

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

Defections create opportunity



By Jay Bergman

Much of the news this week centered around which horses would not be entered in the Meadowlands Pace. On Tuesday (June 30) there were 13 horses in the box. Beau Jangles, the 2025 Horse of the Year, and Odds On Mr Mamba, the North America Cup champion, were both absent from the list, but that news perhaps influenced some additional horses including the surprising and expensive supplement of Obliterate.

Due to the rules of the Meadowlands Pace, just 10 horses will go in a single \$50,000 elimination on Saturday (July 4), with three of the 13 taking byes into the \$810K-plus final on July 11.

Carded as race seven on an 11-race all-stakes program, the Meadowlands Pace elimination features a new mix of horses, some that raced in the North America Cup, and others that were missing from the final. Gentleman's Club, a son of Downbytheseaside, didn't qualify for the Cup but his return to action at The Meadowlands last week caught many by surprise. The sophomore, trained by Aaron Lambert, scorched the Meadowlands in a 1:47 4/5 career-best clocking competing against other Meadowlands Pace eligibles.

"He's right where I wanted him to be at this time," said Lambert, stressing that the colt was fresh and ready after a few days of rest and will train an easy trip on Wednesday (July 1).

While three horses – all from the Ron Burke stable – took byes into the final (Al Papi, Lindy Dragonwater and Melillo), Gentleman's Club was not among them.

"I wasn't given the option," said Lambert. "But

if I had been I probably would have wanted to race anyway."

Only those racing in Saturday's elimination can earn a 1-6 post for the rich final.

Gentleman's Club raced in the toughest of three North America Cup eliminations, the race that produced the one-two-three finishers in the final, and faded in the stretch after setting hot fractions for Andrew McCarthy. McCarthy was on assignment at The Meadowlands when Gentlemen's Club raced at The Meadowlands, but Dexter Dunn filled in admirably.



LISA PHOTO

Gentleman's Club won with Dexter Dunn on June 26 at The Meadowlands but will have Andrew McCarthy this week.

"Dexter was very happy with the horse and said he finished with the [ear] plugs in," Lambert said of the mile that saw Gentleman's Club make multiple moves and pace a final quarter in 26 1/5.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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SATURDAY
1
AUG



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 🚫 Free Admission 🕒 5:00 pm

Seafood spectacle with food trucks galore and a themed Pink buffet plus \$70K Hambletonian Elims and \$35K Hambletonian Oaks Elims.

TUESDAY
4
AUG



HAMBO POST POSITION LUNCHEON

📍 Chateau Grande, East Brunswick, NJ
 🚫 Free Admission 🕒 2:00 pm

Post position draws for the Hambletonian Oaks and Hambletonian. Streaming on Meadowlands Facebook.

FRIDAY
7
AUG



HAMBLETONIAN EVE HOMECOMING

📍 Meadowlands Racetrack, East Rutherford, NJ
 🚫 By Invitation 🕒 6:00 pm

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SATURDAY
8
AUG



WINNING KEY FARM HAMBLETONIAN

📍 Meadowlands Racetrack, East Rutherford, NJ
 🚫 \$5 Admission 🕒 10:00 am

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3M



Winning Key Farm
HAMBLETONIAN
 AT THE MEADOWLANDS



“It would be a dream come true,” said Lambert when asked what it would mean to win the Meadowlands Pace final.

Gentleman’s Club drew post four with McCarthy returning to the sulky for the assignment.

Sweet Lovin Lou figured to be one of the contenders in the North America Cup final following a 1:48 2/5 masterpiece in one of three eliminations at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 6. Though regular pilot James MacDonald opted off, trained Dan Lagace subbed with Scott Zeron and was looking forward to the final.

“Everything looked good going into the race,” said Lagace. “But we found out afterwards that he had been fighting a pus pocket.”

That unknown had to have an impact on the outcome of the race as Zeron had gotten Sweet Lovin Lou into a solid outer flow right behind the race winner Odds On Mr Mamba.

With a few weeks to freshen up, Sweet Lovin Lou returned to qualify at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 29 and looked his old self with a 1:53 2/5 mile.

“I shipped him down to Tony Alagna’s place yesterday (June 29),” said Lagace, hoping to avoid the hot weather and get the Sweet Lou-sired colt acclimated to the New Jersey climate.

Lagace plucked Sweet Lovin Lou for \$70,000 at the 2024 Harrisburg Sale and the colt has already earned \$233K with four wins in 13 career starts heading into Saturday’s contest.

Just the second colt and fifth foal from the dam Lover’s Dream, Lagace recalled how he purchased the horse.

“One of my partners (Big Al Stable) had a horse called Rouser Hanover that he said was a very fast horse,” Lagace said about the half-sister to Lovers Dream. “Plus, it’s hard to go wrong with Somebeachsomewhere on the dam’s side and Sweet Lou as the sire.”

Sweet Lovin Lou hopes to regain winning form from post two.

It cost the connections of Obliterate \$66,055 to gain entry into Saturday’s elimination race but it’s easy to see why they might have confidence in the son of Perfect Sting given his consecutive victories in the New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund stakes at The Meadowlands. One of two Chris Ryder-trained horses in the field, Obliterate followed

up a 1:48 3/5 career-best on June 12 with a 1:49 4/5 victory in the \$60,000 final on June 20. Patrick Ryder has helped guide the fortunes of Obliterate, now with three wins in his last four starts. One of three by Perfect Sting in the 10-horse field, Obliterate drew post eight.

The likely favorite for Saturday’s elimination is Brandon Blvd, who will finally get some post relief after abysmal luck in both the North America Cup elimination and final. Andrew Harris trains Brandon Blvd and Dexter Dunn will guide the Cup second-place finisher from post three. With nine wins in 14 career starts, Brandon Blvd, a son of Downbytheseaside, has been the most consistent horse in this year’s sophomore class. Both of Brandon Blvd’s races in Ontario saw him make multiple moves and race without cover only to be outsprinted in the shadow of the wire.

Bookie J (post 1) has captured five of his six starts this year for trainer Ryder and picks up Jason Bartlett with regular pilot Dexter Dunn opting for Brandon Blvd. Bookie J defeated another Meadowlands Pace contender Azrael Blue Chip (post 9) in the \$225,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes platinum final on May 23.

Ubrute, one of two sophomores sired by 2020 Meadowlands Pace winner Tall Dark Stranger in Saturday’s field, tuned up nicely with a third-place finish to Gentleman’s Club a week ago. Ubrute drew post six with Yannick Gingras in the bike.

Talbot Andretti (post 5), Toby Ornot Toby (post 7), Azrael Blue Chip (post 9) and Always B Charlie (post 10) round out the field. Only the top seven horses reach the Meadowlands Pace final.

The Saturday Meadowlands card commences earlier than normal with a 6:00 PM (EDT) post time to accommodate a fireworks show scheduled for after the final race.



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Last 3 Races

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New shooter joins the Road to the Hambletonian

By Derick Givner

Entering the G2 MGM Yonkers Trot on June 26 the name Inexpressable was hardly on the tip of the tongues of trotting enthusiasts thinking about major stakes races like the \$1,000,000 G1 Hambletonian on August 8 at The Meadowlands. To some extent that has changed after the Lucas Wallin trainee was able to score the upset in impressive fashion over the Yonkers Raceway oval.

Racing at the unusual distance of 1 1/4 miles over the half-mile oval, Inexpressable and driver Tim Tetrick worked out a third-over trip. They were sitting sixth with an eighth-of-a-mile to trot, not exactly ideal position on a track with a short stretch. Yet the colt exploded home with



BARBARA LIVINGSTON PHOTO

Inexpressable and driver Tim Tetrick.

a 28 4/5 final quarter to storm past the leaders for the convincing victory.

"I thought we had a good shot," said Wallin. "Obviously, he made a break when we took him here a couple of weeks ago, but I don't think it was because of the track or the turn. For me, it looked like it was a wide-open race."

Wallin referenced a May 9 start in an overnight race at Yonkers where the situation was much different. For one the track was wet due to rain and additionally he had post one in what was his first start of the year, and that can be difficult making the quick turn under fire.

Prior to the Yonkers Trot, Wallin jumped in the bike to test drive Inexpressable at Harrah's Philadelphia and the results were a very positive 1:53 score where he produced a sizzling 26 4/5 third quarter to get the job done by four lengths.

"I wanted to stretch him out a little bit and he's a little relaxed, so I raced him with an open bridle and he went right by them, but then when he cleared, he was just playing around. So we added a pull-down bridle [in the Yonkers Trot]. I don't know if it mattered but it definitely didn't hurt him."

Inexcussable certainly has the bloodlines to be a special horse. The son of Walner is the first foal out of Ineffable, and while she hardly excelled on the track with just a 1:53 3/5 mark and \$94,735 earned, she's from a proven family. Just a generation in the rearview mirror for Inexcussable is her second dam Jolene Jolene, who produced \$1.18 million winner Venerable in a coupling with Walner, \$528K winner Crucial in a pairing with Father Patrick, and \$428K winner Voguish (Gimpanzee).

Bred by Menhammar Stuteri Ab and S R F Stable, Inexpressable was a \$325,000 yearling purchase at the Lexington Selected Sale in 2024. He was lightly raced as a 2-year-old and may finally be coming into his own according to Wallin.

"We only raced at The Red Mile, and he did good there, but then we turned him out. It feels like he's just getting stronger and stronger," said the trainer, who co-owns the colt with Karin Walter-Mommert.

The immediate schedule for Inexpressable likely includes a trip to The Meadowlands on July 11 for the Stanley Dancer Memorial and then perhaps a date on the first two Saturdays in August for the Hambletonian eliminations and final. Should he continue his run of success through the Hambletonian, Inexcussable would have a chance – with a victory in the Kentucky Futurity at The Red Mile – at becoming the first horse to win the Trotting Triple Crown since Marion Marauder in 2016.

"Let's go for the Triple Crown," said Wallin half-jokingly when asked about the Hambletonian. "I think he's a Hambo horse but there are a lot of good colts out there so it's definitely tough. Right now he's probably not at the top of the ladder but anything can happen. But that's probably what we are aiming for."

For now, Wallin at the very least has a potential Hambletonian contender. More will certainly be revealed in the Stanley Dancer when he meets up with divisional leader Apex and many others hoping to win America's Trotting Classic.

McLinchey responds to article on Svanstedt/Moore accident at Mohawk

Following is a statement DRF Harness received from Bill McLinchey, Vice President of Standardbred Racing for Woodbine Entertainment, on the article that ran last week about Sarah Svanstedt's experience following an on-track accident between races.

First and foremost, we are extremely happy to hear that Sarah is recovering well. It was certainly a scary moment for everyone involved. As Ian Moore said, it was an unfortunate incident, and no one was at fault.

After reading Derick Givner's story in this past week's DRF Harness newsletter, I felt it would be helpful to provide some additional context from the racetrack's perspective.

This incident was unique because it occurred during the warm-up rather than during a race. As a result, it caught everyone off guard, as we did not have our Starter, who follows the horses around the track during the race, immediately on scene with a two-way radio to make the initial determination as to whether paramedics or a veterinarian were required.

We have since had the opportunity to review video of the entire incident and everything that followed. One important point to keep in mind is that while there was one horse loose on the racetrack there were also numerous horses warming up and traveling in both directions on the racetrack. The track was very busy at that moment.

Our paddock officials did an excellent job of clearing the track as quickly as possible. Our priority is always to make sure anyone that is injured is being cared for but also ensuring that we are not putting anyone else in danger, as situations like this have the potential to escalate very quickly.

The video shows that our on-track paramedics arrived at Sarah and Ian in approximately five minutes. We understand that, from the Svanstedt team's perspective, it likely felt much longer. Upon the paramedics' arrival, the decision was immediately made to request two outside ambulances for both participants to be taken to the hospital.

Because of the reported potential head injury, the call for outside ambulances also prompted responses from both police and fire services, who attended the scene as part of their standard protocol.

Once on site, the outside ambulance was unable to depart until police had gathered the information they required and had a clear understanding of what had occurred. Once police, fire, and the outside ambulance arrive, management of the scene becomes their responsibility.

Whenever a participant requires transportation to hospital, we always request an outside ambulance. This allows our on-track paramedics to return to their positions as quickly as possible following the transition, so they can continue providing medical coverage for racing. The response time of the outside ambulance is outside of our control.

I also read Sarah's comments regarding tractor and water truck operators using their phones while on the racetrack. At Mohawk, we have an extremely strict policy prohibiting the use of cell phones by anyone operating equipment on the racetrack. Any employee found violating that policy would be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Sarah Svanstedt did not say that anyone at Mohawk was using their phones while operating machinery. She simply implied that she has observed it at tracks during her career in North America.]

Once again, the most important outcome is that Sarah, Ian, and both horses are recovering and expected to make full recoveries.

Please know that Woodbine takes incidents like this very seriously. Following every incident, we review our response in detail to identify opportunities to improve our procedures and ensure we are as prepared as possible should another emergency occur.

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Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24

Hambletonian.com



Honoring this weekend's Hall of Fame enshrinees



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

This Sunday evening (starting at 5 PM) four distinguished men will be enshrined in the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. From various backgrounds but unified in one cause, the quartet have been the bloodlines literally and figuratively that have kept the sport lively for generations passed and onward. Marvin Katz, David Reid, Dr. John Egloff and Michael Kimelman have stood the test of time and devoted their attention towards the future of the standardbred sport.

That none of the four individuals entering the pantheon in Goshen was a trainer or driver of horses is worth noting. What it represents is an understanding that the product – our racehorses – are the culmination of the work done by those that never sit in the sulky either before, during or after a race. Without breeders, without owners, without veterinarians or without a consistent marketplace, there would be no consistent direction for the sport to function.

Marvin Katz has shown over the years a true commitment to the sport that started as a fan and turned into ownership and breeding. There's no question that quality was always more important to Katz than quantity, with a goal to buy or develop the best horses he could. Over the years what was compelling about Katz as a foundational breeder in the sport, predominantly on the trotting side, was how often he complimented others responsible for the success of his horses. Katz sought out the expertise in others to acquire horses with the best pedigree and conformation. He was an investor that recognized what he was successful at and credited those that helped build the foundation for an exemplary broodmare band that produced champions.

Over the last few years, it was notable that Katz led many charitable causes devoting his time and energy to the benefit of the industry and beyond.

Partnerships were part of Katz's success story, with Al Libfeld and Sam Goldband sharing ownership in both the breeding and racing business. That those relationships lasted decades is notable and perhaps the value of what was built was best revealed in the seven-figure purchase prices paid when a partnership was dissolved in 2025.

David Reid finds a well-deserved spot in the Hall of Fame through years of hard work, determination and the ability to adapt and anticipate the direction of the industry. With his late partner in the business Geoff Stein, Reid helped guide Preferred Equine as a force in agency and auctions, mostly in the New York-New Jersey area. When Stein passed in 2012, Reid had the vision to see the future. Kentucky had competing sales companies fighting for customers in the lucrative yearling market. Inevitably Reid and others managed to move towards a single entity now known as the Lexington Selected sale, an auction that continues to grow to this day.

As an agency Preferred Equine has been responsible for many significant stallion syndications, and its acquired knowledge has helped forge relationships in North America and overseas.

Reid is a trustee of the Harness Racing Museum/Hall of Fame and a director of the Hambletonian Society. He has also been an integral supporter of the Standardbred Transitional Alliance and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.

Reid enjoyed tremendous success as well as a co-owner of the international champion Moni Maker, a winner of \$5.5 million.

Dr. John (Tad) Egloff arrives in Goshen through a career that took off with a veterinarian position at Lana Lobell Farms of New Jersey for Alan Leavitt. The Garden State nursery became a force with top broodmares and stallions such as Speedy Somolli on the trotting side and No Nukes on the pacing side. At Lana Lobell, Egloff worked closely with Hall of Famers Leavitt, Jim Harrison and Hal Jones, a team that made the farm one of the most impactful during a period of tremendous growth.

Egloff would branch out later to open his own farm Vieux Carre Farm near Gettysburg, Pa. and worked alongside two Pennsylvania breeding institutions – Hanover Shoe Farms and Hempt Farms – to advance the breed. Such greats like Pine Chip and Always B Miki have been associated with the farm as well as one-time Broodmare of the Year Babe Ruthless, dam of the \$2 million winner Total Truth, the 2006 North America Cup champion.

Dr. Egloff is a member of the Pa. Horse Breeding Commission, vice-president of the Standardbred Breeders of Pa. as well as a director of the Hambletonian Society.

Michael G. Kimelman entered the breeding business along with his father and brother in the early 1970's with the purchase of property in Wallkill, New York that would eventually become Blue Chip Farm, a name that reflected Kimelman's Wall Street investment background. Blue Chip Farm's stallion Most Happy Fella must be credited in a major way for helping to establish the fledgling New York Sire Stakes program at the time. Blue Chip's impact through its popular stallion helped turn the focus in the standardbred sport to the region.

Wall Street types would emerge following in Kimelman's footsteps years later as investors sought to capitalize on the growing value of yearlings through the Meadowlands structured \$1 million races for 2-year-olds.

Michael G. Kimelman has served on the board of the Hambletonian Society since 1987.

The Writer's corner of the Hall of Fame will welcome both Derick Giwner and Ellen Taylor to its wing this year.



DERICK GIWNER PHOTO

The USTA will livestream the Hall of Fame events this Sunday.

Giwner has earned a spot with his high level of activity in helping to promote the sport on various fronts. As the editor of DRF Harness, Giwner is keenly aware of the betting aspect of the sport and has often been consulted on ways to help broaden wagering on the sport's races. His capacity to listen to all sides has helped give a forum to a broad range of people that help influence the sport.

Giwner captured the 2020, 2023 and 2025 Hervey Award given by the United States Harness Writers for his written works.

Ellen Taylor is the Executive Director of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, a group she has led for over 30 years. The Foundation's purpose is to introduce young people to harness racing through a hands-on involvement with horses.

Taylor has been a force behind the group's establishing summer camps in association with racetracks and horseman's groups. A recent electee into the Indiana Harness Racing Hall of Fame, Taylor earned USHWA's prestigious Stan Bergstein Proximity Award in 2009 for her dedication to the sport's future.

Beachy rookies could shine in Scioto's Next Generation stakes

By Derick Givner

With the summer season in harness racing comes an influx of horsepower in the form of 2-year-olds across North America. While most regions use Sire Stakes and conditioned events to provide opportunities for these youngsters, Scioto Downs offers a unique opportunity for connections of these horses to immediately score a big payday with four \$150,000 Next Generation races at the start of July each year.

The 2026 edition of the Next Generation is scheduled for Saturday, July 4 and trainer Vernon Beachy has his barn out in full force for the 16-race card that also includes six Sire Stakes races for 3-year-old fillies and over \$1,000,000 in total purse money. The 38-year-old Beachy has seven of his 22-head in action at Scioto and a healthy four starters in three of the Next Generation stakes.

The first of four consecutive Next Generation races starts in race 10 and Beachy sends out Made For More from post three with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. at the lines. The son of Long Tom has come out strong with two qualifying wins at The Meadows but in slower times of just 2:03 and 2:02 3/5.

"The way we qualify at The Meadows it's a lot of times slow halves and then we come a nice back half," said Beachy, pointing out 57 4/5 final half in her most recent mile. "She's been a really nice filly all winter training down. "I'm pretty confident in her. I think she's going to give her all."

A homebred from John Schlabach, Made For More is the 4-1 co-second choice in the field of eight.

One race later Beachy sends out a very interesting prospect in Sea Surge, a pacing filly by Downbytheseaside that came to him by way of Archie Yoder from Rose Run Farms. They bought her for just \$10,000 at the Ohio Selected Sale.

"They bought her because she was cheap and I think they were going to sell her again but they didn't have anyone else to buy her," said Beachy. "They had Bobby Klein train her down, and then they sent her to me about a month and a half ago."

Sea Surge was a distant third timed in 2:01 in her first Meadows qualifier under Beachy but followed it up with a much more impressive 1:57 3/5 mile on June 23 over the same oval.

"The first time we qualified her, we just went around there and she qualified better than the line looks," said Beachy. "The next week I told Chris Lems I'd like to go a decent mile and he came back and said, 'this is a nice filly.'"

The performance was truly exceptional as Lems had a tight hold of his filly through the stretch despite sprinting home in 28 1/5. The driver will be back in the bike this week as a 6-1 option on the morning-line from post six.



KEN WEINGARTNER PHOTO

Vernon Beachy will send out four starters in three of the \$150,000 Next Generations stakes at Scioto Downs on Saturday.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 9](#)

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE RACES

PRESENTED BY OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

LIVE COVERAGE OF

THE NEXT GENERATION

ELDORADO SCIOTO DOWNS

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

AIR TIME 8:00 PM

WATCH ON HARNESSRACINGOHIO.COM

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Beachy sends out a pair of contenders in the 12th race colt trot, with Satan's Fury (8-1) and Lems drawing post two while Walks The Fire (4-1) has Wrenn Jr. from post five.

Satan's Fury already has a pari-mutuel line under his belt. The gelding by Volstead started from post eight and was fifth in his debut, seemingly touring the track from last most of the mile.

"It wasn't going to be [and easy mile] but everyone on the inside left," said Beachy about Satan's Fury, who he trains for Richard Gutnick and Thomas Pontone. "He'd been training really good but I wasn't happy with his qualifiers. So I just threw him in an overnight race. He ended up trotting his back half in 56 1/5 and they were across the track for third behind Anthony's [MacDonald, Lou Armstrong, post three, 9-5] horse. But I was really happy with his first race and we decided to take a shot."

While the jury is still out on Satan's Fury, Beachy is extremely high on the prospects of Walks The Fire. From the hot Ohio sire In Range, the colt owns a pair of qualifying wins, the latest in 2:00 1/5 with a 27 3/5 final quarter.

"If everything stays par, this is not the first time you'll talk about this

colt," said Beachy, hinting that the Grand Circuit could be in his future. "I think he has the tools to be more [than just an Ohio Sire Stakes horse]. He's staked to everything."

A \$30,000 Harrisburg purchase owned by Trotters R Us and First Up Racing Stable, Beachy added that they were surprised by the price and expected to pay double.

For Beachy, who is stabled in New Philadelphia, Ohio about halfway between The Meadows and Northfield Park, he likes the idea of the Next Generation series and the potential to make an early purse score.

"It gives you an opportunity to make money, and obviously you're calling me so it creates buzz around Ohio as well," said Beachy, who also acknowledged those that feel racing 2-year-olds in bigger stakes should be for later in the summer. "A lot of people don't race for that reason and there is a point that can be made for that. But I feel like without tooting my horn, I do a pretty good job of putting a really good foundation on them so that they're all set. Plus a week or two later they're all going to be going the same time anyway."

Post time for the Saturday Scioto card is 5:25 PM (EDT) and the Next Generation races will be part of the Fox Sports broadcast along with the all-stakes card at The Meadowlands.

Charlotte Elise vying for another upset win in Ohio Sire Stakes

Expectations were low for sophomore filly trotter Charlotte Elise in the third leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. Despite drawing the rail, she went off as a 43-1 longshot. Even some of her connections were skeptical that a win was within reach.

"I didn't think we'd get embarrassed in there, but I wasn't really expecting to win either," trainer Micah Miller said.

Setyoursightshigh, the 2025 Ohio 2-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year, was the betting favorite in the nine-horse field and led at the halfway mark with Charlotte Elise first over and four lengths back in fourth place. But the longshot continued to close, shrinking the gap to just a length at the three-quarter pole and a nose entering the final stretch en route to winning by one and three-quarters lengths. Tyler Smith drove her to victory in a lifetime mark of 1:55 2/5.

"Tyler went first up against Setyoursightshigh kind of early, but I thought Charlotte Elise deserved a shot to go and try and get her," co-owner Wayne Mast Jr. said. "I was a little worried, but she seems like she's always closing for us. I was pretty confident in her, but I didn't see her doing what she did. I was very happy with that."

Mast Jr., of Dundee, Ohio, is one of several of Charlotte Elise's connections from the Buckeye State. He co-owns her with Callam Racing, of Chagrin Falls; Jeremy Miller, of Dalton; and Joseph Mast, also of Dundee. She was bred by Albert Miller, of Fredericksburg, and her trainer lives in Dalton. That third-leg victory at Eldorado Scioto Downs on June 18 proved to them that she could compete at the OSS level.

"I always thought she could possibly be a Sires Stakes horse, but I was just hoping she'd be a good Stallion Series horse," Micah Miller said.

Charlotte Elise did prove to be a decent Buckeye Stallion Series horse. Following an underwhelming freshman campaign highlighted by a pair of third-place finishes in five starts, the Long Tom filly out of Here's Jolene was entered in the first two legs of the 2026 BSS. She finished third both times — in the first leg at Northfield Park Racino on May 3 and the second leg at Scioto Downs on June 4 — but her owners saw enough from her to enter her in the OSS.

"We thought she was maturing and looked like she was heading in the right direction, and we wanted to give her a shot in the Sires Stakes," Mast Jr. said.

Perhaps due to the filly's relative lack of career success, she went off with the longest odds in the field in that OSS race. But, in his mind, Mast Jr. gave her a much better chance to win.

"A couple minutes before they went to the gate, I looked up and thought I saw 10-1. I didn't realize she was 43-1 until I heard the announcer say it over the loudspeaker," he said. "I think she should've been 10-1 or 15-1. I didn't quite see 43-1, but that's how it goes sometimes."

That confidence stemmed from the continual improvement he's seen from her on the track. He said her final numbers from last year didn't tell the whole story of her potential.

"We were pretty high on her last year. We had some bad luck with her health-wise and got stuck with some bad post positions, but we didn't lose faith in her," he said. "We had high hopes for her coming

back and thought she would mature, and if we could get the health issues resolved, we thought she could be a really nice filly for us."

With two wins and three thirds in six starts as a sophomore, Charlotte Elise may be realizing some of that potential. Her trainer has certainly enjoyed working with her.

"She's about as easy as you can get — she does whatever you want," Miller said.

Charlotte Elise will be tested again on Saturday (July 4) as Scioto Downs hosts three \$50,000 divisions of the fourth leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes for sophomore filly trotters. She drew the far outside post eight in the third division and opened with 12-1 odds, matching Lynn Range for the longest morning-line odds in the field. That division includes three other BSS winners from prior legs — Faster Horses, Mooter Tooter, and Rose Run Brooke — along with Setyoursightshigh.

Vernon Beachy trainee Rose Run Brooke (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) opened as the 5-2 favorite. The In Range filly has hit the board four times in five seasonal starts with two wins and will leave from post four. Setyoursightshigh (Mike Wilder) is trained by Marcus Melander. Another In Range filly, she is the 7-2 second choice and will leave from post seven. With a tough draw and so many talented horses in the field, Mast Jr. knows Charlotte Elise and driver Chris Lems have their work cut out for them.

"There are some really nice fillies inside of us, so it's going to take a lot of racing luck to win that race," he said.

First Division

Scott Cox trainee Fairytale Moni (Brett Miller) drew the rail and opened as the 9-5 favorite. First-leg winner Godusa (Wilder) will leave from post four and is the 5-1 co-third choice with Joyofmylife As (Tony Hall) behind 9-2 second choice Topville Lady (Wrenn Jr.).

Second Division

Lindy In My Dreams (Wilder) is the slight morning-line favorite at 2-1. The Nancy Takter trainee will leave from post four. Chip Shot (Wrenn Jr.) drew the rail and is the 5-2 second choice.

Sophomore Filly Pacers

Five of the six winners from prior legs of the OSS for sophomore filly pacers are entered in Saturday's fourth leg. The third of three \$50,000 divisions features three of those horses — two-time winner Sassy By The Sea (Tyler Smith) as well as Laude Da (Chris Page) and Vanna By The River (Wrenn Jr.). Laude Da opened as the 2-1 favorite and will leave from post five.

Third-leg winner Rodeo Dancer (Miller) opened as the 8-5 favorite in the first division and drew post four. Laughing Two (Justin Irvine), also a winner in the third leg, is the 5-1 third choice in the second division behind 2-1 morning-line favorite Seaside Shuffle (Page) and 5-2 second choice Bad Girl Up (Wilder).

The six OSS races are part of a \$1.02 million, 16-race card at Scioto Downs on Saturday. The card also includes four \$150,000 divisions of the Next Generation for 2-year-olds. First-race post time is 5:25 p.m.

-edited release (Wesley Mayberry for OHHA)



HARNESS FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett [X @JHallettPhoto](#)

“Gold” is close to Tritton’s heart

Lauren Tritton is a powerhouse figure in the harness racing world and an inspiration to women as a prominent trainer and driver. She has set standards for milestones, broken records, won historic races, built a name across two continents and carved out her place as one of harness racing’s most accomplished women.

Yet none of those victories compared to the one she celebrated on June 23 at Monticello Raceway.

On that Tuesday, the Australian native won a \$5,200 conditioned pace that meant more than any number on a purse check, any headline in a landmark race, any personal milestone ever could.

Most first career wins are two or three years in the making. This win had been nearly a decade in the making.

Long before Come On Barbie ever stepped on a racetrack, long before she ever took her first breath, her story had already begun on the other side of the world with a young horse-woman and a grey mare.

Tritton’s story in harness racing began when she was 14, helping a neighbor with his Standardbreds during school holidays. From there, she became a force in Australia, ranking among the nation’s top 10 drivers, becoming the youngest driver in Australian history to win 500 races and the first woman to win the State Premiership.

Then in 2017 she crossed paths with My Rona Gold N.

The 6-year-old grey mare was more than just a horse in the barn. Tritton purchased her from New Zealand to race her in Australia. She drove her several times, grew attached to her, and watched her become part of her family’s story in a way few racehorses ever do.

When Tritton and her husband Shane were expecting their daughter, they used My Rona Gold N in their gender reveal, sitting behind the mare in a double-seated jog cart as Shane set off a burst of pink powder. Years before Come On Barbie would ever sport the pink equipment, her mother had already helped welcome the little girl who would one day name her. But we are getting way ahead of ourselves in the story.

Eventually, My Rona Gold N was sold to the United States. On a visit stateside for vacation, Tritton looked up the mare and found her racing at Yonkers. Tritton made her a promise that the goodbye would not be forever. If Tritton ever made it to America, she would find her.

In March 2020, the Trittons moved to the United States, to New York.

Immediately, she began the process of keeping her promise to reunite with My Rona Gold N. She called the trainer who had her and asked to

buy her, to which he agreed. The final 17 starts of her 92-start career were raced in the Tritton Stable with Team Tritton Inc. as owners and Shane as trainer.

After her last start in January of 2021, Tritton retired My Rona Gold N, known as Goldie, to be a broodmare. She bred her to American Ideal and her first foal was Come On Barbie, known as Barbie, and who sports the grey coat like her mother.

Tritton was on her own for the delivery of Barbie, having foaled in the middle of the night. On the phone with a veterinarian, she was given instructions for how to handle the birthing process.

When Barbie was born, it was the same time as the premier of the Barbie movie. Tritton’s daughter Emily would walk around the house saying, “Hi Barbie” to which one had to reply, “Hi Ken”, then she would reply again, “Do you want to go for a ride?” to which one, once again, she had to reply, “Sure, jump in” from a series of lines from the movie.

“At the time, the whole Barbie theme was in the house, so we came up with the Come On Barbie name,” Tritton said.

Unraced as a freshman, the 3-year-old filly made her career debut a winning one in a qualifier in line to Tritton on June 9. Two weeks later, on that Tuesday in late June, Tritton and Barbie teamed up for her first real lifetime start, winning by four lengths in 1:59 3/5.

Having had a past that dated back nine years and spanned to the breeding, foaling, breaking, and training processes, the win produced significant emotion from Tritton.

“Barbie is my first foal,” Tritton said. “I was never into the breeding side of things, so she was my first foal. To do the behind-the-scenes for so long and watching everything that you have done for so long be achieved was just so rewarding. I’ve never had a foal and raised it and broke it, then qualified and raced it. I’ve always just got a yearling from the yearling sale and off you go. That side of things, yes, it’s rewarding when you see it pay off, but not like the feeling I got at Monticello.

“I didn’t care how much the money was. I didn’t care about that at all,” Tritton continued. “It was just this rush of

emotion that I’ve never experienced in all my years of harness racing. I thought I’d experienced all the emotions -- the highs, the lows, the emotional side of things -- but that was a new one. I think because it was new, it felt so great. It was just a really, really good feeling.”

Personality-wise, Barbie is much more affectionate while Goldie was a businesswoman, according to Tritton.

“Goldie knew her job and she doesn’t really like affection. She loved treats, but she always had a game-face on all the time. Barbie, though, is definitely a lover,” Tritton said.

On the track, Tritton said that Goldie and Barbie were the same.

“They have the same habits,” she explained. “They do this thing where they both cross their jaw while they are racing and they both have the same stride. Physically, sometimes, I can see Goldie in Barbie. And they are also the same color, so they are like a twin.”

While Tritton didn’t have a hand in breaking Goldie, she can imagine



COURTESY LAUREN TRITTON

Lauren Tritton driving Come On Barbie at Monticello Raceway.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

her personality based on the experience she had breaking Barbie.

“Barbie always liked to have a little bit of a kick and the mother did, too. I can only imagine,” Tritton added.

Now, Goldie has been inseminated by Always B Colour IR, a prolific racehorse in the Tritton Stable for his pinto coat. She lives at Tritton’s Farm, where she has a home for life.

Barbie follows in the hefty footsteps of her mother’s life and legacy as a longstanding member of the Tritton family and her first win with all of the emotions proves her place as a beloved member of that family, too.

“That new feeling I had winning that race is something that everyone should get a chance to experience. For someone who has been in harness racing for so long to get a new buzz out of harness racing, like that was pretty cool,” Tritton said.

Tritton can be found on the racetrack with her pink equipment, pink race bike and pink stars on her black colors. In addition to having the colorful array of horses – My Rona Gold N, Come On Barbie and Always B Colour IR – she and Shane operate a large-scale stable with over 20-head.

As part of that operation, she started the No Boys Allowed ownership group to garner interest for women to become owners in harness racing. That operation also helps women to achieve that same experience and new feeling that Tritton felt winning with Barbie as they own their own horses and watch them race.

“No Boys Allowed is a group of ladies with five or six of them in Australia and the rest of them here in the States,” said Tritton. “Basically, it is a bunch of women-only allowed in the syndicate and we purchased the grey filly from Winbak at Harrisburg, I broke the filly and now we are racing her. The girls are having an absolute cracker of a time. They think it’s the best thing ever.

“We communicate in a group chat together. We send videos, we send pictures, and on race day, we are all pumped. She’s not a world-beater. I think she’s won five races in 20 starts at Monticello, but the girls think she’s the best thing since sliced bread.”

Since moving to the States, Tritton has noticed the difference between the Australian culture of racing and the American way. While women play a large and notable role in racing overseas, they are hidden behind the scenes here.

“It’s so men-oriented here. Back home, it’s an even-playing field. There are so many women trainers and so many women drivers. I feel like here the husbands own the horses and the women just follow them. I wanted this to be an opportunity for women to have a chance at owning horses,” said Tritton.

In the long term, Tritton just wants to have fun with the racing syndicate with the girls. She doesn’t have any official plans as far as buying additional horses or anything like that but does hope for the syndicate to grow. For Barbie, she is looking forward to racing at Goshen on the Fourth Of July on a patriotic day close to home. And for Goldie, she plans



COURTESY LAUREN TRITTON

My Rona Gold N was part of the gender reveal prior to the birth of Lauren Tritton’s daughter Emily.

for the foal by Always B Colour IR to be the last foal and she will live out the rest of her days in the fields at her farm.

Not every horse gets to spend their lifetime with one family. Fewer get to become a part of generations of that family.

Tritton found Goldie and the mare helped reveal Tritton’s daughter. Years later, they reconnect and Goldie became the mother of a filly that same daughter would name. And on June 23 at Monticello Raceway, Tritton drove that filly to her first win in her first start.

The purse was \$5,200.

The win was priceless.

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Ervin Hanover leads Pollack's stakes sextet at Meadowlands

By Ken Weingartner

Ervin Hanover helped owner Tom Pollack enjoy a "dream year" in 2025, and after beginning this season with consecutive wins in Canada, the multiple award-winning pacer heads to the Meadowlands this week-end looking to continue the magic.

Ervin Hanover, who received the 2025 Dan Patch and O'Brien awards for best older male pacer, will compete Saturday (July 4) in the \$168,100 Grade 3 Dave Brower Memorial Open Pace at The Big M. Dexter Dunn will drive the 6-year-old stallion from post 6, in a field of 11, for trainer Dave Menary and owner Pollack. He is the 3-1 morning-line favorite.

The Brower Memorial is part of a stakes-packed card at the Meadowlands, where racing will begin at 6 p.m. (EDT). The program includes five additional graded events – the Stan Bergstein Graduate Series finals for 4-year-old pacers and trotters (both G2) plus the JL Cruze Open Trot, Six Pack Mare Trot, and Perfect Sting Mare Pace (all G3) – as well as Reynolds Memorial divisions for 3-year-old trotters and the single elimination for the Meadowlands Pace.

Pollack will have two horses in the Brower, with Christopher Dance N joining Ervin Hanover, three horses in the Graduate final for pacers – Fifth And Five, Sugar Man and Bruno No No No – and one mare in the Perfect Sting, Talk Curdy To Me.

"I'm just thrilled and blessed to be even part of these races, for sure," said Pollack, a western Pennsylvania resident who got hooked on harness racing as a teenager in the late 1980s and has owned horses since 2010. "I'm in (the sport) because I love it, I love the action, and to be in these big races and be competitive, it's just been awesome.

"You get spoiled; you don't want it to end. I know it can't last forever, but it's just been so much fun."

Ervin Hanover delivered a good bit of fun last year for Pollack, winning 10 of 17 races and earning \$848,218. He was particularly strong the back half of the season, closing his campaign with eight wins and a second in his final 10 races. His victories included a Canadian-record 1:46 2/5 score in the Breeders Crown Open Pace (G1) as well as triumphs in the Jim Ewart Memorial and Dayton Pacing Derby (both G2).

"It was a dream year," said Pollack, who picked up his first Dan Patch and O'Brien trophies courtesy of Ervin Hanover. "To have someone like him that's been one of the top older pacers has been a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing for me."

This year, Ervin Hanover won an Open at Woodbine Mohawk Park in 1:49 1/5 on June 6 and a week later captured the Mohawk Gold Cup Invitational (G3) from post 9 in 1:48 2/5 over the same oval. Ervin Hanover was parked out the entire mile, four-wide exiting the last turn, and kicked home in 26 1/5 to get the victory by half-a-length over Lou Hill.

"He's come back super," said Pollack about the son of Captaintreachorous-Eloquent Grace who has won 28 of 77 career races and earned \$1.36 million. "He came from a tough spot (in the Gold Cup). He knows where the finish line is, that's for sure."

Ervin Hanover will face a field that includes the top three finishers from this year's MGM Borgata Pacing Series final (G2) – winner Captain Albano, runner-up Huntinthelastdollar, and Coaches Corner – and Joseph Augur Memorial Invitational (G3) champ Ken Hanover, who was a Brower Memorial division winner last year when the event was split into two eight-horse divisions.

"It's the best of the best, so you've got to have your A-plus game every time you go out there because there's nine or 10 others that are bringing their A-plus stuff," Pollack said about the older pacing ranks. "There's no layoffs there."

Pollack's other Brower entrant, Menary-trained Christopher Dance N, will leave from post 10 with driver Brett Beckwith and is 15-1 on the morning line. The 6-year-old son of Sweet Lou-Just Dance was a Group 1 winner in Australia in 2024 and has won 10 of 16 races in North America since being purchased by Pollack in April 2025. He arrives at the Meadowlands off back-to-back victories in conditioned races at Mohawk, including a 1:48 2/5 triumph on June 20.

"He's won his last couple fairly impressively, so we thought he deserved a shot to be in this," Pollack said. "He's sharp enough and has some back class, but that's just a near impossible spot (from post 10). But he's been good for us from day one."

As for his trio in the Graduate final, Fifth And Five will leave from post 2 with driver James MacDonald, Sugar Man from post 8 with Dexter Dunn, and Bruno No No No from post 9 with Jason Bartlett. Fifth And Five (10-1 on the morning line) and Sugar Man (15-1) are trained by Enrico Robinson while Bruno No No No (10-1) is trained by Menary.

Earlier this year, Sugar Man, Bruno No No No and Fifth And Five finished 2-3-4 in the Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup (G2) behind Prince Hal Hanover at Flamboro Downs. Bruno No No No had won his elimination in 1:48 2/5, the fastest Canadian mile ever on a half-mile track.

"Fifth And Five is just a push-button, no frills, nice horse," Pollack said. "He shows up every week and has surprised us at times. He's solid. Sugar Man has such quick speed and can get himself in position. He's a smaller



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Ervin Hanover is perfect in two starts this year.

horse, that would probably be the knock on him, but he definitely can follow until the cows come home. Bruno is very talented, but he's just had four rough trips in a row (since winning his Juravinski elim). They said he trained great this week, so we're hoping for some kind of trip with him."

Captain Optimistic (with Scott Zeron driving for trainer Nancy Taktter) and Prince Hal Hanover (Todd McCarthy-Dr. Ian Moore) are the top morning-line choices in the Graduate pacing final, at 5-2 and 3-1, respectively.

Menary-trained Talk Curdy To Me will close out Pollack's night at the Meadowlands when she leaves from post 4 with driver Beckwith in the Perfect Sting. The 6-year-old daughter of Betterthancheddar-Keepers Destiny has hit the board in 58 of 86 career races, winning 18 and earning \$631,630.

"She's just a blue-collar mare," Pollack said. "She's not as talented as many of those in there, but she gives it her all and finds a way to grind out checks."

Talk Curdy To Me is 8-1 on the morning line. Two-time Dan Patch Award-winner Miki And Minnie (MacDonald-Chris Ryder) is the 3-1 favorite.

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RACE OF THE WEEK

8 MEADOWLANDS SAT

1 Mile Trot. STAN BERGSTEIN GRADUATE SERIES - FINAL (G2). 4 YEAR OLD OPEN (DECLARATION FEE - \$4,600) Purse \$230,000

EXACTA AND TRIFECTA | 10 CENT SUPERFECTA | PICK 3 (8-9-10)

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25-1 J. Ahle 329-24-24-41 (073)		B Nassrom Hld Dly Boh FL, Wolfango A Stp, Wraghtsw, NJ, Joe Sbrocco, Jaf Rq St, Isl NY		1:52 M1		25 MI		4 0 1 1		\$25,000 25 Tot		13 2 1 4		\$371,031	
20 Jun 26 8M1 fst750 284 :57 1:24 1:51 Graduate		50000 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 5		YaGingras		AkSvnsttd		28 28 27 26 1:52 99		+6 5w		45.10 SupChpr Warror DelanyHv		Ld, ovtrk in, lr 2nd-5	
12 Jun 26	8M1 wfr20 273 :55 1:23 1:49 Graduate	50000	3 3 2 3 3 1 1 1 2 1 5	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	28 28 27 27 1:51 96	+11 8w	28.10 SupChpr GdGg M Mtn	Sat, 2w bf 3/4, trot-8						
30 May 26	7Wbs fst590 27 :55 1:23 1:52 Graduate	72900	10 10 9 10 10 8 1 7 6 1 10	TySJones	AkSvnsttd	28 28 27 28 1:53 90	+8 5w	58.85 Monserate M Mouton HyPorter	Struggled-11						
15 May 26	6M1 fst640 273 :56 1:24 1:51 NW15000	27500	4 6 1 6 1 5 5 3 2 6 5	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	29 28 28 27 1:52 87	+7 4w	22.80 BrvAngS M M Mtn M Mtn	Rail, 2w bf 3/4, no bid-8						
1 May 26	5M1 fst560 29 :57 1:24 1:52 Qua	2	2 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 2	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	29 28 27 29 1:54 91	+10 4w	nb FrnchWinHappyJackBOnJpn	Pkt, no bid, clr 2nd-4						
25 Oct 25	6Wbs fst410 261 :55 1:22 1:50 BRDRS CR-G1	600000	7 7 8 1 7 6 7 4 3 9 3	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	27 28 26 28 1:51 97	+10 4w	25.10 Meshuggah SupChpr GdGgGo	3d ov, empty-10						
5 MR MOUTON (L)		b g 4, by Chapter Seven, Burberry by Father Patrick		Last 5 Sts - \$82,525		26 MI		3 1 2 0		\$34,300 26 Tot		4 1 1 2		\$51,775	
9-2 A. Svanstedt 41-55-4-1 (12)		Knutsson Trotting, FL, Little E NY, Stoiz Geiger, OH, Joroen Spaardal, FL		1:50.1 Lxt		25 MI		4 1 2 0		\$25,500 25 Tot		10 4 3 2		\$186,667	
20 Jun 26 3M1 fst750 274 :55 1:23 1:50 Graduate		50000 4 3 2 1 3 1 5 0 3 4 3 1		AkSvnsttd		AkSvnsttd		28 27 28 26 1:50 100		+6 5w		14.20 MmMoutnOnToNwryGdGg		Shld, 3rd ov, saley-6	
12 Jun 26	8M1 wfr20 273 :55 1:23 1:49 Graduate	50000	8 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 3 3 3	YaGingras	AkSvnsttd	28 28 27 26 1:50 97	+11 8w	12.50 SupChpr GdGg M Mtn	Ld, yld, pkt, no bid-8						
30 May 26	7Wbs fst590 27 :55 1:23 1:52 Graduate	72900	8 5 0 4 3 1 1 1 1 1 1	JaMacdnld	AkSvnsttd	28 27 28 28 1:52 97	+8 5w	1.80 Monserate M Mouton HyPorter	Pkt, press, wknd-11						
15 May 26	6M1 fst640 273 :56 1:24 1:51 NW15000	27500	5 2 1 3 2 1 4 2 1 4 3	DeDunn	AkSvnsttd	27 28 28 27 1:52 89	+7 4w	1.90 BrvAngS M M Mtn M Mtn	Sat, 2w bf 3/4, stay-8						
1 May 26	4M1 fst560 30 :57 1:25 1:53 Qua	2	2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1	AkSvnsttd	AkSvnsttd	30 27 28 27 1:52 91	+8 5w	nb SirPhn Convverso FahTrot	Ld, ovtrk in, lr 2nd-4						
25 Oct 25	6Wbs fst410 261 :55 1:22 1:50 BRDRS CR-G1	600000	9 2 1 3 3 5 3 4 4 1 5 3	JaMacdnld	AkSvnsttd	26 29 27 28 1:50 100	+10 4w	41.30 Meshuggah SupChpr GdGgGo	Sh, dwn, tring-10						
6 WALSPA		b m 4, by Wainer, Speak To Me by Muscle Massive		Last 5 Sts - \$34,625		26 MI		4 1 2 0		\$34,625 26 Tot		4 1 2 0		\$34,250	
8-1 T. Tetrak 129-17-19-14 (132)		Purple Haze Stables LLC, Fairport, NY, M3 Racing Stable, Berlin, OH		1:53 M1		25 MI		5 2 2 4		\$225,564 25 Tot		15 6 2 5		\$245,401	
20 Jun 26 3M1 fst750 274 :55 1:23 1:50 Graduate		50000 6 1 2 1 2 1 3 1 3 2 1		JaBarritt		TSmedshmr		27 27 28 27 1:51 94		+6 5w		8.20 MmMoutnOnToNwryGdGg		Ld, yld, pkt, no bid-6	
12 Jun 26	11M1 wfr20 273 :55 1:23 1:49 Graduate	50000	9 1 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 2 2	JaBarritt	TSmedshmr	27 28 27 26 1:50 100	+11 8w	10.90 OnToNwry Walspea Hghst	Ld, yld, pkt, no bid-9						
23 May 26	3M1 sty30 281 :57 1:25 1:53 MsVerstity	30000	5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2	YaGingras	TSmedshmr	28 29 28 27 1:53 91	-4 6w	8.40 Walspea BrvAngS Hghstbrs	Ld, won, handy-5						
8 May 26	10M1 fst590 274 :58 1:25 1:52 NW7500	12500	9 1 0 1 1 1 2 1 1 2 1	TSmedshmr	TSmedshmr	27 30 31 27 1:53 87	+7 4w	2.60 Warror Walspea Clm	Ld bf 3/8, yld, clr 2nd-9						
21 Apr 26	9Phl fst500 30 :56 1:21 1:52 Qua	2	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	TSmedshmr	TSmedshmr	30 31 28 27 1:56 92	+10 4w	23.05 Walle StormnBt Monalishi	Yld, shuff, fold-10						
25 Oct 25	4Wbs fst410 264 :56 1:24 1:51 BRDRS CR-G1	664500	7 1 1 3 3 4 3 1 4 1 8 3	DoMcnair	TSmedshmr	26 31 27 27 1:52 92	+10 4w	nb Walspea Clms Rghts Hghstbrs							
7 SUPER CHAPTER		b h 4, by Chapter Seven, Lifetime Pursuit by Cantab Hall		Last 5 Sts - \$341,525		26 MI		2 2 0 0		\$50,200 26 Tot		2 2 0 0		\$50,000	
3-1 D. Dunn 180-33-25-17 (254)		Jeffrey S Snyder, NY, NY, Arthur S Pronti, Jersey City, NJ, Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, Hanover, PA		1:50 Pcd 5/8		25 MI		3 2 1 0		\$153,525 25 Tot		14 9 3 1		\$1,236,099	
20 Jun 26 3M1 fst750 274 :55 1:23 1:50 Graduate		50000 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1		DeDunn		MarMelndr		29 28 27 26 1:51 94		+6 5w		6.05 SupChpr Warror DelanyHv		Pkt, lb lane, saley-6	
12 Jun 26	8M1 wfr20 273 :55 1:23 1:49 Graduate	50000	6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 3	DeDunn	MarMelndr	27 28 27 26 1:49 104	+11 8w	6.40 SupChpr GdGg M Mtn	Usp, pst 1/4, lb, handy-8						
22 May 26	1M1 fst680 273 :57 1:27 1:53 Qua	3	2 2 4 2 1 2 1 2 1 1 1	DeDunn	MarMelndr	28 29 29 26 1:53 1		nb SupChpr Warror Meshuggah	Pkt, ang in, handy-5						
13 Nov 25	8DD fst460 27 :56 1:24 1:51 MTRN 3YO-G3	163050	2 2 2 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1	DeDunn	MarMelndr	27 29 27 27 1:51 102		6.50 SupChpr Meshuggah CheersHv	-8						
25 Oct 25	6Wbs fst410 261 :55 1:22 1:50 BRDRS CR-G1	600000	2 4 3 1 4 3 2 1 1 1 2	DeDunn	MarMelndr	26 29 26 28 1:50 107	+10 4w	3.70 Meshuggah SupChpr GdGgGo	Chall, aim, nailed-10						
5 Oct 25	11LxT1A fst800 271 :53 3 1:24 1:49 KY FUT-G1	500000	4 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 3	MarMelndr	MarMelndr	27 26 28 27 1:49 107	+4w	2.06 EmtrnLgcy Maryland SupChpr	Top, yld, evenly-11						
8 #GO GO GO (L)		b h 4, by Greenshoe, Primary Target by Muscle Hill		Last 5 Sts - \$68,500		26 MI		2 0 1 0		\$18,500 26 Tot		5 2 1 1		\$68,500	
6-1 T. McCarthy 152-13-20-23 (086)		Wiesman Farms LLC, Middle River, MD, Al J Lifield, Pickering, ON, CA		1:49.3 Lxt		25 MI		4 2 0 1		\$87,188 25 Tot		12 5 0 2		\$303,276	
20 Jun 26 3M1 fst750 274 :55 1:23 1:50 Graduate		50000 1 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 3		ToMcCrthy		CaPinske		28 1 26 28 27 1:50 99		+6 5w		11.20 MmMoutnOnToNwryGdGg		Brsh, lb ft 1/2, ovtrk-6	
12 Jun 26	8M1 wfr20 273 :55 1:23 1:49 Graduate	50000	4 4 4 4 4 2 2 2 2 2 2	ToMcCrthy	CaPinske	28 28 27 26 1:50 101	+11 8w	13.70 SupChpr GdGg M Mtn	Rail, 2nd ov, stly in-8						
25 May 26	8OaG fst790	50000	scratched-sick												
16 May 26	10aG fst830 263 :55 1:23 1:51 KYSS-4HG-F3	100000	3 3 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 7	ToMcCrthy	CaPinske	27 28 28 28 1:57 71	7w	6.21 GimpnzDnc RoylCmt MyDegnte	Wd trn, one, romp-8						
4 May 26	8OaG fst780 261 :56 1:23 1:52 KYSS-4H-L2	50000	5 1 2 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	ToMcCrthy	CaPinske	27 28 27 28 1:52 102	7w	6.13 GdGgGo Vugoo FityMtr	Wd trn, one, romp-8						

Summer sizzle sets up schedule shakeup at Big M

Edited release by Dave Little for Meadowlands

A dangerous heat dome is currently affecting Northern New Jersey – which includes East Rutherford – bringing stifling humidity and heat index values in the upper 90s to low 100s through the July 4 weekend.

As a result, the intense weather conditions have made it necessary for management at The Meadowlands to make some changes for the upcoming holiday weekend.

First of all, the live program of racing that was scheduled to take place tonight (Thursday, July 2) has been canceled. That card has been moved to Thursday, July 9.

Due to anticipated heat indices that could reach the mid-100s, post time on Friday (July 3) is 25 minutes later than usual. The first of 12 races will get underway at 7 p.m., late enough for racing to be conducted safely as temperatures come down.

Finally, Saturday (July 4) is a huge night of racing and fun. The forecast high temperature that day is close to 100, but a stray shower or thunderstorm could help make things more comfortable.

Post time for the 11-race program is 6 p.m. The early post is necessary with the track presenting a fantastic fireworks show to celebrate America's 250th birthday. The last race is scheduled to go at approximately 10:35 p.m. with the free fireworks presentation to follow shortly thereafter.

For more fireworks information, go here.

The race card will be stocked with explosive stars who will burn up the track as a single elimination for the \$810,000 Meadowlands Pace presented by Genova Burns LLC highlights the program. In addition, there will be a pair of Stan Bergstein Graduate Series finals, one for pacers and one on the trot, each of which will go for \$230,000. Also on the card will be the \$153,200 Perfect Sting, \$168,100 Dave Brower Memorial, \$129,400 Six Pack and \$131,250 JL Cruze.

"After a remarkably tough winter, here we are dealing with a brutal heat wave," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "So, we decided to make some moves that will protect our equine athletes and the people who care for them. Everybody has to realize that these kinds of temperatures are no joke, so everyone who is participating in the races, or, for that matter, coming out to the races, has to be aware of how they are feeling and take care of themselves by limiting how long they are out in the heat while always keeping hydrated."

THE BABIES GET UP EARLY: There will be 10 baby races/qualifiers contested Saturday morning at 8 a.m. for those who want to get a glimpse at some of the stars of tomorrow.

CATCH IT ON FOX: Saturday night's huge racing program is too good to just be seen locally, which is why all seven stakes events on the Big M card will be shown to a nationwide audience as part of the New York Racing Association's (NYRA) "America's Day at the Races" series.

The three-hour live broadcast can be seen on Fox Sports 1 (FS1) and will begin at 8 p.m. Providing commentary and analysis will be the team of Jessica Otten and Gabe Prewitt.

The presentation is the second of seven that will feature Big M races during the 2026 stakes season. FS1 will come right back on July 11 at 8 p.m. with a show that features the \$810,000 Meadowlands Pace final presented by Genova Burns LLC.

CAPTAIN COREY FILLIES CAPTURE PENNSYLVANIA SIRE STAKES EVENTS

Sire Captain Corey swept the trifectas in both \$56,145 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes divisions for 2-year-old filly trotters on Wednesday afternoon at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows, with Miss Eliza and Birr Castle taking the victories.

In the initial grouping, first Ginger Tree Darla (Andy McCarthy) and then Cuckoos Nest (Dave Palone) cut fractions of 27 4/5, 57 1/5 and 1:26 1/5, but Orinoco (Yannick Gingras) and Miss Eliza (Mike Wilder) moved up first-over and second-over from third and fourth in the final quarter.

Both Orinoco and a three-wide Miss Eliza went by a stopping Cuckoos Nest turning for home, and Miss Eliza was able to wear Orinoco down late to prevail by half a length in 1:55 3/5. Shes A Home Run (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) finished in the third spot.

[READ MORE](#)

DRF HANDICAPPER'S CORNER

At DRF Harness we strive to provide the best handicapping information in the sport. Each week we'll use this space to bring you some of our handicappers' best bets and value plays. Use this information as one of your tools when wagering or head to your nearest ADW and simply make a win bet.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

RACE 3

(3) TOSS OF THE DICE was vicious out of the pocket last week and edged away to a career best. I'll look for a similar trip and result.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

FRIDAY, JULY 3

RACE 10

(1) KISS N took some support in her first start back after a month and got what looked like a perfect tightener. She could provide a big effort tonight.

-Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 3

(7) SEASIDE UBEAUT may not have the final times of some of the others in this field but she's been very impressive in two starts. Downbytheseaisde half-sister to Ubrute seems plenty talented and we may get a decent price since Dunn elected to take (1) WENDY J STINGS.

-Derick Gwerner



SATURDAY, JULY 4

RACE 5

(4) CUSTOM was used to the front but then found herself trapped in the pocket last time. She eventually found room in deep stretch but others had the momentum. This looks like the right spot for her to get back on track.

-Gwerner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

SOUTHWIND FARMS TO CEASE OPERATIONS AFTER 2028 SEASON

It is with deep sadness and reflection that we announce Southwind Farms will cease operations at the conclusion of the 2028 season.

The closure of Freehold Raceway and the ongoing uncertainty of the Meadowlands—has made it impossible to sustain what was once a thriving and proud breeding operation in New Jersey.

Unfortunately, a facility of Southwind's size, history, and purpose cannot simply be relocated to Kentucky or Ohio. As a result, the decision to close, while painful, is unavoidable.

Our plan moving forward is as follows:

- A full dispersal of Southwind-owned mares will take place in the coming month on PEO online.
- A limited foal crop 2027 will result only from mares in existing partnerships to which we are contractually obligated.
- There will be small yearling crops in 2027-2028
- Regarding the stallions, all strategic decisions will be made by the respective syndicate managers.
- Our core staff will remain in place through 2028.

Many of our long-standing team members will retire from Southwind at that time, including our Farm Manager Laura Young, whom has been with us for over 35 years.

We are proud to say they will retire with the respect they have earned over decades of dedication to Southwind Farms and the Standardbred industry.

By 2028, the iconic Southwind gates will close for the final time.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported Southwind Farms throughout the years. Our morals, values, and commitments were always upheld, and that mattered to us. We are especially thankful to Barry, whose generosity and integrity allowed Southwind to continue for many years following the passing of his parents. His stewardship honored their legacy and ours.

We are going out with dignity and respect. It brings us comfort to know that Southwind was truly loved and respected within the industry. While the farm will close, the Southwind name—and what it stood for—will live on for many years to come.

-release (Southwind Farms)

UNCLE ROB MATCHES TRACK RECORD IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES VICTORY

It was a spectacular day for Uncle Rob (\$3.88) at Buffalo Raceway on Wednesday afternoon (July 1), as he collected the victory in the \$110,200 New York Sire Stakes for the 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters with a 1 3/4 length score over Celebrity Dubai in 2:00 3/5.

[READ MORE](#)

\$20 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR NJ HORSE RACING RESTORED

Gov. Mikie Sherrill on Tuesday night signed New Jersey's FY2027 state budget, a \$60.7 billion spending plan that includes a \$20 million appropriation for horse racing purses in the Garden State.

The governor's proposed budget, released in March, had allotted \$5 million for purses, a decrease of \$15 million from the funding provided in previous years. The State Legislature restored the appropriation to \$20 million as part of the budget process.

[READ MORE](#)

COWBOY CANDY, FENDILICIOUS DELIVER IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES

The New York Sire Stakes circuit was at MGM Yonkers Raceway for the first time in 2026 on Monday night (June 29), and Cowboy Candy and Fendilicious won their respective sections of the opening leg for 2-year-old pacing fillies.

In the first division, which went for a purse of \$78,700, Cowboy Candy (Andy McCarthy) led early after showing speed from post one, but she released a two-wide Holly's Choice (Matt Kakaley) to the top just after the 28 2/5 opening quarter. Holly's Choice then backed down the half to 58 seconds before favorite Too Pink To Pass (Lauren Tritton) went first-over out of the three-hole on the third turn.

[READ MORE](#)

LOUA DIPA TAKES OVER #1 SPOT IN TOP 10 POLL

Loua Dipa took over the No. 1 spot in the Week 3 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday as previous leader Odds On Mr Mamba dropped to second following his first loss of the season.

Odds On Mr Mamba, who topped the rankings for the first two weeks, finished third in the third leg of the Indiana Sire Stakes this past Friday at Harrah's Hoosier Park. He received 12 of 35 first-place votes, the same total as idle Loua Dipa, but trailed the new No. 1 by 25 points.

Miki And Minnie, who became the fastest-ever 4-year-old female pacer at Plainridge Park with a 1:49 1/5 win in the Fillies and Mares Open Handicap last week, remained No. 3 in the rankings. She received eight first-place votes and 281 points to complete a tightly grouped top three.

The next four horses in the poll – Brandon Blvd, Super Chapter, Ervin Hanover and On To Norway – were idle last week. Spencer Hanover, who was No. 4, dropped to eighth after making a break in the MGM Yonkers Trot this past Friday.

Rounding out the Top 10 were idle Apex and newcomer Endurance, who won the Currier & Ives in a stakes-record 1:52 4/5 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

Prince Hal Hanover, who was idle, dropped out of the Top 10, one point behind Endurance.

The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll, which will continue weekly on Wednesdays through the Grand Circuit season, does not determine year-end awards. The members of the U.S. Harness Writers Association vote on all Dan Patch Award division winners plus Trotter of the Year, Pacer of the Year, and Horse of the Year.

Rankings based on the votes of harness racing media representatives on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll: 7/1/2026

Rank	Name (First-Place Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Loua Dipa (12)	3fp	4-3-1-0	\$203,732	313	2
2	Odds On Mr Mamba (12)	3gp	4-3-0-1	\$437,400	288	1
3	Miki And Minnie (8)	4mp	4-3-0-1	\$153,550	281	3
4	Brandon Blvd (1)	3cp	4-2-2-0	\$271,580	161	5
5	Super Chapter (1)	4ht	2-2-0-0	\$50,000	134	8
6	Ervin Hanover	6hp	2-2-0-0	\$50,400	111	7
7	On To Norway	4gt	5-4-1-0	\$70,500	103	6
8	Spencer Hanover	3ct	5-4-0-0	\$391,932	96	4
9	Apex	3ct	2-1-1-0	\$118,750	72	9
10	Endurance	3ct	4-3-1-0	\$220,588	64	--

ALSO: Prince Hal Hanover 63; Be Perfect BG 54; Antognoni S 33; Periculum 18; Beau Jangles, Nezuko Kamado S 14; Fragment 11; Captain Albano, Louies Girl N, Miss Jum Jabber 10; Mossdale Ben N 9; Lexus Kody, Lou Hill 7; Bookie J, Ken Hanover, Swiss Lights 6; Captain Optimistic, Tarapasta 5; A Clean Deal, Inexpressable 4; Twin B Joe Fresh 3; Big Ranger, Logan Park, Oh Look Magic 1.

NOTE: Antognoni S received one first-place vote.

-Ken Weingartner for Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown

OHHA HOSTING OSS 50TH CELEBRATION TOUR REUNION NIGHT ON JULY 4

The Ohio Sires Stakes is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association encourages fans to partake in the festivities.

As part of this golden anniversary season, the OHHA is hosting a 50th Celebration Tour Reunion Night on Saturday, July 4, at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Fans will be able to win prizes by answering OSS trivia questions, and the OHHA will also be giving away special trading cards featuring past OSS winners. The event also marks a great time for anyone with OSS memorabilia to show it to others and share the history behind the items.

The 50th Celebration Tour Reunion Night is being held in conjunction with the fourth leg of the OSS for sophomore filly trotters and pacers as well as the Next Generation races at Scioto. A live stream of the Next Generation races will be available on the [OHHA YouTube page](#). First-race post time is 5:25 p.m.

-release (OHHA)