



## ADIOS DAY at THE MEADOWS



- ✓ Free Harness Eye PPs
- ✓ Full-card Analysis
- ✓ Watch the races LIVE!

SATURDAY, JULY 25 | 11:30 AM (EDT)

[VISIT PAGE](#)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Odds On Mr Mamba ready to dance in \$420K G1 Adios final**

**Jessica Hallett: Multi-generational Millers trying to find their way without Rideau**

**Jay Bergman: Setback aside, Melander aiming Setyoursightshigh for Oaks**

**Sears returns to the bike after three-year absence**

**Owners pumped over Kindergarten starter Perfect Body**

**Diva Ek back for revenge in MGM Yonkers International Trot**

**Best Bets & Analysis**

**Field set for Battle of Waterloo; Big M handicapping contest this weekend**

**Comments? Questions?**  
Email the Editor [DJGwinner@DRF.com](mailto:DJGwinner@DRF.com)

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026



Winning Key Farm  
**HAMBLETONIAN**  
AT THE MEADOWLANDS

# HAMBO FUTURE BOOK

With the exception of some state-bred races this week and the Tompkins-Geers this Saturday at The Meadowlands where a few late-deciders will make their Hambletonian resolutions, the scene is basically set for the most important race on the Standardbred calendar.

While we won't officially know how many horses will enter the Hambletonian for a few more days, there are 90 colts and geldings eligible and another 101 fillies are also possible – although unlikely – players for the Grade 1 event scheduled for eliminations on August 1 and the \$1,000,000 Final on August 8 at The Meadowlands. Examining the list on the boys side, there are clearly 7 to 10 obvious contenders and another few just outside the top tier that are locks to enter. After that first dozen or so, there are an equal number of horses that haven't yet stepped up with the clarity of others in 2026 but could certainly roll the dice on the hefty entry fee.

My best guess at this point is we get between 18 and 24 horses for the 101st Hambletonian. I lean to the top end only because there really is no standout leader to scare off the rest. There are certainly a few that have looked a bit better but there hasn't been any clear separation.

With that, let's look at my unofficial future book odds for the top 9 on my list plus the field.

### 1-APEX (3-1)

After an inauspicious debut where he finished second, it has been all good for last year's Dan Patch winner in this division. Marcus Melander trainee made a middle-move to the front and got away with easy fractions last time out in the Stanley Dancer. Still, he faced a serious challenge from



### EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

[X @harnesseveguy](mailto:@harnesseveguy)

stablemate American Power and was edging clear from that foe late with a powerful 26-second final quarter. The royally bred son of Walner and Mission Brief has been perfectly prepped to fire his best shot on Hambletonian Day even if he hasn't necessarily separated himself from the pack in terms of raw speed.

### 2-ENDURANCE (7-2)

While Apex has taken the typical "race only at The Meadowlands" road to the Hambletonian, Endurance has already been seen on four different tracks in three different states this year. Outside of the Oak Grove Trotting Derby when he finished second off a bad trip, every other result has been a win for the son of Captain Corey. His Dancer win last time looked eerily similar to Apex in terms of trip, with the one difference being that he seemed more all out late with a 26 3/5 final fraction.

### 3-BIG RANGER (9-2)

Track-record holder at Scioto Downs (1:50 3/5) is now perfect in two starts for new trainer Anette Lorentzon and driver Tim Tetrick. There is no doubt he is fast, but how fast? He's never been on a mile track and it remains to be seen if the In Range-sired colt drops time on the switch. Big Ranger also hasn't been even remotely tested since the trainer/driver changes while racing in the Ohio Sire Stakes. How will he stand up to a whole new level of competition? Basically you get an unlimited ceiling with a high floor.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)



Opening Night at  
The Red Mile

**\$400,000 KY  
Proud Finals**

Sunday, July 26 – Post  
Time: 5:00 PM (EDT)

[GET FULL-CARD ANALYSIS](#)

Live racing July 26-28 & Sunday to  
Wednesday in August

# 2026 Hambletonian Collection



**4-AMERICAN POWER (6-1)**

Here is another colt from impeccable bloodlines as a son of Walner and Ariana G. Since day one this year he's looked tremendous and the results have shown with four wins in six starts including a track-record Zweig Memorial win (1:50) at Vernon Downs last Sunday (July 19). The question remains whether he can beat the elite as he was second behind Apex in the Dancer and third in the NJ Sire Stakes final. The raw ability is there but he may need the right trip to win.

**5-DIABOLIC HANOVER (10-1)**

This guy was closer to the top of the list at the start of the year but his stock dropped after three straight so-so efforts. The Muscle Hill-sired colt came up with his best mile of the year in the Zweig to be second behind American Power when that foe got the jump on him in a quick final quarter. It was an encouraging performance but only did more to show that this horse must get his trip to beat the best of this division.

**6-NIX NACKEN (10-1)**

There is a reason that Nix Nacken is listed on par with Diabolic Hill and that is because they are both in the same boat in terms of the trip they need to win. Neither seems capable of doing the heavy lifting but both own enough pure speed to rally off cover given the proper setup. One of the more heavily-raced horses in this group at eight starts this year, he only has one win and even though it ties American Power as the quickest this year (1:50), it was on a night where the track was abnormally fast.

**7-IT COULD BE WORSE (12-1)**

Despite finishing second behind Endurance in the Kentucky Sire Stakes final last year, few people were likely giving this horse serious Hambletonian consideration prior to a breakthrough 1:50 3/5 victory in

the Reynolds at The Meadowlands on July 4. The Linda Toscano trainee followed that up with a second behind Endurance in the Stanley Dancer. He was locked in the pocket a long way but in fairness he didn't seem like he was going to roll by that winner.

**8-INEXPRESSABLE (12-1)**

Here is another horse that was way under the radar prior to powering past five foes to win the Yonkers Trot on June 26. He worked out a nice cover trip after leaving the gate in the Dancer in his next start and came home faster (25 4/5) than the winner Apex. Just four starts into his season and with only nine career races, the Lucas Wallin-trained colt could just be scratching the surface of his ability.

**9-SPENCER HANOVER (15-1)**

Certainly a top three contender entering the year after his Breeders Crown victory in 2025, Spencer Hanover did little to change those thoughts after reeling off four straight wins to start 2026. That said, the fourth of those wins was less than spectacular in the Empire Breeders Classic and since he has made consecutive breaks in the Yonkers Trot and Dancer. He did qualify back without incident in 1:53 with trainer Marcus Melander in the bike but there are still many questions to answer. If you like him, buy low now.

**10-FIELD (20-1)**

Assuming there actually was a Hambletonian future book, some of the horses you'd get in my field are Magic Punk, Requiem and a bunch of other "maybes" for the race. Will Highland Destiny turn the corner in the Tompkins-Geers on Saturday and punch his ticket? Will Ardonne enter off consecutive breaks?

We will learn much more about the Hambletonian after the eliminations but here's hoping that all of the top nine on my list make it into the final and we get a race for the ages that we'll be talking about for the rest of the year.

# WINBAK FARM

## *Congratulates*

# MIND ON MY MONI

## WINNER OF \$50,000 OHIO SIRES STAKES AT NORTHFIELD PARK IN 1:58.2!

Ready For Moni-Jj's Jordyn-Angus Hall  
2, 1:56.4f -'26 (\$39,500)

**Trainer:** Vernon Beachy

**Driver:** Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

**Owners:** 518 Group LLC, Gitup Racing, Ryan Smith & Todd's Auto

**Bred, Raised & Sold by Winbak Farm**



[Click here for Winbak Farm's 2026 Yearling Lineup!](#)

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners / Jack Burke, General Manager

James Ladwig, Yearling Manager / 410.885.3059 / [www.winbakfarm.com](http://www.winbakfarm.com) / [f](#) / [X](#) / [@](#)

# HAMBLETONIAN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

**1  
AUG**



## SEAFOOD FEST AND ELIMINATIONS

📍 Meadowlands Racetrack, East Rutherford, NJ  
 🚫 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

Kickoff Hambletonian Weekend in style at this invite only event. Please call 609-371-2211 for details. Racing card features \$225k NJSS Finals (2CP & 2FP), \$50k Muscle Hill (3CT), and \$30k Continentalvictory (3FT)

SATURDAY

**8  
AUG**



## WINNING KEY FARM HAMBLETONIAN

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

The greatest day in harness racing! \$3.5 Million in undercard races with a post time of 12 Noon. Plus rides & games, \$2,500 Best Dressed Contest judged by Emmy Award-Winning TV Star Carson Kressley and Caitlyn Warakowski of @howdoyouwearthat, plus a \$1,000 Hat Contest also judged by Carson.

**3M**



HUNTERTON  
FARM



*Winning Key Farm*  
**HAMBLETONIAN**  
 AT THE MEADOWLANDS



**TROPLE  
CROWN**



**NJOS**  
 NEW JERSEY OFFICE SYSTEMS, LLC

CANE RUN  
FARM



GREAT AMERICAN  
INSURANCE GROUP  
Equine Mortality

*Brittany Farms* LLC  
 EST. 1985

**BUTEWICZ**  
 LIFESTYLE REAL ESTATE

# Odds On Mr Mamba ready to dance in \$420,500 G1 Adios final

By Jay Bergman

Saturday's Grade 1 \$420,500 Delvin Miller Adios final at The Meadows finds the odds against trainer Melanie Wrenn when it comes to numbers. Wrenn, who sends out Odds On Mr Mamba, faces a field of nine with the majority emanating from the Ron Burke stable. "It would be tough if they had just three in the race, but they have five," said Wrenn of the numbers disadvantage she'll face, with the sport's leading trainer sending out five of the nine horses in the field.

On the positive side, Wrenn feels very good about the draw and even better about her own horse. "He came out of the elimination great," said Wrenn, who did not ship back to Indiana and instead stabled at a farm within shouting distance of The Meadows. "I'm glad James (driver MacDonald) was able to get a mile into him where he was able to race in front."

Wrenn had been more than happy with MacDonald's winning performances in both the North America Cup elimination and the final even though the gelded son of Odds On Equuleus bore out in the stretch. In last Saturday's elimination race, Odds On Mr Mamba scored in 1:49 3/5 racing in front and pacing home in 27 2/5.

"We did some work on him after the North America Cup and he's not bearing out anymore," said Wrenn.

The second Adios elimination was won in near track-record time, with Al Papi coasting to a 1:47 2/5 career mark. The Ron Burke-trained colt sat neatly off a hot pace and then brushed sharply to the top, finishing his mile in 26 4/5. The mile was just a fifth shy of Al Papi's sire Papi Rob Hanover's clocking in an elimination for the Adios in 2020.

Wrenn was not very concerned with the discrepancy over the final time. Odds On Mr Mamba set the world record of 1:47 4/5 as a 2-year-old last year at Hoosier Park.

"Not to discredit Al Papi," Wrenn said. "I think if my horse was in the same position he would have done the same thing."

The two elimination winners drew on Tuesday for their spots in the final.

"We got the first pick and James (MacDonald) wanted post three," said Wrenn.

Al Papi's connections picked post four and following Wednesday's completion of the draw, Wrenn finds herself right in the middle of four of the Burke finalists, with Another C Note (post 1) and Frantic Hanover (post 2) to his inside and the filly Loua Dipa (post 5) to his outside.

Despite the numerical imbalance in the field, Wrenn expects a fair shake when the race goes to post. "I think all of the drivers want to win the race," Wrenn said.

"My guys have a hard enough time making up strategy for one horse. They can't do five horses," joked Burke at the post-position press conference.

With four wins in five starts this year, Odds On Mr Mamba has shown that he belongs with the elite in the sophomore ranks. Racing exclusively in Indiana as a freshman, Odds On Mr Mamba, owned and bred by Dana Parham's Odds On Racing, won seven of his eight starts with the lone defeat coming in his very first race when he was taken off the pace.

"I think he's a better horse coming from off the pace," Wrenn said. "But he can do it either way."

Of the Burke quintet, Frantic Hanover may be a horse to fear as the son of Stay Hungry finished sharply behind Odds On Mr Mamba in his elimination heat and may finally be trending in the right direction after a slow start to his sophomore season. Frantic Hanover was an exceptional 2-year-old on the Pennsylvania circuit, capturing the \$300,000 final in September and then following that mile with a solid second behind Beau Jangles in the Grade 1 Metro final two weeks later.

Al Papi found the winner's circle for the first time in 2026 with last week's career-best effort. On the board in 10 of his 11 starts as a freshman, Al Papi returned this year with a series of rough trips that earned him money, notably seconds in the Meadowlands Pace and Messenger Stakes. He'll be looking for his first Grade 1 victory in the Adios with Yannick Gingras in the bike.

The filly Loua Dipa tried the boys for the first time in her elimination heat and didn't fire the same in the stretch as driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr. gave her a pocket trip and then tried to outsprint Odds On Mr Mamba. The daughter of Sweet Lou struggled to pass and was passed herself,



CHRIS GOODEN PHOTO

**Odds On Mr Mamba won his Adios elimination in 1:49 3/5.**

finishing fourth. Loua Dipa has shown high-speed leaving the gate and could be more assertive in the lucrative final.

"All of them came out [of the elimination] different. Would I say I was happiest with [Loua Dipa]? No. But we'll move forward and try to get her going," said Burke.

While the Burke-trained Melillo drew post nine on the outside of the field, he remains a solid factor. The rugged son of Sweet Lou was used hard through a 25 3/5 opener in the elimination and then closed sharply for second.

Sweet Lovin Lou got a bit winded trying to chase Al Papi in a 53 1/5 final half but the Daniel Lagace-trained colt shouldn't be counted out for finishing third. Sweet Lovin Lou drew post six with Scott Zeron listed to drive.

Treacherous Lou (post 7) and Toast Of The Town (post 8) will be longshots in the Adios that goes as the last of 16 races on The Meadows' program that starts at 11:30 AM (EDT).

A pair of fillies supplemented to the Grade 3 Mickey Burke Adioo Volo with the race split into two divisions. The connections of Miss Jum Jabber and Be Perfect BG ponied up \$7,500 to race and each drew post six in the \$64,052 divisions that go as races 14 and 15 on the program, whetting the appetite for the Adios.

Miss Jum Jabber was unraced as a freshman but has been brilliant winning eight of her first nine races for trainer Brett Pelling, who also owns the daughter of Bettor's Wish. Miss Jum Jabber has won all three of her Pennsylvania Sire Stakes races to date and makes her first start in five weeks coming off a 1:50 qualifier last Saturday (July 18) at The Meadowlands.

Be Perfect BG went undefeated in five starts as a freshman racing exclusively in New Jersey for trainer Anthony Beaton. The daughter of Perfect Sting dominated again in the Garden State earlier this year and then ran into a buzzsaw in Loua Dipa. Be Perfect BG didn't back down and fought to the wire in a pair of epic trips, finishing second to Loua Dipa in both the Fan Hanover final and the Jerry Silverman Memorial. Be Perfect BG hopes to regain winning form with Dexter Dunn in the bike.

Adding more luster to the afternoon is a plethora of guaranteed wagers starting in race 1 with a \$5,000 Pick 5 and continuing through to the Adios, which ends a \$10,000 Pick 5, \$20,000 Pick 4 and \$10,000 Pick 3 with a \$3 minimum. In total the guarantees top the \$100,000 mark.



**ADIOS DAY at THE MEADOWS**  
SATURDAY, JULY 25 | 11:30 AM (EDT)



- Free Harness Eye PPs
- Full-card Analysis
- Watch the races LIVE!

[VISIT PAGE](#)



**WATCH &  
WAGER  
RACING ACTION YEAR-ROUND**

**MONDAY - THURSDAY  
12:10 PM**

**VISIT**

**[MonticelloRacewayNY.com](http://MonticelloRacewayNY.com)**

# Multi-generational Millers trying to find their way without Rideau



## HARNESS FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett [X @JHallettPhoto](#)

Racing is a rush of sounds and excitement. The hustle and bustle of the stable area during any morning and the paddock during any night can be compared to organized chaos, with horses and people going every direction. For 64 years, Rideau Carleton Raceway was that hub for the rush of sounds and excitement every morning and every night.

The five-eighths mile oval was nestled in Ottawa, Canada and home to hundreds of horsemen, with the nearest racetrack hours away.

In March of this year, Rideau Carleton Raceway shuttered its doors. The barns and the paddock that once carried the sounds of the hustle and bustle of any given morning and any given evening are quiet. The hundreds of horsemen had to face the realities of the nearest racetrack being hours away or a life without racing.

For generations, the racetrack wasn't just a place to race. The racetrack was a community and a place for many to call home and make their livelihood. When the lights went off for the final time and the gates closed, those hundreds of horsemen were left wondering where they would go next.

For one family, the decision led to driving hundreds of extra miles each week and trying to hold onto that same way of life that suddenly felt lost without the one place they considered home for so long.

Christina Miller is a second-generation horsewoman from Rochester, New York. Her father, Christopher Tulga, introduced her to harness racing.



COURTESY CHRISTINA MILLER

(left to right) Christina, Rebecca and Joshua Miller with Dragon City.

"From the very beginning, it became more than just a sport. It became a way of life," Miller said.

Her husband, Scott Miller, is originally from Massena, New York and is a third-generation horseman. His grandparents, Red and Margaret Colette, began racing at the Massena Driving Club, and his parents, Ronald and Patricia Miller, carried on that tradition, passing on their love of the sport down to him.

"Today, our children Joshua and Rebecca Miller continue that legacy,

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)

## WINBAK FARM

*Congratulates*

## GOLD IMPACT

**WINNER OF \$43,485 PENNSYLVANIA SIRE STAKES  
AT POCONO DOWNS IN 1:52.3!**

**Stay Hungry-Impact Zone-American Ideal  
p, 2, 1:52.3f -'26 (\$29,720)**

**Trainer:** Dan Altmeyer / **Driver:** Mike Wilder

**Owners:** Altmeyer Wilder Racing, Hutchison Harness LLC, Milton Leeman & David Wills

**Bred, Raised & Sold by Winbak Farm**

**Yearling Highlight: BLAST ZONE, a Beach Glass 1/2-brother, sells at Lexington!**



[Click here for Winbak Farm's 2026 Yearling Lineup!](#)

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners / Jack Burke, General Manager

James Ladwig, Yearling Manager / 410.885.3059 / [www.winbakfarm.com](http://www.winbakfarm.com) / [f](#) / [X](#) / [@](#)

making our family fourth-generation participants in harness racing on Scott's side," said Christina.

Miller started her career much like most horsemen in harness racing – as a groom and working her way up to becoming an owner and trainer.

"Scott is also an owner and trainer, and together we've dedicated our lives to the horses and to the sport we love," Miller said. "Our son Joshua drives for our stable, while our daughter, Rebecca, and our daughter-in-law Michelle Miller, help groom and care for the horses when we go to the races."

The Millers work as a family in the barn and at the races. Together, they get the barn work done in the morning and the horses raced in the evening.

"Over the years I've worn many hats in the industry, but the truth is that harness racing has always been a family effort for us," Miller said. "Everyone plays an important role, and we all work together toward the same goal. The horses have brought our family closer, taught us the value of hard work, and allowed us to continue traditions that have been passed down through generations. It isn't just what we do, it's who we are."

Rideau Carleton Raceway has been the home for these horsemen to stable, train, race, work, live and thrive for decades. In addition to being a five-eighths mile oval, it had many barns allowing horsemen to stable their horses year-round, a feature that Miller noted made the community very close-knit. The paddock used to be large enough to accommodate horses for 13 races and the facility included a kitchen where everyone gathered, a tack shop, and a blacksmith shop.

"It truly had everything a horseman needed," Miller said. "The track suited many of the larger horses. For our family, it was a short commute, making it incredibly convenient."

A fire destroyed that paddock in 2023 and it was never rebuilt.

"While the tack shop remained, losing the paddock was a tremendous blow to the track and devastated the horsemen who called Rideau home. It was a constant reminder that an important piece of the track and our community had been lost," Miller continued. "Like many racetracks, some of the amenities slowly began to disappear over the years, but the people never changed. Whether you stabled there year-round or shipped in to race, everyone took great pride in their horses and was always willing to help one another."

Besides the decline in the condition of the track, Rideau was still home to the Millers and many other horsemen. All of the memories that the track carried continue to live on with Miller and her family.

"One of the things that made racing in Ontario so special was its commitment to the next generation. Children as young as 10 years old could obtain a groom's license for just \$20 Canadian, giving them the opportunity to learn and become involved in the sport at an early age. Our children were raised at Rideau. It was where Joshua got his first drives and learned to shoe horses, and where Rebecca learned how to paddock horses and help others around the barn. Those experiences shaped them into the horsepeople they are today," said Miller.

The Millers have always lived in Massena, New York, which is close to the border. Their team was always ready to ship to race, with a 1 1/2-hour trip to Rideau on race days. Other days, they raced in Toronto, a five-hour

journey. That trip wasn't a frequent one, Miller explained, but she added that the track would treat them well.

Now, with Rideau closed, the shipping time to race has more than doubled. Instead of a 1 1/2-hour drive to Ottawa, the team treks 3 1/2 hours to Saratoga Raceway and Vernon Downs, or four hours to Tioga Downs.

"The closure of Rideau was sudden and completely unexpected. It didn't just take away a place to race. It took away a community that so many of us had built our lives around," Miller said. "For our family, it has made racing much more difficult, both physically and financially. When Rideau was open, it was close enough that we could commute to the races. Now, the closest tracks are at least three hours away. That means much longer days on the road for both us and our horses."

"We have horses that race on Lasix, so they have to arrive even earlier to meet medication schedules, making those race days even more demanding. It adds stress not only for our family but also for the horses, whose well-being is always our top priority. We know many other horsemen and horsewomen who have faced the same challenges. Some have had to scale back their operations, while others have had to make difficult decisions about whether they can stay in the business at all. Everyone has been affected in one way or another because there are now so few places left to race," she added.

The same decision that troubled many horsemen in Florida when Pompano Park closed, to get out of Florida or get out of the business, proved a dark cloud over the Ottawa harness racing community, too. While some horsemen left the business, sold their horses and their equipment and stables, others, like the Millers, rerouted their plans. Although the Millers were able to keep their home in New York, they face the commitment of driving many hours just to race. And even though they have made every effort to keep going forward, the reality of losing their track has carved a deep hole in their lives.

"What hurts the most is that we didn't just lose a racetrack, we lost a home. Rideau was where our children grew up, where lifelong friendships were made, and where generations of families worked side by side. It was a place where people genuinely cared about one another

and were always willing to lend a hand. That sense of community is something you can't replace," Miller said.

The miles are further now. The days begin earlier and end later. Every race requires more planning, more expenses, and more sacrifice than before. Yet, despite everything, the horsemen keep going. They hook the trailer, load the horses, and head down the road.

The Millers are just one story in what could be a novel of hundreds of lives impacted by the closure of Rideau Carleton Raceway. They are just one story in thousands that have faced the closure of any racetrack. Behind every shuttered track and quiet stable area are families forced to change their lives, families that have had to rebuild routines, businesses lost, and horsemen that had to walk away from their homes or their livelihoods.

For those who chose to stay, the journey isn't just reaching the next racetrack, it's preserving the life they once had.

"The memories, the friendships, and the traditions that were built there will always stay with us. While we continue to do everything we can to keep racing, there will always be a part of us that misses Rideau and the special place it held in so many people's lives," Miller concluded.



MELISSA KEITH PHOTO

**Rideau Carleton announced unexpectedly in early April this year that it would cease live racing.**

# Setback aside, Melander aiming Setyoursightshigh for Oaks



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman [X BergmanJay](#)

Trajectory in July matters more than it does in May and that's quite fortunate for a sophomore trotting filly with hopes of reaching new heights in the Hambletonian Oaks.

Setyoursightshigh had sunk far away from the objective back in May when she struggled to finish in the inaugural \$300,000 Oak Grove Trotting Oaks. The filly from the first crop of Ohio-based In Range headed into that final following an encouraging performance in her elimination but left the race with doubts of her future within Ohio or beyond.

"She flipped her palate," said trainer Marcus Melander, describing the specific unsettling incident on May 18 at Oak Grove that saw Setyoursightshigh lead at the quarter in 26 2/5, swooping the field from post eight, only to fade to a distant eighth at the finish. Setyoursightshigh would complete the mile losing the race by nearly 42 lengths without making a break and trot her final quarter in 35 2/5 seconds.

Though Melander knew what caused the disappointing result, there were mixed reviews on what the next steps should be. "We looked at the possibility of performing surgery," said Melander of a common procedure that has resolved the issues for some but not for all. "We decided against it and instead gave her some time off."

Melander also said they gave Setyoursightshigh EPM medication as well to hope to resolve the issue.

With the early Grand Circuit races behind her, Melander looked to get the filly back on track with a qualifier at Hoosier Park in early June. "She was just ok in the qualifier," said Melander, noting that the filly didn't finish out her mile as expected.

A month after the Oak Grove incident, Setyoursightshigh was entered in the Ohio Sire Stakes at Scioto Downs and backed to an even-money proposition. Despite notably softer competition and Setyoursightshigh getting the lead in the race, the filly would falter in the stretch and finish second, giving pause to the connections.

"She got scared," Melander said, describing what he believed to be a situation of the filly remembering the May 18 race and anticipating that her air would be cut off, essentially pulling herself up before a repeat of the issue.

Perhaps time was the greatest healer as the memory would fade and Setyoursightshigh would return on July 4 for another Ohio Sire Stakes race at Scioto Downs. This time the results were much more positive as Setyoursightshigh would win for the first time as a 3-year-old in convincing fashion, trotting to a 1:54 victory with a 28 second final quarter.

"Mike (Wilder) told me after the race that she was back to her old self," said Melander of the conversation with her pilot, who didn't put the filly on the front end but came from fourth at the half to roll by the leaders in handy fashion.

Last year Setyoursightshigh ended the year on a high note capturing the Ohio Sire Stakes championship and then going on to back-to-back second-place finishes in the Breeders Crown elimination and finals. The freshman campaign saw her compete in Ohio and Kentucky, reach both Sire Stakes finals, and saw her win seven times in 11 tries with four second-place finishes. That consistency was thrown for a loop in just her second start this year in one race. Whether the filly could bounce back to Grand Circuit competition was still a question mark until this past Sunday evening at Vernon Downs.

The \$139,000 Grade 2 Zweig Memorial for fillies was the challenge, and Dexter Dunn would return to the sulky. It was Dunn in the bike for that Oak Grove race, and he would have the conviction to race the filly without concern for what happened in the worst race of her career.

Dunn drove Setyoursightshigh with confidence, putting her on the front end in 26 4/5 and setting a reasonable 55 4/5 opening half. When favored Madam Cheval came to call with Tim Tetrick on the outside, a battle ensued. Dunn had rated his filly nicely, hitting three quarters in 1:24 3/5 and making it into a final-quarter sprint.



CONRAD PHOTO

**Setyoursightshigh got back on track in early July at Scioto Downs with Mike Wilder in the bike.**

Tetrick had Madam Cheval challenging on Setyoursightshigh's right flank and Matt Kakaley put Leading Lady to her inside as the pair of Nancy Takter-trained fillies tried to pass. Setyoursightshigh would have none of that and she battled both quite gamely, preserving the victory with a 27 1/5 final quarter and a career-best clocking of 1:51 4/5.

"I was very happy with that performance," said Melander of the filly that heads next to the biggest challenge of her career, the Hambletonian Oaks eliminations slated for August 1.

Melander currently anticipates that he'll be entering four fillies for the Oaks, with the Del Miller Memorial winner Nezuko Kamado S, a daughter of Chapter Seven that has had no blips on her past performances this year, winning four consecutive stakes races in as many starts, leading the arsenal. Melander noted that Lainey W and Creator could join that pair as well in the Oaks.

Melander said he was looking for a colt or filly from the first crop of In Range when he came upon Setyoursightshigh in Lexington prior to the 2024 auction. "She was a very nice-looking, clean-going filly," said Melander.

On the pedigree side the maternal line for Setyoursightshigh had shown a presence in Melander's stable with Air Power, the 2023 New Jersey Classic champion, a very close relative to this year's filly stand-out. Air Power's dam Beyond Blue is a full sister to Setyoursightshigh's dam Special Interest. A closer look though the bloodlines reveal the 2004 Hambletonian Oaks champion Silver Springs.

Melander has four colts pointed towards the Hambletonian, with Apex leading the quartet that includes American Power, the Zweig Memorial champion and track recordholder at Vernon following his 1:50 score this past Sunday (July 19). Nix Nachen and Oak Grove Trotting Derby champion Spencer Hanover are also expected in the lineup, with the latter recently qualifying back for Melander at The Meadowlands following a pair of uncharacteristic breaks in stride.

In speaking of Spencer Hanover, Melander said, "He made a break at Yonkers in the Yonkers Trot but he made breaks on the half mile track last year so that didn't concern me. I don't know why he made that break in the Dancer. I drove him in the qualifier (July 18) and he was fine. Maybe I'll have to drive him," laughed Melander at that notion.

Melander singled out Command Center, the Gimpanzee-sired half-brother to Apex purchased at Harrisburg last fall for \$500,000, as his best 2-year-old to this point. Handled carefully in his first qualifier, Command Center was trotting at extreme speed when he broke stride in a qualifier at The Meadowlands on July 4. He returned on July 18 with a 1:56 4/5 victory, trotting a final quarter in 26 1/5.

"We're going to get him ready for Kentucky," said Melander of Command Center's likely pari-mutuel debut in August at The Red Mile.

# Brian Sears returns to the bike after three-year absence

By Derick Gwerner

Astute followers of harness racing will have noticed a familiar name on the program at Pocono Downs on Tuesday, July 21. For the first time since November 18, 2023 at The Meadowlands, Hall of Famer driver Brian Sears competed in a pari-mutuel race.

Sears drove two horses for trainer Hunter Oakes, first finishing last in the field of eight with a headstrong Salazar Returns as a 35-1 longshot and then winning by 12 lengths with 1-2 favorite Celebrity Hunter a few races later. It was Sears' first victory since steering Magnifico Hanover in the International Stallion Stakes at The Red Mile on October 7, 2023.

"I was just having a little fun," said Sears, who made it clear there was no official comeback in the works. "I'm baby racing one I own [Papi's Bride] on Wednesday [at Pocono]. Hunter had a couple in and he said Tyler [Buter] is not going to be here. He's got Saratoga. So, it was a good, easy fit for me to drive."

Sears did compete in a couple of qualifiers at Sunshine Meadows in Florida back in March but the appearance at Pocono was his first real racing action in over three years. After over 55,000 starts and 10,424 wins, the 35-year grind of racing every day was simply too much.

"I was getting worn out with the travel and stuff like that," said Sears. "The demands of racing at the top level in those types of races was just wearing on me. I just needed to get away."

Despite the long layoff, the 58-year-old said it was just like riding a bike again after years on the sidelines.

"It felt pretty good. The first one I went with was a little grabber than you'd like, that's for sure. But what are you going to do? The second one was a trotter that's been on the front end the last three starts or so and just needed a little helmet time," said Sears. "You want to do a good job and that's what we were trying to accomplish with the horse, so it all worked out."

To his surprise, Sears said his old locker at Pocono was still there and his colors were waiting for him. That's a good thing since he said most of



his old colors were tossed out over the last few years.

Sears admitted his immediate driving goals center around Papi's Bride and evaluating her. He wouldn't commit to becoming her regular pilot but added that he would know more after sitting behind her in the qualifier.

*[EDITOR'S NOTE: After this story was released, Sears guided Papi's Bride to a two-length qualifying score in 1:58 on July 22 at Pocono Downs.]*

As to whether he would consider taking on additional work, he didn't close the door on the possibility but also made it clear he wasn't looking for a full-time job.

"I really don't want to get anything rolling," said Sears. "It was fun to have something to think about and look forward to. You know what I mean? It's the one thing that I do well."

Whether fans of Sears – known to many as "The White Knight" – get to see him drive more remains unknown. It is clear that he still knows his way around the track and into the winner's circle, so it would be no surprise to see him pop up here and there if the right opportunity presented itself in the future.

# DON'T MISS A MILE.

## OHIO FAIR RACING LIVESTREAMS

66 FAIRS • 129 RACE CARDS • [HARNESSRACINGOHIO.COM](https://harnessracingohio.com)



# Owners pumped over Kindergarten starter Perfect Body

By Ken Weingartner

Randy Beach and his partners went to the Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg, Pa., this past fall with their sights set on one horse – Perfect Body. When the group registered the winning bid at \$20,000, they were thrilled.

Now, after watching the daughter of Perfect Sting-Sweet Body get her career off to a strong start, including a 1:51 4/5 win last week in the second round of the New Jersey Sire Stakes Platinum Series for 2-year-old filly pacers, that feeling certainly hasn't changed.

"We're so pumped," said Beach, a New Jersey resident who shares ownership of Perfect Body with Craig Smith, Charles "Mike" Rowe and Carl Austin Jr. "I've been walking on air after the New Jersey Sire Stakes win last week. It's been a fun week and a great start to her campaign. (Trainer) Chris Choate has done an amazing job getting her to this point. We're fortunate to have her and hope she can build on the early success and keep the party going this season."

On Friday (July 24), Perfect Body will get the opportunity to keep the good times rolling. She will compete in the first of two \$25,000 Kindergarten Classic Series divisions for freshman filly pacers at the Meadowlands, where she is the 7-5 morning-line favorite. She will leave from post 3 with Brett Beckwith in the sulky.

Last week, Perfect Body got away fifth in a field of 10, and Beckwith worked out a second-over trip from the half-mile point before coming home in 27 to get the win by three-quarters of a length despite drifting a bit in the stretch. In her previous start – her career debut in the first round of the NJSS Platinum – she came home in 26 2/5 and finished third. None of her rivals paced a faster last quarter in either race.

"I think she shows that she's still green when you watch her race," Beach said. "But when each of those races ends with a 26 or 27, it makes you believe she hasn't tapped her full potential yet. She's got some size to her, and it takes a little to get her rolling, but she seems to carry her speed well."

"We've been encouraged, really from her first qualifier at Gaitway (Farm, on June 17). She ended up on the lead, which wasn't the plan, but she looked great. There were horses coming at her at late in the mile, but you could see her wake up and start pulling away again at the finish. To me, it was a great sign that she had that kind of fight. She's learning as she goes, and she hasn't disappointed us yet."

Beach and his partners targeted Perfect Body for several reasons, including the success they had last year with Home Grown Filly Pace winner PA Perfect, another daughter of Perfect Sting. Beach liked Perfect Body's yearling video and her pedigree, particularly that the filly's Grand Circuit-winning half-sister Ambushed was by Always B Miki, who also is the father of Perfect Sting. He also wanted a horse that would race in New Jersey.



LISA PHOTO

**Perfect Body came down the center of the track to win her last start at The Meadowlands.**

"Perfect Body was the primary target that we had circled (for the Harrisburg sale)," Beach said. "I had my crosshairs trained on her, but it takes a village, right? I greatly value the opinions of Chris Choate and Mike Rowe; they looked at her at the sale and felt that she passed the eye test with flying colors. We expected her to have plenty of interest, so we were elated when the gavel dropped at what we felt was a very reasonable 20 (thousand)."

Beach grew up going to the races with his parents and a grandmother, and his parents eventually owned horses in the early 1990s. Beach got started as an owner himself three years ago.

"I've always loved the sport, and wanted to get back into it," Beach said. "We're smaller owners, and it seems like we're starting to hit on some of the right ones now. It's a great (ownership) group, and that makes it a lot of fun."

"It's nice being able to go into these races and feel that you're a contender versus being 15-1, where maybe you can make some noise but need a perfect storm to make it happen. You hope you can find a horse that ends up becoming a difference maker. This one feels like a special horse. We're pretty thrilled to be in this position."

The Meadowlands will host a total of eight Kindergarten divisions for 2-year-old pacers and trotters. This is the second leg of the series, which consists of five preliminary rounds before the finals and consolations on Oct. 31. The first leg of the series, which was scheduled for July 3, was canceled because of extreme heat.

Racing begins at 6:35 p.m. (EDT) at the Meadowlands.

After They Race,  
We Find Them A Place



**NEW VOCATIONS**

*Rehab. Retrain. Rehome.\**

[newvocations.org](http://newvocations.org)

734-320-7918 | STA Accredited



# Diva Ek back for revenge in MGM Yonkers International Trot

Along the lines of “if at first you don’t succeed, try, try again” is Diva Ek. The runner-up in the 2025 MGM Yonkers International Trot has accepted an invitation to this year’s Grade 1 event on September 12 at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

Representing Italy, Diva Ek was hardly at fault when finishing second behind Lexus Kody in the \$1,000,000 race last year. She had to start from the difficult outside post eight in the field of 10 and was able to close from last – including making up nearly seven lengths in the final quarter-mile – to lose by just a half-length.

“Last year was an amazing race and she loves to race like that [from behind]. Even in her last Grade 1 win she raced the same, with a super final burst,” said Alessandro Gocciadoro, who drives/trains for owners Antonio Nucera and Effebi Srl.

Since her 2025 appearance in the United States, Diva Ek returned to Europe and has won three of six starts, including capturing the Group 1 Findlandia Ajo in May. She made the Elitlopp final but finished sixth behind Allegiant in her World Record mile.

Just this past Sunday (July 19), Diva Ek went to the front in the St. Michael Ajo Trot in Finland and battled with Don Fanucci Zet early before succumbing in the stretch to Swedish-bred Kuiper at the mile distance (1,609 meters).

“Diva Ek was amazing yesterday. The track was very heavy. It was a cold and rainy day,” said Gocciadoro. “With that heavy track, she was a little bit tired the last 100 meters, but we were very happy with her performance. She always races on a high level.”

Diva Ek has 23 wins in 47 career starts and earnings of just under \$800K (USD). The 7-year-old has one more race in Östersund (Sweden) on August 8 before shipping to the United States for the MGM Yonkers International Trot.

Gocciadoro, who won the 2023 MGM Yonkers International Trot with Vivid Wise As, appreciates the race and its worldwide appeal.

“The International Trot is such an amazing experience that we love to participate in it every year. The organization is fantastic and it is a beautiful atmosphere,” said Gocciadoro.



DERICK GIWNER PHOTO

**Diva Ek overcame post 8 to be second in the 2025 MGM Yonkers International Trot.**

Diva Ek joins Swedish-bred Bourbonista in the lineup for the MGM Yonkers International Trot. More invitations will be extended soon to complete the 10-horse field. The race will be the focal point of a stellar card on September 12 that starts at 11:50 a.m. (EDT) and includes the \$2.4 million New York Sire Stakes finals for 2- and 3-year-olds, as well as a pair of \$200,000 Invitationals – Bob Miecuna Trot and Aria Pace.

MGM Yonkers Raceway is currently operating on a Monday through Friday racing schedule with post time at 6:45 p.m. (EDT).

## Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Top 10

Brandon Blvd took over the No. 1 spot in the Week 6 Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday, but it’s crowded at the top.

Brandon Blvd, who did not race last week, moved from second to first after No. 1 Loua Dipa finished fourth in her Delvin Miller Adios elimination this past Saturday. Brandon Blvd is the fourth different horse to hold the top spot in the rankings, following Odds On Mr Mamba (Weeks 1 and 2), Loua Dipa (Weeks 3 and 5) and Miki And Minnie (Week 4).

On To Norway, also idle last week, went from third to second as Loua Dipa dropped to third. Rounding out the top five were Adios elimination winner Odds On Mr Mamba and Grade 3 Cleopatra Invitational winner Miki And Minnie.

The top five horses in the rankings each received at least 245 points – something that has never happened in the past 15 years – and were separated by only 40 points. On To Norway led the group with 10 first-place votes.

Twin B Joe Fresh, who won the Grade 3 Clara Barton, was the only other horse in last week’s Top 10 to race. She moved from ninth to seventh in the poll. Lexus Kody, who won the Grade 2 Spirit of Massachusetts with a world-record performance, joined the Top 10, at No. 9.

Ervin Hanover, who was idle, dropped out of the Top 10.

| Rank | Name (1st Votes)     | Age/Sex/Gait | Record  | Earnings  | Points | Pvs |
|------|----------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------|-----|
| 1    | Brandon Blvd (8)     | 3cp          | 6-4-2-0 | \$681,330 | 285    | 2   |
| 2    | On To Norway (10)    | 4gt          | 7-6-1-0 | \$392,250 | 275    | 3   |
| 3    | Loua Dipa (3)        | 3fp          | 6-4-1-0 | \$293,090 | 255    | 1   |
| 4    | Odds On Mr Mamba (8) | 3gp          | 5-4-0-1 | \$449,900 | 246    | 5   |
| 5    | Miki And Minnie (6)  | 4mp          | 7-5-0-2 | \$295,414 | 245    | 4   |
| 6    | Apex                 | 3ct          | 3-2-1-0 | \$189,629 | 133    | 6   |
| 7    | Twin B Joe Fresh     | 6mp          | 6-3-1-0 | \$202,516 | 120    | 9   |
| 8    | Endurance            | 3ct          | 5-4-1-0 | \$291,349 | 86     | 8   |
| 9    | Lexus Kody           | 8gt          | 5-3-1-0 | \$256,740 | 80     | --  |
| 10   | Super Chapter        | 4ht          | 4-2-2-0 | \$193,875 | 67     | 7   |

ALSO: Bourbonista S 27; Be Perfect BG 22; Nezuko Kamado S 18; American Power, Ervin Hanover 14; Lou Hill 13; Antognoni S 6; Al Papi 5; Big Ranger 4; Bythemissal, Periculum 3; Jailbird Jog 2; Get Wings, Spencer Hanover 1. -edited release (Ken Weingartner)

Follow

**DRF Harness**



**Advertise with**

**DRF HARNESS DIGEST**

For more information or to place an ad, contact:

Derick Giwner at  
[dgiwner@drf.com](mailto:dgiwner@drf.com)



**MULTIPLE PLACEMENT DISCOUNTS**



# Big M has handicapping contest, new wagering menu

For the seventh time this year, patrons who think they have handicapping skills will go at it for \$1,000 in cash prizes when Leg 7 of the popular Meadowlands Monthly Handicapping Contest takes place on Friday (July 24) night.

And when they do, they will be placing their wagers on an updated betting menu, one that will ring in the new as well as some of the old.

But first, the contest.

It's important to finish at or near the top of the leaderboard, as the four players with the highest bankrolls at the end of the night will win some cash (on a \$500-\$250-\$150-\$100 basis), but only the top two finishers will earn spots in the \$10,000 invitation-only contest final, which takes place on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Thus far this year, 12 entries have been earned for the year-end competition, those handicappers – with their contest totals – are:

January: Del Kern (\$934.01) and Stefan Ferrara (\$840.76)

February: Robert Glaser (\$592.50) and Emile Issa (\$500)

March: Sean Loebs (\$1,170.06) and Patrick O'Malley (\$832)

April: O'Malley (\$554) and Ferrara (\$380.20)

May: John Skladany (\$1,031.60) and James Molina (\$800)

June: Rodney Duncan (\$822.20) and Skladany (\$497.28)

## 2026 contest schedule:

Leg 7 – Friday, July 24

Leg 8 – Saturday, Aug. 22

Leg 9 – Saturday, Sept. 5

Leg 10 – Friday, Oct. 23

Leg 11 – Saturday, Nov. 14

Invitation-only \$10,000 contest final: Saturday, Dec. 12

Each monthly contest will follow the same format:

- Contestants must bet a minimum of five Meadowlands races.

- No minimum or maximum bet per race.

- All wagers offered on The Meadowlands program are eligible for the contest.

- Contestants keep all pari-mutuel winnings.

- Unlimited entries per person.

There is no entry fee, but a \$100 live-money bankroll is required for players, and the prize pool is guaranteed at \$1,000, funded by The Meadowlands.

On the night of the contest, players must register/check-in at the Clubhouse Lobby by 6:35 p.m. A \$100 betting card must be purchased to participate, as this is a live-money/wagering contest.

The top two finishers from each \$1,000 contest earn spots in the \$10,000 tournament final on December 12 (22 total players).

To register for the competition, go [here](#).

**A NEW BETTING MENU:** When racing resumes Friday, there will be some adjustments to the betting menu, and that menu will be in play for the foreseeable future. Two things that players are certain to notice is the absence of the second 20-cent Pick-5 – the one that's offered on the first race is going nowhere – and back on the slate is the 20-cent Survivor Pick-7.

This is the new wagering menu:

- Races 1-5: 20-cent Pick-5

- Races 4-9: 20-cent Pick-6

- Races 6-9: 50-cent Pick-4 (\$50,000 guaranteed pool)

- Race 7: 10-cent Pentafecta (Hi-5)

- Races 8-14: 20-cent Survivor Pick-7

- Races 10-13: 50-cent Pick-4 (\$50,000 guaranteed pool)

- Races 11-12: \$2 Daily Double

- Races 13-15: \$3 Pick-3

- Races 14-15: \$5 Late Double

- Race 15: 10-cent Pentafecta (Hi-5)

The two Pick-4s with guaranteed pools are offered in conjunction with the U.S. Trotting Association's **Strategic Wagering Program**.

Harness Eye PPs for Strategic wagers are available [here](#).

"We believe this gives us the most exciting wagering menu in the sport," said Meadowlands Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "There are plenty of opportunities to make scores with the types of wagers that the players want."

**-edited release by Dave Little (Meadowlands Media Relations)**

## 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 23

#### RACE 2

(4) FLEX UP has three wins and a third in his Excelsior Series starts and has winning experience at Yonkers against NW2s back in April.

**-Greg Reinhart**

**EMPIRE CITY.**  
CASINO  
YONKERS RACEWAY

### FRIDAY, JULY 24

#### RACE 6

(1) ACCESS NOW was probably best in his debut but was out of position. He trotted home nicely and should improve a lot in start two.

**-Kevin Plowcha**



**WOODBINE**  
MOHAWK PARK

#### RACE 8

(10) JIMDOUGIE ARMITAGE caught my eye in his lone qualifier here and then was a very good second in his debut at The Meadows. In that race he left, was shuffled back to fourth and then battled gamely racing uncovered. The outside post isn't ideal but could provide value.

**-Derick Gwerner**



### SATURDAY, JULY 25

#### RACE 10

(5) NICHOLSON raced pretty well in his 2026 debut considering he had only one qualifier three weeks prior and hadn't been in a pari-mutuel race since October 2025. In a field without a standout, let's give him a shot.

**-Gwerner**



### FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

#### The Meadows Analysis

[Saturday](#)

#### Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

#### Meadowlands Analysis

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

#### Yonkers Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

#### Red Mile Analysis

[Sunday](#)

**DHP PPS**

**HARNESS EYE PPS**

**TRACKMASTER PPS**

**FREE PPS**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## FIELD SET FOR BATTLE OF WATERLOO

The field for the 2026 Battle of Waterloo is set after 10 Ontario sired 2-year-old pacing colts and geldings were entered Wednesday for Grand River Raceway's signature race.

With no eliminations necessary, this year's Battle of Waterloo will be contested for a purse of C\$205,000. It will be the main event as part of the traditional Industry Day matinee on the Civic Holiday Monday (August 3) in Elora.

The entrants (with trainer) for this year's Battle of Waterloo are listed below:

C Script (Gregg McNair)  
Calmbeforestorm (Gaetan Hebert)  
Gogo Gadget (Kyle Bossence)  
No More Exs (Murray Brethour)  
Slick Draw (Steve Hudon)  
Stampede (Craig Barss)  
The Big Daddy (Chris Matthews)  
The Swooper (Gregg McNair)  
Wheels Up (Paul Davies)  
Will Farroh (Gregg McNair)

A dozen Ontario sired 2-year-old pacing fillies were entered for the Battle of the Belles.

A pair of C\$10,000 eliminations will take place this Monday (July 27) to determine the field for the C\$165,000 final. The top four finishers in each elimination, plus a fifth-place finisher drawn by lot, advance to the final on Industry Day.

The fields for the Battle of the Belles eliminations are listed below:

Race 2 – Battle of the Belles – Eliminations #1  
1 – In This Moment (Louis-Philippe Roy/Zachary Carroll)  
2 – Lyons Bulldog (Mark MacDonald/Dr. Ian Moore)  
3 – Aceandaten (Doug McNair/Gregg McNair)  
4 – Aint She A Pistol (Travis Cullen/Jeff Williams)  
5 – Jersey Bulldog (Bob McClure/John Pentland)  
6 – Silk Lace (Jody Jamieson/Carl Jamieson)  
Race 4 – Battle of the Belle – Elimination #2  
1 – Cattle Belle (Jody Jamieson/Carl Jamieson)  
2 – Lyons Flurry (Louis-Philippe Roy/Anthony Beaton)  
3 – Money Carlo (Bob McClure/Dr. Ian Moore)  
4 – Cupcakesontuesday (Doug McNair/Gregg McNair)  
5 – Rhymes With Regina (Bob McClure/John Pentland)  
6 – My Bets On Bob (Louis-Philippe Roy/Jeff Williams)

Post time for Monday's card at Grand River Raceway is 6:20 p.m.

-edited release (Woodbine)

## BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES RESCHEDULES FRESHMAN FILLY PACER LEGS

Due to the smoke from the Canadian wildfires, air quality in the Central Ohio area was at unsafe levels on July 17, causing the cancellation of the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series for 2-year-old filly pacers at Eldorado Scioto Downs that night. The first leg of the BSS for freshman filly pacers has been rescheduled for Thursday (July 23) at Scioto Downs.

Due to the rescheduling, the dates of the legs have changed. The

updated schedules for the Ohio Sires Stakes and Buckeye Stallion Series for 2-year-old filly pacers are below. Please remember that if you enter a certain leg number of the OSS, you are not eligible to enter that same leg number of the BSS.

- Leg 1: OSS (Monday, July 13), BSS (Thursday, July 23)
- Leg 2: OSS (Friday, July 24), BSS (Monday, Aug. 10)
- Leg 3: OSS (Saturday, Aug. 8), BSS (Monday, Aug. 17)
- Leg 4: OSS (Tuesday, Aug. 18), BSS (Thursday, Sept. 3)
- Leg 5: OSS (Saturday, Aug. 29), BSS (Sunday, Sept. 20)

If you have questions about the changes, please contact the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association office at 614-221-3650.

-release (OHHA)

## BIG MONEY ON THE LINE FOR THURSDAY'S DELAWARE STATE FAIR CARD

Harrington Raceway's richest program of the season will kick off the Delaware State Fair Thursday (July 23) as 12 races with more than \$600,000 in total purses will be contested.

Post time is 7 p.m. (EDT), as the card highlights the top Delaware-owned horses in the events for older horses and top state-bred horses in the Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund \$110,000 final events for 3-year-olds.

[READ MORE](#)

## ODDS ON MONETARY KNOCKS OFF LIBERTY STYLE IN NY SIRE STAKES

With her best effort on display, Odds On Monetary (Huntsville-All On Top Hanover) notched her third straight victory by winning the \$121,800 New York Sire Stakes event for 3-year-old pacing fillies while handing the first loss of the year to the heavily-favored Liberty Style at Batavia Downs on Wednesday (July 22), which was opening night of the summer/fall meet.

[READ MORE](#)

## WHO DARES WINS, SHARP SEVEN WIRE NEW YORK SIRE STAKES FIELDS

New York Sire Stakes action took center stage on Tuesday afternoon as 3-year-old trotting fillies invaded Saratoga Casino Hotel. There were two divisions which saw Sharp Seven (Chapter Seven) and Who Dares Wins (Chapter Seven) score front-stepping victories.

[READ MORE](#)

## HARNESS ELITE TO BET \$1 MILLION ON HARNESS RACING

Harness Elite, together with its partners and team members, are proud to announce the Million Dollar Betting Challenge, wagering \$1 million USD on harness racing over a period of approximately 60 days, beginning on July 22nd.

Led by the Harness Elite team and supported by our growing community of serious horseplayers, the challenge is designed to demonstrate that harness racing remains one of the last great skill-based betting markets while encouraging more people to participate in the sport through informed, disciplined wagering.

[READ MORE](#)



## Opening Night at The Red Mile

# \$400,000 KY Proud Finals

Sunday, July 26 – Post  
Time: 5:00 PM (EDT)

[GET FULL-CARD ANALYSIS](#)

Live racing July 26-28 & Sunday to  
Wednesday in August