

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



Breaking News
STOP THE RACE!
Melander and Dunn dominating standings

National Voting Map

Live Tally
ELECTORAL VOTES

MELANDER	DUNN
364	360
lead	lead

REMAINING OPPONENTS: 00

POPULAR VOTE: 1,303,608 (49.8%) vs 707,395 (45.5%)

TICKER

- SENATE SENATE FROUTE VICTORY
- HOUSE 1 AMER VICTORY
- STATE LEVEL/MISS REPORTING VICTORY
- SENATE SENATE FROUTE VICTORY
- HAURIC BARES ACLBANDORR LEAD
- STATE OS/TAMIES OF NORRIA STATE + VICTORY
- HOUSE 1 SENATE VICTORY
- STATE STATE VICTORY
- HOUSE 1 ARVERING VICTORY
- STATE OS/TAMIES OF NORRIA STATE + VICTORY
- BRROWS STATE VICTORY
- HOUSE 1 VELUES NO
- MAMI'S MICHEL STATE'S LOSSE

Probability of Win
PROJECTED WIN

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**Caesars Trotting Classic
Hoosier Park Pacing Derby
Kentuckiana Stallion Mgt.**



Friday, September 25
Post Time: 5:30 PM (EDT)

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Canadian supplement Redland Rocket Man captures Little Brown Jug ; Loua Dipa takes Jugette

Jay Bergman: Rookie fillies take center stage in Mohawk Million

R Dutchess tackles the boys in Caesars Trotting Classic + Giwner's Hoosier six pack

Jessica Hallett: Di Costanzo has a longstanding special bond with "Chip"

Mallar hopes for another sharp effort from "Ken" in Hoosier Pacing Derby

Best Bets & Analysis

Red Mile announces 2027 Breeders Crown dates; Tetrick reaches 15,000 wins; Big Ranger cruises at Delaware

Comments? Questions?
Email the Editor DGiwner@DRF.com



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner

[X HarnessEyeGuy](#)

It's election night in America. The polls closed just an hour ago and only 13% of the returns are in. How on Earth do the "experts" know who the winner is already? It's basically a statistical guess based on the data rather than 100% certainty. It could be wrong, but highly unlikely. That's where I am right now when it comes to the Driver and Trainer of the Year races in harness racing.

I'm never one to come to a decision quickly or take a decision lightly, but given the current stats and the horses trainer Marcus Melander and driver Dexter Dunn expect to start the remainder of the year, it is difficult to come to any other conclusion.

For Melander it is a virtual slam dunk that he will win his second Dan Patch Award (2019) as North America's best trainer. First, there is

precedent. Trainers that win both the Hambletonian and Oaks in the same day are undefeated in this century when it comes to Trainer of the Year. Jimmy Takter (2014 - Trixton and Lifetime Pursuit) and Jim Campbell (2022 - Cool Papa Bell and Fashion Schooner) both took home the title. It is worth noting that Campbell didn't even finish in the top 10 in earnings for trainers that year (he was 18th), showing how much weight that on-track double holds with voters.

With two months left on the table in terms of Grand Circuit racing and countless millions up for grabs, Melander is on pace to become only the fourth trainer in history to eclipse \$10 million in horse earnings in a single season. He would join Ron Burke, Jimmy Takter and Mickey Burke in that exclusive club. All three times Takter accomplished it he was named Trainer of the Year, which is notable because his start totals those years (729, 731 and 783) are in line with where Melander seems likely to end up at the conclusion of 2026.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

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(Dean Gillette Photo)



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Breedings available to:

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Hip #120 Ecurie D DK
Hip #121 Greenshoe

Hip #122 Huntsville
Hip #123 In Range
Hip #124 King Of The North

Hip #125 Ready For Moni
Hip #126 Walner
Hip #127 Winner's Bet

For the record, Melander has 146 wins in 575 starts this year (25.4%) and has seen his horses earn \$8.77 million. The 34-year-old also has the likely favorite in upcoming stakes at Woodbine Mohawk Park on September 26, like the Eleganimage with Nuance (3-1) and the Canadian Trotting Classic with Apex (3-5), as well as contender Athenas Girl (6-1) in the Mohawk Million. And none of those races will include arguably his best horse, recent MGM Yonkers International Trot winner Super Chapter. That 4-year-old is second in North America in earnings (\$1,071,707) and is in the battle with Hambletonian-winning stablemate Apex, leading money winner Brandon Blvd (\$1,135,695), and perhaps a few others for Horse of the Year. Super Chapter's next start likely comes in the Dayton Trotting Derby on October 3 at Dayton Raceway.

Throwing out one last stat to prove the Melander case, the trainer is earning an unbelievable \$15,476 per start and no one is even close. Dr. Ian Moore is the only trainer even in Melander's stratosphere with \$12,038.

It has been said that behind any great man is a great woman. Well, behind any great harness driver is a great trainer (or two). While Dexter Dunn is arguably the best driver in the sport, at least a portion of his success story belongs to his relationship with Melander. The two have partnered on both Super Chapter and Apex, along with many other stakes winners like Bourbonista, American Power, Setyoursightshigh and Nix Nacken to name a few.

It certainly isn't fair to place all of Dunn's success on the backs of his trainers. He routinely jumps in the bike for the first time and moves horses up. He's also won Driver of the Year five times in the last seven years. That isn't by coincidence.

Just a week ago, statistically Dunn's lead in the driver earnings title race was similar to watching close election results. He held a narrow \$500,000 (approx.) advantage over incumbent Jason Bartlett, who captured the prestigious Dan Patch Award last year. Just \$100,000 behind him was Yannick Gingras, a two-time winner of the award (2014 and 2017).

A week of major stakes racing can make a huge difference and as has been the case for the past six weeks or so as Grand Circuit action hit high

gear, Dunn has pulled away from the field with \$11,200,151 in earnings (as of 9/21), \$1,226,669 ahead of Gingras and \$1,355,318 in front of Bartlett.

There is a slim chance that Dunn doesn't finish atop the earnings leaderboard, but even if that occurs, his numbers are a step above his contemporaries this year. The 37-year-old's 860 starts this year are nearly half of the others in the top five in earnings (range from 1,415 to 1,566). The horses he drives are earning \$13,023 per start compared to \$5,816 for the other four drivers on average. Dunn's win percentage sits at 25.7, topped only by Jason Bartlett at 27.9% and Dave Palone (25.8%) among the top 50 earning drivers.

Numbers aside, there are just five million-dollar races in the sport and Dunn has won two of the three contested thus far. In the one he lost – The North America Cup – he finished second with Brandon Blvd. Remember the main three horses battling for Horse of the Year I mentioned earlier? Dunn drives all three!

While results for only 70% of Grand Circuit races are in, I'm calling the race for Melander and Dunn. Hands-down!

TOP FIVE DRIVERS BY EARNINGS IN 2026

No.	Name	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	UDRS
1.	Dunn, Dexter J	890	230	166	139	\$11,531,556	0.414
2.	Gingras, Yannick	1440	241	227	205	\$10,103,462	0.302
3.	Bartlett, Jason J	1577	441	284	201	\$9,900,358	0.422
4.	Tetrick, Tim A	1588	339	285	223	\$8,093,038	0.360
5.	Wrenn Jr., Ronnie H	1465	367	260	191	\$7,358,170	0.393

TOP FIVE TRAINERS BY EARNINGS IN 2026

No.	Name	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	UTRS
1.	Burke, Ronald J "Ron"	4035	753	624	509	\$19,376,580	0.315
2.	Melander, Marcus M	575	146	94	92	\$8,772,029	0.398
3.	Engblom, Per	1245	275	185	151	\$5,646,518	0.344
4.	Morgan Jr, Virgil V	1154	258	179	166	\$4,586,641	0.358
5.	Alexander, Travis M	1067	164	163	159	\$4,406,904	0.288

*Stats as of 3:20 PM on Sept. 22 and courtesy USTrotting.com

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Colt o/o Blonde Bombshell
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Day 2

Hip 177 Third Shot Drop
PA Eligible
Filly o/o Brickhouse Babe filly
Cameo Hills Farm

Hip 304 Training Season
PA/KY Eligible
Colt o/o Nixie Volo
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Canadian supplement Redland Rocket Man wins Little Brown Jug

All releases by Greg Reinhart

Supplemental entrant Redland Rocket Man rallied from off-the-pace to take his \$50,000 elimination and then went down the road from the pole position in the \$550,000 final of the Grade 1 Little Brown Jug for 3-year-old male pacers on Thursday at the Delaware (Ohio) County Fair.

The eliminations saw Al Papi (Yannick Gingras) tally on the engine in 1:51 1/5 and then Redland Rocket Man (Jody Jamieson) sweep into the lead off a contested pace and pull away to a 1:50 2/5 victory. Redland Rocket Man got post one in the final with Al Papi, Watch Em Win (Chris Page), Frantic Hanover (Tim Tetrick), Treacherous Lou (Andy McCarthy), Melillo (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.), Thai Hanover (Dexter Dunn) and Fragment (Jason Bartlett) to his outside. Ron Burke sent out four of the finalists - Al Papi, Watch Em Win, Frantic Hanover and Melillo.

In the final Redland Rocket Man was off the gate just a bit at the start and was nearly looped by Al Papi before the first turn. However, Jamieson put the pedal down and was able to get a leaving Melillo in the pocket and Al Papi into the three-hole on the opening bend. Redland Rocket Man would then get to the quarter in 26 3/5 and the half in 55 3/5 as Gingras sent Al Papi to the outside prior to that latter marker.

Al Papi challenged Redland Rocket Man around the third turn and to three-quarters in 1:22 3/5, but Redland Rocket Man put him away early on the far turn before he drew off to score by 4 1/4 lengths. Melillo was second over Al Papi with Fragment (Jason Bartlett) up for fourth from post eight. Watch Em Win was the fifth-place finisher.

"It's amazing. I don't know how many guys have won twice, and I don't know if it's ever been that far apart, almost 20 years ago," said Jamieson, who also won the Little Brown Jug in 2007 with Tell All. "I guess it's just a microcosm of what my career's been. I was really hot 19 years ago and not so much since, but having the last couple of years has been pretty amazing.

"I thought I had my horse ready to leave and I didn't, and (Gingras) near got around me. If he gets around me, I don't know how this race goes. I felt like I had the best horse going into the race, but it was until the first turn until I knew that I was going to secure the lead. Melillo was out there, and I know they're both entries. I figured he was going to drop on my back to give Al Papi a good shot at me, and that's exactly how it worked out, but there were some anxious moments just through the stretch here for the first time."

Trainer John Pentland also co-owns Redland Rocket Man, a Bulldog Hanover gelding, with partners Murray Cox and Gary Volpe.

"He trained down really well. He kind of let you know he was a good horse," recalled Pentland. "He had a little bit more of a hold of you, not a runaway, but a little bit more of a hold of you than you wanted, even in 2:40. He had a big, long stride, and he was easy to work with. He wanted to win. I didn't have a horse that could even start him.

"I think for pacing, it's the biggest race. It goes for basically the same money as any of the other top, top races, but there's far more prestige. Even going two trips, it's so rare now, but it shows the character of a horse. As a Canadian, I'm a very, very proud Canadian. I know at home, us Canadians, we were all rooting for this horse."

Bred by Redland Farms, Redland Rocket Man was a \$30,000 purchase at the 2024 Stand-ardbred Horse Sale. He has a summary of 7-3-3 from 26 starts, has earned \$677,065 and paid \$4.80 to win in his elimination and \$3.20 to win in the final.

"I had a good friend that said this here horse might turn out pretty well and knew John Pentland was one of the best trainers in the business. I knew he would do the best he could with him," remarked Cox. "Jody Jamieson, I've known him for a long while, and his father, so we were quite happy with that group to be able to associate with them."



CONRAD PHOTOS

(above) Driver Jody Jamieson raised his whip in jubilation after going wire to wire in the Little Brown Jug. (below-left to right) Owner Gary Volpe, trainer John Pentland, Jody Jamieson and owner Murray Cox raise the Little Brown Jug trophy.



digging in to try and fight her off, but Warrawee Michelle was able to wear down the pace-setter late, prevailing by half a length in 1:52 3/5. Miracle Maven (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) checked in third, followed by Woman Of Passion (Scott Zeron).

"I sure was rooting. I figured we had a shot. Dexter is the top driver, and this horse woke up two weeks ago," said winning co-owner Jeff Gural. "It was her first good effort of the year. It was an afterthought really to race her, but they didn't have enough horses, so they called Ake, and he said okay send her out. He knows we love the racing here. Thirty-five years ago my friend Dave (Stolz) and I, we won the Jugette here, so it only took us another 35 years to get in the winner's circle.

"The groom said 'don't worry, she's good around the turns.' You always worry with trotters for the first time on a small track, but this is a good track."

A 5-year-old daughter of Walner bred by Warrawee Farm, Warrawee Michelle is owned by Ake Svanstedt Inc., Santandrea Inc. and Young Guns. She has a summary of 11-9-6 from 38 starts, has pocketed \$1,675,994 and paid \$4.60 to win as the 6-5 second choice.

OLD OAKEN BUCKET TO UNTOUCHABLE AS; PONY CHROME BEST IN BUCKETTE

Untouchable As and Pony Chrome scored Grand Circuit victories in the Grade 3 Old Oaken Bucket and Buckette for 3-year-old trotters of both sexes on Thursday afternoon at the Delaware (Ohio) County Fair.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

WARRAWEE MICHELLE TRIUMPHANT IN MISS VERSATILITY SERIES FINAL

Warrawee Michelle picked up her first win of 2026 in Thursday's Grade 3 \$132,500 Miss Versatility Series final for older trotting mares at the Delaware (Ohio) County Fair.

With Dexter Dunn in the bike for trainer Ake Svanstedt, Warrawee Michelle watched as even-money favorite Walspea (Yannick Gingras) cut fractions of 28 1/5 and 56 4/5, then tipped to the outside on the third turn. Warrawee Michelle advanced to get side-by-side with Walspea at the 1:24 1/5 three-quarters, and they continued to battle around the final bend.

In the lane Warrawee Michelle wouldn't go away as Walspea kept



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#90 **KOUNTRY LYNN** Filly
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p,1:48 (\$2,139,086)
(Confederate • Lyons Sentinel)

#178 **KOUNTRY BRODY** Colt
(Walner • Broadway Donna)

#230 **KOUNTRY FAITH** Filly
First foal out of **Flawless Country**
2,1:53 (\$567,819)
(Gimpanzee • Flawless Country)

#389 **KOUNTRY WINONA** Filly
(Captain Corey • Whispering Oaks)

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In the \$96,000 Old Oaken Bucket for colts and geldings, Untouchable As won by 3 3/4 lengths in 1:54 3/5 for driver Tony Hall and trainer Anette Lorentzon after he led through fractions of 28 3/5, 58 1/5 and 1:26 2/5. Tymal Kryptonite held second from the pocket and Gare D'Orsay (Scott Zeron) finished third.

"It was very good. We've had him from the beginning," said Lorentzon. "He showed a lot already as a 2-year-old, but he got hurt, so we've been taking it easy. He's been getting better and better."

A Walner homebred for ACL Stuteri AB, Untouchable As has a summary of 7-2-0 from 12 starts, has earned \$138,150 and paid \$2.20 to win as the 1-9 favorite.

Pony Chrome (Lamar Wingard) got parked out by 9-5 favorite Atlantic Summer (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) to the 28 1/5 quarter and 57 1/5 half in the \$79,350 Buckette, but Pony Chrome wore down and went by Atlantic Summer nearin the 1:25 4/5 three-quarters. Once she had command, Pony Chrome built up a gap on the rest of the field and cruised to a 4 1/4 lengths triumph over Kerstin (Yannick Gingras) in 1:55 2/5. Wendalyn Hanover (Tim Tetrick) checked in third.

"This filly can make a bad driver look good. She's got a world of heart," remarked a jubilant Wingard after the race. "I'm still in awe and in shock to be even here. She's done a lot for me this year. The only time I've gotten beat sitting behind her was by a neck. She's got a heart of gold."

"It might as well have been a \$2 million race. I didn't know how I was going to handle it. It's the biggest race I've ever driven in."

Lewayne Miller trains Pony Chrome, a daughter of Southwind Chrome, for owners Equine Spa LLC. and Thomas Carey. The Jonas Borntreger-bred has six wins, 10 seconds and three thirds from 23 outings, has pocketed \$123,724 and returned \$14.40 to win as a 6-1 offering.

LOUA DIPA DELIVERS IN GRADE 1 JUGETTE

Loua Dipa won both the \$25,000 first heat and the \$240,000 second heat of the Grade 1 Jugette for 3-year-old pacing fillies on Wednesday afternoon at the Delaware (Ohio) County Fairgrounds.

In the opening heat, Loua Dipa (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) took the lead past the opening quarter and went on to win in 1:53 3/5 over I'm A Lou Lou (Tim Tetrick), Darlin's Angel (Lauren Tritton), Sandyboots Yankee (Yannick Gingras), Perfect Thought (Scott Zeron), Vanna By The River (Aaron Merriman), Ideal Beauty Queen (Dexter Dunn) and Kilaeua Hanover (Mike Wilder). That finishing order would be how the field would line up from the rail out in the final.

With an equipment change from a kant-see-back bridle with cheek rolls to blinkers, Wrenn Jr. planted Loua Dipa on the front end from the pole position in the second heat, and she put up fractions of 27, 55 3/5 and 1:24 3/5 on her way to a 1:53 win, prevailing by a length and a quarter in the process. Darlin's Angel sat in the pocket and wound up second over I'm A Lou Lou, who fanned out on the final turn after taking a shuffle from the three-hole. Sandyboots Yankee wound up fourth after she went three-wide from second-over before three-quarters and Perfect Thought was fifth.

"I was more confident in the second heat than the first heat, but she raced great," said Wrenn Jr. "She's a tremendous filly, and I'm just really proud of her. She raced awesome."

A homebred by Sweet Lou, Loua Dipa is trained by Ron Burke for Burke Racing Stable LLC. and Weaver Bruscelli LLC. She has a summary of 15-3-2 from 23 starts, has earned \$1,280,026 and paid \$3.60 to win in the first heat and \$4.20 to win in the second heat.

After a third-place finish in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final on September 6, these were Loua Dipa's first victories since she underwent surgery on her throat following a seventh-place result against males in the Adios on July 25.

"This is my sixth Jugette. It's very important, to me, these races, obviously. This horse, her mom was one of my favorite horses, and she's one of my favorite horses, so it means a lot," remarked Burke. "For her to come back from the surgery barely over two months ago and to be back in the winner's circle in a Grade 1 event, we're very happy."



CONRAD PHOTO

Driver Ronnie Wrenn Jr. with co-owner Mark Weaver after Loua Dipa won the Jugette.

ROOKIES DUEL IN STANDARDBRED STAKES

The undercard of the Jugette on Wednesday afternoon at the Delaware (Ohio) County Fair included Grand Circuit Standardbred stakes races for 2-year-olds of both sexes and gaits.

\$27,750 divisions for trotting fillies were won by The Captain's Wife (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) on the engine in 2:01 and Sevenoos Hanover (Jason Bartlett) from first-up in 1:58 4/5 over a 'sloppy' racetrack.

The Captain's Wife, by Captain Corey and bred by David Wade, Gerald Brittingham and William Peel III, is trained by Vernon Beachy for owners 518 Group LLC. and Ryan Smith. She has four wins, a second and a third from eight starts, has earned \$84,043 and paid \$3 to win.

Sevenoos Hanover, a daughter of Greenshoe, was sent out by Petter Engblom for owners Engblom Farm LLC., Evans Nation and Hickory Hollow Stables. The Hanover Shoe Farms-bred is a four-time winner from eight outings, has pocketed \$70,032 and returned \$8.80 to win.

PA Lincoln (Yannick Gingras) took the lead past the 28 second quarter in the \$51,700 event for colt and gelding pacers and went on to a 2 1/4 length victory in 1:56 4/5, defeating Atomix Hanover (Anthony MacDonald) and Slinky Dawg (Wrenn Jr.).

Trained by Brian Brown, PA Lincoln is a Mahantongo Farms-bred Sweet Lou colt. Owned by Kirk Nichols, Hutchison Harness LLC., Wayne Mast Jr. and Vincent Urciuoli, PA Lincoln has a summary of 3-1-0 from seven tries, has put away \$43,700 and paid \$5.40 to win.

Hades Hanover (Brady Brown) put the 29 2/5 quarter and 1:00 4/5 half on the board in the \$53,100 tilt for trotting males, but Crimson Crown (Wrenn Jr.) took the lead on the outside from first-up on the way to the 1:30 3/5 three-quarters. Crimson Crown couldn't clear, though, which allowed Hades Hanover to battle back and take the lead before he held off the closing Gaining Muscle (David Miller) to prevail by half a length in 2:01 1/5. Keystone Augusta (Aaron Merriman) grabbed third.

Steve Schoeffel trains Hades Hanover, a Greenshoe gelding bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, for owners Kathy Schoeffel, Maxx Fortune Stable and Roger Romesser. Hades Hanover owns a pair of triumphs from 11 efforts, has banked \$54,330 and returned \$11.40 to win.

1-2 favorite Aestas (Dave Palone) captured the \$50,000 contest for pacing fillies in 1:56 1/5 after she led through stations of 28 2/5, 57 4/5 and 1:26 3/5. Love Somebody gained from the pocket but wound up a head short, and Gold Impact (Mike Wilder) came in third.

Steve Le Blanc sent out Aestas, a Papi Rob Hanover filly, for owner Glenn Dyke. Bred by Dr. William Solomon, Aestas has made five trips to the winner's circle from eight trips behind the gate, has earnings of \$123,683 and paid \$3 to win.




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#54 DIXIE HIGHWAY, colt

Confederate - Kissin In The Sand p,3, 1:47.4 (\$1,741,094)
by Somebeachsomewhere

#96 SPECIAL ACCOUNT, colt

Walner - Special Hill 2, 1:58.3f (\$35,992) by Muscle Hill
The full brother to SPECIAL WAY 3, 1:51.2 (\$1,292,175).

#154 TALEGGIO, colt

Chapter Seven - Asiago 3, 1:50.4 (\$422,336)
by Muscle Hill

#185 SOUTHERN CAPTAIN, colt

Confederate - Captains Princess p,3, 1:51.4f (\$110,043)
by Captaintreacherous

#204 NIGHT GAME, colt

Walner - Date Night 2, 1:50.4 (\$447,152)
by Bar Hopping

#206 DONDI WHITE, colt

Walner - Defacement 3, 1:58.1f (\$70,517)
by Muscle Hill

#254 TRUTHFUL, filly

Walner - Word Of Honor 2, 1:55.2 (\$43,672)
by Father Patrick

#275 PARTY BY THE SEA, colt

Downbytheseaside - Lets Havea Party
by Art Major

#318 TACTICAL PRIDE, filly

Tactical Landing - Piper Hanover 3, 1:52.3f (\$165,839)
by Father Patrick

#320 ROYAL HILL, colt

Muscle Hill - Plaid And Pearls
by Father Patrick

#353 TRUE HONOR, filly

Walner - Special Honor 3, 1:53.4s (\$301,147)
by Father Patrick

#358 CAPTAININVINCIBLE, colt

Captaintreacherous - Sweet Diamond p,3, 1:52.2s (\$45,117)
by Sweet Lou

#371 VICOMTE, colt

Father Patrick - The Ice Countess
by Muscle Hill

#519 SONOMA, filly

Chapter Seven - Iconique Nevele
by Ready Cash

#538 PRINCE OF STING, colt

Perfect Sting - Lady Midnight p,2, 1:51.4 (\$79,220)
by Captaintreacherous

#557 AIR MAIL, colt

Muscle Hill - Milady Volo
by Walner

#628 NICE, colt

Bettor's Delight - Stop The Show p,2, Q1:54.2 (\$6,570)
by Sweet Lou

#651 AMMUNITION, filly

Muscle Hill - Wall To Wall
by Walner

Rookie fillies take center stage in Mohawk Million



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [Bergmanjay](#)

Since its debut in 2020 the Mohawk Million at Woodbine Mohawk Park has been a “by invitation only” trotting event for 2-year-olds. Not only was the prize money unique at the time but the composition of the races is a stark departure from times gone by. In 2021 when Venerable, a filly, captured the second Million, it was firmly established that fillies, at least in their first year of racing, could not just compete with colts but in fact defeat them.

Now in 2026 it is no longer a novel concept to aim high when trainers find themselves with gifted trotting fillies. That means a decision to race for \$1 million is always on the table and it's just a matter of finding an entryway to drop in the box. Such was the case this past Monday (September 21) when the posts were drawn and the field was revealed for Saturday's (September 26) Grade 1 Mohawk Million to reveal a record-equaling four fillies in the field.

To no surprise trainer Luc Blais, who sent out the filly Donna Soprano to a second-place finish in 2022 and Lasting Dream to a second-place finish in 2024, returns in 2026 with Donna Soprano's first foal Datapriacy, an improving daughter of Muscle Hill, for the big dance.

Datapriacy finished third in the Grade 1 Peaceful Way to Athenas Girl and the two will line up next to each other on the starting gate Saturday, with Datapriacy (post 1) and Athenas Girl (post 2) giving fillies the inside draw.

Like Venerable, Nevis Peak (post 7) is a daughter of Walner. Unlike Venerable, she is out of a Hambletonian winning dam in Ramona Hill. From the Ron Burke stable that captured the 2023 edition with T C I, Nevis Peak makes her first start using Lasix following a sub-par finish in the Peaceful Way.

Ohio-based horses have consistently competed in the Mohawk Million, most notably Allegiant, the future world champion who garnered a third-place finish in the 2023 edition. This year trainer Todd Luther arrives with a filly that enters the contest with the fastest mile of the year in Kissme Ifyoucan. A foal from the second crop of the impressive sire In Range, Kissme Ifyoucan has done double-duty for Luther, campaigning on both the Ohio Sire Stakes and Kentucky Sires program over the last two months.

“When she trotted that mile in 51 (and change) at The Red Mile I started thinking about this race,” said Luther of his charge that landed post six and will have Austin Hanners in the bike.

“She's been perfect from day one,” said Luther of his filly who most recently (September 20) finished fifth in the Kentucky Championship final to the unbeaten Wall Of Fame.

Justifying the disappointing result at The Red Mile just six days prior to the Mohawk Million, Luther explained that Kissme Ifyoucan is not at her best racing on the front.

Kissme Ifyoucan has earned \$246K this year, winning four times in her eight career starts. In her start prior to the Kentucky Championship, Kissme Ifyoucan was second to another daughter of In Range named Blue Ranger, she a full sister to this year's star Big Ranger.

Kissme Ifyoucan was the eighth foal from her dam I Gotta Feelin to sell at public auction and proved to be the most expensive by far, with Luther taking her home for \$160,000 for his brother Greg's racing stable.

“I watched her videos a ton of times and just loved her,” said Luther. “I told my brother we've got to take that one home.”

As for the price, it was all about timing. “The In Range's were very hot at the time,” said Luther.

Indeed, Kissme Ifyoucan's yearling purchase price was four times higher than any previous foal from the dam.

Fortunately for Luther and company as the winning bidder, he already has a filly that's worth significantly more after her racing days are over, but that's far from the plan with a promising racing career ready to unfold.

“She's been perfect from day one,” said Luther, who shipped the filly to Mohawk on Wednesday. “I wanted her to have a few days to get acclimated before the race.”



AMANDA STEPHENS

Kissme Ifyoucan is one of four filly trotters in Saturday's Mohawk Million at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Luther suggested he might pull the filly's shoes on Saturday if the conditions are right.

As for putting a filly in against the colts, Luther is not shy. “I think the fillies can be more advanced at this stage,” said the trainer.

Luther has put trotting hobbles on Kissme Ifyoucan and has a quite realistic approach to the equipment. “They just go for so much money these days and I just don't want to see her make a mistake,” said Luther. “I think she could race without them, but she has such quick turn of foot I don't want to take the chance.”

Luther said that Kissme Ifyoucan's liver count spiked following her 1:51 4/5 win on August 9 and it has taken time for things to normalize, but he feels confident in her chances on Saturday and likes who he has in the bike.

“Austin's won a Breeders Crown for us,” Luther said of driver Austin Hanners, who guided Always B Naughty to victory in the Open Mares pace at Woodbine Mohawk Park last fall. “He knows this filly very well.”

While all the fillies in this year's Mohawk Million have shown ability, they are still outnumbered and will have to deal with a pair of colts that have shown high-end ability this season. Recent New Jersey Classic winner Wrong Sounds Right (post 5) took his 1:51 4/5 mark in that race on September 11 at The Meadowlands and makes his first trip outside New Jersey for Saturday's big event. Trained by Jim Campbell, the Tactical Landing-sired homebred has captured four of his six career starts while showing improvement along the way. Todd McCarthy looks for his first Mohawk Million title in the sulky.

Ocean Storm (post 9) returns to the scene of his biggest triumph for trainer Cam Capone. The Chapter Seven-sired colt captured the Grade 1 William Wellwood Memorial over this surface on August 29 in a career best 1:52 4/5 clocking. Ocean Storm returns but will have a new driver with Yannick Gingras opting for the Burke-trained Nevis Peak (post 7). James MacDonald picks up the assignment.

Ontario-sired Detonater Hanover (post 3) has won four of his eight starts this year for trainer Dr. Ian Moore and could be right on the wire with a good trip.

Seven Pledges (post 4) and D A Johnny Cash (post 8) round out the field for the Mohawk Million, a race that has gained stature in its early years and should continue to flourish.

Scheduled as race 10 on a 13-race stakes-filled program that also includes the co-featured C\$1,000,000 Metro Pace for 2-year-olds, the Mohawk Million should go to post about 10:45 PM. Post time for the first race is 6:30 PM.





ALLURE STATION, colt
(**SWEET LOU - AMAZING ALEXA**)

A colt out of a half-sister to North America Cup Champion **Nijinsky** p,3,1:47.3 (\$2,040,117).



DIRIDON STATION, colt
(**SWEET LOU - DIVIDE**)

A colt, first foal out of a half-sister to KYSS & PASS Champion **Geocentric** p,2,1:49.3; BT1:48.4s (\$804,298).



MOLLY STATION, filly
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - MOLLOP HANOVER**)

First foal from a 3/4 sister to Breeders Crown Champion **Mirage Hanover** p,1:46.3 (\$1,298,857).



MA CHERIE STATION, filly
(**CHAPTER SEVEN - MON CHEVAL**)

Out of Mon Cheval 3,1:52; BT1:50.4, a stakes winning daughter of **Shake It Cherry** (\$2.8 million).

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BRIX STATION, colt
(**SWEET LOU - BOTTLE N CORK**)

BRAVO STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - BRUNHILDA**)

CADENCE STATION, filly
(**STAY HUNGRY - CHART TOPPER**)

CARLISLE STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - CHASE LOUNGE**)

CLARISSA STATION, filly
(**CONFEDERATE - CLASSICIST**)

DEVIANT STATION, colt
(**READY FOR MONI - DEVIOUS HANOVER**)

DAQUARI STATION, filly
(**DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - DEWAR N SODA**)

DEWSBURY STATION, colt
(**STAY HUNGRY - DUCHESS HILL**)

ELATION STATION, colt
(**WALNER - EASY WIND**)

EROS STATION, colt
(**PAPI ROB HANOVER - ELVARG HANOVER**)

FOREVER STATION, filly
(**PERFECT STING - FEARLESS LOVE**)

FANCYNFUN STATION, filly
(**MUSCLE HILL - FORTISSIMO FASHION**)

FRISKY STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - FRESHEN UP**)

GIMMICK STATION, filly
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - GAME TO GO**)

GIDDY STATION, filly
(**GIMPANZEE - GYRE HANOVER**)

HAPPYNLOVE STATION, colt
(**CHAPTER SEVEN - HEART ON FIRE**)

IDYLLIC STATION, filly
(**WALNER - IM HAPPY HANOVER**)

JACKSON STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - JK FINENDANDY**)

LOUIS STATION, colt
(**GIMPANZEE - LOVIN JULIE**)

MEAN JEAN STATION, filly
(**BETTORS DELIGHT - MACKIE HANOVER**)

MIDWAY STATION, filly
(**CAPTAIN COREY - MIDPOINT**)

PENELOPE STATION, filly
(**PAPI ROB HANOVER - PACE BABY PACE**)

PALOMA STATION, filly
(**BULLDOG HANOVER - PERCY HANOVER**)

PLEASANT STATION, colt
(**SWEET LOU - PLEASE TAKE OVER**)

PADDINGTON STATION, colt
(**MUSCLE HILL - PROSPECTUS**)

RILEY STATION, filly
(**SWEET LOU - RODEO ROSIE**)

SENSATION STATION, filly
(**ALWAYS B MIKI - SANDYS BEACH**)

SWELL STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - SEASWIFT JOY N**)

SWEET TEA STATION, filly
(**SWEET LOU - SHIPNSTROL HANOVER**)

SAINT STATION, colt
(**TALL DARK STRANGER - SLOOPY**)

SALVATION STATION, filly
(**CAPTAIN COREY - STONEBRIDGE DOLCE**)

SKITTER STATION, colt
(**DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - SURI HANOVER**)

SAVORY STATION, colt
(**DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - SWEET KISS**)

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R Dutchess takes on the boys in Caesars Trotting Classic

By Jay Bergman

The 2026 edition of the Grade 2 Caesars Trotting Classic is a rare stakes event in that of the eight horses named for Friday's \$200,000 race at Harrah's Hoosier Park, three from trainer Ron Burke's powerful stable enter the race following losses. Adding a different dimension to the field is the first attempt by the 4-year-old mare R Dutchess to race with the boys as trainer John Butenschoen tries to navigate the schedule and have his Father Patrick-sired mare set up nicely for a major fall campaign.

"We did make her eligible," Butenschoen stated, acknowledging that R Dutchess was the lone female to be nominated. "We had a decision to make whether to send her to Delaware for the Miss Versatility (September 24 at the Delaware County Fair) or come to this race. Being that she's a big mare and loves the long stretch, we opted for Hoosier."

The decision puts R Dutchess in against seven males with post five for driver Tim Tetrick. Though Butenschoen suggests that his ambition was to give R Dutchess the start necessary in preparation for the \$250,000 Dayton Distaff (October 3) at Dayton Raceway, the Caesars Trotting Classic could prove to be R Dutchess' date with destiny as she brings impeccable form into the field while some of the others are struggling to find theirs.

"We took her shoes off for the Kentucky Sire Stakes (August 25 at The Red Mile) and she went a big trip winning in 1:50 2/5," said Butenschoen about the race that broke R Dutchess out of a slump. "She'd been racing well all season long but kept on getting stuck with outside draws and impossible trips."



LISA PHOTO

R Dutchess captured the Girl Power at The Meadowlands.

R Dutchess returned to The Meadowlands for a leg of the Miss Versatility on September 4 but lacked her usual punch, coming overland into a quick final half.

"She bled slightly. I'd say a two on a scale of one to 10," said Butenschoen of the Miss Versatility start.

In the Girl Power at The Meadowlands on September 11, R Dutchess returned with Lasix and raced with aluminum shoes in front, replacing the steel she had previously raced with. Tim Tetrick guided her to the biggest win of the season when R Dutchess blew past her rivals in the \$188,200 contest. R Dutchess had spent many trips this year racing from off the pace, but in the Girl Power she showed her versatility, leaving in a 26 2/5 opening quarter and still having the strength to trot home in 27 4/5 to defeat a group of classy mares that included Hambletonian Oaks winner Warrawee Michelle and Yo Tillie.

On Friday, R Dutchess will be making her 41st career start and first over the Hoosier Park seven-eighths mile surface. She's finished first or second 21 times over a three-year span.

"I don't think much has changed with her," said Butenschoen. "She's been a quality mare throughout. She's probably a little bigger and stronger."

R Dutchess faces a difficult task considering this year's edition of the Caesars Trotting Classic includes the defending champion Lexus Kody

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Time for a Hoosier Park six pack

Let me stop you right there. I'm not planning on traveling to Hoosier Park to down a six pack of alcoholic beverages in the near future. However, I may partake in one or two from the comfort of my home while potentially playing six key horses on the track's huge Friday (9/25) card with purses eclipsing \$1.3 million.

Many of these plays will be favorites, so price will be key when determining whether they are worthwhile. The goal is to get a click or two higher than the odds should be for a small edge.

RACE 2: \$70K MADISON COUNTY

With just one win in eight career starts, (5) THE REASON (8-5 M/L) may be a slightly higher price than he should be in this spot. That one win (1:56 3/5) came on Monday and I love that they turn him right around for this race. Yes, he beat much lesser competition, but he had to work to the front, was pushed hard on the backstretch and still won very comfortably. Prior to that he was keeping better company in Pennsylvania Sire Stakes. He doesn't seem to be the biggest horse so I wonder how he'll like the bigger track tonight, but if the money comes in on (2) Lions Tale off a 1:55 3/5 win I'll back this guy at 7-5 or better.

RACE 6: \$22K OPEN PACE

The big question here is whether (6) Captain Arturovico, who is coming off a 1:48 4/5 win, has the services of Dexter Dunn in the bike and is eight for 18 in the win column this year, takes more money than (1) OAKWOOD ARDAN (9-2), who is just one for 12 in 2026. While historically I've never been an Oakwood Ardan fanboy, this does appear to be the ideal spot for him to shine. Unless Ruthless Hanover goes on a speed mission like he did at Philly last time, I can see Tim Tetrick making a quick early brush to the front. The target price is 7-5, even if the morning line is much higher.

RACE 7: \$285K KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT

There was a point in the Ohio Sire Stakes final when it appeared that (1) BLUE RANGER (6-5) wasn't good enough as she gapped cover and wasn't immediately accelerating. But as the race got longer and others tired, she got stronger. The longer stretch here should be right up her alley and the presence of local standout (5) Redice could ensure we get the 6-5 price he shows on the program.

RACE 8: \$100K JENNA'S BEACH BOY

There is no sugarcoating the fact that we won't be getting any value with (3) SWEET LOVIN LOU (5-2). He's simply a horse that jumps off the page as being faster than his competition and should be singled with confidence in multi-race wagers. The horizontal play here could be a cold exacta with Lou over (1) Sonofanutcracker, who has given clear indication in his last two starts that he's coming into form.

RACE 12: \$200K CAESARS TROTting CLASSIC

We've finally reached a horse that will break the 2-1 barrier, and more likely be double that price. (2) FRENCH WINE (5-1) rarely gets a ton of respect at the windows and (3) On To Norway, a 36-time winner in 44 starts, is certainly going to be the favorite. French Wine perked up as usual when he went up to Mohawk and there is no reason to believe that form spree won't continue. He was third in this race last year and did very well during the fall months.

RACE 13: \$175K HOOSIER PARK PACING DERBY

There is little doubt in my mind that (4) Ken Hanover will be the favorite in here and he deserves respect, but he is no lock. (1) Dandy Ideal won the Dan Patch here in 1:47 2/5, so he'll take plenty of money as well. That said, his races since haven't been ideal and maybe that big effort took something out of him. Here I land on a pair of longshots in (2) SWINGTOWN (10-1) and (10) BYTHEMISSAL (6-1). The former has found the road to be difficult as a 4-year-old but did have a moment in the Haughton in July and I can see the addition of Lasix moving him up at big odds. The latter actually won the Haughton and is coming off a good second-place finish in the Ewart behind Ken Hanover. Starting from the second tier behind the speedy Dandy Ideal should have him in prime position to shake free in the stretch or pick up live cover if Chris Page wants to lay back in mid-pack early.

-Derick Giwner

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Photo: Mike Lizzie



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(post 7) as well as third-place finisher French Wine (post 2). In 2025 Lexus Kody finished in a dead heat in the race, which was his first start after capturing the MGM International Trot at Yonkers. This year Lexus Kody returns to Hoosier Park following a sixth-place finish in the International that was the result of a break in stride.

On To Norway (post 3) returns to his favorite oval for the Caesars Trotting Classic but does so following a rare defeat. The Ron Burke-trained 4-year-old miscued in the Grade 2 Charlie Hill Memorial at Scioto Downs on September 12 but recovered well enough to finish a distant second to Emoticons Legacy. Yannick Gingras drove the 4-year-old gelded son of Muscle Massive, but John DeLong returns to the bike on Friday with Gingras piloting Antognoni S, a horse he co-owns along with trainer Ron Burke.

Antognoni S started from the second tier in the International and made a break in the early stages, losing all chance. Prior to that he was a solid fourth in the Grade 1 Maple Leaf Trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park on September 5 from post 10. Since coming to the U.S. Antognoni S has won 22 times in 35 starts over the last two years. He took his 1:50 4/5 career mark in the Maxie Lee at Harrah's Philadelphia in late May. The 6-year-old son of Father Patrick drew post four for the Caesars Trotting Classic, race 12 of 15 on Friday's stakes-packed Hoosier Park program.

Ponda Jet (post 1) hopes for better racing luck than last year when he finished sixth in this event for trainer Jay Hochstetler. A 16-time winner in 2025, Ponda Jet has been on the board in all 15 starts this year but has not faced a field with this talent.

French Wine, last year's upset winner in the Breeders Crown Open division, has won just once in five tries this year for trainer Nancy Takter but clearly enters the Caesars in top form. Most recently French Wine pushed Super Chapter to the limit but settled for second in the Maple Leaf Trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Rounding out the field of eight will be Aetos Kronos S (post 6) and Gimpanzee Dancer (post 8). The former has gone winless this year in nine starts but hit the board five times for top trainer Marcus Melander. A 10-year-old by Bold Eagle, Aetos Kronos S finished second behind French Wine in a Maple Leaf Trot elimination heat. Gimpanzee Dancer has won eight of his 15 starts this year but has struggled when challenging the top class in this division.

First post time is 5:30 p.m. (EDT) for the Hoosier Park Friday program, with co-features including the \$175,000 Hoosier Pacing Derby, the \$285,000 Kentucky Stallion Management Stakes for 2-year-old trotting fillies and the \$200,000 Kentucky Stallion Management Stakes for 2-year-old pacing fillies.

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DAY 2

HIP 142 | Maneater Deo
NY/KY Eligible
Filly o/o Alwaysbafoolrudeo
Preferred Equine

HIP 169 | Curacao Blue Chip
NY Eligible
Colt o/o Blonde Onthe Beach
Blue Chip Farms

HIP 201 | Midnight Dancer
NY/KY Eligible
Filly o/o Dance Number
Alliance Bloodstock

HIP 268 | Twisted Silk
NY/KY Eligible
Filly o/o Blend
Alliance Bloodstock

DAY 3

HIP 436 | Lost Signal
NY/KY Eligible
Colt o/o Bermuda
Alliance Bloodstock

HIP 459 | Pink Venom
NY/KY Eligible
Filly o/o Cimarron Rose
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Di Costanzo has a longstanding special bond with “Chip”



HARNESS FOCUS

By Jessica Hallett [@JHallettPhoto](#)

For Nicole Di Costanzo, buying her first Standardbred was about much more than becoming an owner. It was 2015 and 15-year-old Di Costanzo had just purchased Steady Pulse, the horse who would become the beginning of her career in harness racing.

And her grandfather was the first person she told.

“I’ll never forget my grandpa’s face when I said, ‘He’s mine,’” said Di Costanzo. “My grandpa was so excited when I came home and said, ‘We have to be at the barn this afternoon to unload my own horse, Steady Pulse.’ He came to every race and he would regularly go to the barn with or without me to give the entire barn carrots!”

Her grandfather was known to everyone as Chip. Long before Di Costanzo owned a horse, trained a winner, sat behind a racehorse or had a name in the program, there was Chip, a fan of the world of racing.

“He was big into horse racing, more Thoroughbred than Standardbred, but he loved the animal as an individual,” Di Costanzo said.

A first-generation horsewoman, Di Costanzo entered the world of harness racing herself at 15, but her love of horses and the industry was woven within her through her grandfather’s connection to the sport. For her 10th birthday, Chip took Di Costanzo to the Renaissance Room at Freehold Raceway, a place that she says was one of their favorite places to go together. Just five years later, she would end up in that same business.

Despite having no owners, no foundation or background, she had Chip, who bought her three horses to help get her started.

“I had to build myself from the ground up,” she explained. “I had no

owners and no name, just myself and a lot of passion to succeed.”

Di Costanzo was raised in the same household as her grandfather and describes him as the person who helped shape the woman she has become.

“He was my father figure growing up. He actually taught me how to walk. He lived for me,” she said. “Anyone that knows us would say I was his favorite person in the world.”

“He was always so proud of the tattoo on his heart that read, Nikki Girl,” she said. “He went above and beyond my entire life to make me happy.”

In April 2018, Di Costanzo started training horses. Just a few months later, on July 24, she recorded her first training win at Monticello Raceway with Calladay Road.

Later came a horse named Uptown Funk.

“Uptown Funk was the horse that put me on the map. I would say my career took off when I bought him,” she said.

Uptown Funk, now 11 and having retired in 2023, earned just shy of



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Joe Bongiorno with Nikki Di Costanzo and their son Parker.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 16](#)

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\$300,000 on the track with 21 wins. He competed in upper-level claimers for Di Costanzo, with five of his career wins earned under her conditioning.

Her stable blossomed to 20-head and she took the lines to start driving. Her first win came on January 7, 2022 with Rockabilly Charm at The Meadowlands in what was her 13th career drive. The 27-year-old scored her biggest achievement in the bike with Lyons Pride, stopping the clock in 1:50 4/5 to win by 13 lengths at that same New Jersey oval.

"I'll never forget my first driving win at The Meadowlands. My grandfather was the first person I called. Michael Lisa made me a huge win photo and I gave it to my grandpa to put in his room," said Di Costanzo, whose driving career came to a close when she became pregnant. "When I was a few months pregnant, I did get hurt on the track in an accident and we quickly decided it was best I retire. I'm still involved in owning and I do indeed still have my Steady Pulse and the horse that brought me to the top, Uptown Funk.

"I handle the social media for [fiancé] Joe [Bongiorno] and help around the barn, but being a stay-at-home mom is my main job at the moment. I do plan on driving again one day because it would mean the world to have a winner's circle with my son in it," Di Costanzo added. "I'm actually getting ready to bring in my first homebred Beauty Of Drama -- she's a very special filly. I trained her mother No Mas Drama and actually retired her when I retired, so I'm excited to get back in and train a little bit."

As Di Costanzo's family grew with the welcoming of a new addition to her and Joe Bongiorno's lives, a part of her family had begun to fade as her grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

"Even with Alzheimer's, he never forgot to ask me every day, 'How are the horses?' or 'Where is Steady Pulse?' or 'How many horses do you have?' He was just so proud," she recalled.

When Chip died, Di Costanzo lost more than her grandfather.

"When I lost him, I didn't just lose my grandpa. I lost my biggest cheerleader and supporter. I felt like he was gone for a long time before he passed away due to his disease," said Di Costanzo.

Chip was a huge part of Di Costanzo's life and he still is, in more ways than one. In June 2024 Di Costanzo and Bongiorno watched a flashy 2-year-old in the baby races at Gaitway which caught their eyes. Some two years later, Bongiorno negotiated and purchased the horse for overnight races, but the horse turned out to be so much more, even in his namesake.

That flashy 2-year-old is the now 4-year-old stakes winner Best Chip.

"When Best Chip came into the barn, I couldn't help but think this is



MICHAEL BURNS

Best Chip winning the Canadian Pacing Derby with Tim Tetrick in the bike.

my grandpa coming back to me," Di Costanzo said.

Best Chip was racing in the conditioned events when he showed up in a big and bold way for Bongiorno with a 1:50 2/5 performance in line to Dexter Dunn followed up by a 1:49 1/5 victory with Bongiorno himself in the bike. As the weeks went on, the son of Heston Blue Chip proved himself time and time again.

His first real test was in the #SendItIn Invitational at Scioto Downs where he finished third. He won his next start in the 3-6-year-old Open at Yonkers and then found himself in the Open at The Meadowlands on Hambo Day.

"I made it in the nick of time to watch him race and he won," said Di Costanzo about the spectacular 1:46 1/5 winning performance on August 8.

Best Chip was then second in the Canadian Pacing Derby elimination and won the G1 C\$705,000 final in 1:46 4/5. A week later, he won the \$200,000 Aria Invitational Pace at Yonkers Raceway at 1 1/4 miles, proving his versatility. In fact, he has wins over every size track in 2026.

None of that really matters to Di Costanzo. "Even if Chip was an ordinary horse, he'd be special to me," she said. "I love this horse more than I ever pictured. He's so incredibly special to me and the horse he's become is truly amazing."

MOHAWK
MILLION



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Hip 65 May May
PA/FL Eligible

Colt o/o McSeaside
Alliance Bloodstock

Hip 75 Coast Guard
PA/KY Eligible

Colt o/o My Little Captain
Alliance Bloodstock

Day 2

Hip 147 Odds On Ascend
PA Eligible

Colt o/o Angelou
Anvil And Lace Farm

Hip 187 Rebel Deo
PA/KY Eligible

Colt o/o Miss LA
Preferred Equine

Hip 203 William Wallace
PA/KY Eligible

Colt o/o Darlinonthebeach
Alliance Bloodstock

Hip 231 Pseudonym
PA/KY Eligible

Filly o/o Flyme To The Moon
Alliance Bloodstock

Hip 285 Kramer
PA/KY Eligible

Colt o/o Max Contract
Hunterton Farms



THEY ARE ALL THE RIGHT SIZE. **I LIKE THAT THEY ALL HAVE GOOD SHOULDERS AND STRONG WITHERS.** HE WAS A BEAUTIFULLY BALANCED HORSE. NOTHING WAS OUT OF PLACE AND HE HAD NO WASTED MOTION.

BRETT PELLING ON THE FIRST YEARLINGS BY CONFEDERATE



CONFEDERATE

Sweet Lou-Geothermal, by A Rocknroll Dance
(1:46.1, \$2,074,054)



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Mallar hopes for another sharp effort from "Ken" in Pacing Derby

By Ken Weingartner

Ken Hanover got back to his winning ways two weeks ago in the Jim Ewart Memorial and will look to maintain his momentum this Friday (Sept. 25) when he visits Harrah's Hoosier Park to face nine rivals in the \$175,000 Grade 2 Hoosier Park Pacing Derby as part of a stakes-laden card at the Indiana oval.

Hoosier Park hosts eight unrestricted graded stakes Friday, including three additional Grade 2 events – the \$285,000 Kentuckiana Stallion Management for 2-year-old female trotters, the \$200,000 Kentuckiana Stallion Management for freshman female pacers, and the \$200,000 Caesars Trotting Classic, for older trotters.

First post is 5:30 p.m. (EDT). The Hoosier Park Pacing Derby, which will see Ken Hanover enter as the 5-2 morning-line favorite in the group of older male pacers, is the last of the stakes, carded as the 13th race on the 15-race program.

In his most recent start, on Sept. 12, Ken Hanover won the \$260,000 Grade 2 Jim Ewart Memorial by 2-3/4 lengths in 1:48 at Eldorado Scioto Downs to snap a seven-race stretch without a victory. Leaving from post 7, Ken Hanover and driver Tim Tetrick were on the outside through fractions of 26, 53 and 1:20 1/5 before launching a three-wide attack from fifth place on the final turn and scooting home in a race-best 27 1/5.

"It worked out good," co-owner/trainer Roland "Polie" Mallar said. "He was out a long way, but he had cover the whole way and the flow kept going. The fractions were pretty speedy, but with those horses, that's what you kind of expect. He never got jammed up and as long as the flow kept going, he kept on following."

"When he pulled him three-wide in the upper turn, I said to myself, this horse is still alive. When he cleared, he just kept on going. Everything kind of fell his way."

That wasn't necessarily always the case in his previous seven races. Ken Hanover had three second-place finishes during that span, plus a fourth-place finish in a division of the Sam McKee Memorial (G2) at the Meadowlands where he missed by only half a length.

"Even though he got home in 26 (in the McKee), he wasn't quite himself that day," Mallar said. "We did a little work on him and I think that's helped."

Following the McKee, Ken Hanover finished eighth from post 8 in the Always B Miki Pace (G3) on Aug. 22 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania, where a 55 2/5 opening half made it difficult to launch a rally from the backfield into a 53 2/5 second half.

Mallar was unable to get Ken Hanover into a race after the Always B Miki, so he sent the 6-year-old stallion to the Meadowlands on Sept. 4 for a qualifier as a prep for the Ewart Memorial. Ken Hanover zipped around the one-mile oval in 1:48 1/5, with a 25 3/5 last quarter, to win by more than 19 lengths.

"The race at Pocono when he had the eight-hole, he got away in the back," Mallar said. "It was slow fractions up front – they waltzed to the half in 55 and a piece, which for that class is not a lot – and nobody in the back four

really had a shot. He finished up good, but they all did because of the fractions. So, I put him in twice at Pocono in the open, and it didn't fill. I wanted to stretch him out a little bit and my only option, really, was to take him to the Meadowlands. But I think that peaked him for the Ewart."

In Friday's Hoosier Park Pacing Derby, Ken Hanover will face a field that includes Dandy Ideal, who in August won the \$300,000 Dan Patch Stakes (G1) at Hoosier. Dandy Ideal, who finished sixth in the Ewart, will leave from post 1 with Jason Bartlett driving for Hunter Oakes and is the 4-1 second choice on the morning line.

Ken Hanover and Tetrick will leave from post 4, and Mallar is pleased with the way his horse is heading into the race.

"He's good right now, he's sharp right now; I'm just hoping he stays that way for another six or eight weeks, that would be good," Mallar said. "But it's a good group of horses no matter where he races. Any one of those

horses can pop up and win, it's just a matter of who gets the trip. We'll just hope we can race (against) them every week."

For the season, Ken Hanover has three wins and three seconds in 10 races, with \$266,941 in earnings. Lifetime, the son of Captaintreacherous-KJ's Justine has 49 top-three finishes in 68 starts, with 24 victories and \$1.46 million in the bank. Mallar shares ownership of the stallion with Patrick Leavitt, William Jordan, and Dennis Osterholt.

"I think he's fresh, but now he's going to have to go four or five weeks in a row if we get as far as the Breeders Crown (in mid-October at Scioto Downs)," Mallar said. "But I think he's going to be

up to the task. He's feeling good, he's acting good, and he likes his job; that's one quality about him. He's pretty easy on himself, and he has a very efficient gait, which helps."

One race prior to the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby, On To Norway – the sport's No. 4-ranked horse in the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll – will face seven foes in the Caesars Trotting Classic. He will leave from post 3 with John DeLong driving for Ron Burke and is the 2-1 morning-line favorite.



CONRAD PHOTO

Ken Hanover roared off cover to win the Ewart Memorial at Scioto going away.

MOHAWK

MILLION

SAT SEPT 26

POST TIME 6:30 PM

WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

WAGERING MENU

- RACE 1** > \$100,000 Guaranteed Early Pick 5
- RACE 3** > Early Pick 4
- RACE 5** > Pick 6 Mandatory Payout
- RACE 6** > \$100,000 Guaranteed All-Stakes Pick 5
- RACES 6, 7 & 10** > Woodbine Stakes \$5 Pick 3
- RACE 7** > Jackpot Hi-5 Mandatory Payout
- RACE 9** > Late Pick 5
- RACE 10** > Late Pick 4

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(this program is separate from Virginia Breeders Fund program).

RACE OF THE WEEK

10 MOHAWK PARK SAT

1 Mile Trot MOHAWK MILLION: (GR 1). 2 YEAR OLD OPEN. Purse \$1,000,000

DAILY DOUBLE (RACES 10 AND 11) | 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 #DATAPRIVACY 21:54.4 (7/8) \$12,900		b f 2, by Muscle Hill, Donna Soprano by Donato Hanover Determination, Montreal, Qc		Last 5 Sts-\$82,500		1:54.4 Wbs 7/8	26 Wbs 6 2 1 1	\$82,500 26 Tot	6 2 1 1	\$77,400
20-1 Lou Roy 1227-192-151 (161)		L. Blais 244-53-38-27 (217)		Br - Determination, Montreal, Qc			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$77,400
18 Sep26 2Wbs+ fst18 ⁺ 292:1:001:1:292:1:562: Qua		87000 3 1 ² 2 ³ 2 ² 2 ⁴ 2 ⁷ 2 ¹		BMccleure LBlais 292 312 291 274 1:574			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
11 Sep26 8Wbs fst17 ⁺ 272:5:74:1:264:1:544: Champlain-g3		425000 5 8 ¹⁰ 8 ⁷ 7 ⁵ 5 ⁶ 3 ⁵ 2 ¹		+10.4w						
29 Aug26 7Wbs fst18 ⁺ 272:5:72:1:253:1:533: PctWay-g1		30000 6 9 ¹¹ 9 ¹⁰ 9 ⁷ 6 ³ 4 ¹ 1 ¹		+11.3w						
21 Aug26 6Wbs fst20 ⁺ 28:5:58:1:26:1:544: PeacefulWay		22000 9 4 ⁵ 3 ⁴ 3 ³ 2 ³ 1 ¹		+10.3w						
7 Aug26 1Wbs fst23 ⁺ 282:5:58:1:274:1:563: 2hrW1r10000		22000 9 4 ⁵ 3 ⁴ 3 ³ 2 ³ 1 ¹		+0.1w						
31 Jul26 1Wbs fst22 ⁺ 281:5:58:1:28:1:562: 2hrW1r10000		22000 5 4 ⁵ 4 ³ 4 ⁴ 3 ² 2 ³								
2 #ATHENAS GIRL 2:15.3 (7/8) \$46,063		b f 2, by Walner, Fashion Athena by Broadway Hall Bradley Grant, Milton, On		Last 5 Sts-\$325,664		1:53 Wbs 7/8	26 Wbs 2 2 0 0	\$325,664 26 Tot	7 3 0 1	\$322,442
6-1 D. Dunn 885-228-165-133 (258)		M. Melander 576-145-94-92 (252)		Br - Fashion Farms LLC, PA			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$322,442
18 Sep26 12HoP+ fst 273:5:71:1:26:1:532: Doherty-g1		671319 4 1 ⁹ hd 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 3 ¹		DDunn MMelander 273 293 284 272 1:532 91			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
29 Aug26 7Wbs+ fst18 ⁺ 272:5:72:1:253:1:533: PctWay-g1		425000 6 2 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+11.3w						
21 Aug26 4Wbs+ fst20 ⁺ 281:5:58:1:263:1:54: PeacefulWay		30000 3 4 ³ 4 ⁴ 4 ³ 2 ³ 1 ¹		+7.5w						
7 Aug26 4M+ gd 272:5:56:1:254:1:533: KNDRGARTEN		35211 2 1 ² 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 1 ¹		+3.6w						
31 Jul26 3M+ fst 274:5:56:1:26:1:523: NUSS-Pltnm		35211 4 6 ⁷ 6 ¹ 6 ⁴ 5 ⁵ 4 ¹ 1 ¹		+5.7w						
17 Jul26 8M+ fst 282:5:57:1:253:1:523: NUSS-Pltnm		35211 1 3 ² 3 ² 3 ² 3 ² 3 ² 3 ²		+4.5w						
3 DETONATER HANOVER 21:52.3 (7/8) \$36,029		b c 2, by Muscle Mass, Dancing Flames by Donato Hanover Detonater Hanover Stable, Cambridge, On		Last 5 Sts-\$232,850		1:52.3 Wbs 7/8	26 Wbs 2 2 0 0	\$232,850 26 Tot	8 4 2 0	\$288,232
8-1 T. Moore 100-16-16-15 (160)		I. Moore 183-51-28-22 (279)		Br - Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, Hanover, Pa			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$288,232
11 Sep26 6Wbs fst17 ⁺ 28:5:57:1:264:1:534: Champlain-g3		79000 7 2 ⁹ nk 2 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+10.4w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
4 Sep26 7Wbs fst19 ⁺ 281:5:57:1:264:1:541: Onss-gl		150000 3 2 ⁹ no 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+10.6w						
29 Aug26 9Wbs fst18 ⁺ 284:5:56:1:244:1:524: WmWellwood-g1		570000 2 3 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 2 ¹ 4 ¹		+11.3w						
21 Aug26 10Wbs fst20 ⁺ 273:5:56:1:242:1:523: WmWellwood		30000 6 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 1 ¹		+7.5w						
7 Aug26 7Wbs fst23 ⁺ 272:5:57:1:26:1:533: Mildfarm-g3		155000 4 3 ² 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+10.3w						
31 Jul26 3Wbs fst23 ⁺ 272:5:56:1:252:1:534: Millardfarms		25000 3 2 ² 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+8.5w						
4 SEVEN PLEDGES 21:56.2 (5/8) \$8,236		b c 2, by Chapter Seven, Clockwork Orange by Resolve Punisher 11 Stable LLC, Freehold, NJ		Last 5 Sts-\$41,184		1:56.2 Phl 5/8	26 Wbs 1 0 0 0	\$0 26 Tot	5 1 2 1	\$41,182
20-1 J. Bongiorno 1055-218-177-121 (207)		A. Harris 363-66-49-49 (182)		Br - Jonas L Schlabach, OH			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$41,182
10 Sep26 6PbA+ fst 291:5:58:1:264:1:562: 2yoCGnw2		16667 6 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+6.7w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
21 Aug26 10Wbs fst20 ⁺ 273:5:56:1:242:1:523: WmWellwood		30000 7 7 ⁹ 7 ⁹ 7 ⁶ 7 ⁶ 7 ⁵ 7 ⁵		+10.5w						
7 Aug26 8M+ gd 282:5:57:1:26:1:541: KNDRGARTEN		35211 6 1 ¹ 2 ¹ 3 ² 3 ² 3 ¹ 3 ¹		+3.6w						
24 Jul26 14M+ fst 30:1:003:1:301:1:574: KNDRGARTEN		35211 6 4 ¹ 4 ¹ 4 ³ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+4.9w						
10 Jul26 5VD fst 282:5:57:1:26:1:555: NYSS		79286 7 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+1.1w						
19 Jun26 12M+ fst 29:5:59:1:28:1:563: Qua2yo		5 3 ⁴ 3 ² 3 ³ 3 ³ 2 ¹ 1 ¹		+1.1w						
5 WRONG SOUNDS RIGHT 2:15.1 (4) \$53,620		b c 2, by Tactical Landing, Broadway Jo Ell by Broadway Hall Runthetables Stables, Montvale, NJ		Last 5 Sts-\$321,773		*1:51.4 M1	26 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 26	6 4 1 0	\$321,721
8-5 T. McCarthy 869-137-107-128 (158)		J. Campbell 58-9-10-6 (155)		Br - Runthetables Stables, NJ			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$321,721
11 Sep26 7M+ fst 28:5:55:1:24:1:514: NJClassicF		347222 4 3 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+5.4w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
21 Aug26 8M+ fst 281:5:56:1:26:1:531: GrdState		111111 5 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 2 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+5.4w						
8 Aug26 2M1A fst 274:5:55:1:233:1:511: NUSS-Pltnm		250000 3 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³		+4.3w						
31 Jul26 7M+ fst 273:5:56:1:26:1:533: NUSS-Pltnm		35211 7 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³ 4 ³		+4.5w						
17 Jul26 2M+ fst180 ⁺ 28:5:57:1:262:1:542: NUSS-Pltnm		25000 3 4 ⁴ 4 ⁴ 4 ⁴ 4 ⁴ 4 ⁴ 4 ⁴		+4.5w						
10 Jul26 12M+ fst 29:5:59:1:28:1:563: NUSS-Pltnm		35211 9 9 ⁶ 9 ⁴ 9 ⁴ 8 ⁷ 5 ¹ 5 ¹		+2.6w						
6 #KISSME IFYOU CAN 2:15.1 (4) \$43,201		b f 2, by In Range, I Gotta Feelin by Malabar Man Greg Luther Racing LLC, Blacklick, Oh		Last 5 Sts-\$228,660		*1:51.4 Lx1	26 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 26 Tot	8 4 2 0	\$345,610
20-1 Au. Hanners 1795-176-198-212 (098)		Td. Luther 556-106-96-67 (191)		Br - Polly S Hilliard, KY			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$345,610
20 Sep26 3Lx1+ fst 273:5:56:1:242:1:531: KYSS		563380 3 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+8.2w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
12 Sep26 3Sx1+ fst 272:5:56:1:241:1:531: Onss2Ftn		416667 3 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹		+1.8w						
30 Aug26 4Lx1+ fst 294:5:59:1:292:1:56 Qua2yo		111111 4 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+5.6w						
17 Aug26 6Lx1A+ gd 294:5:58:1:253:1:522: KYSS		111111 1 3 ¹ 3 ² 3 ¹ 2 ¹ 5 ⁴ 5 ⁹ 4 ¹		+5.6w						
9 Aug26 1Lx1A+ fst 273:5:55:1:233:1:514: KYSS		111111 2 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+5.6w						
20 Jul26 12M+ fst 281:5:59:1:28:1:57 Chss2f		70423 3 3 ⁴ 3 ⁴ 3 ⁴ 3 ⁴ 3 ⁴ 3 ⁴		+1.3w						
7 NEVIS PEAK (L) 2:15.3 (4) \$29,318		b f 2, by Walner, Ramona Hill by Muscle Hill Burke Racing Stable LLC, Fredericktown, Pa-Crawford Farms Racing, Syracuse, NY-Bradley Grant, Milton, On-Lawrence Karr, Boca Raton, FL		Last 5 Sts-\$149,988		1:53.4 M1	26 Wbs 2 0 0 0	\$36,400 26 Tot	5 2 1 0	\$146,588
10-1 Y. Gingras 1438-240-227-204 (167)		R. J. Burke 4036-752-624-508 (186)		Br - Hanover Shoe Fms Inc, PA-Crawford Fms Reg, NY			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$146,588
15 Sep26 5Mw fst 284:5:57:1:264:1:543: Qua		425000 5 1 ⁴ 1 ⁴ 1 ⁴ 1 ⁴ 1 ⁴ 1 ⁴		+11.3w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
29 Aug26 7Wbs fst18 ⁺ 272:5:57:1:253:1:533: PctWay-g1		425000 1 4 ⁴ 5 ⁶ 6 ⁴ 6 ⁴ 6 ⁴ 6 ⁴		+7.5w						
21 Aug26 6Wbs fst20 ⁺ 28:5:58:1:26:1:544: PeacefulWay		30000 1 6 ⁷ 6 ⁶ 6 ⁴ 4 ³ 2 ¹ 4 ³		+4.3w						
8 Aug26 6M1A fst 28:5:56:1:24:1:523: NUSS-Pltnm		312500 3 3 ¹ 2 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 2 ¹		+4.3w						
31 Jul26 13M+ fst 292:5:58:1:262:1:534: NUSS-Pltnm		35211 3 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+4.3w						
10 Jul26 2M+ fst 282:5:58:1:271:1:543: NUSS-Pltnm		35714 4 6 ⁷ 7 ⁶ 4 ² 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+2.6w						
8 #D A JOHNNY CASH 2:15.32 (7/8) \$11,250		br g 2, by Green Manalishi S, Mabel Kipp by Royalty For Life Chris Matthews-Todd Williams, Guelph-Jeff Bryan, Amaranth, On		Last 5 Sts-\$65,000		1:53.2 Wbs 7/8	26 Wbs 6 2 1 1	\$66,000 26 Tot	6 2 1 0	\$67,500
12-1 D. R. Mcnair 1007-221-165-136 (219)		C. G. Matthews 29-5-4-3 (172)		Br - Scott Mcneny, Carlisle-Domenic Chiaravalle, H			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$67,500
18 Sep26 2Wbs+ fst18 ⁺ 292:1:001:1:292:1:562: Qua		150000 6 2 ² 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+10.6w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
4 Sep26 7Wbs+ fst19 ⁺ 281:5:57:1:264:1:541: Onss-gl		25000 4 5 ⁶ 4 ⁵ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹ 2 ¹		+10.6w						
20 Aug26 2Wbs+ fst20 ⁺ 273:5:56:1:253:1:532: Wm2r20000		150000 5 7 ¹² 7 ⁵ 7 ⁵ 7 ⁵ 7 ⁵ 7 ⁵		+8.4w						
14 Aug26 2Wbs+ fst23 ⁺ 27:5:55:1:25:1:533: Onss-gl		150000 6 1 ² 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹								
7 Aug26 2Wbs+ fst23 ⁺ 293:5:59:1:29:1:562: Qua 2YO		150000 6 4 ⁶ 4 ⁵ 8 ¹¹ 8 ⁵ 8 ⁵								
24 Jul26 8Wbs+ fst20 ⁺ 271:5:56:1:252:1:542: Onss-gl		150000 6 4 ⁶ 4 ⁵ 8 ¹¹ 8 ⁵ 8 ⁵								
9 OCEAN STORM 21:52.4 (7/8) * \$85,865		br c 2, by Chapter Seven, Empress Hill by Muscle Hill Adh Holdings LLC, Auburn, NY-Paul Kautz, Franklin Lakes, NJ-Jeffrey Gural, New York, NY-Jean Barjon, Paris		Last 5 Sts-\$263,661		1:52.4 Wbs 7/8	26 Wbs 2 1 0 1	\$268,800 26 Tot	4 3 0 1	\$343,461
4-1 Ja. A Macdonald 1399-262-276-175 (187)		C. Capone 282-49-40-35 (174)		Br - Ecurie Jean-Pierre Barjon, FR			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$343,461
21 Aug26 4TgD fst 274:5:57:1:26:1:551: REYNOLDS		81944 4 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+11.3w			24 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- Life		
29 Aug26 9Wbs fst24 ⁺ 264:5:56:1:244:1:524: WmWellwood-G1		410400 6 7 ⁷ 6 ⁷ 3 ² 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹		+7.5w						
21 Aug26 10Wbs fst60 ⁺ 274:5:56:1:242:1:523: WmWellwood		30000 3 5 ⁶ 5 ⁶ 6 ⁵ 6 ⁴ 3 ¹ 3 ¹		+11.3w						
7 Aug26 1TgDA fst 283:5:59:1:271:1:563: NYExcel		27778 1 5 ⁵ 5 ³ 5 ³ 4 ¹ 1 ¹ 1 ¹		+5.6w						
9 Aug26 2TgD fst 273:5:58:1:274:1:571: Qua		1 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹		+5.6w						
1 Aug26 1TgD+ fst 30:1:001:1:31:2:022: Qua		1x 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹ 3 ¹		+5.6w						
10 ACCESS NOW 21:53.4 (7/8) \$30,161		b g 2, by Walner, Open Access by Credit Winner Determination, Montreal, Qc		Last 5 Sts-\$209,250		1:53.4 Wbs 7/8	26 Wbs 7 2 2 2	\$224,390 26 Tot	7 2 2 2	\$211,130
9-2 B. Mcclure 883-143-118-118 (163)		L. Blais 244-53-38-27 (217)		Br - Fair Winds Farm Inc, Cream Ridge, NJ			25 Wbs 0 0 0 0	- 25 Tot	0 0 0 0	\$211,130
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Red Mile announces 2027 Breeders Crown dates

The Red Mile, in partnership with the Hambletonian Society, announced Tuesday that the 2027 Breeders Crown finals will be held Friday, October 22, and Saturday, October 23 at the historic Lexington racetrack. Eliminations, as necessary, are scheduled for Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16.

The dates were formally unveiled during a press conference at The Red Mile attended by Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton, local dignitaries, community leaders and officials from across the harness racing industry.

Recognized as harness racing's world championships, the Breeders Crown brings together the sport's premier Standardbreds, drivers, trainers, owners and breeders. The series features 12 championship events across divisions of age, gait and gender and plays a defining role in determining divisional honors.

"The opportunity to host the Breeders Crown represents a significant moment for The Red Mile, the Lexington community and the future of harness racing in Kentucky," said Joe Costa, president and CEO of The Red Mile. "Our team is committed to delivering a first-class championship experience that reflects the stature of this event and the history of this racetrack. Lexington has a deep appreciation for championship equine competition, and we look forward to welcoming the sport's finest horses and horsemen while showcasing harness racing on one of its most important stages."

Created by the Hambletonian Society in 1984, the Breeders Crown was established to provide a year-end championship in each of harness racing's major divisions. Since its inception, the series has become one of the sport's most prestigious and consequential events, attracting leading competitors and racing fans from throughout North America and beyond. The Red Mile has previously hosted two Breeders Crown divisional championships, but 2027 will mark the first time it hosts the complete Breeders Crown series.

"The Breeders Crown is where an entire season of hard work reaches its defining moment—it all comes down to the Breeders Crown," said John Campbell, president and CEO of the Hambletonian Society. "For the first time, all 12 divisions will be contested at The Red Mile, bringing the very best horses and horsemen in the world to one of racing's most historic stages. Lexington is the Horse Capital of the World, and The Red Mile's history and connection to the very best of our sport make it a remarkable setting to crown our champions. We look forward to working with The Red Mile and the Lexington community to create an unforgettable event for everyone to enjoy."

The announcement comes during The Red Mile's 2026 live harness racing season and ahead of the track's signature Grand Circuit meet. Grand Circuit racing will be held October 1-3 and October 8-10, with first post at 1 p.m. each day. The 134th Kentucky Futurity, one of harness racing's most historic events and the third leg of the Trotting Triple Crown, will headline the Saturday, October 3, program.

Planning for the 2027 Breeders Crown is underway. Additional details regarding tickets, hospitality, sponsorship opportunities and the full schedule of events will be announced as they become available.

-release (Red Mile)

LAST CALL FOR MIXED SALE ENTRIES AT HARRISBURG

The Mixed Sale will be held on Thursday November 5th and Friday November 6th, 2026.

We are currently accepting entries until the close date of October 2. As always, mixed sale horses will be available for inspection starting Thursday and Friday morning prior to sale time at 11:00 a.m.

Black Book #2 will be available at the sale, and a limited number will be mailed. The catalog will be available digitally on or about October 13th. Several formats will be on our website and Equine Online.

For more information, please contact Dale Welk at dwelk@hanoverpa.com or Barbara Reed at bjreed@hanoverpa.com.

-release (Standardbred Horse sales Co.)

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, SEPTEMBER 24

RACE 11

(3) SHORE NOT BEACH delivered on 8-24 in a similar-looking spot to this where he was moving in from the eight-hole to an inside post and doesn't face anybody overly imposing in this event.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

RACE 6

(8) ULTIMATE DESBI N was closing best of anyone after getting to the outside in the stretch. She gets away from Open types and should be tough here.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 4

(5) GOING AWAY is now two-for-two since the move to the Bongiorno barn and adding Lasix. Marohn drives again looking to win another.

-Matt Rose

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

RACE 10

(7) NEVIS PEAK wasn't permitted to race with Lasix in the Peaceful Way due to jurisdictional rules but qualified with it recently and is good to go. Only loss before the issue came to undefeated Wall Of Fame.

-Derick Givner



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 1

(9) WANNABEABIGSTAR encountered no traffic trouble in his latest and was able to go down the road. I think it's a slightly weaker field tonight; I'll back him to repeat.

-Plowcha

FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

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

Yonkers Analysis

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

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

TIM TETRICK REACHES 15,000 CAREER WINS

Hall of Famer Tim Tetrick became just the sixth driver in North American harness racing history to cross the 15,000-win milestone when he won in an overnight pace at The Red Mile on Monday afternoon (Sept. 21).

Coming into the day just one win away from the milestone, Tetrick crossed the threshold after lifting Brett Pelling pupil Vandross from a stalking trip to a comfortable 1:52 4/5 win in an \$8,300 conditioned pace, which was his first drive of the day. The colt by Pebble Beach-Agent Q broke his maiden in just the second start of his career after a fifth-place finish on debut back on Sept. 1 at The Red Mile. He paid \$2.84 to win.

[READ MORE](#)

\$3.2 MILLION MASSACHUSETTS BREEDER STAKES STARTS MONDAY

Plainridge Park is anxiously awaiting the return of the \$3.2 million (est.) Massachusetts Breeder Stakes on Monday (Sept. 28). They will welcome what could be the most talented group of Massachusetts-bred trotters and pacers ever to line up behind the gate to compete over the speedy Ridge oval that has already produced an inordinate number of lifetime marks this season.

[READ MORE](#)

BIG RANGER HANDLES BUSINESS IN OHIO BREEDERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Big Ranger (Tim Tetrick) and Tom Largo (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) used identical 1:55 3/5 efforts to capture divisions of the \$122,050 (div.) Ohio Breeders Championship for 3-year-old colt and gelding trotters on Tuesday (Sept. 22) at the Delaware County Fair.

[READ MORE](#)

WAGERING MENU ANNOUNCED FOR MOHAWK MILLION NIGHT

Woodbine Entertainment Wednesday (9/23) released the official wagering menu for this year's Mohawk Million card taking place this Saturday, September 26 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

[READ MORE](#)

ROAD TO THE OAK GROVE TROTTERING DERBY, TROTTERING OAKS UPDATED

Four more standout two-year-old trotters have punched their tickets to the eliminations for the 2027 Oak Grove Trotting Derby and Oaks following major Grand Circuit and Kentucky Sire Stakes victories over the weekend.

[READ MORE](#)

NO CHANGE IN WEEKLY TOP 10 POLL

The top five spots were unchanged in the Week 15 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday (Sept. 23), but there was shifting among the next five in the rankings.

Super Chapter, who was idle, remained No. 1 for the second consecutive week. He was followed by Kentucky Championship Series winner Brandon Blvd, idle Apex, idle On To Norway, and Ohio Breeders Championship division winner Big Ranger.

Nezuko Kamado S finished fourth in her Kentucky Championship Series final and dropped from sixth to ninth. She was replaced in sixth by Metro Pace elimination winner Shalom Hanover (up from eighth), with Kentucky Championship Series winner Wall Of Fame following in seventh (up from ninth).

Sideline Miki And Minnie slid from seventh to eighth while idle Best Chip remained 10th.

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.

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll: 9/23/2026

RANK	NAME (1ST VOTES)	AGE/SEX/GAIT	RECORD	EARNINGS	POINTS	PVS
1	SUPER CHAPTER (24)	4HT	8-6-2-0	\$1,071,707	333	1
2	BRANDON BLVD (10)	3CP	11-8-2-1	\$1,135,695	319	2
3	APEX	3CT	7-5-1-0	\$860,466	267	3
4	ON TO NORWAY (1)	4GT	11-9-2-0	\$486,750	215	4
5	BIG RANGER	3CT	10-7-1-0	\$582,849	157	5
6	SHALOM HANOVER	2CP	7-7-0-0	\$324,476	131	8
7	WALL OF FAME	2FT	9-9-0-0	\$561,250	115	9
8	MIKI AND MINNIE	4MP	8-6-0-2	\$372,099	89	7
9	NEZUKO KAMADO S	3FT	9-6-1-0	\$582,305	66	6
10	BEST CHIP	4HP	15-9-3-1	\$470,805	62	10

ALSO: Miss Jum Jabber 57; Francent N 15; Melillo 14; Bourbonista S, Loua Dipa 13; Emoticon Legacy 11; Redland Rocket Man, Twin B Joe Fresh 8; Odds On Mr Mamba 7; Al Papi, Ervin Hanover, Inexpressable, Victorianas Secret 4; Don't truckwithme, Ken Hanover, Swan Good Bi 2; Nuance, Prince Hal Hanover, Waves Of Fortune 1.

-release (Ken Weingartner for Hambletonian Society)

MOHAWK PARK TO BEGIN SEARCH FOR NEXT TRACK ANNOUNCER

Woodbine Entertainment today announced it has launched the search for the next Track Announcer at Woodbine Mohawk Park, inviting talented race callers to apply for the opportunity to become the new voice of Canada's premier harness racing venue.

Woodbine is now accepting applications and will be quickly jumping into the process to identify the next Track Announcer. The successful candidate will join the Woodbine Broadcast Team and serve as the full-time voice and host for Woodbine's Standardbred racing, including calling marquee events like the Pepsi North America Cup.

Longtime on-air personality Chad Rozema, who has served as Track Announcer over the past few seasons, will be departing Woodbine for a new business venture outside of racing. Rozema's final night in the announcer's booth will be October 17.

Woodbine wishes Rozema all the best in his next chapter.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application through Woodbine.com/Corporate/Careers.

-release (Woodbine)

WINNER'S CIRCLE CATALOG, VIDEOS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The catalog for the 2026 Winner's Circle Speed Sale is now available online, and paper copies have been mailed to those who requested them.

The sale, which will take place Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Michigan State University Sales Pavilion, in East Lansing, Mich., will feature a main roster of 64 yearlings. Supplemental entries will be finalized in the coming days.

Among those listed to sell are:

- Captain Phil (hip 36, Captain Victorious-Americanascanbe), a Michigan- and Kentucky-eligible colt whose family includes Nasty As Can Be, who produced four \$200,000 earners;

- Celisus (hip 31, Muscles For Life-Sister Maggie), a full sister to 2026 Michigan Sire Stakes 2-year-old male trotting champion Life Blue Bayou;

- Chip Of The North (hip 62, Bourbon Chip-Bell Of The South), a full brother to 2025 Michigan Sire Stakes 3-year-old male trotting champion Chip Of The North who comes from the same family as 2025 Dan Patch Award winner Setyoursightshigh;

- Coolness (hip 30, Perfect Sting-Cool Kate), a filly from the same family as world champion Current Hanover eligible to programs in Michigan, Kentucky and New Jersey; and

- Mackinaw Mac (hip 44, Musclesprincetonian-Stickum Vicky), a full brother to 2024 Michigan Sire Stakes 2-year-old female trotting champ Libbys Lucky Lady.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 5-7 p.m., yearlings will be available at the pavilion for prospective buyers to inspect. Light refreshments will be available.

To access the catalog, pedigree pages, and videos (as they are made available), visit winnerscirclesale.com.

-release (Winner's Circle Speed Sale)