatsintheshadows**,
p, 2, 1:58.4f -'25 (\$8,441)

#37, EPIC RIDE, C
Sportswriter-Who Moved The Rock-Life Sign
1/2-brother to **Bottle Rocket**,
p, 1:52f (\$173,084)

#128, FRISKIE FLIRT, F
Sportswriter-Flirtwithdealer-Cam's Card Shark
1/2-sister to **Major Ace**,
p, 1:53f -'25 (\$170,175), & **Fearless Fury**,
p, 1:51.4f -'24 (\$141,907). Full-sister to
Press Time, p, 1:51.2s -'23 (\$125,386)

#170, SPORTS CAPER, C
Sportswriter-Kim's Caper-Badlands Hanover
1/2-brother to **Kim's Royal Day**,
p, 3, 1:51f (\$328,803)

#184, HEAR ME ROAR, C, First Foal
Sportswriter-Lets Roar-Shadow Play
Family of **Art Maker**, p, 1:49.1 (\$1,109,717)

Ontario Trotting Highlights

ARCHANGEL (3)

#67, BAR STAR, F
Archangel-Bar Ballad-Windsong's Legacy
1/2-sister to **Fury Road**, 3, 1:57h (\$242,946),
& **Barroom Brawl Boys**,
1:54.4f -'24 (\$202,660)

#188, ARCHES, C
Archangel-Love To Flaunt-Angus Hall
1/2-brother to **Flaunt It To Winit**,
1:55f -'23 (\$181,407), & **C And Ts Credit**,
3, 1:54.3s (\$107,775)

#245, ACQUITTAL, C
Archangel-Pardon Me Please-Chapter Seven
1/2-brother to 2025 ONSS Grassroots
Winner, **Rising Interest**,
2, 1:55.1s -'24; BT1:53.3s -'25 (\$128,701)

GREEN MANALISHI S (1)

#85, LENO'S THE MAN, C
Green Manalishi S-Cardio Pump-Angus Hall
1/2-brother to **Cardio Muscle**,
3, 1:55s -'23 (\$114,312)

MY MVP (3)

#302, YANKEE PROUD, C
My MVP-Sugarcane Yankee-Windsong's Legacy
1/2-brother to 2025 Peaceful Way Winner,
Sugar Packet, 2, 1:53.3s -'25 (\$327,147),
Yank My Halo, 1:54.1s -'25 (\$156,790),
Soncando, 3, 1:57f -'24 (\$133,048), &
Yoga, 2, 1:54.4 (\$132,343), the dam of
Warrior One, 1:51.4 (\$885,552)

TRIXTON (7)

#132, TRICKY HALO, C, First Foal
Trixtion-Gala Halo-Archangel
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Oh Sweet Baby**,
1:54.4s (\$660,168)

#169, EXPLOSIVE DIVA, F
Trixtion-Kimco Lady-Malabar Man
1/2-sister to **Cashco**, 1:56.1f (\$259,594)

#220, MVP PARTY, C, First Foal
Trixtion-MVP Princess-My MVP
Family of **Costa Rica**,
3, 1:54.3s (\$1,404,244)

#290, KINDA TRICKY, C
Trixtion-Some Kinda Special-Cantab Hall
Full-brother to **Some Kinda Night**,
1:53.4s -'25 (\$215,435). 1/2-brother to
Some Chapter, 3, 1:52.4 (\$156,992)

All information as of 10/9/25



Sale Preview is on Monday (10/13)! Sale Starts at Noon on Tuesday (10/14) & Wednesday (10/15)!

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners / Jack Burke, General Manager / James Ladwig, Yearling Manager
Pat Woods, Canada Manager / CAN: 905.838.2145 / MD: 410.885.3059 / james.ladwig@winbakfarm.com

[Click here to visit Winbak Farm for 2025 London Classic Yearling Lineup!](#) / f / x / o



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

London Classic Yearling Sale has prospects for Ontario and beyond

The 2025 edition of the London Classic Yearling Sale is scheduled for this coming Tuesday and Wednesday (October 14-15) with a special showing day on Monday. There are more than 300 yearlings in the catalog and plenty of hope for buyers to find a future Ontario-bred champion that succeeds both in the provincial program and beyond.

There is clear justification for the beyond part of the sentence given the enormous talent coming out of Ontario, with this year's Metro Pace champion – the undefeated Beau Jangles – a prime example. Whether the next Beau Jangles or Grand Circuit-capable trotter or pacer emerges from this year's selection is anybody's guess but sales manager Greg Blanchard is enthusiastic.

"This is the fourth year we're hosting the sale," said Blanchard, who represents the Western Fair Association. "From unsolicited comments I've received this is probably the best catalog we've had."

The original group measured 305 but Blanchard expects a number closer to 290 to go through the ring on consecutive days and feels the 2025 edition has something for everybody.

"There's a high percentage of Ontario-sired trotters and pacers," Blanchard said. "But there's plenty of horses with U.S. pedigrees. We've got Greenshoe, Downbytheseaside, Stay Hungry and Captain Corey sprinkled in."

The diversity is a major component to the London Classic Sale and Blanchard is hoping that it will lead to more buyers. "I think a lot of owners from the States have recognized it's more economical to race in the Ontario program," said Blanchard, obviously pointing out a lower cost to train and race combined with a stakes program that allows horses of varied talent to maximize earnings while not having to ship far or often to do so.

The emergence of pacing stallions Cattlewash and Bulldog Hanover this year, both based in Ontario, is a vital cog in the London sale and one of the reasons there is plenty of optimism.

"Cattlewash has already proven himself with just a few crops," said Blanchard. "Bulldog Hanover's first crop has done well and that was from a limited group."

It's not just pacing stallions when you look towards Ontario. The top older trotter in North America – Lexus Kody – is by Archangel, a stallion that has improved with every crop and has solid representation in this auction. Green Manalishi S has put up great numbers from his first two crops, with a decent number from his third in this sale. Muscle Mass is another veteran stallion with pedigree and proven performance as the sire of three \$1 million winners, topped by the world champion and current stallion Six Pack as well as the topnotch Ontario filly Adare Castle.

New to Ontario this year and already getting rave reviews from the Lexington Selected sale is King Of The North. A son of one of trotting's most dominant stallions Walner, King Of The North's Breeders Crown victory as a sophomore at Woodbine Mohawk Park was an epic performance and likely led to his standing in the province. A carryover in enthusiasm from the Kentucky sale could be expected in London next week, with enough colts and fillies to look at and bid on catalogued.

Over the years much has changed in the horse sales business and the London Classic is doing its best to move and benefit from technology. Online bidding has become a staple and London's sale is no exception.

"We've seen an increase in the number of people signing up to bid online and the number of bids from year-to-year," said Blanchard.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7](#)



#220, MVP PARTY, T, C, ON
Trixton-MVP Princess-My MVP

10/14 & 10/15 London Classic Videos are posted! [Click to watch](#)

ON PACERS	Colts	Fillies
Betterthancheddar	2	2
Betting Line	3	3
Bettor's Delight	2	1
Cattlewash	-	1
Dancin Lou	1	2
McWicked	2	3
Sportswriter	3	3

ON TROTTERS	Colts	Fillies
Archangel	2	1
Green Manalishi S	1	-
My MVP	2	1
Trixton	4	3

Sale Preview is on 10/13 at The J-AAR
Expo Centre (Formerly - The Agriplex) at
Western Fair District.

#1 Breeder for Ontario Sires Stakes!

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners

Jack Burke, General Manager

Pat Woods, CAN Manager / CAN: 905.838.2145

James Ladwig, Yearling Manager / MD: 410.885.3059

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"What's interesting is what we've noticed is that the attendance for the sale live is much stronger on the first day than the second day. What has happened is that many of those people can't stay for two days but instead decide to bid remotely on the second day."

As with all technology not all parties are early adapters, but what is obvious is that time is valuable to all horsemen, especially during this time of year.

"The sale is sandwiched between the Ontario Super Finals and the Breeders Crown eliminations," said Blanchard. "There's a lot of buzz up here and we're excited about that."

Last year Blanchard and many others were able to select one horse from the auction that was likely to be a sale-topper and they nailed it. This year that doesn't appear to be the case. "I'd say there are as many as 15 horses I could look at from pedigree to their videos that could be the topper," said Blanchard.

There were a few notable trotters in the auction that Blanchard did touch upon with HIP 35, selling Tuesday, one that came to mind. Im Just JD is a Muscle Mass-sired colt and half-brother to this year's outstanding juvenile filly Flowing Tribute, herself already a four-time Ontario Sire Stakes Gold winner.

HIP 51 Twin B Kingsley is a filly from the first crop of King Of The North consigned by Twinbrook Farms. She's a half-sister to the outstanding Twin B Archie (\$634K lifetime earnings) as well as a half-sister to Twin B Seven Sins, a daughter of Chapter Seven racing in Saturday's \$250,000 Big Apple Trot at Vernon Downs following a strong 1:55 4/5 effort in capturing his elimination this past Saturday (October 4).

HIP 53 Cote D Ivoire is another filly with solid looks and a more impressive pedigree page. She's by Archangel and is a full sister to the \$1.1 million winner Fashion Frenzie, the 2021 O'Brien Award winner as the top 3-year-old trotting colt or gelding of that year.

Winbak Farms is once again a prominent player in Ontario and a strong supporter of the London Classic auction. Farm manager Pat Woods senses an increased energy and interest in the group he'll be sending.

"We've got 42 in and that's what I'm expecting to bring to the sale," said Woods. "There is a lot going on with the big races in the coming weeks, but I've gotten a lot of calls from horsemen inquiring about our yearlings," said Woods. "I definitely think this is the best group of horses that have sold at this sale judging from the interest I'm seeing."

While Winbak has a wide array of top trotting and pacing yearlings, there were a couple of notables worth singling out. "We've got a brother to the Peaceful Way champion Sugar Packet by My MVP," said Woods, referring to HIP 302 Yankee Proud, a HIP number near the end of the sale but obviously one people will either want to wait around to bid on, or as Blanchard suggested, go online to get the job done. The dam of Yankee Proud is Sugarcane Yankee, a half-sister to the \$1.4 million winner Strong Yankee that has already produced four horses with earnings more than \$100K.

Those staying late on Tuesday also could purchase another Winbak standout. "We've got a Cattlewash filly from a mare that won over a half-million," said Woods, referring to HIP 146, a filly named Double Hot Paddy. From the 35-race winner Hope For Paddy, this filly is the first cross the mare has had with a Somebeachsomewhere-line stallion and that could be the difference in elevating her stature as a broodmare. Hope For Paddy's full sister Machnhope had 37 career wins and more than \$657K in career earnings.

On a broader scale, Winbak, with a wide breadth of stallions to choose from, has one of the most diverse catalogs at the London Classic sale and literally something for everyone.

For more information on the London Classic Yearling Sale and full rosters, click [here](#).



FILE PHOTO

Greg Blanchard handles the London Classic yearling sale for the Western Fair district.

USHWA's Dan Patch Awards returns to Rosen Shingle Creek

The U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) is pleased to announce that the 2026 Dan Patch Awards banquet, presented by Caesars Entertainment, will return to the popular Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, Fla., on Sunday, Feb. 22. In addition, the Dan Patch Awards dinner will also be held at Rosen Shingle Creek in 2027 as a two-year agreement was reached.

The Dan Patch Awards banquet annually honors the best and brightest performers, both human and equine, of the previous season. Rosen Shingle Creek played host to the Dan Patch weekend for the first time in 2018 and in 2024 the festivities shifted to its sister property Rosen Centre, where it was also held in 2025.

"USHWA is ecstatic to return to Rosen Shingle Creek, one of the finest resorts anywhere," said USHWA president Michael Carter. "The Rosen properties have been our Dan Patch Awards home for the past eight years and we are excited to see that continue. We are thrilled that we have secured a home for the Dan Patch weekend for the next two years."

A full weekend of activities are slated to take place in 2026, including a Saturday night poolside reception and a Red Carpet cocktail party prior to the awards dinner. USHWA will hold its annual directors meeting on Saturday, Feb. 21, and its general membership meeting the morning of the banquet.

Located just off Universal Boulevard, within 15 minutes of the Orlando International Airport and close to the many area attractions, the 1,500-room Rosen Shingle Creek is a five-star property that is ranked a top-20 U.S. Meeting hotel by Cvent. The stunning 230-acre property includes four swimming pools, two lighted tennis courts, a spa that includes nine treatment rooms, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and an 18-hole, Arnold Palmer redesigned golf course.

There are also 15 restaurant/lounges, including the upscale steakhouse A Land Remembered, the fine-dining bistro Cala Bella, Café Osceola, Tobias Burgers and Brew, Banrai Sushin, Mi Casa Tequila and Taquiera, and a 24-hour deli.

Dinner ticket prices and menu will be announced later, with a reduced price for children 12 and under. All attendees will receive a 10-percent discount at all the above mentioned restaurants, and a green fees discount at the Shingle Creek Golf Club.

All standard rooms under the USHWA block are \$209 night (plus applicable taxes). For room reservations, please [CLICK HERE](#) for USHWA's dedicated hotel link, which can also be found at the USHWA website www.usharnesswriters.com.

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities for the weekend, including live video streaming and the Red Carpet reception, please contact USHWA Sponsorship Committee chairman Shawn Wiles at swiles@rwcatskills.com.

-release (USHWA)

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Bartlett looks to extend earnings lead in Big Apple at Vernon

By Jay Bergman

Driver Jason Bartlett is in the midst of what likely will be his best year ever. The perennial leading driver at Yonkers Raceway has managed to hold down that position while extending his reach across the country as well as a few trips to Canada this year. On Saturday he'll look to add to his own record-setting numbers in four divisional finals of the inaugural Big Apple series of races at Vernon Downs.

With \$1 million split in four divisions for freshman of both gaits and sexes, The Big Apple not only offers owners of New York-sired horses more money to race for but gives New York's leading driver an opportunity to get a lion's share of the purse money.

Bartlett figures to get off to a flying start if Fragment (post 6) – in Saturday's seventh race and \$250,000 Big Apple Pace final for freshman colts and geldings – lives up to the kind of form he's displayed all season long. A winner in seven of his 11 starts this year including the \$300,000 New York Sire Stakes final at Batavia last month, Fragment, the 3-2 morning line choice for Saturday, easily romped in his elimination and should be a prohibitive favorite at post time.

"I was looking to give him an easy trip while still trying to get the job done," said Bartlett of his drive in last Saturday's (October 4) elimination race. "I knew there was just three horses he had to pass and was capable of a 26-second final quarter."

A son of Huntsville trained by Per Engblom, Fragment would go over the \$500,000 mark this year with a win in the Big Apple.

"He comes out of each race sound and strong," said Bartlett about the durability of Fragment, a horse he believes has the talent to compete outside the New York program. "He drew outside in the Metro and never had a chance. I think if he had a better post we could have gotten money."

Fragment is an \$80,000 yearling purchase from last year's Harrisburg sale with a solid pedigree. His dam The Show Returns was a successful full sister to the champion Put On A Show.

Bartlett has gotten a few opportunities this year to drive horses from top trotting conditioner Marcus Melander and he'll have a pair in the two \$250,000 Big Apple Trot finals. First will be Spencer Hanover (post 6) in the eighth race division for colts and geldings.

"They put the hobbles on him last week and that gave him more confidence," said Bartlett. "He'd been making breaks and was good getting out of the gate last week."

Spencer Hanover finished second in his Big Apple elimination, but the driver thinks much of that had to do with the racing circumstances. "I don't think he knew what to do racing on the front end," said Bartlett, "When a horse came up to him, he was fighting back."

Though winless in nine starts this year, the elimination performance makes Spencer Hanover, the 5-1 co-third choice in the race, a contender in this well-matched field.

AI, the New York Sire Stakes champion, drew post nine for trainer Ron Burke and driver Yannick Gingras but still can overcome. A son of Chapter Seven, AI (5-1) has won half of his 10 starts this year.

Twin B Seven Sins is another in the field with talent and he stepped up in a major way capturing his elimination in a career-best 1:55 4/5 clocking. With four wins in eight starts as a freshman, Twin B Seven Sins (post 5, 9-2) looks to continue his winning form for driver Tyler Buter.

The morning-line chalk is Titans Mischief from post two with Matt Kakaley in the bike. The son of E L Titan has been a model of consistency having finished first or second in all 10 starts in 2025.

Bartlett appeared more excited about the prospects of Nezuko Kamado S, his mount in the Big Apple Trot for 2-year-old fillies (race 10). Given the rapid advancement this daughter of Chapter Seven has shown once wearing hobbles, it's easy to understand why.

"I watched her win the race at Hoosier Park (Kentucky Management) and saw how good she was," said Bartlett of the 1:52 4/5 career-best clocking.

In his elimination last week Bartlett didn't try to set any records, winning comfortably in a 1:55 mile. "She was very relaxed on the front end," said Bartlett. "Every time I called on her, she responded right away and then I took a hold of her. She's a really nice filly."

Nezuko Kamado S (7-5) drew post two in the final but clearly won't be alone with a few high-quality horses ready to challenge. Sire Stakes



FOTOWON

Fragment was an easy 1:51 1/5 winner in his Big Apple elimination and should be a heavy favorite in Saturday's \$250,000 final.

champion Sharp Seven regains Jeff Gregory in the bike following a fourth-place finish in last week's trials. A daughter of Chapter Seven, trained by George Ducharme, Sharp Seven (3-1) drew post five and looks to add to her \$370K bankroll in the Big Apple.

Bartlett guided Liberty Style to victory in this year's New York Sire Stakes championship final but admits the daughter of American Ideal can be a handful to drive. "I was having trouble steering her going into the first turn," said Bartlett of his drive in last week's elimination race where he was forced to take back despite leaving the gate hard. "Andrew (Stafford) has been working with her equipment, and it seems every time you try something she acts differently," said Bartlett.

Liberty Style, the 3-1 morning-line favorite, has won five of nine starts this year and drew post six for the Big Apple Pace final for freshman fillies (race 9).

Despite the problems Bartlett has had in guiding Liberty Style, the filly has overcome issues and shown the ability to win from on or off the pace, a clear benefit to him in a race that has more than enough fillies with high speed. Odds On Monetary (post 7, 7-1) has been one of those fast fillies all season long for trainer Travis Alexander but has made miscues at the wrong time, including one in the \$300,000 New York Sire Stakes championship final at Batavia on September 6. A filly by Huntsville, Odds On Monetary was a handy 1:51 4/5 winner for driver Ridge Warren in her elimination.

Long Shore (post 2, 7-2) is another filly that has made breaks while at the same time exhibited plenty of talent. Now a winner in six of her eight career starts, Long Shore, a daughter of American Ideal, took a 1:51 2/5 mark in her elimination victory with Bartlett aboard. Yannick Gingras will pick up the drive in the final.

Though drawing post eight, Hunting Memories (9-2) must be considered a major factor as the daughter of Huntsville has rapidly advanced on the others despite making her first career start just in the last month. Hunting Memories made her first start against stakes company in last week's elimination race and showed heart to the wire, beaten just a head in the 1:51 2/5 mile.

The 15-race Saturday Vernon Downs card kicks off at 5:05 PM and the action can be watched live [here](#).



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HARNESS FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett [X @JHallettPhoto](#)

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A HERO

There are many stories told and heard on the racetrack. As the horses go 'round, the stories do the same – tales of past and present, horses and horsemen, races and big wins. The headlines echo a similar tone with the heroes being the drivers, trainers and the superstar horses who put up the fastest miles going for the highest purses.

In the shadows of the track, away from the spotlight, out of the headlines and never mentioned in any stories, is the guardian of the racetrack – the outrider. Standing trackside at the ready, the outrider doesn't chase glory, but they are always there when it matters most. Together the outrider and their horse make the difference when the moments count.

For what seemed like forever, Missy Rothfuss put her trust into Salem and so did every track that hired them to watch over the races.

Rothfuss started as a backup outrider in 1996 at The Meadows in Washington, Pennsylvania.

"Race secretary Tom Leasure asked my mom if I'd be interested," Rothfuss said. "I'm third generation, but never really had any interest. I was more into my jumping horses but thought, hey I was getting paid to ride.

"I rode backup until 2000 when I took the job over full time. I had a big red Quarter Horse cross named Nehi. When that horse wasn't trying to buck me off, he was teaching me how to do the job. In 2001, Loanne Prosser told me about a horse for sale. I went and looked and here was an ugly half-feral Quarter Horse/Standardbred. I jumped on him bareback, did some weird pace/canter across an open field, came back, paid the \$1,500 and brought him home."

That ugly mixed horse became the now well-known Salem.

"I named him Salem off Sabrina the Teenage Witch's cat. He was like the cat – stubborn and a jerk," said Rothfuss. "He was the toughest horse I ever trained. If he wasn't trying to run away with you, he was planting them or running out draw gates. I gave him to my sister for a while and she ran barrels with him. She never taught the pattern, just went in and ran. He was fast and too smart."

Still having Nehi as her main horse on the track, Rothfuss spent her time training Salem for the job as well, but that proved a difficult feat.

"He would be a complete lunatic out on the track. The first loose horse he had, he ran off the track with me. I cracked him on and made him do it again. We got the horse, but it wasn't pretty," said Rothfuss.

"Nehi got sick in 2004 and it was like a light switch went off. Salem started figuring it out. He showed up the day Dan Charlino had a broken line going to the half on top on a dead gallop. We pulled him right out of the race. Salem started figuring it out and he was the boss there. He had no fear. Horses rearing at him, trying to knock him down, he just shoved them back. You could never really move too much on him or he would bolt and go. He lived to chase. The guys would drive by sometimes and yell Missy and he would be gone. Sometimes I didn't think I would ever get him pulled up."

For years, Rothfuss and Salem teamed up, catching horses on the track and catching the attention of people all over.

"Salem foundered on me in May 2008," said Rothfuss. "It was bad, so bad that Woodland Run and Canon Hill both told me to put him down. He wouldn't even be a pasture puff. I couldn't. He kept getting up to eat. Dr. Crum was the one who end up saving him.

"He was back on the track a year later. My blacksmith, Scott Foley, did an amazing job with his feet. They were ugly, but we got him to where he could hold shoes and never miss a beat. Some of his biggest catches were after he foundered. He caught multiple horses during Jug Week, rode two Breeders Crowns, and saved countless drivers and horses.

"To me, his most impressive catch is when Chris Shaw broke a line and we had to come in from behind. We caught the race and pulled Chris up. I honestly thought there was no way we were getting him, but Salem proved me wrong."

On and off the track, Salem had a defining personality, one that Rothfuss described as larger than life.

"He was sweet and kind, but on the track he was the boss. He would go down on his own to let kids pet him, but he would watch the track. He would nudge you until you gave him a treat if you came over to talk



CHRIS GOODEN PHOTO

Missy Rothfuss and Salem greet some kids at The Meadows.

to me in paddock. All of our racehorses loved him. He helped break bad babies. He would be a willing participant when Chris Gooden, Dawnelle Mock-Johnston, and I would dress for Halloween. He was one the smartest horses I ever met," said Rothfuss. "He wasn't an easy horse to ride or develop. Salem loved his job and was one tough SOB."

Salem's career as an outriding horse ended last November at the age of 30 with one final ride at Batavia.

"I didn't use him much out there anymore. He was having issues with his one foot and I didn't want to hurt him," said Rothfuss. "Jeff Wilson did an amazing job fixing him up here. Our days last year, he was happy running around the farm free-range, sneaking in and stealing feed and doing what he wanted. We would ride around the farm with the dogs."

At the start of October of this year, Rothfuss, friends, fans, and family said goodbye to Salem.

"We found him cast in the stall under the gate – which was something he has never done – on a Thursday morning. We aren't sure if it was seizure or stroke. But I told Jim it was time," recalled Rothfuss on the sad moment. "It was beautiful day and I didn't want to go through it again. He gave me so much out there on the track and in life. He had fans from around the world. It was funny the guy that came to take him away, his sister knew him. I never met the guy before. It really hit home when we got back from the races and he wasn't there to greet me.

"Not many can say they were able to have a 25-year career with the same horse. I have been blessed with a lot of good ones throughout my career, but I will never have one with the heart like Salem had. My husband, Jim, always said he just needs one racehorse like him."

People talk about the champions – the fastest mile, the highest purse, the biggest win; headlines are written about race winners and milestones; the Hall of Fame is reserved for names found in the program. But beyond all of the glory and notoriety stand the unsung heroes that protect those on the track.

The truth is, though, those who knew Salem and watched him work will never forget him. He may not have his name in the program or on a trophy, but his legacy is etched into the dirt of the racetrack. He was known by many and loved by all who knew him. He may not have gotten the attention of the world, but what he did meant the world to those who he helped on the track.

Some heroes don't win races, they save them.

M-M's Dream, On To Norway seek Indiana Super Final wins

By Ken Weingartner

Winning is not easy, but multimillionaire M-M's Dream and streaking On To Norway have made a habit of finding their way to winner's circle. And the two trotters will look to continue that trend Friday when they compete in the Indiana Sire Stakes Super Finals at Harrah's Hoosier Park.

M-M's Dream, who already has three Indiana Sire Stakes titles to her credit during her career, is the 3-2 morning-line favorite in the \$50,000 Super Final for older female trotters. The 6-year-old mare, who has 36 lifetime victories and \$2.17 million in earnings, will be retired at the end of the season.

Later during the card, On To Norway will bring a 16-race win streak to the \$250,000 Super Final for 3-year-old male trotters, where he is the 9-5 morning-line choice.

"In the horse business, if you're fortunate to win a few races a year with a particular horse, that's special in itself," said Frank Baldachino, who is among the owners of both trotters. "But when you get these horses like M-M's Dream and On To Norway, you just take it week by week. It just fascinates you how great they really are."

"You know how it is in the horse business, whenever you expect to win something, you don't usually do it. It doesn't really happen. But On To Norway is kind of bucking the trend; M-M's Dream bucks the trend. They're pretty special animals."

M-M's Dream won Indiana Sire Stakes crowns at ages 2, 3 and 5. She also has starred on the Grand Circuit, where her victories include the 2023 Hambletonian Maturity, three consecutive editions of the Dr. John R. Steele Memorial (2023-25) and this season's Dayton Oaks and Miss Versatility Series final. Her triumph in this year's Steele Memorial came in a career-best 1:49.4, equaling the stakes record.

A daughter of Swan For All-Trading Places, M-M's Dream has hit the board in 55 of 66 lifetime races. She has been trained throughout her career by Henry Graber Jr. and Ron Burke. Yannick Gingras will be in

the sulky for Friday's Super Final.

"It's hard to find horses that really try and dig in right through the wire like she does," said Baldachino, who shares ownership of M-M's Dream with Hillside Stables. "If you've watched some of her races on the big stage, when she's beaten the best of the best, at the top of the stretch she just keeps coming and coming. She's one that has a nose for the wire, and until she gets to the wire, she never quits."

Following her Super Final, the plan is to send M-M's Dream to the Breeders Crown and FanDuel Mares Trot Championship before finishing her career with a race and retirement ceremony on Nov. 22 at Hoosier Park.

On To Norway, a son of Muscle Massive-One Class Act, finished second in his first race this season but has not tasted defeat since, and his 16 victories are tied for the most of any horse in North America. Twice this season he has won in 1:51 2/5, equaling the Hoosier Park track record for a sophomore trotting gelding that was first established by Amigo Volo in 2020. Regular driver John DeLong will be in the sulky for trainer Burke on Friday.

"It's been some ride," said Baldachino, who shares ownership of On To Norway with Burke Racing Stable, Black And White Stable, and Michael Rosenthal. "He just wins no matter what; on the front, first-over, from the back. Sixteen in a row, it's incredible. You're waiting for the other shoe to drop each week, but you're really hoping that it doesn't. You don't ever want to see him lose."

On To Norway is not eligible to the Breeders Crown. It's possible his connections could supplement him to the event, but it is more likely he remains at Hoosier and competes in the fall stakes there, including the Grade 2 Carl Erskine Memorial.

"We'll evaluate it after he races Friday and over the weekend, but I think the most sensible path would be to let him stay home and try to win a few more on his home track and go against the big boys in the Carl Erskine," Baldachino said. "He's the real deal. I wouldn't be afraid to put him up against any 3-year-old in the country as of right now and I think he's going to be an incredible horse as he gets older."



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Ontario's best set to do battle in \$2.4 million OSS Super Finals

Edited release by Dave Briggs for Ontario Racing

It pays to be at Woodbine Mohawk Park this weekend for C\$2.4 million worth of Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold Super Finals to be contested over two nights – Friday, Oct. 10 for the four \$300,000 2-year-old events and Saturday, Oct. 11 for the four C\$300,000 3-year-old events.

Customers who come early to the Campbellville, ON track on either night may receive a \$10 betting voucher at the door courtesy of Ontario Racing (limited quantity, one per customer per night). Also, those that place a bet on either night via an on-site betting machine automatically have a chance to win a golden ticket good for a betting credit worth up to \$500. The golden tickets will be available in the following values: 2x \$500, 5x \$200, 10x \$100, 20x \$20 and 150x \$45.

As for the races themselves, the weekend is primed to be a showcase both of the very best of Ontario-sired equine stars and the top participants racing those horses in the program.

The Johnston and Lampman Cup races to determine the top OSS trainer and driver, respectively, will be decided this weekend.

In the Johnston Cup, six-time winner and defending champ Greg McNair leads with 191 points, followed by Tony Beaton (152), Rob Fellows (150), Dr. Ian Moore (137) and Nick Gallucci (126). All five trainers are in action this weekend.

Bob McClure (360 points) has a narrow lead in the Lampman Cup race over Louis-Philippe Roy (351). Both have won the top OSS driver title one time before – Roy in 2018 and McClure in 2020. This year, they are followed by three-time champ James MacDonald (327, winner 2021-2023), Tyler Borth (298) and defending champ Doug McNair (292). All five have serious chances to add to their total points this weekend.

As for the horses, on Friday, Beau Jangles will put his nine-race undefeated streak on the line in the Super Final for 2-year-old pacing colts carded as Race 9. The son of Cattlewash out of Mrs Major Hill has drawn the rail in the field of nine and has been installed as the 1-5 morning line favorite. Bob McClure will be in Beau Jangles' sulky for trainer Dr. Ian Moore. Beau Jangles swept all five OSS Gold legs and also won both the C\$1 million Grade 1 Metro Pace and the C\$140,000 Battle of Waterloo at Grand River Raceway. Beau Jangles has earned C\$1,042,125 and has a mark of 1:49 1/5 earned in the Metro.

A Clean Deal has been installed as the 6-5 favorite in the Super Final for 2-year-old pacing fillies (Race 7 on Friday). The daughter of Cattlewash out of Ideal Talker won four of the five Gold legs this year for the team of trainer Rob Fellows and driver Doug McNair. Just like Beau Jangles, A Clean Deal has drawn the rail. She sports earnings of C\$304,464 and has a record of 5-0-1 in six starts.

Flowing Tribute (4-5) is also a four-time Gold champ. The daughter of Green Manalishi S out of Watch The Show, trained by Paul Reid and driven by McClure, leads the 2-year-old trotting fillies' Gold division 225 points over two-time Gold winners Bingo Night (149 points) and Cher Hill (117). The Super Final will go in Race 6 on Friday.

The 2-year-old trotting colts' Super Final (Race 8 on Friday) appears to be wide open. Seven horses in the group have posted a long Gold win this year. Division leader Strobe Lite (Alarm Detector–Shine Bright) is the mild favorite in the morning line at 7-5 just ahead of third-ranked Touched-by-anangel (9-5, 86 points, Archangel–Rubys Are Nice) and second-ranked Another Great Mass (9-2, 91 points, Muscle Mass–Incredibility).

On Saturday, defending Canadian Horse of the Year Chantilly, the 2024 Super Final champ, has been installed as the 1-5 favorite in the 3-year-old pacing fillies' division (Race 7). Despite some battles with illness this year, Millar Farms' homebred daughter of Big Jim out of Shiraz Seelster – trained by Gallucci and driven by MacDonald – still led her OSS Gold division with 153 points and three Gold victories. Perfectly Chic, second in the division with 120 points, is second choice at 8-1 for McClure and trainer John Pentland.

P L Spencer, a three-time Gold champ in 2025, leads the 3-year-old trotting colts' division with 200 points and is the 6-5 favorite in Super Final (Race 8 on Saturday). The gelded son of Resolve out of P L Indyanaca, trained by Steve Bossence and driven by McClure will start from Post 8. LMC Wagon Wheel (Wheeling N Dealin–HOLA Lola), second in the division (104 points) and the morning line (9-2) will start from Post 10 with Tyler Borth in the bike for trainer Ben Baillargeon.

In the sophomore pacing colts' division in Race 9 on Saturday, 2024 Super Final champ Crack Shot (Bettors Delight–Beautyonthebeach)



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Beau Jangles is one of the stars on display at Mohawk this weekend.

has been installed as the slight morning line favorite at 6-5 over Allstar Maniac (8-5, All Bets Off–Shes A Maniac). Each horse won two Gold legs this year, with Crack Shot, driven by Doug McNair for his father, trainer Gregg McNair, earning 158 points. AllStar Maniac, driven by MacDonald for Gallucci had 120 points this year.

Finally, in the 3-year-old trotting fillies' Super Final, Stormont Beautiful (Post 2) has been pegged at 2-1, a slight favorite over Monalishi (5-2, Post 9) in Race 6 on Saturday. Stormont Beautiful – a daughter of Resolve out of Stormont Fried, trained by Kevn Benn and driven by McClure – finished third in tight Gold standings with 73 points. Monalishi (Green Manalishi S–Pretty Phylly G), lost to Lil Sweet by a neck in the 2024 Super Final. Note, the draw for this division is currently under appeal to the Horse Racing Appeal Panel (HRAP) and, depending on the results of that hearing, may be redrawn.



**WATCH &
WAGER
RACING ACTION YEAR-ROUND**

**MONDAY - THURSDAY
12:10 PM**

VISIT
MonticelloRacewayNY.com

Prolific Fire looks to bring the heat in Northfield's Courageous Lady

Edited release by Michael Carter for Northfield Park

Saturday's (Oct. 11) Grade 3 \$125,000 Courageous Lady Stakes for 3-year-old filly pacers at MGM Northfield Park will feature some familiar faces from the Grand Circuit and some newcomers to the big stage looking to make a name for themselves.

Ohio Sires Stakes champion Prolific Fire may be newer to the Grand Circuit, with just one of her races being on the circuit, but her connections have the utmost confidence in their top filly.

"The Nadia Lobell was her first real test against big stakes horses. Despite finishing sixth, we felt she raced good that night," said trainer Todd Luther. "We didn't want to beat her up too badly with a demanding schedule ahead of her."

Early in Prolific Fire's career, brothers Todd and Greg Luther knew they had a special filly. In her first career start as a 2-year-old, they entered the Catch The Fire filly in the \$150,000 Next Generation at Scioto Downs. Sent off as the betting favorite, Prolific Fire followed The Word Is Out off the wings. The green filly didn't want any part of sitting in the two hole and was parked to a 26 2/5 opening quarter. Driver Brett Miller backed the pace down as much as he could after securing the lead but the hard trip took its toll on Prolific Fire and she faded to fourth.

After a third-place finish in her next start, Prolific Fire broke her maiden at Northfield Park in a division of the Ohio Sires Stakes. Her next victory wouldn't come until September, something her team attributes to the trip in the Next Generation.

"In the Next Generation, she got roughed up, and it took a couple of starts for her to get over that," said Todd Luther. "When we brought her to Delaware, she brought her 'A' game and won impressively."

The victory in the Ohio Breeders Championship was both a big win for Prolific Fire and for her sire Catch The Fire, who Luther also trained.

"For Catch The Fire to get his first big stakes win as a sire on the national stage was really cool," said Luther. "It's a day that we won't soon forget."

Prolific Fire next shipped to Northfield Park for the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship. However, she drew post six and the race didn't go in her favor, ultimately resulting in a sixth-place finish.

As a 3-year-old, she qualified just once in preparation for the season, and followed that up with a race in which she made the lead but was collared in the final 50 yards. Luther was happy with the effort but felt maybe she wasn't completely focused.

"I decided to get a race in her instead of qualifying her twice to let her stretch out before stakes season started," said Luther. "She got a little lost on the front end that day. It gave me a chance to make some changes before her next start."

Two weeks later, Prolific Fire raced in an elimination of the Hackett at Miami Valley and Luther was able to test his changes. She was very strong-willed in the race and Luther was not happy with the third-place finish.

"She wouldn't let (Jeremy) Smith drive her that day; she just drove herself, and it wasn't good for her," said Luther.

After a few more disappointing finishes Luther began to do some investigating and realized she was having issues with tying up. The treatment worked and she returned to the winner's circle in a \$20,000 division of the Buckeye Stallion Series.

After another short break, Prolific Fire proved she was back in strong fashion with a pair of runner-up efforts in Sires Stakes action at Scioto Downs. In September, she returned to familiar ground, the winner's circle at Delaware.

In the Ohio Breeders Championship, Prolific Fire took no prisoners, making a mid-race move and drawing off to win by 10 lengths in 1:51. Prolific Fire won the Ohio Breeders Championship in back-to-back seasons and her connections couldn't have been happier.

"When she made the front, she swelled up and powerfully extended her lead on the field," said a jubilant Luther. "Wow, was I impressed with her that day."

In the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship at Dayton, it was time to find out exactly what kind of horse they really had. After a perfect trip, Prolific Fire rolled off covered and went by Odds On Chesapeake in the stretch. The winning time was a smashing 1:50 flat.



CONRAD PHOTO

Prolific Fire won the Ohio Sire Stakes 3yo Filly Championship.

"When she got into the two hole, I knew we could make a race of it, but she was going to have to bring her best to get by Virgil's filly," said Luther. "She was dominant in her last two starts."

Luther doesn't plan to make any changes heading into Saturday's \$125,000 Courageous Lady as Prolific Fire (post four with driver Austin Hanners) takes on her toughest test of the year versus Jugette winner Rodeo Drive Deo (post five, David Miller) and gets a rematch with Odds On Chesapeake (post two, Ronnie Wrenn, Jr).

The Grade 3 \$125,000 Courageous Lady is one of nine stakes races on the power-packed 15-race program. The evening also features eight \$50,000 Ohio Fair Championships and a pair of paces with all-female drivers.

From a wagering standpoint, guests will be treated to a pair of estimated \$20,000 estimated Pick 4 pools in race eight and race 11. Both wagers feature a \$1 minimum and a low 14% takeout.

Post time on Saturday is 6:00 p.m.

Breeders Crown Post Draw & Dinner to be held at Country Heritage Park

Woodbine Entertainment and the Hambletonian Society today announced the Breeders Crown Post Position Draw and Dinner will be held on Tuesday, October 21 at Country Heritage Park in Milton.

The event will be sponsored by the Central Ontario Standardbred Association.

The Breeders Crown Post Position Draw and Dinner will be held in the Gambrel Barn at Country Heritage Park beginning at 6 p.m. with cocktail service. Opening remarks and the post draws will follow at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at the conclusion of the draws.

Guests are invited to stick around following dinner for music and bar service.

A total of three Breeders Crown finals will be drawn at the event. The decision of which three Crown races will be made in the week leading up.

All participants in the 12 Breeders Crown finals are invited and encouraged to attend.

The entry box for the Breeders Crown eliminations closes on Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Country Heritage Park is located eight minutes from Woodbine Mohawk Park at 8560 Tremaine Road in Milton. For more information on Country Heritage Park, click [here](#).

-release (Woodbine)

RACE OF THE WEEK

11 HOOSIER FRI

1 Mile Trot. INDIANA SIRE STAKES - SUPER FINAL. 3 Year Old COLTS and GELDINGS **WILL BE RACED OUT OF THE FRONT PADDOCK** Purse \$250,000

EXACTA | TRIFECTA (.50 min) | 20 CENT SUPERFECTA

1 TARZAN(L)

31:53.2 (7/8) \$5,512 HOOSIER \$53,000

15-1 M. Miller 1270-193-173-154 (152)

2 Oct25	4HoP	fst620	28	564	1:25.3	1:52.3	ISS-3CGT
19 Sep25	9HoP	fst770	271	552	1:24	1:51.2	D-Langley
12 Sep25	10HoP	fst660	271	56	1:25	1:52.2	ISS-3YCGT
21 Aug25	8HoP	fst700	27	563	1:25	1:52.2	ISS-3YCG
6 Aug25	9In1	fst850	284	581	1:26.1	1:53	HRSMN 3YO
31 Jul25	1HoP	fst720	264	56	1:24.4	1:52	ISS-3YCG

b g 3, by You Know You Do, Foxy Swan by Swan For All

Ervin Miller Stable Inc/Wind Gap PA/Anthony Lombardi/Morris,IL

E. Miller 483-96-88-59 (199)

Br- Keith J Plank, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$5,713

1:53.2 HoP 7/8

1:56.1 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 13 2 3 0 \$69,378 25 Tot 14 2 4 0 \$77,174

24 HoP 10 2 2 2 \$119,490 24 Tot 11 2 2 2 \$126,805

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 25 4 6 2 \$203,979

L14.10 Operator MajorVel EugnThGns -5

L98.20 OnToNwry Operator Variegatd -10

L13.10 Operator EugnThGns MajorVel -9

L5.10 Startfm DryCrkKik RjDnPchm Moved up p.4-8

Lrb OnToNwry Tazn Belsfor -6

L13.70 OnToNwry Tazn EugnThGns -5

2 ON TO NORWAY

31:51.2 (7/8) *\$17,756 MIDW-CLM \$15,000

9-5 J. DeLong 1220-212-176-174 (174)

2 Oct25	8HoP	fst690	272	561	1:25.3	1:52.3	ISS-3CGT
19 Sep25	9HoP	fst770	271	552	1:24	1:51.2	D-Langley
12 Sep25	5HoP	fst770	271	571	1:26.1	1:53.1	ISS-3YCGT
21 Aug25	10HoP	fst680	272	564	1:26.3	1:53.3	ISS-3YCG
6 Aug25	9In1	fst850	284	581	1:26.1	1:53	HRSMN 3YO
31 Jul25	1HoP	fst720	264	56	1:24.4	1:52	ISS-3YCG

b g 3, by Muscle Massive, One Class Act by Donato Hanover

Burke Rq Stb PA/F Baldachino NJ/Black & White Stb IN/M Rosenthal, NV

R. Burke 354-86-66-51 (243)

Br- Bennett Farms Inc Of MI, MI

Last 4 Sts-\$112,125

*1:51.2 HoP 7/8

1:58.2 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 15 1 0 0 \$286,250 25 Tot * 17 16 1 0 \$301,844

24 HoP 2 1 0 0 \$6,000 24 Tot 9 4 3 0 \$24,067

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 26 20 4 0 \$325,931

*1.10 OnToNwry FruSnkr HgSpdSwm -7

*1.00 OnToNwry Operator Variegatd -10

*.05 OnToNwry Mehlgnyg MasveDre -8

*1.10 Operator EugnThGns MajorVel -8

nb OnToNwry Tazn Belsfor -6

*1.10 OnToNwry Tazn EugnThGns -5

3 MASSIVE DESIRE

31:52.3 (7/8) \$2,931

12-1 Tr. Tetrick 1298-280-205-174 (216)

2 Oct25	13HoP	fst640	271	554	1:25.1	1:54.1	ISS-3CGT
18 Sep25	2HoP	fst880	27	56	1:24	1:52.3	NW2
12 Sep25	5HoP	fst770	271	571	1:26.1	1:53.1	ISS-3YCGT
4 Sep25	5HoP	fst680	28	581	1:27.1	1:55	NW2
21 Aug25	10HoP	fst680	272	564	1:26.3	1:53.3	ISS-3YCG
14 Aug25	4HoP	fst850	271	58	1:28	1:55.4	NW2

b g 3, by Muscle Massive, Swan Lady by Swan For All

George W Kucik Jr./Crown Point, IN/Doea Stables/Volcottville, IN

M. Rheinheimer 60-12-6-6 (200)

Br- George W Kucik Jr, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$22,062

1:52.3 HoP 7/8

1:59.2 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 15 2 2 3 \$43,917 25 Tot 16 3 2 3 \$46,892

24 HoP 7 1 0 3 \$10,826 24 Tot 9 4 3 0 \$19,577

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 33 5 3 12 \$66,469

*7.0 SureDid MasveDre RjDnPchm -7

*.50 MasveDre RjDnPchm WortLem -9

15.40 OnToNwry Mehlgnyg MasveDre -8

3.30 KodyKcst MasveDre WortLem -8

59.80 OnToNwry Operator Mehlgnyg -8

3.20 RjDnPchm GoldPaige MasveDre -7

4 OPERATOR

31:52.2 (7/8) \$16,113 HOOSIER \$45,000

5-2 K. Wilfong 1313-183-148-139 (139)

2 Oct25	4HoP	fst820	28	564	1:25.3	1:52.3	ISS-3CGT
19 Sep25	9HoP	fst770	271	552	1:24	1:51.2	D-Langley
12 Sep25	10HoP	fst660	271	56	1:25	1:52.2	ISS-3YCGT
3 Sep25	2HoP	fst680	294	59	1:28.2	1:56.1	Qua
21 Aug25	10HoP	fst680	272	564	1:26.3	1:53.3	ISS-3YCG
14 Aug25	4HoP	fst850	271	58	1:28	1:55.4	NW2

b g 3, by You Know You Do, Crazyasclassic by Crazyed

C J & H J Hochstetler/Pinehurst, NC/R J Buddig/Hinsdale, IL/A N Schwartz/Chicago, IL

Ja. Hochstetler 243-51-41-22 (210)

Br- Christopher L Nissley, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$77,375

1:52.2 HoP 7/8

1:54.3 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 10 5 4 0 \$161,125 25 Tot * 10 5 4 0 \$161,125

24 HoP 10 3 1 0 \$85,005 24 Tot 10 3 1 0 \$85,005

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 20 8 5 0 \$250,130

*.40 Operator MajorVel EugnThGns -5

6.50 OnToNwry Operator Variegatd -10

*.20 Operator EugnThGns MajorVel -9

nb Operator MclMavrn RevnFDir -6

4.10 OnToNwry Operator Mehlgnyg -8

*.30 Operator Startfm PondaRcky -5

5 EUGENE THE GENIUS(L)

31:52.2 (7/8) \$3,315 HOOSIER \$75,000

4-1 D. Dunn 1313-183-148-139 (139)

2 Oct25	4HoP	fst820	28	564	1:25.3	1:52.3	ISS-3CGT
19 Sep25	9HoP	fst770	271	552	1:24	1:51.2	D-Langley
12 Sep25	10HoP	fst660	271	56	1:25	1:52.2	ISS-3YCGT
4 Sep25	10HoP	fst540	273	564	1:25.3	1:53.2	ISSE-3CG
14 Aug25	6HoP	fst850	281	581	1:27.4	1:54.1	ISSE-3CG
31 Jul25	1HoP	fst720	264	56	1:24.4	1:52	ISS-3YCG

b g 3, by Helpisonthway, Muscle Baby Doll by Muscle Mass

Russell E Beeman/Anderson, IN/Charles W Weaver/Marion, IN

Me. Essig 313-42-51-38 (134)

Br- Black Creek Farm & Hickory Hollow Stables, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$25,735

1:52.2 HoP 7/8

*1:54 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 12 2 2 3 \$53,255 25 Tot * 14 2 3 3 \$60,410

24 HoP 10 1 0 3 \$360,425 24 Tot * 10 8 1 1 \$365,745

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 24 10 4 0 \$416,155

L5.30 Operator MajorVel EugnThGns -5

L27.10 OnToNwry Operator Variegatd -10

L9.60 Operator EugnThGns MajorVel -9

L4.90 SataSnadm MajorVel EugnThGns -8

L7.70 MajorVel HgSpdSwm RevnFDir -7

L3.40 OnToNwry Tazn EugnThGns -5

6 MEHLINGYOU(L)

31:54.4 (7/8) \$4,045

15-1 Y. Gingras 6-1-40 (167)

2 Oct25	8HoP	fst690	272	561	1:25.3	1:52.3	ISS-3CGT
19 Sep25	6HoP	fst690	273	571	1:26.1	1:54.2	NW3PM LT
12 Sep25	5HoP	fst770	271	571	1:26.1	1:53.1	ISS-3YCGT
6 Sep25	9HoP	fst580	282	58	1:27.2	1:55	NW5 PM
30 Aug25	12HoP	fst600	28	57	1:26	1:55	NW5000L4
21 Aug25	10HoP	fst680	272	564	1:26.3	1:53.3	ISS-3YCG

b g 3, by Helpisonthway, Mamie'snightmare by Master Layec

Shady Lane Meadows Grb,IL/J Graber,Nw Hvn,IL/Running Wild Stbs Grb,IL/E Graber,Nw Hvn,IL

Me. Essig 313-42-51-38 (134)

Br- Shady Lane Meadows, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$19,552

1:54.4 HoP 7/8

2:00 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 16 2 4 4 \$64,712 25 Tot 16 2 4 4 \$64,712

24 HoP 10 1 3 4 \$76,365 24 Tot 11 4 4 4 \$81,900

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 27 3 8 8 \$146,612

L6.50 OnToNwry FruSnkr HgSpdSwm -7

L*10 SureDid Mehlgnyg CnrlGatit -7

L20.90 OnToNwry Mehlgnyg MasveDre -8

L11.50 DryCrkKik PondaRcky Mehlgnyg -8

L10.00 DansCred Mehlgnyg LiteCnpr -8

L27.40 OnToNwry Operator Mehlgnyg -5

7 SURE DID

31:54.1 (7/8) \$5,888 HOOSIER \$19,000

12-1 Dv. Miller 11-0-21 (000)

2 Oct25	13HoP	fst640	271	554	1:25.1	1:54.1	ISS-3CGT
25 Sep25	6HoP	fst680	273	571	1:26.1	1:54.2	NW3PM LT
18 Sep25	2HoP	fst880	27	56	1:24	1:52.3	NW2
10 Sep25	2HoP	fst650	294	59	1:28.3	1:57	Qua
30 Aug25	1HoP	fst610	292	591	1:29.2	1:57.1	Qua
17 Jul25	4HoP	fst730	281	581	1:27.3	1:55	NW2 FM

b g 3, by You Know You Do, ChallaX Hanover by Donato Hanover

Matthew A Miller/Ligonier, IN/John E McCall/Abian, IN

W. Haynes, Jr. 385-67-58-66 (174)

Br- John M Bontrager Jr, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$23,550

1:54.1 HoP 7/8

1:56.2 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 11 3 3 1 \$105,770 25 Tot 13 4 4 1 \$122,343

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 17 6 4 1 \$145,893

1.90 SureDid MasveDre RjDnPchm -7

4.40 SureDid Mehlgnyg CnrlGatit -7

4.90 MasveDre RjDnPchm WortLem -9

nb Genrrysk SureDid QuickCsh -6

nb BludrdLc PondaBgti SureDid -8

L27.40 OnToNwry Operator Mehlgnyg -5

8 KODY KICKSTAND(L)

31:55 (7/8) \$3,044 HOOSIER \$36,000

20-1 R. Macomber, Jr. 145-162-26 (110)

25 Sep25	1HoP	fst750	274	562	1:25.1	1:52.4	ISSE-3CG
12 Sep25	12HoP	fst660	271	56	1:25	1:53	ISSE 3CGT
4 Sep25	5HoP	fst680	28	581	1:27.1	1:55	NW2
21 Aug25	8HoP	fst700	27	563	1:25	1:52.2	ISS-3YCG
8 Aug25	5HoP	fst900	271	56	1:25	1:52.3	NW 4PMLT
31 Jul25	4HoP	fst720	274	572	1:26.3	1:53.3	ISS-3YCG

b g 3, by Swan For All, Foxy Zette by Broadway Hall

Scott A Monaghan/Ballston Spa, NY

R. Macomber, Jr. 268-35-36-41 (131)

Br- Kevin W Knepp & Lester Knepp, IN

Last 4 Sts-\$9,750

1:55 HoP 7/8

1:58.4 HoP 7/8

25 HoP 15 2 4 3 \$46,664 25 Tot 15 2 4 3 \$46,664

24 HoP 10 1 2 1 \$63,550 24 Tot 10 1 2 1 \$63,550

23 HoP 0 0 0 0 -Life 25 3 6 4 \$109,214

L9.70 RevnFDir HgSpdSwm MajorVel -6

L8.90 SataSnadm KodyKcst HgSpdSwm -7

L1.60 KodyKcst MasveDre WortLem -8

L28.50 Startfm DryCrkKik RjDnPchm -9

L3.00 SataSnadm KodyKcst Mehlgnyg -8

L26.20 Operator Startfm PondaRcky -5

9 PONDA ROCKY(L)

31:53 (7/8) Q \$5,248 HOOSIER \$65,000

8-1 A. Bender 1018-132-144-131 (130)

27 Sep 25	10HoP	fst67°	271	:561	1:254	1:534	OPEN 4
12 Sep 25	5HoP	fst77°	271	:561	1:261	1:534	ISS-3yC
6 Sep 25	9HoP	fst58°	282	:58	1:272	1:55	NW5 PI
21 Aug 25	10HoP	fst68°	272	:564	1:263	1:533	ISS-3yC
8 Aug 25	5HoP	fst90°	271	:56	1:25	1:532	NW 4PI

Louprint unanimous No. 1 in Top 10

Louprint remained perfect on the track last week with a 1:46 3/5 win in a division of the Grade 2 Tattersalls Pace, and it resulted in perfection off the track on Wednesday when he was named the unanimous No. 1 horse in the Week 17 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll.

Louprint received all 35 first-place votes this week to become the season's first undisputed top selection. He was ranked No. 1 for the first seven weeks of the poll, dropped to as low as fourth while sidelined because of surgery, and returned to No. 1 in Week 15.

Twin B Joe Fresh, coming off a track-record 1:47 3/5 victory in the Allegrage Mares Pace at The Red Mile, moved from third to second in the rankings. She was followed by Grade 1 Kentucky Futurity winner Emoticon Legacy, who vaulted from eighth to third thanks to his 1:49 2/5 score in the third jewel of the Trotting Triple Crown.

Completing the top five this week were Yo Tillie and Beau Jangles.

Loua Dipa, who became the fastest 2-year-old female pacer in history when she won a division of last week's Grade 3 International Stallion Stakes for freshman fillies in 1:48, was the only newcomer to the Top 10.

Rankings based on the votes of harness racing media representatives on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Louprint (35)	3cp	10-10-0-0	\$1,013,773	350	1
2	Twin B Joe Fresh	5mp	9-6-2-1	\$526,714	269	3
3	Emoticon Legacy	3ct	9-7-1-0	\$948,905	204	8
4	Yo Tillie	3ft	10-9-1-0	\$636,783	198	2
5	Beau Jangles	2cp	9-9-0-0	\$758,130	191	5
6	Lexus Kody	7gt	18-9-3-3	\$1,074,472	186	6
7	Miki And Minnie	3fp	12-10-2-0	\$810,091	179	4
8	Sylvia Hanover	5mp	12-6-5-1	\$433,292	89	7
9	Loua Dipa	2fp	10-7-1-1	\$381,045	65	--
10	Ervin Hanover	5hp	14-8-1-1	\$532,218	53	10

-edited release (Ken Weingartner)

NJSS BOARD OF TRUSTEES ASKS FOR HAMBLETONIAN TO STAY AT BIG M

The Hambletonian and the Hambletonian Oaks through their history have demonstrated clearly and loudly the spirit of harness racing, an industry that New Jersey has proudly supported.

Continuing to hold these events at the Meadowlands is important to many fans and participants, and to the standardbred industry in general. The Meadowlands Racetrack has been the home of the Hambletonian events since 1981 and is known for its excellent facilities, vibrant atmosphere and its ability to be an excellent host track. The rich history and tradition associated with the Hambletonian Races have helped make the Meadowlands a special place for harness racing enthusiasts.

The New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees is deeply disappointed that the Hambletonian Society is even considering the possibility of moving the Hambletonian to another state or to a province in Canada.

Over the years, we have worked tirelessly with the Meadowlands to benefit horse racing in New Jersey. Our collaborative efforts have strengthened the sport. We have brought significant economic benefits to the state. The thought of the Hambletonian being relocated from this cherished venue is like the thought of moving the New Years' Eve countdown from Times Square in New York City. It would be not only disheartening for fans and participants alike, but also the move will negatively affect the experience and the sense of community that has been built around the event for many years.

Let's remember that Jeff Gural and his team at the Meadowlands stepped up more than 15 years ago to save this world renowned racetrack from closure and have continually supported the track and the industry, which includes the owners, the drivers, the trainers, the grooms, the farriers and the countless others who derive their income and support for their families from the Meadowlands.

Moreover, we believe that moving this race from the Meadowlands will have a significant adverse economic impact on New Jersey which will negate the positive message we have been sending to the public as well as to our legislators and elected leaders.

The New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees strongly recommends that the Hambletonian Society reconsider the idea of moving the Hambletonian events and work together toward our vision for the future of horse racing in New Jersey by keeping this historic and revered race at the Meadowlands.

-release (NJ Sire Stakes)

DRF Bets Handicapper's Corner

SIGN UP NOW

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

RACE 9

(5) OUT OF ICE had a tough task in the Grassroots Final when trying to make two moves from post ten. There were some salty horses in that race, and Time Passer ended up running away with that race. He gets a significant post switch, and should not have to work nearly as hard this week.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

RACE 13

(4) REVIN FOR DALLARS looks like the sharpest one of this group and will certainly enjoy getting away from some of the top dogs in the division.

-Derick Giwner

Harrah's
HOOSIER PARK
RACING & CASINO

RACE 4

(2) AUSTRAL HANOVER was an easy odds-on winner last week when Bartlett took over the driving and the Engblom trainee gets a free ride in this class after being written into this race.

-Matt Rose

EMPIRE CITY
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

RACE 8

(9) AI didn't have much of a shot in the elimination round after sitting off slow fractions. Gingras is back in the bike now and you know we are going to see early speed.

-Giwner

VERNON DOWNS
Racing
Casino & Hotel

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

DEO VOLENTE FARMS TO STAND CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC IN 2026

Captain Optimistic, winner of such prestigious races as the Governor's Cup, Triple Crown leg Cane Pace and the Bluegrass Stake, will join the stallion ranks of Deo Volente Farms in 2026.

[READ MORE](#)

GERRY LONGO CONTINUES TO THRIVE IN WOODSTOCK AT AGE 80

It's hard not to root for a guy that skipped his high school graduation in order to go to the racetrack. Meet 80-year-old harness owner, trainer and driver Gerry Longo, who is currently competing at Shenandoah Downs in Woodstock, Virginia and is fresh off a driving win Sunday.

[READ MORE](#)

\$200,000 PA FAIR FINALS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY AT POCONO

\$200,000 will be on the line when the best of the performers who raced on the Pennsylvania Fair Sire Stakes circuit this summer clash for "bragging rights" in eight \$25,000 divisional Championships on Monday afternoon (Oct. 13) at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania.

[READ MORE](#)

OH WELL JOINS DR J STALLION MANAGEMENT

Dr. J Stallion Management is proud to announce the latest addition to their stallion roster. 2022 Mohawk Million winner Oh Well (3,1:51 2/5 \$1,566,614) will stand the 2026 season at Premier Acres in Middlebury, Indiana for an introductory stud fee of \$4,000.

A son of Muscle Hill from the fast Cantab Hall mare Fine Tuned Lady, Oh Well is a former \$550,000 yearling. In addition to his dominant score in the 2022 Mohawk Million, Oh Well also won the New Jersey Sire Stakes final and New Jersey Classic as a 2-year-old. At 3, Oh Well captured the Stanley Dancer Trot, the Bluegrass and was second in both his elimination and final of the Hambletonian. As a 4-year-old Oh Well went on to be a major player in the FFA trotting ranks, finishing second in the Maple Leaf Trot, Ceasars's Trotting Classic and a fast closing third (by a neck) in the Hambletonian Maturity.

Oh Well's fertility has been tested and he passed with flying colors. Shares with very favorable terms will be sold. Please contact Dr. J at (717) 578-7395 or drjablonsky@drjstallionmanagement.com for more details.

Oh Well will be available for inspection at the upcoming Midwest Standardbred Horse Sale at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Wednesday October 15 from noon to 3pm. Breeders are encouraged to come and see this magnificent individual in person and talk to Dr. J about the syndication details and securing a booking for the 2026 breeding season.

[-edited release \(Dr J Stallion Management\)](#)

OHHA ANNOUNCES PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2026 STALLION DIRECTORY COVER

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is hosting a photo contest for the cover of the 2026 Ohio Standardbred Stallion Directory & OHHA Membership Directory.

The OHHA is looking for pictures of foals by a registered Ohio stallion. Please submit all photos to publications@ohha.com. The deadline to submit your pictures is Nov. 14, 2025. There is a limit of three pictures per photographer.

For information about placing a pedigree page for your stallion in the 2026 directory or for information about advertising your farm, product, or service, please contact the OHHA at publications@ohha.com.

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

BREEDERS CROWN (G1) SUPPLEMENTS DUE MONDAY

Supplemental payments for Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old and Open Events are due & payable on Monday, October 13, 2025 at 12:00 noon (EDT) in the racing secretary's office at Woodbine Mohawk Park or the Hambletonian Society Office in Cranbury, NJ.

There are no supplemental provisions for 2-year-olds.

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(Due & Payable at the Time of Declaration, U.S. Funds only):

Gtd. Final Purse	Event	Supplement
\$600,000 USD	3-Year-Old Colt Trot	\$72,000 USD
\$600,000 USD	3-Year-Old Colt Pace	\$72,000 USD
\$600,000 USD	3-Year-Old Filly Trot	\$72,000 USD
\$600,000 USD	3-Year-Old Filly Pace	\$72,000 USD
\$600,000 USD	Open Trot	\$72,000 USD
\$600,000 USD	Open Pace	\$72,000 USD
\$400,000 USD	Mare Pace	\$48,000 USD
\$400,000 USD	Mare Trot	\$48,000 USD

In order to supplement, a check for the total amount above, payable to the Hambletonian Society, Inc. and sent to the attention of Jim Gillespie, Racing Secretary at Woodbine Mohawk Park, P.O. Box 160, 9430 Guelph Line Campbellville, Ontario, L0P 1B0 or The Hambletonian Society at 109 S Main Street, Ste 18, Cranbury NJ 08512 must be received by the deadline of noon on Monday, Oct. 13.

The check, or the wire, in itself does not constitute a declaration. You must also enter (declare) your horse in writing, electronically, or enter by calling the race secretary [905-854-7805] before Monday, Oct. 13 at 12:00 noon (EDT).

Regular entries for all other horses kept eligible by the required sustaining payments in 2025 are due Tues., Oct. 14, by 10:30 a.m. (EDT) at Woodbine Mohawk Park office.

If you have any other questions, please call Nadia Tarnawa at [609-371-2211] or Jim Gillespie at [905-854-7805].

[-edited release \(Breeders Crown\)](#)

\$5,000 GUARANTEED PICK 5 POOL AT BATAVIA DOWNS FRIDAY

With no one hitting the Pick 5 wager at Batavia Downs on Wednesday (Oct. 8), there is a \$947 carryover pool for that wager in the first race on Friday (Oct. 10) and the management of Batavia Downs has announced that the pool will be guaranteed at \$5,000 through the United States Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering program.

The Pick-5 at Batavia Downs is a 50-cent minimum wager that starts in race one and runs through race five. Post time for the first race is 6 p.m.

Also on Friday, there will be a \$2,010 carryover in the Jackpot Super Hi-5 pentafecta wager in the 13th race. The estimated post time for that race is 10:00 p.m.

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

OHHA TO LIVE STREAM OHIO FAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP AT NORTHFIELD

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) will live stream the 2025 Ohio Fairs Championship as part of "Saturday Night at the Races" presented by the Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital on Oct. 11 from MGM Northfield Park.

The live stream, which can be seen on the [OHHA YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#) as well as HarnessRacingOhio.com, will begin at approximately 6:15 p.m. Coverage includes eight \$50,000 divisions of the Ohio Fairs Championship, the Grade 3 \$125,000 Courageous Lady, and a pair of Lady Drivers Tour paces. Post time for the 15-race card is 6 p.m.

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

JUG, JUGETTE WINNERS TO GREET MEADOWS FANS ON FRIDAY

As part of the annual Pink Out event, two racing superstars will do a "meet and greet" at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows this Friday evening, October 10.

Louprint, currently ranked as the #1 horse in the sport, and Rodeo Drive Deo, winner of a division of this year's Adioo Volo, will be on the apron level of the racetrack to meet racing fans. The duo is trained by Ron Burke, the nation's top-winning trainer, who is based locally at The Meadows.

Louprint and Rodeo Drive Deo will be brought to the grandstand side of the track from 5 to 7pm. Fans are encouraged to come out and get their photos taken with the three-year-old champions and learn more about their daily routines and racing careers.

The Pink Out event is held yearly to raise breast cancer awareness, and includes Corgi races and a "Pinkest Pup" contest. Post time is 5:10pm.

[-edited release \(The Meadows\)](#)