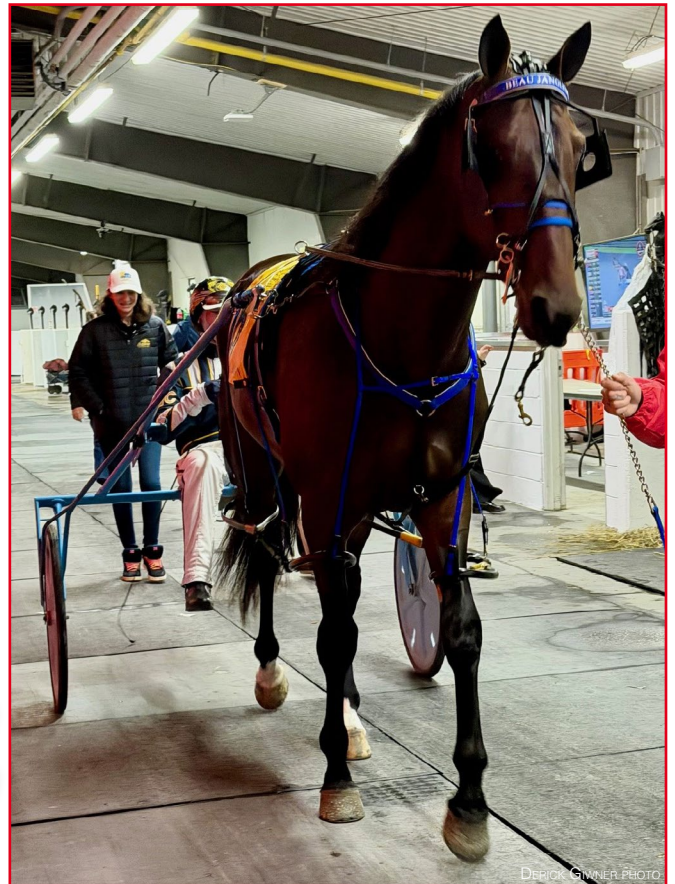


THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

THE CHAMP IS BACK!

Undefeated Beau Jangles makes his 3-year-old debut at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Saturday



DERICK GIWNER PHOTO

By Jay Bergman

Beau Jangles, the 2025 Horse of the Year, will make his sophomore debut on Saturday (May 9) in C\$25,000 eliminations of the SBOA, an Ontario-sired event at Woodbine Mohawk Park. His trainer, Dr. Ian Moore, has put two qualifiers into the son of Cattlewash while in Florida in preparation for his 2026 unveiling.

"I wish I had a chance to train him once more before leaving Florida," Moore said on Wednesday (May 6), "but that didn't work out."

Beau Jangles did train a mile and a half on Wednesday for Moore in not ideal conditions, but that didn't dampen Moore's optimism about the colt that won all 12 of his freshmen starts. "I think he'll be fine."

It's a long season for the top sophomore colts and this is just the first step in what Moore hopes will be another big year. "We've paid him into a lot of stakes and of course I'm pointing him towards the Meadowlands Pace and the North America Cup," said Moore.

Beau Jangles' last charted line was a 1:50 4/5 qualifying mile on April 17 at South Oaks Trotting Center and that may scare off the competition. Nevertheless, six others will accompany Beau Jangles in the seventh race on Saturday, the first of two trial events with the top five in each advancing to the final. Beau Jangles drew the pole with regular driver Bob McClure in the bike and will meet a few horses he dominated as

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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Mossdale Ben no longer a one-trick pony; PA All-Stars start at Pocono; Oak Grove sets handle record; Scioto opens; Mohawk Hi-5 set for mandatory payout

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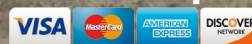
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a 2-year-old and others looking to step up. Tilthecowscomehome (post 6) earned \$378,102 chasing Beau Jangles in Ontario in 2025, with 10 on-the-board finishes in a dozen starts. Also by Cattlewash, Tilthecowscomehome took a 1:50 3/5 mark capturing the Nassagaweya over this surface on August 23 last year.

Windor, second to Beau Jangles in last year's Ontario Sire Stakes Super Final, makes his 3-year-old debut in the second C\$25,000 elimination carded as race nine on Saturday's program. A son of Bulldog Hanover, Windor drew post six for trainer Mike Vanderkemp. Redland Rocket Man (post 1) has had three qualifiers prepping for his sophomore debut. Also by Bulldog Hanover, Redland Rocket Man was a strong closing fourth in last year's Metro Stakes for trainer John Pentland.

Moore will send out three returning sophomore pacing fillies on Friday's Woodbine Mohawk Park card with Jay, a filly he said was the best of the trio as a freshman, ineligible to the SBOA Stakes event and instead racing in an overnight race.

"P N G Shadow was the worst of the three last year, but she's come back strongly," said Moore of the homebred daughter of Cattlewash that drew post four in the eighth race and second C\$25,000 SBOA elimination.

P N G Shadow is the first foal from the Ohio Sire Stakes-winning Lady Arthur, a daughter of Arthur Blue Chip campaigned by Moore during her racing career. P N G Shadow won both of her qualifiers in April in Florida in preparation for her sophomore debut.

Jen Tilly, a daughter of All Bets Off, has the most sophomore experience in the field having won her first two starts this year for trainer Ron Burke. Jen Tilly earned \$211K as a freshman and has already doubled her win production from a year ago. Jen Tilly landed the pole position in the field of eight.

Moore hopes that Lavender Seelster (post 2) in the third race and first SBOA elimination for sophomore pacing fillies is on course to reach the final. "She can be a bit hard to steer," said Moore of the Century Farrohsired filly that was a four-time winner as a freshman. Lavender Seelster won two of her last three races in 2025, earning a 1:51 3/5 mark in capturing an Ontario Grassroots leg.

Steering may not be as big a concern for Lavender Seelster as the wealth of competition she'll meet in this stacked division. She's A Bulldog (post 6) makes her season's debut for trainer Ron Burke and hopes to pick up where she left off at the conclusion of her freshman campaign. The Bulldog Hanover-sired filly was a solid second behind Loua Dipa in the Breeders Crown over the Woodbine Mohawk Park surface and then won the Three Diamonds at The Meadows in November, her lone victory in nine freshman starts. She's a Bulldog had two solid qualifiers at The Meadows in advance of Friday's sophomore debut.

Daya (post 7) was nine times first or second in a dozen starts for trainer Jack Darling as a freshman. Darling, who campaigned Bulldog Hanover, Daya's sire during his racing career, has prepped the filly nicely for her sophomore season looking to add to her \$485K bankroll.

A pair of C\$25,000 SBOA eliminations for 3-year-old trotting fillies are also slated for Friday's Woodbine Mohawk program, with two more divisions for 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings on the Saturday program. The C\$135K estimated finals for all four divisions are scheduled for May 16 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.



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EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner [X @harnessveguy](#)

LITTLE THINGS CAN MEAN A LOT

Running a racetrack can't be easy. Beyond dealing with budgets, overhead costs and employees, you have hopefully tens of thousands of customers to please on- and off-track.

While I've never run a track, I have spent well over half my life visiting them and wagering on the races. I've seen the behind the scenes stuff from the kitchen to the paddock and spoken to countless people who are in charge of operations at tracks across the world. With those experiences I've compiled a list of low or no cost ideas that could be implemented everywhere if they aren't already in place.

Race order

A current pet peeve for me is the order of races on a card. Often I wonder if much if any thought is given to deciding where to put races. The number of times a week I check out the entries for a track and find that the first race is an amateur event or the lowest condition offered is mind-boggling. This may seem like the littlest of little things but stick with me for a brief moment on this topic.

Let's use some basic logic. As a track you want people to either show up or wager on your races. Ideally a customer will arrive prior to the first race with a fistful of cash (virtual or otherwise) and fire away throughout the card. So, given that, why would you put an unappealing race in the leadoff spot? Why give people a reason to show up late or skip the first race? That would be like putting last season's clothes in the store window or putting out a promotional flyer with bad deals. If you want customers to show up you need to lure them in with something appealing.

I'm not saying that tracks should place their featured race in the first race but it should at least be a mid-level event that could be attractive to bettors. It can even be a race with a heavy favorite. Despite false reports to the contrary, people winning money is good for the track because they bet more. This is exceedingly true in today's environment where 95% or more of the money bet is off-track. Online ADW's (Advance Deposit Wagering) will be laying out the winnings while tracks collect the 3%. Seems like tracks should want more people to win, unless I'm missing something.

Wagering menu

Very few tracks have optimal wagering menus. Some have too many options per race and others don't have nearly enough. Some offer an insane number of multi-race options per card and others offer so few that one has to wonder whether the operators realize the popularity of wagers like the Pick 4.

While there will be no calling out of tracks in this column, one of the most senseless options is the rolling double. First, most harness tracks can't support the wager along with other options. When you are averaging 5x, 10x or 20x more in the other pools than the rolling doubles, that is a good indicator that the wager isn't very relevant. There is one track that offers rolling doubles but only handles well on that wager on the first two and last two races of the card. Do you think perhaps that is because people are conditioned to only bet the double in those races?

I do believe in variety. There should be wagering options for bettors of all shapes and sizes, from WIN to EXACTA to SUPERFECTA to DOUBLE to PICK 3/4/5/6. There should also be varied minimum levels for multi-race bets to appeal to different types of customers. Give me a 50-cent Pick 5, \$1 Pick 4 and maybe even a \$2 Pick 3 so I can choose the pools that make the most sense for my wagering dollars.

Sticking to the longer multi-race wagers, a little hint for track operators, leading off the sequence with a heavy favorite often produces bigger pools than hard-to-handicap ones. Why? The main reason is that the sequence seems easier when there is an obvious horse at the start and thus that lures the player into looking at the other legs, similar to the theory on putting a better race to start a card. On the flip side, I would always place the hardest race in the sequence at the end. By nature people don't want to get to the last leg and lose. By making the last leg as hard as possible it increases the

likelihood that they will use multiple horses and widen their ticket. If you want to see a Pick 6 or higher hit, make the last race easy.

Guaranteed pools

Many tracks already utilize this valuable marketing tool in combination with the United States Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering program to prompt wagering on mostly Pick 4/5/6 wagers. Sadly, some tracks make little effort to take advantage and miss out on whatever increased handle it can offer as well as visibility by having free past performances on the USTA and DRF sites.

While I'm a firm believer that given a carryover you can push the limit on guarantees to increase wagering, tracks don't have to reach far outside their comfort zone to be a part of the program. Put up a \$3,000 guarantee if that is all you think the pool will generate. What is the downside?

Proper post times

Before you get too excited from the sub-headline, I'm not jumping ship on my belief that drag is a viable way to generate handle. I'm not saying races should be dragged but that handle 100% increases when tracks utilize that time "trick" on the audience.

The point here is that tracks need to do a better job of finding the best spots for not only for starting their cards but for placing their races in the wide simulcasting world. If a somewhat knowledgeable person is paying attention and watching the various signals around the country, they can definitely increase handle for their track by choosing the best off time possible.

Low-cost promotions

What if tracks gave out a free \$2 win wager to the first XX people who walk in the door for live racing? Let's say there are 12 races with 9 horses per race, 108 \$2 win tickets would be printed and distributed to the first 108 people who arrive. On face value the cost of this promotion would be \$216 per day and that could cost a hefty \$32,400 if a track raced 150 dates a year. In reality, the track will get about \$5,000 of that back in takeout (depending on actual takeout rate and accounting for some people cashing in their tickets for \$2). Then there is the likelihood that at least 50% (I'm being very conservative) of the winnings will be reinvested, creating more revenue for the track.

Certainly the promotion will cost money, but it will also generate some revenue and create goodwill with your patrons. I know some people will argue that people could show up just to get the free \$2, but how many people are within walking distance to their local track or would get in the car to drive somewhere at \$4.00-plus per gallon to get a free \$2?

Utilize local talent

Recently I visited Nashville for the first time and never realized how many musicians were in local establishments playing live music for the crowd. While any track environment is a far cry from Nashville, certainly there are local singers all around racetracks across the country that could come down for a small appearance fee while also working for tips. Couldn't having live music draw a younger audience or couples or any new demographic for that matter to the track?

I know racing has at least one musically inclined talent in Peter Kleinhans, who is the Oak Grove announcer, and has filled in at The Meadows and Yonkers over the last few years. Certainly he would agree to put on a set at the track, right?

Most tracks already have the open space and some security on hand, so what other costs could be involved? As many people as I've seen playing music or singing on the streets for tips, there have to be plenty of interested people that would show up for even the smallest of appearance fees.



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Nearly a million on the line for Bako pair in Yonkers stakes



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

Trainer Jared Bako was looking for a few horses to race at Yonkers this winter. With a stable filled with young horses, Bako wanted to be active and sought help from a former owner.

"I texted Stephen Klunowski, who had horses with me a few years back," said Bako. "I asked him if he was going to have anything that could race at Yonkers."

A few weeks later Klunowski sent him Coastal Babe N, a 6-year-old daughter of Downbytheseaside that had been imported. Not much time had passed before another horse came to Bako's stable from the Southern Hemisphere with Donegal Luther N arriving. Now a few months later Bako's additions have more than lived up to expectations and find themselves amid contenders in a pair of rich stakes events at Yonkers Raceway on Friday night (May 8).

Coastal Babe N drew post six in the Grade 2 \$456,000 MGM Ursula McIntyre Series Final while stablemate Donegal Luther N (post 3) vies for top honors in the Grade 2 \$478,000 MGM Borgata Series Final. The finals, carded as race seven and eight on the Yonkers program, are both scheduled to go at the mile and one-quarter distance and that suits Bako just fine.

"I think they'll be fine going the distance," said Bako, who not only likes the distance but likes the way the races have been spread out this year. "I really like that there was a gap between the last preliminary and the final. I think it helps to get them set up just right."

Coastal Babe N may have landed outside the likely prohibitive favorite Louies Girl N (post 2) in the McIntyre, but Bako seemed confident that driver Yannick Gingras could put the mare into play. "Yannick's done great job educating both horses," said Bako. "Coastal Babe N can fly off the gate."

Indeed, in capturing three of the four legs she competed in, Coastal Babe N was in front early on every occasion. Since arriving in North America, Coastal Babe N has won five of her seven starts and banked \$120K.

Bako was quick to point out that he had no input into the purchase of either finalist. "I had nothing to do with the purchase at all," said Bako. "They have a great agent that handles that."

Both horses arrived ready and were able to compete at the highest level over the half-mile track at Yonkers during a grueling series. Bako for his part has done a superb job in keeping them fresh.

"When I saw that the final was going to be at a mile and a quarter, I wanted to try to give them a week off somewhere," said Bako. "Fortunately, they both won the first two legs and we were able to skip a week."

Coastal Babe N rebounded from her lone defeat in leg four of the McIntyre to score a decisive 1:52 2/5 victory on April 24, holding off multi-leg winner Tarapasta in the stretch.

Friday's McIntyre final should be a test as to which mare can go the distance, with Louies Girl N already proving she can pace a mile quickly, and for a short piece may be as quick as any horse ever to race at Yonkers. The Per Engblom-trained mare has been able to turn it on at will for driver Jason Bartlett and likely enters the final as the prohibitive favorite. Trainer Engblom has a pair, with last year's champion Aardie B Miki N (post 8) getting the worst of the draw and unlike a year ago entering the final with but one preliminary leg victory.

When Bako sat behind Donegal Luther N in a qualifier at Yonkers (March 6) he questioned whether the 8-year-old son of Bettor's Creek would be good on the front end. Donegal Luther N cut a rated pace and then was outspurred late. As it turns out it was Louies Girl N that went by her male counterpart in that race. Donegal Luther N would go on to win two legs of the series on the front end and then return in the fifth round (April 27) and win first over.

"I think both of my horses are better chasing than they are on the front end," said Bako, who wasn't surprised with Donegal Luther N's winning effort in 1:52.

Looking towards Friday's contest, Bako has plenty of respect for the quality a caliber of the field but feels his horse has shown enough to go with these. "Mossdale Ben N has been racing great, but he drew outside," said Bako. "Coaches Corner is going to be tough from the rail."

Bako was also concerned with Soho Firestone A, a two-leg winner.

It's a deep field that also includes Captain Albano, the lone finalist that did not have a win on the front end throughout the series. Captain Albano drew post four and is likely looking to avenge a defeat in last year's \$250,000 MGM Grand Prix final where he was the heavy favorite in the mile and one-quarter event and was overpowered late by Coaches Corner.

Mossdale Ben N won last year's edition of this contest racing from off the pace and that may be his fate once again having drawn post seven. The Peter Tritton-trained gelding had two wins and three seconds in the five rounds of action with Jimmy Marohn Jr. in the bike.

In addition to Coaches Corner, trainer Engblom has Huntinthelastdollar (post 5) and Redwood Hanover (post 6) in the field of eight. Howlenthills (post 8) rounds out the MGM Borgata field.



MIKE LIZZI PHOTO

Coastal Babe N has been a force in the Ursula McIntyre series and is the 4-1 second choice in the \$456,000 Final on Friday at Yonkers Raceway.

The stakes card at Yonkers, which also includes consolations for both events, gets underway at 6:45 PM (EDT).

Bako has about 35 horses in training at Mark Ford's center and was quite enthused with the return of Hunt Off The Press to form. "I was really happy with the way he raced in the Paul Revere at Plainridge," said Bako of the second-place finish behind the highly regarded Brandon Blvd in the \$100,000 contest on May 2. "It was a little difficult. We had some issues with him and because of his earnings weren't able to find spots to race him."

The son of Huntsville won four of eight starts as one of the leading freshmen in New York. Hunt Off The Press was second in the New York Sire Stakes championship, finishing well back of Fragment from an outside post.

"He's on the right track now," Bako said of Hunt Off The Press, "I'll probably race him in the Sire Stakes (May 24 Saratoga) and then go to the North America Cup."

Hunt Off The Press earned \$288K as a freshman racing exclusively in New York.

American Cheese, another New York-bred in the Bako stable, captured the Bobby Weiss final at Pocono in a career-best 1:51 1/5 clocking and will be ready for the New York Sire Stakes where she is eligible.

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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali

[X AtTheTrack7](#)

Human element trumps AI benefits

pauses about AI and that is the potential loss of jobs. Why pay a person to do something when a computer program can do the same thing?

Interestingly, the first time this ever struck me was nearly 15 years ago when I was the morning-line oddsmaker and track handicapper at The Meadowlands. Trackmaster reached out to the racetrack about utilizing its morning-line odds program for the races at The Big M. Admittedly, as a 27- or 28-year-old up and comer in the industry, I viewed that as a direct threat to my job. Granted, I did many jobs at The Meadowlands, but making the morning line was one of the jobs I most enjoyed. It was like figuring out a crossword puzzle for work. It was also a great talking point with others in the industry, especially around the biggest races. Those years at the Hambletonian press conference, feverishly adjusting the morning line odds based on the post position draw was stressful, but it was also a lot of fun.

At that time, I did not look enough into the future in terms of what this new computerized morning line was telling the industry about what was on the horizon.

Soon came the Trackmaster rating system, which would classify horses based on their form and past performances, taking some of the human element out of the racing office. While those working in the racing office still have to sort the entries and put together the races, is it that outrageous to wonder when an AI program will do all of it?

A computer program or software can generate a list of race conditions, trainers can enter their horses and the program can then put together a race card. That is a scary thought and one that even a few years ago I would not have entertained as possible in the near future. But based on everything we see in the world and how much companies are leaning into AI, I fear that it could very well be a possibility.

Everywhere I look today, I read about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and of course I instantly connect AI to my industry, horse racing.

The dehumanizing of the industry is of great concern for me. The obvious reason for that is similar to why all industries have some

This concerns me on many levels. Again, I would never want to see employees of this industry lose their jobs to a computer, especially when you consider the amount of times the industry has had to battle for its own survival, and in doing so has cited the importance of the people and the number of people employed within the racing industry.

I also believe that some of the best racing I have seen at a place like The Meadowlands over the past 15 years was when they went to the Classified system of racing and the race office placed a classification on each horse and built each race from the ground up. Anyone can have a differing view of that and perhaps that will be seen as too much human intervention by some, but I would prefer too much human intervention to too much intervention from a computer.

Of course, the concept of artificial intelligence has a place in society. I generated invitations to my kids' birthday parties using AI. Last fall my wife wanted to paint and redecorate the house, so we uploaded images to an AI program and poured through different options it produced in helping us find the paint and décor we wanted. But, we didn't ask a computer to actually paint the house, and while that idea may seem ridiculous right now, there are a lot of things that AI does now that 15 years ago we would have laughed at.

We are on the verge of computers calling balls and strikes in Major League Baseball. That is literally something we saw in an episode of the Jetsons when I was a child, a show where people flew cars and had robots in their home doing their chores.

Horse racing is an industry that features so many brilliant people who understand this industry better than anything else in the world. They have an abundance of experience that helps make this industry better. Whether it be people in racing operations, racing secretaries, track announcers, track handicappers, etc., they all come together to provide us all with a great product and a great industry.

Are we eventually going to link a feed of the race through a computer where an artificial voice like Alexa calls the race? Are we going to just present computerized selections on a handicapping show? We may have laughed at those ideas a few years ago, but I don't think we can anymore.

There is a place for AI in horse racing and I agree a lot of good can come from it, but not at the expense of the human element in this industry. As valuable as AI may be, the humanity in this industry is priceless.

A LOOK AT 2-YEAR-OLDS ACROSS THE BUCKEYE STATE



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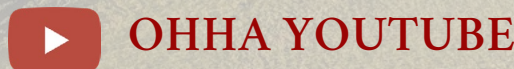
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Road to the Roses runs through Standardbred roots

By Jessica Hallett

Before she ever stood in the spotlight of the Kentucky Derby, before the roar of 150,000 people and the weight of history settled on her shoulders, Cherie DeVaux was a kid in a harness racing stable run by her parents. And on a day when she became the first woman to train a Derby winner, those late nights in the barn didn't feel far away at all. They felt like the beginning of everything.

Long before the garland of roses, her connection to horses was sparked at a young age. So, when the gates opened on the first Saturday in May, the moment wasn't just about one race. It was about everything that came before it, the moments no one saw, the work that shaped her, and the foundation built in a harness racing barn that, against all odds, led to the top of the sport.

A native of Saratoga Springs, DeVaux's roots trace back to Monticello Raceway and a family lineage embedded in harness racing after her father, Adrian "Butch" DeVaux, bought a horse for a hundred dollars.

"I remember many a cold night at Monticello," DeVaux recalled. "We were in Barn G, which is at the very top of the hill. My mother would throw a blanket over the horse after it got done racing and it would still be harnessed up and I would ride the horse up to the top of the hill back to the barn. My brothers would have the bike behind the station wagon and I'd be on the horse."

Though her time in harness racing ended when she was still young, the foundation never left. Her siblings remained in the sport, continuing the family's presence at both Monticello and Saratoga Raceway, while DeVaux carried those early lessons into a different corner of the industry.

Her path, however, was not linear.

In college, she stepped away from racing entirely, pursuing a future in physical therapy while studying pre-med. For a time, it seemed her life would move in a different direction -- one far removed from barns and backstretches.

But, as many in the industry understand, racing always has a way of calling people back.

Following college, she gravitated towards the Thoroughbred racing world after her mother proposed an opportunity to work as a hot walker at Saratoga. She became a stable worker for trainer Chuck Simon and the rest became history.

Simon inspired DeVaux to gear towards a more management position in racing. After working for Simon for six years, she transferred to trainer Chad Brown's operation to work as his assistant, a title she held for eight years.

In 2018 she obtained her trainer's license, and sent out her first winner in March 2019. To date, DeVaux has recorded 299 wins with earnings upwards of \$36.4 million.

Though she was young when her story in harness racing concluded, DeVaux said that she always carries the hard work she learned from the sport with her as a trademark for success in any racing career.

"It's hard work no matter what you do. You don't leave until it's ended," she said.

When Derby Day arrived, most of their family was able to attend the Run for the Roses in Kentucky, labeling their travels as "DeVauxs on the Geaux". Of those in attendance included her brother Kenny DeVaux, a well-known horseman at Monticello Raceway, and his wife Dawn as well as her sister Adrienne DeVaux, a Thoroughbred trainer herself.

"It was a great moment, and I was very happy they could be there. It's hard for me to say that we made history, but we did. And it would only be right that everyone got to share in that experience."

Not all of them could be there, though. Jimmy DeVaux was unable to attend due to having 10 drives at Saratoga on that same day in addition to a full week of racing ahead at the Upstate New York half-mile oval. Jim DeVaux is Cherie's older brother. A multiple leading driver at both Monticello and Saratoga, he is closing in on 8,000 driving wins with over \$43.45 million earned.

"What [the win] did for the family, it's great. Just the journey of it really. All of it is great. I don't even know if it's processed yet," Jim DeVaux said.

In a way, it was fitting. The races never stop; the responsibility never stops. Because even at the pinnacle of Thoroughbred racing, a day



BARBARA LIVINGSTON

Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Cherie DeVaux has childhood roots in harness racing and still has family involved in the sport.

defined by history, the values of racing through hard work and dedication, remain the same and there are no days off.

In the \$5 million race, Golden Tempo bided his time and made his move from last on a charge for the front. During the race, DeVaux recalled watching him run his race, then catching the horse on the front and not believing that he finished ahead of that horse. Though there was no certainty in winning the Kentucky Derby, after winning the Lecomte Stakes in a last-to-first effort, Golden Tempo was pointed with all roads leading to the big day.

"It's been a whirlwind couple of days. We won the race, but we still have a very large operation. My business as a horse trainer is first, and then trying to be a representative of the Thoroughbred industry, it's something that I feel like I am trying to do a good job at. We're just trying to get our bearings and come up for air," said Cherie.

DeVaux runs an operation with a full barn of several horses in addition to her newly crowned champion, and while the spotlight and interviews are a cherished place to be following a monumental achievement, a true horseman prefers to be in the barn alongside her horses.

Although she wrote her name in the history books as the first woman trainer to win a Kentucky Derby, DeVaux doesn't let that define her.

"I'm just a horse trainer that happens to be female. I never set out to make my gender my whole identity and purpose for doing this. It's a bonus if I can be that person that others, other women, little girls, look up to. That's a bonus and I'm very appreciative of that. And it's quite the honor, but it's never been part of my life or reason for being a trainer or accelerating and trying to compete at the highest level in the sport," said the trainer.

Most of her time in racing have been those quiet, unseen moments beyond the cameras and interviews when it's just her and her horses.

"As with all of my horses, we give them a lot of attention," DeVaux said. "We're trying to let [Golden Tempo] relax and get over all of this. He went back to the track. He's back into his routine. So, we are happy to just let him get back into his normal routine."

Many in harness racing can resonate with the little girl that helped her parents in the barn on late nights, no matter if it was a school night or not, bringing horses back to the barn and finishing up after racing. Not many can imagine going from those long nights to the biggest stage in racing history in front of millions. And while DeVaux doesn't want to be known just for being the first female trainer to win the Kentucky Derby, she hopes to inspire the next generation with a message focused on driving forward and working hard.

"Just keep taking steps in a forward direction. You're going to make mistakes. You're going to have things happen. You're going to make decisions you're not proud of. And you just have to keep moving forward. Nothing defines you. Learn the lesson and move forward," DeVaux concluded.

Oliveira gets split decision at Pocono



CHRIS TULLY PHOTO

UFC fighter Charles Oliveira, in his first pari-mutuel drive in the U.S., just missed a victory at Pocono Downs Mohegan Pennsylvania.

By Chris Tully for PHHA/Pocono

UFC Champ Charles “Do Bronx” Oliveira nearly won his official U.S. pari-mutuel driving debut on Tuesday (May 5) in Race 13 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, finishing second by a nose in a thrilling stretch drive.

Dark clouds rolled over Wilkes-Barre as a big crowd gathered to watch superstar and current BMF titleholder Charles Oliveira take on the local talent at the Northeast Pennsylvania oval. But the only thunder in the area was that of hoof beats and the roar of the crowd as the popular pugilist moved into his racing position.

Oliveira pointed Kashed Up A up behind the post five slot and was right up on the gate in the center of the famed red track at the start. Sent off as the 5-2 second choice, he drifted off the car as Mark Herschberger thrust He’s Special right to the front from post seven, with Oliveira dropping down into a loose pocket in second.

The field reached the quarter in 27 4/5 and was in single-file formation out of the turn, but as they straightened out past the stands for the first time the 6-5 favorite Ill Play It Alone and James Kennedy moved first up, dragging Ronaldo N (Anthony Napolitano) along with him second over. They reached the half in a softer 57 4/5 while the favorite reached Oliveira’s wheels, forcing him to flush.

With Oliveira pulling the pocket down the backstretch Kashed Up A had poked a head in front of the pacesetter He’s Special as they reached the third panel in a quicker tempo of 1:25 2/5. Around the final turn the favorite was breathing down Oliveira’s neck, but “the champ” was urging his charge as the three horses were side-by-side as they turned for home.

Down the lane, once again Oliveira had his horse on top for several strides before the finish as the troika continued to battle in front of the throngs of fans that lined the outside fence and were cheering robustly for their UFC idol.

At the wire it was too close to call, but following a photo review by the Pocono racing officials the favorite Ill Play Alone was declared the winner by a nose in 1:54 2/5.

Driven by James Kennedy for owner/trainer Lou Pena, the 9-year-old son of Somebeachsomewhere paid \$4.40 to win. The 3-5 exacta with Oliveira in second paid a handsome \$20.20 on a \$2 ticket.

Oliveira took his time turning his horse after the race. By the time he

did pass the stands, it was well after the other horses had gone back to the paddock. This delighted all of the people who had patiently waited for their chance to meet “Do Bronx” after the races, as the driver soaked in all the cheers as he walked his horse slowly back down the homestretch.

While 100+ fans showed up at Pocono to watch his debut, all with hopes of meeting the famed fighter, they were not disappointed. Once Oliveira had changed out of his driving colors the champ graciously posed for photos and selfies on the apron while his entourage waited patiently.

In fact, throughout the preparations for his race, Oliveira stopped whenever he was asked to pose with fans, horse people and his fellow drivers who were all enjoying having Do Bronx around the race paddock for the afternoon. For observers, it is truly hard to believe that he is such a fierce competitor in the octagon. In person, the man is soft-spoken and carries himself with a grace and humility that would seem to be the opposite of what one may expect from a champion fighter.

To prepare for today’s race, Oliveira arrived about two hours before post time and had to obtain his racing license from the state commission. Then he was ready to meet his horse and get down to the business of racing. Following his warm up he had help from Jason Bartlett in adjusting the race bike stirrups, which was followed by a review of the program page with Pocono’s perennial leading reinsman George Napolitano. Luckily for the all of his admirers, his pal Roger Melo was on hand to provide translation from Portuguese. Simon Allard was instrumental in getting Oliveira to Pocono for his big debut, and also enjoyed the presence of his nutritionist and fellow driver Josias Santos.

With his entourage in tow, including wife Victoria and 1-year-old son Dominic, Oliveira draws a crowd wherever he ventures.

Oliveira will continue driving this week, as he will be participating in a team event at MGM Yonkers Raceway on Friday [May 8], and will conclude this Northeast harness track tour with a drive at Harrah’s Philadelphia on Mother’s Day Sunday (May 10).

Before his race, local NBC affiliate WBRE was on hand to conduct a TV interview for the evening news, where Oliveira was asked about his love of harness racing and if he will continue.

“I love the sport and want to do this for the rest of my life,” Do Bronx said through his interpreter. “When I retire from fighting I want to race horses full time!”

RACE OF THE WEEK

8 YONKERS FRI

1 1/4 Mile Pace MGM BORGATA PACE FINAL, GRADE 2, Purse \$478,000

\$2 LATE DOUBLE (8-9) | \$2 EXACTA | \$2 TRIPLE | \$.10 SUPERFECTA

1 COACHES CORNER(L)

41:49.3 \$16,625

9-5 J. Bartlett 552-178-109-65 (322)

b g 6, by Always A Virgin, Caribbean Pacetry by Somebeachsomewhere
Jeff Foughti Racing, East Bernstadt, KY; Brian K. Carsey, Cambridge City, IN

P. Engblom 316-82-66-39 (259) Br. - Black Creek Farm & Hickory Hollow Stables, IN

27 Apr26	6YR	fst6 ³⁰	28	:56.1	1:23.2	1:51.1	BORG #5	50000	3	1 ²	1 ²	1 ¹	1 ³	1 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	28	281	271	274	1:511	108	+6.3w	L*23 CochsCmr Hwnthlns AyeAyeCpt	Ld, won handly-7
20 Apr26	5YR	fst4 ⁶⁰	27	:56.4	1:24.2	1:52.1	BORG #4	50000	7	4 ⁴	4 ⁴	4 ¹	4 ¹	2nk	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	28	292	277	273	1:521	102	+1.4w	L1.61 MosleBenCochsCmrDngLthr	Tuck, 2nd ov, pace-7
13 Apr26	5YR	fst7 ⁶⁰	27	:56.2	1:23.4	1:51.1	BORG #3	50000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	27	282	272	271	1:511	109	+7.6w	L*33 CochsCmrShFrstHwnthlns	Pkt, lsd pst 1/4, handly-7
30 Mar26	7YR	fst6 ⁵⁰	27	:56.1	1:23.4	1:51.1	BORG #1	50000	6	5 ⁶	5 ⁷	6 ⁴	6 ³	4 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	29	29	263	274	1:521	101	+4.7w	*59 ChsHwnCptMrHwnthlns	Sat bk, 3rd ov, pace In-6
21 Mar26	8M1	fst5 ⁸⁰	28	:55.4	1:24.1	1:50.4	Qua	50000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	28	27	283	263	1:504			nb CochsCmr FrntmeByma CptnAlbno	Ld, won handly-4
14 Mar26	8M1	fst5 ⁰⁰	29	:58.4	1:27.4	1:55.1	Qua	50000	5	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	30	29	29	27	1:553			nb RenaldNOddsWdrTwstDst	Rail, 3rd ov, stdy In-6
19 Dec25	8YR	gd5 ⁰⁰	28	1:26.2	1:54.4	2:23.1	MGM GP F	250000	9	6 ⁸	6 ⁴	5 ⁰	2 ¹	1 ²	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	29	57	282	273	2:231			3.58 CochsCmrCptnAlbnCltPrc	13, 3rd ov, 4w pst 3/4, handly-11
8 Dec25	4YR	fst2 ³⁰	27	:56.1	1:24.3	1:52.1	MGM GP L3	50000	4	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	27	28	282	272	1:521	104	-6.3w	*34 CochsCmrShFrstHwnthlns	Led, won handly-5

Last 5 Sts-\$191,500 1:50.4 M1Q 26 YR 4 2 1 0 \$66,500 26 * 4 2 1 0 \$66,500
1:50.4 YR 25 YR 13 8 4 0 \$402,300 25 Tot 27 8 8 3 *\$698,096
24 YR 17 5 10 0 \$423,410 Life 96 37 21 10 *\$1,553,536

2 SOHO FIRESTONE A

61:50.4 Q \$13,700

20-1 S. Zeron 61-2-8-17 (033)

b g 7, by American Ideal, Soho Margaux by Art Major
David Linker, Delray Beach, FL; Brian N. Loman, Champaign, IL; Robert H. Venable, Noblesville, IN

D. Dilloian, Jr. 132-32-22-15 (242) Br. - R J Watson, VA

27 Apr26	5YR	fst6 ³⁰	27	:55.3	1:23.3	1:52.1	BORG #5	50000	2	1 ²	1 ¹	1no	3 ¹	7 ¹	CoKolly	DoDillnJr	27	28	28	294	1:532	97	+6.3w	2.87 DngLthrRdwHwnSwBchlF	Ld, ovtrk ltn, tm, trd-7
20 Apr26	7YR	fst4 ⁶⁰	27	:57.2	1:25.1	1:52.1	BORG #4	50000	3	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	3 ³	ScZeron	DoDillnJr	28	29	273	271	1:524	98	+1.4w	12.04 CptnAlbno SwBchlLst Frst	Rode rail, no bid-7
13 Apr26	5YR	fst4 ⁶⁰	27	:56.2	1:23.4	1:51.1	BORG #3	50000	3	2 ¹	2 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	2 ¹	YaGingras	DoDillnJr	27	28	272	271	1:511	106	+7.6w	3.63 CochsCmrShFrstHwnthlns	Ld, yld, trfc, In, even-7
6 Apr26	2YR	fst5 ⁰⁰	27	:56.3	1:24.1	1:51.1	BORG #2	50000	5	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1hd	JaBartlett	DoDillnJr	27	29	272	273	1:513	106	+2.4w	*30 ShoFrstne Hwnthlns MataPhil	Ld, dug, In, gamely-6
30 Mar26	2YR	fst6 ⁵⁰	27	:55.2	1:23.1	1:51.2	BORG #1	50000	1	2 ¹	2 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	1no	JaBartlett	DoDillnJr	27	28	272	281	1:512	105	+4.7w	*30 ShoFrstne AyeAyeCptSherlock	Pkt, room rail, drng-6
20 Mar26	2YR	fst5 ³⁰	27	:56.1	1:24.3	1:51.1	Qua	50000	5	1 ²	1 ²	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	JaBartlett	DoDillnJr	27	28	283	27	1:513			nb ShoFrstne ArdnlRckstrAr	-5
19 Dec25	8YR	gd5 ⁰⁰	28	1:26.2	1:54.4	2:23.1	MGM GP F	250000	3	7 ⁹	8 ⁵	7 ⁰	5 ³	5 ³	GeBrennan	DoDillnJr	29	57	281	284	2:243			15.61 CochsCmrCptnAlbnCltPrc	11, Sat bk, cvr, no bid-10
8 Dec25	4YR	fst2 ³⁰	27	:56.1	1:24.3	1:52.1	MGM GP L3	50000	1	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ²	2 ²	2 ²	ToMcCrthy	DoDillnJr	27	28	283	272	1:522	100	-6.3w	2.32 CochsCmrShFrstHwnthlns	Outlnk, ptk, clear 2nd-5

Last 5 Sts-\$68,500 1:51.2 YR 26 YR 5 2 1 1 \$68,500 26 Tot 5 2 1 1 \$68,500
1:50.4 YR 25 YR 21 7 9 0 \$244,050 25 Tot 21 7 9 1 \$244,050
24 YR 1 0 0 0 -Life 79 21 18 9 \$411,361

3 DONEGAL LUTHER N(L)

81:52 \$15,446

3-1 Y. Gingras 445-60-66-59 (135)

blk g 8, by Bettors Creek, Donegal Lucy by Falcon Seelster
Kap Singh Racing Stable, Yorktown Heights, NY; Stephen Klunowski, ON; Earl Hill, Jr, ON

J. Bako 124-31-23-18 (250) Br. - M A Boyd, NZ

27 Apr26	5YR	fst6 ³⁰	27	:55.3	1:23.3	1:52.1	BORG #5	50000	3	3 ³	3 ²	2 ⁰	1 ¹	1nk	JoStrattn	JaBako	27	28	273	282	1:521	108	+6.3w	L2.20 DngLthrRdwHwnSwBchlF	1st yld, fr, tm, safe-7	
20 Apr26	5YR	fst4 ⁶⁰	27	:56.4	1:24.2	1:52.1	BORG #4	50000	3	2 ¹	2 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	YaGingras	JaBako	27	29	273	274	1:522	100	+2.4w	L3.64 MosleBenCochsCmrDngLthr	Yld, ptk, fr, In, even-7	
6 Apr26	7YR	fst5 ⁰⁰	26	:55.2	1:23.4	1:52.1	BORG #2	50000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	YaGingras	JaBako	26	28	283	283	1:522	102	+4.7w	L*38 DngLthrMsdBnCptnAlbn	Ld, ptk, fr, In, handly-6	
30 Mar26	6YR	fst6 ⁵⁰	27	:56.1	1:24.1	1:52.1	BORG #1	50000	3	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	YaGingras	JaBako	27	29	281	274	1:521	104	+4.7w	L2.59 DngLthrMsdBnCptnAlbn	Pkt, lsd pst 1/4, handly-6	
23 Mar26	4YR	fst4 ⁰⁰	28	:56.4	1:25.2	1:53.1	Inv	35000	4	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	YaGingras	JaBako	28	28	282	27	1:531	97	-5.7w	L1.05 LHlDngLthrCltPrc	Bothr, 2w pst 1/4, pace-6	
16 Mar26	8YR	slv5 ⁵⁰					Inv	35000						scratched-jg-ineligible												
6 Mar26	2YR	fst4 ⁰⁰	28	:57.2	1:25.2	1:53.1	Qua	35000	4	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	1 ²	JaBako	JaBako	28	29	28	274	1:531			nb LouisGrlDngLthr KyngKmkze	-4	
2 Jan26	8Aus							26607						3	ATurnbull	JaBako					2:381			nr Swayzee DonHugo DonegalLutherN	18	

Last 5 Sts-\$89,750 1:52 YR 26 + 5 3 1 1 \$89,750 26 * 6 3 1 2 \$89,776
None in U.S.A. 25 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 25 20 7 2 2 \$65,146
24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 51 14 9 5 \$202,380

4 CAPTAIN ALBANO (L)

31:48.1 (1) \$12,800

6-1 T. McCarthy 14-2-1-14 (143)

b h 5, by Captainreacherous, Angelou by American Ideal
Patricia Stbs, NY; L A Express Stb, PA; Siobhlan Rog & M Dolan, FL

N. Daley 61-11-6-8 (180) Br. - Frederick W Hertrich III, DE

27 Apr26	6YR	fst6 ³⁰	28	:56.1	1:23.2	1:51.1	BORG #5	50000	6	6 ¹⁰	6 ⁵	5 ³	4 ¹	1nk	JoStrattn	NoDaley	30	281	261	27	1:512	106	+6.3w	L4.41 CochsCmrHwnthlnsAyeAyeCpt	2nd ov, ang, In, pace-7
20 Apr26	7YR	fst4 ⁶⁰	27	:57.2	1:25.1	1:52.1	BORG #4	50000	1	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	28	29	273	263	1:521	102	+1.4w	L*61 CptnAlbno SwBchlLst Frst	Pkt, ang, In, safe-7
13 Apr26	6YR	fst7 ⁶⁰	26	:55.1	1:22.4	1:50.1	BORG #3	50000	7	4 ⁶	4 ⁵	4 ³	4 ²	4 ²	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	28	28	271	271	1:503	110	+7.6w	L*134 MosleBenHwnthlnsCptMr	2nd ov, gpd, stdy In-7
6 Apr26	6YR	fst5 ⁰⁰	27	:56.1	1:23.4	1:51.4	BORG #2	50000	5	4 ⁶	4 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	2 ¹	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	29	28	27	274	1:514	105	+2.4w	L2.73 CptnAlbnoRdwHwnSwBchlF	1st up, gnd, safe-5
30 Mar26	6YR	fst6 ⁵⁰	27	:56.1	1:24.1	1:52.1	BORG #1	50000	1	4 ⁴	4 ⁵	4 ²	4 ²	3 ²	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	27	29	273	274	1:522	101	+4.7w	L*39 DngLthrMsdBnCptnAlbn	2nd ov, ang, ltn, tm, stdy-6
21 Mar26	8M1	fst5 ⁸⁰	28	:55.4	1:24.1	1:50.4	Qua	50000	3	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	3 ²	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	29	27	282	264	1:512			nb CochsCmr FrntmeByma CptnAlbno	Shole, even In-4
19 Dec25	8YR	gd5 ⁰⁰	28	1:26.2	1:54.4	2:23.1	MGM GP F	250000	4	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	2 ¹	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	28	58	282	284	2:233			L*48 CochsCmrCptnAlbnCltPrc	11, 1st up, 1/4, ltr, 2nd-11
8 Dec25	2YR	fst2 ³⁰	27	:56.1	1:24.2	1:52.1	MGM GP L3	50000	2	3 ⁴	3 ³	3 ¹	1 ²	1 ³	ToMcCrthy	NoDaley	27	29	273	281	1:523	103	-6.3w	L*13 CptnAlbnCltPrcHwnCptMr	1st yld, ltn, tm, handly-6

Last 5 Sts-\$64,000 1:51.4 YR 26 YR 5 2 0 1 \$64,000 26 Tot 5 2 0 1 \$64,000
*1:48.2 Pcd 5/8 25 + 5 4 1 0 \$237,500 25 * 18 7 4 1 *\$597,776
24 YR 0 0 0 0 -Life 50 28 8 4 *\$2,232,526

5 HUNTINGTHELASTDOLAR(L)

31:49.2 (78) * \$18,300

5-1 D. Dunn 19-2-3-6 (105)

b g 6, by Huntsville, Eighthundredollar by Bettor's Delight
E Five Racing, Boca Raton, FL; John D. Felding, Scarborough, ON, CA

P. Engblom 316-82-66-39 (259) Br. - Crawford Farms LLC, NY

27 Apr26	3YR	fst6 ³⁰	27	:56.2	1:24.1	1:51.3	BORG #5	50000	6	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1no	JaBartlett	PeEngblom	27	28	274	272	1:513	106	+6.3w	L2.28 HwnthlnsMosleBenCeltCpr	Ld, dug, In, gamely-6
20 Apr26	6YR	fst4 ⁶⁰	27	:56.4	1:24.1	1:52.3	BORG #4	50000	5	5 ⁶	5 ⁶	5 ⁴	5 ⁴	4 ²	JaBartlett										

World Cup to bring Big M scheduling changes

The FIFA World Cup 2026 is coming soon to the New York metropolitan area, and with it, given that the championship soccer match will be played in the shadow of The Meadowlands at New York New Jersey Stadium (aka MetLife Stadium), there are some things that regular Big M live racing and simulcast customers should be aware of.

“With live World Cup matches taking place at the stadium on Saturday, June 13, and Saturday, June 27, there will be no live racing at The Meadowlands those evenings, pending approval from the New Jersey Racing Commission,” said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir.

The Meadowlands will seek to make up those race dates on Thursday, June 11, and Thursday, July 2.

In addition, The Big M will ask the Commission to cancel simulcasting on the following dates, when World Cup matches will be played:

- Tuesday, June 16
- Monday, June 22
- Thursday, June 25
- Tuesday, June 30
- Sunday, July 5
- Sunday, July 19

“We are hoping that our regular customers don’t mind some inconvenience when the World Cup is in town,” said Settlemoir of the tournament that begins on June 11 and concludes July 19. “But the fact is, those days play out like Football Sundays when the Jets or Giants are playing home games. The difference is, there is no parking on site. We are open on days when there is soccer to any rideshare customers on property. On those days, patrons can get their action in the FanDuel Sportsbook.

“In addition, we will be offering watch parties for both soccer and racing when there are no games held at the stadium. We want people to come out early and enjoy the matches while accessing our property for wagering, not to mention the many food and beverage choices we offer at The Meadowlands.”

SENSATIONAL SIRE STAKES STARS: Several big players on the New Jersey Sire Stakes scene will get behind the gate Saturday night in a pair of Platinum-level \$25,000 Leg 2 events for 3-year-old pacers.

In the split for fillies, all eyes will be on Be Perfect BG, the daughter of Perfect Sting-JK Mardi Says, who ran her lifetime record to six wins in six tries after winning her seasonal debut last week in a lifetime-best 1:50 as the 1-9 favorite for trainer Tony Beaton and driver Dexter Dunn. She'll depart from post one as the 6-5 morning-line favorite.

Azrael Blue Chip is the one to beat in the division for colts and geldings. The Besim Odza-trained colt by Perfect Sting-Bathsheba displayed explosive late pace a week ago, only to come up a nose short to Bookie J (who is not in this week) in a 1:50 mile with Andy McCarthy in the pilot's seat. He has drawn post four and will start at 5-2 on the morning line.

-edited release (by Dave Little for The Meadowlands)

PICK 5 CARRYOVER, GUARANTEED POOLS THURSDAY AT HOOSIER

The Thursday (May 7) card at Harrah's Hoosier Park will kick off with a bang as the evening gets underway with a \$7,013 carryover in the Early Pick 5 (races 1-5), with that pool guaranteed at \$30,000.

First post for the Thursday program is 5:30pm and will also feature a \$15,000 guaranteed Late Pick 4 (races 11-14) and \$10,000 guaranteed Late High 5 (race 14), with those guarantees offered each Thursday in partnership with the USTA's Strategic Wagering Program.

Free Harness Eye PPs can be found [here](#).

Racing continues through the month of May at Hoosier Park on a Wednesday through Saturday schedule, with multiple guaranteed pools offered nightly. The month of May will also feature a special Memorial Day program on Monday, May 25 to kick off the first of eight legs of Indiana Sire Stakes for all four sophomore divisions. Post time for the Memorial Day card will 5:30pm.

For more information on the 2026 live racing season at Harrah's Hoosier Park, guests are encouraged to visit www.harrahshoosierpark.com.

-edited release (Hoosier)

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, MAY 7

RACE 2

(5) QUALITY KID seems like he's figured it out for the leading trainer as he comes in off a third-placed-second and a win, and I'll look for him to deliver again here.

-Greg Reinhart



FRIDAY, MAY 8

RACE 11

(1) ADINA HANOVER should no doubt step forward after a very good second in her return. I think the main contenders lean towards the inside.

-Kevin Plowcha



RACE 11

(1) WISHES FOR ASHLEE did what she could last week but the pace wasn't fast enough to set her up from behind. She sticks at TM68 and couldn't have found a softer field.

-Derick Gwerner



RACE 9

(2) FRONT PAGE STORY has the speed, the class and the much better post to work with tonight. She faces some talented ones but has a tactical edge and I think the race goes through her.

-Matt Rose



SATURDAY, MAY 9

RACE 3

(1) CAPTAIN LUKE dropped two seconds from his qualifier in his 2026 debut and the 5-year-old seems poised for a win as he drops in class.

-Gwerner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

JURAVINSKI ELIMS ON TAP AT FLAMBORO SUNDAY

A pair of C\$35,000 Charles Juravinski Memorial eliminations featuring 13 total competitors will take place at Flamboro Downs on Sunday evening (6:25 PM EDT post time).

Carded as races two and four, the first elimination for the race exclusively for 4-year-olds features Adios and Milstein winner Prince Hal Hanover (post one) while the second split is highlighted by Ontario champion Crack Shot (post seven) and Progress Pace winner Fallout (post one).

MOSSDALE BEN NO LONGER A ONE-TRICK PONY

It is said that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Horses, though, are another story.

Eight-year-old Mossdale Ben N has been showing off a new dimension to his game this season, and it could serve him well in Friday's (May 8) Grade 2 \$478,000 MGM Borgata Pacing Series championship at MGM Yonkers Raceway as he looks to win the final for the second consecutive year.

[READ MORE](#)

SCIOTO'S 2026 LIVE RACING SEASON STARTS THURSDAY

The draws are complete for Eldorado Scioto Downs' opening weekend, with 46 races spanning the three days. First post is 5:15 p.m. on Thursday (May 7), Friday (May 8) and Saturday (May 9).

"We had 531 horses drop in the box for opening weekend," said Scioto's Director of Racing Jason Roth. "With so many Buckeye Stallion Series races on Saturday, we had to move some typical Saturday races to Friday, but anticipate being back on our normal schedule next week."

[READ MORE](#)

PA ALL-STARS SERIES SET TO KICK OFF AT POCONO

Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania annually presents the Pennsylvania All-Stars series of races, giving the state-sired stars of the sport an additional opportunity of racing while bringing quality horses to the northeast Pennsylvania oval. The first of the All-Stars races, for the "glamour division" of the 3-year-old pacing colts, will be held this Saturday (May 9) in four sections; its companion race for fillies will be held in three cuts on Pocono's following racing day, Monday the 11th.

[READ MORE](#)

MOHAWK STAKES SEASON TO BEGIN; MANDATORY HI-5 ON SATURDAY

The highly anticipated 3-year-old season debut of the undefeated Beau Jangles highlights this Saturday's racing action at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The SBOA Stakes for Ontario sired 3-year-olds will see eliminations contested Friday and Saturday at the Campbellville oval to kick-off stakes season. Each of the four SBOA events required a pair of C\$25,000 eliminations. The top five finishers from each advance to the finals on May 16.

[READ MORE](#)

OAK GROVE HANDLE RECORDS SET THIS WEEK

The seventh week of the 2026 harness racing season at Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel proved to be an all-time best week in the track's six-year history after crushing its single-card handle record on Monday (May 4) and carrying strong wagering growth into Tuesday (May 5), making it the best week of handle ever at the Southwest Kentucky track.

[READ MORE](#)

TRACK RECORDS FALL IN TROTTING DERBY, TROTTING OAKS ELIMINATIONS

Oak Grove Racing, Gaming & Hotel carried the fervor from a historic running of the Kentucky Derby into a jam-packed day of harness racing stakes on Monday (May 4) that saw a pair of track records established in the eliminations for the Oak Grove Trotting Oaks and Oak Grove Trotting Derby.

[READ MORE](#)

STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER COUGHLIN VISITS OFFSHORE FARM

New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin on Thursday (April 30) visited Julie and Andy Miller's Offshore Farm, where he met with members of the Standardbred community to hear concerns regarding a proposed adjustment to the state's annual appropriation for horse racing purses in the fiscal year 2027 budget.

Gov. Mikie Sherrill's budget proposal for FY2027 includes a \$5 million appropriation for purses, a reduction from the \$20 million provided in previous years. The appropriation was first introduced in 2019 as part of a five-year, \$100 million allocation that has been renewed in subsequent years with the vital support of Speaker Coughlin.

An economic impact study in 2024, completed with assistance from the SBOANJ, showed horse racing generated \$75 million annually in tax revenue for New Jersey.

Speaker Coughlin's visit to Offshore Farm, which included a lunch reception and fundraiser, was hosted by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey and the state's Standardbred industry's political action committee, TrotPAC.

Among those joining Speaker Coughlin for the event were SBOANJ President Mark Ford as well as fellow officers Tony Romano, Chris Ryder, Julie Miller, and Al Ochsner. The group also included SBOANJ directors Stephen Dey III, Julie Meirs, and Anthony Perretti. Other industry representatives included John Campbell and Nadia Tarnawa from the Hambletonian Society and Jason Settlemoir from The Meadowlands. Many trainers and drivers were in attendance as well including Patrick Ryder, Dexter Dunn, Johnathan Ahle, Andrew McCarthy, Tyler Miller, Mark Herschberger, Helen Engblom, Stacy Chiodo, Annie Stoebe, Joe Holloway and Trond Smedshammer

Speaker Coughlin toured Offshore Farm during his visit, at the conclusion of which he addressed a large group of attendees to explain the budget process and pledge support for the industry. Last year, Gov. Phil Murphy's proposed budget included a \$10 million appropriation for horse racing purses but was restored to \$20 million by the Legislature as part of the budget process.

-release (SBOANJ)

MAY PAYMENTS DUE IN MARYLAND

Two-year old payments (foals of 2024) are due to the Maryland Standardbred Fund (MD Foaled) and the Maryland Sire Stakes (MD Sired) on May 15. This payment is 2-year-olds that will be racing in 2026. The cost is \$200 for each division.

Yearling nominations (foals of 2025) to the Maryland Standardbred Fund (MD Foaled) and the Maryland Sire Stakes (MD Sired) are also due on May 15. The cost is \$40 for each division.

All checks must be made out to the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund.

We recommend that all payments be sent by certified mail or priority mail with tracking. Please note the mailing address: P.O. Box 1530, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.

All staking lists, staking forms and regulations can be found on our website at www.msrfonline.com or you may call 410.775.0152.

-release (Scott Warren)

SBOANJ YEARLING NOMINATIONS & SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE MAY 15

Harness racing yearling nominations and sustaining payments for SBOANJ sponsored stakes are due May 15.

The fee to nominate a yearling to the Garden State Trot #10 is \$25. The fee for the Home Grown Pace #10 is \$25 for all New Jersey sired yearlings and those who are nominated to the NJSS SDF program. If you are not New Jersey sired or have not nominated to the SDF program but foaled in New Jersey, the fee is \$150.

Two-year-old sustaining payments for the Garden State Trot #9 and Home Grown Pace #9 are also due on May 15. The Garden State Trot second payment is \$400. The Home Grown Pace second payment is \$300.

Yearling nomination form click [here](#).

Sustaining payment form click [here](#).

-release (SBOANJ)