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David Miller reaches 15,000 wins

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Brennan series to Kazio Dk; Graded stakes season starts Thursday

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



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner
[@harnesseveguy](#)

While it is way too early to put any thought into the Road to the Hambletonian since some of the top 3-year-old trotters won't even qualify for weeks, we've seen enough horses return to at least consider the sophomore pacing crop.

Exactly seven weeks from Saturday on June 13, a field of 10 will line up for the C\$1,000,000 North America Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Many of those combatants will then race four weeks later in the \$800,000 (Est.) Meadowlands Pace on July 11 and two weeks after that in the \$350,000

(Est.) Adios at The Meadows. Those three Grade 1 events will serve as the proving ground for the contenders and the pretenders among the best 3-year-old pacers in North America. Divisional honors may be decided down the road in further Grade 1's like the Little Brown Jug and Breeders Crown, but at this point we can only focus on the immediate future just seven weeks away.

Many of the top dogs in the division have already stepped on the track for qualifiers and will be making their initial pari-mutuel starts of 2026 in the coming weeks. Although for some reason you can't bet it anywhere – not an ADW, DraftKings or even Kalshi – it seems worthwhile to take an advance look at my early lead contenders to win the North America Cup. Keep in mind

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that this hypothetical ranking takes into account not only 2025 performance but what I've seen from them in qualifying action thus far.

There were 49 horses eligible to the Pepsi North America Cup as of March 15. Another C\$1,000 payment was due on April 15 and that list has yet to be released. Most of the names will likely remain the same and it will be interesting to see how many horses take a shot against the reigning Dan Patch Award winner for Horse of the Year.

1-BEAU JANGLES



Every conversation begins with the still undefeated (12-for-12) Horse of the Year. Early reports have been stellar as Beau Jangles won his first qualifier at Florida's Southern Oaks Training Center in 1:51 4/5 and followed it up with a sizzling 1:50 4/5 victory over the same surface on April 17. Video

was available from the start to the three quarters and for the final eighth of the second effort. Beau Jangles seemed very comfortable the entire way despite a 26 3/5 opening quarter.

Putting the two qualifying miles into perspective, he beat 4-year-old millionaire stablemate Prince Hal Hanover both times and missed the Southern Oaks track record by just one second in the April 17 effort. Providing more context, the 1:50 4/5 qualifying mile is already tied for the second fastest of the year behind Twin B Thriller's 1:49 4/5 mark at Pocono Downs.

"I was looking for the 1:50 range. I told [driver Bob McClure] not to beat 1:50 because it would beat my track record there," said trainer Dr. Ian Moore with a chuckle.

We already know that Beau Jangles is capable of pacing and winning in 1:48 3/5 because he accomplished that last year. The big question is whether the son of Cattlewash can drop another one to two seconds and get down to the 1:47 range that will be required to win a race like the North America Cup.

"We are optimistic and hope he will be highly competitive like he was last year. It will be a whole lot tougher but hopefully he'll excel. I've had good 2-year-olds before that were really good and staggered a little bit as 3-year-olds, so hopefully that doesn't happen here. So far everything looks good but we haven't tested the waters yet."

Already a sizable specimen at age 2, Moore reports that Beau Jangles didn't grow any over the winter but did fill out some. He'll aim for the SBOA eliminations at Woodbine Mohawk Park on May 9 but if they don't fill the trainer admitted he'll probably look for a qualifier to keep him tight. After that the choice will be the Somebeachsomewhere or a leg of the Ontario Sire Stakes Gold division ahead of the North America Cup.

2-BRANDON BLVD

There was plenty to like here as this colt won seven times in 10 starts and posted a 1:48 4/5 mark at Woodbine Mohawk Park in an elimination for the Breeders Crown. He was used early in the final and had to settle for fourth but showed more than enough during the year to make him a top contender for 2026.

Brandon Blvd's first qualifier came at The Meadowlands on April 18 versus fellow contender Ubrute and that provided a good early barometer on how these colts are doing. While Ubrute won by a nose in 1:52 after setting all the fractions, I felt Brandon Blvd's effort was more visually impressive as he was driven patiently and kept inching in with a 25 4/5 final quarter.

"I thought he qualified great. [Driver] Dex [Dunn] said he wasn't planning on pulling him but got to the head of the lane and couldn't help himself," said Brandon Blvd's trainer Andrew Harris. "He's a very talented colt and I'm expecting good things out of him this year. He'll qualify again this Friday [race 11 at The Meadowlands]."

While some are focusing on Sire Stakes, Harris is planning to bring his colt to Plainridge Park for the \$100,000 Paul Revere on May 2 to start the horse's pari-mutuel campaign in 2026.

"We are optimistic and hope he will be highly competitive like he was last year. It will be a whole lot tougher but hopefully he'll excel. I've had good 2-year-olds before that were really good and staggered a little bit as 3-year-olds, so hopefully that doesn't happen here. So far everything looks good but we haven't tested the waters yet."

-trainer Dr. Ian Moore on Beau Jangles

"He's Kentucky and Ohio eligible and I don't want to ship that far before we go to the North America Cup. I want to keep the shipping to a minimum as much as possible," said Harris.

3-ODDS ON MR MAMBA

An Indiana-bred by Odds On Equuleus, Odds On Mr Mamba owns the fastest mile (1:47 4/5) by a freshman pacer in 2025. Incidentally it is also the fastest mile by a 2-year-old pacer in history, though it is worth noting that the second and third slots are filled by horses – Loua Dipa (1:48) and Al Papi (1:48 1/5) – who accomplished the feat in 2025, so the breed is getting faster.



The gelding has never left Hoosier Park or faced Grand Circuit foes, so there is some uncertainty. We also haven't seen him qualify yet so we don't have any indication on how he may be progressing. Still, even without additional development, he's already fast enough to make tons of money. If I was able to see a race, he might be ranked second.

"He wintered well and filled out some. While good-looking, he's a rather plain and average horse that is hard to show off and say he's the world's fastest 2-year-old, but he is. I guess you can compare him to Foiled Again in that way," said Peter Wrenn, who works with the 3-year-old along with his wife Melanie.

According to Wrenn, Odds On Mr Mamba will have his first of two qualifiers at Hoosier Park on April 29. Then he will look for an overnight race ahead of the first leg of the Indiana Sire Stakes on May 25 at Hoosier before heading to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the North America Cup eliminations 11 days later.

While Wrenn knows he has an excellent horse with plenty of speed, he is very cognizant that the competition isn't going to roll over and concede when Odds On Mr Mamba shows up. Especially the undefeated Beau Jangles.

"They are both phenomenal," said Wrenn in regard to his horse and Beau Jangles. "And don't think there aren't others out there who could pop up as well. It is just rewarding to hear [Odds On Mr Mamba] in the same circles as the best in the division."

4-AL PAPI

Papi Rob Hanover colt only missed the board once as a freshman with an 11-4-4-2 record. His ability to put up a 1:48 2/5 win on the engine at The Red Mile is intriguing if he can build on that performance in 2026.

From two qualifiers I'd call the results mixed. Start one saw him brush to the lead under a hold before dropping a pair of quarters in 27 3/5 and 27 to finish out a powerful 1:52 4/5 win well under his own power. A week

later on April 21 he was back at Harrah's Philadelphia for another morning effort and set similar fractions on the front but was easily passed by Gentleman's Club in the stretch despite a 55-second back half. Gentleman's Club is a very nice horse who won the Governor's Cup last year, so there is no shame there, but Al Papi didn't have the same life late in the stretch in his second qualifier.

"The first [qualifier] we were thrilled and the second was a little bit of a step backward," said trainer Ron Burke, who confirmed whispers that there has been some sickness and viruses going around Gaitway Farms where his New Jersey horses are stabled. "I'm sure we'll get his bloodwork back [Thursday] and that will tell me if there was anything there."

"[Lexus] Kody, I wasn't happy with his second qualifier and we took his blood and he had a virus."

5-UBRUTE



Tall Dark Stranger-sired colt only won twice in 10 starts as a 2-year-old but did show signs of being a talented horse. Luck may've been a factor as he drew post 10 in the Governor's Cup and post nine in the Breeders Crown to close out his stakes year.

As mentioned earlier, Ubrute won his initial qualifier in 1:52. While

there was nothing "wrong" with it, I wouldn't say I came away impressed. Still, it was just start one and more can be expected.

"With him I was happy [with the qualifier]. We are trying to keep him quiet. When we want him to go fast I can turn him on when I want to. Right now we are just trying to keep him calm and chill. [Brandon Blvd] was getting to him but I don't think he would've gotten around him. I think he would've kept on fighting," said trainer Ron Burke, who added Ubrute's next race is up in the air between Sire Stakes and Stallion Stakes. "I'm trying to point for big-track races only so there is even a chance I won't take Ubrute [to either PA-bred series]."

6-GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

Opened some eyes when he pulled off a 13-1 upset in the Governor's Cup at The Meadowlands in November with a 1:50 2/5 win. Downbytheseaside colt also made some noise in Ohio Sire Stakes action.

The above accomplishments alone weren't enough to make the top 10 but watching him roll by Al Papi with ease in a 1:53 1/5 qualifier on April 21 pushed him over the top. He was clearly the fresher horse on that day and perhaps a 3-year-old to reckon with all year.

"I was extremely happy with the qualifier and so was [driver] Andy [McCarthy]. We are going to qualify again next Saturday [May 2] at The Meadowlands and then look for a race for him," said trainer Aaron Lambert.

7-MELILLO

Won \$380K, paced in 1:48 4/5 and in my eyes he overachieved as a 2-year-old. There is no doubt he has speed and the question for me is whether he has improved over the winter. On April 14 he sat the pocket through soft fractions until pulling on the final turn in his lone qualifier at Harrah's Philadelphia. Colt had dead aim on the leader and was turned aside while all out. It wasn't a particularly inspiring mile.

Fast forward to April 22 where the results were much better in a pari-mutuel event at The Meadows. Here he sat the pocket through very fast fractions of 26 4/5, 54 4/5 and 1:21 4/5 before coming up the inside and winning in-hand with a 1:51 1/5 clocking. That's more like it!

"[Driver] Ronnie [Wrenn] takes care of them. He gets it. It is a long year. There is no need to win by four [lengths] when you can win by two," said trainer Ron Burke, who was thrilled with the winning mile at The Meadows.

8-FRANTIC HANOVER



He was also an undefeated 2-year-old riding a seven-race winning streak until he met Beau Jangles in the Metro and had to settle for second. He never won another race in 2025 in four more starts and now enters this year with some questions to answer.

Stay Hungry colt accelerated well when asked for speed in his first qualifier at Harrah's Philadelphia but was all-out in the stretch to defeat a Ray Baynes-trained 4-year-old with little on his resumé. On April 21, he set reasonable fractions and was asked for speed on the final turn as well as the stretch and never found a second gear as nine-start maiden Caviart Anders closed in intently.

"The first [qualifier] I wasn't worried about because [driver] Timmy [Tetrick] was taking him back. The other day he was great all the way up to the last 100 yards, but he scoped sick," said trainer Ron Burke, who confirmed that Melillo, Al Papi and Frantic Hanover will all head to the PA Sire Stakes next and are aiming for the North America Cup.

9-SIGNAL CALLER

Captaintreacheraus colt had enough pure speed to put up a 1:48 4/5 win at The Red Mile in 2025. While he lacked consistency and is certainly not the smartest horse in the barn, at least we know he can go with them. With no qualifying miles yet this year it is impossible to know if he's more mature now or not. Some of that could be answered when he qualifies Friday morning in race 10 at The Meadowlands.

"I'm very happy with him," said trainer Noel Daley when asked about Signal Caller.

10-SUPERCHAMP HANOVER

Sweet Lou-sired gelding didn't do much as a 2-year-olds despite winning just over \$100,000. That said, he returned with an impressive 1:52 2/5 qualifying victory at Pocono Downs on April 15 and closed it out with back to back 27-second quarters. There is certainly a chance he's an even better horse now and we'll find out more in race 14 at Harrah's Philadelphia on Thursday. After that it is on to the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes.

"He had a fantastic winter in Florida. We knew he was feeling good but didn't expect the 53 4/5 last half. [Driver] Matt [Kakaley] said he felt like he was pacing 29-second quarters. He growled at him down by the wire just to keep his attention and he hit another gear," said trainer Travis Alexander on the qualifying effort. "We are cautiously optimistic."

OTHERS TO WATCH

Many of the rest either haven't qualified yet or just didn't do enough between 2025 and 2026 to deserve a spot in the top 10. Some horses I'm watching include Sonofanutcracker, who scratched out of the Ubrute/Brandon Blvd qualifier on April 18, Crocodile Station, who won his 2026 debut at Miami Valley in 1:52 and starts in the Hackett final over that surface on Thursday, and Be Sting, a 1:52 1/5 qualifying winner at The Meadowlands.

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Oak Grove Derbies could pave a new path to the Hambletonian



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

Holding a top race for 3-year-old trotters in May has become tougher and tougher over time. Once the Hambletonian became worth \$1 million and had a firm date of the first Saturday in August, trainers with prime candidates for the sport's biggest prize routinely waited to get into serious competition until June and sometimes later. While decent races were put on the calendar prior to the August date, quite often there was a lukewarm response in nominations and inevitably entries.

Given all prior data, it is refreshing to know that the timing of two new stakes races, specifically the Oak Grove Trotting Derby and Oak Grove Trotting Oaks – slated for \$500,000 and \$300,000 finals, respectively, on May 16 – will produce the anticipated results. That being horses with proven ability in stakes competition as freshman are expected to be on the scene for the May 4 elimination races.

“I plan on sending Spencer Hanover and Setyoursightshigh,” said trainer Marcus Melander, who trains last year's Breeders Crown champion in Spencer Hanover as well as the In Range-sired filly Setyoursightshigh. She captured last year's Ohio Sire Stakes final and has plenty of experience in Kentucky having won last year's \$100,000 Kentucky Championship race at Oak Grove's five-eighths mile oval.

“I'm going to qualify Spencer Hanover again on Friday at The Meadowlands,” said Melander.

The Breeders Crown victory gave Spencer Hanover an automatic nomination to compete in the first Oak Grove Trotting Derby and Melander is looking forward to taking the spot afforded. As for the Chapter Seven-sired colt's early return following a long and late freshman campaign, Melander said, “He was very fresh ending the year and feeling great. We gave him a few weeks off and he came back well. Jason (Bartlett) just let him trot on his own last week.”

Spencer Hanover finished fourth against another top New York-bred sophomore in AI last week and Melander will make a change before this Friday's action. “He did qualify without hobbles but we're going to put them back on. I think if he was only going to race on a mile track all year he could go without them,” Melander said.

The Ron Burke-trained AI made nearly \$400K racing 14 times as a freshman. He won the April 18 qualifier in 1:54 3/5 looking very much in hand through the 27 1/5 final quarter. AI captured last year's New York Sire Stakes championship final at Batavia. Perhaps as impressive was five wins in six tries in Sire Stakes action over New York's half-mile ovals.

Trainer Matt Burkholder has been prepping his two top stakes candidates and won't start either Silverstein or Requiem in advance of the May 4 eliminations.

“They both qualified well and are ready,” said Burkholder. “David (Miller) was happy with both.”

Silverstein and Requiem qualified in 1:55 2/5 with the Hall of Famer in the bike on April 18 at Miami Valley. Silverstein was the more accomplished of the pair last year earning \$370K with a Kentucky Championship at Oak Grove as well as a third-place finish in the Mohawk Million. The son of Chapter Seven was also third in the \$400,000 Kentucky Championships at The Red Mile.

“He hasn't grown much but he's filled out,” said Burkholder of Silverstein, a 1:51 4/5 winner that finished on the board in 11 of his 12 starts as a freshman.

Requiem won four times in 10 starts last year including back-to-back Grand Circuit victories at The Red Mile last fall.

Racing top sophomores early wasn't a concern. “It's a \$500,000 race,” said Burkholder, who is giving Silverstein a chance since the horse is ineligible for the Hambletonian. Stablemate Requiem was made eligible, however.

“I didn't want to race them three straight times so we'll just go straight to the eliminations,” said Burkholder about his pair that will skip this Monday's (April 27) prep race. “It's an eight-and-a-half-hour ship from here,” said Burkholder of the decision.

Two of last year's premier 2-year-olds are eligible to the race following



FOTOWON

Spencer Hanover is heading to the \$500K Oak Grove Trotting Derby.

victories in signature events in 2025. Apex, the Peter Haughton Memorial winner, and Ardonne, the William Wellwood Memorial winner, are included on the list of 43 colts and geldings eligible to the \$500,000 Oak Grove Trotting Derby.

“I'm taking Apex to The Meadowlands Friday and he'll train there this week and probably again next week,” said Melander, who expects Apex to likely qualify the same weekend the New Jersey Sire Stakes commences. “His first start will probably be in the second leg of the Sire Stakes.”

Ardonne was seen training a mile at The Meadowlands last Saturday (April 18) with Scott Zeron in the bike and reportedly he'll train there again this Friday and point towards the New Jersey Sire Stakes.

Trainer Per Engblom has been sending out winners all over the harness landscape and he's likely to have a presence at Oak Grove as well with Kingmen, a son of Walner that made his season's debut going wire-to-wire at Pocono on April 20 in 1:55. Kingmen's best performance as a 2-year-old came finishing second in the Champlain at Woodbine Mohawk Park last September.

Kentucky Sire Stakes champion Endurance also finished second in the Mohawk Million. He earned for \$557K for trainer Chris Beaver. Endurance, a colt from the first crop of Captain Corey, won his lone qualifier this year in a powerhouse performance trotting to a 1:53 4/5 mile at Spring Garden Ranch on April 16. Andrew McCarthy guided him through a 27 1/5 final quarter finishing a dozen lengths in front of Zephyr Kemp, an Oak Grove Derby eligible that trainer Marcus Melander is considering.

Melander sounded quite happy with his returning sophomore trotting filly Setyoursightshigh. “Dexter was very happy with her qualifier,” said Melander. “He raced her from behind.”

Setyoursightshigh trotted a mile in 1:54 4/5 at Spring Garden Ranch on April 16, her final prep for the Oak Grove Trotting Oaks.

A total of 58 fillies are eligible for the race including last year's Goldsmith Maid champion All Time Trot S, a daughter of Googoo Gaagaa that will qualify for the first time this year on Friday at The Meadowlands for trainer Ake Svanstedt.

Jailbird Jog, a Grand Circuit winner at The Red Mile last year and a multiple Oak Grove winner, qualified on Tuesday at The Meadows in powerful fashion and makes her sophomore debut on Monday in a \$25,000 Oak Grove Trotting Oaks prep (race six).

The second prep (race nine) contains the intriguing Ginger Tree Lex, a winner of seven straight to conclude her 2025 campaign. She makes her debut this year off a pair of qualifiers and will experience Grand Circuit competition for the first time in her career in the elimination round.

Trainer Blake McIntosh's Sugar Packet won last year's Peaceful Way, earning a spot in the Oak Grove Trotting Oaks. The daughter of Six Pack has qualified twice at The Meadowlands in preparation for the Oaks.

Whether any horse will capture the Oak Grove sophomore stakes and go on to capture the Hambletonian or Oaks remains to be seen. Much is at stake as the Oak Grove events could help pave the way for more quality races in these divisions prior to the Hambletonian, something that's been absent way too long.

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CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

Stallion Concentration

I have been handicapping horses for over 50 years now. That doesn't make me an expert in and of itself, but suffice to say it is a topic I know a lot about. Recently I have gotten into an area of the sport where my knowledge comes up a bit shorter – Breeding. And I promise this will be my last article on the topic for a while.

I admit to having fallen down a rabbit hole on this topic. And I am trying to learn. That doesn't mean I am not entitled to opinions, but I am willing to be educated.

My topic today is the pedigree similarities of far too many stallions. In the old days we talked about a great outcross stallion - Abercrombie comes to mind, as does Big Towner on the pacing side. More recently, Father Patrick comes to mind on the trotting side. I understand why we want to concentrate the bloodlines of certain dominant stallions. It makes sense for sons of Somebeachsomewhere and Captaintreacherous to stand at stud in different markets, but at what point are we diminishing the outcross vigor of the breed?

In Ohio nearly half of our pacing stallions are sons or grandsons of "Beach" or "The Captain". And we have several half-brothers or full brothers standing in the state. We also have the sons of very good stallions standing in the same state as their dad. To me that doesn't make sense, but perhaps I am wrong.

As Bob Boni told me, "Full or half-brothers most often make little difference. Historically, stallions stand on their own merit, regardless of their breeding."

Okay, I get that. But from a marketing standpoint, why would you move a moderately successful stallion from a pretty decent jurisdiction to a good jurisdiction?

"Probably little opportunity," Boni told me. "Even with a little variation, stallions stand out on their own for the most part. I either like a sire or I don't. But that said, a brother to a successful stallion would probably have a little more appeal, but his record would have more importance. Don't overthink it."

Yeah, don't overthink it. For me, that would be like telling the most interesting man in the world not to drink Dos Equis. It ain't happening. That's just how my mind works.

Of course, standing a son of a great stallion makes sense. Downbytheseaside's son Gulf Shores was sent to Minnesota and he has been well received there. But DBTS's son Pebble Beach is standing in Ohio, competing head-to-head with his dad. I will grant that their maternal lines are somewhat different, as are their stud fees. Pebble Beach stands for \$7,500, while Downbytheseaside stands for \$17,500!

The hot new trotting sire in Ohio is In Range. He stands for \$10,000. But in Ohio, you can breed to his 3/4 brother Long Tom, who has a long track record of success, for half of that stud fee. Granted, In Range had the "it" horse in Ohio last year, Big Ranger. But Long Tom's son Tennessee Tom is no slouch, either. They are both sons of Ilya, a daughter of the very good broodmare Tasha Yar. In Range is by Bar Hopping, a son of the great Muscle Hill. Long Tom is a son of Muscle Hill. Even though neither one made \$1,000,000 or raced 30 times in their career, they are both highly in demand. In Range's book was full and closed before the Ohio Stallion Guide was even published, and Long Tom services over 120 mares every year. So I guess the demand is there. But I still don't understand why In Range would not have gone to say Kentucky or Pennsylvania, instead of going head-to-head with his successful brother.

At least those two both have production records to hang their hats on. The pacing side in Ohio has an even crazier situation. That has to do with the sons of Shot Togo Bluechip. An unraced daughter of Cam's Card Shark, she got 12 of 14 foals to the races, with 10 of them taking marks of 1:55 or better and two earning over a million dollars

If you like that background, you can breed to not one, not two, but three of her sons in Ohio. Carbine (Somebeachsomewhere, remember him) is still racing and standing at stud with a \$2,500 fee. Two of her American Ideal sons also stand in the Buckeye State. Sunfire Blue Chip will have his first Ohio yearlings sell this fall. Heston Blue Chip was moved to Ohio from New York where he had pretty good success. Heston stands for \$5,000, Sunfire for \$2,500. On the track they showed good numbers, with Heston taking a 1:48 mark back when that meant something. He banked nearly \$1.8 million in his career. Sunfire took a 1:48 3/5 mark and earned over \$1.6 million. By the way, although he has only made about \$700,000, Carbine is faster than both with a 1:47 4/5 mark.

Heston Blue Chip has yet to sire a millionaire, but he has nine sub-1:50 credits from about 600 foals. Sunfire Blue Chip has just three 1:50 credits, but he has only sired about 150 babies. Only one of his get has earned over \$500,000, a level that four Heston Blue Chip-sired horses have reached. Carbine stood his first season in 2024 and sired about 30 babies, many of which will hit the sales this fall. So we have no track record to see if the Somebeachsomewhere blood will make a difference.

On paper, Heston Blue Chip seems to be a better stud than Sunfire Blue Chip. Until you take a look at the quality of mares he has bred. This is an often overlooked aspect of breeding. While the stallions get all the press and glory, the mares are equally as important, and "Heston" has bred a far better group of mares than "Sunfire" or Carbine.

Look, it's a business. I get that. And stallion owners are entitled to stand their studs wherever they want or wherever they can make the best business deal. I just worry that, despite the plethora of available stallions, we are concentrating our genetics a little too much. Only time will tell.

That's it for this time. Now go cash. Hopefully on a horse who has Shot Togo Bluechip as their second dam.



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A CAESARS REWARDS. DESTINATION

Nifty Norman with a busy stakes weekend at Yonkers, Pocono

By Jay Bergman

Trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman will have his stable out in force this weekend with prime candidates both in Friday’s fifth preliminary leg of the MGM Ursula McIntyre series at Yonkers and then on Saturday in the \$50,000 conclusion to the Bobby Weiss Series for sophomore male pacers at Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs.

On Friday, Norman sends out a pair in two of three \$50,000 divisions of the McIntyre with one horse likely advancing to the rich final on May 8 and the other hoping for minor spoils in the consolation. Perhaps his biggest surprise this year is Millwood Bliss N, a 6-year-old by Sweet Lou that has emerged with two wins in the first four legs of the series and could be preparing for a major payday in the final.

“She did a lot of racing before she came over,” said Norman of Millwood Bliss N’s 5-year-old campaign in 2025 that saw the mare win but three times in 25 starts. This year she’s won three of her first five races. “She’s just been more settled this year than she was last year.”

Millwood Bliss N looked to be on the outside of a finals berth after finishing sixth in the opening leg.

“That may have been on me,” said Norman half-joking. “I was giving Jonathan Ahle too many instructions and how to handle her behind the gate. She got mad and made a break.”

The tables turned for Norman and Millwood Bliss N in the second leg when she rallied without cover into a quick final half for Dexter Dunn at odds of 52-1. After a creditable fourth in the third leg of the series on April 10, Millwood Bliss N regained winning form in last week’s penultimate preliminary tracking down favored Tarapasta in the stretch.

“All of these races are big,” said Norman. “You’re going for \$50,000 every week so it’s not just the points but the purses.”

With \$60K already banked in 2026, Millwood Bliss hopes to add to her account on Friday night in the second of three McIntyre divisions carded as race three.

Millwood Bliss N drew post six in a field with the same number and despite her recent form is not likely to be the public choice. Louies Girl N (post 1) has been a dominant force in the series this year thus far and looks for her fourth victory in the series on Friday. A 1:51 4/5 winner last week, Louies Girl N’s time was a full two seconds faster than Millwood Bliss N.

“I still think we can get a nice check in there,” Norman said, recognizing the position advantage of Louies Girl N.

Dougs Babe A has raced in all four preliminary legs for Norman without a victory but has looked better in her last two outings.

“She’s been improving,” said Norman. “I think we’re hoping for a spot in the consolation with her.”

Dougs Babe A (post 2) faces just four others in the fourth race and final McIntyre division on the Yonkers card. Dougs Babe A is definitely a contender in the short field with Silk Cloud A (post 3) and Tick A Loch A (post 4) both preliminary leg winners looking to bolster their chances of reaching the final.

Just five mares will go in the first McIntyre with Tarapasta (post 1), last year’s champion Aardie B Miki N (post 2) and Coastal Babe N (post 4) already hoping to lock up positions in the final.

On Saturday the action shifts to Pocono and Norman’s Twin B Manhunt could be a player in the Weiss final, race 10 of 14 on the afternoon program.

“He’s improved with every start,” said Norman of the Huntsville-sired



MIKE LIZZI PHOTO

Millwood Bliss N is a two-leg winner in the Ursula McIntyre series.

gelding that he said was a bit hard to train down and raced just three times as a freshman.

Twin B Manhunt won for the first time in his career in the third and final preliminary round of the Weiss on April 18, pacing to a 1:53 mark. Driven by Tyler Buter, Twin B Manhunt saved ground throughout the mile and then found room along the pylons in the stretch for the score.

“I think he’s a better horse than what he shows on the program,” Norman said of the improving Twin B Manhunt. “Dexter (Dunn) will drive him this week and I’m hoping they can mix it up a little bit.”

With a favorable draw, Norman recognizes that Twin B Manhunt will need to see plenty of action on the front end if he has a chance for an upset. Last week’s final round may have been the kind of shake-up that Norman was thinking about as Twin B Thriller (post 6), an imposing winner in the first two legs of the series, made a break in the stretch under pressure and finished fourth. Whether that opens the door for the rest remains to be seen but there are certainly others in the group of sophomores with talent and potential. Ooglesaurus (post 5) won in both of his preliminary legs for trainer Joe Bongiorno and Jason Bartlett guides the gelded son of Lazurus N in the final.

Tyler Buter opted for Justinian (post 2) in the Weiss final and the Nick Devita-trained son of Papi Rob Hanover has improved with each start this year, posting a lifetime best 1:51 3/5 clocking in his victory on April 18, setting him up nicely for the final.

Stingman (post 8) was a beaten favorite in the first two rounds of the series but pulled off the upset in last week’s final leg for Dave Palone. Stingman drew post eight for the final but has shown the capacity to overcome the draw this year with five wins in seven tries.

Twin B Thriller is the Weiss series’ fastest winner to date with his 1:49 4/5 effort in the April 4 opening round. The son of Always B Miki has slowed it down dramatically in the next two rounds, winning the second in 1:51 3/5.

Rounding out the Weiss field will be Barrow (post 1), Southwind Galvestn (post 3) and Northern Attitude (post 7).

Pocono races at 1:00 PM (EDT) on Saturday while Yonkers Raceway gets underway at 6:45 PM (EDT) on Friday.

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Yo Tillie commences 2026 campaign on Monday at Oak Grove

By Derick Gwerner

At long last the wait is over and perhaps the latest in a long line of trotting queens is ready to rule over the older trotting division.

Yo Tillie, the 2025 Dan Patch Award winner as the best 3-year-old trotting filly in the land, will make her first start since winning the Breeders Crown on October 25 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The daughter of Tactical Landing, co-owned by Andrew Harris along with William Pollock and Bruce Areman, starts from post six in one of seven \$50,000 divisions of the Kentucky Sire Stakes at Oak Grove Racing & Gaming on Monday (April 27).

Although her first pari-mutuel start of 2026 will come on Monday, Yo Tillie qualified brilliantly with a 1:54 2/5 mile at The Meadowlands on April 11. She was entered for a second preparatory effort one week later but didn't start because she tied-up.

"With any other horse I probably would've qualified them but with her I didn't want to compound the issue," said Harris. "It is not like she tied up bad. I just didn't see the point of qualifying her when she wasn't 100 percent."

The minor setback aside, Harris is thrilled with how his now 4-year-old is coming back to the races and is looking forward to what the future has in store for Yo Tillie.

"I was really happy with her qualifier and [driver Todd McCarthy] was completely shutting her down coming for home," said Harris. "I don't see why she can't be a major force again [in 2026]. It'll be different when we get to the aged mares but I think her first six starts are just against 4-year-olds in Kentucky."

Harris was referring to the lucrative Sire Stakes program offered in Kentucky at Oak Grove during the spring. The track offers two \$50,000 legs and a \$100,000 final for 4-year-olds from April 27 to May 16 and then three more \$50,000 legs and a \$150,000 final on June 22. Due to the nature of the Grand Circuit calendar, the third leg of the Sire Stakes on June 15 conflicts with the Armbro Flight for older mares at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 13. Harris said the loose plan is to skip that Sire Stakes leg for the Armbro Flight before returning for the final and eventually taking on the 4-year-old boys in the Hambletonian Maturity at The Meadowlands on July 11.

"There is no set schedule. She'll tell us and we'll go along with it," said Harris, who did stake Yo Tillie to a number of events against the boys but not until the latter part of the year after she's had ample time to acclimate to racing against older foes and to show she can go with them. "I could just stay against the fillies."

"Super Chapter was a freak. [Emoticon Legacy] from Luc Blais was a freak. I'm not exactly wanting to throw her in against those guys too quickly. Even Go Dog Go is a beast of a horse. There is a difference between the boys and the girls and I don't think it is a soft year for the boys. There are a lot of good ones coming back," said Harris. "The 4-year-old group is stacked and then you get to the older boys like Antognoni and Lexus Kody, they are no joke, let alone Up Your Deo or Periculum who could trip out and win."

As accomplished as many of the 2026 older trotting faction are, Yo Tillie has quite a résumé of her own. She has won 19 of 24 career starts and been worse than third only twice. Her earnings sit at \$1,284,495, quite impressive considering she wasn't eligible to two of the richest races for 3-year-old trotting fillies - Hambletonian Oaks and Kentucky Filly Futurity.

Perfect in four starts over the Oak Grove surface, Yo Tillie will put her unblemished record on the line versus eight foes in Monday's 11th race on the 14-race card. The field includes \$404K earner Voguish (post three) and \$519K winner R Dutchess (post five).

Other Sire Stakes standouts in attendance on Monday include Glen Garnsey and Matron winner Unreasonable (race two), Breeders Crown winner The Last Martini (race seven) and 1:49 3/5 Bluegrass winner Go Dog Go (race 13). Ginger Tree Lex makes her 2026 debut riding a seven-race winning streak in the ninth race \$25,000 Oak Grove Trotting Oaks prep.

Post time for Yo Tillie's race is estimated at 5:40 PM (EDT) while the first race kicks off at 2:10 PM.



AMANDA STEPHENS

Yo Tillie will start from post six in a \$50,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes race on Monday.

Miller reaches 15,000 wins

Driver David Miller eclipsed the 15,000 win mark on Wednesday night (April 22) at Miami Valley after steering Country Victory to the wire first in race 13.

The Hall of Fame driver became just the fifth in history to reach the 15,000 plateau, joining leader Dave Palone, Tony Morgan, Aaron Merriman and Herve Filion.

An Ohio native, Miller has won most of the biggest races in the sport and recently decided to return to his roots in the Buckeye State. He is currently a regular at Miami Valley and is expected to compete at Scioto Downs when that meet starts in May.

The entire team at DRF Harness congratulates Miller on his historic milestone achievement.



© DRF HARNES

Hackett starter Big Ranger aims for big stage in 2026

By Ken Weingartner

Big Ranger put together an undefeated 2-year-old campaign last season on his way to being named Ohio's 2025 Horse of the Year. Now, the colt is ready to embark on his sophomore season, with a schedule that could see him land on the sport's biggest stage for 3-year-old trotters this summer at the Meadowlands.

Big Ranger, who competed only in state-bred races in Ohio last year and was a perfect seven-for-seven, is eligible to several Grand Circuit events this season – most notably the Grade 1 Hambletonian Stakes in August at the Big M.

"If he stays healthy, and everything goes as planned, we plan to give it a shot," said Big Ranger's trainer/driver Ronnie Gillespie. "I'm aiming to have not more than five starts for him before the Hambo. I want to try to keep him as fresh and sharp as I can."

Start No. 1 will be Thursday (April 23) in the \$75,000 final of the James K. Hackett Memorial for Ohio-sired 3-year-old male trotters at Miami Valley Raceway. Big Ranger received a bye to the final and will leave from post one in a field seven. He is the 2-1 morning-line favorite. Rose Run Banker, who won last week's Hackett elimination in 1:55 for driver Chris Page and trainer Ron Burke, is the 5-2 second choice from post four.

Big Ranger prepped for his seasonal debut with a 4 1/4 length 1:54 win in a qualifier on April 3 at Miami Valley.

"He's a horse that has it all," Gillespie said. "The attitude, the speed. He's a big horse, but he's so versatile. You can leave with him, shut him down, and he's not overly aggressive; he doesn't pull on you. You can do whatever you want with him. He has all the tools, which is what makes him special to me. He can do it any type of way."

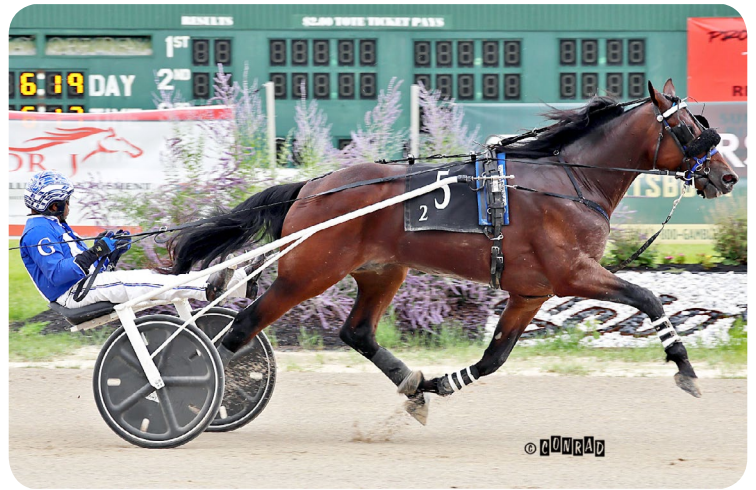
"You don't make those types of horses. He's just a natural."

Big Ranger, a son of In Range-Big Blue Bird, began his 2-year-old season with a track-record 1:54 victory in the \$150,000 Next Generation for 2-year-old male trotters at Eldorado Scioto Downs and kept rolling from there. He captured the Ohio Triple Crown, winning the Ohio State Fair Stakes, Ohio Breeders Championship, and Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship on his way to \$370,610 in earnings for owner Madison Global.

His earnings were 11th best among all 2-year-old trotters last season. Out of the top 50 money-winning rookie trotters last year, he was the only one undefeated.

"He's just a really nice horse," Gillespie said. "He had some little issues last year, like I had to scratch him one time because he had an abscess that popped, but he still maintained that standard the way he did. Coming back this year, I could see a big difference in him. He's very mature; he knows what racing is about now."

Big Ranger gave Gillespie an indication he was on the path to figuring



CONRAD PHOTO

Big Ranger has his sights set on the Hambletonian this year if everything goes smoothly on his road to the August 8 race.

it all out when he capped his 2025 season with an 8 1/2 length win in the Ohio Sire Stakes championship in a track-record 1:53 4/5 on Sept. 27 at Hollywood Dayton Raceway.

"That race stood out to me," Gillespie said. "He went to the front and took charge. He came to race and was ready. He was at his best at the end of the year."

As for this year, Gillespie is anxious to see how Big Ranger performs against Grand Circuit-level competition.

"I think he can go with them," said Gillespie, who plans to send Big Ranger to the Oak Grove Trotting Derby next month in Kentucky. "Post position, the trip, all of those things are going to play into it. But I'm very confident he can go with them. I think he could trot (1):50, especially at the Meadowlands."

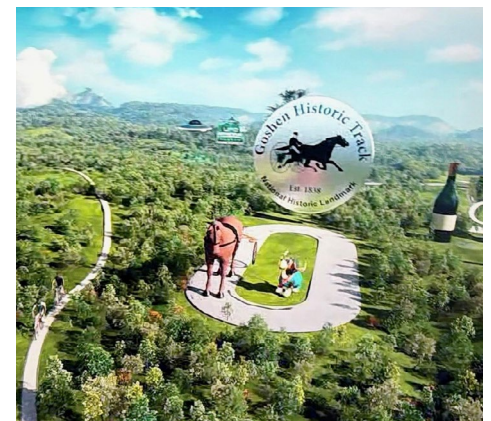
"He's the best horse I ever put hands on."

The morning-line favorites in the remaining \$75,000 Hackett Memorial finals, which are the year's first Graded Stakes, are Rose Run Brooke (2-1, Ronnie Wrenn Jr. driving for trainer Vernon Beachy), 3-year-old filly trotters; Crocodile Station (2-1, David Miller-Michael Hitchcock), 3-year-old male pacers; and Kb Wrecking Ball (5-2, Luke Hanners-Deborah Swartz), 3-year-old filly pacers.

Racing begins at 4 p.m. (EDT) at Miami Valley.



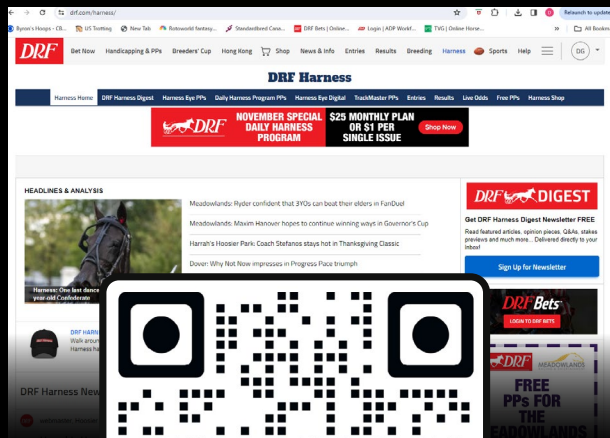
A campaign running on network television in the New York/New Jersey market is highlighting Goshen Historic Track as one of the featured attractions in Orange County.





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10 POCONO SAT

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EXACTA - 50 CENT TRIFECTA | 50 CENT PERFECTA | 50 CENT PICK 4 (10-11-12-13)

1 BARROW

3:15.12 (5/8) Q \$5,433

6-1 B. Chisholm 268-24-16-28 (090)

18 Apr 26	6PcD	fst17 ⁶⁰	274	-57.1	1:24.3	1:53	Weiss 3YrC	17500	6	1 ¹	2 ¹	3 ¹	4 ¹	5 ¹	6 ¹	7 ¹	8 ¹	9 ¹	10 ¹
11 Apr 26	10PcD	fst15 ⁴⁰	283	-56.3	1:24	1:51.3	Weiss 3YrC	17500	6	3 ²	4 ³	5 ³	6 ³	7 ³	8 ³	9 ³	10 ³	11 ³	12 ³
4 Apr 26	12PcD	fst17 ²⁰	273	-55.4	1:23	1:51	Weiss 3YrC	17500	6	3 ¹	4 ³	5 ³	6 ³	7 ³	8 ³	9 ³	10 ³	11 ³	12 ³
31 Mar 26	3PcD	fst7 ⁰⁰	264	-55.4	1:23.1	1:52.1	NW2PM CG	14500	4	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³
10 Mar 26	11PcD	fst7 ⁶⁰	271	-55.3	1:23.1	1:51.3	NW2PM CG	14500	8	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³
3 Mar 26	2PcD	fst3 ⁴⁰	274	-57.1	1:25.1	1:53.3	NW2PM CG	14500	5	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
21 Feb 26	3M1	fst5 ⁰⁰	303	1:00.1	1:28.2	1:55	Qua	20000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹
3 Aug 26	4PcD	fst8 ¹⁰	283	-58.1	1:26.1	1:53.4	TSS 2YrCG	20000	5	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³	6 ³

b g 3, by Captaintreacherous, I'm Trigger Happy by Art Major
Let It Ride Stbs, Bc Rtn, FL, Morrison Rco Stbs, Indh, PA, Jesmeral Stb, NW Rchl, NY
Bt. Pelling 48-10-7-13 (208) Br - Let It Ride Stables Inc, FL

Last 5 Sts	-\$27,625	1:51.2 Pcd 5/8	26	•	6	4	0	1	\$34,875	26 Tot	6	4	0	1	\$32,600
		1:56 Phi 5/8	25PcD	0	0	0	0	0	\$2,120	25 Tot	3	1	0	0	\$7,620
			24PcD	0	0	0	0	0	-Life	9	5	0	1	\$40,220	

2 JUSTINIAN

3:15.13 (5/8) Q \$5,833 LEX-SEL \$45,000

4-1 Ty. Buter 572-71-91-71 (124)

18 Apr 26	4PcD	fst17 ⁶⁰	274	-56.2	1:23.2	1:51.3	Weiss 3YrC	17500	3	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
11 Apr 26	12PcD	fst16 ⁶⁰	274	-55	1:22.4	1:51	Weiss 3YrC	17500	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹
4 Apr 26	12PcD	fst17 ²⁰	273	-55.4	1:23	1:51	Weiss 3YrC	17500	5	7 ⁶	7 ⁷	7 ⁸	7 ⁹	7 ¹⁰	7 ¹¹	7 ¹²	7 ¹³	7 ¹⁴	7 ¹⁵
25 Mar 26	8PcD	fst12 ²⁰	284	-58.4	1:27.1	1:55	Qua	14000	4	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³
14 Sep 25	12PcD	fst18 ³⁰	29	-58.3	1:26.3	1:54.2	2YO NW2	11000	1	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
6 Sep 25	5PcD	fst16 ⁶⁰	281	-57.3	1:25.3	1:53.3	NW2PM 2YOC	14000	3	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
26 Aug 25	9PcD	fst18 ⁶⁰	283	-58.3	1:26.2	1:54.3	nw1PM CG	12000	3	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹
19 Aug 25	8PcD	fst17 ⁸⁰	272	-57.4	1:25.4	1:53.1	nw1PM CG	12000	2	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³	5 ³

b g 3, by Papi Rob Hanover, Air Miles Hanover by Western Ideal
Pit Bull Stb, Rvr V, NJ, J Cummins Lxgrn, KY, C Giacco, Rstyn Hqts, NY, M Cohen, Gin Cv, NY
N. Devita 61-9-9-9 (148) Br - Dr William J Solomon, PA

Last 5 Sts	-\$26,500	1:51.3 Pcd 5/8	26PcD	3	1	2	0	0	\$17,500	26 Tot	3	1	2	0	\$17,500
		1:54.2 Phi 5/8	25PcD	3	0	2	0	0	\$7,100	25 Tot	4	1	2	0	\$12,600
			24PcD	0	0	0	0	0	-Life	7	2	4	0	\$30,100	

3 SOUTHWIND GALVESTN

3:15.52 (5/8) Q \$3,484 LEX-SEL \$20,000

12-1 A. Napolitano 267-47-25-43 (176)

18 Apr 26	6PcD	fst17 ⁶⁰	274	-57.1	1:24.3	1:53	Weiss 3YrC	17500	4	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
11 Apr 26	10PcD	fst15 ⁴⁰	283	-56.3	1:24	1:51.3	Weiss 3YrC	17500	2	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³
4 Apr 26	6PcD	fst16 ⁶⁰	264	-53.4	1:21.1	1:49.4	Weiss 3YrC	17500	5	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	5 ⁴
31 Mar 26	6DD	fst17 ⁰⁰	263	-56.4	1:25.1	1:54	WO2/4	12500	19	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹
24 Mar 26	4DD	fst14 ¹⁰	27	-57.1	1:24.1	1:53.3	WO2/4	11500	4x	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰	8 ¹⁰
16 Mar 26	14DD	fst16 ⁵⁰	272	-56.3	1:25.2	1:52.2	NW2	8500	6	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
9 Feb 26	1DD	fst12 ⁴⁰	282	-59.1	1:28.4	1:57.4	NW1	7000	2	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷
7 Jan 26	4DD	fst14 ⁵⁰	292	-59.2	1:29	1:58.1	Qua	1	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷	6 ⁷

b g 3, by Always B Miki, Gambler's Passion by Cam's Card Shark
Frank E Chick, Harrington, DE
J. Sullivan 82-16-20-7 (195) Br - Southwind Farms LLC, NJ

Last 5 Sts	-\$13,270	1:55.2 DD 5/8	26PcD	3	0	2	1	0	\$10,850	26 Tot	7	2	2	2	\$24,388
			25PcD	0	0	0	0	0	-25 Tot	0	0	0	0	0	
			24PcD	0	0	0	0	0	-Life	7	2	2	2	\$34,388	

4 TWIN B MANHUNT

3:15.53 (5/8) Q \$3,601 SHS-HBG \$160,000

5-1 D. Dunn 511-8-9-7 (157)

18 Apr 26	6PcD	fst17 ⁶⁰	274	-57.1	1:24.3	1:53	Weiss 3YrC	17500	3	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵	5 ⁵
11 Apr 26	10PcD	fst15 ⁴⁰	283	-56.3	1:24	1:51.3	Weiss 3YrC	17500	1	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
4 Apr 26	6PcD	fst16 ⁶⁰	264	-53.4	1:21.1	1:49.4	Weiss 3YrC	17500	7	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷	7 ⁷
28 Mar 26	2M1	fst13 ⁸⁰	29	-57.4	1:25.4	1:54	Mdn	13500	2	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²
21 Mar 26	4M1	fst15 ⁸⁰	28	-56.2	1:25.2	1:52.2	Qua	2	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²
14 Mar 26	6M1	fst15 ⁰⁰	323	1:01	1:29.3	1:57.4	Qua	4	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹
19 Aug 25	9PcD	fst17 ⁰⁰	323	1:03.2	1:32.4	2:01.1	Qua	1	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹
3 Aug 25	13PcD	fst18 ¹⁰	32	-59.1	1:27.2	1:55.2	2YO NW2	11000	1x	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹	7 ¹¹

b g 3, by Huntsville, Twin B Peaches by Betterhandedd
Dune Road Stables LLC, Montvale, NJ
Ri. Norman 63-10-12-13 (159) Br - Twinbrook Limited, ON, CA

Last 5 Sts	-\$14,675	1:53 Pcd 5/8	26PcD	3	1	1	0	1	\$3,500	26 Tot	3	0	2	0	\$14,405
		2:01.1 Phi 5/8Q	25PcD	1	0	1	0	0	-25 Tot	0	0	0	0	\$8,500	
			24PcD	0	0	0	0	0	-Life	7	1	3	0	\$22,905	

5 OOGLESIAURUS(L)

3:15.52 (5/8) \$6,167

5-2 J. Bartlett 572-177-107-70 (309)

11 Apr 26	6PcD	fst15 ⁴⁰	28	-56.2	1:25	1:52.2	Weiss 3YrC	17500	5	1 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
4 Apr 26	4PcD	fst16 ⁴⁰	274	-56	1:24	1:52	Weiss 3YrC	17500	5	1 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹
28 Mar 26	6M1	fst13 ⁸⁰	281	-57	1:26	1:52.3	nw2Cnd	14500	5	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}	2 ^{hd}
21 Mar 26	13M1	fst15 ⁰⁰	272	-57.1	1:27.1	1:52.1	Mdn-T74.5Ccd	9000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹
14 Mar 26	3M1	fst15 ⁰⁰	292	-59.1	1:28.1	1:54.4	Qua	6	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹
26 Aug 25	3Lx1	fst17 ⁴⁰	291	-58.1	1:27.1	1:54.2	WILDCAT	10000	7	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³
17 Aug 25	6Lx1	fst19 ¹⁰	28	-56.4	1:25	1:52	GOLDENROD	15000	2	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁶
5 Aug 25	2Lx1	fst18 ²⁰	28	-57.1	1:25.1	1:53.1	GOLDENROD	15000	3	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴	6 ⁴

b g 3, by Lazarus N, Oogle Google by Real Desire
Morrison Racing Stables, Indiana, PA
J. Bongiorno 194-44-36-32 (227) Br - Matthew J Morrison, PA

New wagering menu for Big M

By Dave Little for The Meadowlands

When live racing resumes Friday (April 24) night at The Meadowlands, patrons will have an extra 20-cent Pick-5 as well as an additional 10-cent Hi-5 (or Pentafecta, if you prefer) to titillate their exotic-bet palates.

Saturday (April 18) night's \$1 PK 8 was hit by three superb players for \$21,417.50, but the bet, which was sponsored by Peter Kleinhans, has now been discontinued.

"We appreciate Peter's generosity during the time we had the \$1 PK 8. It created a great amount of excitement, especially when the carryover exceeded six figures," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir of Kleinhans, who seeded the wager four times with \$50,000 of his own money. "Now, moving forward, we are out to show that at The Meadowlands, we are never afraid to try something different to keep things fresh for our fans."

Here is the new lineup of wagers that will be offered every racing night. They all offer a low 15 percent takeout:

- Races 1-5: 20-cent Early Pick-5
- Races 3-8: 20-cent Pick-6
- Races 6-9: 50-cent Early Pick-4 (\$50,000 guaranteed pool)
- Race 7: Early 10-cent Pentafecta (Hi-5)
- Races 8-12: 20-cent Late Pick-5
- Races 10-13: 50-cent Late Pick-4 (\$50,000 guaranteed pool)
- Race 14: Late 10-cent Pentafecta (Hi-5)

"We may not be done making changes to the betting menu," said Settlemoir. "We have seen other tracks change things up and change specific wager's minimum bets to possibly stir up interest. We may try something different with our denominations and we are analyzing that now."

"As for the extra bets we are adding this week. The Pick-5 is one of our more popular bets, with big carryovers common. So, adding one of those was something we felt our fans would go for in a big way. The Hi-5 is something we added because we didn't want to merely offer one on the last race of the night. And when one of those doesn't get hit, the carryovers are considerable. Now, we have twice as many opportunities for that to happen."

Meadowlands Seeks Starter for Championship Meet

Meadowlands Racetrack is seeking a starter for the 2026 Championship Meet.

Applicants must have a USTA-issued starter license. Interested parties should email their resume to jsettlemoir@playmeadowlands.com.

The Meadowlands races Friday and Saturday nights plus Thursday, Aug 6 and December 3, 10 and 17th.



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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 23

RACE 2

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

(3) SOUTHWIND COORS put in a super effort in his comeback a week ago and if he's that good again, that should get the job done. The only issue is he'll be odds-on instead of 6-1.

-Greg Reinhart

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

RACE 2

 **WOODBINE**
MOHAWK PARK

(8) MAKEMBLUSH HANOVER put in a good effort against last week's tougher field. She blasted out to the lead and despite a shuffle, still held her own when pacing in the stretch. If she gets to the top without too much incident, she could wire the field.

-Kevin Plowcha

RACE 7

 **MEADOWLANDS**
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

(8) LYONS LIBERTY moved back into this barn last time and was second behind a horse that has dominated this claiming class. Tonight that foe is nowhere to be found and I expect we'll see early speed and a strong mile.

-Derick Givner

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

RACE 8

 **MEADOWLANDS**
RACING & ENTERTAINMENT

(2) BOOKIE J was very impressive as he came first over and edged past for the 1:51 2/5 win in his 2026 debut. That mile would be good enough and if he improves, watch out!

-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

2026 GRADED STAKES SCHEDULE TO KICK OFF THURSDAY

The 2026 Graded Stakes schedule kicks off on Thursday (April 23) with four finals of the Restricted 3 James K. Hackett Memorial for Ohio-sired 3-year-olds at Miami Valley Raceway. Each has a purse of \$75,000.

The first Open Graded Stake will be the Grade 3 Dexter Cup for 3-year-old Open trotters, with an estimated purse of \$160,000 at The Meadows on Saturday, May 2.

There are two categories of Grades: Open Graded Stakes and Restricted Graded Stakes. State or Province restricted races, which exclude horses based upon stallion residency or mare foaling location, are eligible for Restricted Stakes consideration.

In December 2025, the U.S. Trotting Association's Graded Stakes Committee announced the 2026 schedule that features 179 Graded Stakes and 164 Restricted Stakes, increases of eight and 36, respectively, from the first-ever Graded Stakes schedule in 2025.

To view the complete chronological list of 2026 Graded and Restricted Stakes races, click [here](#).

The Graded Stakes Committee has the discretion to assign or change gradings regardless of purse levels, however, following is the guidance for grading consideration:

Graded Stakes

Male

- Grade 1 – \$350,000 and up
- Grade 2 – \$175,000 – \$349,999
- Grade 3 – \$75,000 – \$174,499

Female

- Grade 1 – \$250,000 and up
- Grade 2 – \$125,000 – \$249,999
- Grade 3 – \$75,000 – \$124,999

Invitational races with a minimum purse of \$100,000 may be considered for grading.

Sire Stakes finals and non-sire stake races with purse values listed below, regardless of sex, are considered by the committee.

Restricted Races

- R1 – \$225,000 – AND UP
- R2 – \$150,000 – \$224,999
- R3 – \$75,000 – \$149,999

For more about the Graded Stakes program, click [here](#).

-release (USTA Communications)

KAZIO DK WOULDN'T BE DENIED IN JOHN BRENNAN SERIES FINAL

Kazio Dk scored a hard-fought 1:55 2/5 win in the \$100,000 John Brennan Trotting Series final on Wednesday (April 22) at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

[READ MORE](#)

FAVORITES CLEAN UP IN WEISS SERIES FOR 3-YEAR-OLD MALE TROTTERS

Confident Volo will be the only male Weiss Series performer to enter his Championship race next week after going unbeaten in all three preliminaries, a feat he completed in his \$17,500 division of the third Weiss prelim for trotting males at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania Tuesday afternoon.

[READ MORE](#)

FOUR ROUNDS OF THE 2026 MGM BORGATA PACING SERIES COMPLETED

In Monday night's trio of \$50,000 divisions of the fourth leg of the MGM Borgata Pacing Series at MGM Yonkers Raceway, Captain Albano and Mossdale Ben N scored for the second time in the event, while Howlenthills got his initial victory.

[READ MORE](#)

MARYLAND SHOWING SUCCESS IN THE BREEDING SHED

Winbak Farm of New York is proud to announce that Maryland, 2, 1:51 4/5; 3, Q1:51 2/5 -'25 (\$1,719,655), has bred 41 mares and 37 of them have been checked in foal.

Maryland, Dan Patch and O'Brien Award Winner at 2, is standing his first season in 2026.

Winbak Farm of New York's breeding season ends on July 3rd, 2026. Anyone wanting to find out more about Maryland, should visit www.winbakfarm.com.

-release (Winbak Farm)

HHYF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1

The deadline is fast-approaching for Harness Horse Youth Foundation financial aid applications; all forms, videos, and related information must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on May 31.

Scholarships administered by HHYF include:

Harold & Marcia Snyder Memorial Scholarship (sponsored by International Sound) - for students from harness racing families;

Curt Greene Memorial Scholarship - for students with a passion for harness racing;

Sweet Karen Memorial Scholarship - for students who have participated in one or more HHYF summer programs;

Lynn Fortna Memorial Financial Assistance - for young-at-heart females in harness racing who wish to further their education and/or expand their knowledge about horses.

Complete information regarding eligibility requirements, selection criteria, and applications for all four scholarships may be found using this link <https://hhyf.org/scholarships/>

Celebrating 50 years in 2026, HHYF has awarded and/or administered funds in excess of \$1 million.

-release (HHYF)

ONTARIO-SIRED YEARLINGS MUST BE REGISTERED/NOMINATED BY MAY 16

The Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Yearling Nomination forms for foals of 2025 (OSS 55) have been mailed to all registered owners of Ontario-sired yearlings. Owners are reminded that yearling nominations are due before Friday, May 15 at 11:59 p.m. ET and all yearlings paid into the program must be registered at the time of nomination.

Standardbred Canada requires that the DNA and microchipping be completed before the foal is registered.

The OSS Yearling Nomination payment is the only required payment for your yearling to remain eligible to race in the OSS program as a 2- and 3-year old in 2027 and 2028.

If you have any questions, please contact OSS Program Coordinator Christina Saftic at (416) 407-4841 or csaftic@ontarioracing.com.

Foal owners looking to have DNA and microchipping completed are advised to contact the Standardbred Canada Identification Technician in their region:

Maritimes provinces: Stephen MacLeod (902) 897-5156

Quebec and Ontario East of Napanee: Daniel St-Jacques (514) 290-4114

Ontario (West of Napanee): Mike Pennington (416) 580-3683

Manitoba: Darryl Mason (204) 523-6069

Alberta: Evelyn Sabraw (403) 830-4190

British Columbia: Petra Janzen (604) 341-2566

For more information click [here](#).

-release (Ontario Racing)

SBOANJ, TROPAC TO HOST EVENT FOR ASSEMBLY SPEAKER COUGHLIN

The SBOANJ and TrotPAC are hosting a fundraiser for Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin at Offshore Farm Cream Ridge, NJ 08514 at 1:30 pm April 30.

The fundraiser will allow attendees to meet Assembly Speaker Coughlin, vital to the 5-year \$100 million state appropriation approval and express their views on the budget cut to our state appropriation proposed by Governor Sherrill in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

The SBOANJ urges anyone with an interest in New Jersey Racing to attend and support the Speaker. Your attendance and financial contribution are of the utmost importance to the success of our industry and future appropriations.

For more information, please call the SBOANJ office at 732-462-2357.

-release (SBOANJ)