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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

OWNERS WANTED!



Owner Dana Parham has a fresh idea for attracting new people to harness racing



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner
[@harnesseveguy](https://twitter.com/harnesseveguy)

There are a number of elements which provide the lifeblood that keeps the industry alive and healthy. Certainly near the top of the list are people who spend their money at the sales and purchase horses publicly and privately in all denominations.

Without owners there simply is no harness racing and as a sport we probably don't do enough to bring in new people. The best asset over the last decade in terms of increasing the visibility of the sport to new people has been fractional ownership. Groups like The Stable, VIP Internet Stable, Landmark Stable, Go For Glory Stable and others have done an outstanding job of getting people with no connection to the sport involved in the industry at some level, but there are obstacles along the way which don't exactly make it easy to participate in the game.

The biggest issues revolve around licensing and

unknown costs. Jurisdictions don't make it easy to get licensed. Between fingerprinting, fees and other red tape, it can be enough to convince anyone to stay on the sidelines. Then there are the separate vet bills and unforeseen costs that can take any newbie over the edge. That is where owner Dana Parham thinks he has built a better system which will create the optimal ownership experience.

"I give [The Stable] all the credit in the world for bringing in new owners and trying new things. They've stated 100 times that it is for entertainment purposes – for fun; watch horses train and race – and that is about what you get," said Parham, who feels strongly that the main decision makers need to have a stake in the horse to ensure that every choice during the course of the year is the best one for all owners. "I buy my horses for Dana, for Odds On Racing. I don't need anyone's financing and I'm not looking to sell 100%."

"I don't think you can sell more than 50% and keep it legit."

Parham's idea is simple and something even a casual sports bettor could grasp. Rather than owners getting licensed and buying a percentage of a horse, he suggests current owners should sell

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shares based on potential yearly earnings. Here is how it works:

- 1) An owner buys yearlings or other horses and waits for them to qualify.
- 2) The owner puts a scaled value on what they feel the horse can earn that year.
- 3) Those interested can buy shares from that person based on value.

For each horse Parham places a floor and ceiling for what he expects them to earn during the year. The cost per share is one percent of the ceiling. If the horse fails to reach the floor, the person gets their initial investment back plus 10 percent. If the horse passes the floor threshold, the person earns a percentage of what the horse earned based on how many shares they purchased.

"It's pretty simple. These are the prices. If you don't like them, don't buy," said Parham.

Let's provide a couple of examples based on what Parham offered to three of his friends this year:

Odds On Mr Mamba's floor was \$500,000 and his ceiling was \$1,000,000. The cost per share was \$10,000. So far he has earned \$525,220, so the current payout is \$5,252.20 per share. If he goes on to win another \$500,000 this year, the payout would be \$10,252.20, a profit of \$252.20.

On the other end of the spectrum is 2-year-old Odds On Buyback. Her range was \$75,000 to \$225,000 for 2026. So far she has made just \$5,000. If she fails to reach \$75,000 for the year, a share would be worth \$2,475, a \$225 profit despite poor performance.

"Obviously I want all of the horses to reach the minimum so it doesn't cost me money," said Parham, who stressed it was also important to protect new owners by making sure they can't lose too much money.

A key point to the plan is that people are not buying into the horse and thus no licensing is required. They are in essence making an educated guess on what a horse will earn, with a fixed downside and potentially unlimited upside if correct.

There are also no bills to pay during the year. There are no stakes payments. There are no additional costs. If Parham elects to supplement to the Adios and Cane Pace like he did with Odds On Mr Mamba, it costs you nothing. If he decides to sell an underperforming horse, your investment remains intact regardless of who the new owner and trainer become.

"I sold off a couple of percent of the earnings to a few guys that wanted to have some fun," said Parham of the arrangement he currently has with a few people. "There are other bonuses. I send everyone a win photo of every horse and we'll probably meet up at Scioto Downs one night and have a beer. We did it last year for fun."

According to Parham he lost about \$2,600 in 2025 via the arrangement, but it isn't about the money for him. It is about exposing new people to the sport and providing them with the best experience possible.

"I can't tell you the fun they had. They had just as much fun as I had as an owner and they didn't have to deal with one-one-hundredth of the bullshit. They don't have to get licensed. They don't have any bills. There are no disputes," said Parham. "At the end of the day I don't need the one percent. It's more about fun. My friend Ray must've called me 10 times last year asking if I was going to do it again."

When asked if he would consider opening up the offering to a wider audience, Parham was completely on board with the idea despite the extra work it would mean on his part. He downplayed the task, saying it would just mean adding a column on an excel sheet and sending a check at the end of the year.

When it comes to percentages, he would consider offering anywhere from 30 to 50 percent. The numbers are designed to keep the system honest and make sure he is invested in seeing the best outcome possible. For him there is also the safeguard of having the money on hand.

"If I can't make 15% with your money I should quit," joked Parham. "I bought a colt two years ago and I priced him at a max of about \$150,000. Virgil Morgan Jr. was training and he loved the horse. He asked me, 'what are you going to do when this horse makes a million dollars this year?' I said I'm going to have to pay the people who bought one percent each \$10,000. He said 'you collected \$1,500 but will have to pay out \$10,000.' I replied, yeah, that's not a real problem because the horse is now worth \$2 million. I can live with paying a few of my friends \$8,500."



COURTESY DANA PARHAM

Dana Parham owns about 150 horses via his Odds On Racing stable name.

While he only puts prices on the better horses, the youthful 75-year-old said he currently owns about 150 horses. That number will shrink as he sells about 40 leading up to the Harrisburg sale. Then it will grow again due to new purchases and a fresh crop of babies.

"I just bought two broodmares last week. I'm thinking of breeding horses 10 to 15 years from now," said Parham.

Whether other owners will embrace Parham's idea remains to be seen, but it has merit. Even if it doesn't improve the bottom line for existing owners personally, there is the potential to introduce many new people to the sport and perhaps improve the long-term health of harness racing.

As for the uninitiated to the Standardbred game who seek the thrill of ownership but don't know where to start or are wary of the hassles that may come with it, while technically Parham's system won't grant you ownership and only provides you the right to a horse's earnings, isn't watching and rooting – along with counting the money – the

best part of the ownership experience?

TOP 10 OWNERS (2026)

Name	Horses	Starters	Starts	Winners	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
Burke Racing Stable LLC	354	354	3,411	231	634	556	439	\$14,881,103
Weaver Brusceci LLC	297	297	2,934	196	556	470	383	\$12,632,023
Pollack Racing LLC	120	120	1,461	96	264	239	207	\$4,330,328
KNOX SERVICES INC	102	102	865	56	135	129	112	\$3,817,613
William Hartt	142	142	1,088	101	249	179	145	\$3,147,874
Phillip Collura	57	57	551	37	100	100	83	\$2,863,920
Lawrence Karr	60	60	560	36	82	89	81	\$2,600,578
Odds On Racing	59	59	418	36	94	71	56	\$2,361,648
Morrison Racing Stables	71	71	738	48	126	131	108	\$2,253,374
Frank Baldachino	49	49	417	33	85	73	58	\$2,186,872

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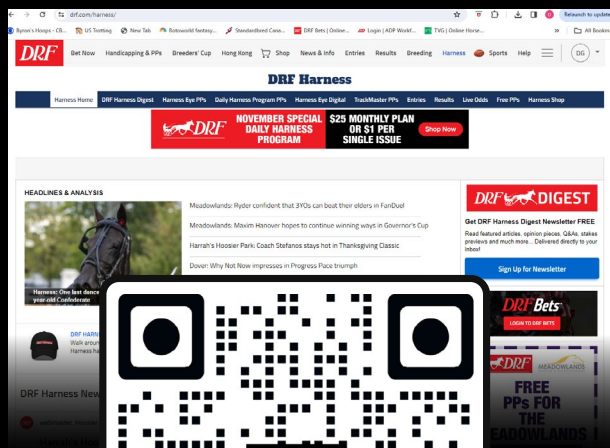
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For Once Inmy Life finally got a winning trip for Team Stratton



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman X [BergmanJay](#)

In reviewing the autopsy of what happened to the 3-10 favored Dandy Ideal in the Grade 3 \$100,000 Always B Miki Invitational, the concluding race on Saturday's (August 22) Sun Stakes card, handicappers had to be puzzled how the 4-year-old that was dominant in the Dan Patch at Hoosier Park just eight days earlier, succumbed in the stretch at his home track. For it was Dandy Ideal a year earlier to the date that took on and beat the best in the sophomore division in the Max Hempt Memorial.

Even trainer Cory Stratton, who sent out the upset winner For Once Inmy Life, thought any chance of winning the race was over when the field reached the half.

"When they got to the half in 55 2/5 I was thinking that maybe we'll get second but most likely a first-over horse will out-position us in the stretch," Stratton said on Monday following the win.

In as much as gamblers need to review the decisions they make with information garnered from the last few weeks of racing, trainers must think long term and anticipate the ups and downs along the way. Dandy Ideal's demise in the Always B Miki could have been a result of many factors that occurred in the aftermath of his Dan Patch triumph. Certainly, shipping to and from Hoosier Park could impact the horse's regular routine. Then again, Dandy Ideal may have spent too much energy when he went from sixth to first in the second quarter of the Dan Patch, hitting the half in a blistering 52 3/5. That he paced to a personal-best 1:47 2/5 may in fact have taken a bit too much out of him.

For Stratton, the benefit of racing luck was sweet, and certainly For Once Inmy Life was worthy of a break or two considering that the 6-year-old son of Downbytheseaside hasn't had much luck of his own.

"I was happy when he drew the rail," said Stratton. "He'd been drawing outside and I knew with his speed we were going to get a good trip."

While those wagering on the races need to make decisions based on the last two weeks of a horse's performance, Stratton as the conditioner needs to assess his horses and figure where to have them entered or when to race or rest them. In the case of For Once Inmy Life, the conclusion to his 2025 campaign came following just his twelfth race of the year.

"We put him in the Borgata Series and he's a big horse," said Stratton. "I think the hard racing on the half-mile track took something out of him."

Though expectations were obviously high and For Once Inmy Life had won half of his 12 starts, Stratton thought it best to put the horse on the shelf and regroup. His early success in the Borgata could not be sustained and by the rich final For Once Inmy Life's form had gone into reverse. "There was nothing wrong with him," said Stratton clarifying that no major injury led to the decision. "He just needed some time."

Stratton gave For Once In My Life the rest of 2025 off following a July start and was more than pleased as he trained the horse for the 2026 season. "Training him back I could see he was much better," said Stratton. "I told the owners to make at least the first stakes payments and then we would race him and see how far we could go."

Unlike in 2025, Stratton stayed off the half-mile track with For Once Inmy Life and allowed the horse to work back in shape and not only improve his form but get his confidence back. With the foundation built in January and February, For Once Inmy Life came to life with four straight wins in March and April, exhibiting the form that Stratton and ownership had planned for.

Bad draws would make For Once Inmy Life an outsider on the tote board as well when he began racing against better stock, but the gelding was still able to overcome the odds and race at a high level, finishing a close third in the Auger at Harrah's Philadelphia despite starting from post seven. From post six in the Haughton on July 11 at The Meadows-lands, he was again a solid third after leaving in a 25 1/5 opening quarter.

On Hambletonian Day, For For Once Inmy Life drew post nine in a division of the Sam McKee Memorial but overcame that in an instant with 26-second blast to the top. He would finish fourth behind Captain Albano in that contest.



VIDEO SCREENSHOT

Driver Jordan Stratton was captivated by his nephew Jackson during a winner's circle interview at Pocono Downs.

"He was really good," said Stratton of the McKee effort. "He just got into a bad spot and couldn't get room in time."

"He's only got a few more races on his stakes schedule," said Stratton. "He'll go in the Canadian Pacing Derby (eliminations Saturday August 29) and hopefully the final, and then he's got the Ohio Fair Stakes at Delaware (County Fair). We didn't make him eligible to the Breeders Crown."

Now a winner nine times in 20 starts this year with \$232K in the bank following his Always B Miki victory, For Once Inmy Life is an example of letting nature play a role in a horse's recovery from the racing wars. It's easy for ownership to lose focus when a horse's past performance goes from good to bad. That may have been a reason that For Once In Mylife, a solid stakes performer as a 2 and 3-year-old, came available to Stratton and ownership late in his 4-year-old campaign in 2024.

"We were able to buy him from Ongait.com for just \$38,000," said Stratton.

The ownership saw the horse earn out before the end of the year.

While Cory's brother Jordan was in the bike at Pocono on Saturday, the trainer was at Tioga Downs where he would start the Ohio Sire Stakes 3-year-old pacing filly Vanna By The River.

"She needed a start between stakes races," said Stratton, who indicated the daughter of Downbytheseaside would race Friday (August 28) at Scioto Downs.

With two leg victories, Vanna By The River has already secured a spot in the \$300,000 final on September 12 also at Scioto Downs.

Jordan was interviewed following the Always B Miki triumph by Jessica Otten, but he was not the star of the show as Jaxson, Cory and wife Victoria's 9-month old son, stole the show, fiddling with the microphone as his uncle fielded the questions. Young Jaxson may be the one giving the interviews in the near future with his dad's stable now ranked seventh in the nation and on the rise.

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DRF Harness



The far-reaching branches of the Brown family tree



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

There have been many family dynasties in Ohio harness racing. The Millers, the Irvines, the Nobles. That names just a few. But nobody in the Buckeye State has a family tree with roots as deep and branches as long as the family of trainer Brian Brown (*full disclosure: Brown trains one colt for me*).

Brown, a native of Upper Sandusky, Ohio (which is actually below Sandusky, Ohio), is well-known in the sport. Among the top horses he has conditioned are Downbytheseaside, Fear The Dragon, Workin Ona Mystery, Lost For Words and Breeders Crown champ Colors A Virgin, who really thrust him into the spotlight. He conditioned Won The West and Jug Champ Limelight Beach before sending them to the Burke Brigade, and he broke and trained the great Confederate before he was sent out east to race. In nearly 10,000 training starts, Brown has over 2,000 wins and nearly 5,000 on the board finishes, with earnings of \$38,000,000.

So let's have a look at that family tree. The Brown family's first ties to the business are through his grandparents on both sides. Brian started in the business with his dad Robert H Brown and uncle William "Bill" Brown.

"My dad and uncle taught me all the basics and I started from the bottom. I cleaned stalls for a long time before I ever got to jog a horse, and even longer before I trained," said Brian.

Robert H Brown's sister Shirley was the mother of Carol Winters, who is married to trainer Mark Winters. Carol is Devan Miller's mother. The pedigree gets more interesting when, after training mostly colts with

his dad and uncle, Brian went to work for Ivan Sugg. He calls Sugg his "greatest teacher" and was pretty much a part of the Sugg family, which included Ivan and Patty's sons, Kurt and Duke, both highly successful trainer/drivers (we could probably do a family tree on them as well).

Brian's brothers Pat and John both trained and drove a bit.

But there are two halves to every pedigree, the sire and the dam. The Grand Dam of the family is Brown's wife Jenny (nee Williams). Jenny runs the back office of the operation, doing all the billing and staking, so she is a major component of the stable's success, even without genetic attachment. And her side of the family is where the family tree's branches really start to spread (*full disclosure: I have owned horses in partnership with Jenny in the past*).

One of Jenny's sisters is Stacy Beckley. Her husband Bill campaigned horses on the tough Chicago circuit back when there was a tough Chicago circuit.

Her other sister is Amy Hollar, who has been profiled on these pages in the past. Not only is she the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association rep to Northfield Park, but she is married to trainer Calvin "Buck" Hollar. Buck and Amy were married in the winner's circle at Raceway Park in Toledo, Ohio. Buck has nearly 1,200 training wins to his credit. The Hollar's daughter Toni Dale is married to trainer Todd Luther, so that ties the family to both Todd and Prolific Equine's Greg Luther, at least tangentially.

But wait, there's more! Aunt Melinda Bailey (Bill Irvine) and cousin Aliza Cox (wife of Scott Cox) are also involved in the business. And there is "niece-in-law" Taylor Russell.

But the key branches that will guarantee the future of the Brown family in the industry are Brian's son Beau (and wife Teesha) and daughter Jessica McCown (husband driver Cam McCown).

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7](#)

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JENNIFER BROWN (FACEBOOK)

(left to right) Brian Brown, Cam McCown, Beau Brown, (front) Jessica McCown and Teesha Brown.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

(Another disclosure: Jess and Cam have trained several horses for me. Actually, with all these disclosures, even I might be an honorary Brown family member).

But seriously, as Brian said a couple years back, "In the future, "I'd like to see a smaller stable entirely focused on quality, with my son Beau and daughter Jessica in charge and me in the background as somewhat of a senior consultant."

Jessica, 35, has over \$4,000,000 in training purse earnings, garnering nearly 400 wins. When Brian wintered in Florida, Jess would train several for Brian's owners back at home at the Delaware Fairgrounds, where Brian now trains year-round. She actually is just ahead of her dad in the Scioto Downs trainer standings this year. After having her best year last year, amassing 82 wins and having her first million-dollar season, she is well on her way to topping that total this year. In fact, she is currently fifth in the Scioto conditioner rankings.

Jessica's husband Cam McCown, 38, a former rodeo rider, has over 1,200 career driving wins and career earnings of \$11.5 million. He has been over \$1,000,000 in earnings in all but one year since 2018. That was the Covid year of 2020, when his horses earned "just" \$933,000. Currently he ranks eighth in the strong Scioto Downs drivers' colony.

Beau Brown, 33, has trained mostly for his dad's stable but also trains a small stable of his own and is looking to expand. In recent months he has picked up a number of catch drives, including for his sister, for leading Ohio fair trainer Hank LeVan, and for his dad. He has 141 driving wins and nearly a million in purses thus far, while his trainees have been to the winner's circle 64 times, banking just under \$600,000.

There are several grandkids too, and while they are too young to help in the barn yet, it's a good bet that we will see them working the backstretch as they get older. And, if Brian does decide to slow down further (at his peak he was training over 60 horses; now he had about 30 or so), the Brown stable will be in good hands and the future will be bright.

That's it for now. Go cash, hopefully on a Brown or McCown trainee.



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'Ocean' looks to take the Wellwood final field by 'Storm'

By Jay Bergman

For young trainer Cam Capone the conditions at Woodbine Mohawk Park have been ideal. Last year he brought Madden Oaks to Ontario and the sophomore was dazzling in the North America Cup and fought valiantly but came up a tad short of Louprint's stunning performance. So, when Capone showed up with Ocean Storm for last week's William Wellwood it was worth taking notice. Much like Madden Oaks, Ocean Storm had but one career start, and that was in an Excelsior leg of the New York Sire Stakes at Tioga. Taking on the best in North America in the Wellwood appeared something out of reach.

Ocean Storm, a son of Chapter Seven, stepped his game up in a major way closing stoutly in the final strides and narrowly missed second in the faster of the two C\$30,000 Wellwood eliminations contested on August 21. That put him squarely in the final for Saturday's C\$570,000 Grade 1 Wellwood Memorial, part of a stakes-laden program.

For Capone, the mission last fall was practical. "I was looking for just one trotter," Capone said. "Since we're based in New York, I wanted a horse that could compete on the Sire Stakes and that meant one by Chapter Seven."

Capone knew well that he would not be alone in his quest to find a son or daughter of Chapter Seven given the stallion's enormous popularity and the lure of six-figure prices and beyond.

"I looked through the catalog and didn't go to look at horses early in the sale that I knew would be out of reach," said Capone.

Ocean Storm was HIP number 487 at the Lexington Selected sale and that placement gave Capone the time necessary to inspect the colt. "I must have gone to look at him about 15 times," Capone said, recalling the experience. "I watched his video and I think he must've trotted an eighth in 14 seconds in the field."

The colt was purchased for \$90,000.

Ocean Storm was pointed for the New York Sire Stakes, but his schedule and the stakes schedule did not align. A pair of qualifiers in July and early August resulted in breaks in stride, frustrating considering how well the colt had trained down.

"We had the trotting hobbles on him and we found out he traveled much better without them than with them," said Capone.

Without the hobbles Ocean Storm trotted cleanly through a 1:57 1/5 qualifier at Tioga Downs on August 9 and then made his debut a week

later. The result was an off-the-pace 1:56 3/5 victory with Brett Beckwith guiding him to victory.

"That race wasn't as easy as it looked on paper," said Capone of the race action that forced Beckwith to check Ocean Storm a few times due to traffic concerns before letting him trot on his own to the wire.

James MacDonald picked up the reins and needed only a fifth-place finish in his Wellwood elimination race. MacDonald got away fifth in the early stages as the more seasoned Detonater Hanover and Top Reacher made aggressive moves, exchanging the lead through testy fractions. As that pair dueled through the stretch MacDonald found an opening, angling wide in the stretch and narrowing the gap impressively in the final yards. Given the colt's lack of experience, that move could have been costly, but Ocean Storm kept his stride and finished with power.

MacDonald also piloted Free Scottie for the powerful Melander stable in the other elimination and opted off Capone's charge for the final. The move cleared that path for a new driver and Capone was happy that Yannick Gingras was available.

"I couldn't be happier with the draw and the driver," Capone said, expressing confidence that post six would give his horse and driver the options they need.

Unlike last year's North America Cup, Capone's challenge in the Wellwood will come on multiple fronts, with trainer Melander sending out three of the 10 horses on the starting gate in Saturday's ninth race. Gios Hope (post 3) got things his own way in a 1:54 2/5 victory in his Wellwood trial and Dexter Dunn remains in the bike behind this son of Chapter Seven. Gios Hope has won three of his four career starts. Top Reacher (post 5) made multiple moves for Dunn in the other Wellwood elimination and came up short on the wire trotting a 1:52 3/5 mile in the process. A son of Muscle Hill with a 1:54 mark taken in a Kentucky Championship leg at The Red Mile on August 3, Top Reacher picks up Scott Zeron for the steer. Zeron was behind the 2025 Wellwood victor Ardonne as well.

Free Scottie (post 8) raced far off the action in his elimination and trotted an impressive last quarter for MacDonald, hitting high gear to the tune of 26 4/5 for the final fraction. The Walner-sired colt has yet to win in five career starts.

Dr. Ian Moore has been known for his incredible success with pacers

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but finds himself in an unfamiliar spot on Saturday with Detonater Hanover (post 2), a colt worthy of favoritism in the Wellwood. Detonater Hanover showed high speed leaving and then popped the pocket early for driver Tyler Moore, prevailing following a prolonged stretch duel. A 1:52 3/5 clocking was the fastest of three wins for Detonater Hanover this year, a son of Muscle Mass.

Trainer Luc Blais is always a fixture in major trotting races and he qualified a pair for the final, with Access Now (post 1) and Data Breach (post 7) likely outsiders in the field of 10. Access Now is a \$200,000 Harrisburg purchase and half-brother to Blais' successful Private Access. Data Breach is the fourth foal from Blais' \$1.7 million winner Emoticon Hanover and first colt by Muscle Hill, making him a brother to the \$582K winner Drawn Impression.

No eliminations were required for the Milton Stakes for Open pacing mares, but supplemental entry Francent N will make her Woodbine Mohawk Park debut on the same Saturday night card against many of the Milton horses in a C\$50,000 Open Pace. Pat Lachance trained and drove

the imported mare at Yonkers in her first efforts in North America before sending the mare to Ontario on Wednesday (August 26).

"I don't know if she's in the class with Twin B Joe Fresh," Lachance said. "But she's not going to embarrass herself."

Francent N scored in 1:51 4/5 over the Yonkers half-mile track in an Invitational on August 21 helping ownership make the decision to supplement a little easier. As far as where Francent N will fit against the top mares, Saturday's contest will give fans a first chance to decide, with Twin B Joe Fresh (post 1) and Louies Girl N (post 5) landing inside Francent N from post seven in the nine-mare field carded as race three.

The Saturday program also features a pair of Eternal Camnation races for 2-year-old pacing fillies, two Nassagaweya events for the male rookie pacers, two eliminations for the Canadian Pacing Derby, and the co-featured C\$425,000 Peaceful Way final for 2-year-old filly trotters.

On Friday, a pair of Maple Leaf Trot eliminations will be contested with names like Super Chapter, Lexus Kody and Antognoni in action.

Post time for Friday is 6:30 PM (EDT) and Saturday is 6:45 PM. Saturday's card also features a mandatory payout in the Jackpot Hi-5.

Grant hopes for stakes success at Woodbine Mohawk Park

By Ken Weingartner

Owner Brad Grant will have horses competing in three of the four graded stakes events being held at his home track, Woodbine Mohawk Park in Ontario, on Saturday (Aug. 29), including pre-race favorite Athena's Girl in the C\$425,000 Grade 1 Peaceful Way for 2-year-old female trotters.

Athena's Girl will head to the Peaceful Way final as the 8-5 morning-line choice after winning her elimination last week by 1-1/4 lengths over City Of Light in 1:54. Her time was just one-fifth of a second off the fastest mile by a freshman filly trotter in Canada this season.

Grant owns Athena's Girl on his own but also shares in the ownership of another Peaceful Way finalist – Nevis Peak. She finished fourth in the event's other elimination, which was won by Datapriacy in 1:54 4/5. Datapriacy is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line while Nevis Peak, a daughter of Walner out of 2020 Hambletonian winner Ramona Hill (also co-owned by Grant), is third at 9-2.

In addition to the Peaceful Way, Mohawk hosts the C\$570,000 Grade 1 William Wellwood Memorial for 2-year-old male trotters on Saturday as well as Grade 3 divisions of the Eternal Camnation for 2-year-old female pacers and Nassagaweya for 2-year-old male pacers.

Grant, a resident of Milton, Ontario, owns 3-1 morning-line favorite Money Carlo in the second of the two C\$120,000 Eternal Camnation splits and 6-1 second choice Yes I Am Hanover in the first of the two C\$110,000 Nassagaweya divisions.

"It gives me a reason to go to the track," said Grant, a 2025 inductee into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, with a laugh. "We'll hope for the best."

Grant has never won the Peaceful Way, but Athena's Girl or Nevis Peak could change that. Athena's Girl, trained by Marcus Melander, went off stride in each of her first three races but has won back-to-back starts since then following the addition of trotting hobbles. Last week, she was in fourth place at three-quarters but charged home in :26.4 to earn the victory.

"Marcus said he wanted to put the hobbles on her just to help her a little bit," Grant said. "She's got the talent, she's got the speed, she just had to figure it out. It looks like she has."

"She seemed to be well within herself (in her elimination), but every race is different with 2-year-old trotters."

Athena's Girl is a daughter of Walner-Fashion Athena, and her siblings include stakes-winners Millies Possession, Fashion Green, Fashion Annie, and Practical Man. Grant purchased her for \$300,000 at the 2025 Standardbred Horse Sale.

"She's very richly bred, and being a Walner, you can't go too far wrong," Grant said. "She seems to have a ton of speed. When you watch her races, when she goes forward, she seems to be able to cover ground very quickly. She seems to be the real deal, and hopefully she'll continue to go forward and do great things."

Dexter Dunn will drive Athena's Girl, who leaves from post 6 in the field of 10.

Nevis Peak heads to the Peaceful Way final with two wins and a second in four career races. She won her first two starts, in the New Jersey Sire Stakes Platinum Series, before a runner-up finish behind Wall Of Fame (undefeated in six races this season) in the final.

She will leave from post 1 in the Peaceful Way, with Yannick Gingras driving for trainer Ron Burke.

"I think she's another one that's got all the tools to be a really good one," Grant said. "She's got a big heart, wants to race, it's just going to take time with her to figure it all out, but I think everything is there. Ronnie and Yannick will figure it out."

Grant owns Nevis Peak with Burke Racing Stable, Crawford Farms Racing, and Larry Karr. Grant and Crawford Farms Racing, which shares the breeding credit for Nevis Peak with Hanover Shoe Farms, were among the owners of the filly's mom, Ramona Hill. Nevis Peak was a \$250,000 buy under the name Ronette Hanover at the 2025 Standardbred Horse Sale.

"I'm in with a great group that own her," Grant said. "I've had a number of horses with all of them, and they're just good people to be with. We're looking to have some fun with her. Hopefully, we've got another good one."

He added about the Peaceful Way, "Just to get to the final is always the first step. There are some nice fillies all the way through that field. I think that with the whole group of 2-year-olds this year, on any given day there could be somebody else that steps up. I just kind of really watch my horses, and hopefully they continue to go forward, and we'll hope for the best."

As for Grant's remaining stakes hopefuls, Money Carlo heads to her Eternal Camnation division with three wins and a second in five starts for trainer Ian Moore. The daughter of Bulldog Hanover-Shes Some Treasure will leave from post 8 in a field of eight, with James MacDonald in the sulky.

Yes I Am Hanover enters his Nassagaweya division with one win and a second in five races this season. The son of Bulldog Hanover-Youaremycandygirl finished second to stablemate Atlas Ross (undefeated in four starts this year) in an Ontario Sire Stakes Gold event at Mohawk on Aug. 16. He will leave from post 4 in a field of seven, with Bob McClure driving for trainer Gregg McNair.

Shalom Hanover, unbeaten in four races, is the 1-5 morning-line favorite in the division, with Louis-Philippe Roy driving for trainer Moore.

"(Money Carlo) has done really well; she's just a tough competitor," Grant said. "(Yes I Am Hanover) is just starting to find himself. He raced really big the other night, so we thought we'd give him a shot at this and see if he continues to go forward."

Saturday's card at Mohawk also includes two C\$50,000 eliminations for the Grade 1 Canadian Pacing Derby for older male pacers. Racing begins at 6:45 p.m. (EDT).

Betting Pacer, Hooker Berry & Gio Cash join International Trot

The work of international recruiter Klaus Koch is now complete as Betting Pacer is officially the final horse from Europe that will compete in the MGM Yonkers International Trot on September 12. The 9-year-old with the odd name for a trotter due to pacing pedigree a few generations back, will make her U.S. debut in the Grade 1 event with a \$1,000,000 purse.

Betting Pacer is coming off a victory in the Grade I European Championship for Mares at Solvalla on August 19. It was her fourth win in 12 starts this year for trainer/driver Björn Goop

"I think she's at the peak of her career at the moment," said Goop, who added that the return to racing barefoot has made a big difference. "She raced barefoot as a 4-year-old but she couldn't do it anymore. This year she started racing barefoot again."

Owned by Mbg I Sydost AB, Betting Pacer has won 20 of 88 lifetime starts. The 9-year-old has competed mostly at shorter distances and should be well-suited for the Yonkers surface.

"She took a world record in a long-distance race on a half mile track a couple of years ago. She gets along very well on the half-mile tracks and handles the turns very well," said Goop.

Goop is no stranger to the MGM Yonkers International Trot, having competed in the race several times, including finishing second in 2015 edition with Timoko. He is excited about returning to the U.S. to take part in the race.

"It would mean a lot [to win]. It is always a dream come true to come to the States to race, especially with one of the horses I train. It is also a dream come true for my owner. Directly after the last race they were talking about it," said Goop.

Seven horses have now officially accepted invitations to the MGM Yonkers International Trot. They include (in alphabetical order with expected driver, and country of origin in parenthesis):

Betting Pacer – Björn Goop (Sweden)
Bourbonista – Dexter Dunn (Sweden)
Diva Ek – Alessandro Gocciadoro (Italy)
Gio Cash – TBD (Germany)
Hooker Berry – Antoine Lhéreté (France)
Mellby Jinx – Daniel Wäjersten (Sweden)
Powwow – Ake Svanstedt (Norway)

An earlier release said the MGM Yonkers International Trot field would swell to 11, but those plans have been scrapped due to one of the invitees having to pull out. A trio of horses based in the U.S. and Canada will be released early next week.

The \$1,000,000 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 - the Bob Miecuna Trot and Aria Pace.

MGM Yonkers Raceway is currently offering live racing on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday, with post time at 6:45 p.m. (EDT) every night except Saturday when post time is 3:30 p.m.

HOOKE BERRY CARRIES THE FRENCH FLAG INTO INTERNATIONAL TROT

France will be represented by Hooker Berry in the Grade 1 MGM Yonkers International Trot on September 12. The \$1,000,000 event at MGM Yonkers Raceway now has seven confirmed starters representing five different countries.

Hooker Berry comes to the U.S. with a high profile as the 2023 winner of the prestigious Prix d'Amerique at Vincennes in Paris. While he has struggled to find the winner's circle over the last couple of years, he has been competing exclusively in Group I and Group II races against some of the best horses in France. Most recently he was an excellent third after a big first-over charge to the lead in the \$165,000 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardère at Enghien in France, perhaps showing a sign that the 9-year-old has more left in the tank.

"Hooker Berry is in great form right now and is rounding into shape after several comeback races, which is why he has been driven conservatively, saving his effort for the home straight," said Aurélie Lhéreté, wife of trainer Antoine Lhéreté, on Hooker Berry's lack of recent success. "In his last race he was driven more aggressively, and it paid off."

Racing mostly in France on larger racetracks, Hooker Berry will get his first taste of the half-mile oval at MGM Yonkers Raceway. The 9-year-old was noticeably awkward on the turns in his last race, but Aurélie



COURTESY DANIEL WÄJERSTEN

Gio Cash was blocked in the pocket in the 2025 International Trot.

Lhéreté said that it wasn't something to be concerned about.

"He always acts that way, but it doesn't stop him from moving forward," said Aurélie Lhéreté about Hooker Berry cocking his head.

Hooker Berry, a winner of approximately \$2 million in his career for owner Michel Aladenise, will look to become the first French winner of the MGM Yonkers International Trot since Reve d'Udon in 1990.

"We are seizing the chance since the French program isn't optimal this year," said Aurélie Lhéreté on why Hooker Berry is coming to New York. "It is an incredible opportunity to represent France."

GIO CASH SEEKS CLEAR SAILING IN 2026 INTERNATIONAL TROT

Trainer Daniel Wäjersten will have strength in numbers in his quest to win the \$1,000,000 MGM Yonkers International Trot this year after he accepted an invitation to the Grade 1 event for Gio Cash. The 7-year-old joins his stablemate Mellby Jinx as the latest horse to become part of the September 12 worldwide event at Yonkers Raceway.

Gio Cash is no stranger to Yonkers Raceway having finished fourth beaten just 1 ¼ lengths by Lexus Kody in the 2025 edition of the MGM Yonkers International Trot. Wäjersten drove on that day and was locked in the pocket behind the winner.

"You never know, but we had a lot of power left at that moment and certainly think he would've been in the photo," said Wäjersten on if he would've won the 2025 edition with a clear trip.

The trainer/driver will not be in the bike this year as he'll cede the lines to a driver yet to be named from the Netherlands, the home of owner Carpe Diem Stable.

A 17-time winner in 37 starts, Gio Cash has been keeping good company in 2026, racing in an elimination of the Elitlopp and winning the Arjängs Stora Sprinter in Sweden during July. It was the second straight year he was successful in the Sprinter race.

Most recently, Gio Cash was fifth in the Jämtlands Stora Pris on August 8 from a bad post and Wäjersten was happy with the performance.

"He was good and I think he will be in the same shape as last year," said Wäjersten. "If he performs at his best, he is – in my opinion – one of the best in Europe at short distances. In the Elitlopp he started pacing at the end of the race. It was not a good day for him to have a bad day, but normally he trots easily."

The son of Victor Gio will begin his journey to the United States next week and fly from Frankfurt about a week before the MGM Yonkers International Trot. Wäjersten reports that Gio Cash is a very calm horse and had no trouble with the journey last year.

One horse that will not be on the flight is the previously announced Daim Brodda. The mare did not perform well in her last race and the connections have decided to skip the trip.

-edited releases (Yonkers Raceway Media)

RACE OF THE WEEK

9 MOHAWK PARK SAT

1 Mile Trot WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL FINAL: (GR 1), 2 YEAR OLD OPEN, Purse \$570,000

DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 9 and 10) | EXACTA | START OF SWINGER | START OF \$0.20 PICK 3 | START OF \$0.20 SUPERFECTA | \$0.20 TRIFECTA | START OF \$0.20 PICK 4

1 ACCESS NOW 2:15.72 (7/8) \$8,478		b g 2, by Walner, Open Access by Credit Winner Determination, Montreal, Qc		Last 5 Sts-\$42,390		1:57.2 Wbs 7/8		26 Wbs 5 1 1 2 25 Wbs 0 0 0 0 24 Wbs 0 0 0 0		\$42,390 26 Tot 5 1 1 2 - 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 - Life		\$42,390			
12-1 B. McClure 766-130-121-102 (170)		L. Blais 201-49-33-21 (244)		Br- Fair Winds Farm Inc, Cream Ridge, NJ											
21 Aug 26	10Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	273 :56.1 1:24.2 1:52.3 WmWellwood	30000	2	3 ¹ ₂	3 ² ₂	4 ³ ₁	3 ² ₁	4 ¹	BMcclure	LBlais	28 284 281 274 1:52.4 90 +7 5w	12.15 DetonaterHanoverTPRchrOcnStrm	Yld.shf.outkicked-8
7 Aug 26	7Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	272 :57 1:26 1:53.3 Millardfarm-g3	155000	7	1 ⁰ ₂	2 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	BMcclure	LBlais	272 294 29 28 1:54.1 85 +10 3w	4.45 DetonaterHanoverThrSxZAccsNw	Yld.pkt.wind-10
31 Jul 26	3Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	272 :56.3 1:25.2 1:53.4 Millardfarms	25000	4	1 ^{nk}	3 ³ ₂	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ² ₁	BMcclure	LBlais	272 294 281 29 1:54.2 85 +8 5w	*1.25 DetonaterHanoverAccsNwDnzCrd	Yld.shf.chl.brd-6
24 Jul 26	6Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	29 1:00.2 1:30 1:57.2 2YO	25000	1	3 ³ ₁	1 ¹	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	BMcclure	LBlais	293 304 293 272 1:57.2 67 +9 6w	*.75 AccessNowThetalianJobPntBlank	Brsh.prs.af.out-10
10 Jul 26	8Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	29 :59.3 1:28.3 1:56.2 2Ynw1r10000l	22000	2	6 ⁷ ₃	6 ⁹ ₉	5 ⁶ ₁	4 ⁵ ₁	3 ²	BMcclure	LBlais	303 304 282 27 1:56.4 72 +10 6w	1.50 ThetalianJobDanzCrdAccsNw	Gain.cvr.late.gain-10
27 Jun 26	10Wbs	fst2 ¹⁰	304 1:02.3 1:32.3 1:59.4 Qua 2YO	1	2 ² ₁	2 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	BMcclure	LBlais	311 313 294 271 1:59.4 1	AccessNowMahaloDanzCard	
2 DETONATER HANOVER 2:15.23 (7/8) *\$30,306		b c 2, by Muscle Mass, Dancing Flames by Donato Hanover Detonater Hanover Stable, Cambridge, On		Last 5 Sts-\$154,500		*1:52.3 Wbs 7/8		26 5 3 1 0 25 Wbs 0 0 0 0 24 Wbs 0 0 0 0		\$154,500 26 * 5 3 1 0 - 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 - Life		*\$151,530			
8-5 T. Moore 87-15-15-15 (172)		I. Moore 128-34-23-17 (266)		Br- Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, Hanover, Pa											
21 Aug 26	10Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	273 :56.1 1:24.2 1:52.3 WmWellwood	30000	6	2 ⁰ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ⁰ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	IMoore	IMoore	274 283 281 28 1:52.3 96 +7 5w	*.95 DntHnvrTPRchrOcnStrm	Yld.pkt.chl.game-8
7 Aug 26	7Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	272 :57 1:26 1:53.3 Millardfarm-g3	155000	4	3 ² ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ² ₁	1 ¹ ₁	TMoore	TMoore	274 291 29 273 1:53.3 86 +10 3w	*.65 DntHnvrThrSxZAccsNw	Tok.brsh.af.out-10
31 Jul 26	3Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	272 :56.3 1:25.2 1:53.4 Millardfarms	25000	3	3 ² ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	TMoore	TMoore	28 283 284 282 1:53.4 85 +8 5w	1.35 DntHnvrAccsNwDnzCrd	Brush.press.handy-6
24 Jul 26	8Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	271 :56.3 1:25.2 1:54.2 Onss-gl	150000	1	5 ⁸	5 ⁶ ₁	4 ⁷ ₁	5 ⁴ ₁	4 ³	TMoore	TMoore	284 291 284 274 1:54.3 82 +9 6w	7.00 UnstableGenusThrSxZKntryCntrb	Out.fnl.btrhd-8
6 Jul 26	8Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	274 :57.2 1:26.3 1:54.2 Onss-gl	150000	6	5 ⁵ ₃	4 ⁵	1 ^{nk}	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	TMoore	TMoore	29 292 281 28 1:54.3 84 +7 5w	4.85 UnstblGns DntHnvr GmndMnsh	Unc.chll.gd.tty-8
20 Jun 26	10Wbs	fst1 ⁷⁰	312 1:01 1:29 1:57.4 Qua 2YO	1	2 ¹ ₁	1 ²	1 ²	1 ⁶	1 ¹⁰	1 ¹¹	TMoore	IMoore	314 291 28 284 1:57.4 1	nb DetonaterHanoverRlthornStarGoldrushKing	
3 GIOS HOPE 2:15.42 (7/8) \$29,242		b c 2, by Chapter Seven, Southwind Hope by Muscle Hill Brixton Medical Inc, Matawan, NJ-Hatfield Stables, Columbus, Oh		Last 5 Sts-\$116,966		1:54.2 Wbs 7/8		26 5 1 0 0 25 Wbs 0 0 0 0 24 Wbs 0 0 0 0		\$150,000 26 * 4 3 0 1 - 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 - Life		*\$116,967			
9-5 D. Dunn 690-183-134-101 (265)		M. Melander 412-113-69-64 (274)		Br- Little E LLC, NY											
21 Aug 26	8Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	281 :58 1:26.4 1:54.2 WmWellwood	30000	1	3 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ² ₁	1 ¹ ₁	DDunn	MMelander	282 293 284 273 1:54.2 82 +7 5w	*.85 GiosHopeFreeScottieDataBreach	Brush.handy-7
28 Jul 26	2SigA	sly	291 :59.1 1:29.1 1:58.1 NYSS	106901	1	3 ⁴	3 ³ ₁	2 ⁰ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	DDunn	MarMeindr	30 294 293 284 1:58.1 79 +6 6w	1.14 GiosHopeBailey Weinberg	Tok.brsh.af.out-10
20 Jul 26	8MRA	fst	291 :58.2 1:27 1:56.2 NYSS	73944	4	3 ⁴ ₁	2 nd	2 ^{no}	2 ¹ ₁	3 ² ₁	DDunn	MarMeindr	30 282 283 294 1:56.4 94 +6 6w	*1.48 BaileyJArchonGiosHope	-5
10 Jul 26	5VD	fst	282 :57.4 1:26 1:55 NYSS	79286	2	3 ¹ ₁	3 ³	2 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	DDunn	MarMeindr	29 292 274 284 1:55.2 84 -8	6.96 GiosHopeSevenPeds TMoney	Brsh.yld.caved-8
26 Jun 26	8M1	fst	302 1:00.1 1:29 1:57 Qua2Yo	2	2 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	2 ² ₁	2 ² ₁	2 ² ₁	DDunn	MarMeindr	303 293 291 28 1:57.2 7	nb PresidentesGepPhOrpns	Pkt.ltd.p1/4 chl.2nd-7
19 Jun 26	9M1	fst	312 1:01 1:30 1:57.3 Qua2Yo	3	5 ⁵ ₃	5 ⁵ ₂	4 ⁰ ₃	4 ⁶ ₇	7ds	7ds	SZeron	MMelander	322 293 284 364 2:07.3 1	nb MatsDmShqStrmHnvr	1st.up.3w bl 3/4 brk-7
4 KOUNTRY CANTAB 2:15.59 (7/8) Q \$11,745		b g 2, by King Of The North, Custom Cantab by Mr Cantab Lagace Stables, Cambridge, On-Edwin Buhler, Wantagh, NY-Big Als Stables, Woodbridge, On-9278 6227 Quebec Inc, Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, Qc		Last 5 Sts-\$49,500		1:59 Wbs 7/8Q		26 Wbs 4 0 2 2 25 Wbs 0 0 0 0 24 Wbs 0 0 0 0		\$49,500 26 Tot 4 0 2 2 - 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 - Life		\$46,980			
20-1 T. Henry 708-93-78-87 (131)		D. G. Lagace 37-4-5-10 (108)		Br- Kountry Lane Standardbred, Nappanee, In											
21 Aug 26	8Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	281 :58 1:26.4 1:54.2 WmWellwood	30000	3	2 ^{no}	3 ³	4 ³	4 ⁴ ₁	5 ⁶ ₁	THenry	DLagace	281 302 284 281 1:55.3 77 +7 5w	16.95 GiosHopeFreeScottieDataBreach	Shf.cvr.no.rally-7
14 Aug 26	2Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	271 :56.3 1:25 1:53 Onss-gl	150000	6	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ⁵ ₁	THenry	DLagaceDG	27 29 291 284 1:54 84 +8 4w	16.60 UnstableGenusThreeSixZeroKntryCntrb	Yld.pkt.tired-7
24 Jul 26	8Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	271 :56.3 1:25.2 1:54.2 Onss-gl	150000	8	2 ² ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ^{nk}	THenry	DLagaceDG	273 291 29 283 1:54.2 82 +9 6w	66.65 UnstableGenusThrSxZKntryCntrb	Tok.pkt.outkicked-8
6 Jul 26	8Wbs	fst2 ³⁰	274 :57.2 1:26.3 1:54.2 Onss-gl	150000	5	4 ⁰ ₃	2 ¹ ₁	4 ³	4 ⁴ ₁	4 ⁹ ₁	THenry	DLagaceDG	282 291 293 29 1:56.1 74 +7 5w	10.75 UnstableGenusDntHnvrGmndMnsh	Brsh.yld.caved-8
27 Jun 26	8Wbs	fst2 ¹⁰	311 1:01.3 1:31 1:59 Qua 2YO	2	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ² ₁	1 ² ₁	1 ⁴ ₁	JMacdonld	DLagace	311 302 292 28 1:59 1	nb KountryCantabSaveYouSeatDaTridnr	
20 Jun 26	13Wbs	fst1 ⁷⁰	304 1:00.1 1:30 1:58.2 Qua 2YO	1	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	JMacdonld	DLagace	311 291 294 283 1:58.4 1	nb GrandManalishiKountryCantabKindaTricky	
5 TOP REACHER 2:15.41 (1) \$20,766		b c 2, by Muscle Hill, Top Expectations by Cantab Hall Daniel Plouffe, Bromont, Qc		Last 5 Sts-\$103,831		1:54 Lx1		26 Wbs 1 0 1 0 25 Wbs 0 0 0 0 24 Wbs 0 0 0 0		\$7,500 26 Tot 5 2 2 1 - 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 - Life		\$103,831			
6-1 S. R. Zeron 736-97-103-111 (132)		M. Melander 412-113-69-64 (274)		Br- Daniel Plouffe & Alexandra Verret, QC, CA											
21 Aug 26	10Wbs	fst2 ⁰⁰	273 :56.1 1:24.2 1:52.3 WmWellwood	30000	4	1 ¹	1 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	DDunn	MMelander	273 283 281 281 1:52.3 94 +7 5w	1.80 DntHnvrTPRchrOcnStrm	Rik.press.2d.best-8
12 Aug 26	5Lx1A	gd	29 :57.4 1:25.4 1:54.1 KYSS	111111	5	4 ² ₁	4 ⁰ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	MMelander	MarMeindr	292 283 28 282 1:54.2 82 -10	17.29 CommandCenterCaptainKennyyTopReacher	-10
3 Aug 26	11Lx1A	fst	282 :57.2 1:26.1 1:54 KYSS	112676	1	3 ² ₁	2 ¹ ₁	3 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	1 ^{nk}	MMelander	MarMeindr	284 284 284 273 1:54 82 -10	24.57 TopReacherOliverBlu *CommandCenter	-10
17 Jul 26	2M1	fst	283 :57.3 1:26.2 1:54.2 NJSS-Pltnm	35211	1	2 ¹ ₁	2 ¹ ₁	1 ⁰ ₁	1 ¹ ₁	2 ²	DDunn	MMelander	284 29 283 282 1:54.4 79 +4 5w	nb WrongSoundsTopReacherEasyDownBlonde	-5
10 Jul 26	6M1	fst	292 :59.2 1:28.4 1:56.2 NJSS-Pltnm	35714	4	4 ² ₁	4 ¹ ₁	4 ² ₁	3 ² ₁	2 ¹ ₁	DDunn	MMelander	294 302 29 271 1:56.2 69 +2 6w	*1.20 TopReacherPbBrPhOHnvr	2nd.ov.ang.in.handy-8
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6 OCEAN STORM 2:15.63 (5/8) \$8,745		b c 2, by Chapter Seven, Expressive Hill by Muscle Hill Aoh Holdings LLC, Auburn, NY-Paul Kautz, Franklin Lakes, NJ-Jeffrey Gural, New York, NY-Jean Barjon, Paris		Last 5 Sts-\$17,489		1:56.3 TgD 5/8		26 Wbs 1 0 0 1 25 Wbs 0 0 0 0 24 Wbs 0 0 0 0		\$3,600 26 Tot 2 1 0 1 - 25 Tot 0 0 0 0 - Life		\$17,489			
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One night only at Meadowlands

With a big crowd expected to be in attendance at MetLife Stadium to watch the New York Jets take on the New York Giants in a preseason National Football League game Friday (Aug. 28) night, The Meadowlands will not have live racing and will race only once this week, on Saturday (Aug. 29). Post time is 6:20 p.m.

Big M customers should also be aware that the track will close for simulcasting at 5 p.m. on Friday.

"While we won't be here with live racing on Friday, we will be back on Saturday," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer. "And we have plenty going on that night. We will have a big 15-race program where we will offer three Pick-5s and three Pick-4s. We are expecting good weather and hope everyone comes out to play the races and have some great food at our BBQ Extravaganza."

Some of the best food trucks anywhere will be serving up some lip-smacking BBQ for everyone in attendance. The event takes place from 5 p.m.-11 p.m., so don't get shut out.

Moving forward, The Meadowlands will have just two weeks of harness racing before taking a four-week break.

Harness racing will be conducted on Sept. 4, 5, 11 and 12.

Then, the "Monmouth at The Meadowlands" mini-meet will be conducted with nine nights of Thoroughbred turf racing, which will be held on Sept. 18, 19, 25 and 26, and Oct. 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16. Post time is 7 p.m.

Harness racing will then return on Saturday, Oct. 17.

After that, there will be harness racing on Friday and Saturday for the rest of October and throughout November.

December will see a three-day-a-week schedule for the first three weeks of the month, with live action on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through the 19th. Then, after the 19th, there will be only one live harness card for the rest of the year, on the 26th.

The post time for all harness racing programs for the remainder of 2026 is 6:20 p.m.

A STELLAR MENU: The Meadowlands' betting public is accustomed to the new \$3 Late Pick-3 (Races 13-15) and \$5 Late Daily Double (14-15), but still go for the mile oval's wagers that offer a low 15 percent takeout.

These are the bets that offer that low takeout for Saturday's 15-race program:

- Races 1-5: 20-cent Pick-5
- Races 3-9: 20-cent Survivor Pick-7
- Races 4-7: 50-cent Pick-4
- Races 6-10: 20-cent Pick-5
- Races 8-11: 50-cent Pick-4
- Race 9: 10-cent Pentafecta (Hi-5)
- Races 10-15: 20-cent Pick-6
- Races 11-15: 20-cent Pick-5
- Races 12-15: 50-cent Pick-4
- Race 15: 10-cent Pentafecta (Hi-5)

AN ANNIVERSARY MENU: The Meadowlands has been the top harness track in the sport since it opened, and if you come out on Saturday, Sept. 12, you can celebrate the 50th anniversary of the mile oval.

If you are one of the first 1,000 in attendance, you will receive a commemorative Meadowlands 50th Anniversary flask.

Throughout the evening, there will be video reels, interviews and more.

In addition, there will be concession specials at the Café, with \$1 hot dogs, pretzels, popcorn and soda and \$2 Bud and Bud Light drafts (for ages 21 and older).

The specials are available from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. with a limit of five items per transaction.

It's a good night to be in the Players Club. Members can swipe their card at any self-service terminal for a chance to win up to \$50.

-edited release (Dave Little for The Meadowlands)

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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 27

RACE 2

(1) **FIGHT NOT FLIGHT** starts from the pole and has won four times in her last five outings. She debuts for new connections after being claimed again and Jim Marohn Jr., who has been doing well with her, remains in the bike.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

RACE 9

(3) **SENSATIONALIZE** A wound up in a duel with Always Dawn after moving first over. She raced very well and continue to prove herself as an upper-level mare.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 7

(2) **BAY BREEZE HANOVER** was nailed late after a good try in last and now she drops to face a mostly softer field; Holland should take control early and can take these the distance.

-Matt Rose

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

RACE 4

(1) **LEADING LADY** worked hard first-over and succumbed to #4 in this field as she tracked her cover in a perfect trip scenario. She only needs a slightly better trip to take this field to task.

-Derick Giwner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

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

Meadowlands Analysis

[Saturday](#)

Yonkers Analysis

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

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY (Part 1)

BRANDON BLVD UP TO NO. 2 IN TOP 10 POLL

Brandon Blvd, who this past Saturday won the Grade 2 Max C. Hempt Memorial at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, vaulted from fourth to second in the Week 11 Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday (Aug. 26) while idle Apex remained No. 1 for the third consecutive week.

Brandon Blvd, who held the poll's top position for the three weeks prior to Apex taking the spot, garnered eight first-place votes after receiving none in Week 10. Apex saw his total of first-place votes decrease by three, to 19, while third-ranked On To Norway got six first-place nods (a loss of one) and fourth-ranked Miki And Minnie got two (a loss of three).

On To Norway won a leg of the Indiana Sire Stakes for older trotters last week as his spot in the rankings remained unchanged. Miki And Minnie, who has been sidelined by an injury expected to keep her out the rest of the season, was No. 2 in the poll a week ago.

Odds On Mr Mamba was the only other horse in last week's Top 10 to race, finishing seventh in the Hempt. He was ranked ninth last week but dropped out of the Top 10 as his points total dipped below idle Loua Dipa's in the battle for the final position.

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

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

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll: Week 11 – 8/26/2026

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Apex (19)	3ct	5-4-1-0	\$739,716	329	1
2	Brandon Blvd (8)	3cp	9-6-2-1	\$895,695	277	4
3	On To Norway (6)	4gt	9-8-1-0	\$413,250	263	3
4	Miki And Minnie (2)	4mp	8-6-0-2	\$372,099	227	2
5	Big Ranger	3ct	8-5-1-0	\$402,337	167	5
6	Super Chapter	4ht	5-3-2-0	\$330,257	155	6
7	Nezuko Kamado S	3ft	6-5-1-0	\$503,905	141	7
8	Bourbonista S	5mt	8-4-2-1	\$185,840	87	8
9	Twin B Joe Fresh	6mp	7-3-2-0	\$240,858	58	10
10	Loua Dipa	3fp	7-4-1-0	\$293,090	34	--

ALSO: Odds On Mr Mamba 31; Al Papi 27; Nordic Catcher S, Shalom Hanover 19; Melillo 15; Starstruck Dreamer, Victorianas Secret 14; Lexus Kody, Wall Of Fame 11; Inexpressable 6; Sangria Summer 5; Walspea, Woodmere Rock It 3; Antognoni S, Don't truck with me, Fifth And Five, Lifetime Dreamer 2; Best Chip 1.

-Ken Weingartner for Hambletonian Society

ROAD TO THE 2027 OAK GROVE TROTTING DERBY AND OAKS KICKS OFF

The Road to the 2027 \$500,000 Oak Grove Trotting Derby and \$300,000 Oak Grove Trotting Oaks is officially underway. The first two "Win and You're In" automatic qualifying races were contested on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands, where Lifetime Dreamer captured the New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship for two-year-old trotting colts and Wall of Fame secured victory in the filly division. Action continues this weekend at Woodbine Mohawk Raceway in Toronto, Ontario, featuring the Grade 1 William Wellwood and Peaceful Way stakes.

The "Road to..." series was established to reward top two-year-old trotting performances and enrich Oak Grove's premier events. A series of designated Grand Circuit and Sire Stakes races serve as automatic qualifying events to the Derby and Oaks eliminations.

The kickoff of the Road to the 2027 Oak Grove Trotting Derby and Oaks comes on the heels of an exceptionally successful inaugural year where Spencer Hanover was crowned champion of the Derby and Jailbird Jog was victorious in the Oaks. Established as the premier kickoff to the elite trotting season and the richest preps for the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks, the 2026 events featured 101 nominations and

46 elimination entries participating. Thirteen graduates of the Oak Grove Derby and Oaks competed in the Hambletonian eliminations, with four securing spots in the Hambletonian final and three reaching the Hambletonian Oaks final --representing over one-third of the championship fields.

Wagering and purses, the two driving forces of the sport, ignited the excitement around the 5-race card 2026 Festival of Racing. Bettors wagered in excess of \$2.5 million, anchored by a track-record single-day handle of \$873,181 on Derby and Oaks Eliminations Monday. The 2026 Festival of Racing featured over \$2.75M in purses with \$1.5M in purses awarded on Oak Grove Derby Day.

The 2027 Festival of Racing will kick off on Monday, May 3 following Kentucky Derby weekend with an anticipated record number of horses racing in the eliminations. For 2027, 559 two-year-old trotters (277 colts and 282 fillies) have nominated into the events.

2027 Oak Grove Derby Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2027.

-release (Oak Grove)

GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE SELECTED FOR LBJ WALL OF FAME

Governor Mike DeWine has been selected as the 41st inductee into the prestigious Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame, an honor presented annually by the Delaware County Fair to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the historic pacing classic and the fairgrounds that host it.

Raised in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Gov. DeWine started working in his family's seed company, gaining a firsthand appreciation for agriculture's vital role in Ohio's economy. That early foundation shaped a lifetime of public service and advocacy for Ohio's farming and rural traditions.

In 2018, DeWine was elected to serve as the 70th Governor of the State of Ohio, capping a distinguished career that includes service as Ohio Attorney General, Ohio State Senator, U.S. Congressman, Ohio Lieutenant Governor, and U.S. Senator.

"Gov. DeWine has been a great advocate for the Delaware County Fair and the Little Brown Jug," said Tom Wright, President of the Little Brown Jug Society. "He was instrumental in acquiring the bed tax and capital improvement funds to upgrade our aging facilities."

"Gov. DeWine has been in the winner's circle nearly every year that he has been in office to present the Little Brown Jug trophy," added Wright. "He is a great advocate for our industry and agriculture."

"I am honored to be included as part of The Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame," said Governor Mike DeWine. "The Little Brown Jug has a special place in harness racing and is always a great tradition at the Delaware County Fair."

Gov. DeWine will be formally honored during a private ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 22, prior to the 81st edition of the Grade 1 Little Brown Jug. He will also be recognized in the winner's circle on Jug Day, Thursday, Sept. 24.

-release (Little Brown Jug Society)

MUSCLE HILL RETIRED FROM STALLION DUTY

Southwind Farms and the Muscle Hill Syndicate have announced that champion sire Muscle Hill has been retired from stallion service.

A foal of 2006, Muscle Hill dominated on the track, winning 20 of 21 starts and \$3,273,342, including the 2009 Hambletonian in a then record 1:50 1/5.

At stud, Muscle Hill has sired the winners of over \$126,000,000 in North America, including 17 millionaires, led by Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder (1:50 2/5, \$3,392,609) and champion mare Manchego (4:1.49, \$3,144,777), as well as numerous champions in Europe and the Southern Hemisphere.

Muscle Hill's impact on the trotting breed will be carried on by his numerous sons and daughters.

The Syndicate would like to thank all of the shareholders and breeders who have bred to Muscle Hill throughout the years.

-edited release (Muscle Hill Syndicate)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY (Part 2)

PREFERRED EQUINE ONLINE YEARLING SALE SLATED FOR AUGUST 31

Preferred Equine Online (PEO), the leading online auction platform of Preferred Equine Marketing, the Standardbred industry's leading sales agency, will offer 76 yearlings in a timed online sale on Monday, August 31, 2026.

The catalog is balanced across gaits and sexes.

[READ MORE](#)

NO ELIMINATIONS REQUIRED FOR MILTON STAKES

Superstar Twin B Joe Fresh will look for a Milton Stakes three-peat on Saturday, September 5 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The C\$3 million-plus earning Twin B Joe Fresh was one of nine pacing mares entered Tuesday for this year's Milton Stakes (G2). The event therefore moves directly to a final with no eliminations necessary.

[READ MORE](#)

HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY PARTNERS WITH HAWK SPORTS MANAGEMENT

The Hambletonian Society, which owns and administers 164 of harness racing's most prestigious events, has partnered with Don Hawk's Hawk Sports Management firm to pursue corporate partnerships, brand activations and sponsorships for upcoming events. The agreement covers the \$7 million Breeders Crown championship series in 2026 and 2027 and the 2027 Hambletonian Stakes at Harrah's Hoosier Park in Indiana.

Hawk is a former President of Dale Earnhardt Inc., was Director of Regional Racing Development for NASCAR, Chief Racing Development Officer and Executive Vice President for Speedway Motorsports Inc., and a CEO of Superstar Racing Experience (SRX), with extensive experience in negotiating endorsements, sponsorships, athlete relationships and media agreements.

[READ MORE](#)

JACKPOT HI-5 MANDATORY AND \$5 PICK 3 ADDED TO SATURDAY MENU

Woodbine Entertainment today (Aug. 25) announced a pair of additions of a Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payout and a \$5 Stakes Pick 3 to this Saturday's stakes-filled card at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The finals of the Grade 1 William Wellwood Memorial and Grade 1 Peaceful Way headline Saturday's card, which also includes the Grade 3 Nassagaweya Stakes, Grade 3 Eternal Camnation and the eliminations for the Grade 1 Canadian Pacing Derby.

[READ MORE](#)

NOBODY KNOWS IT DOMINATES AGAIN IN MDSS

The road to the Maryland Sire Stakes championships came into sharper focus Wednesday evening (Aug. 26) at Ocean Downs as the 2-year-old pacing and trotting fillies contested their second and final preliminary leg ahead of the lucrative finals on Sunday, Sept. 6.

[READ MORE](#)

OWLEO'S PRIDE QUICKEST IN WEDNESDAY'S INDIANA SIRE STAKES

Indiana Sire Stakes action returned to Harrah's Hoosier Park on Wednesday (Aug. 26) with 2-year-old pacing fillies and 3-year-old trotting fillies stepping into the spotlight during the 14-race card. Fitterjake and Owleo's Pride delivered in the races for rookie pacing fillies, with For Dayze and Fresh Face Yankee each cruising as the heavy favorites in the sophomore filly trot splits.

[READ MORE](#)

ROSE RUN BROOKE, CHIP SHOT BEST IN OHIO SIRE STAKES

Driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and trainer Vernon Beachy joined forces to take both of Wednesday night's \$75,000 Ohio Sires Stakes divisions for 3-year-old trotting fillies at Northfield Park.

[READ MORE](#)

TWO-HOLE TRIP PAYS OFF FOR JULA FLORENCE IN NYSS ACTION

Jula Florence (Chapter Seven-Jula Shes Magic) sat a perfect pocket trip before striking late to score a narrow victory in the \$110,200 New York Sire Stakes events for 2-year-old trotting fillies at Batavia Downs on Wednesday (Aug. 26) night.

Seveallisto (Leon Bailey) and Jula Florence (Tyler Miller) both left from mid-pack and lined up one-two in front of a full field of fillies who trotted to the quarter in 28 2/5. Seveallisto continued to dictate the fractions at the half when Anabella (Brett Beckwith) came calling first-over and drew alongside Jula Florence, both just a length behind the leader.

[READ MORE](#)

WALL OF FAME ROUTS HER RIVALS IN KENTUCKY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Wall Of Fame, a daughter of Walner-Saadet, upped her unbeaten record to six with a 1:52 4/5 stroll in the \$80,000 Kentucky Championship Series third preliminary for 2-year-old trotting fillies on Wednesday afternoon (Aug. 26) at The Red Mile.

Sent the 1-9 favorite, Wall Of Fame brushed towards the top through a 30 2/5 first quarter to grab control from Heart Of Secret (driven by Yannick Gingras) in the backstretch. Wall Of Fame strode past a 58 2/5 half and gradually accelerated into the final half. She clocked three-quarters in 1:26 3/5 and hustled for the finish while peeling 6 1/2 lengths clear of Heart Of Secret to win in-hand. Fleur Delacour (Dexter Dunn) gave chase in third with Sweetest Of All (Scott Zeron) fourth and Maga Aintongreen (Marvin Luna), who broke stride at the quarter, checking in last.

[READ MORE](#)

SECRETS ILIA, BLUE RANGER COLLECT OHIO SIRE STAKES VICTORIES

Secrets Ilia got back to her winning ways on Tuesday (August 25) in Ohio Sires Stakes action for 2-year-old filly trotters at Eldorado Scioto Downs, setting a new lifetime mark of 1:53 4/5.

Brett Miller got Secrets Ilia away third off the gate while Missred-whitenblue (Austin Hanners) took the field to the 27 3/5 opening quarter. Going into the second turn, Secrets Ilia pulled first-up as the leader tripped the half-mile beam in 56 seconds. Midway down the backside, Secrets Ilia cleared to the top, then took the field past the 1:25 3/5 three-quarters. Coming home in 28 1/5, Secrets Ilia won by a length and a half over Made For More (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.); Shinie T (Aaron Merriman) was third.

[READ MORE](#)

3YO TROTTING FILLIES BATTLE IN NEW YORK SIRE STAKES

Three-year-old trotting fillies were featured in a pair of New York Sire Stakes races on Tuesday night (August 25) at MGM Yonkers Raceway, and the winners were Lauren's Chapter and My Philomene.

[READ MORE](#)

GOODWALKSPOILED KNOCKS OFF FAVORITES IN KY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Goodwalkspoiled, a daughter of Pebble Beach, played the role of spoiler when she converted a pocket ride off fast fractions in an attritional stretch drive to score a 1:51 victory in the \$80,000 Kentucky Championship Series third preliminary for 2-year-old pacing fillies on Tuesday afternoon (Aug. 25) at The Red Mile.

[READ MORE](#)

STAKES WINNERS TO RACE ON FRIDAY CARD AT THE MEADOWS

Some of the top 3-year-old pacers in the nation will square off at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows on Friday evening (August 28) in the final leg of Pennsylvania Sire Stake action. The fields will include Grade 1 Adios winner Al Papi and Grade 1 Lynch winner Sangria Summer.

[READ MORE](#)