

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

Breaking up is hard to do



Looking at all angles of the Hambletonian Society's move of its signature races from its 46-year home at The Meadowlands to Harrah's Hoosier Park

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AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali ✕ [AtTheTrack7](#)

We are one week removed from the announcement that after 46 years the Hambletonian is leaving The Meadowlands. It should come as no surprise that on a personal level this is not a decision I am happy about and I want to be upfront about that. I feel some heartbreak as I write this column. For me, this is like the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn. The Hambletonian at The Meadowlands is a race I have attended more than 25 times, many with my dad and more recently an event I have attended with my son. There is even a picture of my son at six weeks old in the Hambletonian trophy that was used in several racing publications. It's a part of my childhood and much like the Dodgers continue to play baseball, the Hambletonian will continue. But it will continue someplace else and for me, it won't be the same. But I am not going to write paragraph upon paragraph about my disappointment. There is far more at stake.

I spent a good part of the last week trying to understand how we have reached this point. There are certain facts that are irrefutable.

1. The Meadowlands did not exercise its exclusive right to extend its agreement to host the Hambletonian.

2. The Hambletonian Society, per their bylaws, put the Hambletonian out for bidding.

3. Three racetracks submitted a bid, including The Meadowlands, Harrah's Hoosier Park and Woodbine Mohawk Park.

4. The Hambletonian Society awarded Hoosier the rights to host The Hambletonian from 2027 to 2029.

In a press release from September 2025 (https://playmeadowlands.com/news_post/gural-addresses-hambletonian-being-opened-for-bids/), Jeff Gural said the following:

"While I was aware that the Hambletonian Society was not going to offer us an extension of our Hambletonian contract unless we agreed to allow owners and trainers on our exclusion list to enter in the Hambletonian, the Oaks and the Maturity, I made it clear that it was not our intention to allow trainers suspected of using illegal

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performance enhancing drugs to race against those trainers who to the best of our knowledge are racing under the rules.”

Gural's position was that the Hambletonian Society would not allow The Meadowlands to continue to host the Hambletonian if the racetrack continued to implement its exclusion list for the event, thus not allowing owners and trainers on that list to participate in race.

John Campbell, President of The Hambletonian Society, refuted that comment when I reached out: “We operated in recent years under Jeff's exclusionary rule at The Meadowlands and they could have just executed their exclusive right to the race in 2027. When they didn't, that rule being applied going forward was a point of discussion for the Board of Directors, but not a deal breaker.”

That difference in view on this subject is not a small matter. Gural pointed to it as a major point of contention in The Meadowlands hosting the event going forward and as Campbell said it was one of many items discussed.

Jeff Gural stood firm on his position when I reached out to him about the loss of the Hambletonian. “The Hambletonian Society never liked that I had this exclusion rule in place, and they wanted it removed for 2027,” said Gural.

Regarding Hoosier, Gural noted that the location could prove problematic for attracting owners from a variety of jurisdictions. “A lot of owners live on the east coast, New York, New Jersey, etc. They aren't going to be thrilled about going to Indiana. The Europeans I would bet are definitely not going.”

Gural also cited the pending sale of Caesars, who owns Hoosier Park, as a potential obstacle. Caesars is being sold to Fertitta Entertainment. “Things change after sales are finalized. What happens if Fertitta decides to cut some costs and doesn't want to be involved in racing or wants to just cut things in racing?” Gural asked.

Campbell feels confident that the sale will not be an issue. “We spoke with Hoosier about that very topic and we are very confident that the Caesars sale will not have any impact on the Hoosier bid or their plans for the Hambletonian for the next three years.

“Caesars putting up \$1.1 million in added money for the purses of the Hambletonian events was a factor in our discussions. We are cognizant of horsemen and purse accounts and that was a part of our discussions,” continued Campbell.

In other words, the Hambletonian Society liked that money was not being taken away from the overnight racing purse account to pay for the Hambletonian. Unlike many tracks with purse accounts bolstered by casinos, Gural does not have that luxury, which as we know puts The Meadowlands in a disadvantageous position.

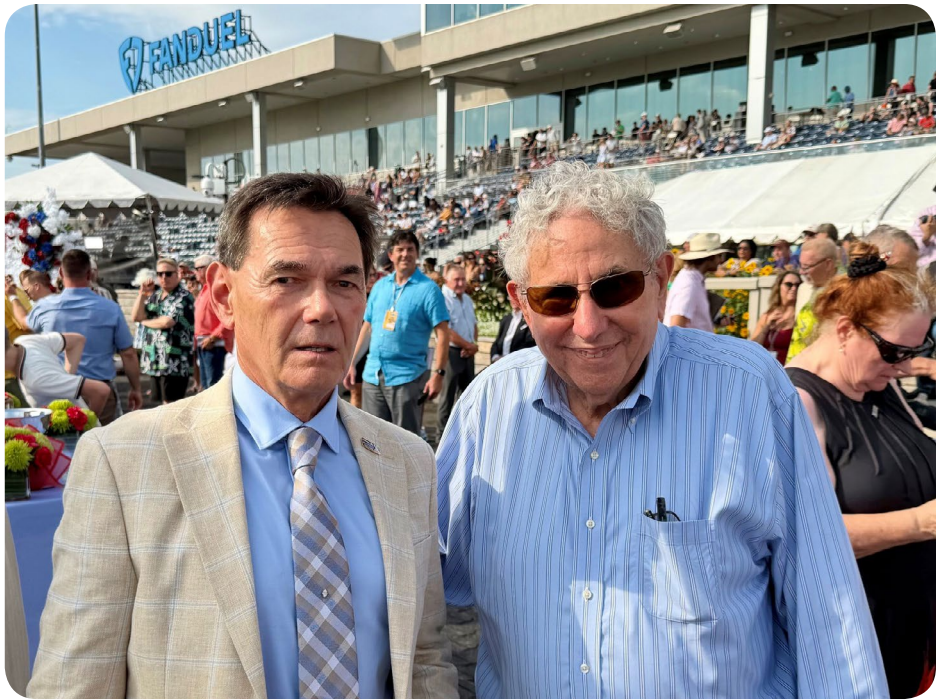
Gural recognizes that he has an uphill battle ahead of him. “Now I must regroup and come up with a plan to ensure our future and New Jersey's future.”

In response to a question about what the 2027 stakes program at The Meadowlands may look like, Gural said, “I have a lot of work to do. I have to talk to industry stakeholders and some of the leaders in our state. I have to figure this all out by December 1 and bring a plan to the Race Secretaries meeting this winter so the breeders know what we are planning. I just hope the breeders don't move the stallions out of New Jersey now.”

On the point of breeders, it is worth noting that December 1 date is well after the yearling sales in both Lexington (Oct. 5 to Oct. 9) and Harrisburg (Nov. 2 to Nov. 6). If a 2027 Meadowlands Stakes program is not published prior to the start of October it could have an impact on the performance of both sales.

Gural's concern is for the future of The Meadowlands and New Jersey racing, and he believes that should have played a larger role in this process with the Hambletonian Society.

“I know they don't like me and I am not shocked they did this to me,” Gural said. “But it's not about me, it's about the future of The Meadowlands, New Jersey and the industry. I am shocked they threw the New Jersey horsemen under the bus.



(left) Hambletonian Society CEO & President John Campbell with Meadowlands CEO & President Jeff Gural on Hambletonian Day 2026 at The Meadowlands.

DERICK GWINNER

“The Hambletonian Society has an obligation to promote the industry's future; especially for younger people, and I just can't understand how this accomplishes anything.”

In addition, Gural noted how this will seriously impact the initiatives to either get a casino at The Meadowlands or at the very least, continue the state purse subsidy.

“The SBOA (Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association) publicly stated that their lobbyists are certain losing the Hambletonian would make it harder to get a casino bill passed,” said Gural. “I am shocked that The Hambletonian Society didn't care about that. The only way this sport has a future is if The Meadowlands gets a casino and we can return it to where it was, as the number one venue for harness racing. I cannot understand why they would hurt the chances for that happening.”

To Gural's point, even with a reduced schedule and racing content on a nightly basis that does not compare to 20 years ago, The Meadowlands is still responsible for 20% of standardbred wagering handle in the United States, despite only contesting four percent of its races.

I asked John Campbell about that very topic and he commented that the “importance of the Hambletonian event compared to the impact on the industry was a part of the discussion.” But cited that he cannot speak for every individual on the Hambletonian Society board and he did not want to elaborate further.

While Campbell stated to me that he “was trying to avoid a Hambletonian vs. Gural argument,” he did indicate to me that Gural's own words worked against him.

“Jeff said publicly and privately, if he doesn't get a casino, he will close The Meadowlands and that uncertainty was a major factor when the board discussed the future of The Hambletonian,” said Campbell.

On the Hambletonian Day broadcast, Gural assertively said that “it's not going to matter because I am getting a casino.” But as it turns out, that assertiveness was not enough to convince the Hambletonian Society board.

As I said earlier, I am not happy about the Hambletonian leaving The Meadowlands, but I really want to understand the business decision at play here. I want to cast aside my personal disappointment and understand the “why.” To look ahead, I had to look back.

According to the [New York Times archives](#), which incidentally is a wonderful source of older news articles, the Du Quoin State Fair hosted The Hambletonian from 1957 through 1980 and when Du Quoin lost the race, many people felt exactly the way I do now about it leaving The Meadowlands. However, it is interesting to note that for many years Du Quoin

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was in danger of losing the Hambletonian prior to 1981. In 1963, Du Quoin nearly lost the race to Vernon Downs in New York, a bidding process that included a telegram from then Governor Nelson Rockefeller urging the Hambletonian Society to bring the race back to New York. While Du Quoin thwarted that threat, they in fact did lose the race to Liberty Bell Park in 1975, but Liberty Bell decided not to sign the contract for their winning bid and Du Quoin got the race back after a subsequent vote. So, Du Quoin was under constant pressure to try and keep the race, which is quite the opposite of The Meadowlands' 46 year run as the host of the event. In 1979, the brand-new Meadowlands offered a monster bid, bringing the race to \$1 million by 1983 (it was just \$300,000 in 1979). New York also put forth a bid for a \$1 million Hambletonian to be held at the New York State Fairgrounds, but their promise for the million-dollar purse was contingent on a subsidy from the state (talk about coming full-circle) and The Meadowlands won the day. Upon winning the event, an article in the New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/1979/10/06/archives/meadowlands-offer-of-800000-brings-hambletonian-to-jersey.html>) referred to The Meadowlands at just three years of age as having "taken the spotlight as the nation's most successful racing complex." It also cited the "media exposure" having the event in the New York City area brings as a factor in the decision.

It is without question that the initial move to The Meadowlands was a business decision and a smart one at that. Handle grew from \$3.3 million in 1981 to \$9 million in 2005.

So, what was the business element to the 2026 decision to move the race to Hoosier? I reached out to Gabe Prewitt, the Vice President of Racing at Hoosier Park, to learn as much as I could about what the 2027 Hambletonian at Hoosier will look like.

Prewitt, much like me, displayed a great deal of surprise about winning the bid.

"I assumed whatever differences had materialized between The Meadowlands, Jeff (Gural) and the Hambletonian Society would work themselves out and the race would not move," said Prewitt.

"The bylaws call for a secret ballot and I believe secret is secret,"

-John Campbell on whether the Hambletonian voting would be revealed

So, what was it about Hoosier that won them the bid? Unlike in 1981, there is no purse increase offered in Hoosier's bid. The details of the race card are still very much up in the air. For the most part, decisions have not been made as to which races will appear on Hambletonian Day outside the Hambletonian races and the Peter Haughton and Jim Doherty Memorials. Prewitt said he had to "fine tune a lot of things now." He cited the Nadia Lobell as a possibility for the Hambo Day card, a race Hoosier is acquiring from Scioto. The Cane Pace and Shady Daisy are not moving to Hoosier. The Hambletonian Maturity will likely be raced on Hambletonian Day, something The Meadowlands could not do due to the placement of the John Cashman Memorial on the program. Tied together, that makes for six stakes races on the Hambletonian Day card, a number Prewitt said, "doesn't feel like enough." I agree.

It has been suggested to me that Hoosier should move the Dan Patch to Hambletonian Day. Prewitt indicated to me that to his surprise the Hambletonian contract does not require the event to take place on a specific day. Campbell confirmed that the date is not set in stone and he looks forward to conversations with the Hoosier team.

I suggested to Prewitt that he keep the Dan Patch where it is on the calendar and move The Hambletonian card back one week, with the Dan Patch on Friday night and Hambletonian on Saturday. Everyone will be in town for the event anyway, so make a great weekend of racing out of it.

I asked Prewitt about sending the signal to Europe, which has been an important piece of the last two decades of the event, and he responded that would likely continue and John Campbell also affirmed that would continue with the event moving to Hoosier. Prewitt did not mention, at

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least at this time, any major expansion of national network coverage and Campbell also said that “discussions about television coverage will have to take place.”

“Fox has been a great partner, but Hoosier would have to be involved in those conversations now going forward,” said Campbell on the TV topic.

Now, that’s not to say expansion of any of these items cannot happen. Prewitt has shown a knack for finding ways to grow events and handle seemingly everywhere he has been and perhaps the vote to move the race to Hoosier is in part one of confidence he will do the same here. But it is quite curious that at least at this point, it doesn’t seem like the Hoosier bid on the surface has many new bells and whistles attached to it.

When you consider the fact that The Meadowlands, which is the harness track in North America with the highest betting handle both by volume and by race, put in a bid to host the event, the business case to move the race is not obvious. Hoosier, for all the good Prewitt has done, on average does 25% of the handle per race that The Meadowlands does. Even with large gains on Dan Patch night, the handle of \$1.38 million pales in comparison to any night of weekend racing at The Meadowlands, let alone a night like Meadowlands Pace. Hoosier handled \$5.1 million for the 2023 Breeders Crown across the two nights. In 2024, The Meadowlands had handle of \$7.7 million across the two Breeders Crown nights, which is 50% more than Hoosier.

I believe it is a fair question of how much of this was a vote for Hoosier and how much of this was a vote against Jeff Gural?

Campbell declined to reveal the vote totals, which contrasts with the last several times the Hambletonian bid went to vote, as those were made public. For example, the vote to move the race to The Meadowlands beginning in 1981 was 12-9 in favor of The Big M.

“The bylaws call for a secret ballot, and I believe secret is secret,” said Campbell.

Someone said to me that I need to consider that The Meadowlands of 2026 is not The Meadowlands of 1983. That is fair and I concede that point. But the Hambletonian that Hoosier is acquiring is not the Hambletonian of 1983 either.

In 1983, the purse of the Hambletonian was \$1 million. The purse of

the Kentucky Derby that same year was \$531,000. Adjusted for inflation, the \$1 million in 1983 is worth \$3.35 million in 2026, yet the purse of the Hambletonian Final is still \$1 million. Meanwhile, the purse of the Kentucky Derby is now \$5 million, ten-fold of what it was 40 years ago.

In addition, wagering handle on The Hambletonian in 1983 was \$3.7 million. The Kentucky Derby saw a handle of \$5.5 million that same year. In 2026, handle on the Hambletonian was \$6.1 million prior to European handle being calculated (typically around \$1 million) and the Kentucky Derby was \$225 million.

The Kentucky Derby has exploded in popularity and wagering, even as the industry around it has contracted. The Hambletonian has remained stagnant. If your argument is that you cannot compare the Kentucky Derby to the Hambletonian, you are right, now you can’t. But in 1983, you could.

The Hambletonian used to be on a major national network, live, with full coverage of at least an hour focusing on the event. For many years it was on CBS and then NBC. It is now squeezed into a short window of minutes into a Fox Sports broadcast that centers on Saratoga. The “full coverage” of the Hambletonian is provided in the form of a replay show that is not aired live. While that show has been done exceptionally well, a replay show is not going to grow wagering handle on an event that already happened.

Hopefully there are opportunities which Hoosier can capitalize on and perhaps Prewitt can find a silver bullet to help elevate the handle of the Hambletonian once again, but given how much The Meadowlands stands out in the industry from a betting handle standpoint, that will be no small task.

In the end, the parting of ways between The Meadowlands and the Hambletonian seems to be more of a divorce between Jeff Gural and the Hambletonian Society. In response to one of my questions on “X” around the decision, former Hambletonian Society COO Moira Fanning said, “I heard the actual words and actions have consequences,” implying that there are consequences to Gural’s words and actions. That speaks volumes.

To me it appears that some members of the Hambletonian Society were not able to separate Gural and The Meadowlands in their analysis of the bids and they took a business decision for the most important event of the year and made it personal. Fanning is correct, actions do have consequences, and while I wish the Hambletonian Society and Hoosier well and hope they have a successful event, I am very fearful of what the consequences for The Meadowlands and racing in New Jersey will be.

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Madison Global speaks out on Big Ranger, Gillespie & the future

By Derick Gwerner

There is a reason that more than 40 percent of marriages end in divorce. Relationships require communication, trust and certainly the willingness to compromise. When those pillars break down the relationship erodes, and from the standpoint of Madison Global, that is what led to Big Ranger moving on from trainer Ronnie Gillespie to Anette Lorentzon.

Before jumping into the fire of controversy that developed from the breakup, it is important to know when the connection started. According to co-owner Anthony Miller, he was the first of the group to be involved in harness racing. The 37-year-old had horses on and off dating back to 2016 with trainer Herman Hagerman, a relationship that still exists. Miller became involved with Gillespie in 2024 and the Madison Global group, which also includes Wes Beachy, Reuben Hershberger and Benjamin Shrock, in 2025.

"Wes and I kind of became friends through different business dealings and we had the discussion to form the group and to try to buy some more horses," said Miller.

As with any marriage and certainly in the case of Madison Global and Gillespie, there was certainly a honeymoon period. They started in 2025 with five horses under the care of Gillespie and hit the jackpot with one – Big Ranger, a then 2-year-old trotting colt by In Range. He went seven-for-seven, won \$370,610 and the Ohio Triple Crown in his first year on the track, all with Gillespie as trainer and driver.

Everything was perfect – until it wasn't. Big Ranger broke in his 2026 debut and then missed the \$500,000 Oak Grove Trotting Derby final when he was just fourth after setting the pace in his elimination. He was able to rebound to capture the \$75,000 consolation and went on to set a Scioto Downs track record (1:51 2/5) in his May 25 start, but there was a splintered vision for the best path forward to maximizing the potential of Big Ranger the asset.

"We're definitely grateful for everything Ronnie did," said co-owner Beachy. "We all got together and it was just an escalating situation that we kind of felt needed to be addressed. What it all boiled down to was the catch driver. We really thought that for any Grand Circuit races we'd really like to see a catch driver on him. We did want to see Ronnie as the trainer but that was clearly not an option."

Despite an appreciation for the past good times and success, Madison Global made the decision to pull Big Ranger from Gillespie well ahead of the most important race on the calendar for his division, the \$1,000,000 Grade 1 Hambletonian.

"He did not have knowledge that it was going to happen," admitted Beachy, who said they were fielding a number of sizable offers to sell the horse and wanted to wait until a final decision was made prior to calling Gillespie. "We were going to let Ronnie know the morning of and we got no response after multiple texts and phone calls. Obviously, the truck arrived before we got the opportunity to talk to him. The intent was never to pull the horse or try and sneak him away or do anything like that."

"When Ronnie finally called me back I told him we were moving the horse and he hung up on me without giving me the chance to explain," said Miller. "A week later I was finally able to reach him and have an hour-long conversation about why."

Beachy said the situation escalated rather quickly and led to the transfer of their other three horses – Center Field Lady, High On The Range and Aiming To Please – from Gillespie to trainer Virgil Morgan Jr.

"We just grew apart. It wasn't that Ronnie was being mean to us. It was just a lack of communication," said Beachy, who talked about the fun being removed from the experience. "95% of the time an owner that is involved in harness racing or investing in the sport is there to have a good time, right? We don't want the day-to-day. We don't want the phone calls. We don't want the staking. We're simply there to have a good time. Any trainer that makes the mistake of taking the good time away from the owner, it doesn't matter if this is Ronnie or anybody else out there, you take the good time away from the owner, they will probably leave the industry or at least move their horses."

"Most owners are going to be involved in other industries and have another stream of income outside of horses and this is the good-time thing where you pull up videos in the evenings, you watch races with your family or you take them to the races and you're there, you know, just to smile. That's the level of participation you want and to create memories with family and friends and that's why we started out in the first place."



Big Ranger co-owners (left) Wes Beachy and Anthony Miller.

"When Ronnie [Gillespie] finally called me back I told him we were moving the horse and he hung up on me without giving me the chance to explain. A week later I was finally able to reach him and have an hour-long conversation about why."

-Anthony Miller

The positive vibe for Madison Global took hold when Lorentzon began training Big Ranger. The seemingly random choice of Lorentzon stemmed from the group's relationship with Kevin Greenfield – stallion manager of In Range and President of Hickory Lane Farm – along with his connection to Lorentzon.

"We wanted somebody that has exposure on the East Coast and we also wanted to give somebody the opportunity that did not have a Hambletonian horse," said Beachy.

The new combination of Lorentzon and Hall of Fame driver Tim Tetrick continued the work of Gillespie, winning three straight races, including a new 1:50 3/5 Scioto Downs track record and an explosive 1:50 Hambletonian elimination stakes record by four lengths. Tetrick was also teaching the colt to be a bit more patient early in the mile after a string of races where he was on the lead by the opening quarter.

"[Gillespie] picked the horse, developed the horse, did a phenomenal job, and I think Anette has done an amazing job with progression of what Ronnie started," said Beachy.

Big Ranger was the morning-line favorite to win the Hambletonian and the fun was back until [an article by Hal McCoy was published on Pressprosmagazine.com](#) and reprinted in [Harness Racing Update](#). It painted Madison Global as the clear villain and the public sentiment on social media showered the group with negative comments and hopes that the horse would fail in his Hambletonian quest.

The article took Madison Global by surprise in that it contained a number of accusations that they strongly refute. It listed a horse named Peppermint Man being taken from Gillespie by the group. They never

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owned the horse. It said Gillespie was never given a reason why the horse was moved. They insist he knew it was the catch driver issue. It says they offered him no future compensation. They said a conversation occurred about the topic. It says the group was with Gillespie for five years when Madison Global only existed for two.

"We were conversing and I said, listen, the reason that we don't have a percentage or a set amount is because we didn't know what the season was going to look like," said Beachy on the topic of providing Gillespie extra compensation. "I told him that everybody is committed to doing something as the season progresses. We had a great conversation.

"We told him multiple times, even after Big Ranger had left, 'Ronnie, we'd love for you to be our 2-year-old Ohio trainer every year'. And it just didn't work. There was no willingness to, and I get it, his feelings were hurt, too.

"Unfortunately, the opportunity for him to receive any financial compensation from Madison Global definitely died with the publication of that article," concluded Beachy, who added that the group was just as disappointed that the reporter didn't reach out to hear their side of the story.

Big Ranger assuredly had no clue that a tidal wave of people on social media was rooting against him as he went behind the gate for the Hambletonian on August 8 at The Meadowlands. He displayed some early speed and settled in the pocket behind the previous season's 2-year-old Dan Patch division winner Apex. The fractions were honest – 26 4/5, 54 3/5 and 1:22 4/5 – as Tetrack made his move with Big Ranger just prior to the third call. They closed the margin of deficit inch by inch in one of the most thrilling stretch duels in the race's history. In the end they were an inch short in by far the fastest (1:49 2/5) Hambletonian in history.

Despite the defeat, the performance boosted the stock of Big Ranger as not just an upper-echelon 3-year-old trotter but as a potential stallion prospect. While Madison Global is taking it start by start with a focus on the Ohio Sire Stakes Championship (September 12 at Scioto Downs), Kentucky Futurity (October 3 at The Red Mile) and Breeders Crown final (October 24 at Scioto Downs), they are very cognizant of the decisions ahead.

"I think we would strongly consider the stallion route if these races go well," said Beachy when asked whether a 4-year-old campaign was in their minds or whether this could be Big Ranger's last year of racing. "I think it would be great for an Ohio trotting stallion to be able to stand and potentially attract people from the East Coast."

"All of us have a few mares. We've all raised horses and raised babies already," said Miller. "So all of the partners kind of have an interest in the stallion route, and that's something that keys our interest in racing."

The immediate goals for Madison Global, which currently has five horses in training, is seeing Big Ranger get a sub 1:50 lifetime mark, reach millionaire status (he's at \$772,947) and compete against Apex again.

"Apex is a hell of a horse and he's got great connections. We're looking forward to that matchup again," said Beachy.

The Apex/Big Ranger rematch is on hold likely until the Kentucky Futurity and for now the four Amish-raised owners, two of which – Hersherberger and Shrock – are still devout in that lifestyle, are living life and waiting for the next thrill delivered by their star horse. If history is any guide, it will likely come on September 12 at Scioto with \$300,000 on the line in his Ohio Sire Stakes final. A victory would push him less than \$80,000 from the million mark and set up the opportunity to accomplish most of Madison Global's on-track goals for Big Ranger in one race. Then on to the Breeders Crown for a potential fairytale ending at their home track. Wouldn't that be sweet!



WALTER WŁODARCZYK/DRF HARNESS

Big Ranger will make his next start in the Ohio Sire Stakes Final at Scioto Downs on Sept. 12.

Diamond Creek closing its PA location

After 15 years of operating a Pennsylvania breeding operation, Diamond Creek Farm is exiting the Keystone State. But according to Vice President Shaun Laungani, the closure of the Wellsville, PA location isn't an ending but a new beginning.

"We are in growth mode," said Laungani, who added that they are hoping to pay homage to the Brittany Farm model. "The Pennsylvania farm has been good to us but we feel we are lighter, faster and stronger this way."

First opened in 2012, the Pennsylvania wing of Diamond Creek has been home to a number of stallions over the years and as of this year still has Sweet Lou (\$30,000 fee), Confederate (\$20,000) and Tactical Approach (\$10,000). All three will need new homes for the 2027 breeding season and that decision will be announced in the coming months.

"My phone has been blowing up with people asking where we will stand our stallions. Those decisions will be finalized following Harrisburg," said Laungani.

The official closing date for the sale of the farm is mid to late September. The fact that much of the staff already lives in Kentucky played a big role in the decision to close the Pennsylvania farm, as did the decreasing breeder awards in Pennsylvania and the increasing presence of Kentucky's Sire Stakes and rewards program. That said, the door isn't shut on a Pennsylvania return should things turn around in the State.

"We are leaving the door open to return to Pennsylvania if the state returns to its former glory and purses return," said Laungani, who hopes that the Kentucky stallion ranks will continue to grow. "Dual eligibility is awesome but single eligibility in Kentucky works very well."

Diamond Creek will also need to shuffle some Ohio stallions as Laungani revealed that Sugar Valley Farm is closing its doors as well. That is the current home of Downbytheseaside and Pebble Beach, both of which are likely to remain in the Buckeye State.

"The land was too valuable. You could see new homes were getting closer and closer to the farm," said Laungani on why Sugar Valley Farm was closing.

While some will see the closure of farms as a negative, it is worth noting that Diamond Creek has been active over the years in making deals to stand stallions in many regions despite lacking a physical address in that state. In addition to the Sugar Valley stallions, they currently stand Father Patrick and Cannibal in New York at Winbak Farm and Blue Chip Farm, respectively. Sabonis is in Indiana at Premier Acres and Louprint is at Winterwood in Ohio. So just because Diamond Creek Farm is closing shop in Pennsylvania that doesn't mean they won't have stallions in the State at other farms.

-Gwerner

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Max Hempt Memorial the highlight of Sun Stakes Saturday



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

The sophomore male class of pacers has been looking for a leader for much of the season. With the 2025 Horse of the Year Beau Jangles failing thus far to fulfill that role, others have stepped forward holding the mantle just long enough before surrendering. As we move towards the end of the summer battles, there appeared to be only one location left on the schedule that could bring together all the major components and pinpoint the leader. That notion came to fruition on Monday (August 17) when all the major sophomore stakes winners in 2026 entered the \$300,000 Max Hempt Memorial, part of a huge 14-race Sun Stakes program at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Even better yet was the post-position draw that will leave none of the key players an excuse should things not go perfectly within the contest. With Meadowlands Pace champion Brandon Blvd (post 2) and North America Cup victor Odds On Mr Mamba (post 4) to the inside of the starting car, they could get some redemption after failing to fire in the Cane Pace on Hambletonian Day. Trainer Ron Burke is never short on talent, and he'll send out Adios winner Al Papi (post 3) along with Milstein Memorial winner Melillo (post 1) as two of his three in the field. Add to the mix Cane Pace upsetter Sweet Lovin Lou (post 6) and the extremely speedy Gentleman's Club (post 7), a horse that fought off repeated challenges in the Cane only to come away with second prize. That Another C Note (post 8) has won more races than any other in the field this year – with nine trips to the winner's circle – despite showing the lowest money won of the octet, there's little question whether the connections would have preferred the \$200,000 first consolation rather than this spot.

As formful as the seven others in the field have been at times, there is one horse that is nearly impossible to figure out and that is Beau Jangles. The son of Cattlewash was unbeatable as a freshman, capturing all 12 of his starts in 2025 and giving rise to the speculation that he might in fact be the second coming of Somebeachsomewhere. That expectation quickly came crumbling down in June when Beau Jangles couldn't get past the Grade 1 North America Cup test captured by Odds On Mr Mamba. Invincibility is something that is extremely hard to recapture once a horse suffers defeat and in the case of Beau Jangles the memory of 15 consecutive wins to start his career has been decimated by five consecutive losses heading into Saturday's contest.

Though Beau Jangles lost both North America Cup elimination and finals, it was a fifth-place finish in an Ontario Gold stakes on June 27 that took the air out of his sails, both literally and figuratively. While some pondered whether the losses could be explained by some malady that could lead to a premature retirement, Beau Jangles returned a month later with a 1:50 qualifier at Woodbine Mohawk, looking sound for certain while racing just against the clock.

There was talk of a Cane Pace supplement for Beau Jangles with the necessary test an Ontario Gold event at Grand River on August 3, a day before supplemental payments would be required. That buzz quickly evaporated when Beau Jangles got hopelessly parked to a 52 3/5 half mile and subsequently retreated. That race would be the last for regular driver Bob McClure but we'd be remiss in not pointing out that the first quarter in that Ontario Gold event was 25 4/5 and McClure could not be blamed for avoiding the early skirmish. On top of that, McClure had Beau Jangles almost completely around pacesetter and eventual race winner Redland Rocket Man at the half when his driver Jody Jamieson moved to keep him parked.

Todd McCarthy was brought in to drive Beau Jangles last Saturday (August 15) in an overnight event against aged horses at Woodbine Mohawk Park and following a fifth-place finish the critics resurfaced, this time not necessarily blaming the driver but questioning whether courage was part of Beau Jangles' DNA. Thankfully the connections of Beau Jangles weren't taking the criticism too seriously as they will make the trip to Wilkes Barre on Saturday despite the talk. While it may have been true that McCarthy drove Beau Jangles perfectly, he also drove



(ABOVE) WALTER WŁODARCZYK / (BELOW) CHRIS GOODEN

Brandon Blvd (above) and Al Papi (below) are the 5-2 and 3-1 morning-line favorites in Saturday Max Hempt Memorial at Pocono.



him conservatively. So instead of getting the half in 52 and change, Beau Jangles was sixth in just a 55 3/5 first half and thus overland through a back half in 53.

The Hempt will attempt to sort out the sophomore group and test the speed and toughness in the process. Brandon Blvd had begun to look invincible following a pair of ultra-game efforts in the North America Cup elimination and finals racing from the outside posts and taking plenty of air. His reward was capturing the Grade 1 Meadowlands Pace where he fought pressure on all sides and prevailed. Brandon Blvd enters the Hempt following his first sub-par performance, a third-place finish in the five-horse Cane Pace.

Melillo enters the Hempt with a great draw and an equally solid prep race for trainer Ron Burke and driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr. The Sweet Lou-sired gelding took all the air going first over and missing by just a head finishing fourth in The Meadowlands Pace. He has since found the trips much easier due to the benefit of stablemates in his last two encounters. In the Adios, Melillo overcame post nine getting a tuck fourth as Another C Note backed off from his rail position to allow a hole. In the Milstein, Melillo waltzed to the front in a moderate 26 4/5 opener before yielding to the Burke-trained Aces And Cinches. The pocket trip worked out perfectly when Aces And Cinches predictably bore off the pylons giving Melillo a straight path to the winner's circle. On Saturday, having the rail may find Wrenn and Melillo not dealing with friendly fire in the first quarter mile.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 11](#)

Al Papi has won twice in nine starts this year and is the only one of the Hempt starters to have not raced in the past four weeks. Certainly, the Papi Rob Hanover-sired colt deserved a rest following a pair of consecutive big miles at The Meadows, with a 1:47 2/5 blowout in the elimination followed by a 1:48 1/5 mile in the final. What is puzzling is that Al Papi was seen in an “unofficial” public workout this past Saturday (August 15) at The Meadows prior to the racecard, going what I believe was a 1:51 4/5 mile by himself for driver Yannick Gingras.

For Odds On Mr Mamba, the Hempt allows his connections a modest entry fee as opposed to the supplement required for entry into both the Adios and Cane Pace. Of greater importance to those connections is the appearance of a larger field and the probability of a pace that he does not have to be a part of in the early going. Following his win in an Adios elimination on the front-end Odds On Mr Mamba had too many Burke-trained horses to overcome in the final. In his Cane effort, driver James MacDonald pushed him a few times and found resistance in the form of Gentleman's Club, leading to his first off-the-board finish of the year. Odds On Mr Mamba's best races this year came via covered trips at Woodbine Mohawk Park in June. That may be what he's in store for on Saturday.

Scott Zeron has mended and returned to the sulky following an incident at Yonkers prior to this year's Hambletonian Day. Zeron had set up Sweet Lovin Lou nicely in the Adios final, keeping the colt interested despite racing parked the entire distance. Tim Tetrick picked up the drive in the Cane Pace and vaulted the Dan Legace trainee to a 1:47 3/5 career best. Zeron returns with Sweet Lovin Lou landing post six for the Hempt. A horse with early speed, Sweet Lovin Lou chances will be enhanced if others can pace a half in 53 or better.

Gentleman's Club has enjoyed great success at The Meadowlands during his career, capturing the Governor's Cup there as a 2-year-old and

returning this season with a solid third in The Meadowlands Pace and second in the Cane Pace. Post seven in the Hempt is a daunting challenge for the Aaron Lambert-trained son of Downbytheseaside.

The 2026 edition of the Max Hempt Memorial shapes up as an extraordinary race on paper with a majority of the field capable of winning with the right trip. That makes it an ideal betting race and the high point on the Sun Stakes card.

\$300K GRADE 2 MAX HEMPT MEMORIAL - RACE 12 - POCONO DOWNS

POST-HORSE	DRIVER	M/L
1-Melillo	Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	12-1
2-Brandon Blvd	Dexter Dunn	5-2
3-Al Papi	Yannick Gingras	3-1
4-Odds On Mr Mamba	James MacDonald	5-1
5-Beau Jangles	Todd McCarthy	10-1
6-Sweet Lovin Lou	Scott Zeron	4-1
7-Gentleman's Club	Andy McCarthy	6-1
8-Another C Note	Tyler Buter	15-1

Sangria Summer playing it cool ahead of James Lynch at Pocono

By Ken Weingartner

Going on the road doesn't bother Sangria Summer. It seems not much else does, either.

Sangria Summer, who has the second-fastest mile of the season for a 3-year-old female pacer thanks to her 1:48 1/5 win in the Shady Daisy on Aug. 8 at the Meadowlands, next visits Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania for this Saturday's (Aug. 22) \$250,000 Grade 1 James M. Lynch Memorial.

The Luc Blais trainee has three wins and a second-place finish in her past four races and is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line for the Lynch, which is one of six graded events on Pocono's Sun Stakes Saturday card. Sangria Summer will start from post 4 in a field of eight, with James MacDonald in the sulky.

"She's a very nice horse, very professional," said Blais, who trains Sangria Summer for owner Determination. "Wherever you go, she feels like it's home. She doesn't worry about this or that; she doesn't worry about anything. She's just a pleasure to be around."

Sangria Summer is a daughter of Captaintreacherous out of the mare Shower Play, who was an O'Brien Award winner in Canada at age 3 in 2018. Last year, Sangria Summer hit the board in three of 10 starts and earned a paycheck on nine occasions, including in two Grade 1 stakes – the Breeders Crown and She's A Great Lady. Determination bought the filly, previously trained by co-owner Kevin Benn, following her first race this year, a 1:53 1/5 victory in a conditioned race at Ontario's Woodbine Mohawk Park.

"I was impressed with the way she did it," Blais said about the victory, which saw Sangria Summer rally from fourth with a :26 last quarter. "We were looking for a horse like her. We don't have too many 3-year-olds this year and she caught our eye."

In nine races for Blais, Sangria Summer has hit the board seven times, winning three and earning \$141,848. She finished fourth in the Fan Hanover Stakes (G1) on June 13 at Mohawk, where she was an inside seventh on the final turn before fanning five-wide in the stretch to close with a race-best 26 2/5 last quarter.

"She was locked in, but when she got out, she was flying at the end," Blais said.

Two starts later, Sangria Summer won a conditioned race with a sustained first-over bid, getting home in 26 to score in 1:48 4/5. She finished second in her next race, the Nadia Lobell (G3) at Eldorado Scioto Downs, before putting together back-to-back triumphs that both featured 25 4/5 last quarters.

In the Shady Daisy (G3), the second of those two victories, she won by a head over Darlin's Angel and three-quarters of a length over third-place finisher Be Perfect BG. The time of 1:48 1/5, just one-fifth of a second off the stakes record, has been bettered by only Loua Dipa (1:48) this season among the sophomore filly pacers.

"She raced super," Blais said about Sangria Summer, who has 11 top-three finishes in 20 career races and has earned \$228,159. "She's got a nice gait, and she is very fast and tough. She doesn't look like she gets tired. She can carry her speed well. It's very exciting."

Blais, who received the O'Brien Award of Horsemanship in 2021, is best known for his success with trotters, including 2019 Hambletonian champion Forbidden Trade (who was Canada's Horse of the Year), and other Grade 1 winners such as Intimidate, Emoticon Hanover, On A Streak, and Emoticon Legacy (also all O'Brien Award honorees).

In recent years, though, he's also captured graded events with pacers, such as the Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup (G2) with Calicojack Hanover last year and the Potomac Pace (G3) with Enavant, upsetting Allywag Hanover, in 2021. Blais was third in the 2022 North America Cup (G1) with Frozen Hanover.

"A good horse is a good horse, it doesn't matter whether it's a trotter or pacer," Blais said. "You just try to keep them happy and fit. That's it. You just try not to mess them up and let them go the way they like."

Sangria Summer will see Be Perfect BG and Darlin's Angel again in the Lynch. Be Perfect BG is the 5-2 morning-line favorite and will leave from post 5 with Dexter Dunn driving for trainer Anthony Beaton. Darlin's Angel will go from post 6, with Lauren Tritton in the sulky for trainer Juan Cano. She is the 4-1 third choice.

Racing begins at 2:30 p.m. (EDT) for Sun Stakes Saturday at Pocono Downs. The Lynch Memorial is race 10 on the 14-race card that also features the \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover (G1) for 3-year-old female trotters, the Max C. Hempt Memorial (G2) for 3-year-old male pacers, and the \$300,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial for 3-year-old male trotters.



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VISIT SITE

Rookies in the spotlight on Friday at Woodbine Mohawk Park

By Jay Bergman

Trainer Matt Bax has every reason to be optimistic heading into Friday's Peaceful Way eliminations at Woodbine Mohawk Park. His freshman filly Queen Of B's has already shown the ability to tackle and conquer Ontario's best during her brief career and will now tackle Grand Circuit company for the first time. In Queen Of B's, Bax has a filly from the first crop of King Of The North but perhaps of greater importance, out of the 2011 Peaceful Way champion Win Missy B.

"She's progressing nicely," said Bax of the filly that has finished first or second in all four of her careers starts, including an Ontario Sire Stakes Gold victory on July 5. "They have to learn how to be a racehorse and she's been very consistent."

Much like her quite successful dam Win Missy B, a winner of \$1.6 million during a career that saw her compete at the highest levels against quality competition, Queen Of B's has shown plenty of early speed and staying power in preliminary races that hopefully pave a path towards bigger and better.

For Bax, who trained a handful of coming freshmen over the winter by King Of The North, there's high expectations. "From what I have seen King Of The North looks like he's here to stay and has horses capable of racing in Ontario and beyond," Bax said.

King Of The North is a son of Walner out of Check Me Out, the sport's top 3-year-old trotting filly in 2012. Check Me Out was an archrival of Win Missy B, with the two now joining forces behind the promising Queen Of B's.

There were 19 fillies in the box on Tuesday, leading to a pair of C\$30,000 Peaceful Way eliminations. Queen Of B's drew post 10 in the sixth race and second division. The first split goes as race four.

"I'm obviously not happy with the draw," said Bax on Wednesday. "But she only needs to be in the top five to advance to the final."

Nevis Peak (post 1) looks to be the favorite in the sixth race division for trainer Ron Burke. A Walner-sired filly from Hambletonian winner Ramona Hill, Nevis Peak has been impressive thus far in New Jersey, winning her first two races and then finishing second behind the undefeated Wall of Fame in the August 8 New Jersey Sire Stakes Platinum final at The Meadowlands.

Rebel Moon (post 8) enters the Peaceful Way trials riding a three-race winning streak that includes a sweep of the Pure Ivory elimination and final as well as an Ontario Gold on August 14 in a career best 1:53 4/5 clocking. Rebel Moon is one of three fillies from the Carl Jamieson stable entered in the Peaceful Way.

Friday's Woodbine Mohawk Park card is filled with stakes action and trainer Anthony Beaton hopes the recently gelded Captain Cavalier will continue to improve in the C\$120,000 Dream Maker final (race 7) for 2-year-old male pacers. The son of Captaintreacherous, a \$240,000 yearling, meets stakes company for the first time fresh off a maiden-breaking win on August 6 with James MacDonald aboard.

"We made the decision to geld him after his second baby race (June 20)," said Beaton. "He was getting unruly on the track."

The move has helped calm Captain Cavalier. "He was good in his first start," said Beaton. "We were just giving him a race to educate him."

Captain Cavalier was put on the front end in his second start and paced a mile in 1:53 2/5. "He did it pretty easily and had something left," said Beaton.

Just three years ago Beaton conditioned Captain Cavalier's half brother Nijinsky. That son of Bettor's Delight won his first race as a freshman in early August as well. "He was a smaller horse," said Beaton of Nijinsky, who would go on to capture the 2024 North America Cup. "Of course that's to be expected as a son of Bettor's Delight. This horse is by Captaintreacherous and is a bigger horse right now than Nijinsky turned out to be."

Size is just one consideration but more importantly is the question of speed, and that's something that's still to be determined. "Nijinsky as a 2-year-old could go some wicked quarters and would make mistakes," said Beaton. "This horse hasn't shown that kind of speed yet, but we'll see."

Captain Cavalier has the inside track in the seven-horse field but will be in with some serious company led by the undefeated Shalom Hanover from the Dr. Ian Moore stable. Shalom Hanover, a son of Papi Rob Hanover, has breezed through three stakes wins this season without being tested. Most recently Shalom Hanover and driver Louis Philippe

Roy cruised to a 1:49 2/5 track-record setting performance in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes event at Pocono on August 3.

A total of 16 male freshman trotters entered and two C\$30,000 divisions of the William Wellwood Memorial were drawn to determine the 10 finalists. Trainer Marcus Melander has entered three horses, with Gios Hope (post 1) and Free Scottie (post 5) going in race eight while Top Reacher (post 4) heads up the tenth race division.

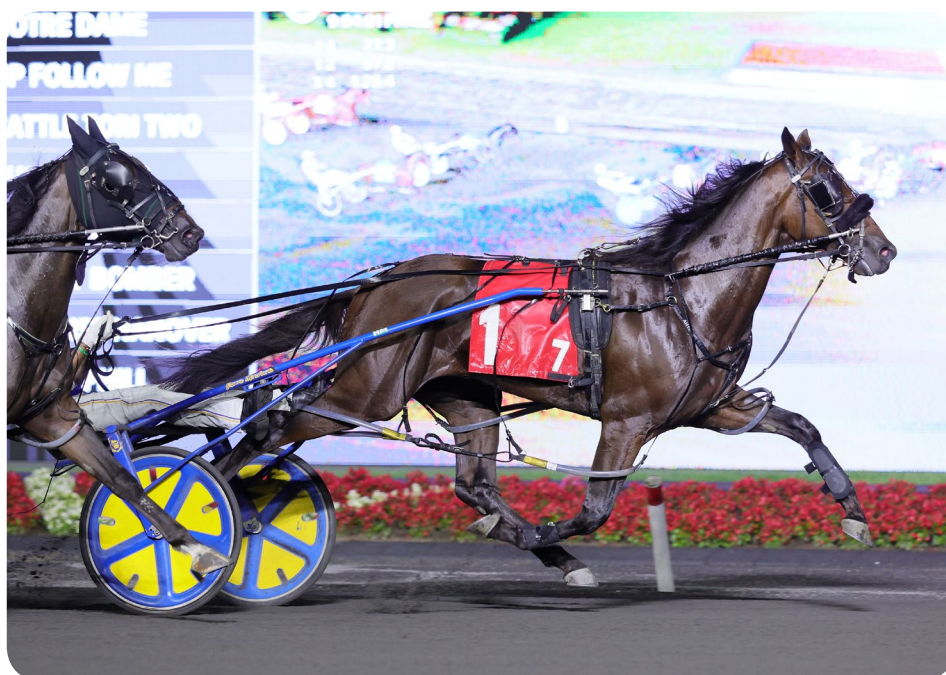
Top Reacher, a son of Muscle Hill, was a 1:54 winner in the first leg of the Kentucky Championship at The Red Mile on August 3.

Gios Hope enters the Wellwood with two New York Sire Stakes wins in his first three starts. He took his 1:55 career-

best in his debut winning at Vernon Downs on July 10.

Trainer Ake Svanstedt has a pair of colts in the Wellwood with Yankee Boss, a son of Captain Corey, making his Ontario debut in the eighth race division following an open-length victory in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at Pocono on August 10. Lincoln Kronos (post 1) gained his first victory in a Kindergarten Series division at The Meadowlands on August 7 for Svanstedt and will test Grand Circuit company for the first time in the tenth race division. Lincoln Kronos is a son of Walner from a Bold Eagle-sired dam.

Friday's 12-race Woodbine Mohawk Park program also includes the C\$125,000 Whenuwishuponastar final (race 5) for 2-year-old pacing fillies. First post is slated for 6:30 p.m. (EDT).



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Captain Cavalier will attempt to pull off the upset in Friday's C\$120,000 Dream Maker final at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Beal starter Minoan has been money in the bank for Daley

By Ken Weingartner

When it comes to earning paychecks, Minoan has become a horse trainer Noel Daley can bank on.

Over the course of his career, the 3-year-old male trotter has picked up money in 19 of 21 races, including 16 top-three finishes, and earned \$354,942. This season, the son of Bar Hopping-Regal Woman has totaled \$203,435 in purses, which ranks seventh among all sophomore male trotters.

On Saturday (Aug. 22), Minoan will look to add to his account when he faces seven rivals in the \$300,000 Grade 2 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania. The gelding, who finished third in the Hambletonian Stakes (G1) on Aug. 8 at the Meadowlands, enters the Beal off a career-best-equaling 1:52 2/5 victory in a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes on Aug. 15 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows.

Minoan will leave from post 3 on Saturday, with Andrew McCarthy in the sulky, and is the 7-2 second choice on the morning line.

"He's a no-pressure horse," said Daley, who owns Minoan with Patricia Stables, L.A. Express Stable, and Sjoebloom Racing. "It's not like having a high-profile fella. There are better horses than him, but he just goes about his business and makes his money. He just gets it done."

Minoan's third-place finish behind Apex and Big Ranger in the \$1 million Hambletonian final is an example. Daley was on the fence about entering him in America's Trotting Classic, but after Minoan won a \$33,725 division of the Tompkins-Geers Stakes a week prior to the Hambletonian eliminations, essentially covering the entrance fee, he decided to go.

Leaving from post 1 in the final, Minoan landed in third place on the first turn as Apex and Big Ranger marched forward in a 26 4/5 opening quarter.

"I went in there hoping he could be fourth, and he got third, so I'm more than happy with it," Daley said. "I know he can out-leave everybody, so it certainly helped when drew the rail. (Third at the start) is where I figured he would end up and everything just worked out. But he's the right type of horse for it; he can put himself in a race to get a piece of it. He's done a great job."

Daley purchased Minoan for \$35,000 at the 2024 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Last year, the gelding won a division of the Bluegrass Stakes (G3) in 1:52 4/5 at Lexington's Red Mile and captured two preliminary divisions of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes. He finished third in the PASS championship, and also was third in a division of the International Stallion Stakes (G3).

This year, he has four wins in 11 starts, with three second-place finishes and a third. All four of his victories have come in his past seven races, including two in conditioned events at half-mile MGM Yonkers Raceway.

"We put him on the half because we wanted to see how he would be, and he got around there like he was on rails," Daley said. "So, hopefully we've got ourselves a good Yonkers horse for the rest of his life since he's a gelding. He can leave (the gate) and he's good around a half, so that's going to make him a moneymaker in itself."

In the Beal, Minoan will face a group that includes three other Hambletonian finalists – Magic Punk, who made a break and finished 10th; AI, who finished seventh; and Spencer Hanover, who finished sixth.

Magic Punk, who earlier this year won the Dexter Cup (G3) and finished second in the Goodtimes (G2), is the Beal's 3-1 morning-line favorite. He will leave from post 7 with Yannick Gingras driving for trainer Åke Svanstedt. AI is 9-2 and will start from post 4 with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. driving for Ron Burke while Spencer Hanover is 5-1 and will leave from post 8 with



WALTER WŁODARCZYK

Minoan is the 7-2 second choice in Saturday's 13th race at Pocono Downs.

Jason Bartlett driving for Marcus Melander.

"Some of the better ones aren't there, but there are still some nice horses in there, for sure," Daley said about the Beal, which is one of six graded events on Pocono's Sun Stakes Saturday card. "We're just opportunists with him. He's right in that race. He's on a little bit of a roll and puts himself in play, which is everything for him. He's a good-feeling horse, and he's easy to do anything with. Nothing seems to bother him."

Racing begins at 2:30 p.m. (EDT) for Sun Stakes Saturday at Pocono Downs. The Beal Memorial is race 13 on the 14-race card that also features the \$300,000 Max C. Hempt Memorial (G2) for 3-year-old male pacers, \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover (G1) for 3-year-old female trotters, and \$250,000 James M. Lynch Memorial (G1) for 3-year-old female pacers.



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RACE OF THE WEEK

12 CONONO SAT

1 Mile Pace MAX C. HEMPT MEMORIAL. 3 YR. OLD OPEN. Purse \$300,000

EXACTA - 50 CENT TRIFECTA | 50 CENT SUPERFECTA

1 MELILLO

31:48.4 (5/8) \$38,306

12-1 R. Wrenn Jr. 1285-319-233-167 (248)

15 Aug 26	12Nld	fst ⁷⁴	26	54	1:22	1:50	4	D-MILSTEIN-G2	300000	2	1 ³	3 ¹	3 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	26	28	27	28	1:50	110	+6.9w	*30	Meillio RedinRom FireRun	Pkt trip, driving-9
25 July 26	16Mw	fst ⁸⁰	26	54	1:20	1:48	1	ADIOS-G1	420500	9	4 ⁵	4 ⁴	4 ³	4 ²	2 ¹	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	27	27	25	27	1:48	118		*870	AlPapi Meillio OdsMmMba	1st up,ld lane,handy-10
18 July 26	7Mw	fst ⁸¹	25	54	1:20	1:47	1	ADIOS ELIM	25000	5	2 ¹	2 ¹	4 ⁴	3 ⁴	2 ²	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	25	28	27	26	1:47	120		1.10	AlPapi Meillio SwtLnVnL	-8
11 July 26	10M1	fst ⁷⁷	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	D-M Pace F-G1	810000	5	5 ³	3 ³	2 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	27	27	27	26	1:48	114	+5.8w	26.60	BmrdBlvdAlPapiGentlmnC	1st up, batld, pace In-10
26 Jun 26	8YR	fst ⁸²	28	57	1:26	2:21	4	MGM G M F-G2	200000	7	7 ⁹	7 ⁹	5 ³	4 ¹	4 ³	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	30	29	28	25	2:22		+7.4w	6.86	FragmentAlPapiMightyMat	11 Traild, 2nd ov no bid-7
13 Jun 26	11Wbs	fst ⁷⁷	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	NA CUP-G1	715500	1	3 ¹	5 ⁴	7 ⁵	6 ⁵	5 ⁴	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	26	28	27	26	1:49	109	+10.3w	42.45	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd BeauJngls	No rally-10
6 Jun 26	9Wbs	fst ⁶⁸	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	NA CUP	36000	3	1 ¹	2 ¹	4 ²	4 ³	4 ³	RonWnnJr	RoBurke	26	28	27	27	1:49	111	+7.5w	25.00	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd BeauJngls	Yd, pkt, little-8
24 May 26	7PhIA	fst ⁶¹	27	54	1:21	1:48	1	PASS-3YOCG	37335	6	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ³	TTetrick	RoBurke	27	27	27	27	1:48	114	+5.5w	*70	Meillio EasyBreeze TabiAndr	-6

b c 3, by Sweet Lou, Rosemary Rose by Foreclosure N
Burke Rog Stb, LLC, Fredericktown, PA; J V Meillio, Powell, OH; Weaver Bruscem LLC, Canonsburg, PA
Last 5 Sts - \$342,175
1:48.4 Lx1
26 PcD 1 0 1 0 \$9,234 26 Tot 11 3 4 0 \$421,365
25 PcD 2 0 2 0 \$20,225 25 Tot 14 3 6 3 \$380,357
24 PcD 0 0 0 0 -Life 25 6 10 3 \$801,722

2 BRANDON BLVD

31:47.3 (1) \$93,212 LEXSEL \$425,000

5-2 D. Dunn 625-169-116-91 (270)

8 Aug 26	3M1	fst ⁹¹	27	54	1:21	1:47	3	D-CanePace-G2	310750	2	3 ¹	3 ²	3 ²	2 ²	3 ¹	Br - Crawford Farms LLC, NY	AnHarris	27	27	27	26	1:47	113	+5.4w	*60	SwtLnVnL GntlmnC BmrdBlvd	Sat, 3w b/4, even-5
1 Aug 26	8M1	fst ⁷⁹	25	54	1:21	1:47	3	TOMPKINS	54150	2	4 ²	4 ³	2 ¹	1 ²	1 ¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	26	28	26	25	1:47	115	+10.6w	*20	BmrdBlvdBstHvFmtrChv	1st up,ld lane,handy-10
11 July 26	10M1	fst ⁷⁷	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	D-M Pace F-G1	810000	2	3 ²	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	27	27	27	26	1:48	111	+5.8w	*30	BmrdBlvdAlPapiGentlmnC	Brshld b/4, 12, gamely-10
4 July 26	7M1	fst ⁸⁵	27	53	1:21	1:47	3	M Pace E	50000	3	4 ²	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	27	26	27	26	1:47	115	+4.5w	*30	BmrdBlvdSwtLnVnL	Brshld pst 1/2, handy-10
13 Jun 26	11Wbs	fst ⁷⁷	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	NA CUP-G1	715500	10	5 ³	4 ³	2 ¹	2 ¹	2 ¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	26	28	26	26	1:48	117	+10.3w	6.80	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd Bngls	Tok, chal, gd try-10
6 Jun 26	9Wbs	fst ⁶⁸	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	NA CUP	36000	8	5 ⁷	5 ³	3 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	27	24	26	24	1:48	115	+7.5w	6.00	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd BeauJngls	Tok, cov, try-8
30 May 26	5Wbs	fst ⁵⁹	26	54	1:21	1:48	1	SOMEBOCH-G3	101160	6	5 ⁷	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ³	1 ³	JaBartitt	AnHarris	26	28	26	26	1:48	113	+8.5w	*20	BmrdBlvdSwtLnVnL	Tok, brsh, handy-10
15 May 26	5M1	fst ⁶⁷	28	56	1:23	1:50	3	Qua	36935	6	4 ³	4 ³	4 ²	5 ²	5 ¹	DeDunn	AnHarris	28	27	27	27	1:50	103	+5.6w	*80	Apoclypsb Suprthv SwtSpncr	Cvr In, little-7

b c 3, by Downbytheseaside, Alexis Faith by American Ideal
Punisher 11 Stable LLC, Freehold, NJ
Last 5 Sts - \$673,240
1:47.3 M1
26 PcD 0 0 0 0 -26 Tot 8 5 2 1 \$745,665
25 PcD 0 0 0 0 -25 Tot 10 7 2 0 \$399,397
24 PcD 0 0 0 0 -Life 18 12 4 2 \$1,135,092

3 AL PAPI

31:47.2 (5/8) \$59,871

3-1 Y. Gingras 181-200-194-164 (169)

25 July 26		16Mw	fst ⁸⁰	263	542	1:20	1:48	ADIOS	420500	4	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	Br - Burke Rog Stb, PA; J&T Silva - Purnell & Libby, FL	YaGingras	RoBurke	26	27	26	27	1:48	119		*90	AlPapi Meillio OdsMmMba	Spd, stepply In, brave-9
18 July 26		7Mw	fst ⁸¹	253	541	1:20	1:47	ADIOS	25000	3	3 ²	3 ²	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	YaGingras	RoBurke	26	28	26	26	1:47	121		*90	AlPapi Meillio SwtLnVnL	Wait, pounce, easy-8	
11 July 26		10M1	fst ⁷⁷	263	542	1:21	1:48	D-M Pace	810000	8	7 ⁴	5 ³	4 ¹	3 ¹	2 ¹	YaGingras	RoBurke	27	27	27	26	1:48	113	+5.8w	14.50	BmrdBlvdAlPapiGentlmnC	2w, 2nd ov, In pace-10	
26 Jun 26		8YR	fst ⁸²	281	571	1:26	2:21	MGM	200000	3	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	2 ¹	YaGingras	RoBurke	28	29	29	27	2:21		+7.4w	1.30	FragmentAlPapiMightyMat	11Ld, game, ovn, late-7	
13 Jun 26		11Wbs	fst ⁷⁷	261	541	1:21	1:48	NA CUP	715500	8	2 ¹	2 ¹	3 ¹	4 ²	4 ¹	YaGingras	RoBurke	26	28	27	27	1:48	114	+10.3w	42.60	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd BeauJngls	Yd, pkt, ltrng-10	
6 Jun 26		7Wbs	fst ⁶⁸	263	541	1:20	1:48	NA CUP	36000	5	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	2 ¹	2 ¹	YaGingras	RoBurke	26	27	26	27	1:48	113	+7.5w	2.00	SwtLnVnL AlPapi AzraelBic	Gave way, 2nd best-8	
24 May 26		14PhIA	fst ⁶¹	272	561	1:23	1:50	PASS	37335	6	5 ⁶	5 ³	5 ³	3 ²	3 ¹	YaGingras	RoBurke	28	28	26	26	1:50	103	+5.5w	2.40	PapRickSnekSnyk AlPapi	Cvr In, little-7	
16 May 26		6PcD	fst ⁶⁰	262	561	1:23	1:50	Qua	36935	6	4 ³	4 ³	4 ²	5 ²	5 ¹	TTetrick	RoBurke	27	29	26	27	1:50	100	+5.6w	*80	Apoclypsb Suprthv SwtSpncr	Cvr In, little-7	

b c 3, by Papi Rob Hanover, Baron Remy by Yankee Cruiser
Burke Rog Stb, PA; J&T Silva - Purnell & Libby, FL; Weaver Bruscem, PA
Last 5 Sts - \$532,490
1:47.2 M1w 5/8
26 PcD 1 0 0 0 \$1847 26 Tot 9 2 3 2 \$538,943
25 PcD 2 1 1 0 \$37,566 25 Tot 11 4 4 2 \$403,102
24 PcD 0 0 0 0 -Life 20 6 7 4 \$941,945

4 ODDS ON MR MAMBA (L)

21:47.4 (7/8) \$75,031

5-1 Ja. Macdonald 1171-224-195-140 (191)

J-1 P. de Macdonald 17/12/22-19/14 (191)							
8 Aug 26	3M1	fst ⁹¹	27	:54	1:21	1:47	D-Car
25 July 26	16Mw	fst ⁸⁰	26	:54	1:20	1:48	ADIOS
18 July 26	6Mw	fst ⁸¹	26	:54	1:21	1:49	ADIOS
11 July 26	5HoP	fst ⁷⁵	28	:57	1:25	1:51	Qua
26 Jun 26	10HoP	stly ⁶⁸	26	:54	1:22	1:48	D-ISS
13 Jun 26	11Wbs	fst ⁷⁷	26	:54	1:21	1:48	NA C
6 Jun 26	9Wbs	fst ⁶⁸	26	:54	1:21	1:48	NA C
25 May 26	15HoP	fst ⁶¹	26	:54	1:22	1:49	D-ISS

b c 3, by Odds On Equuleus, Honky Tonk Woman by Western Ideal
Odds On Racing, Boca Raton, FL
Last 5 Sts - \$456,970
1:48.1 Wbs 7/8
26 PcD 0 0 0 0 -26 Tot 7 4 0 2 \$525,220
25 PcD 0 0 0 0 -25 Tot 8 7 0 0 \$314,405
24 PcD 0 0 0 0 -Life 15 11 0 2 \$839,625

5 BEAU JANGLES

21:48.3 (7/8) \$24,508 SHS-HBG \$65,000

10-1 T. McCarthy 642-103-75-98 (160)

15 Aug 26	9Wbs	fst ⁷¹	27	55	1:22	1:48	NW22500LAC	23760	9	6 ³	6 ⁶	4 ³	4 ³	4 ³	Br - Tara Hills Stud LTD, Port Perry, ON	ToMcCarthy	JaMoore	28	28	26	26	1:49	110	+10.6w	*20	ClojchHvVesmentNayeyCptnD	Tok, cvr, no gain-10
3 Aug 26	10GRv	fst ²³	25	52	1:20	1:48	Onss-gl	150000	6	4 ²	1 ¹	4 ¹	4 ⁸	6 ⁴	BCMcClure	JaMoore	26	26	28	30	1:51	111		*140	RolndRoktlan BrshldHv OddsOnBltrg	-8	
24 July 26	4Wbs	fst ⁶⁹	26	54	1:22	1:50	Qua	98000	2	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	BCMcClure	JaMoore	26	27	27	27	1:50			nb	BeauJngls OnssStrn	-2	
27 Jun 26	7Wbs	fst ⁷¹	25	53	1:21	1:48	Onss-gl	98000	3	4 ⁵	1 ¹	2 ¹	3 ²	5 ²	BCMcClure	JaMoore	26	26	27	27	1:49	113	+11.5w	*10	BordnMcRednRomWntst	Long move, prs, fold-7	
13 Jun 26	11Wbs	fst ⁷⁷	26	54	1:21	1:48	NA CUP-G1	715500	5	4 ³	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	BCMcClure	JaMoore	26	27	27	27	1:48	114	+10.3w	*70	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd Bngls	Pkd, press, wknd-10	
6 Jun 26	9Wbs	fst ⁶⁸	26	54	1:21	1:48	NA CUP	36000	7	4 ³	3 ¹	2 ¹	3 ¹	3 ¹	BCMcClure	JaMoore	27	27	26	27	1:48	116	+7.5w	*40	OdsMmMba BmrdBlvd BeauJngls	Tok, chal, ltrng-8	
23 May 26	7Wbs	gd ⁴⁴	25	55	1:24	1:50	Onss-gl	100800	8	3 ³	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ²	1 ²	BCMcClure	JaMoore	26										
16 May 26	7Wbs	fst ⁶⁴	26	55	1:23	1:49	ON CUP	100000	7	4 ³	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	1 ¹	BCMcClure	JaMoore	26										

Meadowlands handicapping contest this Saturday

The Meadowlands Monthly Handicapping Contest sports a serious pot of gold at the end of an 11-month rainbow, and three of the contest's regular players are out to improve their chances of hitting big, as in 10 times big.

The way the competition works, the top two finishers from each monthly \$1,000 contest earn an entry in the \$10,000 final that takes place on Dec. 12, and with the first seven (of 11) legs complete, there are a trio of handicappers who already have two entries in the big-money finale.

Stefan Ferrara, John Skladany and Patrick O'Malley will all be seeking a third entry into the late fall showdown when Leg 8 of the MMHC takes place Saturday (Aug. 22) night.

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 win some cash (on a \$500-\$250-\$150-\$100 basis), but only the top two get a ticket to go for the big green.

"I love playing in handicapping contests. I remember when the Meadowlands would host the World Harness Handicapping Championship every April," said O'Malley, 62, who lives in Westbury, NY. "Players would come from all over the country to play. After COVID, the contest just couldn't get the same volume of players. I was very excited when the Meadowlands decided to host this contest and put up the prize money."

"It really doesn't make sense for anyone in attendance at the track not to play. It's free money. It's the same as going to the teller and buying a \$100 voucher. If you hit something big, you can win some of the contest money. I love the strategy of the contest. I know a lot of the other players, so there are some bragging rights and trash talking involved. That makes it that much more fun."

"Since the beginning of the year, I was trying to sweep the board and have every entry into the final. That obviously hasn't worked out," said Ferrara, 53, of Westchester, NY with a laugh. "But, in all seriousness, I'm going give it my all to get a third or fourth entry into the final. I'm a Pick-4, 5 and 6 player. I need as many options as possible to make these plays."

"As far as what I like about these contests are, the simple answer is everything. [Big M Director of Marketing and Events] Rachel [Ryan] and the powers that be have done an excellent job evolving in these contests. Just a couple of years ago, you were only allowed to make win-place-show wagers. I hated that because it didn't fit what I liked to do. Now, you can play any single wager you want. It truly is a great contest and I, for one, love coming out to The Meadowlands to compete in it."

Thus far this year, 14 entries have been earned for the year-end competition, those handicappers – with their contest totals – are:

- January: Del Kern (\$934.01) and Ferrara (\$840.76)
- February: Robert Glaser (\$592.50) and Emile Issa (\$500)
- March: Sean Loebs (\$1,170.06) and O'Malley (\$832)
- April: O'Malley (\$554) and Ferrara (\$380.20)
- May: Skladany (\$1,031.60) and James Molina (\$800)
- June: Rodney Duncan (\$822.20) and Skladany (\$497.28)
- July: Jim Sidor (\$1,192.10) and Russ Slader (\$750)

2026 contest schedule:

- 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 6:20 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 Dec. 12 (22 total players). First prize in the final is \$5,000.

To register for the competition, go [here](https://www.meadowlands.com/harness).

-edited release (Dave Little for Meadowlands)

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, AUGUST 20

RACE 2

(1) BACCHUS BLUE CHIP enters with back-to-back Excelsior Series wins and moves in from the six-hole in those triumphs to the pole tonight.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

RACE 5

(6) MERICANA HANOVER didn't pull to the outside on the backstretch and couldn't find room until it was too late. A better trip gets her the win.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 11

(1) PAPI'S CRUSH finished a good second against TrackMaster 74.5 or Less rivals last Saturday and now drops back to the level where she won handily on 7-31.

-Reinhart



SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

RACE 3

(3) AROLNDAHAYBLUECHIP won the last time he raced in this class on July 25 and moves in on the gate off a series of outside or mid-pack posts.

-Reinhart



RACE 3

(5) SOUTHWIND FARGO rolled to a career best 1:51 win in his lone start with Gingras in the bike.

-Derick Gwerner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Pocono Analysis

[Saturday](#)

Mohawk Park Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Saturday](#)

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

GOLD CUP AND SAUCER 67 FINAL DRAWN

The field is set for the 67th running of the \$100,000 Gold Cup and Saucer, presented by Atlantic Lottery, Saturday evening at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park.

The nine finalists received their post positions Tuesday evening in a draw conducted during the live race program officiated by the Maritime Province's Harness Racing Commission, with Sugar Man drawing the coveted rail for trainer Mark McKinnon. Claire Campbell will serve as the Gold Cup and Saucer Ambassador for the Trial 1 winner.

Jordy N drew post 2 for trainer Jacques Dupont with Cassidy MacKinnon as ambassador while Timeisonmyside landed post 3 for trainer Jamie Smith and ambassador Madison Miller.

Trumpster Blues will start from post 4 for trainer Jeff Holmes with Alivia Carver serving as ambassador. Ammo drew the middle of the gate in post 5 for trainer Ron Matheson and ambassador Riah Matheson.

Dupont trainee Helluva N, who won Trial 2, will leave from post 6 with Sage MacDonald as ambassador while Brue Hanover drew post 7 for trainer Ashley Gamester and ambassador Lilly Murphy.

Defending Gold Cup and Saucer champion Miki Shan N, a winner in Trial 3, will attempt to retain his title from post 8 for trainer Chris MacKay with Ella Clow serving as ambassador. Fifth And Five completes the field from post 9 for trainer McKinnon and ambassador Jessica Thibreau.

The \$100,000 Gold Cup and Saucer will headline the Saturday evening program and bring Old Home Week 2026 to a close.

Post – Horse – Driver – Trainer – Ambassador – Morning Line

1 – Sugar Man – D.McNair – M.McKinnon – Claire Campbell – 5-2

2 – Jordy N – JD Ryan – J.Dupont – Cassidy MacKinnon – 7-2

3 – Timeisonmyside – A.MacDonald – J.Smith – Madison Miller – 6-1

4 – Trumpster Blues – B.Sweet – J.Holmes – Alivia Carver – 15-1

5 – Ammo – Ma.Campbell – R.Matheson – Riah Matheson – 12-1

6 – Helluva N – L.Roy – J.Dupont – Sage MacDonald – 4-1

7 – Brue Hanover – J.Hughes – A.Gamester – Lilly Murphy – 10-1

8 – Miki Shan N – C.Macpherson – C.MacKay – Ella Clow – 8-1

9 – Fifth And Five – J.Jamieson – M.McKinnon – Jessica Thibreau – 3-1

-release (Nicholas Oakes for Red Shores)

CAPTAIN NAUGHTY, BAHAMA MOMMA DELIVER IN KYSS

Captain Naughty strolled and Bahama Momma pounced to win their respective \$80,000 second-preliminary divisions of the Kentucky Championship Series on Wednesday afternoon (Aug. 19) at The Red Mile.

[READ MORE](#)

ANNIE O, HUNTSVILLES HONEY VANQUISH NY SIRE STAKES ADVERSARIES

Nine Empire State-sired 2-year-old pacing fillies went postward in two divisions of the New York Sire Stakes at Batavia Downs on Wednesday (Aug. 19) night, vying for their share of the available \$104,000 in purses. And both winners were sired by the state's premier pacing stallion, Huntsville.

[READ MORE](#)

NOBODY KOWS IT SETS STAKES AND TRACK RECORD AT OCEAN DOWNS

The first leg of the 2026 Maryland Sire Stakes for 2-year-old fillies got underway Wednesday night at Ocean Downs, and it did not take long for the newest generation of Maryland Sire Stakes stars to make their mark.

In the opening race of the night, Nobody Knows It delivered a performance that will be remembered.

[READ MORE](#)

TEMPTING FLAMES TIES WORLD RECORD IN OHIO SIRE STAKES BLOWOUT

Tempting Flames set a new track record Tuesday (August 18) at Eldorado Scioto Downs while equaling the world record on a five-eighths-mile track for a 2-year-old filly pacer. Racing in the second of two \$75,000 Ohio Sires Stakes splits, Tempting Flames hit the wire in 1:50, tying the divisional standard set by Beach Cowgirl in 2022.

[READ MORE](#)

MADAM CHEVAL, SEA BISTRO HANOVER HIT PAYDIRT IN KYSS

Madam Cheval shipped from a defeat in the Grade 1 Hambletonian Oaks and ripped off the speed for a 1:51 victory in the \$80,000 Kentucky Championship Series second preliminary for 3-year-old trotting fillies, while Sea Bistro Hanover torched the track earlier in the card with a 1:47 1/5 mile in the \$80,000 second preliminary dash for sophomore pacing glamor boys.

[READ MORE](#)

SEVEN THIRDS, KOUNTRY PLUNGE COME OUT ON TOP IN NYSS

Ake Svanstedt catch-drove Seven Thirds and then piloted his own trainee Kountry Plunge to triumphs in two New York Sire Stakes races for 2-year-old filly trotters on Tuesday at Saratoga Casino Hotel.

[READ MORE](#)

WALL OF FAME, SEASIDE UBEAUT RULE IN KY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

The Red Mile had a 16-race pari-mutuel card on Monday led by a Kentucky Championship Series tilt for 2-year-old filly trotters, and also completed the stakes from the early cancellation on Sunday night, including a Kentucky Championship Series race for rookie pacing fillies.

[READ MORE](#)

SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS DUE MONDAY FOR CPD & MAPLE LEAF TROT

Woodbine Mohawk Park's Race Office would like to remind owners and trainers that supplements to the upcoming Canadian Pacing Derby and Maple Leaf Trot are due by this Monday, August 24 at noon.

Horses may be supplemented to the Canadian Pacing Derby and Maple Leaf Trot by paying a supplemental fee of \$40,000 (Canadian).

Supplemental fees and declarations must be submitted to the Woodbine Mohawk Park Race Office staff no later than 12 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026. Supplemental fees must be paid by certified cheque, bank draft or money order, and made payable to Woodbine Entertainment.

Anyone wishing to supplement should contact Dana Keyes in the Woodbine Mohawk Park Race Office this week - dkeyes@woodbine.com.

-release (Woodbine)

DELAWARE COUNTY FAIR ANNOUNCES STAKE SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Delaware (OH) County Fair has announced adjustments to two Buckeye Claiming Series races originally scheduled for the 2026 meet. The updated race dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 – Post Time 1:00 PM

Buckeye Claiming Series - 3-Year-Old Filly Pace (Event #46)

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 – Post Time 11:00 AM

Buckeye Claiming Series – 3-Year-Old Colt Pace (Event #44)

All entries close at 10:00 AM, three (3) days before scheduled race and all Buckeye Claiming Series have a \$150 starting fee.

The entire 2026 race schedule can be found [here](#).

Questions should be directed to Tom Wright at (614) 847-1948.

-release (Delaware County Fair)

STANDARD BRED GREAT VARENNE PASSES AT AGE 31

Varenne, one of harness racing's greatest trotters of all time, has passed away at the age of 31, according to international media reports.

Named Horse of the Year in three different countries and inducted into the U.S. Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2010, the stallion passed away from a heart attack overnight between Monday, Aug. 17 and Tuesday, Aug. 18 at Dario De Angelis's LJ Stud Farm in Eboli, Italy.

[READ MORE ON STANDARD BRED CANADA](#)