

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Racing stock with pedigree power aplenty in Friday's mixed sale

Loua Dipa, Super Chapter to race next week

Standardbred Horse Sale yearling sessions now in the books

Jay Bergman: The Breeders Crown battles that never materialized

Thai Hanover ready for another test in Thursday's Matron at Dover

Best Bets & Analysis

Oak Grove to offer two new races for 3YO Trotters worth \$800K total

World records matched during Kentucky Sire Stakes

Comments? Questions?
Email the Editor DGwinner@DRF.com



AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zocali [X AtTheTrack7](https://www.atthetrack7.com)

The Dan Patch Award for Horse of the Year is an honor bestowed upon the best horse in the United States. It is voted upon by the member of the United States Harness Writers Association.

A horse who has never raced in the United States, cannot be the Horse of the Year in the United States, period!

Beau Jangles has been brilliant, electrifying, and he is a superstar. Anyone with eyes can see that. But he has never stepped a hoof onto an American racetrack. Therefore, he cannot be the Dan Patch Horse of the Year, nor should he be voted upon for any other Dan Patch award including the 2-Year-Old Pacer of the Year or overall Pacer of the Year.

Beau Jangles has no more business winning an American racing award than Go On Boy, the standout older trotter in Europe that captured

the Elitlopp, or Republican Party, the standout pacer in New Zealand in 2025. Canada may share a border with us and our horses may go there to race sometimes, but it is still a different country and a horse who has never left Canada should not win an American racing award.

This past weekend we saw Forever Young win the Breeders' Cup Classic. He is a sensational horse who travels the globe. He has never raced in the same country in consecutive starts, yet takes his best race with him wherever he goes. He has raced in Japan, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and the United States. He has one race in the United States this year, the Breeders' Cup Classic, and he should not be the American Horse of the Year. Similarly, European runners like Gezora, who won the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf, or Notable Speech, who won the Breeders Cup Mile, should not win Eclipse Awards (the thoroughbred version of Dan Patch Awards) for only running once in the United States.

If I feel that way about horses who not only raced in the United States but won on the biggest stage

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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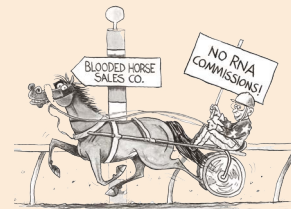
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NEW TO NEW JERSEY IN 2026...

CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC

(Captaintreacherous - Cinamony - Art Official) p,2,1:49; 3,1:48 -'25 (\$939,790)



A \$160,000 yearling out of a half-sister to Fear The Dragon p,3,1:48.4s (\$1,578,547), **Captain Optimistic** won the **Governors Cup** and **New Jersey Classic** at age two, while also winning his eliminations for the **Metro Pace** and **Breeders Crown**. At age three he was victorious in the **Cane Pace** and **Bluegrass Stakes**, as well as in his elimination for the **North America Cup**.

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here, how could I possibly vote for Beau Jangles when he did neither?

Perhaps someone will argue that it's not Beau Jangles' fault the Breeders Crown was in Canada this year. You are correct, it's not his fault. But the race was in Canada and we are assuming he would have shipped out of Canada to race in the Breeders Crown had it been held in the United States. None of that really matters because the fact remains that the horse has never left Canada.

If the connections of Beau Jangles want to be considered for an American racing award, he should race in America. But, he was not even made eligible to the Governor's Cup, so obviously that is not going to happen.

This opinion is not a U.S. vs. Canada point of view either. I would never expect a horse who had avoided racing in Canada to be given an O'Brien Award, which honors Canada's best standardbreds each year.

Case in point is 2023. The American Horse of the Year in Harness Racing was Confederate. He was the winner of the Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace, Max Hempt, Breeders Crown and more. Confederate won 13 of 15 starts that season. He only raced in Canada twice, earning a win in his North America Cup Eliminations before a nose defeat in the North America Cup Final in which he was left with too much to do in the stretch.

Not only did Confederate fail to win the O'Brien Award for Horse of the Year, he did not receive a single vote. In addition, Confederate did not receive a single vote for 3-year-old Pacer of the Year at the O'Brien Awards. That award went to Stockade Seelster, a horse that won seven of 19 starts and who was repeatedly defeated by Confederate when they faced off.

At no point did I believe Confederate deserved an O'Brien Award. After all, he raced in Canada twice, winning once. But if Confederate was dismissed by the Canadian voters for the O'Brien awards and understandably so, why should Beau Jangles be awarded an American Horse of the Year trophy when he never raced in the United States?



AMANDA STEPHENS

Yo Tillie has won 11 of 12 career races.

of those votes will be for Beau Jangles.

Right now, I am closely looking at Frantic Hanover, Brandon Blvd or Ubrute as the 2-year-old champion pacer in the United States, with a lean toward Frantic Hanover, who heading into the Breeders Crown Final had won seven of 10 starts and nearly \$700,000 in earnings.

As far as Horse of the Year, there are several interesting options. Yo Tillie has won 11 of 12 starts – including the Breeders Crown – with earnings just under \$1 million. She was clearly the best of her crop all season and you can argue had the most dominant campaign of any horse in the United States.

Lexus Kody may have lost in the Breeders Crown, but he still had a special season, winning 10 times for earnings over \$1.1 million, including a victory in the Yonkers International Trot where he defeated some of the best the world had to offer.

Miki And Minnie exited her Breeders Crown dead-heat win with 12 victories from 14 starts and earnings a smidge over \$1 million. That is a Horse of the Year campaign as well.

Coming out of the Breeders Crown, when horses like Lexus Kody and Louprint lost, there was a knee-jerk reaction to those defeats like any American-based standardbred would be a reach for the Horse of the Year Award. I would encourage the voters to take a closer look at the campaigns of some of the horses I mentioned and more. Dismissing those achievements to give these awards to an unbeaten 2-year-old who has never left Canada would be an illogical and unfair thing to do to the horses who have been racing all season in the United States. They are the ones who should be battling it out for Dan Patch Awards, not Beau Jangles. Beau Jangles is the O'Brien Award winner for 2-year-old pacer and he is Canada's Horse of the Year. But, if you want an American racing award, then race in America.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: A horse must start three times in Canada to be eligible for an O'Brien award.]

I have not yet decided who my vote will go to for either Horse of the Year or 2-Year-Old Pacer of the Year in the Dan Patch Awards. But I do know that neither



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#977, DRAMA COACH, P, C, PA

Bettor's Wish-Real Drama-Real Desire

• 1/2-brother to **Drama Club**, p, 1:54s -'25 (\$84,560)

#979, FIERY JAMIE, P, F, OH

Catch The Fire-Red Carpet Queen-Western Hanover

• 1/2-sister to **Lucky King**, p, 1:51.1h (\$400,862)

#982, GLIDE ON COMMAND, T, F, DE

Glidemaster-Overnight Command-CR Commando

• 1/2-sister to **Third Shift**, 3, 1:52.4s (\$401,373)

#984, GYPSY BOY, T, C, DE

Southwind Frank-Sea Gypsy-Glidemaster

• 1/2-brother to **Renegade Gypsy**, 3, 1:53s (\$311,181)

#986, JODIE'S JOY, P, F, PA

Captain Crunch-Selinas's Joy-Dragon Again

• Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Shadow Play**, p, 1:47.4 (\$1,549,881)

#987, LAND OF THE FREE, P, F, DE

Badlands Hanover-I'm All In-Cam's Card Shark

• 1/2-sister to **Speaker Of Peace**, p, 3, 1:51.1s (\$233,583)

#989, LIVING COLOR, P, F, NY, First Foal

Courtly Choice-Color Envy-Mach Three

• Family of **Big Jim**, p, 2, 1:49.1s (\$1,541,924)

#990, MAID IN MARYLAND*, T, F, IN

Rebuff-Maiden Knight-Conway Hall

• Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Oh Sweet Baby**, 1:54.4s (\$655,330)

#992, PARK AVENUE ERIC, P, C, DE

He's Watching-Parkavenuejulieann-Bettor's Delight

• Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Rainbow Blue**, p, 3, 1:49.2s (\$1,428,594)

#993, SAVANNAH'S JOY, T, F, DE

Top Flight Angel-Georgia Baby-Mutineer

• 1/2-sister to **Devious Babe**, 3, 1:58h -'25; BT1:53.4s-'25 (\$108,417)

#994, SECRET SIGN, P, F, PA

Heston Blue Chip-Heavenly Sign-Life Sign

• 1/2-sister to **Winbak Heavenly**, p, 1:52f (\$241,868)

#995, SHOWMAN, T, C, NJ/KY

Six Pack-Broadway Concert-Broadway Hall

• Dam is **Broadway Concert**, 3, 1:54.3f (\$110,042)

#996, SIX GUN SAM*, P, C, MD

Wearinmysixshooter-Respectednbeloved-Dream Away

• 1/2-brother to **Burning Midnight**, p, 1:50.3f (\$325,742)

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Captain Corey
Downbytheseaside

Green Manalishi
Sweet Lou
Tactical Landing

Walner



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK



Racing stock with pedigree power aplenty in Mixed Sale

By Jay Bergman

Friday's Harrisburg Mixed sale may be one of the deepest on record with as many as 250 racehorses or fillies with high broodmare potential going under the block. Then of course there are those who combine those features and could be back racing in 2026 at the highest level, postponing lucrative second careers with the chance to strike gold on the racetrack.

There's a ton of pacing power set to walk through the ring and leave under new ownership, with a pair of sophomore fillies likely to get bids from all parts of North America given their impressive credentials this year. **HIP 1581 Rodeo Drive Deo** is one of the few fillies to defeat Miki And Minnie this year and enters the sale following a dominating performance in the USS Indy recently at Hoosier Park. The daughter of Captain-treacherous is closing in on the \$1 million mark in career earnings over two solid years of racing that has seen her finish first or second in 20 of her 30 career starts. What's interesting about Rodeo Drive Deo is her high potential to be an earner for a long time on the racetrack. Certainly a closer look at her maternal line is indicative of that given the longevity of \$1.8 million winner Somewhere In L.A., a half-brother to her dam.

The Huntsville-sired **Unreasonable (HIP 1636)** took a 1:47 4/5 mark capturing the Garnsey Memorial at The Red Mile this fall and enters the auction with career earnings of \$655K, achieving success both in New York in the Empire Breeders Championship this year as well as in the Kentucky Championships at The Red Mile. Unreasonable was a hard-charging second to Miki And Minnie in her Breeders Crown elimination this year and routinely came home in the sub-26 range in final quarters. Given her stakes eligibility in Kentucky next year, she offers a wealth of racing opportunity to her next connections.

A notch below those fantastic fillies mentioned above is **HIP 1574 Faze**. This daughter of Sweet Lou is out of a direct line of millionaire mares, with her dam Darlinonthebeach earning \$1.06 million and her granddam Darlin's Delight banking \$2.8 million during her long and brilliant racing career. Her great-granddam Town Pro also made \$1.2 million, adding to the allure of Faze's potential once she leaves the racetrack. Still buyers should be wary before stepping away from competitive action that this filly competed at the highest level and was timed in 1:48 this year. That kind of talent gives Faze a big chance at stardom in 2026 given her eligibility in Kentucky as a bonus.

On the trotting side there are a host of solid fillies and mares with both racehorse and breeding potential. Certainly anyone that witnessed **Date Night Hanover (HIP 1605)** this year must be encouraged by her prospects going forward. A winner in the prestigious Allerage final at The Red Mile this year in a stunning 1:49 2/5 clocking, Date Night Hanover brings with her a \$936K lifetime bankroll. That she brought \$600,000 as a yearling – sold here in 2022 – suggests that she looks the part of a champion. Her maternal bloodlines are impeccable, with a maternal line that has Hambletonian champion Trixton front and center along with top sires Andover Hall and Conway Hall not far down the line.

HIP 1613 Kadena may not have clicked at the highest level this season but breeders are not likely to be deterred when she walks in the ring on Friday afternoon. There's simple logic behind that thought process given the 3-year-old is by the young stallion Gimpanzee and out of the champion race filly and current top-producing dam Mission Brief. You can't get much more current than that pedigree given Kadena's younger brother Apex, the Mohawk Million champion this year, is likely to be one of the leading candidates for the 2026 Hambletonian. As the fourth of five foals of racing age from Mission Brief, Kadena is the fastest and richest filly, with a 1:51 mark and \$209K in career earnings.

Buyers will need to be quick on their feet on Friday with a pair of quality fillies selling directly after Kadena goes through the ring. **HIP 1614 Martz Seven**, a sophomore daughter of Swan For All, has career earnings of \$435K and could be the next Indiana-based trotting filly to explode on the national scene. A recent second in the Crossroads of America at Hoosier Park is proof this filly can advance into open company next season.

HIP 1615 is the Greenshoe-sired **Ms Prada**, who enjoyed success this year racing in both the Pennsylvania Sire and Kentucky Sire programs on different levels. A 1:51 1/5 Grand Circuit winner at The Red Mile this fall in the Bluegrass, Ms Prada is the second-fastest filly by her sire of all time.

A pair of sophomore trotting fillies that didn't have great years in 2025 but showed extraordinary talent as freshman last year will go through



DEAN GILLETTE

Rodeo Drive Deo is one of the many star attractions slated to sell Friday in Harrisburg at the Standardbred Horse Sale.

the ring, with **HIP 1630 What A Bid Hanover**, the 2024 Goldsmith Maid champion and a division winner in the Del Miller Memorial this year, and **HIP 1577 Luna Lovegood**, a Breeders Crown elimination winner and Matron Stakes champion last year, looking for fresh starts in new stables. Luna Lovegood is a Gimpanzee half-sister to Miss I L.A. The pair have both earned over \$400K on the racetrack and are the first two living foals from their dam.

The complete Fashion Farms dispersal will be finalized on Friday with some trotting talent going through the ring that could pay dividends next year for new connections. The current sophomore **Fashion Green**, the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion, is a prime example of the level of talent represented in this dispersal. The gelded son of Greenshoe, **HIP 1703**, earned \$330K this year in just nine starts. Fashion Green's younger brother **Practical Man** sells as **HIP 1530** and may be worth a long look for New Jersey competition and beyond as a sophomore. Second this year timed in 1:52 3/5 at The Red Mile in a Bluegrass division, Practical Man has the potential to improve as a sophomore, as was the case with his older sibling.

Waldon Fashion showed tremendous talent in limited action this year winning both in the New Jersey Sire Stakes and Kindergarten series. **HIP 1565** is a filly with both racing potential in 2026 and perhaps breeding gold beyond that timetable. By leading sire Walner, Waldon Fashion is out of the champion mare Broadway Donna.

Other solid performers with strong credentials hitting the block on Friday are the 2024 Metro champion **Fallout (HIP 1702)** and the well-traveled Invitational trotter Security Protected, second this year in the Bob Miecuna Trot at Yonkers Raceway. **Security Protected (HIP 1717)** has earned \$825K in three years of racing and will be a 5-year-old in 2026.



UPCOMING STAKES NOTES

Trainer Ron Burke confirmed to DRF Harness that Loua Dipa will start in the Three Diamonds at The Meadowlands on November 15. The 2-year-old filly pacer is the clear divisional leader and a virtual lock for year-end honors.

Leading money-winning 3-year-old trotting colt Super Chapter is expected to start next in the Matron at Dover Downs on November 13 according to co-owner Jeff Snyder. He added that he'll be test-bred a few weeks after the race and if all is right, will stand at Hanover Shoe Farms in 2026.

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Standardbred Horse Sale yearling portion concludes down just 2.7%

By Greg Reinhart

After being down over 13% on average year-over-year during the first session, the yearling-only portion of the Standardbred Horse Sale clawed back a lot of that deficit and wound up with a decline of only 2.7% from 2024.

This year, a total of 864 horses went through the ring, garnering a sum of \$36,030,000 and an average price of \$41,701. In last year's yearling-only sessions, those numbers were 866, \$37,091,000 and \$42,830.

Agent Concord Stud Farm was the leading consignor in terms of average at \$59,184 for their 76 offerings, followed by All American Harness-breds (\$56,350 for their 20 yearlings), Hanover Shoe Farms (\$55,862 / 188), Kountry Lane Standardbreds (\$53,333 / 6) and agent Blue Chip Farms (\$52,286 / 14).

Chapter Seven got the nod as the top sire by average at \$173,864 for his 22 yearlings. Walner was second at \$132,565 for 23 horses, with Downby-theseaside (\$88,364 / 11), Captaintreacherous (\$71,905 / 42) and Cattlewash (\$69,714 / 14) completing the top five.

Trotting fillies were the top draw for sex/gait average at \$57,109 for 175 horses, trotting colts were second at \$42,706 / 221, followed by pacing colts

(\$39,063 / 238) and pacing fillies (\$31,852 / 229).

New York-eligibles led the regional average rankings with \$66,344 for 122 horses. New Jersey was next at \$54,345 for 110 yearlings, trailed by Ohio (\$50,708 / 24), Kentucky (\$35,581 / 131) and Pennsylvania (\$30,467 / 428).

Three yearlings cracked into six figures on Wednesday, led by HIP 713 Custom Content at \$130,000. Consigned by Hunterton Sales Agency as agent and purchased by Noel Daley, he's by Cantab Hall and is a brother to \$1,031,157 earner Custom Cantab.

Behind Custom Content at \$100,000 were HIPs 619 Bacchus Blue Chip and 870 Neck Beads. Bacchus Blue Chip, consigned by Blue Chip Farms, is an American Ideal-Sunnynseventyfive colt who was purchased by Burke Racing Stable LLC., while Neck Beads, who was consigned by Preferred Marketing Equine, Inc. as agent, was acquired by Steve Elliott and is a Back Of The Neck-Pay For Soup colt.

The remainder of the Standardbred Horse Sale will be comprised of the mixed sale that begins on Thursday and continues into Friday. HIPs 951-1471 will be available on Thursday and 1473-1734 on Friday. Both of those sessions start at 11 A.M. (EST).

Standardbred Horse Sale 2025 Top 10

YEARLINGS RANKED BY SALE PRICE

94-Climatic Hanover	Walner	\$725,000	F	Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc.	Torgeir Hagmann
85-Seven Pledges	Chapter Seven	\$700,000	C	Concord Stud Farm, Agent	Andrew Harris
152-Command Center	Gimpanzee	\$500,000	C	Hunterton Sales Agency	Robert Lindstrom, Agent
27-Sootie Hanover	Bulldog Hanover	\$485,000	F	Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc.	Andrew Harris, Agent
30-Swingingchandelier	Chapter Seven	\$375,000	F	Concord Stud Farm, Agent	Determination
79-King Of Blues	King Of The North	\$350,000	C	Preferred Equine Mkt., Agent	Determination
12-Salubrious Hanover	Walner	\$300,000	F	Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc.	Jeff Snyder
115-Athena's Girl	Walner	\$300,000	F	Preferred Equine Mkt., Agent	Bradley Grant
141-Infinito Hanover	Chapter Seven	\$300,000	C	Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc.	Jeff Snyder
169-Queen G	King Of The North	\$300,000	F	Icy Stable	Determination

HORSES OF A DIFFERENT COLOR FROM THE STANDARDBRED HORSE SALE



The Breeders Crown battles that never materialized



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [Bergmanjay](#)

Nothing good lasts forever.

The expression rings true so very often in the standardbred sport and looking back on this year's Breeders Crown that was, and the one that wasn't, directly reflects on the greatness that shines so briefly and then no longer does.

The appreciation of great horses is what keeps this sport alive and it's always the Breeders Crown that puts a spotlight on the stars of today and tomorrow. This year's edition was a mixed bag, with some enjoying the spotlight deservedly for the first time and others moving off into the sunset.

The announcements that have followed the Woodbine Mohawk Park 2025 spectacle have been quick and in some ways painful to see. The sophomore sensation Louprint's retirement from racing could not have been something that appeared anywhere near possible following his brilliant performance in the Tattersalls at The Red Mile during its Grand Circuit meet. A Breeders Crown champion as a 2-year-old, Louprint's signature victory this year came in the North America Cup, and both displayed his incredible speed as well as a will to win. It's that specific attribute that is so rare in this sport throughout history. There have been fast horses, there have been brave ones as well, but Louprint had the blueprint for being the unique blend of both and thus was a near-perfect racehorse.

While injuries are a part of this sport it's when they show up that really matters and during Louprint's sophomore season they managed to show up too often and obviously not matching a significant part of the stakes season. As with so many of our equine athletes, even when they are not at their best physically, they tend to overcome much of that when put into competition and that certainly is reflected by Louprint's gutty miles while not at his best seeking a second Breeders Crown victory.

To prognosticate what Louprint will accomplish as a stallion in Ohio starting in 2026 is near impossible. While his sire Sweet Lou continues to add to his imposing resume in the breeding shed, he was not in fact an instant success and took some time to gain his claim as the sport's leading pacing sire. Louprint brings an updated pedigree to that stallion line with the hope that the Buckeye State broadens its impact on North American racing in the not-to-distant future.

The good news announced on Tuesday (November 4) had nothing to do with Election Day in the U.S. but from the camp that's responsible for last year's Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh. Absent at the last minute for what appeared to be another Breeders Crown title, Twin B Joe Fresh was scratched, and her racing future appeared in doubt. Trainer Chris Ryder was concerned at the time but is now far more optimistic.

"She had screws put in a cannon bone yesterday," Ryder said on Wednesday. "She's going to have three months out and then we'll bring her back in." The prognosis is excellent for a full recovery and Ryder, ever cautious, suggested that if she doesn't come back, it will be fine with him and the other owners of Twin B Joe Fresh.

Twin B Joe Fresh's longevity in this day and age is more than rare and it's refreshing that Ryder has confidence that this injury will not impact a future racing career, and that is rather amazing to hear. Great athletes in all sports must deal with injuries, but racehorses must return to competition at the highest level and face rivals head-on and not in team competition. They are alone upon return to the track and must battle without the collective help of others. Champions tend to shake off injury and rally back. Here's hoping that Twin B Joe Fresh does return to her former self in 2026.

Sylvia Hanover, Twin B Joe Fresh's archrival, won't be in the cast to face her foe next year as her retirement was announced this past week. The gritty daughter of Always B Miki had gone from dominant in her first two years of racing to more inconsistent in her third. A revival of sorts this year and some major victories hinted at a new battle of great mares. As has been the case all too often, those battles were limited,

with each mare needing time to get back into top condition. A final battle this year in the Breeders Crown didn't take place and more than likely if it had would not have met the epic levels the two had been on during previous form cycles. Sylvia Hanover's career must be separated from Twin B Joe Fresh to be truly appreciated and while she was very often difficult to handle within a race, her speed and determination more than made up for that. Hopefully Sylvia Hanover's foals will inherit her great qualities.

As a closing note to this year's Breeders Crown, the surprise win by Meshuggah in the sophomore colt and gelding trot was something that may have been hard to predict (if you look at the odds board) while at the same time something that could have been expected. If there is one division in the sport that year-in-year-out plays this way it is this one. The enormous pressure to prepare horses to be perfect for the first weekend in August must be factored in when asking sophomores to be just as good in late October. There are only so many big miles in these horses and inevitably there is a cost to pay. In this year's Breeders Crown, the heavy hitters had to pay the price for the vigorous efforts that came before. Emoticon Legacy was as brilliant as a horse could be in winning the Kentucky Futurity. He'd been battletested before and after this year's Hambletonian. That his form would not last through the Breeders Crown may have been inevitable. Super Chapter, as great as he'd been for a very long time this year, had the lead in the stretch after putting away Emoticon Legacy and perhaps would have won under those circumstances earlier in the year.

The Woodbine Mohawk Park 2025 Breeders Crown edition was a monumental success with all parts of the production coming together and the 12 races offering something for everyone. While a host of Breeders Crown speed records were set during the two-day extravaganza, here's hoping that the hard surface necessary to achieve those fast times, like at most tracks not named The Red Mile, don't come at a price for any of our sport's other stars.

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Thai Hanover ready for another test in Thursday's Matron

By Ken Weingartner

Mitchell York is not someone who typically races horses this late in the season, especially a 2-year-old, but Thai Hanover will be a rare exception when he goes behind the starting gate in Thursday's \$122,600 Grade 3 Matron Stakes for freshman male pacers at Bally's Dover.

Thai Hanover, a two-time Grand Circuit winner, will get his opportunity thanks to a consistent campaign that has seen him hit the board in nine of 13 races while facing some of the sport's top 2-year-old male pacers along the way. That trend will continue Thursday, when he leaves from post one with Jeremy Indof driving for co-owner/trainer York in the Matron. He is 8-1 on the morning line.

"He drew well, I just wish he could have drawn in with another group of horses," York said with a laugh. "But I'm excited about the race. I hope they know he's there. That's just a tough group of colts, but he's raced with them on and off all year, and he's always been competitive. Hopefully, he's competitive again."

Thai Hanover's competition in the eight-horse Matron field includes Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champion and Metro Pace runner-up Frantic Hanover (the 5-2 morning-line favorite with Tim Tetrick driving for trainer Ron Burke), multiple graded-stakes winner and Breeders Crown third-place finisher Melillo (7-2, Ronnie Wrenn Jr., Burke) and New York Sire Stakes champion and Big Apple Pace winner Fragment (9-2, Jason Bartlett, Per Engblom).

Frantic Hanover and Fragment rank second and third, respectively, in seasonal earnings among freshman male pacers, with more than \$500,000 each.

"Some years are a little weaker, but this year was just an amazing group," said York, who has watched Thai Hanover at some point this season face six of the eight 2-year-old male pacers to win in 1:49 4/5 or faster. "They're all phenomenal."

Thai Hanover, a \$14,000 yearling purchase from the 2024 Standardbred Horse Sale, has earned \$116,891 this season for York and his wife, Erin. The son of Stay Hungry-Tempest Blue Chip is the ninth six-figure-earner

out of his dam and his family also includes millionaire Kenneth J and O'Brien Award-winner Percy Bluechip, the mother of this year's Grade 1 Adios champ Prince Hal Hanover.

"He's what we could afford, which is how we always buy," York said. "We were lucky enough to buy his full sister (Tempt Me Hanover for \$24,000 in a September Preferred Equine Online auction), so we'll see how she is next year."

Thai Hanover heads to the Matron off an Oct. 20 win in a \$45,950 division of the Simpson Memorial Stakes at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, covering the mile in 1:55 2/5 over a sloppy track. He also captured the \$48,000 Standardbred Stakes for 2-year-old male pacers on Sept. 17 at the Delaware County Fair in Ohio, stopping the timer in 1:52 1/5.

For the year, Thai Hanover has posted four wins, four seconds and a third in 13 races. Two of his seconds came against Frantic Hanover and another came against Melillo. His third came in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes (G3) at Lexington's Red Mile, where he set the tempo before finishing a length behind Signal Caller in a 1:48 4/5 mile. He nearly held for second but was nosed out by Ubrute.

"I never thought I'd have a 2-year-old go in 1:49, and we got 1:49 and finished third," York said. "But he's been consistent all year. He can leave really well, and he still finishes OK. I think he's matured a lot throughout the year. He's nice in the barn, but he was a little bit hard to handle in the paddock on race day. He's getting calmer. The more he races, the more he learns."

The Matron will be Thai Hanover's final start of the campaign.

"We've never raced this far into the year with a 2-year-old," York said. "Hopefully, he continues to mature and grows during the winter and comes back as a nice 3-year-old. That's what we're looking forward to. I feel blessed with him, that's for sure."

Racing begins at 4:30 p.m. at Bally's Dover. In addition to the Matron for 2-year-old male pacers, there will be a \$110,300 Matron for 2-year-old female trotters and \$104,900 Matron for 2-year-old female pacers.

World record matched during Kentucky Sire Stakes finals

By Greg Reinhart

The 2025 Kentucky Sire Stakes season is now complete after eight \$100,000 finals for 2- and 3-year-olds and four \$50,000 races for 4-year-olds transpired on Tuesday afternoon at Cumberland Run.

Two-year-old gelding trotter Silverstein etched his name in the world record book again during the finals, as he won in 1:52 4/5 to equal Amigo Volo's standard for the division on a five-eighths-mile track. Back on October 3 at The Red Mile, Silverstein went 1:51 4/5 to also tie the world record for a rookie gelding trotter on a mile track. David Miller was in the bike behind the Brittany Farms-bred son of Chapter Seven for trainer Matt Burkholder and owner Dark Horse Farm LLC.

Miller also won the 3-year-old filly pace with Three Times Bettor (by Bettor's Delight and bred by Steve Stewart, Conquest Acres Lp and Michael Robinson, paid \$5.18 to win) in 1:50 for trainer Brett Pelling and owner Thaddeus Wier.

Rookie pacing filly Gala, driven by Todd McCarthy, came up just a fifth of a second shy of the world record for her division on a five-eighths-mile track when she took her final in 1:50 1/5. Andrew Harris trains and co-owns Gala, a daughter of Downbytheseaside, with partners William Pollock and Bruce Areman. Diamond Creek Farm bred Gala.

McCarthy also took the final for 2-year-old trotting filies with Naked And Famous (by Six Pack and bred by Carter Duer, paid \$10.42 to win) in 1:54 2/5 for trainer Noel Daley and owner Ctc Stable and the 4-year-old mare trot with Pizelle (by Walner and bred by Brittany Farms, paid \$3.80 to win) in 1:52 4/5 for trainer Carter Pinske and owners Donald Robinson, Michael Robinson,

Harold Bauder and Steve Stewart

Driver Dexter Dunn and trainer Ron Burke each had a pair of victories on the card as well. Dunn annexed the 4-year-old male pace with Women Layer (by Sweet Lou and bred by Carl Howard, paid \$2.10 to win) in 1:49 for trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. and owners Let It Ride Stables Inc., Jeff Fought Racing, Larry Wills and Jesmeral Stable, and then Dunn and Burke joined forces to bag the 3-year-old male pace final with Captain Arturovico (by Captaintreachorous and bred by Randy Zane, paid \$7 to win) in 1:50 for owners Burke Racing Stable LLC., Weaver Brusceci LLC., Larry Karr and Phil Collura.

Winnpanzee (by Gimpanzee and bred by Ola Yoder, paid \$5.18 to win) was the other Burke Brigade victor, as she pocketed the 3-year-old filly trot final in 1:53 for driver Yannick Gingras and owners Burke Racing Stable LLC., Brad Grant and Weaver Brusceci LLC.

Rounding out the rookie and sophomore champions were 2-year-old pacing colt Downbythelakeside (by Downbytheseaside and bred by Joe Sbrocco, paid \$16.76 to win) in 1:50 4/5 for driver Tim Tetrick, trainer Tony Dinges and owner Rick Berks and 3-year-old trotting colt Precise Landing (by Tactical Landing and bred by R. Kevin Greenfield, Michael Creps and R.M. Frank, paid \$35.90 to win) in 1:52 3/5 for trainer/driver Joe Bongiorno and owners Glenn Goller and Stephen Demeter.

Bath Bomb (by Lather Up and bred by Mark Smith, paid \$2.20 to win) scored in 1:50 1/5 for driver Andy McCarthy, trainer Per Engblom and owner Morrison Racing Stables in the 4-year-old mare pace, and the 4-year-old male trot saw Hung Over (by Creatine and bred by co-owner Bluestone Farms, paid \$4.46 to win) deliver in 1:53 4/5 for driver Marvin Luna, trainer Bob Stewart and co-owner Lynda Stewart.

RACE OF THE WEEK

12 DOVER DOWNS THU

1 Mile Pace MATRON STAKES GRADE 3. 2 YEAR OLD COLTS AND GELDINGS. Purse \$122,600

EXACTA - TRIFECTA | \$1 PICK 3 (12-13-14)

1 THAI HANOVER

21:52.1 Q \$8,992
8-1 Jer. Indof 1289-159-168 (102)

b g 2, by Stay Hungry, Tempest Blue Chip by Bettor's Delight
Mitchell L & Erin L York, Cranberry, PA

Last 5 Sts-\$56,035

1:52.1 Del

25 DD 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 13 4 4 1

\$116,891

24 DD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 0 0 0 0

23 DD 0 0 0 0

- Life 13 4 4 1

\$116,891

20 Oct25	3PcD	slv5 ²⁰	281	:57.4	1:25.1	1:55.2	Simpson	45950	5	1 ³	1 ²	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	JFindof	MIYork	281	293	272	301	1:55.2	83	-11 7w	*90	ThaiHv EasyBreeze RelyBright	Down road, all out-5
4 Oct25	10Lx1	fst8 ¹⁰	262	:54.2	1:21.2	1:49.1	INSS	88000	6	1 ²	2 ¹	5 ³	8 ⁶	7 ⁴	4 ¹	JFindof	MIYork	262	281	272	283	1:50.3	99	3w	83.16	BmndBlvdFmthChvShwMYAc	Top, pkt, shft, ang, flat-9
26 Sep25	10Lx1	fst7 ⁷⁰	261	:53.2	1:20.4	1:48.4	Bluegrass	75500	2	1 ²	1 ⁵	1 ³	1 ²	3 ¹	1 ¹	JFindof	MIYork	261	271	272	281	1:49	109		18.22	SigniCal Ubrute ThaiHv	-8
17 Sep25	14Del	fst8 ⁴⁰	264	:55.1	1:23.3	1:52.1	2YR C STDB	48000	5	1 ²	1 ⁵	1 ³	1 ²	3 ¹	1 ¹	JFindof	MIYork	264	282	283	291	1:52.1	100	+0	*120	ThaiHv InAMinute CMIntmgn	-6
5 Sep25	11Phl	fst8 ¹⁰	261	:54.3	1:22	1:49.1	PaSS Final	300000	4	6 ⁷	6 ²	7 ⁶	8 ⁸	1 ²	1 ¹	DaMiller	MIYork	273	282	271	291	1:52.2	96	+0 6w	36.00	FranchHv AlPapi Melillo	-8
29 Aug25	9Mw	fst6 ⁵⁰	273	:55.3	1:23.1	1:52.1	NW2EXTPM	10000	7	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	JFindof	MIYork	273	28	273	29	1:52.1	99		*70	ThaiHv SansSouci SweetLkL	-7
21 Aug25	8Mw	fst7 ⁷⁰	274	:56	1:23.3	1:50	PASS-2YOCG	69182	5	1 ²	2 ¹	2 ²	2 ²	2 ²	2 ²	DaMiller	MIYork	274	282	274	263	1:50.3	105		28.60	FranchHv ThaiHv Antiplynce	-6
14 Aug25	5Phl	fst8 ⁵⁰	271	:55.3	1:23.4	1:51.3	PASS-2YOCG	68783	1	3 ²	3 ²	2 ¹	3 ³	5 ⁹	2 ¹	JFindof	MIYork	273	283	274	292	1:53.2	92	+1 4w	7.40	AlPapi Melillo Apoclypsb	-5

2 FRANTIC HANOVER

21:49.1 (5/8) * \$48,872

b c 2, by Stay Hungry, Francesca by Art Major

Last 5 Sts-\$255,900

1:49.1 Phi 5/8

25 DD 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 11 7 2 0

\$537,590

24 DD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 0 0 0 0

23 DD 0 0 0 0

- Life 11 7 2 0

\$537,590

20 Oct25	9Wbs	fst4 ¹⁰	27	:54.1	1:21.4	1:48.3	BRDRS CROW	700000	5	6 ⁶	6 ⁷	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	5 ³	4 ¹	TTitrick	RoBurke	281	271	271	263	1:49.1	110	+8 7w	14.60	BeauJngls AlPapi Melillo	3d ov, mildly-10
17 Oct25	9Wbs	fst5 ⁰⁰	26	:54.3	1:22.4	1:49.1	BRDRS CROW	25000	3	3 ³	3 ³	2 ¹	2 ¹	4 ²	3 ¹	TTitrick	RoBurke	263	283	274	264	1:49.4	108	+11 5w	3.65	BeauJngls ShowMYAc Ubrute	Unc, chall, tired-8
4 Oct25	10Lx1A	fst8 ¹⁰	262	:54.2	1:21.2	1:49.1	INSS	88000	7	5 ⁴	6 ⁴	2 ¹	1 ¹	2 ^{hd}	2 ¹	TTitrick	RoBurke	271	28	263	273	1:49.1	110	3w	*17	BmndBlvdFmthChvShwMYAc	Lst ov, led, game 2nd-9
20 Sep25	8Wbs	fst5 ⁷⁰	26	:54.1	1:22.1	1:49.1	Metro	730000	2	1 ¹	2 ¹	3 ²	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	TTitrick	RoBurke	26	282	281	263	1:49.1	108	+9 5w	*80	BeauJngls FranchHv SwtLvL Lou	Pkt, 2nd best-10
13 Sep25	9Wbs	fst6 ⁸⁰	272	:56	1:23.2	1:49.4	Metro	28800	4	3 ³	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ³	1 ³	TTitrick	RoBurke	28	28	272	262	1:49.4	105	+9 9w	*05	FranchHv SuprchHv Tiltchvsc	Bush, handy-6
5 Sep25	11PhlA	fst8 ¹⁰	261	:54.3	1:22	1:49.1	PaSS Final	300000	2	3 ²	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	TTitrick	RoBurke	263	28	272	271	1:49.1	112	+0 6w	*30	FranchHv ThaiHv Antiplynce	-7
29 Aug25	8MwA	fst7 ⁷⁰	274	:56	1:23.3	1:50	PASS-2YOCG	69182	4	3 ³	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	TTitrick	RoBurke	282	273	273	262	1:50	108		*10	FranchHv ThaiHv Antiplynce	-6
14 Aug25	14PhlA	fst8 ¹⁰	271	:55.8	1:26	1:52.1	PASS-2YOCG	94223	1	3 ³	3 ³	3 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	TTitrick	RnBurke	29	293	273	26	1:52.1	97	+1 4w	*40	FranchHv Antiplynce Superchampanover	-5

3 APOCALYPSEBLUECHIP(L)

21:54.1 (1/8) * \$5,239

b c 2, by Papi Rob Hanover, Queen Of Darkness by Roll With Joe

Last 5 Sts-\$28,504

1:54.4 Phi 5/8

25 DD 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 8 1 0 3

\$41,909

24 DD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 0 0 0 0

23 DD 0 0 0 0

- Life 8 1 0 3

\$41,909

1 Nov25	9M1	fst5 ⁰⁰	281	:57.1	1:24.4	1:51.2	KNDRGARTEN	125000	8	2 ¹	4 ²	5 ³	5 ³	3 ²	3 ²	JoBongirn	JoBongirn	282	291	274	263	1:52	90	+5 3w	L27.20	BookieJToastOfThApoclypsb	Pkt, shft, ang, in, stdy-8
9 Oct25	4M1	fst5 ³⁰	284	:56.2	1:23.4	1:51.1	KNDRGARTEN	25000	2	3 ²	3 ²	2 ²	2 ²	3 ³	3 ³	MaKakaley	JoBongirn	284	281	271	273	1:51.4	94	+3 3w	L8.00	BookieJToastOfThApoclypsb	Rail, 2w, btl 3/4, no bid-7
5 Sep25	11Phl	fst8 ¹⁰	261	:54.3	1:22	1:49.1	PaSS Final	300000	5	2 ¹	3 ³	5 ³	5 ⁶	7 ⁴	7 ⁴	JoBongirn	JoBongirn	262	284	272	292	1:52	96	+0 6w	24.60	FranchHv AlPapi Melillo	Sat, ang, in, no bid-7
29 Aug25	14Phl	fst7 ⁶⁰	271	:54.7	1:26.1	1:54.4	CGnw1PM	10050	3	3 ²	1 ¹	1 ³	1 ³	1 ⁴	1 ⁴	CoCallahn	JoBongirn	283	291	282	283	1:54.4	84	+0 8w	*05	Apoclypsb TwtOfLrnm WhskyVerm	-8
21 Aug25	6Mw	fst7 ⁷⁰	:	:	:	:	PASS-2YOCG	69182	5	1 ²	2 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	DaMiller	JoBongirn	271	284	274	281	1:52	96	+1 4w	5.40	AlPapi Melillo Apoclypsb	Tired-6
14 Aug25	5Phl	fst8 ⁵⁰	271	:55.3	1:23.4	1:51.3	PASS-2YOCG	68783	5	1 ²	2 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	DaMiller	JoBongirn	271	284	274	281	1:52	96	+1 4w	8.90	FranchHv AlPapi SuprchHv	Tired-6
3 Aug25	10PcD	fst7 ¹⁰	264	:56.3	1:25	1:51.4	PaSS-2YOCG	69183	1	3 ²	3 ²	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	ANapollin	JoBongirn	271	294	283	264	1:52.2	92	+6 3w	8.90	FranchHv AlPapi SuprchHv	Tired-6

4 CAVIART ANDERS

21:53.3 (1/8) Q \$3,888

b c 2, by Sweet Lou, Caviart Audrey by Somebeachsomewhere

Last 5 Sts-\$13,200

1:53.3 M1Q

25 DD 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 8 0 2 1

\$31,100

24 DD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 0 0 0 0

23 DD 0 0 0 0

- Life 8 0 2 1

\$31,100

20 Oct25	2C6R	fst6 ¹⁰	271	:56.2	1:24	1:52.3	KySS2yocg	40000	1	4 ⁴	3 ³	2 ¹	2 ¹	5 ³	5 ³	ScZeron	NaTakter	28	284	272	29	1:53.1	90	+5 3w	5.30	Downbythl Wncrcls RaysWish	-6
11 Oct25	5C6R	fst6 ⁹⁰	271	:55.1	1:22.4	1:50.4	KySS2yocg	40000	3	1 ¹	2 ²	2 ²	2 ²	2 ²	2 ²	ScZeron	NaTakter	271	282	273	281	1:51.2	110	+8 7w	19.95	ShowMYAc CvrAnders FletchrsF	-7
4 Oct25	1Lx1	fst8 ¹⁰	28	:55.4	1:24.1	1:51.4	2yOnW1pm	10000	6	4 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	1 ³	1 ³	ScZeron	NaTakter	282	272	282	274	1:52	93	3w	*88	FletchrsF Carolina CvrAnders	-9
14 Sep25	4Lx1	fst8 ¹⁰	28	:55.4	1:23.2	1:49.4	KYSS	400000	6	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	ScZeron	NaTakter	292	271	274	27	1:51.2	96		129.50	Ubrute BmndBlvdBeSting	-9
26 Aug25	10Lx1	fst7 ⁴⁰	281	:56.3	1:24.2	1:50.1	KYSS	80000	6	6 ⁶	6 ⁶	5 ³	6 ⁶	6 ¹	6 ¹	AnMcCrthy	NaTakter	292	282	271	281	1:53.1	88		51.16	Ubrute BmndBlvdFunkyBdha	-7
17 Aug25	10Lx1	fst8 ³⁰	271	:55.1	1:23.4	1:50.1	KYSS	80000	4	5 ⁶	5 ⁵	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	AnMcCrthy	NaTakter	282	274	281	27	1:51.2	96		18.00	BmndBlvd Ubrute FunkyBdha	-8
6 Aug25	7Lx1	fst7 ⁴⁰	274	:54.4	1:22.2	1:49.3	KYSS	80000	3	8 ¹¹	9 ¹⁰	9 ⁹	7 ⁸	5 ⁷	5 ⁷	AnMiller	NaTakter	291	273	272	264	1:51	98		n.b	BmndBlvd FunkyBdha Ubrute	-9
27 Jul25	10Lx1	fst9 ⁰⁰	284	:57.2	1:26.2	1:52.3	COMMONWLTH	30000	4	3 ²	3 ³	1 ¹	1 ¹	2 ⁰	2 ⁰	YaGingras	NaTakter	292	283	282	261	1:52.3	92		*185	PapiRck CvrAnders CaptAnle	-8

5 FRAGMENT

21:50 (7/8) \$3,233

b c 2, by Huntsville, The Show Returns by Rocknroll Hanover

Last 5 Sts-\$141,250

1:50 VD 7/8

25 DD 0 0 0 0

- 25 Tot 14 8 2 0

\$52,126

24 DD 0 0 0 0

- 24 Tot 0 0 0 0

23 DD 0 0 0 0

- Life 14 8 2 0

\$52,126

9-2 J. Bartlett 2250-682-398-310 (303)																										
24 Oct25	9Wbs	fst4 ¹⁰	27	:54	1:21	1:48.3	BRDRS CROW	700000	10	10 ¹⁰	10 ¹⁰	10 ⁷	9 ⁸	7 ⁵	7 ⁵	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	279	271	261	1:49.3	106	+8 7w	49.15	BeauJngls AlPapi Melillo	Trail, dull-10
17 Oct25	7Wbs	fst5 ⁰⁰	252	:52.4	1:21	1:48.4	BRDRS CROW	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				
11 Oct25	7Wbs	fst6 ⁵⁰	254	:55.2	1:24	1:50	BIG APPALACHIAN	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				
4 Oct25	8Wbs	fst7 ⁷⁰	27	:55.2	1:24	1:51.1	BIG APPALACHIAN	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				
20 Sep25	8Wbs	fst5 ⁷⁰	26	:54.1	1:22.1	1:49.1	Metro	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				
13 Sep25	6Wbs	fst6 ⁸⁰	261	:55	1:23.2	1:49.3	Metro	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				
6 Sep25	8Wbs	fst6 ⁷⁰	271	:56	1:24	1:52.1	NYSS FIN	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				
24 Aug25	5Tbs	fst4 ¹⁰	27	:56	1:23.2	1:52	NYSS	25000	4	4 ⁵	4 ⁵	4 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	262	272	274	272	1:49				

Inaugural Oak Grove Festival of Racing slated for 2026

Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel, Churchill Downs Incorporated's premier harness facility, announced today the Oak Grove Festival of Racing, a new marquee event debuting in May 2026. The festival will anchor Oak Grove's continued emergence as a leading harness racing destination and will showcase two new signature stakes:

\$500,000 Oak Grove Trotting Derby — for three-year-old trotters

\$300,000 Oak Grove Trotting Oaks — for three-year-old trotting fillies

Elimination races are scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026, following Kentucky Derby weekend at Churchill Downs, with finals on Saturday, May 16, 2026, in conjunction with the Preakness Stakes. Championship Day at Oak Grove will feature more than \$1.25 million in total purses on the live racing program.

The Oak Grove Festival of Racing is a collaborative initiative of Churchill Downs Incorporated, Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel, and the Kentucky Harness Association. In addition to elevating competitive opportunities for horsemen, the festival will include a philanthropic component benefitting key industry and community partners.

"The growth and excitement around Kentucky harness racing have been a bright spot for the entire sport," said Bill Mudd, President and Chief Operating Officer of Churchill Downs Incorporated. "Establishing this signature event further stamps Oak Grove as a premier racing and entertainment destination. With steady growth in purses and race days—and our focus on delivering exceptional fan experiences—the Oak Grove Festival of Racing is an exciting next step."

"Harness racing in Kentucky has seen a spectacular resurgence, fueled by the dynamic and unifying partnership with the teams at Oak Grove and Churchill Downs," said Kenny Jackson of the Kentucky Harness Association. "This alliance has allowed us to reclaim our title as the harness capital of the world. We expect this exciting new event will become the annual kickoff for the sport across North America and beyond and position us to attract new fans and participants to the exciting world of harness racing."

[Click here](#) for more information on the series and eligible horses.

-edited release (Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel)

CANADA'S JAMES MACDONALD TAKES LEAD IN WDC

James MacDonald, who won the 2017 World Driving Championship on his home turf in Canada, on Wednesday (Nov. 5) took the lead at this year's event in New Zealand thanks to a performance that included two wins and a second in five third-round races.

Australia's Gary Hall Jr., who led the 20-race competition after each of the first two rounds, dropped to second following Wednesday's action. Germany's Michael Nimczyk was third. Brett Beckwith, representing the U.S., had a best finish of third in his five third-round drives and was 10th in the standings as the WDC reached the halfway mark.

MacDonald headed into the third round in second, trailing Hall by 13 points, but emerged from Wednesday's races with a 13-point lead. In addition to his two wins and a second, MacDonald had a fourth and a sixth in his five starts.

New Zealand's Blair Orange also enjoyed a big day, picking up a win, two thirds and a fourth (with one scratch) as he jumped from ninth to fourth in the standings.

Ten races remain in the World Driving Championship, which after an off day Thursday in New Zealand resumes action Friday at Addington with four dashes. Racing begins at 5 p.m. at Addington (11 p.m. EST Thursday in the U.S.).

Following the races at Addington, the WDC visits Winton on Nov. 9 before concluding with a single race back at Addington on Nov. 11, New Zealand Cup Day.

To watch replays of the 10 completed WDC races, click [here](#).

Complete information regarding the WDC can be found at the [website](#).

WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Points after 10 of 20 races

James MacDonald (Canada) – 98 / Gary Hall Jr. (Australia) – 85

Michael Nimczyk (Germany) – 69 / Blair Orange (New Zealand) – 68

Sanntu Raitala (Finland) – 62 / Mats Djuse (Sweden) – 57

Giampaolo Minnucci (Italy) – 54 / Pierre Vercruysse (France) – 51

Jaap van Rijn (Netherlands) – 51 / Brett Beckwith (USA) – 46

-by Ken Weingartner

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

RACE 1

(8) EA MUSHU comes off some scary lines but notice that she has improved in each of her last three starts. Highest earning horse in the field knows when she's in cheap and tends to perk up.

-Derick Gwerner



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

RACE 2

(2) ANIBAL DUHARAS tired late in the mile to be second on a night where front-end speed didn't hold. He should have every opportunity to bounce back in this final tonight.

-John Rallis



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 7

(5) TURN THE PAGE N is a quality mare to begin with and now she goes from Cushing to Bartlett; lock city?

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

RACE 3

(5) EVERLAST STING DEO has done good work over this track and really can't be faulted for finishing just fourth at Pocono after missing a month. Short field should set him up for success, perhaps on the engine.

-Gwerner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

Friday

Meadowlands Analysis

Thursday

Friday

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

CAPTAINS QUARTERS TO WINBAK FARM OF CANADA

Winbak Farm of Canada is proud to welcome Metro Pace Champion, North America Cup runner-up, and O'Brien Award Finalist, Captains Quarters, p,2,1:49 3/5s; 3,1:49 1/5s -'24; BT1:47 -'24 (\$971,356) to their stallion roster for 2026.

A son of Captaintreacherous, from Three Diamonds winner, Prescient Beauty, p,2,1:50 4/5 (\$495,860), Captains Quarters is from one of racing's hottest maternal families. His dam is a half-sister to O'Brien and Dan Patch Award winner Sportswriter, p,2, 1:49 2/5s; 3,1:48 3/5s (\$1,649,411), and a full-sister to O'Brien and Dan Patch Award winner Precocious Beauty, p,2, 1:50 1/5s (\$869,920). Precocious Beauty is the dam of Tall Dark Stranger, p,2,1:49 1/5s; 3,1:47 1/5 (\$2,365,549). His maternal family also includes Downbytheseaside, p,2,1:49; 3,1:48 3/5f (\$2,283,068), Swingtowntown, p,2,1:50 1/5; 3,1:49 2/5f -'25 (\$1,356,288), Whichwaytothebeach, p,2,1:51 1/5f; 3,1:49 2/5s; 1:48 4/5s (\$1,057,737), etc.

Captains Quarters won the richest 2-year-old race in North America in 2023, the C\$970,000 Metro Pace, in just his fifth career start, and was Canada's fastest 2-year-old colt pacer of the year, while earning more than \$105,000 per start as a freshman - leading all North American 2-year-olds in the process.

At age 3, Captains Quarters won the fastest elimination of the Pepsi North America Cup and was the runner-up in the C\$1,000,000 final. Other notable performances of his sophomore season included a victory in his heat of the Little Brown Jug, and a third-place finish in the Cane Pace, where he was individually timed in 1:47.

When the two richest Grade I races in Canada - the Metro Pace and the Pepsi North America Cup - were contested in 2023/2024, all of the top colts from both the U.S. and Canada were there. When the dust settled, Dan Patch Award winner Captain Albano and O'Brien Award winner Legendary Hanover, went 0 for 4 versus Captains Quarters.

Between the eliminations and finals for three of pacing's most prominent races, the Metro Pace, the North America Cup and the Little Brown Jug, Captains Quarters netted three wins and two runner-up finishes in six starts, a feat no other colt from his crop could accomplish.

The large majority of Captains Quarters' starts were in signature events, and included races such as the Nassagaweya, the Champlain, the Metro, the Somebeachsomewhere, the Pepsi North America Cup, the Meadowlands Pace, the Cane Pace, the Hempt, The Little Brown Jug, the Tattersalls, and the Breeders Crown.

"I have had my eye on Captains Quarters for a potential stallion prospect since his 2-year-old season. He had the early speed, and has the pedigree and conformation of a champion," said Pat Woods, Manager, Winbak Farm Canada.

"Captains Quarters is the total package. His gait, determination, and stamina made him one of the best freshman pacers I have ever seen. Having driven some of the best 2-year-olds in the business, Captains Quarters is without a doubt at the top of the list for speed and conformation. Ontario is the big winner in securing this pedigree and raw talent," said driver Jody Jamieson.

"Captains Quarters is a superb individual, very sound and good-looking with tremendous speed. His owner pointed him out to me when he was a yearling at Lexington - the package was all there, as he was a very correct individual with a great head and nice eye," cited trainer Herb Holland.

"Captains Quarters was a \$235,000 yearling from Lexington. From day one he's had the presence needed to be a top stallion prospect," said Winbak Farm owner Joe Thomson.

"Captains Quarters will be a great option at a reasonable price for Bettor's Delight and Western Ideal mares. He brings a powerful pedigree to Canada," said Jack Burke, General Manager, Winbak Farm.

Ontario's only son of the great Captaintreacherous, Captains Quarters' introductory fee will be \$5,000 Canadian, with multiple mare discounts available. For bookings, please call 905.838.2145, or email canada@winbakfarm.com for more information.

-edited release (Winbak Farm)

DANCE OF VICTORY TOPS TUESDAY'S STANDARD-BRED HORSE SALE SESSION

HIP 190 Dance Of Victory was just the tenth horse in the ring on Tuesday

morning at the Standardbred Horse Sale, but after going to Ake Svanstedt for \$250,000, she maintained first-place on the leaderboard the remainder of the session.

A daughter of Walner-She Rocks Kemp, Dance Of Victory was consigned by Concord Stud Farm as agent. She is the second foal out of her dam, a daughter of Kadabra who earned \$195,965 and took a mark of 1:54 3/5 during her career.

Behind Dance Of Victory at \$200,000 were HIPs 347 Augusta National, 382 Wouldyoulikeamint and 447 Detonate at \$200,000.

Augusta National, from the first crop of Pebble Beach, consigned by breeder All American Harnessbreds and purchased by Brett Pelling, is a brother to 2-year-old pacing colt Signal Caller, who won at The Red Mile in 1:48 4/5 this year.

Wouldyoulikeamint, who was acquired by agent Andrew Harris and consigned by Icy Stable for breeder Farhi Standardbreds, is by Downbytheseaside and is the third foal out of Double A Mint (\$567,388, 1:47 3/5).

Detonate, bred by Windsong Stable and consigned by Concord Stud Farm as agent, is a Greenshoe brother to stakes winners and now top Ohio stallions In Range and Long Tom. He went to Brixton Medical Inc.

Rounding out the top five sellers on the day was HIP 552 Red Storm Hanover, who Svanstedt got for \$190,000. Bred and consigned by Hanover Shoe Farms, he is by Captain Corey and is the fourth foal out of the Kadabra mare Ready Any Time (1:53, \$177,263).

Through two sessions, the sale is down in both average (\$56,551 v. \$59,605) and gross (\$30,594,000 v. \$31,531,000) year-over-year.

The mixed sale is set to take place Thursday and Friday with both of those sessions kicking off at 11 A.M. (EST).

-Greg Reinhart

SPEED STANDS UP IN POCONO'S WINTER IS COMING SERIES

The Winter Is Coming Series for trotters had its first preliminary Tuesday afternoon at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, and if the times of the winners of the three \$12,500 divisions mean anything - 1:55 3/5, 1:55 4/5, 1:55 4/5 - there should be some excellent competitive trotting on tap right up through the \$20,000 Championship on November 18, the penultimate card of the year at the northeast Pennsylvania track.

The fastest mile of the opening leg of the series (by the slimmest margin possible, as above) went to the Andover Hall mare Tuis Angel, who like many Tuesday winners went out to early command and never surrendered the lead in the 1:55 3/5 victory. Braxten Boyd guided Tuis Angel to victory for trainer David Wiest, who is a co-owner with Pamela Kimmel and James Rappold.

Boyd posted another Winter Is Coming victory with the Muscle Mass gelding Jacked, who was parked past the quarter for the front end and then maintained that position to the finish, winning by a length over determined first-over challenger and favorite Sainthood. Tee Wine conditions the winner, who took a new mark with the 1:55 4/5 victory for Wine Stable and Michael Holland.

Also a 1:55 4/5 winner, and also controlling the pace en route to Victory Lane, was the Andover Hall gelding One After Nine, who won by over five lengths. Jim Pantaleano drove the winner, who eclipsed the quarter million dollar total with the win, for trainer Bucky Angle and owners Howard and Joshua Kauffman.

The richest race of the day, a \$15,500 trot for developing horses, also went in 1:55 4/5, and emerging victorious was the Green Manilishi S sophomore gelding Wendell Blue Chip, winning for trainer Jared Bako and the partnership of Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. and Daniel Zucker. Atypically for the day, driver Colin Kelly was successful with off-the-pace tactics, beating out favored Rothko by three quarters of a length.

Kelly, who began campaigning semi-regularly at Pocono mid-season, was the only winning driver Tuesday who isn't among the track's eight winningest drivers, and the only one who had a single win. Braxten Boyd and Anthony Napolitano had three wins, and meet leader Tyler Buter, George Napolitano Jr., and Jim Panatleano each won twice on the 13-race card.

Racing at Pocono resumes on Saturday at 1 p.m., the seventh-to-last card of the 2025 season, with strong groupings of many divisions of top overnight horses; there will also be a carryover into the last race High 5 wager. Free Pocono program pages are or will be available at www.phha.org.

-edited release (Pocono/PHHA)