

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

2026 Stakes Calendar

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JACKPOT HI-5

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FEBRUARY 14TH, 2025
RACE 11

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Jay Bergman: Harness racing needs to bring fans to the edge of their seats
- Darin Zoccali: Making the PK8 more bettor-friendly; Man scores for \$10K on a \$1 ticket
- Alexander hopes to come out strong on Pocono's opening card
- Miller eclipses Campbell as harness racing's all-time money-winning driver
- Best Bets & Analysis
- Mandatory Hi-5 payout at Mohawk
- Carryovers on tap at Hoosier Thursday
- Big M releases stakes schedule; moves post time to 6 PM
- Stakes payments due Feb. 15
- Comments? Questions? Email the Editor DGiwner@DRF.com

Month	Stakes	Purse
May	\$500,000 MGM Borgata	\$500,000 Oak Grove Derby
June	\$1,000,000 North America Cup	
July	\$800,000 Meadowlands Pace	\$350,000 Delvin Miller Adios
August	\$1,000,000 Hambletonian	\$300,000 Carl Milstein \$2.2 Million Pocono Sun Stakes
September	\$1,000,000 International Trot	\$600,000 Little Brown Jug
October	\$475,000 Kentucky Futurity	\$1,000,000 Mohawk Million \$7,200,000 Breeders Crown
November		\$2.65 Million in Big M stakes
December		\$500,000 MGM Grand Prix Finals



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner
@harnesseveguy

Some groundhogs may've predicted six more weeks of winter, but spring is in the air for owners and trainers of Standardbreds as they mull over stakes payments ahead of the looming February 15 deadline (which could actually be February 17 since the 15th is a Sunday and 16th is a holiday).

While we can spend all day arguing what constitutes a Grand Circuit race, for my money the 2026 stakes season starts on May 2 and we are going to guide you through the calendar so you can circle some dates and begin to get excited about the slate of races. There are some additions to the calendar, some movement in the stakes, and the usual conflicts that will require fans and bettors to fire up multiple devices to keep up with the action.

MAY – ALL EYES ON OAK GROVE

The Grand Circuit calendar kicks off with the traditional 3-year-old trotting event known as the Dexter Cup, which moved to The Meadowlands last year after a long run at Freehold Raceway. There was hope that the venue switch as well as the change to dropping the elimination format would bring renewed life to the race. That still remains a possibility but one that was certainly dimmed by the addition of the Oak Grove Trotting Derby, an elimination (May 4) and finals (May 16) format race with split division for fillies (\$300,000) and Open foes (\$500,000). The Open final figures to offer a purse that is three times the Dexter Cup and could dilute the field for that race.

Other major races to watch in May include:

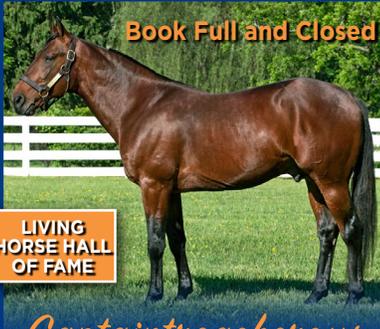
MGM Borgata and newly renamed Ursula McIntyre Finals for older pacers at Yonkers Raceway on May 8

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

Foureverb Boy
p,4,l:48.2.f (\$1,145,837).

The ONLY son of
SWEET LOU
to stand in Maine

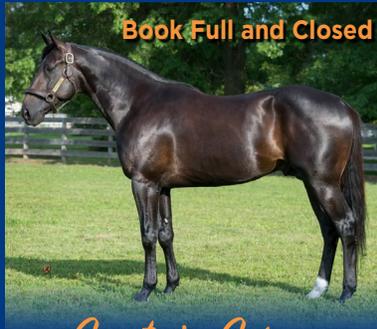
FoureverbBoy.com



Book Full and Closed

Captaintreacherous

Somebeachsomewhere - Worldly Treasure - Artsplace
p, 3, 1:47.1M (\$3,148,657)



Book Full and Closed

Captain Corey

Googoo Gaagaa - Luv U All - Angus Hall
3, 1:51.0F (\$1,090,333)



\$10,000

Greenshoe

Father Patrick - Designed To Be - Donato Hanover
3, 1:49.4M (\$1,353,772)



\$4,000

International Moni

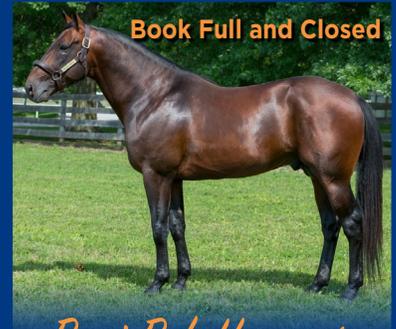
Love You - Moni Maker - Speedy Crown
2, 1:53.1M; 3, 1:51.4M (\$775,463)



\$7,500

Nuncio

Andover Hall - Nicole Isabelle - Lindy Lane
3, 1:50.4M (\$3,645,363)
(Frozen semen only. Foals not Pennsylvania eligible.)



Book Full and Closed

Papi Rob Hanover

Somebeachsomewhere - Panera Hanover - Rockroll Hanover
p, 3, 1:47.1F (\$927,979)



\$8,000

Sig Sauer

Muscle Hill - Sigilwig - Donato Hanover
2, 1:53.3, 3, 1:49.3 (\$1,151,312)



\$6,000

Stay Hungry

Somebeachsomewhere - My Little Dragon - Dragon Again
p, 3, 1:47.3M (\$1,303,709)



\$5,000

Tall Dark Stranger

Bettor's Delight - Precocious Beauty - Art Major
p, 3, 1:47.1M (\$1,741,645)



\$6,000

Volume Eight

Chapter Seven - Lass A Rope - Encore Encore
2, 1:52.0M (\$434,002)

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A.J. Cutler Memorial for older trotters at The Meadowlands on May 16
 Charles Juranvinski Memorial for 4-year-old pacers at Flamboro Downs on May 17
 Trio of \$100,000 Invitationals for older pacers and trotters on May 24 at Harrah's Philadelphia
 Camluck Classic for older pacers at Western Fair on May 29
 Somebeachsomewhere for 3-year-old pacers and start of Graduate series for 4-year-olds at Woodbine Mohawk Park on May 30
 Start of the Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Ontario, New York and Indiana Sire Stakes for 3-year-olds

JUNE – BEST 3-YEAR-OLD PACERS STEP UP

North America Cup night at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 13 is clearly the featured event on the calendar for the month. In addition to the C\$1 million event for 3-year-old pacers, there will be a number of other top stakes on the special program. The sophomore class will also be highlighted less than two weeks later when Yonkers Raceway hosts the Messenger and Yonkers Trot finals on June 26 to commence the Triple Crown on both gaits.



Other June races:

Battle of Lake Erie with a boosted \$250,000 purse (up from \$200,000) for older pacers at Northfield Park on June 6
 Empire Breeders Classic for 3-year-old trotters on June 12 at Vernon Downs

JULY – BIG M ADDS SECOND HUGE NIGHT

The Meadowlands shakes things up this July by moving four stakes races for older pacers and trotters that were carded on the last Saturday in June to the fourth of July. Fireworks on the track are guaranteed with those races joined by the Meadowlands Pace eliminations and more importantly, perhaps, the Graduate finals, because none of the 4-year-olds in that series will be able to compete against older combatants in the relocated Crawford, Brower, Six Pack and Perfect Sting stakes. You also have to wonder if nominations to those races will take a hit due to the move.



The Meadowlands will remain in the spotlight the following week with a mega-card headlined by the Meadowlands Pace (with a boosted purse courtesy of added payments this year) and also featuring most of the Hambletonian-bound 3-year-old trotters in the Stanley Dancer and stakes for just about every age and gait other than 2-year-olds.

Another key note for July is that the Adios Pace at The Meadows for 3-year-old pacers won't be the same day as the Hambletonian eliminations for the first time in recent memory.

Other July Races:

Next Generation for 2-year-olds at Scioto Downs on July 4
 Quartet of \$100,000 races on July 18 at Scioto Downs
 Spirit of Massachusetts for 3-year-old and up trotters on July 19 at Plainridge Park
 Zweig Memorial at Vernon Downs for 3-year-old trotters on July 19
 Sire Stakes for 2-year-olds begin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2026 BREEDING SEASON STARTS

Monday, February 16th

Standing 27 Stallions in 6 Areas



ONTARIO PACERS

Beach Glass
 Betterthancheddar
 Betting Line
 Captain's Quarters*
 Lawless Shadow
 McWicked
 Tattoo Artist

ONTARIO TROTTERS

My MVP
 Trixton

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Artspeak (Kingsmen Equine)

NEW YORK PACERS

Courtly Choice
 Madden Oaks*
 Nijinsky*

NEW YORK TROTTERS

Father Patrick*
 Maryland*
 Met's Hall
 Six Pack

MARYLAND PACERS

Getitoffyourchest*
 Wearinmysixshooter

MARYLAND TROTTER

Thunderously*

OHIO PACER

Heston Blue Chip* (Sugar Valley Farm)

DELAWARE PACERS

He's Watching
 Nutcracker Sweet
 Sports Column

DELAWARE TROTTERS

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 Molotov Cocktail
 Top Flight Angel

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AUGUST – HAMBO DAY ISN'T THE FIRST SATURDAY IN AUGUST



A little-known fact is that the Hambletonian is always on the first Saturday in August unless the first Saturday falls on August 1. In that case it moves to August 8. Could this be the last Hambletonian Day at The Meadowslands with the race moving to another location in 2027? I still believe it will stay put, but not sure I'm putting a ton of money on it via Kalshi. Obviously Hambo Day has everything you could want in a stakes card and is highlighted by the \$1,000,000 final for the best 3-year-old trotters. Eliminations take place on August 1.

The rest of the month looks similar to 2025 and lays out as follows:

- August 3 – Grand River: Battle of Waterloo & Battle of the Belles for 2-year-olds
- August 14 – Hoosier Park: Dan Patch for older pacers + new Rockin Nola for older pacing mares
- August 15 – Northfield Park: Carl Milstein Memorial for 3-year-old pacers
- August 22 – Pocono Downs: Sun Stakes with \$2 million plus in stakes and Invitationals for 3-year-olds and older
- Charlottetown Driving Park: Gold Cup & Saucer
- August 29 – Woodbine Mohawk Park: Four stakes for 2-year-olds highlighted by the William Wellwood Memorial and Peaceful Way
- August 30 – Tioga Downs: Empire Breeders Classic for 3-year-old pacers

SEPTEMBER – BUSIER THAN RUSH HOUR IN LOS ANGELES

September is arguably the most congested month on the calendar, not just due to the number of stakes and where they fall but also because there are Sire Stakes finals for New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky going on. Neither of the September schedule clashes in 2026 are new. The \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot and Bob Miecuna Invitational fall on the same date (September 12) as the Charlie Hill at Scioto Downs (the track also has the Jim Ewart Memorial for older pacers that night). All three races are for older trotters and with Yonkers seemingly moving post time to 3:30 PM, the cards will likely overlap as well; a change for this year. The other conflict is with the 2-year-old trotters as the historic Peter Haughton and Jim Doherty take place at Harrah's Hoosier Park on September 18 followed by the Kentucky Sire Stakes finals on the 20th at The Red Mile and the Mohawk Million at Woodbine Mohawk Park on September 26. One of these years we'll solve this problem...but I doubt it.



The September 26 date at Woodbine Mohawk Park deserves special mention as it not only includes the C\$1 million Mohawk Million but also the C\$1 million Metro for 2-year-old pacers, Canadian Trotting Classic for 3-year-old trotters, and a couple more stakes with C\$300K-plus purses.

More stakes of note:

- Woodbine Mohawk Park hosts the rich Canadian Pacing Derby and Maple Leaf Trot for older competitors on September 5
- The Meadowslands showcases 2- and 3-year-old trotters and pacers in the New Jersey Classic finals on September 11
- The Delaware County Fair rolls into Ohio on September 20 and the

highlights are the Juliette for 3-year-old filly pacers on the 23rd and the Little Brown Jug one day later. That card also has the Miss Versatility final for older trotting mares.

The biggest card of the year at Harrah's Hoosier Park is on September 25 with at least eight stakes being offered. The Caesars Trotting Classic for older trotters is the featured event.

OCTOBER – THE CROWN IS BACK IN OHIO

October is always about the Breeders Crown and perhaps more so in 2026 with the series returning to Ohio for the first time this century. Scioto Downs will host eliminations on the 16th and 17th ahead of the finals on the 23rd and 24th. All eyes will be focused on the Buckeye state for two weeks and rightfully so.

It is worth pointing out that the second week of Grand Circuit action at The Red Mile falls in some divisions less than a week before the Crown races for those age groups. The 2-year-old colt pacers and filly trotters (International Stallion Stakes) along with the older horses (Allerage) will all have to come back in six days if they want to race in both events. I can see some horses skipping the second week of The Red Mile or maybe skipping both weeks considering how busy the calendar is in September. It's a shame that a slight schedule adjustment couldn't be made.



Other races to watch:

- The Red Mile has the Bluegrass series for 2- and 3-year-olds on October 1 to 3
- The biggest night of the year at Dayton is October 3 with four Dayton Derby races for older trotters and pacers
- The Big Apple Trot and Pace finals for 2-year-olds are on tap for October 9 at Vernon Downs
- The Kentucky Futurity (3-year-old trotters) stakes-filled card occurs on October 11 at The Red Mile
- Harrah's Hoosier Park has its final big card of the year on October 30 with a quartet of six-figure stakes for 3-year-olds
- Meadowlands closes out the month with the Kindergarten finals for 2-year-olds on Halloween
- Plus Sire Stakes finals for Ontario and Indiana

NOVEMBER – ONE FINAL SHOW AT THE MEADOWLANDS

While there are a scattering of stakes through November, The Meadowslands has the final major card of the year on November 14 when it offers up eight stakes. The Fall Final Four for 2-year-olds along with the FanDuel finals for older horses (plus 3-year-olds that enter) are on a card that should sport about \$3 million in purses.

Dover Downs is the other track to watch with the Matrons for 2-year-olds on November 5 and the 3-year-olds on November 12, plus the Progress Pace for sophomore pacers on the 25th.

DECEMBER – YONKERS CLOSES OUT THE STAKES YEAR

The only Grand Circuit-caliber stakes races in December take place on closing night of the meet at Yonkers Raceway. The tracks hosts the MGM Grand Prix for older trotters and pacers on December 18.

After that we regroup and start dreaming about what 2027 has to offer. That is still 11 months away and hopefully this year has plenty of great races and horses to offer.

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PAYMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 15*

One list and one check keeps your horses eligible to these top events.



3-year-old Trotters

Arden Downs
Balmoral Park
Battle of Bunker Hill Trot
Breeders Crown
Carl Erskine
Circle City
Colonial / Oaks
Crossroads of America
Currier & Ives
Delmonica Hanover
Dexter Cup
Earl Beal Jr. Memorial
Hambletonian / Oaks
Hazel Park
Horseman
Keystone Classics
Landmark
Liberty Bell
Matron Series
Pegasus Series
Pennsylvania All-Stars
Phil Langley Memorial
Pompano Park
W.N. Reynolds Memorial
John Simpson Sr. Memorial
Thanksgiving Classic Series
Tompkins-Geers
MGM Yonkers Trot

Open Events

Breeders Crown
Caesar's Trotting Classic
Clara Barton Distaff Pace
Dan Patch
Dayton Trotting & Pacing Derbies
Dayton Distaff & Oaks Derbies
E.T. Gerry Jr. Hambletonian
Maturity (4-year-old only)
Hoosier Park Pacing Derby
Rockin Nola *NEW*
Spirit of Massachusetts Trot

3-year-old Pacers

The Delvin Miller Adios /Adioo Volo
Balmoral Park
Breeders Crown
Cane Pace
Circle City
Hazel Park
Horseman
James Lynch Memorial
Jenna's Beach Boy
Keystone Classics
Landmark
Liberty Bell
Matron Series
Max Hempt Memorial
MGM Grand Messenger Stakes
Monument Circle
Paul Revere Pace
Pegasus Series
Pennsylvania All-Stars
Pompano Park
Progress Pace
W.N. Reynolds Memorial
John Simpson Sr. Memorial
Thanksgiving Classic Series
Tompkins-Geers
USS Indianapolis Mem.

2-year-old Events

Breeders Crown
Kentuckiana Stallion Mgt. Pace
Kentuckiana Stallion Mgt. Trot
Breeders Crown Win & You're In Races
Jim Doherty Memorial
Peter Haughton Memorial

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Harness Racing needs to bring fans to the edge of their seats



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

Are we being entertained?

The spectacle of the Super Bowl is unmatched in society today. To call it just a sporting event would diminish its goal in reaching both sporting fans and those unfamiliar with the gridiron. Though already exceedingly popular, the NFL never seems to stop in its attempt to broaden its market. The game of football is a part, and though it hasn't been altered dramatically over time, changes have been made to help make it more entertaining.

Anyone who took notice of the 2025 regular season couldn't help but see a flurry of action in the final two minutes where often both teams would score points. Late-game heroics make the game more exciting and recognizing that there's always a chance your team can come back insures maximum interest.

Harness racing is not football, but it too has survived a long time and continues to be played out across North America and in other locations worldwide that the NFL is currently in the process of mining.

Is their audience our audience?

Perhaps at one time there could have been crossover when harness racing was a spectator sport. As football gained popularity through television exposure, harness racing's closed-circuit network provided a vehicle for those unable to go to the track but was limited in its reach. It's hard to say what those limitations cost the sport since attendance became something that couldn't be measured and there were no television ratings to capture how much of the audience was retained or lost.

Yet, as we move forward, hopefully in 2026 the world has changed and perhaps harness racing hasn't changed enough. I marvel to see the nuances the NFL adds to its production, never resting on its laurels and thinking that its popularity is assured. Harness racing hasn't made many if any modifications to its product in the years I've been associated with it, and that's a long time! The races are still conducted at the same distance. The times of the races are faster but it's hard to quantify if that's positive to the experience or negative. The races are run differently, and in that sense, has that change been better or worse for the sport?

The way races are contested has evolved over time and therefore one can't say there was any plan in mind when sulkies changed and driving styles changed. The evolution of standardbred horses is also said to have been a factor in how fast and far our horses can go without apparently slowing down. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the time I first went to a racetrack, horses traveled slower than they do today, but did anybody watching the races notice or care in the least? The answer is likely no because world records were lower and time was relevant to those standards.

As we have theoretically evolved over time and adapted to new equipment and perhaps a different quality of genetically improved standardbred, the changes on the racetrack have led down a road that continues to struggle for attention in a world that seeks more eyeballs every day.

Why are people outside of this sport not paying attention to what we are providing?

It would be easy to say we don't spend enough on marketing. It would be easy to say there are other forms of gambling that have overwhelmed the population. It would be easy to say that racetracks are more interested in

alternate forms of gambling as their main form of business and therefore haven't the interest. While all of those play a part in where we are today, I feel the loss of focus on providing a product that is captivating and entertaining is at the head of the list. As someone that truly loves the sport and has been willing to accept its flaws along the way from that affection, it's hard to witness what we put out these days and not believe we haven't shot ourselves in the hoof.

It's not lost on me that drivers have one obligation to the trainers and owners they provide service for and that is win races. In today's sport that means drivers take horses to the front and keep going. Fields get stretched to the point that cameras must pan out to squeeze the last horses into focus. That imagery alone should have been enough for someone to recognize how badly the product looks when horses shrink right in front of our eyes.

There's plenty of better technology available today that could help make the action appear more intense on the screen, but it would be a wasted investment if the product itself wasn't altered in a major way first. The speed favoring, stretched-out field, lack of movement races we are being force fed today can't be made to look better without some serious modifications put in place. Perhaps the mile distance in 99 percent of our races needs to be adjusted. That script is old and is due for a rewrite.

From my perspective the game has changed because horses on the front end no longer tire in the final quarter. The ability of horses to close and make up ground in the stretch is what has been compromised by that over time and tipped the balance of winners to the speed. A healthy sport provides close finishes and duels in the final stages for the fans to enjoy. The basis for a great event is a final two-minutes or 10 seconds of action with most of the audience having an interest in the outcome. It's the part of the event that has people cheering on the edge of their seats. While many other sports still provide that with regularity, in harness racing it happens way too infrequently.

I never watched Bad Bunny until last Sunday and that his show was incredibly entertaining sparked a memory of mine. I recalled a time when a "rabbit" was part of some races. I remember watching a few track and field events and witnessing a runner going extremely fast leading a field in a middle-distance race. I was confused at first why anyone would employ this strategy only to find out that the runner was only in the race to assure a fast pace and would drop out midway in the event allowing the other runners to compete to the finish.

A "rabbit" or pacesetter if you will, might be a better answer for our sport if we want to shed the image of no-action in a race. Certainly, there would be no need to try to explore drivers to not slow down during the second quarter if in fact they had to try to keep pace with a runaway leader. The idea would be to have one horse designated with the letter "X" to start from inside the starting gate ahead of the field at the outset. This horse would go as fast as it could for the first half-mile of a race that was contested at a mile and a quarter and then leave the track to the inside. At worst the fast pace would help change the dynamics in the final three quarters of the race. It wouldn't give luxury to the front-end horses. The longer distance could do its part in helping horses chasing the speed get tired in the final quarter and thus allowing those reserved from well off the pace to make up ground and produce an exciting finish.

I for one would like to see our racing product look more appealing on a regular basis. I would love to see more wagering variables that realistically could help increase the payoffs so that we can at least compete for the gambling dollar. It is not possible to stay the course if change doesn't occur.

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CAPTAIN OPTIMISTIC

(Captaintreacherous - Cinamony - Art Official) p,2,1:49; 3,1:48 -'25 (\$1,573,723)



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- U A **\$160,000 yearling**, his dam is a 1/2 sister to N.A. Cup winner **Fear The Dragon** p,3,1:48.4s (\$1,720,297).
- U Winner of the **Governor's Cup** at age two, as well as eliminations for the Metro Pace and Breeders Crown.
- U Winner of the **Cane Pace** and **Bluegrass Stakes** at age three, as well as his elimination for the North America Cup.

PERFECT STING

(Always B Miki - Shebestingin - Bettors Delight) p,2,1:49.2; 3,1:48.1 (\$1,861,447)



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- U The sire of Kindergarten Series winner **BOOKIE J** p,2,1:51.1 -'25 (\$288,905).
- U The sire of NJ Classic Champion **PERFECT THOUGHT** p,2,1:51.1 -'25 (\$272,961).
- U The sire of NJSS Champion **BE PERFECT BG** p,2,1:50.1 -'25 (\$166,803).

SIX PACK

(Muscle Mass - Pleasing Lady - Cantab Hall) 3,1:49.1 (\$1,973,661)



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- U His 2YOs earned over \$1.2 million in 2025 ...an **average/starter of \$46,350**.
- U The sire of 2025 Hambletonian Champion **NORDIC CATHER S** 3,1:50 -'25 (\$1,124,113).
- U The sire of 2025 Peaceful Way Champion **SUGAR PACKET** 2,1:53.3s -'25 (\$327,147).

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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [X AtTheTrack7](#)

Making the PK 8 more bettor friendly

Last Friday, The Meadowlands unveiled their newest wager, a pick-8 with a one-dollar minimum base wager. However, this wager was implemented with the support of Peter Kleinhans. That support came in the form of \$50,000 of Kleinhans' own money which was used to "seed" the pool.

First and foremost, hats-off to The Meadowlands and especially Kleinhans for going out on a limb and trying something new. I have repeatedly written columns about the troubling handle trend and the more troubling apparent inaction by the industry to fight that trend. The Meadowlands has often led the industry in adjusting their wagering schedule or format and trying new things and Kleinhans' mission to step up and try to help the industry with something new is worthy of appreciation and praise.

Part of the lure for this wager, in addition to the \$50,000 used to seed the pool, is the fact that this wager likely will not appeal to CAW (Computer Assisted Wagering) players. A one-dollar base wager spread across eight races produces math that is simply not going to be appealing to the CAW algorithms. There are just so many potential outcomes. The mathematical edge that they enjoy in other pools does not exist here.

All the above is the positive for this wager, but there are also some drawbacks that we can try to address.

First and foremost, an eight-race wager with a \$1 minimum base amount is an extremely difficult wager to hit. For example, last Friday there were seven 10-horse fields and one eight-horse field in the sequence. That means to cover every possible scenario, a ticket would cost \$80 Million ($(10^7) \times 8$). Any wager with 80 million possible outcomes is one that is not going to be particularly appetizing. It's essentially a lottery ticket. Sure, the \$50,000 should help somewhat and it did benefit one player that successfully had seven winners in the sequence. That person took home \$13,561 which was over \$8,500 more than the \$4,998 that was wagered into the pool. It was later revealed that 25 percent of the "seed" money combined with the new money was paid out on the first sequence. Going forward only 25 percent of the actual handle in the pool will be paid.

It is key that there was only \$4,998 wagered into the pool. The fact that there were 80 million possible outcomes was undoubtedly a major catalyst. The concerning thing for me was, this was a look at a wager that likely did not attract CAW play. So, seeing less than \$5,000 in there raises other concerns. I wonder what a Pick 4 pool would look like if it did not permit CAW play. Seeing that number certainly raised that question in my mind, in fact it was the first thought that I had.

Now that we have seen the first night of the wager, the question is what are the inefficiencies and how can it be improved the next time someone wants to try something like this?

The overall concept of the wager has both positive and negative elements to it. It is likely to produce a carryover pool, which it did, to the tune of \$40,684, but that is the main objective. While that is a good selling point each night in theory, the bet is basically designed for players not to win for an extended period of time and tie up money. If a wager produces a carryover from one night to the next, that is great across the board. It is good for horseplayers and a great selling point. But, tying up money for a month or multiple months is taking money out of the handle churn cycle and just holding it for a long period of time. That is a big negative.

Any carryover is the holding of wagered dollars. It is not handle that is being redistributed amongst the players and thus "churned" back through the windows. So, when we see a \$100,000 carryover, that is \$100,000 worth of horseplayer money that has been held because there was not a winning ticket. So, when a wager is designed to have a carryover, it effectively means it is designed with the expectation that people will not win.

The positive thing about this pool is it is not a jackpot situation. If two people have eight winners, they split the total pool. They are not getting just a sliver of the total amount in the pool. But the question is, how do you design a wager with a goal of the pool building each night, without it being a "jackpot" where there can only be one winner?

The Meadowlands designed the wager so 25 percent of the pool will always be paid out to the person with the most winners, essentially a consolation format, similar to a pick six. But with \$4,998 wagered into the

pool, the bettors did not seem to respond to this particularly well.

There is one thing I believe The Meadowlands can do to take this a step further and it is admittedly a bit rough and convoluted. The takeout rate is 15 percent. It would be hard to lower that amount and still get all the locations importing The Meadowlands signal to carry the wager. But, what if The Meadowlands on any night the pool is not paid out in full, did not take a commission on the wager and they also put that money back into the pool as seed, which effectively would lower the takeout.

In other words, if The Meadowlands charges four percent for its signal, every dollar that it make off that four percent on this wager goes into the carryover pool and allows the money to help build the pool as well, while also effectively reducing the takeout rate further. If The Meadowlands is charging four percent, the effective takeout rate would be around 11 percent, not including money wagered on-track into the pool, in which The Meadowlands would be putting all 15 percent of that amount back into the pot.

On \$5,000 in handle, this would cost The Meadowlands somewhere between \$200 and \$300, but I believe the gesture and subsequent positive perception gained by taking this another step forward would outweigh the few hundred dollars lost and is an interesting concept that could have legs in other pools as well.

A snag to the suggestion could be the deal Kleinhans has with the track to recoup some of his money. Maybe they can split the baby and half could go to Kleinhans and the other half back into the pool. Or maybe the money only funnels in until the carryover reaches a certain amount.

Either way, I commend The Meadowlands and especially Peter Kleinhans for taking a shot here and hope it gains momentum and leads to more outside-the-box thinking and implementations into wagering formats in harness racing.

PK 8 DETAILS

- \$1 minimum bet
- Wager spans races 3-10
- If a player picks all eight winners and possesses the only ticket, they take the entire pool. If there are multiple winners, the pool will be split among those with eight correct
- When the bet is not hit, 25 percent of the new money in the pool will be paid out to those with the most winners, with 75 percent of the pool carrying over

\$1 TICKET ALMOST TAKES DOWN PK 8

By Derick Giwner

Selecting eight consecutive winners is a daunting task for any handicapper and the concept of the new PK 8 wager at The Meadowlands is certainly counting on that fact. Then along comes Darrell Griswold, who reached out to DRF Harness this week with the news that he was the lone person to have the seven winners and took home \$10,307 after taxes.

That Mr. Griswold took home the prize was amazing because he did so with just a single \$1 ticket. That's right, he selected seven of the eight winners cold!

"My first thought was that I would never play this Pick 8 just because I thought it was too hard. I am a big player of the Pick-3's and also the Pick 4's but stay away from anything more," wrote Griswold via email. "Just for fun last Friday night I decided to play the Pick 8 but only to spend \$1.00. I missed the first race (my pick ran second), so I didn't even pay attention to the rest of them until I saw a deposit of \$10,307.40 deposited to my account! At first I thought it was a mistake, so I tried to take money out of the account and it went through."

Griswold, who made the wager from his home in Florida, is a retired police officer who told us that he used to work security at Rosecroft Raceway. He dabbled in horse ownership for a while but said he got out because it got too expensive.

While Griswold didn't reveal if he would be betting another \$1 ticket again this Friday in the hopes lightning would strike twice, he did make a tongue-in-check promise to Peter Kleinhans, who put up the \$50,000 in seed money for the wager.

"Tell [Peter Kleinhans] I will wait for the pool to reach a million dollars before I hit it again," said Griswold.



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Alexander hopes to come out strong on Pocono's opening card



DERICK GIWNER

Pacers and trotters will make their first go of 2026 around the Pocono oval on Saturday.

By Jay Bergman

Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania kicks off its 2026 racing season on Saturday afternoon with a power-packed 13-race program. The afternoon card that begins at 1:00 p.m. (EST) offers a wide array of talent, with top horsemen returning to the Wilkes-Barre-based five-eighths track for another season.

Trainer Travis Alexander annually ranks at the top of conditioners, and his stable is well-prepared with five in the box and slated for action.

"I've got 60 horses training in Pennsylvania and 60 down here in Florida," Alexander said, referring to his racehorses in the North and his returning stock that includes 2 and 3-year-olds as well as some prominent older pacers putting in the finishing touches before returning north.

The popular Game Of Claims series kicks off with five divisions dominating the Pocono first offering and Alexander utilizing the depth in his stable to have three horses entered in the five \$15,000 divisions of the series for \$25,000 base claimers.

"I think it's a great series," said Alexander. "It's great if you have overnight horses and I expect we will be active during it."

The Game of Claims is very much a game as trainers and owners enter horses in the series knowing or expecting that horses will get claimed. Alexander understands the risk, but his owners are also looking to not just give up horses but take as well during the series.

"I'm glad they stretched out the series this year," said Alexander, referring to different levels of the Game of Claims series being offered later in the meet as opposed to on top of one another during the early weeks of the meet.

Alexander is hopeful that Reigning Deo (post 6) will get his meet started in fine fashion in the opener on the card. The now 10-year-old with \$659K banked during his career ships in from Yonkers for the first of the five Game of Claims divisions.

"He hasn't had much luck at Yonkers this year. I'm hoping the change will help him," said Alexander. Reigning Deo has been in with \$30,000 claimers at Yonkers and drops a notch on Saturday.

Rjs Red Devil (post 2) faces some veteran performers in Saturday's second race, a non-winners of \$6,700 in last five starts. "He's a very talented horse," said Alexander. "He hit a knee in his last start at Yonkers and that's why he made the break."

A 4-year-old by Huntsville, Rjs Red Devil earned \$129K as a sophomore with four wins in 17 tries, and Alexander said the five-eighths track suits him better. The gelding's last victory came over the five-eighths at Harrah's Philadelphia in November. In Saturday's race the homebred is the youngest horse in the field of eight.

A stable favorite, Downrightdelicious returns to action after recovering from injury in Saturday's seventh race and third Game of Claims division. "I thought this would be a good spot for his first start," said Alexander, placing Downrightdelicious at the \$25,000 level. "He qualified as well as we could have expected since we really didn't have much

opportunity to train him hard."

Downrightdelicious, according to Alexander, is one of driver Matt Kakaley's favorite horses and he'll steer him on Saturday from post five.

Stare Me Down (post 8) in Saturday's ninth race has been a very unlucky horse and Alexander is hoping is trouble is behind him now. "He lost an eye last year and has struggled a bit since then," said Alexander of the 4-year-old by Always B Miki. Third in his last two starts in the claiming ranks at Yonkers Stare Me Down has the talent to overcome the outside draw.

In Saturday's \$27,500 Winners Over \$25,000 event and co-feature on the program, Alexander sends out The Greek Freak (post 2) for the tenth race. "The starting and stopping at Yonkers has been a problem for him and he's choked a few times," said Alexander of the 9-year-old son of Captaintreacherous who was perhaps compromised by the added distance of the Grand Prix final. "The slow pace in the MGM Grand Prix consolation (December 19) was rough on him."

The tenth race has attracted a solid field of seven, with MGM Grand Prix third-place finisher Catalpa Rescue A (post 7) making his 2026 debut. The imported son of American Ideal qualified back for action on Monday (February 9), capturing a qualifier in 1:55 2/5.

Trainers Per Engblom and Enrico Robinson both have a pair of horses in this event with Engblom's Pinny Tiger A (post 3) seeking his second straight win of the year following a blistering 1:50 4/5 victory at The Meadows on January 31. Robinson's Hunting Zone (post 6) was a 10-time winner in 2025 and returns for his 2026 debut following a solid 1:53 4/5 qualifying mile at The Meadowlands on February 6.

Alexander is excited about how Howlenthedhills and Sweet Beach Life are training back in Florida. The pair are being pointed towards the Borgata Series at Yonkers. "They are 5-year-olds now and are bigger and stronger," said Alexander.

Super Champ Hanover, fourth in last year's Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship, is training well for his sophomore season. "He's really developed and we are going to stake him heavily," said Alexander of the son of Sweet Lou that showed high speed as a freshman but made some untimely breaks along the way.

A sophomore we didn't see in in 2025 but should be debuting soon is Nothing Matters. "She didn't race last year but I think she has plenty of ability," said Alexander.

A daughter of Captaintreacherous, Nothing Matters is the first foal from a sister to a former Alexander standout American Courage. Speaking of American Courage, a limited first crop of 2-year-olds is currently in training with Alexander in Florida. Though somewhat biased, Alexander said, "They all have his gait and determination. We'll have to wait and see about the speed."

Alexander also mentioned a colt from the first crop of Back Of The Neck that he expects to be a player in New York Sire Stake action this summer.

Pocono will race on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday afternoons through May, adding Sundays on May 31.



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Miller eclipses Campbell as all-time leading money-earning driver

By Greg Reinhart

David Miller became the all-time leader in earnings by a driver in harness racing history after a pair of third-place finishes to begin the Wednesday afternoon (2/11) program at Miami Valley Raceway.

"It means quite a bit. It is quite an accomplishment and I never would have dreamed that I'd be in this situation," Miller told the USTA's Wendy Ross in an video interview that was posted earlier on Wednesday. "It will be pretty amazing to think that I'm the leading money-winning driver ever."

Miller came into the card just over \$2,500 shy of John Campbell's mark of \$299,892,141 and would go past that count after his drives with pacer Sweetens Cove and trotter My Next Chapter netted him \$1,800 and \$2,160, respectively. Making it even more memorable for Miller is that it came in his first year back as a regular in Ohio.

"Twenty minutes up the road [Lebanon] is the track that I started at. To break it here is pretty sweet," he also said to Ross.

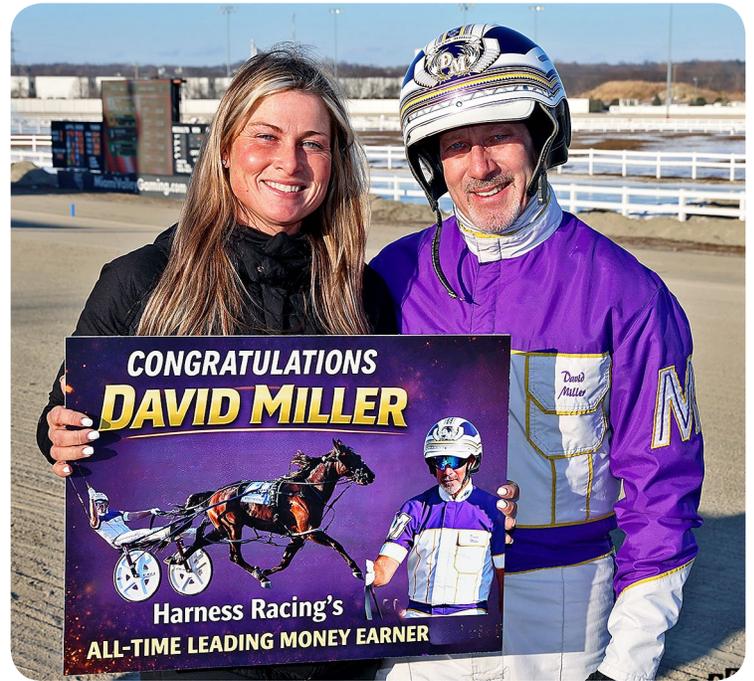
Campbell, who had held the record since he went past Herve Filion in 1987, sent a video message to Miller that was played after the milestone was reached and encouraged him to continue adding to his total.

"The last few times I've seen [Campbell] he's told me to keep winning," Miller stated in the USTA interview.

In addition to this achievement, Miller, who is the leading driver at Miami Valley in both victories and earnings, is closing in on the 15,000 career win milestone as he is currently at 14,897.

Also of note is that Campbell reportedly has earned 165,450 in Swedish krona that is not part of his official total that Miller passed on Wednesday. This means Campbell's unofficial bankroll is \$300,057,591 combined between the two, though Miller is no doubt likely to pass that mark in the coming months.

-Derick Givner contributed to this report



Dave Miller is joined by his daughter Devan after passing John Campbell for most North American driver earnings.

CONRAD PHOTO

Big M to get an early start through winter

The extreme cold temperatures that have plagued the New York metropolitan area for the last month have wreaked havoc with live action at The Meadowlands, forcing the cancellation of five of the last six race cards.

Thankfully, for management, horsemen and fans, this weekend (Feb. 13-14) will see temperatures that will be right around the seasonal average on Friday and five degrees or so above that on Saturday, so, for the first time since Jan. 9-11, there will be a complete race week conducted at the mile oval.

"The cold weather, not to mention the big Sunday snowstorm in late January, has really made it tough on us at The Meadowlands," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. "Hopefully, the extreme weather is now behind us.

"We regret having lost the race cards we did due to the cold, but we always put the safety of our horsemen and equine athletes first. These are tough decisions to make, and they aren't always popular, but we canceled when we did because we thought it was best to keep people and horses out of harm's way."

There was one good thing that happened while frozen-tundra-like temps put the area in a deep chill.

When there was racing on Jan. 24 and Feb. 6, post time was shifted 20 minutes, from 6:20 p.m. to 6 p.m. This worked well. So well, in fact, that on that next-to-last Saturday in January, a 2026 track- and industry-best \$3,379,086 was wagered on the 14-race card, so The Big M is going to make a change for the time being.

Effective Friday (Feb. 13), post time at The Meadowlands will be 6 p.m. for 11 weeks, ending Saturday, April 25, when, thereafter, the first race will return to 6:20 p.m.

Racing will be conducted on the usual Friday-Saturday basis.

"We saw that the early start did not have a negative impact on business, so, for the remainder of the winter, we will go with the early post time," said Settlemoir, before adding with a laugh, "and hope that all of the groundhogs and whatever other rodents said there will be six more weeks of winter were wrong."

-release (Dave Little for The Meadowlands)

Millionaire son of Sweet Lou to stand stud in Maine for 2026

Fouever Boy p,4,1:48 2/5f (\$1,145,837) will be the only son of leading North American pacing sire Sweet Lou to stand in Maine for the 2026 breeding season.

From the prolific Mach Three mare Macharoundtheclock, she is the dam of five in 1:50 or faster with combined earnings over \$2.8 million.

At 2 he was 3rd in the Metro and was timed in 1:50 4/5 posting a 25 4/5 final quarter. At 3, Fouever Boy was Pennsylvania Champion and won an elimination heat of the Little Brown Jug in 1:51 4/5, while finishing 2nd by just three parts of a length in the final.

While he was trained by top New York-based trainer Mark Beckwith, he enjoyed the services of leading driver Brett Beckwith at ages 5 and 6 where last season he was named Plainridge Park's 'Horse of the Year.' Fouever Boy was timed below 1:50 in 27 of his 115 career starts, which was in 23 percent of his outings.

"This horse is a beautiful individual standing 15.2 hands tall," noted horseman Chris Coyle, "He possesses excellent conformation and power."

Fouever Boy has the design to produce foals that not only succeed on the half-mile ovals of the state of Maine, but mare owners may also benefit from potential 'dual eligible' foals in Kentucky, Massachusetts and Virginia, based on residency requirements.

Bred by Birnam Wood Farm and raised by Concord Stud Farm, the same connections that produced Sweet Lou, Fouever Boy will be standing at KDM Farm in Monmouth, Maine under the watchful eye of Dr. Charmaine 'Charlie' Brown, DVM. His introductory service fee is \$2,500 live foal, with multiple mare discounts of \$2,000 and semen transport available.

Inquiries and breeding applications can be made to Dr. Brown 207.933.6424 or stallion manager Chris Coyle 704.242.1762. Additional information, as well as a breeding contract, can be found on the horse's website: foueverboy.com.

-edited release (Micki Rae Stables LLC)

Stewart enjoys a pleasant 'Endeavor'

By Ken Weingartner

Homebred pacer A New Endeavor has been a bit of a surprise ever since the day he was born – literally – but proven to be a pleasant one.

Bred by trainer Charlie Stewart and Mike Fawcett, the son of Tellitlikeitis out of the mare Endeavors Fantasy made an unexpected arrival on March 20, 2021, on the Stewarts' farm in Muncie, Ind.

"We thought the mare was due in a month, but my wife walked in the stall, and there he was," Stewart said. "We weren't expecting him, but it came out all right."

Indeed, it has. A New Endeavor was unraced as a 2-year-old because he needed more time to mature physically, but since then he has won 13 races and hit the board a total of 22 times in 34 starts. He has earned \$121,171 for his ownership group, which is Stewart's wife, Angela, and their two young sons, Chance and Cash, as well as Fawcett.

"He's been a very pleasant surprise," Stewart said. "He has the attitude and personality to be a good horse, but he does not look the part. He's small, kind of short-legged. He would have been a very cheap yearling at the yearling sale. You wouldn't pick him out as a nicer horse if he was in a lineup."

Stewart trained A New Endeavor's mom, Endeavors Fantasy, during her final two seasons of racing and purchased the mare, with Fawcett, in the summer of 2018. That was the mare's last season on the track and Stewart and Fawcett decided to keep her as a broodmare.

"He looks a lot like his mom," Stewart said about A New Endeavor, who is one of only three horses ever bred by the trainer. "Slender build, on the smaller side. She was a very nice horse. She went 1:50 2/5 and made just under \$300,000. She was very nicely gaited, and very willing."

After watching A New Endeavor qualify for the first time, as a 3-year-old at Harrah's Hoosier Park in 2024, Stewart told driver Peter Wrenn that he thought the horse might make a good conditioned claimer.

"Pete told me that I shouldn't start there with him," Stewart said. "He thought he was better than that."

A New Endeavor won four of his first five races, including two in 1:51 3/5 with 25 4/5 last quarters. Twice later in the season he won in 1:50 3/5 and finished the campaign with seven victories in 12 starts.

Last year, the gelding added six more wins to his career total as he worked his way up the conditions ladder at Hoosier Park and into the opens, where he notched two of those victories.

"He's matured a lot," Stewart said. "He loves going on the track and jogging every day, he's always been very happy with that, and training-wise he's not looking at stuff."

"He's got a good personality. He wants your attention, wants to play with you. If you don't pay attention to him, he'll take his bandages off or take his boots off. He's very playful."

On Friday (Feb. 13), A New Endeavor will make his 5-year-old debut in the \$18,000 Open 2 at Hoosier Park. He will leave from post one, with regular driver John DeLong, and is 3-1 on the morning line in a field of five.

"It's been a good little ride," Stewart said. "He's still lightly raced, so he's a young 5-year-old. I'm hoping for a stronger year out of him this year."

FIFTEEN STALLIONS SCHEDULED TO STAND IN VIRGINIA FOR 2026

The Virginia Harness Horse Association (VHHA), which added a lucrative Sired Stakes initiative to their portfolio of incentive programs in 2022, announced that 15 stallions will be standing in the state for the 2026 breeding season.

Ten trotting stallions and five pacing stallions, including several new ones, will stand at Virginia farms this year, located mainly in the central and southwest part of the Commonwealth.

In the Central Virginia region, trotter Dusty Winner, based at Charlie Dunavant's Woodhill Farm in Victoria, has sired 38 starters that have earned a combined \$2.9 million and include a number of former Virginia Breeder's champions. New to the mix this year is pacer Iammrbrightside N, a winner of \$726,957 whose wins include a trio of Grade 3 stakes in Australia. He will stand his first season at Cristy Yoder's Farm in Nathalie along with Secular (trotter). Armed Dangerously (trotter), winner of the Fall Harvest Stakes at Yonkers as a freshman, will stand at Joe Coblenz's Farm in Nathalie.

[READ MORE](#)

DRF HANDICAPPER'S CORNER

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 head to your nearest ADW and simply make a win bet.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

RACE 3

(6) WHITE LOTUS starts from the outside but crunched NW5000L5 competition a week ago and I think is more than capable of handling the step up in class.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

\$6,218 Pick 5 Carryover Races 5-9

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

RACE 6

J-Mac knew exactly what he had with (4) DAY OF DELIGHT last week and wasn't keen on pushing her more than he needed to. We haven't seen the bottom of her yet.

-Kevin Plowcha

 **WOODBINE**
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 7

(6) ABSOLUTE POWER wasn't put in play last time and got hung up in all kinds of traffic while having sneaky late pace. I can see a tactical adjustment coming here and big early speed on display.

-Derick Gwerner

 **MEADOWLANDS**
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

RACE 11

(5) COMPENSATE ME was sitting pretty in the pocket last time until the leader started to tire and room didn't immediately develop. He's down in class now courtesy of the sub TM condition and should make his presence felt.

-Gwerner

 **MEADOWLANDS**
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

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

Meadowlands Analysis

[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

MOHAWK PARK HI-5 MANDATORY PAYOUT SET FOR SATURDAY

Woodbine Entertainment has announced a mandatory payout will be offered for the Jackpot Hi-5 this Saturday (February 14) at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The Jackpot Hi-5 carryover currently sits at \$171,968.21 for when live racing resumes on Friday evening. An overflow field of 11 pacers are scheduled to compete in Saturday's mandatory payout event (Race 11, 10:17 p.m.).

[READ MORE](#)

CARRYOVERS HIGHLIGHT THURSDAY'S OPENING NIGHT CARD AT HOOSIER

Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino's 33rd season of live harness racing will kick off at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 12 with a 14-race card. Celebrating Fan Appreciation Night at Hoosier Park, fans that make it to the track will enjoy an array of giveaways, promotions, handicapping contests, and a multitude of guaranteed pools.

The Pick 4 in Race 6 features a \$4,383 carryover, with that pool being guaranteed at \$20,000. Later in Race 7, there is \$9,001 in the Hoosier Hi-Five carryover with \$30,000 guaranteed in the pool.

[READ MORE](#)

MEADOWLANDS ANNOUNCES 2026 STAKES INFORMATION

The Meadowlands is pleased to announce that the 2026 stakes season will offer more than \$18.5 million in purses, distributed across both Grand Circuit and New Jersey-restricted stakes from late April through November.

[READ MORE](#)

RULES CLARIFIED FOR MEADOWLANDS PICK 8 CARRYOVER

The Meadowlands Racetrack would like to explain the PK8 payout on Friday, February 6. The initial seed money was treated as "new money" on the wager's first night, so the first night pool totaled \$54,998 (\$50,000 seed + \$4,998). The night's payout was \$13,561.40 for a single 7-for-8 ticket.

[READ MORE](#)

HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY STAKING PAYMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 15

Horsemen are reminded that staking payments for the following races are due February 15.

Participants are encouraged to review the events listed below and ensure all payments are submitted to the Hambletonian Society by the deadline to maintain eligibility.

[READ MORE](#)

PICK 4 CARRYOVERS NOW AVAILABLE AT YONKERS RACEWAY

The long-awaited arrival of a potential carryover in the Pick 4 sequence at MGM Yonkers Raceway is now a reality beginning this week.

[READ MORE](#)

LAST CALL FOR 2026 HARNESS RACING IMMORTAL NOMINATIONS

Time is running out for current members of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame to submit Immortal nominations for the Class of 2026.

All Museum members have the privilege of nominating persons and horses who they feel have made a significant contribution to the sport of harness racing. The nominees must be deceased at least three years to be eligible for consideration. Nominations must include a complete biography of the nominee and detailed harness racing career statistics, when applicable. Nominations must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2026. They may be emailed on or before that date to director@harness-museum.com or mailed to the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, 240 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924.

NOTE: Nominees selected by the Immortals Committee of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame and elected by the Museum's full board of trustees in 2026 will be inducted in July 2027.

-release (Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame)

DELAWARE, OHIO GRAND CIRCUIT PAYMENTS DUE

Sustaining payments for the Little Brown Jug (Grade 1) and the other Grand Circuit events – Jugette (3-year-old filly pace – Grade 1), Old Oaken Bucket (3-year-old open trot – Grade 3) and the Buckette (3-year-old filly trot – Grade 3) – are due February 16. These payments are for foals of 2023.

The sustaining payments are as follows: Little Brown Jug (\$1,200), Jugette (\$500), Old Oaken Bucket (\$500) and Buckette (\$400).

Three-year-old pacers not eligible after February 16 may, with a payment of \$45,000, supplement to the Little Brown Jug or the Jugette for \$15,000.

The Little Brown Jug, Old Oaken Bucket and Buckette will be raced Thursday, September 24 and the Jugette on Wednesday, September 23.

The 2026 Delaware Grand Circuit meet will feature five days of racing (Sunday, September 20 through Thursday, September 24).

For payment forms, please visit www.littlebrownjug.com.

Make checks payable and send all entries to: The Delaware County Fair, Tom Wright, P.O. Box 1560, Powell, OH 43065.

-release (Delaware County Fair)

2026 HHYF SPRING/SUMMER/FALL SCHEDULE IS NOW AVAILABLE

HHYF's now multi-seasonal itinerary is packed with a variety of programs and many locations. With stops in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia - so much education, excitement and increased awareness for harness racing is anticipated.

April 10-12 Equine Affaire (Columbus, OH)

April 15, 16 Anderson Community Schools Field Trip to Hoosier Park

April 19 Martin County 4-H (Loogootee, IN)

April 28 Benton Central Jr. Sr. High School (Oxford, IN)

May 7 Equine Field Day (Wakarusa, IN)

June 8 Winners Circle Training Center (Ashville, OH)

June 9 Miami County Fairgrounds (Troy, OH)

June 15 DeLong Stables (Anderson, IN)

June 24 Clinton County Fairgrounds (Frankfort, IN)

July 10-12 Breyerfest (Lexington, KY)

July 14-18 Leadership at Hoosier Park

July 28 Tioga Downs (Nichols, NY)

July 30-31 Historic Track (Goshen, NY)

August 3-4 Gaitway Farm (Manalapan, NJ)

August 8 Hambletonian (East Rutherford, NJ)

August 21-22 Shenandoah Downs (Woodstock, VA)

August 31 Marvelous Mondays (Anderson, IN)

September tba Harrison County Ag Days (Corydon, IN)

October 10-11 HHYF 50th Anniversary (Lexington, KY)

October 21-24 National FFA Convention (Indianapolis, IN)

Please visit <https://hhyf.org/summer-programs/> to register for a HHYF program. The HHYF horses and staff are looking forward to seeing YOU at a HHYF event this year!

-release (HHYF)

MONI MAKER/NADIA LOBELL NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for the G3 Moni Maker (3-year-old filly trot) and G3 Nadia Lobell (3-year-old filly pace) are due to The Red Mile on February 15. Both races will be held, for the third year, at Eldorado Scioto Downs, the host of the 2026 Breeders Crown.

Once the \$750 February nomination payment is made, there will be a \$1,000 sustaining payment due March 15. There are no supplemental nominations for either event.

March nominations for many Ohio events held at Scioto Downs will be due next month, including the Ohio State Fair, Ohio Sires Stakes and Buckeye Stallion Series. April brings the first opportunity to nominate to the Next Generation for \$8,000.

Complete conditions for all paid into events can be found at <https://horsemen.ustrotting.com/stakes/conditions.cfm>.

For more information about the 2026 racing season, which opens Thursday, May 7th, visit the [Scioto Downs website](#).

-edited release (Scioto Downs)