

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026



Creating a new track model



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner
 @harnesseveguy

Many times in the pages of this newsletter we've seen discussion about how different factions of the industry are at odds with each other. What is best for the trainers and owners may not be best for a driver on any given day and often isn't best for the tracks and bettors.

Think about it, a young horse is making its debut and the connections decide to race from behind with a far superior horse, finish sharply and settle for second. Or what about a horse who can benefit with a class drop by performing badly and thus takes a "week off" to wait for next time? Or what about the classy stakes horse competing in an overnight event who is given an "easy race" ahead of higher purse engagements down the road?

Our current system provides no remedy for any of the above situations but a recent tweet from @EmilyOptixEQ provided an interesting solution to at least one of them. It read: "tracks owning horses seems like an option to explore at this point."

That got me to wondering: Could a track produce an entire product on its own with no owners? What would that look like? Is it feasible? Is it better?

To avoid any comparisons to the real world and pissing any entity off, we'll call our experimental track Harness Eye Downs. It will be a mile track racing four times a week and carding 12 races per day (about 200 cards a year). With that alignment we would need 480 horses minimum to ensure full fields. That means another 40-50 horses are probably necessary to account for sickness, time off, etc. To get a variety of horses I'm assuming the average cost per horse would be about \$25,000. That's an initial investment of \$13,125,000 to purchase the horses.

Next we'll need a staff to take care of our equine investment. We'll hire a head trainer at \$250,000 per year, five assistant trainers at \$125,000 each and 100 caretakers at \$75,000 each (this includes paddocking their horses). The total cost here is \$8,375,000.

We'll also hire two full-time vets to handle care at \$200,000 each. That will be added to the \$25,000 per year upkeep total we'll associate to costs for feed, vitamins and other medical expenditures for each horse. That brings our yearly nut from the \$8.375 million above to \$21,900,000.

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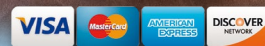
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There will be no cost for shipping or housing since all horses will live on the backstretch of Harness Eye Downs. Maybe we should even build housing on the backstretch and make that a perk of the job. Perhaps we could cut some of the yearly costs by paying a lower salary but including the housing. It is a thought to ponder. Anyway, year one will cost us about \$35 million and you have to assume we'll be spending another two million dollars a year on other costs including buying new horses to replenish the stock as they get older, a charter, racing secretary, etc.

We'll need to get the necessary land for the track to exist but perhaps we can find a state that wants to work with us to make it happen on the cheap, sort of like they provide money to fund stadiums. There is a public benefit here as we'll be hiring about 150 people who will live full-time in their state and spend most of their salaries in the region. We'll also be providing an entertainment option in the form of horse racing for people in the region.

Assuming all of the above, what type of handle would it take for Harness Eye Downs to be profitable? Much of that depends on what we can charge for our signal because Harness Eye Downs will not have on-site wagering machines or tellers. If you want to bet, use your phone. What we will have is a covered grandstand and track apron that features local food trucks which we'll charge a small fee to be on site. We'll also partner with a local or national entertainment entity so we can offer family-friendly options on the property. Maybe Dave & Busters would want to be on-site or perhaps Bowlero. We'll also have some open space with a playground. People need many reasons to show up at a track and we'll give it to them. But we are getting off track (pardon the pun).

Is it remotely feasible for a track to own all the horses?

The answer really depends on what model we are using to make the determination. If it existed in a state with legislation that mandated casino revenue be used to support racing, it would not only work but it would be more profitable. Most reports say Yonkers Raceway pays out about \$50 million in purse money annually, most of which comes from the racino located inside the building. That would easily cover the entire first year's nut and net our track a big profit every year. Even a number half of that total would be profitable when combined with handle, which I'll put at \$125 million in year one with the expectation that it will grow.

Now if there isn't casino revenue in the equation, Harness Eye Downs would have to achieve new heights in terms of total handle. Even at a 5% signal rights fee for ADWs to take the product, which is above the normal 3% many Standardbred tracks offer, we'll have to handle about \$600 million per year to show a profit after five years. Admittedly that is unlikely since that total is more than double the highest-handling Standardbred facility. Then again, if we are to put out the best product ever for harness racing in terms of wagering, and a Thoroughbred entity like NYRA can handle \$2 billion, certainly there is some room for growth.

All of the hurdles, assumptions and issues aside – along with the reality that it would never happen – wouldn't the product at Harness Eye Downs be far superior to anything in today's real world? Think about it for a second. All of the concerns and questions that fans and handicappers have would be eliminated. There would be no issues with illegal medication because there is no benefit to doing it since there is no purse money. Everyone involved with the care of the horse would be getting compensated weekly via salary and there would be nothing to gain by treating any horse differently. To ensure nothing else goes on behind the scenes, all trainers, vets and caretakers would have to sign an agreement not to share any information on the care of the horses under punishment of being terminated from employment. Best of all, we would be able to supply more information to the customers since we would have all the information from our trainer. People will then be able to wager with full confidence that horsepower will be king in the deciding of the races.

There is the matter of the drivers. How would they be paid if there are no purses? How would you keep them from doing something unsavory? We will sign 15 drivers to contracts of \$100,000 to \$250,000 (depending on experience) per year and they will need to commit to driving a minimum of 175 cards per year. All time off will need to be approved by management and no more than three drivers will be permitted to be away on the same racing day. Drivers will be questioned about their on-track actions if deemed necessary and their contracts will not be renewed if they have too many issues.

In a nutshell, that's it, the general outline for Harness Eye Downs. I'm sure some minor details were missed in terms of cost, etc., but you get the general idea – provide the best possible product with the least amount of outside factors to affect the outcome of the races. We'll put it on the to-do list if we hit Mega Millions.



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p, 3, 1:51.4f -'26 (\$110,440)

He's Watching-End To End Hanover-The Panderosa

Trainer: Jim King Jr.

Owner/Breeder: Jo Ann Looney-King

Driver: Allan Davis

Finishing 2nd: Arette (Badlands Hanover)

SWEE'PEA

\$51,100 3YO CT Winner in 1:56.2

3, 1:56.2f -'26 (\$86,650)

Top Flight Angel-Miss Popeye-Musclelaneous

Trainer/Owner/Breeder: Thomas O. Lail

Driver: Corey Callahan

WARRENS CHARM

\$50,950 3YO FP Winner in 1:52.3

p, 3, 1:52.3f -'26 (\$150,975)

He's Watching-Azure Deo-Art Major

Trainer: Jason Skinner / Driver: Ryder Skinner

Owners: Rodney Wyatt & Jason Skinner

Breeders: Odds On Nourrir

Finishing 2nd: Nicki's Watching (He's Watching)

WOLFPACK ONE

\$51,200 3YO FT Winner in 1:58.3

3, 1:58.3f -'26 (\$132,832)

E L Platinum-Vandalous-Jm Vangogh

Trainer: Jason Skinner / Driver: Troy Beyer

Owners: Stuart Chambers Racing LLC,

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Finishing 2nd: Emerys Angel (Top Flight Angel)

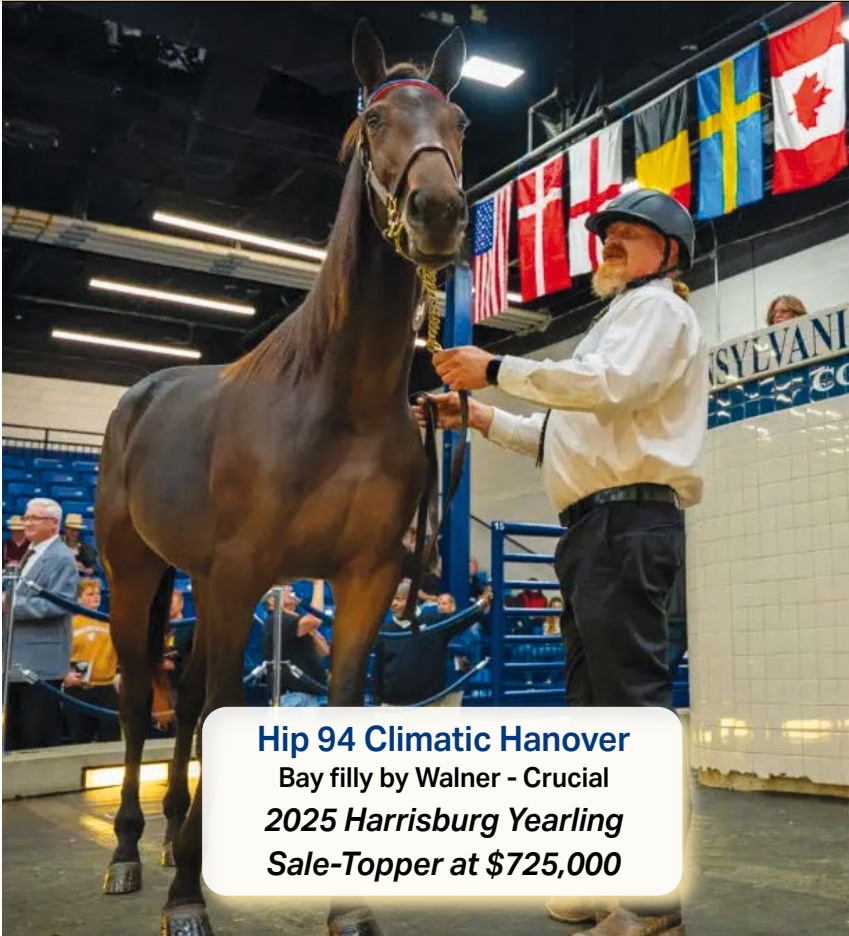
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Captain Albano leads 'Team Daley' into 2026 stakes wars



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

There is only one horse that's been racing in the 2026 edition of the MGM Borgata Series that at one time was considered a solid stallion prospect. Captain Albano couldn't clear enough hurdles to forego a life outside the racetrack and the son of Captaintreacheros returned in 2025 to race for trainer Noel Daley. Now a 5-year-old with a bit more experience, Captain Albano looks for his second straight win in the series at Yonkers Raceway in Monday's third leg of the lucrative event.

"It was always my intention when we brought him back last year to race him for at least two years," said Daley. "Then obviously we would hope that he could become a stallion perhaps the way Sweet Lou was able to accomplish that."

The Sweet Lou reference of course is legitimate as the now leading pacing sire in North America followed up a brilliant first two years on the racetrack with a solid aged record and has since flourished in his second career.

Now with a shade under \$2.2 million in career earnings, Captain Albano appears to be rounding into form with Daley a bit happier following his 1:51 4/5 overland victory in the second leg of the series on April 6.

"I was a little surprised that he got away fourth from the rail in the first leg," said Daley. "Last week he was better and did what I would have expected."

What Captain Albano did was overcome an off-the-pace trip over the usual speed-favoring Yonkers half-mile oval and then rolled past the favored Redwood Hanover in the stretch drive. It was an indication to some degree of class and will, and you don't win 28 career races in 48 starts without having the capacity to win in spite of a tough trip.

"He's just a solid horse," said Daley. "You can leave the gate with him but not without asking him to go. He's a bit lazy."

Perhaps in other sports lazy wouldn't be a compliment but that characteristic has been applied to many great horses and Captain Albano certainly fits that mold.

"He didn't have much of a break between last year and this year and I only qualified him once," said Daley, suggesting that load management and the anticipation of a long racing season may have had something to do with an average performance in the March 30 opening leg of the MGM Borgata Series. "I did plan to race him six straight weeks in the series but will see how that plays out."

With only three \$50,000 divisions in Monday's third preliminary round of the series, a solid win this week may be enough to give Daley the luxury of a week off. That said, Monday's division will put Captain Albano on the outside from post seven against a field that includes two-leg winner Huntinthelastdolar (post 6) as well as the defending champion Mossdale Ben N (post 3).

Daley's confidence in Captain Albano comes from experience and his game plan for 2026 is modeled after what his horse does well. "He's very good on a small track," said Daley.

Last year that efficiency on four-turn ovals helped Captain Albano bank \$597K, with a healthy chunk of the money coming at the end of the year with three wins in the MGM Grand Prix preliminaries and a second-place finish in the lucrative final on December 19.

"He'll get some time off following this series," said Daley. "We've staked him well the rest of the year but I've consciously left him out of a few races with the idea that he'll get invites to some of those big races over half-mile tracks."

At least two of those events could happen later this year at Yonkers Raceway, with the Aria Invitational on International Trot Day and the year-end MGM Grand Prix on the radar.

Daley believes that Captain Albano could enjoy more success on the big

track this year than in 2025. "He didn't have the racing luck last year," said the trainer of the big-track experience. "He'll have plenty of opportunity this year as a 5-year-old."

Daley's stable has grown in number and last year's results were indicative as the stable earned above \$5.1 million for the first time. "I was really proud that we made that much with a lot of different horses earning \$100K plus," said Daley, who like many trainers is looking for champions and has younger horses as the core of his stable.

With half the barn just 2 years old, Daley has a decent group of sophomore trotters getting prepared for action and has visions of a Hambletonian contender in a horse that made just one start as a freshman.

"We'll have to see how it goes but if there's one horse it's Kibbie J," said Daley about the son of Walner that finished third in his lone 2-year-old pari-mutuel race in 2025. "He really wasn't the way I wanted him to be that day," continued the trainer about the respectable third-place finish in a division of the International Stallion Stakes at The Red Mile on October 3.

A \$345,000 yearling purchase of Ken Jacobs at the 2024 Lexington Selected auction, Kibbie J is a half-brother to Six Pack. "He'll stay on the



MIKE LIZZI PHOTO

Captain Albano was able to get the job done in round two of the MGM Borgata series at Yonkers Raceway and has a full slate of stakes races ahead in 2026.

mile track hopefully to the Hambletonian," said Daley of Kibbie J, who is New Jersey eligible and could gain the much-needed racing experience on his way to the sport's biggest race. Daley believes he's got the talent to be a star if he can stay together.

Daley's stable took advantage of the lucrative Kentucky program a year ago and figures to be back stronger in 2026. The Captain Corey-sired Carve was a \$216K earner in her first year on the track and she's pointing for the Oak Grove Trotting Derby's filly division in May. Naked And Famous is another sophomore filly that prospered in the Bluegrass State and she's also nominated to the Oak Grove event.

Signal Caller, according to Daley, is as fast as any horse he's ever had. That said, the son of Captaintreacheros has yet to prove he's the best. A six-figure earner in a dozen starts last year with a 1:48 4/5 record, Signal Caller is staked to the big dances this year.

With about 44 juveniles in training, Daley is happy with the progress many are making. There's one filly though that he singled out as being worth following. Dejeuner, a \$1 million purchase, caught much attention at last year's Lexington auction with Daley taking her home for owner Patty Key. "That was ridiculous money to spend," said Daley. "But I think I picked the right one."

Dejeuner has been quite impressive training down and the daughter of Walner from French Café has a championship pedigree. "She's been training with my 2-year-old pacers and holding her own quite nicely," said Daley of Dejeuner.



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Swift on the fast track to catch driver success



HARNESSES FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett [X @JHallettPhoto](#)

Most 20-year-olds are just beginning to find their way, figuring out who they are and what they want in life.

For Kyle Swift, that was never a question nor a debate. Born into harness racing and generations of horsemen, his path as a driver was set long before he ever grabbed a pair of lines.

Now just beginning his third decade of life, he's not only found his place at a new track, the Saratoga Harness Track, but he's found his place on the leaderboard as one of the top drivers at that half-mile oval.

"I've wanted to be a driver my whole life. My parents, Ryan Swift and Ray Fisher Jr., have a barn and my dad drives, as did my grandfather Tom Swift, so I've always wanted to drive," Swift said.

From the time he got his license through March of last year, Swift worked alongside his parents. Having been around the horses his whole life, he jogged his first horse at the age of 8 with his dad, Ray. At 14, he got his groom's license to be able to jog and train at the track where his parents were stabled.

"My dad started me off jogging the easy ones and progressively let me do more and more. COVID actually helped me a lot as school closed down and I was able to jog and train for my parents in the morning. Then, I went to ride for Sam Smith, who has a big barn at Buffalo, so between my parents and Sam, I was always jogging and training new horses. Since all the tracks weren't racing, both stables let me train in the bike and before I got my qualifying license at 16, I had tons of miles behind horses," said Swift.

He qualified and drove at the fairs until the age of 18. Last year, he branched out on his own and trained a few horses up until November when he started at Saratoga.

"I don't mind training horses, but it's a lot mentally and when you're trying to do both [driving and training]. I just feel like it's a lot to juggle, so personally I'd rather just drive," said Swift.

Swift is no stranger to victories and the spotlight, having had great success at the Western New York tracks Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs as a teenager.

His first race was won just two weeks after his 16th birthday aboard Pink Delight – trained by his mom Ryan Swift – in a New York County Fair Sire Stakes division. Then, he got his first pari-mutuel win with Big Place in July 2023.

"My first win, one of my mom's trainees, was a super cool moment for me because driving has been something I've always dreamed about.

When you get that first taste of victory, you're hooked," Swift said.

At just 18 years old, he was honored with the 2023 Rising Star Award from the USHWA Upstate New York chapter.

Now, two years later, he continues to chase success, though he says he isn't chasing titles or awards, just wins and the thrill of the race.

Swift started driving at Saratoga in early November with only a couple starts on his first day. The following week, he doubled that number of starts, picking up a handful of checks while still driving full-time at Batavia. By the third week of November he had nearly 20 starts, getting his first and second wins across the half-mile surface. From the end of November and to the finale of the 2025 racing meet at Saratoga, Swift quickly established himself as a catch driver.

In 2026, Swift committed himself to a full-time schedule at Saratoga. Two months have gone by in the season so far and Swift sits second in the driver standings with 47 wins and a 19 percent win clip, hot on the heels of two-time leading driver Brett Beckwith with 65 wins.

In his career, Swift has made over 2,500 trips to the track, and with only a third of the year underway, he is on schedule to surpass his career best of 119 wins set in 2025. Last year was also Swift's first million-dollar season. So far in 2026, he has accumulated over \$450,000 along with 54 triumphs.

Swift credits his success with his background and his family.

"Having family [in the business] definitely helps," Swift said. "They always push me to do the best I can and always have my back. With that being said, they are also my biggest critics. Mess up and they will let you hear about it, but they care. My dad was a pretty successful driver and he's taught me everything when it comes to driving. I would be lost without him. Good or bad, he's always there if I have a question or need some advice."

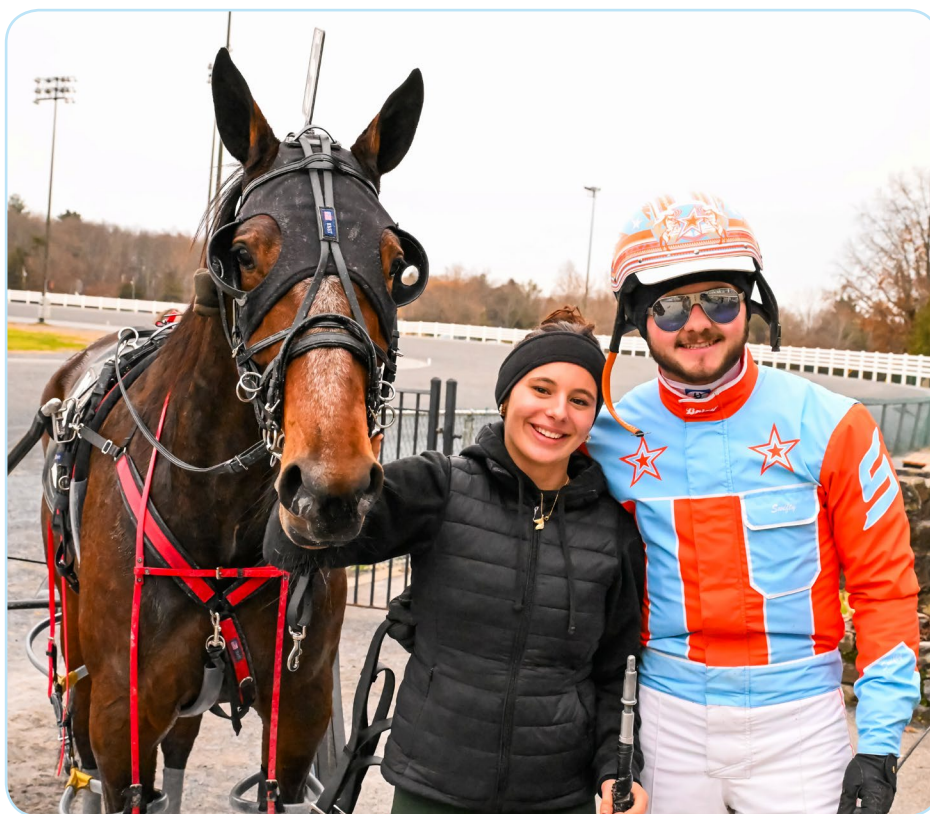
While his parents help motivate him to achieve his goals and chase success, he said it's the job itself that motivates

him the most. "It's motivating doing what you love and working with horses every day. I mean for many people, they work in an office or do a job they really don't like. I love what I do, so that makes it all worth it," said Swift.

While he doesn't have any set-in-stone goals, he agrees that he does aspire to drive on the Grand Circuit one day.

"I mean, who doesn't, right? I would love to drive wherever I could, but it's one step at a time, it's a marathon not a sprint. Nothing worth having comes overnight so I'm taking it day-by-day and if opportunities to drive in the NYSS circuit or anything above that were to arise, I would be grateful and do my best," Swift said.

Swift takes his steps in stride, working towards success with each day whether on the track or in the gym. Physically, he loves sports and focuses on healthy eating, staying active, and getting a good night's sleep.



JESSICA HALLETT PHOTO

Kyle Swift (right) with caretaker Emily Gingrich from the Jaymes Mcassey barn.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)

As far as mentally, he has a ritual to prepare for a race and it's essentially to not prepare too much at all.

"I honestly try to think about racing as little as possible until I get to the track," Swift said. "I look over the entries and final program briefly when it comes out, but I like to wait until I get in the paddock to really look at everything. If I start looking too soon, I started to overthink and overanalyze. The plans we make while looking at the program, 90 percent of the time it never works out that way, so I take in as much as I can and when the gate folds, I go from there."

At just 20 years old and as the youngest driver in the Saratoga driving colony, Swift has amassed a lifetime of experience through his parents and lineage in addition to starting his driving career at such a young age. His advice to that next generation, that new driver just starting out, is to be a sponge and learn as much as possible.

"Always take advice. You can learn something from anyone whether it's what to do or simply what not to do," Swift said. "I'd also like to let them know don't take what people say to heart. People are going to be negative and say hurtful things. At first, you are going to take it to heart and let it bother you, but you shouldn't."

"I've been told I suck before and should go work a day job. I'm sure I'll be told this many more times in my career, but at the end of the day, you're not going to please everyone. When you learn that not everyone is going to be on your team and root for you, that's okay. It makes the people that do look out for you and do root for you so much more important."

Luckily for Swift he has plenty of people in his corner at Saratoga and beyond.

"I'd also just like to give a shoutout to Jaymes Mcassey, his owners and also Paul O'Neil. They trusted a 20-year-old kid from Buffalo who really didn't have much experience and gave me the keys to the kingdom. I could not be more grateful and appreciative for that. Without them, moving to Saratoga and being able to call this place home now wouldn't be possible," Swift concluded.

Swift puts his advice on display every day on the track, living life to





JESSICA HALLETT

Driver Kyle Swift competes regularly at Saratoga Raceway in upstate New York.

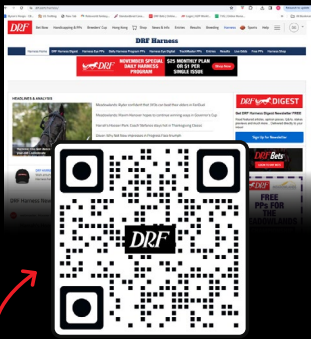
the fullest, always smiling, engaging with fans, and participating in even the silliest social media trends to help support and promote the business.

The future is bright for Kyle Swift and though he doesn't know where his path will take him, he knows he can be found holding the lines out on the track.





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Ma Isabelle, Kazio DK prevail in Brennan series

The second round of the John Brennan Trotting Series was featured on Wednesday (April 8) at MGM Yonkers Raceway, and the winners of the two \$30,000 divisions were Ma Isabelle and Kazio DK.

The John Brennan Trotting Series is named in honor of the longtime Standardbred Owners Association of New York horsemen's representative who passed away from complications of COVID-19 in March 2020.

After Pierre In Paris (Yannick Gingras) and Green Mel (Jordan Stratton) made breaks before the start, just four horses were left in contention in the opening flight. Commodus A (Jason Bartlett) would put up fractions of 30, 59 2/5 and 1:27 3/5 while Ma Isabelle (Pat Lachance) followed in the pocket and opening-leg victor Always A Story (Tyler Buter) waited in third until being sent two-wide before three-quarters.

Commodus A dug in gamely on the lead in the stretch, but Ma Isabelle and Always A Story both closed at him, and at the finish it was Ma Isabelle who got her nose on the wire first, defeating Commodus A by a nose in a 1:56 2/5 mile. Always A Story checked in the third position.

Lachance trains the victorious 5-year-old daughter of Alarm Detector for owners/breeders Tom and Elizabeth Rankin. Ma Isabelle has ten wins, 14 seconds and 11 thirds from 66 starts, has earned \$178,892.

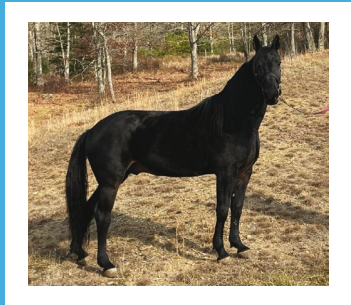
Kazio DK (Gingras) wound up with the lead after Diplomacy (Bartlett) went off-stride on the first turn in the second section, and after he cut the quarter in 29 3/5, the half in 58 2/5 and the three-quarters in 1:28 2/5, Kazio DK trotted home in 28 4/5 to defeat pocket-sitter Exquisite Taste (Lachance) by 3 3/4 lengths in 1:57 1/5. Velociraptor (Colin Kelly) was the third-place finisher.

Gingras also co-owns the Ron Burke-trained Kazio DK, a 5-year-old gelding by Muscle Massive, with partners Burke Racing Stable LLC., Weaver Bruscelli LLC. and Fac Racing LLC. Kazio DK has a summary of 7-11-4 from 35 appearances, and has banked \$107,099.

This year's John Brennan Trotting Series has one more prelim on April 15 prior to the \$100,000 (guaranteed) final and \$50,000 (guaranteed) consolation on April 22. After being contested at the distance of a mile and a quarter in 2025, the final and consolation will go back to the standard mile distance this year.

-edited release (Yonkers)

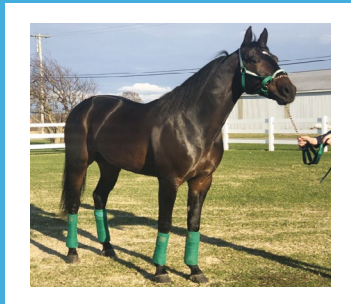
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APRIL 11- MAY 24 • SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS AT 1:05 PM

Tritton has his crew ready for round three of Borgata/McIntyre

By Jay Bergman

Trainer Peter Tritton has enjoyed plenty of success at Yonkers over the years racing imported horses from Australia and New Zealand. Most notably Bit Of A Legend N was a former Borgata series champion that has gone on to stallion duty. Last year Tritton's stars rose again with Mossdale Ben N's victory in the Borgata final and the mare Silk Cloud A capturing a pair of legs of the former Blue Chip Matchmaker series on her way to reaching the final. Those two are back and looking as good as ever as both the MGM Borgata and Ursula McIntyre series move into round-three action this weekend.

Silk Cloud A drew post four in Friday's \$50,000 first of three McIntyre divisions at Yonkers with Lauren Tritton in the bike. "Lauren gets along well with her," said Peter Tritton of his talented daughter-in-law.

Last week in the McIntyre second round (April 3) Silk Cloud A rallied gamely from the back of the pack for a second-place finish.

"She had a bruise we couldn't locate," said Tritton of the 8-year-old daughter of Shadow Play that was struggling to find her form in advance of the series. "We located that and got it under control."

Silk Cloud A's first-round performance was a bit of a disappointment, with the mare finishing fifth despite starting from the pole position. "She got caught inside and had no room," said Tritton.

Silk Cloud A will try to get into the winner's circle for the first time in the series on Friday but will have to deal with a formidable group that includes first-leg winners Seaside Diva (post 1) and Tick A Loch A (post 6). Making the field considerably deeper will be Rocket Deo (post 2), second and third in the opening two legs, and Aardie B Miki N (post 7), last year's Blue Chip Matchmaker champion, looking for her first series win following fourth- and second-place finishes.

Tritton believes now that she's healthy Silk Cloud A has as much talent as most others in this series.

"I think she's as good as she was last year. We're going to need a little luck," said Tritton.

Mossdale Ben N came on to the scene last year at this time and stormed through the MGM Borgata Series for Tritton and then driver Jordan Stratton. Following a victory in the \$516K final on May 9, Mossdale Ben N accepted an invite to the Joe Auger Invitational at Harrah's Philadelphia.

"He drew the outside and raced great," said Tritton of the third-place finish in 2025. "Then we took him to Northfield for the Battle of Lake Erie. The track was a little hard and when he got into gear he hit a tendon. Thankfully if he wasn't wearing a boot it would have been over."

Mossdale Ben N needed time to recover and by the end of the 2025 campaign finally reached the winner's circle again, capturing a division of the MGM Grand Prix.

With the recovery behind him, this year Mossdale Ben N has been a different horse in the series.

"I think he's every bit as good as he was last year," said Tritton. "The biggest difference is that last year Jordan (Stratton) didn't want to put him on the front end. This year we've found that he's a much more versatile horse."

With Jimmy Marohn Jr. guiding him, Mossdale Ben N found a two-hole trip in the first leg of the MGM Borgata on March 30 and finished a solid second. Last week racing from off the pace Mossdale Ben N looked very similar to his efforts from early 2025 with an explosive kick that left him just a head shy at the wire.

On Monday, Mossdale Ben N (post 3) has the position edge versus a pair of MGM Borgata division winners as Huntinthelastdolar (post 6) and Captain Albano (post 7) drew outside of him in the sixth race and third of three divisions on the program.

Tritton will send out Sherlock N (post 6) in Monday's second division (race 4) and he's hoping to find out a little more from the 7-year-old gelding.

"He warmed up good for me before the race last week," Tritton said, "But he didn't look right scoring before the race."

Sherlock N made a break on the first turn and was never in contention in second round action on April 6.

Sherlock N had finished third in the opening round of the series and Tritton still has hopes that he could reach at least the consolation.



(ABOVE) ENDRI PRENGA / (BELOW) MIKE LIZZI
(above) Silk Cloud A winning a leg of the Matchmaker (now Ursula McIntyre) in 2025. (below) Huntinthelastdolar (3) edges out a closing Mossdale Ben N in the second leg of the 2026 Borgata.



"I'm actually ok with him drawing outside this week. We need to see if he can get back to himself," said Tritton

Sherlock N will have to not just overcome the draw but a solid field inside of him that includes first-leg winners Redwood Hanover (post 1) and Chase H Hanover (post 5).

"We'll see how he races. If he's no good, we will pull him out of the series," said Tritton.

With a relatively small stable, Tritton has hopes for a pair of homebreds bred in New York and eligible for the Sire Stakes. "I've got two American Ideal-sired fillies from a mare I raced here a few years back," said Tritton. "I had a mare named Kendra (N) that I brought over here and I thought would be a good horse for the Blue Chip. She got hurt so I decided to breed her."

The resulting two fillies, a 3-year-old and a 2-year-old, are both training down nicely, with Tritton hoping that the promise of their mother will come out in her offspring. Time will tell.

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Antognoni seeks to kick off a huge 2026 in Meadowlands feature

By Dave Little for The Meadowlands

The Ron Burke-trained Antognoni S had a fabulous 2025, yet, he didn't make headlines like his stablemate Lexus Kody, who ended the season as the Dan Patch Trotter of the Year after earning an industry-best \$1.3 million.

Last year, Antognoni S won 16 of 24 starts and banked \$481,537. His two biggest wins came at Yonkers Raceway – in the MGM Grand Prix and John Brennan Trotting Series – but he didn't race during the course of the season in the bigger events against “Kody”, or Kody's arch-rival, Periculum.

This year, things could be much different.

Antognoni S will be at The Big M Friday (April 10) night in the first leg of the JL Cruze, a series that pays tribute to the first horse to break the 1:50 barrier on the trot at The Meadowlands. Antognoni S is the 5-2 morning-line favorite from post three with co-owner Yannick Gingras in the sulky.

“He's ready to go, I think, right now,” said Burke of Antognoni S, who qualified at The Big M on April 4 in spectacular fashion. “Last year, it was never a question of racing at The Meadowlands, it was just, we didn't have him in the big stakes. We didn't make payments because we didn't really know last year how good he was.”

Antognoni S's versatility could go a long way toward a big 2026. It's already obvious that he can do things at a high level going four turns.

“It doesn't matter (what sized track), honestly, that's a good horse,” said Burke. “By the end of (2025), I told (co-owner) Mark (Weaver) and them guys, he's better than (Lexus) Kody. We would train them together and he would beat Kody.”

“I think this year he'll be maybe the best aged trotter we have.”

It won't be easy pickin's for Antognoni S on Friday. He still has to contend with Asteroid and Resolve To Win, who finished second and third, respectively, a week ago in The Big M's overnight trotting feature. Take All Comers led for most of that dash, and he, too, is part of the 10-horse field.

The JL Cruze series will have its second leg on April 24 before the final on May 2.

Then, the stakes season for older trotters at The Meadowlands kicks off on May 16 when 4-year-olds and older go at it in the \$175,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial. It was last year in the Cutler that Antognoni S made his last appearance at The Big M, when the 6-year-old gelded son of Father Patrick-Bouncing Bax finished third as the 6-5 favorite behind Periculum and Lexus Kody.

Maybe both of Burke's trainees will face off again in the Cutler, as



MIKE LIZZI

Antognoni was last seen winning the Grand Prix final at Yonkers Raceway in December.

Lexus Kody gets his season underway this Saturday.

“Lexus Kody qualifies Saturday at The Meadowlands,” said Burke. “I think Kody has a bigger (2026) schedule, you know, because we do keep Antognoni more for (the smaller tracks), because, obviously, Kody can't do Yonkers like Antognoni can. Kody will do it once in a while but he's not going to do it all the time like this horse will. So more small tracks with this horse, more big tracks with Kody.”

What's the schedule for Antognoni S?

“I'll have to talk to his genius co-owner and driver,” said Burke with tongue firmly in cheek. “I'm sure after the first start, we'll see what he thinks.”

“He does fit him well,” said Burke of Gingras when speaking seriously. “He does such a nice job with him because he keeps him quiet. The horse can get hot. He does a great job. He picked his spots when he pushed him leaving and made him sit in. I thought that's what I loved the other day about the qualifier. He sat in perfectly and then exploded (home in 25 4/5 to win in 1:54 1/5).

“We didn't know he was that good (last year), so he'll get more (opportunities) this year. He'll get more of a chance to prove he belongs. And there's no doubt in my mind that he belongs.”

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RACE OF THE WEEK

2 YONKERS FRI

1 Mile Pace THE MGM URSULA MCINTYRE F&M PACING SERIES LEG #3. Purse \$50,000

51 PICK 3 (2-3-4) | 2ND HALF DAILY DOUBLE | S2 EXACTA | S2 TRIPLE | S.10 SUPERFECTA

1 SEASIDE DIVA (L)

41:50.2 (5/8) Q\$11,107

3-1 Y. Gingras 358-37-53-49 (103)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|
| 3 Apr26 | 6YR | fst65 ⁵ | 28 ² | 57 ³ | 1:26 | 1:53 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 4YR | fst45 ⁵ | 27 | 58 ¹ | 1:254 | 1:533 | UM #1 |
| 12 Mar26 | 9MVR | fst47 ⁰ | 27 | 554 | 1:24 | 1:52 | Opn Hcp FM |
| 6 Mar26 | 4MVR | fst7 ⁰ | 28 ³ | 58 | 1:261 | 1:55 | Qua |
| 26 Dec25 | 11Dtn | fst58 ⁰ | 26 ³ | 551 | 1:231 | 1:521 | Opn Hcp FM |
| 11 Dec25 | 11Dtn | fst32 ² | 26 ² | 55 | 1:223 | 1:51 | Opn Hcp FM |
| 26 Nov25 | 8Mw | slly4 ⁴ | 26 ² | 551 | 1:232 | 1:52 | FMOPEN HCP |
| 19 Nov25 | 8Mw | gd3 ⁴ | 26 ³ | 56 | 1:224 | 1:512 | Opn FM |
| 12 Nov25 | 8Mw | fst47 ⁰ | 264 | 561 | 1:233 | 1:52 | FMOPEN HCP |
| 19 Oct25 | 4CBr | fst6 ¹ | 264 | 551 | 1:231 | 1:532 | Opn FM |

b m 5, by Downbytheseaside, Real Diva by Real Desire
Burke Rcg Stb & Weaver Buscemi,PA;Knox Services,OH;Let It Ride Sts,FL
R. Burke 102-13-22-15 (127)

Last 5 Sts-\$36,680

1:53.3 YR

26 YR 2 1 0 0 \$29,000 26 Tot 3 1 0 1 \$33,300

25 YR 12 1 5 0 \$185,950 25 Tot 28 7 6 3 \$255,880

24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 62 25 11 7 \$1,141,795

2 ROCKET DEO (L)

31:48.3 (1) * \$12,000

2-1 A. McCarthy 8-0-2-2 (1000)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|-------|--------|
| 3 Apr26 | 5YR | fst65 ⁵ | 274 | 571 | 1:251 | 1:521 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 1YR | fst45 ⁵ | 27 | 563 | 1:244 | 1:524 | UM #1 |
| 20 Mar26 | 3YR | fst53 ⁰ | 28 | 572 | 1:252 | 1:54 | FM INV |
| 14 Mar26 | 5M1 | fst50 ⁰ | 29 ³ | 573 | 1:261 | 1:544 | Qua |
| 28 Feb26 | 5M1 | fst38 ⁰ | 30 ³ | 592 | 1:28 | 1:544 | Qua |
| 21 Feb26 | 2M1 | fst50 ⁰ | 281 | 562 | 1:262 | 1:543 | Qua |
| 26 Sep25 | 8YR | fst74 ⁰ | 272 | 561 | 1:243 | 1:53 | FM INV |
| 13 Sep25 | 4YR | fst76 ⁰ | 263 | 551 | 1:231 | 1:533 | FM INV |
| 5 Sep25 | 5PH | fst8 ¹ | 264 | 561 | 1:232 | 1:513 | Opn |
| 22 Aug25 | 2YR | fst79 ⁰ | 263 | 553 | 1:234 | 1:53 | FM INV |

b m 5, by Captaintreacherous, Rocklambam by Rocknroll Hanover
Morrison Racing Stables,Indiana,PA
Bt. Pelling 6-2-1-3 (333)

Last 5 Sts-\$61,000

1:54 YR

26 YR 3 1 1 1 \$36,200 26 Tot 3 1 1 1 \$36,000

25 YR 9 5 1 1 \$172,200 25 Tot 15 8 1 1 \$215,855

24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 40 20 4 4 \$52,454

3 STAYING WITH THE WIND (L)

51:51.4 Q \$1,460

12-1 C. Kelly 326-47-48-54 (144)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|------------|
| 3 Apr26 | 8YR | fst65 ⁵ | 272 | 561 | 1:242 | 1:52 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 5YR | fst45 ⁵ | 28 | 563 | 1:241 | 1:521 | UM #1 |
| 20 Mar26 | 5YR | fst53 ⁰ | 282 | 572 | 1:254 | 1:533 | RW20000L5 |
| 6 Mar26 | 8YR | fst40 ⁰ | 28 | 571 | 1:26 | 1:543 | FM INV |
| 20 Feb26 | 1YR | gd3 ⁶ | 29 | 59 | 1:271 | 1:571 | Qua |
| 14 Nov25 | 7YR | fst44 ⁰ | 274 | 57 | 1:251 | 1:533 | FM INV |
| 24 Oct25 | 7YR | fst52 ⁰ | 271 | 57 | 1:253 | 1:54 | RW323615L5 |
| 17 Oct25 | 8YR | fst55 ⁰ | 28 | 573 | 1:254 | 1:542 | FM INV |
| 10 Oct25 | 3YR | fst57 ⁰ | 274 | 573 | 1:252 | 1:533 | FM INV |
| 26 Sep25 | 8YR | fst74 ⁰ | 272 | 561 | 1:243 | 1:53 | FM INV |

br m 6, by Stay Hungry, Windsong Filou by Astreos
Dillon Stb LLC,Trinton Falls,NJ;B N Loman,Champaign,IL;K Warren,Oceanport,NJ
D. Dilloian, Jr. 92-27-10-10 (293)

Last 5 Sts-\$10,040

1:57.1 YRQ

26 YR 4 0 0 0 \$5,840 26 Tot 4 0 0 0 \$5,840

25 YR 15 4 3 1 \$86,770 25 Tot 28 6 8 2 \$116,610

24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 78 15 10 9 \$173,749

4 SILK CLOUD A (L)

71:49.1 (5/8) Q\$3,981

6-1 L. Tritton 12-1-1-2 (083)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----------|
| 3 Apr26 | 6YR | fst65 ⁵ | 282 | 573 | 1:26 | 1:53 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 3YR | fst45 ⁵ | 28 | 573 | 1:261 | 1:542 | UM #1 |
| 20 Mar26 | 5YR | fst53 ⁰ | 282 | 572 | 1:254 | 1:533 | RW20000L5 |
| 27 Feb26 | 4YR | fst34 ⁰ | 284 | 574 | 1:26 | 1:533 | RW24701L5 |
| 20 Feb26 | 4YR | gd3 ⁶ | 274 | 57 | 1:252 | 1:542 | RW20000L5 |
| 6 Feb26 | 2YR | fst24 ⁰ | 281 | 564 | 1:252 | 1:54 | RW20051L5 |
| 30 Jan26 | 9YR | fst9 ⁰ | 28 | 58 | 1:27 | 1:562 | FM INV |
| 23 Jan26 | 4YR | fst25 ⁰ | 282 | 593 | 1:28 | 1:572 | FM INV |
| 19 Dec25 | 3YR | wf5 ⁰ | 27 | 561 | 1:244 | 1:541 | FM INV |
| 13 Dec25 | 9M1 | fst36 ⁰ | 262 | 541 | 1:214 | 1:493 | TM-90cd |

br m 8, by Shadow Play, Modern Babe by Modern Art
David C Knyway,Amherstburg,ON,CA;Double S Stables LLC,Midway,KY
P. Tritton 39-5-5-5 (128)

Last 5 Sts-\$21,900

1:49.1 PoD 5/8

26 YR 8 0 3 1 \$31,850 26 Tot 8 0 3 1 \$31,850

25 YR 23 5 6 6 \$203,270 25 Tot 27 6 6 6 \$248,520

24 YR 25 10 5 2 \$213,530 Life 110 30 19 15 \$657,261

5 MILLWOOD BLISS N (L)

51:50.4 (5/8) Q\$10,500

6-1 D. Dunn 9-1-1-2 (111)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| 3 Apr26 | 6YR | fst65 ⁵ | 282 | 573 | 1:26 | 1:53 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 4YR | fst45 ⁵ | 28 | 573 | 1:261 | 1:542 | UM #1 |
| 16 Mar26 | 12PDC | slly6 ⁶ | 27 | 562 | 1:241 | 1:521 | M NW8500L4 |
| 7 Mar26 | 3M1 | fst49 ⁰ | 304 | 1:001 | 1:282 | 1:544 | Qua |
| 31 Oct25 | 9M1 | fst25 ⁰ | 262 | 544 | 1:232 | 1:512 | FM INV12500 |
| 23 Oct25 | 8PRC | fst60 ⁰ | 271 | 562 | 1:232 | 1:522 | Opn Hcp FM |
| 16 Oct25 | 7PRC | fst55 ⁰ | 271 | 551 | 1:23 | 1:511 | FM INV7500CD |
| 9 Oct25 | 7PRC | fst94 ⁰ | 263 | 542 | 1:23 | 1:513 | Opn FM |
| 2 Oct25 | 10PRC | fst6 ¹ | 261 | 543 | 1:222 | 1:51 | Opn FM |
| 22 Sep25 | 5PRC | fst7 ¹ | 262 | 543 | 1:22 | 1:501 | Opn FM |

b m 6, by Sweet Lou, Millwood Ivy by Bettor's Delight
T Vassiliou,Hwy,PA;Cool Cat Racing,Flmngtn,NJ;N Tallarico,Smithtn,NY;A Mc Neil,Wstrbrgh,MA
Ri. Norman 4-1-0-0 (250)

Last 5 Sts-\$31,500

1:52.4 PoD 5/8

26 YR 2 1 0 0 \$25,200 26 Tot 3 2 0 0 \$31,500

25 YR 5 0 1 2 \$22,500 25 Tot 25 3 5 6 \$90,405

24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 43 14 6 9 \$231,190

6 TICK A LOCH A (L)

61:51 (1) Q\$9,375

12-1 J. Stratton 377-49-81-46 (114)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------------|
| 3 Apr26 | 8YR | fst65 ⁵ | 282 | 573 | 1:26 | 1:53 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 3YR | fst45 ⁵ | 28 | 573 | 1:261 | 1:542 | UM #1 |
| 6 Mar26 | 8YR | fst40 ⁰ | 28 | 571 | 1:26 | 1:543 | FM INV |
| 20 Feb26 | 9YR | gd3 ⁶ | 28 | 581 | 1:264 | 1:553 | FM INV |
| 6 Feb26 | 4YR | fst24 ⁰ | 281 | 591 | 1:273 | 1:554 | FM INV |
| 30 Jan26 | 9YR | fst9 ⁰ | 28 | 58 | 1:27 | 1:562 | FM INV |
| 23 Jan26 | 9YR | fst25 ⁰ | 284 | 582 | 1:273 | 1:561 | RW21172L5 |
| 9 Jan26 | 10M1 | fst49 ⁰ | 272 | 55 | 1:232 | 1:511 | FM INV12500 |
| 3 Jan26 | 4M1 | fst39 ⁰ | 29 | 58 | 1:271 | 1:532 | Qua |
| 20 Dec25 | 5M1 | fst32 ⁰ | 293 | 581 | 1:262 | 1:552 | Qua |

b m 6, by Always B Miki, Timely Loch by Christian Cullen
Michael Cassalino Jr,Freehold,NJ
C. Height 99-8-20-13 (081)

Last 5 Sts-\$46,700

1:51 M1

26 YR 7 2 3 1 \$56,950 26 Tot 8 3 3 1 \$75,000

25 YR 0 0 0 0 -25 Tot 15 4 3 4 \$59,490

24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 63 13 17 12 \$172,672

7 AARDIE B MIKI N (L)

61:52 (1) \$7,444

7-2 J. Bartlett 409-132-75-55 (323)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------------|
| 3 Apr26 | 7YR | fst65 ⁵ | 273 | 564 | 1:244 | 1:523 | UM #2 |
| 27 Mar26 | 5YR | fst45 ⁵ | 28 | 563 | 1:241 | 1:521 | UM #1 |
| 6 Mar26 | 8YR | fst40 ⁰ | 28 | 571 | 1:26 | 1:543 | FM INV |
| 20 Feb26 | 9YR | gd3 ⁶ | 28 | 581 | 1:264 | 1:553 | FM INV |
| 6 Feb26 | 4YR | fst24 ⁰ | 281 | 591 | 1:273 | 1:554 | FM INV |
| 30 Jan26 | 9YR | fst9 ⁰ | 28 | 58 | 1:27 | 1:562 | FM INV |
| 23 Jan26 | 4YR | fst25 ⁰ | 282 | 593 | 1:282 | 1:572 | FM INV |
| 2 Jan26 | 11M1 | fst26 ⁰ | 274 | 56 | 1:241 | 1:52 | FM INV12500 |
| 19 Dec25 | 3YR | wf5 ⁰ | 27 | 561 | 1:244 | 1:541 | FM INV |
| 13 Dec25 | 5M1 | fst38 ⁰ | 291 | 581 | 1:262 | 1:532 | Qua |

b m 6, by Always B Miki, Tatjana Bromac by Rocknroll Hanover
M T Stables Ontario Inc,Scarborough,ON,CA
P. Engblom 221-52-4-1-35 (235)

Last 5 Sts-\$34,000

1:53.1 YR

26 YR 7 2 1 0 \$51,500 26 Tot 8 3 1 0 \$59,500

25 YR 11 6 1 1 \$386,580 25 Tot 15 6 1 3 \$437,071

24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 44 18 8 6 \$647,576

(L) TREATED WITH LASIX

Dan Patch winners to make 2026 debuts in Big M qualifiers

The Meadowlands will play host to 2025 Dan Patch winners Yo Tillie and Lexus Kody - along with a number of other top Standardbred stars from last year - during an 11-race qualifying session on Saturday morning (April 11) in New Jersey.

Yo Tillie, named the best 3-year-old trotting filly of 2025, is slated for action in the fourth race starting from post one with regular driver Todd McCarthy in the bike for trainer Andrew Harris. Last seen winning the Breeders Crown in late October at Woodbine Mohawk Park, the now 4-year-old won 11 of 12 races last year and has 19 wins in 24 career starts along with \$1.2 million in earnings. She will be joined in the five-horse dash by stablemate Voguish, a fellow 4-year-old that has earned over \$400,000 in her time on the track.

Lexus Kody was honored as Trotter of the Year at the Dan Patch Awards in Florida in February and he will also make his first on-track appearance of 2026 two races later in the sixth race. Lexus Kody closed out his championship campaign by winning the FanDuel championship at The Meadowlands, ending his season with 11 wins in 21 starts and earnings north of \$1.3 million. The 8-year-old starts from post three versus four competitors - including millionaire barn-mate Chapercraz - for trainer Ron Burke and driver Yannick Gingras.

Incidentally, the Burke barn sent out the Dan Patch winner in the 2-year-old pacing filly ranks, Loua Dipa, in a qualifier at The Meadows on April 7. With Ronnie Wrenn Jr. in the bike, the daughter of Sweet Lou sat off the pace before sprinting home in 27 1/5 for the 1:55 1/5 victory.

Back at The Meadowlands on Saturday, Burke also has a potentially top 3-year-old in action with Ubrute making his first appearance of the year. The Kentucky Sire Stakes champion pacing colt from 2025 starts from post one with Gingras in the bike against Kindergarten champion Bookie J (post three, Dexter Dunn). Additionally, the Hall of Fame trainer has millionaire 4-year-old pacer Swingtown prepping for his first start of 2026. He'll also go out with Gingras from post one in race 11.

Others in the Saturday lineup worth noting include Peaceful Way winner Sugar Packet in the opener from post six with Gingras driving for trainer Blake MacIntosh and 4-year-old Harris trainee Unreasonable in the eighth race. The latter was purchased privately by Harris along with co-owners William Pollock and Bruce Aremann after earning just under \$550,000 and pacing 1:47 4/5 at The Red Mile. Unreasonable goes from post one with Jason Bartlett listed to drive.

The Meadowlands card starts at 10 a.m. (EDT) and can be watched [here](#).

Finally, on Friday morning at Southern Oaks Training Center in Florida, Horse of the Year Beau Jangles will qualify for the first time this year. The Dr. Ian Moore trainee is at the top of the heap in terms of 3-year-old pacing contenders this year after posting a perfect record in 12 starts as a freshman. Beau Jangles, who will be driven by co-owner Jonathan Roberts, starts from post two in the fourth race (post time about 10 a.m.) and is flanked by two stablemates including millionaire Prince Hal Hanover.

MEADOWS IS FIRST TO OFFER LIVE VIDEO OF DRAW

Hollywood Casino at The Meadows has become the first harness track in North America to offer live video of the post position draw for each race card with a dedicated YouTube channel.

"We are pleased to offer this service to our owners, trainers and the general public," said Michael Carter, Meadows Director of Racing. "Years ago, everyone could come to the race office and watch the 'shaking of the pills' for the draw, but as with most things these days, everything is now done on the computer. This improves transparency and allows so many more people to see the process take place as it happens. Plus, now you won't have to wait for the full draw results to be posted and you can find out a lot more quickly where your horse has drawn," Carter added.

Viewers on the Meadows YouTube channel will be able to see in real time the actual post positions assigned randomly by the United States Trotting Association's eTrack Racetrack Office System.

While the exact time of the draw can vary by day based on the review and verification of entries for each race card, viewers can subscribe to the channel to receive an alert on draw days when the live video begins.

[Click here for The Meadows' Post Position YouTube channel.](#)

-edited release (The Meadows)

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, APRIL 9

RACE 4

(5) PAYBACK MONI missed out on a scheduled start last Thursday as she was scratched sick but won handily in this class prior to that, and I'll look for her to pick up where she left off.

-Greg Reinhart



FRIDAY, APRIL 10

RACE 11

(7) VICTOR INVICTUS is back to himself after two strong wins from up close. J-Mac gets along really well with this classy horse.

-Kevin Plowcha



RACE 13

(5) SAINT PATRICK displayed good early speed but got shuffled a bit in his first start since September. In the lane he was hopelessly stuck behind horses and would've won with clearance. That Beckwith jumps to the bigger Robinson barn on #8 means our price should improve.

-Derick Givner



SATURDAY, APRIL 11

RACE 9

(2) TARANAKI gave his all with a big final quarter but just couldn't make much of a dent into the leaders after a 57 2/5 half and 1:25 4/5 three quarters last time. Five-year-old is capable of ripping off a big mile.

-Givner



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

ARCI CONFERENCE PANELS DISCUSS WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS

Radical change regarding how the racing industry deals with computerized automated wagering will be difficult to implement due to the industry's financial difficulties and the theoretical nature of the benefits to other horseplayers, according to speakers on a panel dealing with CAWs at the Association of Racing Commissioners International conference in Indianapolis on Wednesday.

Speakers on the panel, which was called "Consumer Confidence in a World of Computer Assisted Wagering," largely agreed that CAWs remain an "issue to be managed," rather than a target for restrictions, due to their outsized presence in Thoroughbred racing's betting pools and the difficulty of dislodging them from the pools without significant economic repercussions.

[READ MORE](#)

WEISS SERIES FILLIES BATTLE IN FIRST ROUND

Sophomore fillies were in the Weiss Series spotlight on Tuesday afternoon at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, as four fields of trotters and three of pacers each went for \$17,500 purses in their first round preliminaries.

[READ MORE](#)

HARRAH'S PHILADELPHIA'S 2026 OPENING DAY CARD SET FOR FRIDAY

The 2026 harness racing season begins at Harrah's Philadelphia this Friday afternoon (April 10) with a first post of 12:25 p.m. (EDT), and the fields for the inaugural racing card of the year were put together on Tuesday (April 7).

[READ MORE](#)

JORDAN STRATTON VICTORIOUS FOR 6,000TH TIME

A 1:54 3/5 win with Lucapelo A in Monday night's (April 6) ninth race at MGM Yonkers Raceway gave Jordan Stratton the 6,000th victory of his driving career.

[READ MORE](#)

THREE HORSES REPEAT IN MGM BORGATA PACING SERIES AT YONKERS

Soho Firestone A, Huntinthelastdolar and Donegal Luther N improved to two-for-two in this year's MGM Borgata Pacing Series after victories in their respective \$50,000 splits on Monday (April 6). Captain Albano, who was third in his race a week ago, took the remaining test.

[READ MORE](#)

CANADIAN HORSE RACING HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2026

The Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame (CHRF) announced on Wednesday, April 8 the organization's 2026 inductees, marking the 50th year of honoring the best in Canadian racing.

This 50th Anniversary Class features six Standardbred, six Thoroughbred and two Legend inductees, all of which can be described as accomplished industry leaders, skilled horsepeople and horses that have thrilled fans.

Class of 2026 - Standardbred Inductees

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Builder - Dr. Maurice Stewart | Male Horse - Majestic Son |
| Veteran Horse - Western Dreamer | Female Horse - Put On A Show |
| Trainer - Doug Arthur | Driver - Mike Saftic |

Class of 2026 - Thoroughbred Inductees

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Builder - John Burness | Trainer - Dale Saunders |
| Jockey - Richard Dos Ramos | Communicator - Michael Burns Jr. |
| Female Horse - One For Rose | Male Horse - Rahy's Attorney |

-edited release (Standardbred Canada/Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame)

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK ADDS MONDAY QUALIFIERS

Woodbine Mohawk Park's Race Office would like to remind trainers of the addition of Monday qualifiers for the next four weeks.

Starting this Monday (April 13), qualifiers will be held every Monday and Friday through May 8. Start time each morning is 9:30 a.m.

The entry box for Monday qualifiers will close on Fridays at 10:30 a.m., while entries for Friday qualifiers close Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Woodbine Mohawk Park is aiming to host an equal number of qualifying races each day and encourages trainers to utilize both mornings.

Training continues to be offered every Wednesday and Saturday morning from 7 a.m. to Noon. Starting in May, training will also be available on Tuesdays.

-release (Woodbine)

VERNON DOWNS OPENING NIGHT SET FOR APRIL 18

Vernon Downs is set to begin its 73rd anniversary of racing on Saturday, April 18. Post time for Opening Night is 5:05 p.m. and features a t-shirt giveaway after the third race.

In preparation for the season, Vernon Downs is holding 12 qualifying races on Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. Guests who want an early glimpse of the racing action are welcome to watch from the track apron.

2025 leading driver Leon Bailey and leading trainer Michelle Warner return to defend their titles. Last season's titles came down to the wire as both weren't clinched until closing night 2025.

Vernon Downs will once again host several stakes races including eight New York Sire Stakes cards featuring the top trainers and drivers in the sport. On June 12, the 3-year-old filly trotters and 3-year-old trotting colts take center stage in the \$500,000 Empire Breeders Classic. The \$600,000 Zweig Memorial, which annually features the best Grand Circuit sophomore trotters on the road to the August 8 \$1 million Hambletonian at The Meadowlands, will take place on a special Sunday night card on July 19.

To close out the season's stakes action, the second New York Sire Stakes Big Apple Finals for state-bred freshmen will offer \$1 million in purses. Elimination races are set for Friday, October 2 with a \$250,000 final for each division of trotters and pacers on October 9.

Vernon Downs is proud to offer the best promotions in harness racing. Reoccurring giveaways include the popular Meat Madness and Back to School gift cards as well as the new Beat the Heat and Pluck a Duck promotion. The Friday Easy As 1-2-3 promotions features discounted food and drink specials. On July 4, a spectacular fireworks show will follow the races. "Corntastic Weekend" will take place August 14-15 featuring free hot ears of corn on both nights.

The always popular Horse Play Car Giveaway starts May 8 and runs until October 10. For all upcoming promotions and promotions rules visit VernonDowns.com/racing.

Live racing takes place from April through November and entry to the track is free every race day. For post time information, promotions information and full 2026 live racing calendar, visit www.vernondowns.com/racing.

-edited release (Vernon)

CARMINE'S PARTNERS WITH MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment and Carmine's NYC will host An Evening with Carmine's at the Meadowlands, a one-night dining experience on April 18th honoring the legacy of the late Carmine Abbatiello. The event brings Carmine's iconic family-style dining to the Meadowlands for a special evening rooted in tradition, community, and giving back.

This limited-time pop-up will feature a Carmine's buffet of beloved classics, offering guests the brand's signature "big plates" in a shared, celebratory setting. The evening will also include a tribute moment and photo opportunity commemorating Abbatiello's legacy and the connection that inspired the partnership.

Carmine's, founded in 1990 and named in honor of Carmine Abbatiello, has long been synonymous with generous portions, Italian-American tradition, and meals meant to bring people together. This special event reflects those values while celebrating the personal connections that inspired the restaurant's name and enduring spirit.

A portion of the proceeds from the evening will benefit the Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program, supporting the care and rehoming of Standardbred horses and extending the event's impact beyond the table in honor of Abbatiello.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

-edited release (Meadowlands)