

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

LEXINGTON 2026

— CHANGING WITH THE MARKET —



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Derick Giwner: Consignors weigh in on new four-day format and other factors

Jay Bergman: Diamond Creek debuts yearlings from three first-time stallions

Greg Reinhart: Top consignors have elite talent for Monday's first Lexington Selected session

Keith Gisser: In search of the Lexington Selected Sale middle market

Darin Zoccali: Winbak's model provides something for buyers at all price points

Can lightning strike twice for Armitage at Lexington this year?

On The Backstretch: Profile of trainer John Pentland

2026 stallion statistics

2026 AVERAGES LIKELY TO SEE A BIG BOOST WITH
WELL OVER 100 FEWER HORSES IN THE CATALOG THIS YEAR
CONSIGNORS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC GIVEN HIGH PURSES & NEW STAKES



WE WELCOME YOUR
INSPECTION OF THESE
YEARLINGS AT OUR FARM.



SPLIT THE HOUSE

HIP #37 GIMMICK STATION, filly
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - GAME TO GO**)
2nd foal from a 1/2 sister to **Split The House**
p,1:48.1s (\$975,732) & **Shake That House**
p,3,1:47.4s (\$880,574)



MIRAGE HANOVER

Hip #70 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).



FAST AS THE WIND

HIP #72 WHIMSY STATION, filly
(**WALNER - WIND CHIME**)
1st foal from a 1/2 sister to Valley Victory
Champion **Fast As The Wind** 3,1:52.2s (\$885,174)

We're Proud to Present Our Fourth Yearling Offering

Selling 42 Kentucky-eligible yearlings!

Hip #27 CLARISSA STATION, filly
(**CONFEDERATE - CLASSICIST**)
1st foal from **CLASSICIST** p,1:50.2f (\$347,952)

Hip #41 HAPPYNLOVE STATION, colt
(**CHAPTER SEVEN - HEART ON FIRE**)
1st foal from **HEART ON FIRE** 3,1:51.2 (\$404,811)

Hip #139 ALLEYOOP STATION, colt
(**WALNER - ALL A TWITTER**)
1st foal from a **MUSCLE HILL** mare that was a \$275,000 yearling!

Hip #190 CARLISLE STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - CHASE LOUNGE**)
1st foal from a 1/2 sister to **DRAMA ACT** p,1:49.2f (\$1,153,170)

Hip #211 DEWSBURY STATION, colt
(**STAY HUNGRY - DUCHESS HILL**)
1st foal from a full sister to **ABUCKABETT HANOVER** p,1:47.2s (\$2,628,545)

Hip #213 EROS STATION, colt
(**PAPI ROB HANOVER - ELVARG HANOVER**)
2nd foal from a 1/2 sister to **ELVER HANOVER** p,2,1:48.3 (\$1,010,194)

Hip #226 JACKSON STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - JK FINENDANDY**)
Dam is **JK FINENDANDY** p,1:53.2f (\$195,266)

Hip #234 FANCYNFUN STATION, filly
(**MUSCLE HILL - FORTISSIMO FASHION**)
2nd foal from a 1/2 sister to **SISTER SLEDGE** 3,1:51.2 (\$910,393)

Hip #237 FRISKY STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - FRESHEN UP**)
1st foal from stakes winner **FRESHEN UP** p,3,1:51.3; BT1:49.3 (\$170,424)

Hip #311 PENELOPE STATION, filly
(**PAPI ROB HANOVER - PACE BABY PACE**)
Out of a 1/2 sister to **PASS LINE** p,2,1:49.3s (\$959,405)

Hip #323 PLEASANT STATION, colt
(**SWEET LOU - PLEASE TAKE OVER**)
Out of a full sister to **E Z NOAH** p,1:49.2f (\$856,073)

Hip #336 RILEY STATION, filly
(**SWEET LOU - RODEO ROSIE**)
A full sister to **RAILROAD STATION** p,3,1:49.3f; BT1:47.1 -'26 (\$575,529)

Hip #345 SWEET TEA STATION, filly
(**SWEET LOU - SHIPNSTROL HANOVER**)
1st foal from **SHIPNSTROL HANOVER** p,2,1:52.4f, 1:52.1f (\$207,986)

Hip #402 BRAVO STATION, colt
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - BRUNHILDA**)
Out of a 1/2 sister to **LATER DUDES** p,1:48.4f (\$906,838)

Hip #442 BRIX STATION, colt
(**SWEET LOU - BOTTLE N CORK**)
A full brother to stakes winner **BORDEAUX STATION** p,2,1:52 -'26 (\$47,600)

Hip #447 ADORATION STATION, filly
(**CAPTAINTEACHEROUS - ABBISTAR**)
Out of a 1/2 sister to **REIGNING JADE** p,3,1:50.1 (\$144,086)

Hip #455 CADENCE STATION, filly
(**STAY HUNGRY - CHART TOPPER**)
A 3/4 sister to **COUP STATION** p,3,1:51.1s -'26 (\$80,931)

Hip #483 ELATION STATION, colt
(**WALNER - EASY WIND**)
2nd foal from a 1/2 sister to **AMAZING CATCH** 3,1:51.4s; BT1:49.4 (\$1,263,121)

October 5th - 8th

Lexington Selected Yearling Sale



Hip #513 GIDDY STATION, filly
(GIMPANZEE - GYRE HANOVER)
1st foal from a full sister to **GANGSTER HANOVER** 1:52.1f (\$395,913)

Hip #522 IDYLIC STATION, filly
(WALNER - IM HAPPY HANOVER)
2nd foal from a 1/2 sister to **INAMINUTE HANOVER** 1:52.3 (\$615,279)

Hip #544 LOUIS STATION, colt
(GIMPANZEE - LOVIN JULIE)
2nd foal from a 1/2 sister to **LOVE A GOOD STORY** 3,1:51.2 (\$692,678)

Hip #548 MEAN JEAN STATION, filly
(BETTORS DELIGHT - MACKIE HANOVER)
Out of a 3/4 sister to **LYONSSOMEWHERE** p,1:48.2 (\$601,137)

Hip #579 PALOMA STATION, filly
(BULLDOG HANOVER - PERCY HANOVER)
1st foal from a full sister to **PIZZAZZ HANOVER** p,3,1:50.4s (\$74,774)

Hip #590 PADDINGTON STATION, colt
(MUSCLE HILL - PROSPECTUS)
From the immediate family of **APEX** 3,1:49.2 -'26 (\$2,230,197)

Hip #620 SAINT STATION, colt
(TALL DARK STRANGER - SLOOPY)
2nd foal from **SLOOPY** p,2,1:50.3 (\$151,665)

Hip #674 BOMBSHELL STATION, filly
(DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - BAREFOOT BEAUTY)
Out of a full sister to **SWINGING BEAUTY** p,1:49.4s (\$893,740)

Hip #690 DEVIANT STATION, colt
(READY FOR MONI - DEVIOUS HANOVER)
Out of a 1/2 sister to **DEJERATE HANOVER** 3,1:53.1f (\$170,948)

Hip #691 DAQUARI STATION, filly
(DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - DEWAR N SODA)
Dam is stakes winning **DEWAR N SODA** p,1:51.3s (\$314,173)

Hip #694 SALVATION STATION, filly
(CAPTAIN COREY - STONEBRIDGE DOLCE)
From the immediate family of **FRENCH WINE** 3,1:50 (\$1,891,632)

Hip #701 FOREVER STATION, filly
(PERFECT STING - FEARLESS LOVE)
1st foal from a 1/2 sister to **BETTOR AGAIN** p,1:48.2s (\$364,925)

Hip #729 MIDWAY STATION, filly
(CAPTAIN COREY - MIDPOINT)
From the immediate family of **ARIANA G** 1:50.2 (\$2,600,995)

Hip #753 SENSATION STATION, filly
(ALWAYS B MIKI - SANDYS BEACH)
A 1/2 sister to **SUNNY STATION** p,3,1:49.1 -'26 (\$139,305)

Hip #756 SWELL STATION, colt
(CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS - SEASWIFT JOY N)
Dam is **SEASWIFT JOY N** p,1:40 (\$545,776)

Hip #772 SKITTER STATION, colt
(DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - SURI HANOVER)
Dam is a 1/2 sister to the dam of **DOWNBYTHESEASIDE** p,3,1:48.3f (\$2,283,068)

Hip #774 SAVORY STATION, colt
(DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - SWEET KISS)
Out of a 1/2 sister to **MUSIC IS ART** p,1:48.3 (\$536,922)

Hip #776 SUZIE STATION, filly
(GIMPANZEE - SWIFT SWANDA)
Dam is **SWIFT SWANDA** 3,Q1:52.3 (\$452,055)



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Hip #114 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 Cerry** (\$2.8 million).



Hip #207 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).



Hip #408 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).

Consignors weigh in on 2026 Selected Sale changes and market factors

PLUS: Yearlings to watch through the four sessions



EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner [HarnessEyeGuy](#)

From global and economic conditions to the general health of the industry, there are any number of factors that may play into the final results of any yearling sale. The 2026 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale at the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavilion in Kentucky not only has some outside variables in terms of high gas prices and the war in Iran in the background but also a number of internal changes that will certainly alter the gross and average totals after the last horse goes through the ring.

The two most relevant influences on the sale are sure to be the number of days and horses. For more than 20 years the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale has been conducted over the course of five days and nights. That won't be the case in 2026 as the sessions will be October 5 and 8 at 7:00 PM and October 6 and 7 at 11:00 AM. In addition, only 756 horses (after outs) are scheduled to sell, 134 less than 2025 and 193 less than 2023 when the highest number (949) in the sale's history went through the ring.

"That was by design. We thought that the market has changed and we responded to that," said co-Sales Manager Bruce Binkerhoff on the reduction of the number of horses. "We tried to eliminate [yearlings] we thought were towards the bottom end of the spectrum, and we thought that was what the market was telling us after the last couple years, but especially last year, that there wasn't a market for that type of horse at our venue.

"We're hoping for a good response, and we think it'll be a positive thing. Hopefully the adjustments that we've made will have the intended consequences."

"We're hoping for a good response, and we think it'll be a positive thing. Hopefully the adjustments that we've made will have the intended consequences."

-Co-sales manager Bruce Binkerhoff on the reduction of horses available

Both average and gross sales for 2025 were down year-over-year, with the former taking a 5.15% hit while the latter fell 7.34%. Both numbers were the lowest since 2021. Logic would state that the gross has to fall and the average will rise this year given the reduction of available yearlings.

"I think the market will be as strong as it has been," said Deo Volente Farms' Mike Gulotta. "The bottom line is that there are fewer horses being offered. So less supply. And even if the demand wanes a bit, the law of supply and demand should operate."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



CHAMPIONSHIP RACING at The Red Mile

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VISIT PAGE

LEXINGTON SELECTED SALE POST TIMES

Oct. 5 - 7:00 PM / Oct. 6 to Oct. 7 - 11:00 AM / Oct. 8 - 7:00 PM

DRF HARNESS DIGEST SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 6 (APPROX. 2AM)

OCTOBER 7 (APPROX. 12AM)

OCTOBER 8 (APPROX. 5PM)

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Lexington Select Sale | October 5–8 | Fasig-Tipton | Barn 7

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A somewhat subtle change that has the attention of many breeders and consignors is the move of the Kentucky Futurity to the Saturday prior to the sale rather than the Saturday after. While the shift makes complete sense in terms of scheduling with the Breeders Crown eliminations for 3-year-olds on October 17 at Scioto Downs, it has also brought about some concern from breeders.

"I don't know how traffic is going to be because that is a day when there are usually a lot of people here. Sunday is what I'm thinking is going to be a madhouse," said Tim Hayes from Armitage Farm.

"I'm unsure of the schedule change with the Futurity and show day, and there's a lot jammed into a very short period of time now. I think if you blink, you're going to miss it," said Michelle Panebianco from Crawford Farms. "Saturday morning is going to be crazy because I think you're still going to get a lot of people that haven't been able to see your yearlings that are going to try to get day one in at least. And then Sunday is just going to be insane. I think that's going to be a full day of showing horses."

Crawford Farms is selling three fewer horses in 2026 than the previous year due to the decision to reduce the total numbers in the sale and Panebianco feels that perhaps it is a good thing.

"I think that we were forced to find alternate methods [of selling some yearlings], but shipping a horse for day four or five that's not as strong, is it worth shipping them and having a \$25,000 horse? Or do you throw them online and cut bait early? And then you don't have the expense of the fees and the shipping, which it's a lot when you're coming from New York," said Panebianco.



COURTESY CRAWFORD FARMS

HIP 111 Ubeautiful is a Captaintreacherous-sired sister to stakes winners Ubrute and Seaside Ubeaut.



DERICK GWINNER PHOTO

Michelle Panebianco's consignment with Crawford Farms totals 43 yearlings.

ers and consignors is that they are expecting a strong sale. Certainly that the Ohio Selected Jug Yearling Sale was up 5.4% in average is a powerful indicator. Also at play is the recent announcement of the new \$1 million Meadowlands Trot and \$500,000 Meadowlands Oaks for 3-year-olds, as well as enhanced purses for other stakes at The Meadowlands.

Hunterton Farm is down from 121 yearlings in 2025 to 110 this year. According to co-owner Steve Stewart, it is 100% due to the reduction in horses accepted by the sales company.

"I would think everybody would be down a little bit," said Stewart. "I think they did the right thing. We'll see if they picked out the ones that should not have been in the sale, if you're trying to cut out the bottom, which I'm sure they are."

Stewart added that most of his extra horses went to the annual Standardbred Sale in early November at Harrisburg. If they weren't accepted there, they would likely be placed on an online auction site.

Despite all of the changes, one commonality of breed-

"We went from potential darkness to light, because I think that if [Meadowlands CEO Jeff Gural] had folded his tent and just waited for a casino and really didn't do anything or whatever, we would've been in trouble, but thank goodness he stepped up," said Stewart.

Panebianco said that the Meadowlands' announcement "couldn't have come at a better time" and she reflected on the Crawford Farms journey from a small-time seller in New York to one of the top consignors at Lexington.

"I just keep thinking about where we started and I laugh. [Heather Reese-Marshall and I] were saying, 'remember when we were high-fiving at Morrisville over like a \$9,000 colt selling, and what little we knew about breedings, matings and matching the right stallion with the right mare?' I think we've come a long way," said Panebianco.

It is difficult for any breeder to choose between their babies, but HIP 111 Ubeautiful was the first name that came into Panebianco's head when asked about the **Crawford Farms** consignment standouts. A Captaintreacherous-sired filly out of two-time Dan Patch Award winner Warrawee Ubeaut, Ubeautiful is a half-sister to recent 1:49 3/5 Kentucky Sire Stakes 2-year-old filly pace winner Seaside Ubeaut.

A nice compact horse that looks put together properly, Panebianco said that "Everybody that's seen her absolutely loves her."

Much later in the sale, Panebianco is hoping that HIP 414 Franklin Blu could be the one that puts Androvette on the map as a broodmare. The colt has a nice bounce to his step in the video and could provide some value being by Tall Dark Stranger.

"I know it's a kiss of death that he's a Tall Dark Stranger colt. However, he's a different level of colt and may be the magic ticket. There's something about him that, I don't know, I love him," said Panebianco.

HIP 581 Sawyer Blu is another who moved nicely in her video and perhaps could be an interesting pick for those looking to take advantage of the big money and short fields in the New York Sire Stakes market. By Crazy Wow, Panebianco said that given what they've bred to him this year, his crops in the next few years will determine his place in the sport as a stallion.

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10/5-10/8 LEXINGTON HIGHLIGHTS

Lineup for Days 1 & 2, Highlights for Day 3

Sale starts at 7 pm on 10/5 & 11 am on 10/6 & 10/7.

[Click Here](#) or Scan QR Code to Register for Online Bidding



#56, UPTOWN ANGEL

Day 1 NY Pacer

HUNTSVILLE

#55, BENNYVILLE, C
Huntsville-LA Fitness-Always B Miki
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
New Talent, p, 1:48.3 (\$453,353)

Day 1 NY Trotter

CHAPTER SEVEN

#59, NOVEL LIFE, F
Chapter Seven-Mets Life-Kadabra
1/2-sister to **Amazing Catch**,
3, 1:51.4s -'24 (\$958,640). Dam is a
1/2-sister to **Met's Hall**,
3, 1:51.2 (\$1,295,306)

Day 1 PA Pacer

CAPTAINTEACHEROUS

#56, UPTOWN ANGEL, F, PA/KY
Captainteacherous-La Minita Hanover-Betting Line
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Odds On Equuleus, p, 1:47.3 (\$935,816)

Day 1 PA Trotter

CAPTAIN COREY

#107, CAPTAIN TOSCA, C
Captain Corey-Tosca-Muscle Mass
1/2-brother to **Senorita Palema**,
3, Q1:54.3 -'24 (\$375,575), &
Tuscan Prince, 3, 1:52.3s -'23 (\$310,041)

Day 2 NJ Trotter

TACTICAL LANDING

#238, YANKEE GENTLEMAN, C, Agt.
Tactical Landing-Met Gala-Chapter Seven
Family of **Gimpanzee**, 1:50 (\$2,701,075),
& **Met's Hall**, 3, 1:51.2 (\$1,295,306)

NEW! Day 2 NY Pacers

CANNIBAL

#385, IT'S ON THE HOUSE, F
Cannibal-Uwant It Ugot It-Always A Virgin
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Funknwaffles, p, 1:49.2f (\$1,110,600)

HUNTSVILLE

#331, QUESO KID, C
Huntsville-Queso Relleno-Betterthancheddar
1/2-brother to 2026 NY Stakes Winner,
American Cheese,
p, 3, 1:51.1f -'26 (\$155,873)

#349, SMOOTH HUNT, C
Huntsville-Silk Pajamas-Bettor's Delight
1/2-brother to **PJ Lou**,
p, 1:48.2f -'25 (\$417,247)

Day 2 NY Trotter

CHAPTER SEVEN

#324, NEW CHAPTER, F
Chapter Seven-Precious Fashion-Yankee Glide
Second dam is **Honorable Daughter**,
2, 1:55.1f (\$979,236)

NEW! Day 2 ON Pacers

BEACH GLASS

#258, BLAST ZONE, C
Beach Glass-Impact Zone-American Ideal
1/2-brother to **Contact Zone**,
p, 1:51.4f -'24 (\$241,810), & 2025 Arden
Downs Winner, **Gold Impact**,
p, 2, 1:52.3f -'26 (\$115,908)

#273, DREAM BY THE BEACH, C
Beach Glass-Dreamlands Latte-Artsplace
1/2-brother to O'Brien Horse of the Year,
Desperate Man, p, 1:48.2f -'25 (\$1,823,529),
& **Smooth Dream**, p, 3, 1:49.2 -'25 (\$314,122)

#354, TROPHY GLASS, C
Beach Glass-Sports Chic-Sportswriter
1/2-brother to **Vivians Dream**,
p, 2, 1:50.4s (\$633,782)

BETTOR'S DELIGHT

#288, DELIGHTFUL BEACH, C
Bettor's Delight-Micki Lovedthebeach-Always B Miki
First Foal. Family of **Huntsville**,
p, 3, 1:47.4 (\$1,704,242)

CATTLEWASH

#322, NITROGEN, C
Cattlewash-Pleasant Yet Bad-Badlands Hanover
1/2-brother to **Weeper**,
p, 3, 1:49f (\$569,511)

Day 2 PA Pacers

CAPTAINTEACHEROUS

#192, CLEARLY TROUBLE, C, PA/KY
Captainteacherous-Clear Idea-American Ideal
Dam is **Clear Idea**, p, 3, 1:50.4f (\$639,323)

SWEET LOU

#321, ROLL WITH LOU, C
Sweet Lou-Pleasant Roll-Roll With Joe
1/2-brother to **Momentsthatmatter**,
p, 1:51.1f -'23 (\$201,498)

Day 2 PA Trotters

CAPTAIN COREY

#260, SOLID CATCH, F
Captain Corey-Met's Inn-Mutineer
1/2-sister to **Met's Hall**,
3, 1:51.2 (\$1,295,306), & to the dam of
Amazing Catch, 3, 1:51.4s -'24 (\$958,640)

Day 2 PA Trotters (cont.)

CAPTAIN COREY

#280, WINNING CAPTAIN, C
Captain Corey-Loyal Lynnlly-Chapter Seven
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Windshield**,
3, 1:56.2f (\$327,200)

NEW! VOLUME EIGHT

#219, LOUDER THAN LIFE, F, PA/KY
Volume Eight-Exotic Form-Malabar Man
1/2-sister to **Happy Jack B**,
3, 1:52 -'25 (\$591,027), & **Barn Hall**,
1:53.2h -'23 (\$463,587)

#242, CATCHY KING, C
Volume Eight-Girl From Queens-Cantab Hall
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Amazing Catch**,
3, 1:51.4s -'24 (\$958,640)

#352, VOLUME UP, C
Volume Eight-Southern Autumn-Southwind Frank
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Flex The Muscle**,
1:52.4f (\$957,210)

Day 3 NJ Trotter

MUSCLE HILL

#410, DARE TO COMPARE, C
Muscle Hill-Amorous Flirt-Andover Hall
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Market Share**,
1:50.2f (\$3,792,101)

Day 3 NY Trotters

CHAPTER SEVEN

#445, SEVEN SUNS, C
Chapter Seven-Bramasole Hanover-Kadabra
Dam is a full-sister to **Caprice Hill**,
3, 1:52.3f (\$1,329,072)

#479, NEXT EDITION, F
Chapter Seven-Devanly-Donato Hanover
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Crystal Fashion**,
1:50 (\$2,445,084)

Day 3 ON Trotter

KING OF THE NORTH

#521, GIMME THECROWN, C
King Of The North-I'll Bring Dessert-Chocolatier
1/2-brother to 2026 PA Stakes Winner,
I Take The Cake, 3, 1:52.2f -'26 (\$107,241)

Day 3 PA Trotter

GREENSHOE

#473, EMERALD HALL, F
Greenshoe-Debra Hall-Cash Hall
1/2-sister to 2026 NYSS Winner,
Read The Room, 3, 1:53.2f -'26 (\$329,150)

All information as of 9/30/26



Visit us at Fasig-Tipton's Barn 8! Yearlings will be available for previewing starting on 10/3!

Joe & JoAnn Thomson, Winbak Farm Owners / Jack Burke, General Manager / James Ladwig, Yearling Manager
155 Yearling Row, Chesapeake City, MD 21915 / 410.885.3059 / james.ladwig@winbakfarm.com
Visit www.winbakfarm.com for yearling videos. / f / x / @

If you are looking for a sleeper, Panebianco is very high on HIP 624 Taconic. The Pennsylvania and Kentucky yearling is the fourth foal from stakes winner Stonebridge Soul but the first time she has been bred to a horse outside of Tall Dark Stranger. Taconic is by Sweet Lou. "This is the nicest individual she's had," said Panebianco.

Deo Volente is selling 15 yearlings under the Preferred Equine consignment and owner Mike Gulotta is excited about the turnout he's had to see them at his New Jersey-based farm.

"I've got some great people coming and looking at our horses. Great, high-priced buyers. And they like a lot of them," said Gulotta.

Topping the list are a pair from the first crop of Confederate. HIP 85 Stonewall Deo is a half-brother to both Dan Patch Award winner Rock-nificent (\$1.1 million) and Rocket Deo (\$856K), and HIP 187 Rebel Deo is a half-brother to millionaire Rodeo Drive Deo. Both foals are Pennsylvania eligible but Rebel Deo has dual eligibility in Kentucky.

Another pacer worth a look is HIP 291 Windjammer Deo. Cited as "unbelievably gorgeous" according to Gulotta, the son of Sweet Lou is just the second foal from the mare, who was bred to Tall Dark Stranger in her first mating.

Bloodline aficionados will want to check out HIP 142 Maneater Deo. The first foal from the mare and from the first crop of Canibal, this filly has New York and Kentucky eligibility.

"She is four by four bred to Delinquent Account and an incredible looking horse. That's one of my favorite horses," said Gulotta.

While any consignor is going to put a positive spin on their yearlings, **Hunterton's** Stewart hardly has to do that with his elite group. Of them is 20 by Walner, who led all stallions in average (with more than one yearling) by almost \$20,000 at \$131,188 in 2025 at Lexington.

"There's never been a better time to sell a top stallion as Walner," said Stewart, who commented on the fact that this is the second year with 80 by Walner in the sale. "I didn't feel like very many people left Lexington last year saying, oh my gosh, there were too many Walners. I think that everybody wished they had more Walners."

Although opening night is where the sale-toppers typically reside, Stewart said buyers shouldn't sleep on the power in the sale on the second day.

"We have quite a few yearlings in my estimation that are selling on the second day that easily could have been sold on the first day," said Stewart. "I don't have a problem in them selling on the second day just because I know that in the past we've done very well with second-day horses."

Interestingly, the one horse that Stewart was eager to highlight is selling on the fourth night of the sale. HIP 728 Zoetry is a filly by Volstead and the first foal out of \$801K winner Walner Payton.

"I don't know who will top the first session, but I'm very confident that I know who will top the last session," said Stewart about Zoetry. "If she's not the highest price on the last day, somebody got a very, very good buy. And the reason why I say that is because she's just a very,

very special filly. She's 100% just like Walner Payton."

Cane Run Farm's Elizabeth Caldwell was a bit more cautious in her comments when it came to the topic of Walner. She has two by that top sire, including HIP 328 Ascend from the mare Princessa, who gets a stallion change from Gimpanzee to Walner with her second foal.

"There's so many of [Walners] in the sale. I hope they don't get lost in the shuffle, but she's a nice filly," said Caldwell.

Cane Run has 16 set to sell in Lexington, all trotters. None of them landed on opening night, but that doesn't bother Caldwell in the least.

"Day one is just tough. It's very intense. So I think a few of them could have maybe been on a different day, but I think they're going to hopefully stand out on the day they're selling," said Caldwell. "I'm looking at my list and I don't see a horse that I wouldn't want."

A couple that videoed very well are fillies, HIP 566 Without Lou and HIP



COURTESY CANE RUN FARM

HIP 566 Without Lou is a first-foal Gimpanzee-sired filly from Cane Run Farm that videoed very well.

636 Tigress Tactics. The former is a first foal from the family of multiple Dan Patch Award winner Peaceful Way while the latter is a product of an interesting stallion change from Father Patrick to Tactical Approach.

"She's a nice filly. She's got a good head on her shoulders; smart filly. Nothing seems to faze her," said Caldwell about Without Lou. "She just goes. She was easy to video and prep."

"She's got speed, she's athletic. Hopefully she fills out some more. She's not a very big horse, but the entire family we've owned all the way back to Bar Slide on the page, none of them are very big," remarked Caldwell about Tigress Tactics. "I've had several people say that she's a really nice-looking filly by [Tactical Approach] and they really like her."

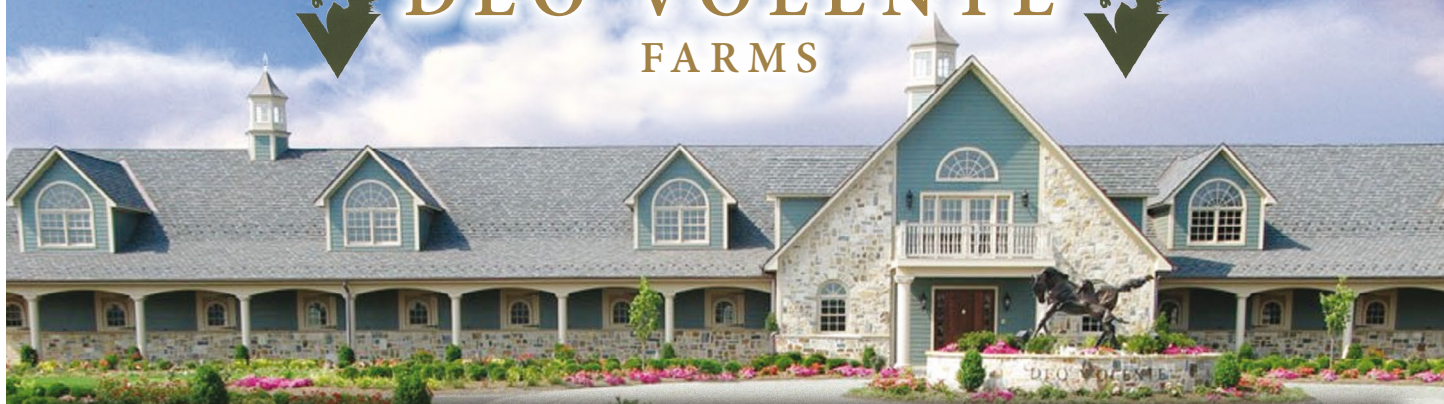
Colts which Caldwell felt that deserved extra attention are HIP 480 Abebe – "He's a very striking horse" – and HIP 162 Jungle Law – "He's very athletic".

One of the farms bringing the smallest numbers to Lexington also has one of the best consignments in terms of bloodlines and conformation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



DEO VOLENTE FARMS



LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLINGS | Selling October 5th - 8th *Preferred Equine Marketing Consignment*



ROCKNIFICENT

Hip #85 STONEWALL DEO, Colt
Confederate - Rocklamation

A 1/2 brother to Grand Circuit winners

ROCKNIFICENT p,1:48 (\$1,185,714)
& **ROCKET DEO** p,3,1:48.3 (\$1,127,212)



RODEO DRIVE DEO

Hip #187 REBEL DEO, Colt
Confederate - Miss L A

A 1/2 brother to 2025 Jugette winner

RODEO DRIVE DEO p,1:49.4f -'26 (\$1,495,711),
out of a full sister to **L A DELIGHT** (\$1.7 million).

Hip #81 TREACHEROUS DEO, Filly
Captaintreacherous - Stephanie Deo
A 1/2 sister to **THISBEESTINGS DEO**
p,3,1:51f; BT1:49 -'26 (\$116,323)

Hip #99 CAMERON DEO, Colt
Chapter Seven - Primadonna Deo
Second foal, a colt, out of
PRIMADONNA DEO 3,1:52 (\$277,580)

Hip #142 MANEATER DEO, Filly
Cannibal - Alwaysbafoolfrudeo
First foal from a 1/2 sister to
RODEO ROCK p,1:49f (\$772,227)

Hip #277 TACTICALSUPPORTDEO, Colt
Tactical Landing - UF Lindsay Lou Who
A 3/4 brother to **PRIMADONNA DEO**
3,1:52 (\$277,580)

Hip #291 WINDJAMMER DEO, Colt
Sweet Lou - Catamaran
A colt out of a 1/2 sister to
ANTHEM p,1:50.4f; BT1:49.2f (\$571,019)

Hip #327 LIONHEART DEO, Colt
Chapter Seven - Princess Deo
Just the second colt out of
PRINCESS DEO 3,1:52.2 (\$470,328)

Hip #380 FLAWLESS DEO, Colt
Perfect Sting - Tres Cher Deo
First foal from a 3/4 sister to
GALLIC BEACH p,1:50.2f (\$413,077)

Hip #387 FRESH PRINCE DEO, Colt
Gimpanzee - Southwind Venus
A full brother to **LUNA LOVEGOOD**
2,1:51.4 (\$606,562)

HIP #466 REX DEO, COLT
King Of The North - Tu Eres Mi Corazon
Out of a 1/2 sister to **VALENTINA BLU**
3,Q1:55; BT1:51.2 (\$579,371)

Hip #469 STORM CHASER DEO, Colt
Father Patrick - Dangerous Sky
From the immediate family of
Hambo winner **APEX** 3,1:49.2 (\$2,230,197)

Hip #517 DUTCH DEO, Colt
Volume Eight - Holland Hall
From the immediate family of
TACTICAL APPROACH 3,1:50.1 (\$1,544,489)

Hip #559 SCORPION DEO, Colt
Perfect Sting - Miss Lady Deo
First foal from a 1/2 sister to
I LUV THE NITELIFE p,3,1:48.4f (\$1,947,511)

Hip #643 SWEET MAGNOLIA DEO, Filly
Gimpanzee - Contepartiro Deo
A filly out of a 1/2 sister to
PERFECT ALLIANCE 1:51.2s (\$257,351)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Kountry Lane Standardbreds came to this sale for the first time in 2025 with just seven yearlings and led in average price by over \$40,000 at \$155,286. They have another magnificent seven in the catalog this year.

“The Lexington crop is really nice, and it was specifically hand-picked for Lexington. My idea is I like to sell first or second night. And if they don’t make the first or second night, they’re better off in Harrisburg,” said Duane Miller from Kountry Lane. “You get battled around pretty good in Lexington. You think you have a pretty nice individual and you get down to Lexington, look around, and guess what? So does everybody else. It’s tough. It seems to me like you get overshadowed in Lexington pretty quick because of the depth.”

Because Kountry Lane is new to the breeding game they have the distinct advantage of a young broodmare band. The operation also benefits from their decision to buy accomplished racetrack mares of the highest quality.

“Our broodmare band is so young and so new. Obviously, in the next few years as time goes on we won’t have as many young ones,” said Miller. “I won’t keep a lot of old mares around unless they’re great producers or something. Because it seems to me people like the young and the new.”

Many of the top stallions are represented in the Kountry Lane consignment, including Walner, Captaintreacherous, Sweet Lou, and newcomer Confederate, among others. While the group includes first foals from Dan Patch winner Lyons Sentinel (HIP 90 Kountry Lynn), \$633K winner Captain Cowgirl (HIP 24 Kountry Cassandra) and \$567K winner Flawless Country (HIP 230 Kountry Faith), Miller is highest on the half-brother to recent New York Sire Stakes champion Kountry Plunge that sells as HIP 79.

“[Kountry Prince] is pretty correct, but so are all of ours. He’s also tall and athletic, he’s really athletic. Kountry Plunge, the filly last year, was a lot shorter, a lot of stubbier legs and stuff. This guy is just way more horse. He’s the real deal for sure,” said Miller about Kountry Prince, who looked in his video like he could carry a cup of coffee on his back and not spill a drop.

It is tricky to determine the ultimate results of any yearling sale and even more difficult to get people in the harness racing industry to agree on much, but there is unanimous consent that the Lexington Selected Sale will produce a positive outcome.

“There are a lot of horses in there that should bring a lot of money, but you just don’t know until it happens,” said Binkerhoff, who pointed out that all indicators within the industry are strong. “People come to a yearling sale mostly to buy horses to race in stakes races and those purses, in almost every jurisdiction, are very good. So I would think that would bode well for the sale.”

Ultimately, the buyers will decide.



KOUNTRYLANESTANDARDBREDS.COM

HIP 79 Kountry Prince is a Walner brother to recent Sire Stakes winner Kountry Plunge.

Lexington 2026 By The Numbers

112 YEARLINGS TO BE SOLD ON THE FIRST NIGHT

756 TOTAL YEARLINGS EXPECTED TO BE SOLD (AS OF 9/29)

121 YEARLINGS FROM PREFERRED EQUINE LEADS ALL CONSIGNORS

80 SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF WALNER TO LEAD ALL TROTTERS

52 SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF CONFEDERATE TO LEAD ALL PACERS

41 PACERS AND 71 TROTTERS UP FOR BIDS ON OPENING NIGHT

\$12,052,000 GROSS SALES FROM '25 CONSIGNER HUNTERTON

115+ YEARLINGS FROM FIRST-TIME SIREs

\$2,580,000 SPENT BY AKE SVANSTEDT LED ALL BUYERS IN 2025

13 OUTS AS OF 9/29:

(63, 146, 163, 254, 300, 372, 409, 493, 510, 603, 738, 742 & 791)

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#79 Kountry Prince

LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLING SALE*

Monday, Oct. 5 & Tuesday, Oct. 6

#24 **KOUNTRY CASSANDRA** Filly
First foal out of **Captain Cowgirl**
p,3,1:49.3f (\$633,527)
(Sweet Lou • Captain Cowgirl)

#78 **KOUNTRY PENELOPE** Filly
(Captaintreacherous • Peaky Sneaky)

**All Yearlings are Kentucky Eligible
(exception Kountry Brody)*

#79 **KOUNTRY PRINCE** Colt
Walner 3/4 Sibling to Multiple
NYSS Winner **Kountry Plunge**
First colt out of **Plunge Blue Chip**
3,1:49.4 (\$1,572,251)
(Walner • Plunge Blue Chip)

#90 **KOUNTRY LYNN** Filly
First foal out of **Lyons Sentinel**
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)

KountryLaneStandardbreds.com

Lexington opening night consignors discuss their prospects



By Greg Reinhart

✉ @gregreinhardt

The first session of the 2026 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale will bring most of harness racing's leading consignors to the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavilion to offer their top-bred prospects to bid on.

One of the consignors that will feature prominently is Steve and Cindy Stewart's Hunterton Farm and their Hunterton Sales Agency. Hunterton was the top consignor in Lexington last year, but Steve Stewart takes a more pragmatic approach when it comes to defending that title.

"Basically if it happens, it happens," Stewart replied when asked about his philosophy on topping the rankings. "The way I look at it, if we are the leading consignor again great, if we're not, we put it on an individual basis. Instead of worrying about are we this, are we that, did the horses that we are selling sell good? And if they did, it doesn't matter whether we're the highest consignor."

Similarly, when it comes to the market going into the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, Stewart feels that being static isn't necessarily the worst option, as it gives both breeders and buyers incentive to come back to future sales.

"A lot of times we follow the Thoroughbreds, and I don't see us going up as high as they are going up every year, but, and quite frankly, I don't think it's necessary," he remarked. "I think that if we are pretty much where we were last year and the year before, I think that's just fine. There's plenty of money to make a profit and move on. Everybody

wants 'it's up, it's up, it's up.' I don't look at it that way because I kind of feel like when the market continues to rise, two things happen that are not the best-case scenario. One is, it's great when you sell them, but it makes it harder for the buyers to make money, and we need the buyers to come back year after year. I look at the big picture, which is we need the buyers to make money, and the higher the prices go, the harder it is to make money. This is logical.

"The other dynamic that happens is if the market goes up, then the stud fees go up and the mares cost more money. All boats raise or whatever to make it hard for everybody. And so you're just tying up more money. I



DERICK GIWNER PHOTO

Cindy & Steve Stewart's Hunterton Farm/Sales Agency led all consignors in 2025.

feel that there's enough money out there that if you've got a good horse there's money for it. If we left the sale and it was on par from last year, I think that's a positive."

As for some of Hunterton's offerings during the first session, HIP 15 Three Socks is a Sweet Lou colt out of Hall of Fame broodmare Precious Beauty. While Precious Beauty is now 25 years old, Stewart pointed out previous success stories of top horses that have come from mares well into their careers.

"Obviously, 'the mare is prolific' is an understatement, for him. The one comment I would make is that a lot of people will say 'oh, it's



WALTER WLODARCZYK PHOTO

Breeder Steve Stewart was all smiles after Apex won the Hambletonian. His Hunterton Farm will sell HIP 88 Top Gun, a Gimpazee half-brother to the 2026 Hambletonian champion.

an older mare,' but I can show you horse after horse after horse that has done well [in that scenario]," he said. "When we sold Trixon as a yearling, as an example, he was the 12th foal of the mare Emilie Cas El and people said 'oh, it's a 12th foal,' and I said, 'are you saying you wouldn't have bought the 10th foal?' Her tenth foal won the Breeders Crown and the 12th foal won the Hambletonian. They said the same thing about Allegiant. Allegiant we sold, and she was the 12th foal of a 22-year-old mare. She just trotted the fastest mile in the history of trotting in Sweden this summer. So, I can show you lots of predictions or people feeling this and that or whatever that doesn't always hold water.

"Obviously older mares, there is an effect on the price, but that's a nice colt."

Next up is another pacer in HIP 47 Captain Boo, a Captaintreach-erous colt who is the first foal out of 1:48 3/5 performer and \$949,283 performer Hot Mess Express.

"He's very nice. He's a great big colt, but he covers the ground," Stewart said of Captain Boo. "You know, if someone's looking for a big Captain colt, he would fit the bill."

Switching to trotters, Hunterton has HIP 76 Indestructible among their horses. Indestructible is out of Jolene Jolene, making him a full brother to \$1,187,339 earner Venerable, and Stewart is high on his chances to fetch a big price.

"I feel that he has a very good chance of topping the sale. If I had to pick one to say, 'okay, which one do you think will sell for the most' I'm going with him because he's a great big colt," Stewart said. "The 3-year-old was not very big and brought \$350,000, and some of my partners were disappointed, and I said 'well he's just not a great big colt.' But this one's a great big colt, a handsome black colt. I'm not saying he's gonna top the sale because I don't know his competition when it comes to that, but I would think he has a heck of a shot because he's quite a colt."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

IMAGINATION

noun; i-mag-i-na-tion i- ma-jə 'nā-shən

- ★ **Creative ability**
- ★ **Ability to confront and deal with a problem or situation**
- ★ **Taking past things you saw or did and changing them into new ideas**

In Hunterton's 45 years of being in business, we have used imagination to test out choices and plan for the future before we act. Imagination lets us see things from another person's point of view to address the needs of our clients and the horses.

Imagination is a key to Hunterton's success.

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

– William Arthur Ward

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Northern Lights - Jeff Rogers photo



HIP 94 Freya Jules' four white feet make her a standout visually. She is a Chapter Seven-sired filly from the Crawford Farms consignment.

COURTESY, CRAWFORD FARMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Another fashionably-bred yearling Hunterton has is HIP 88 Top Gun. A Gimpanzee colt, he's out of Mission Brief, which makes him a half-brother to Hambletonian champion Apex.

"He's a nice colt. The one thing that might slow some people down, I guess it didn't with (full brother) Command Center last year, is he's a June foal," Stewart said. "So, he's not a great big colt, but he's very handsome, and he'll sell accordingly."

Another mainstay in Lexington is **Crawford Farms**, who was fourth in the consignor rankings last year. They have another diverse set of trotters and pacers in the sale this year, and farm manager Heather Reese-Marshall is excited to see how they sell.

"I would say overall we have a pretty strong group. We have everything from New York, New Jersey, Ontario, Ohio. We pretty much have everything covered," she said. "As a general consensus, I would say everybody has been pretty happy with how our horses have videoed. We've gotten a lot of feedback on that this year."

A standout from the group in terms of looks is the Chapter Seven-sired filly HIP 94 Freya Jules. She has the unique identifier of four white feet, and if she wasn't a trotting filly, you may think she was by Sweet Lou.

"We all had to do a double take it, like, where did you come from?" said Michelle Panebianco about her coloring. "She's been a spitfire and looks like a speedball in her video. We all stood there and my mouth was on the ground."

Reese-Marshall added, "I've had all the fillies or all the foals out of that mare [Fade Into You] and this is by far my favorite. She's been probably the most universally turned-out filly by all the trainers and agents that have come to the farm. She does absolutely nothing but trot, just an absolutely beautiful filly."

Another one from Crawford Farms that is sure to catch plenty of attention is a Huntsville half-sister to Brandon Blvd in HIP 28 Devi.

"She's a nice filly. Not as big as Brandon, but definitely she's got a good attitude," Reese-Marshall stated. "She's right on the pace out in the paddock for turnout and everything."

Other trotters Crawford Farms have include HIP 6 Faena, a Tactical Landing filly who is the second foal out of Dan Patch Award recipient Anoka Hanover and HIP 86 Naria, a daughter of Captain Corey out of \$556,691 earner Valentina Blu.

"That's a nice filly. She's a great attitude, which you don't usually get out of the Donato Hanover mares," Reese-Marshall said about Faena. "She's very level-headed and trots nice - a big, strong filly."

As for Naria, Reese-Marshall remarked: "She is the absolute twin to her mother. She does nothing but trot and she's put together nicely. She's a medium-sized filly, but if anybody knows that family, they're all like that."

Last, but certainly not least to watch from Crawford Farms is HIP 111 Ubeautiful, a Captaintreacherous filly who is the third foal out of \$1,849,063 earner and 1:48 3/5 performer Warrawee Ubeaut.

"She's beautiful. I mean, she looks like she's been ready to wear a harness for two months now," Reese-Marshall offered. "Big strong filly, great attitude. She's definitely the whole picture."

While Hunterton Farm and Crawford Farms are long-time Lexington Selected Yearling Sale participants, Eric Good's **Spring Station Bloodstock** is one of the newer "kids on the block," as they had their first consignment there in 2023. Spring Station steadily worked their way up the rankings to sixth last year, and Spring Station's Sasha Moczulski says the hope is the best is yet to come.

"Yes, that has been a goal for ourselves from the beginning," she said about Spring Station's ascent on the board. "Our best crop yet is going to sell next year. We'll have about 56 yearlings. And I think that's a consignment that you'll look forward to, as well as us. We're really proud of our consignment that we have this year. Improving over time, that was the goal."



SASHA MOCZULSKI FACEBOOK

Sasha Moczulski will send out 42 yearlings under the Spring Station banner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLING SALE

OCTOBER 5 - 8 • FASIG TIPTON, LEXINGTON, KY

Consigned by Kentuckiana Farm, Agent.

For a viewing appointment please call Kentuckiana Farm (502) 863-3070

#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

We started out with a lot of maiden mares, so our goal was always to kind of improve as we go.”

Spring Station Bloodstock will sell six yearlings on opening night and is on balance with three pacers and three trotters.

“For our consignment, I’m very proud of the fact that I think we do have something for everyone. And I know that’s been said before, but genuinely, I think if you look at all four days, we’re pretty good across the board here,” Moczulski offered. “We don’t just focus on singularly trotters or just pacers. So, I think we’ve got a range of things. I think we have a very well-rounded consignment.”

HIP 37 Gimmick Station is a Captaintreacherous filly and is the second foal out of a half-sister to a number of stakes winners, including Split The House and Shake That House.

“That one is a very nice filly. She’s good-sized and has a good work ethic when she’s on the wheel,” Moczulski offered. “She’s got her nose right on the gate. Naturally, being a Captaintreacherous, she’s got size to her, but I like the leg that she has.”

Next up from their group is HIP 41 Happynlove Station, a Chapter Seven colt who is the first foal out of 1:51 3/5 performer and \$402,253 earner Heart On Fire.

“He’s one that we’re all really excited about. He’s got great size for being a Chapter Seven, a nice attitude, and he’s very well put together,” Moczulski said. “He’s a funny guy. He’s got personality, and he does like to play, but he is one that we are genuinely excited about.”

A second daughter of Captaintreacherous that will go through the ring for Spring Station is HIP 70 Molly Station, the first foal out of Mollop Hanover. Mollop Hanover won in 1:50 during her racing career and is a sister to a number of successful horses, including Mirage Hanover and Mad Max Hanover.



SPRING STATION BLOODSTOCK FACEBOOK

HIP 41 is a good-sized Chapter Seven-sired colt named Happynlove Station from the Spring Station Bloodstock consignment.

“Eric owned Mollop Hanover while she was racing as well, so that’s one again we’re super excited about,” Moczulski said. “She is lovely. She just has a nice personality to work with, and I can’t say anything bad about her.”

Spring Station also has a Walner filly in HIP 72 Whimsy Station, the first foal out of stakes winner Wind Chime.

“She’s nice as well. She has a good head on her. I think she has a racy

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 18](#)



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SELLING IN LEXINGTON OCTOBER 5 – 8



Hip #39 MELINO ARMITAGE

Colt • Walner – Goodtogo Hanover

Half-brother to R MELINA 3, 1:50.1 (\$1,495,813). From GOODTOGO HANOVER 3, 1:54.1f (\$315,075).



Hip #67 SEVENTRIX ARMITAGE

Filly • Chapter Seven – Miss Trixton

Half-sister to MISSPANZEE 3, 1:52.1 (\$193,022). From MISS TRIXTON 3, 1:54.4 (\$141,871).



Hip #156 GORACEME ARMITAGE

Filly • Tactical Landing – Avacakes

First foal from AVACAKES 3, 1:57.1f (\$74,319), half-sister to World Champion KARL 3, 1:50.2 (\$2,424,611).



Hip #193 POLLTOPPER ARMITAGE

Colt • Chapter Seven – Climb The Pole

First foal from CLIMB THE POLE 3, 1:52.2s (\$295,468), a sister to winners of over \$850,000.



Hip #228 TROTABILIT ARMITAGE

Colt • Chapter Seven – White Cheetah

Full-brother to VARIEGATED 3, 1:52.3s (\$777,335). From WHITE CHEETAH 3, 1:55.1s (\$139,655).



Hip #370 WALNETTA ARMITAGE

Filly • Walner – Dramatra

From DRAMATRA 3, 1:55.1f (\$66,875), half-sister to ROYALTY FOR LIFE 3, 1:51.3 (\$1,628,649).



Hip #528 TARNATION ARMITAGE

Colt • Chapter Seven – Insta Glam

Half-brother to FLEUR DELACOUR 2, Q1:57-26 (\$26,484). From INSTA GLAM 2, 1:54f (\$332,119).



Hip #634 MATLEX ARMITAGE

Colt • Tactical Landing – Windy Corner

Half-brother to LOGO 3, 1:55.4s (\$135,326). From WINDY CORNER 2, 1:55.3f (\$207,576).

FULL CONSIGNMENT

Hip #39 MELINO ARMITAGE

Colt • Walner – Goodtogo Hanover

Hip #67 SEVENTRIX ARMITAGE

Filly • Chapter Seven – Miss Trixton

Hip #146 GULFOFUSA ARMITAGE

Filly • Chapter Seven – An Ocean Away

Hip #156 GORACEME ARMITAGE

Filly • Tactical Landing – Avacakes

Hip #193 POLLTOPPER ARMITAGE

Colt • Chapter Seven – Climb The Pole

Hip #208 WALLCAT ARMITAGE

Filly • Tactical Landing – The Great Wall

Hip #228 TROTABILIT ARMITAGE

Colt • Chapter Seven – White Cheetah

Hip #313 FEMALITY ARMITAGE

Filly • Chapter Seven – Pat's Inspiration

Hip #370 WALNETTA ARMITAGE

Filly • Walner – Dramatra

Hip #390 RE ACT ARMITAGE

Filly • Captain Corey – First Class Act

Hip #434 AVA BELLA ARMITAGE

Filly • Chapter Seven – Bella Ava

Hip #494 COACH TUB ARMITAGE

Colt • Gimpanzee – Fatima Blush

Hip #501 FRENZEE ARMITAGE

Filly • Gimpanzee – French Souffle

Hip #528 TARNATION ARMITAGE

Colt • Chapter Seven – Insta Glam

Hip #546 LUNATRIX ARMITAGE

Filly • Father Patrick – R Luna

Hip #553 AJILLITY ARMITAGE

Filly • Captain Corey – Medley

Hip #561 KASH MONI ARMITAGE

Filly • Chapter Seven – R Moni

Hip #574 ONLY W ARMITAGE

Filly • Walner – Only F

Hip #605 VALENTINO ARMITAGE

Colt • Gimpanzee – Semi Formal

Hip #634 MATLEX ARMITAGE

Colt • Tactical Landing – Windy Corner

Hip #645 ZEE J ARMITAGE

Filly • Gimpanzee – Vanessa J

Hip #658 JAY DUB ARMITAGE

Colt • Tactical Approach – Tennessee Lindy

Hip #719 OCEE GIRL ARMITAGE

Filly • Volstead – Just Kountry

Hip #723 SPURTY ARMITAGE

Filly • Googoo Gaagaa – R Lind

Hip #751 NOTAPATSY ARMITAGE

Filly • Father Patrick – Rosie Belle

Hip #777 FATS ARMITAGE

Colt • Love You – Tanya's Dance

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Trotting Into The Future!

head,” Moczulski stated. “She’s well put together, too, a good size.

“What I like most about her, I would say, is her brain. The more we show her, the more we work with her, she’s one that just catches on and understands what you’re asking. Even just from bringing her out for clients that are inspecting the yearlings, standing her, she just has really figured it out. I like her brain a lot in that when you teach her something, you can see the wheels working. Like you can see her catching on and figuring it out. I think she has a quiet disposition, but she’s very nice.”

To wrap up this preview, here are eight others to watch during the first session from a variety of consignors and sires.

First-crop sire Tactical Approach, the 2023 Hambletonian champion, has two yearlings on night one, one of which is HIP 19 Earth Shaking, a colt offered by **Cameo Hills Farm**. Earth Shaking is the first foal out of \$308,161 earner and multiple stakes-winner Blonde Bombshell, and going back in the pedigree under the fourth dam you find the great Muscle Hill.

Walner has his usual eye-catching group on Monday, some of which we’ve already mentioned, but another one available is HIP 39 Melino Armitage. Consigned by **Armitage Farm**, Melino Armitage is the first colt out of Goodtogo Hanover, making him a half-brother to \$1,193,874 earner R Melina.

As agent, **Blue Chip Farms, LLC** will sell the likes of HIP 52 Evocative, a daughter of Chapter Seven. Evocative is the second foal out of stakes winner Jezzys Legacy, and the second dam is \$834,240 earner Jezzys.

Winbak Farm brings HIP 56 Uptown Angel to Lexington. Uptown Angel is a Captaintreacherous filly who is the first foal out of La Minita Hanover, a half-sister to the likes of Odds On Equuleus. Odds On Equuleus has been in the news several times this year as the sire of North America Cup champion Odds On Mr Mamba.

Also by Captaintreacherous is HIP 78 Kountry Penelope. From the

consignment of **Kountry Lane Standardbreds**, Kountry Penelope is the second foal out of Peaky Sneaky, who took a mark of 1:48 and banked \$772,518 during her racing career.

“If you’ve ever seen what Twin B Joe Fresh looks like, kind of like a boy with a wide front-end, that’s the way this one is built - stout, long and wide,” said Kountry Lane’s farm manager Duane Miller. “She just goes out there and she can get it. She’s correct, strong and muscular.”

Switching over to colts by Captaintreacherous, **Kentuckiana**

Farms has HIP 89 Strategic Play. Strategic Play is a full brother to Treacherous Reign, who had a mark of 1:48 3/5 and earned \$879,393 during her career. Treacherous Reign is also the dam of this year’s top 3-year-old pacing filly Miss Jum Jabber.

HIP 91 Poise is a Tactical Landing that will be sold by agent **Preferred Equine Marketing, Inc.** Poise is out of \$248,218 earner Seventime-salady, and the last time she was bred to Tactical Landing she produced 2024 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Trot champion Lady Landia.

Last, but certainly not least, is a Sweet Lou colt in HIP 113 Odds On Warrior, consigned by agent **Concord Stud Farm**. Odds On Warrior is the second foal and first colt out of Odds On Whitney, a \$196,809 earner who is a full sister to Papi Rob Hanover.

The Lexington Selected Yearling Sale will begin at 7 p.m. (EDT) on Monday, followed by 11 a.m. sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday before it concludes at 7 p.m. on Thursday.



COURTESY KOUNTRY LANE STANDARDBREDS

HIP 78 Kountry Penelope is the second foal from top earner Peaky Sneaky.



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CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

IN SEARCH OF THE MIDDLE MARKET AT LEXINGTON

Gerry Rafferty, lead singer of Stealer's Wheel, sang: *"I'm stuck in the middle with you. And I'm wondering what it is I should do. It's so hard to keep this smile from my face. Losing control, yeah, I'm all over the place."* I am pretty sure he was singing about being at a yearling sale.

Okay, maybe not. But when it comes to yearlings and yearling prices, what is "the middle?" Obviously it depends on the sale. In Michigan or Minnesota it will be lower than New York. New York will be lower than Ohio or Kentucky. But let's talk about "the middle" at a top sale like Lexington or Harrisburg. When Editor Derick asked if the topic interested me, my only question was, "What is the middle?" He gave me a number of \$40-100,000. Others had numbers all over the place,

Kelsey Brinkman of Spurwood Farms in Ohio said: "What middle? The middle is pretty much gone. It's all over \$100,000 or under \$20,000."

Greg Luther of Prolific Equine agreed: "At Lexington the mid-range disappears. It all goes for \$5,000 or over \$100,000. \$25,000-\$40,000 might be mid-range. With a lot of the top horses, it's all about pedigree. A value shopper wants an average pedigree, but a super individual. That is the kind of horse that I'm gonna look at, Burke is not gonna look at it. Ake won't look at it. Takter won't look at it. Also, I am looking for a stallion upgrade. As always, you have to do your homework."

"I'm a middle to bottom market buyer and very rarely bought a Day One horse. I like cheap ones. I mostly bought \$20,000-\$60,000-ish price range over the years."

-Casie Coleman



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

Hickory Lane's Kevin Greenfield, who has organized some of the top stallion syndicates in the sport, has a slightly different viewpoint, but generally agrees with Luther: "I would say \$50,000-\$60,000 is pretty much the middle. Big money buyers look at pedigree first, even before they look at a video or at the horse in person, so that would be the first place you could find something. Maybe an unpopular sire. And there is far more divergence between trotting prices than pacing prices. With all the partnerships, there is more of a "go-for-broke" attitude on trotters."

Casie Coleman had an interesting take on the topic and she is a bit of an expert, having haltered Betterthancheddar for \$30,000 and Betting Line for \$60,000. "I'm a middle to bottom market buyer and very rarely bought a Day One horse. I like cheap ones. I mostly bought \$20,000-\$60,000-ish price range over the years," she said.

Continuing, Coleman noted: "I like perfect conformation. Smaller to medium size. It's not often I buy a big horse. And I'll take lesser

pedigree, no problem. I also love first-time foals with good 2nd and 3rd dams. Or maybe moms that had a few duds but I knew the first couple were bad-looking individuals, so others won't look at them. I've also had great luck with older mares but great-looking individuals. A lot of folks won't buy from an older mare, but Betting Line was like a 13th foal and Betterthancheddar was an 11th or 12th foal."

Jokingly, she added: "For me night one was a waste of time looking."

Bob Boni, who has probably bought and sold more horses than nearly anyone in the business, pegged his range after some thought: "It's hard to say. Maybe \$30,000-\$75,000 would be the middle at Lexington."

But what does Boni look for?

"This is something I will always preach. Anything you like in the book, look at. Maybe eliminate very high, obvious six-figure horses," said Boni. "The market is so fragile. Sometimes there is no rhyme or reason. You'll have one that you think will bring \$100,000 and it goes for \$60,000. Sometimes it works the other way too. Don't rule them out right away and then miss out

"It's fine to say, I want a pacing colt or a trotting filly, or I want an Indiana-bred or a dual-eligible and to use that to eliminate a horse, but you have to look at all that fit! Think about the NFL Draft. Every year someone falls and someone gets picked surprisingly high. Do you think the New York Jets, if they need a quarterback, are going to say they don't need to check a particular player because he probably won't be available when we draft? Of course not. It's exactly the same thing."

Alan Swayne is an independent pedigree expert and sales analyst, and he points to last year's averages, where day one averaged \$180,000 and day two was nearly \$90,000.

"Look at Day 3," he told me. "The average was \$50,000, and by day 4 it was down to \$22,000. That's where you will find those mid-range horses"

The overall averages for pacers were in the \$50,000-\$55,000 range, while trotters averaged \$80,000, so the chance of finding that good mid-range horse may mean you have to buy a set of hobbles, as Kevin Greenfield mentioned.

Spurwood's Brinkman pointed out: "You have totally different buyers the first two days from the third and fourth, and then on day 5 you get another different group."

Day 5 has been the "regional stallion" day in the past, but this year the sale is combining those horses into the third and fourth day, which could mean more potential buyers and higher averages.

Anthony MacDonald of thestable.ca buys a lot of horses and many are in the \$50,000-\$75,000 range. And while he may not be buying many \$250,000 or \$500,000 babies, his method never changes. He did buy one at Lexington last year for \$180,000 and another for \$120,000, but the majority of his purchases were in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range. He even bought a couple for less than that. He picked up one for \$32,000 on day one last year.

"The approach is always the same. We price all the horses we are interested in, sit back and watch the sale. If they all fall in our price range, we buy them. Dual eligibility is a huge plus," he explained. "Ohio prices may be lower than say Lexington, historically speaking, but more horses are offered in Kentucky, so that means a much larger selection and an opportunity to shop on the lower end of mid-range."

These people are the experts. I'm not. I would say that buyers seem to be enamored with first-crop sires, which can be overpriced. So maybe look for an older stallion who is not as popular but still throws some good babies. Or maybe a stallion who has moved to another state and gets a different group of mares. Lastly, when there are a lot of babies being offered from a single sire, the prices will go down. We saw that at the Ohio Select Sale this year with Monte Miki. That's great for the buyer, but not for the seller. But what do I know?

That's it for this time. Now go cash. But maybe not on a first-crop sire unless you are well-funded.

Thank you to all of the farms, consignors, tracks and organizations which placed ads in this issue plus everyone who responded to our calls and texts to produce the content. We appreciate your continued support and hope you have a great sale.

- DRF Harness Team

2023

HORSE OF THE YEAR

Featured first yearlings by **CONFEDERATE** at the
LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLING SALE | OCT. 5-8

Day 1

Hip 42 Passionate Lady
PA/KY Eligible

Filly o/o Boudoir Hanover
Hunterton Farms

Hip 54 Dixie Highway
PA/KY Eligible

Colt o/o Kissin In The Sand
Kentuckiana Farms

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 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

Hip 203 William Wallace
PA/KY Eligible

Colt o/o Darlinonthebeach
Alliance Bloodstock



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BRETT PELLING ON THE FIRST YEARLINGS BY CONFEDERATE



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Day 1

Hip 10 Tallulah Blu
PA/KY Eligible
Filly o/o Sadie Hanover
Crawford Farms

Hip 19 Earth Shaking
PA Eligible
Colt o/o Blonde Bombshell
Cameo Hills Farm

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
Kentuckiana Farms

Hip 386 Rightdown Broadway
PA Eligible
Colt o/o Venerable
Cameo Hills Farm

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DAY 2

HIP 142 | Maneater Deo
NY/KY Eligible
Filly o/o Alwaysbafoolfrudeo
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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Diamond Creek first-year stallions look to make their marks



JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

If there ever was one true futures market it would have to be related to breeding horses. Virtually one of the most difficult outcomes to predict, breeders annually try to mate horses hoping to hit upon the exact combination and produce a champion. Often there is some predictability when horses have previous examples on the racetrack, but on other occasions two unknowns are matched and it's anybody's guess what the net result will be.

For Diamond Creek Farm, 2026 represents a challenging yet revealing chapter in the dramatic impact the nursery has had on the sport. With three first-year sires set to offer yearlings from diverse backgrounds at the Lexington Selected Sale, there is tremendous anticipation that the reception from buyers will match the enthusiasm from the farm.

For Diamond Creek's Vice President Shaun Laungani, the arrival of the first yearling crop from Horse of the Year Confederate has been the buzz for some time. "He was the best horse of a generation," said Laungani of the Diamond Creek-bred son of Sweet Lou. "From the yearlings we have and the ones I've seen videos of there's a lot to like. They are incredibly athletic and so much like him."

Confederate is the next generation of Diamond Creek's leading stallion Sweet Lou and the hope is his sons and daughters will extend the family into the next decade. "His horses are like Sweet Lou but in a more refined way," said Laungani. "I think they are going to be very well received at the sales."

Confederate stamped himself on the racetrack as a horse with incredible speed and amazing consistency. With 18 wins in 22 career starts, Confederate was virtually unstoppable with earnings over \$2 million and a career best 1:46 1/5 clocking.

Confederate was an instant star when he first hit the racetrack in 2022 and that path is likely to continue as he embarks on a second career that begins essentially on Monday, October 5 with the first day of the Lexington Selected auction. A total of 16 sons and daughters are projected to sell on opening night, and the number alone suggests the confidence the sales company has in not just Confederate but any first-year pacing stallion. The Lexington Selected sale is known to command a large international audience, and high-priced trotting blood generally dominates the first night of the sale.

HIP 90 Kountry Lynn is a filly and a first for both Confederate and the \$2.1 million winning mare Lyons Sentinel. As great as Confederate was on the racetrack, Lyons Sentinel was a star for three years and was a sub-1:50 winner in all of them. As a daughter of Captain-treacherous, Lyons Sentinel should cross quite well with the Sweet Lou-sire line.

Coast Guard, HIP 75, is Diamond Creek's lone offering by Confederate on opening night and that suggests the breadth of breeders that participated in Confederate's first crop. Coast Guard is a colt out of another Captain-treacherous-sired mare named My Little Captain.

She's from the immediate family of the successful sire Stay Hungry, from a rich maternal line.

Confederate had the flash on the racetrack and Laungani expects him to receive his due this fall when yearlings are on the block.

In Cannibal there is a different story line, but the arc suggests a bright future. "When they were both babies (Confederate and Cannibal) most of us on the farm thought that Cannibal would be the better one," said Laungani, reflecting on the Diamond Creek homebreds before they were sent to train.

On the racetrack Cannibal showed a ruggedness that Laungani is hopeful will extend to the next generation. "When you look back at the Jug (2023) and the way he got tortured in the second heat then came back the next week to win at The Red Mile, you respect what the horse was made of," said Laungani.



AMANDA STEPHENS PHOTO

One of the fastest horses in history, Confederate's first crop will sell at Lexington this year.

Cannibal won the first heat of the Jug that year in 1:49 1/5 but was parked mercilessly from the start in the second heat. He captured a division of the Bluegrass in 1:48 4/5 just nine days after the two-heat affair.

Cannibal's versatility on the racetrack led to him being placed in New York and his offspring are likely to have the body-types and pedigree to shine on the circuit that requires plenty of half-mile track excursions.

"He's produced a thicker individual," said Laungani. "They are good bodied and unlike Confederate have a bit more white on them like the Sweet Lou's. I think you can see a bit more of the A Rocknroll Dance and Arterra in his foals."

Arterra is the dam of No More Losses, Cannibal's dam, and a half-sister to millionaires Western Terror and If I Can Dream. Arterra is also a daughter of the prolific broodmare Delinquent Account.

Cannibal opens the door to the Sweet Lou-stallion line in New York, with his foals hopefully having the versatility to race on smaller tracks and the tenacity to compete at the highest level on a week-to-week basis. Laungani singled out one from the quintet of yearlings by Cannibal that Diamond Creek has in the Lexington Selected sale.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 26](#)

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"HIP number 459 is my favorite," said Laungani, gushing over the filly named Pink Venom, the first foal from the Always B Miki-sired dam Cimarron Rose. Eligible in New York and Kentucky, Pink Venom not only looks the part but also has a pedigree that oozes an Empire State vibe. Her dam is out of Rodeo Beach, a full sister to Meadowlands Pace winner Huntsville who also happens to be the current leading pacing stallion in New York and respected beyond.

On the trotting side, the numbers are light for Tactical Approach but Laungani believes he can overcome that. "I think he's stamped his horses a lot like his sire Tactical Landing," said Laungani.



COURTESY DIAMOND CREEK FARM

Cannibal-sired HIP 459 Pink Venom is the favorite of Diamond Creek Farm VP Shaun Laungani.

Tactical Landing's initial numbers on the racetrack were small, but they developed into stars with the ability to win classic races like the Hambletonian, and buyers shouldn't be sleeping on Tactical Approach's first crop.

"They are long-legged and well balanced," said Laungani of the foals he's seen by Tactical Approach.

Diamond Creek will sell three by Tactical Approach, with the first being HIP 165 selling on Tuesday (October 6). Named Event Horizon, the colt is the first foal from the 1:53 2/5 performer Bella Macchiato and hails from the maternal line of Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder.

Crawford Farms sells a Pennsylvania and Kentucky eligible Tactical Approach-sired filly on opening night as Tallulah Blu, HIP 10, gets the ball rolling early. Tallulah Blu is the first foal from the Chapter Seven-sired Sadie Hanover, herself a 1:51 3/5 winner as a sophomore.

The foundation has been put in place and in the coming weeks horsemen will decide the paths forward and what destiny has in store in the budding stallion careers of Confederate, Cannibal and Tactical Approach.

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ON PACERS	Colts	Fillies
Beach Glass*	6	3
Betterthancheddar	5	4
Betting Line	1	1
Bettor's Delight	-	3
Bulldog Hanover	1	-
Cattlewash	1	1
Dancin Lou	1	-
Lawless Shadow*	4	4
McWicked	6	3
Sportswriter	2	-

ON TROTTERS	Colts	Fillies
Archangel	1	5
Green Manalishi S	-	1
King Of The North	1	-
Muscle Mass	-	4
My MVP	2	-
Trixtion	3	1

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CANE RUN FARM

2026 Lexington Selected Sale Yearlings • October 5 - 8

COLTS

***Hip 162 JUNGLE LAW**, b.c. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Beautiful Sin-Muscle Hill

Full or half-brother to BEAUTIFUL SIGHT 2,1:56.2f (\$69,246) and MATS 2,1:54.1-26 (\$23,500). From BEAUTIFUL SIN 3,1:50.1 (\$406,289), full sister to ROBERTSIN 3,1:51.3 (\$193,035).

***Hip 271 MUSCLE WILL**, b.c. NJ/KY

Muscle Hill-Lady Ann NO-Credit Winner

Second foal and **first colt** from LADY ANN NO 1:57.1h (\$185,255), half-sister to THANKFUL NO 1:53h (\$285,092-dam of THANKFUL IN NORTH 2,1:57.3-26 \$15,336). Second dam is World Champion and multiple Dan Patch & O'Brien Award winner PEACEFUL WAY 4,1:51.4 (\$2,746,240).

***Hip 480 ABEBE**, br.c. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Dibaba S-Ready Cash

Third foal and **first colt** from DIBABA S 4,1:55 (\$522,873), half-sister to MOONSTONE S 2,1:55 (\$115,374) and to the dam of 2026 2-year-old Who I Am As BT1:57.3-26 (\$2,800).

***Hip 646 GO BANANAS**, b.c. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Vida Loca Bi IT-Ganymede

Half-brother to 2026 2-year-old Weinberg BT1:57.2h-26 (\$12,108). From VIDA LOCA BI IT 3,1:58 (\$25,875), she the only foal from a half-sister to EQUINOX BI 1:52 (\$1,307,385).

***Hip 699 WANDERONE**, b.c. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Etta Am S-Muscle Hill

Full or three-quarter brother to multiple stakes winner YGRITTE 3,1:51.3-26 (\$122,406) and CHAPTER ONE 2,2:03.4f; BT1:57f-Europe (\$40,000-Int.). From a half-sister to DORNOCH AM 1:59.1f-Europe (\$65,000-Int.) and GASSIN AM 1:56f-Europe (\$45,000-Int.).

Midwest Standardbred Yearling Sale - Victory Hill Farm consignment

Hip 205 HIDEOUT, b.g. IN/KY

Rebuff-Hidden Temple-Kadabra

Three-quarter or half-brother to PIRATE'S LOOT 3,1:56.3f (\$63,144), YO MONICA 2,1:58.3 (\$40,860) and 2026 2-year-old Honey And The Moon BT1:58 (\$4,420). From a half-sister to TEMPLE OF DOOM 3,1:52.4f (\$745,917) and JIMMY SHIN 1:54.3 (\$420,882).

FILLIES

Hip 215 EVER SINCE, b.f. NJ/KY

Muscle Hill-Eowyn-Donato Hanover

Full sister to stakes placed 2-year-old Everybody Knows BT1:57.1-26 (\$5,650). Third living foal from a full or half-sister to ANOKA HANOVER 3,1:52.3f (\$792,739), LADY LIRA 3,1:55.1f (\$112,526) and the dam of HIGH SPEED SWAN 4,1:52.3-26 (\$276,595).

***Hip 301 WALYRIA**, b.f. NJ/KY

Walner-Naga Morich S-Enjoy Lavee

Three-quarter sister to millionaire stakes winner GREEN MANALISHI S 3,1:50.3 (\$1,182,017) and stakes placed 2-year-old AGANO 2,Q1:56.4-26 (\$8,600). From a half-sister to International stakes winner RAJA MIRCHI (\$916,828).

***Hip 328 ASCEND**, br.f. NJ/KY

Walner-Princessa-Cantab Hall

Three-quarter sister to stakes winner ODDSOLOGIST 2,1:58.4f-26 (\$38,100). Second foal from PRINCESSA 3,1:51.1 (\$97,930). Second dam a half-sister to CONSUS VICTORY 1:53.1h (\$426,305).

Hip 467 CLOUD FOREST, b.f. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Creature Of Habit-Donato Hanover

Half-sister to stakes winner CALYX 3,1:53.1-26 (\$77,428) and COURT AND SPARK 3,1:55.3 (\$18,495). From CREATURE OF HABIT 3,1:54.2f (\$95,290), half-sister to HABITAT 3,1:53f (\$1,262,221) and ON A STREAK 2,1:52.4 (\$803,475).

Hip 477 DUA, b.f. NJ/KY

Tactical Landing-Deschanel-Yankee Glide

Three-quarter sister to DU MAURIER 3,1:55f (\$35,855) and DANCER'S CHOICE 2,1:58f-26 (\$9,720). From a full or half-sister to DREAM TOGETHER 4,1:51.3 (\$801,782), D'ORSAY 4,1:51.4 (\$445,732), DAYS AWAY 2,1:54.4 (\$138,246) and OPPOSITION 2,1:54-26 (\$21,250). Second dam Hambletonian Oaks winner DANAE 3,1:54.2 (\$529,099).

***Hip 503 CHEEKY CHIMP**, b.f. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Gangsta Rat-Muscle Hill

Half-sister to GANGSTA TALK 3,1:58h (\$130,994) and GLAM 3,Q1:56-26 (\$15,425). From a full sister to stakes winners MARSEILLE 3,1:51.4 (\$516,791) and ROME PAYS OFF 3,1:52.3 (\$411,200).

***Hip 566 WITHOUT LOU**, b.f. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Nancy Lou NO-Muscle Hill

First foal from NANCY LOU NO (\$112,835), full sister to THANKFUL NO 1:53h (\$285,092-dam of THANKFUL IN NORTH 2,1:57.3-26 \$15,336). Second dam is World Champion and multiple Dan Patch & O'Brien Award winner PEACEFUL WAY 4,1:51.4 (\$2,746,240).

***Hip 615 LOTTIE DENO**, b.f. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Side Bet Hanover-Donato Hanover

Full or half-sister to multiple stakes winner WINNER'S BET 4,1:49.3 (\$1,364,651) and WUKONG 2,1:56.3 (\$34,386). From SIDE BET HANOVER 3,1:53.1 (\$237,646). From the family of Hambletonian winner MARION MARAUDER 1:50.2 (\$3,392,609).

Hip 636 TIGRESS TACTICS, b.f. PA/KY

Tactical Approach-Those Blues-Muscle Hill

Half-sister to 2026 2-year-old These Days BT1:55.2-26 (\$18,300). Second foal from THOSE BLUES 3,1:57.2f (\$73,542), full or half-sister to JULA MUSCLE PACK 3,1:53.1 (\$367,511), BEST FRIENDS GIRL 3,1:53.2 (\$153,618), WHOSE BLUES 3,1:52.3f (\$135,748) and BE GREEN 3,1:58.4f-26 (\$65,406). Second dam BRIGHT BABY BLUES 3,1:54.2 (\$492,203).

***Hip 697 DEANIE**, b.f. KY & KY Stallion Bonus

Gimpanzee-Earn Your Wings-Credit Winner

Full or half-sister to MAIDEN VOYAGE 3,1:55f (\$57,246) and KATE 2,1:57.2f (\$16,250). From EARN YOUR WINGS 4,1:54.4f (\$314,530), half-sister to MISSION BRIEF 3,1:50.2f (\$1,599,587-dam of 2026 Hambletonian winner APEX 3,1:49.2-26 \$1,732,264).

***Hip 737 IMAGINE FLAME**, b.f. IN/KY

Temporal Hanover-Oblivion-Muscle Hill

Three-quarter sister to stakes placed GRACE IN HEAVEN BT2,1:55.4 (\$158,360-Int!). From the immediate family of multiple stakes winner and sub-1:52 producer PERSONAL STYLE 4,1:53.1 (\$778,391).

** Selling as Agent*

Pedigrees and videos are available at
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Winbak Farm brings something for everyone to Lexington



AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali ✕ [AtTheTrack7](#)

We stand just days away from the 2026 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and this year there is not a farm/consignment selling more of their own horses than Winbak Farm.

Winbak has rolled into Lexington with 57 yearlings in tow, 22 of which will be sold on the first two nights of the sale. I spoke with Jack Burke, General Manager of Winbak Farm about the Winbak consignment this year.

"The yearlings look fantastic," said Burke, "The Winbak Farm team prides ourselves on bringing horses to the yearling sales looking their best for prospective buyers. Between nutrition, veterinary care, grooming, training and much more, our staff puts a lot of blood, sweat and tears into these horses from the moment we choose a stallion for a mare until the gavel bangs down on the auction block. With foals from some of the top sires in the game, exciting first foals, first-crop yearlings and several of the top families from Winbak's broodmare band, we're excited to bring this lineup to Lexington."

It is an exciting lineup to say the least, and based on the philosophy of Winbak's owner Joe Thomson, that should come as no surprise.

"The simplest version of our philosophy is Joe Thomson loves this sport, loves these animals and loves seeing Winbak Farm listed as breeder on horses in the winner's circle. When we attend the sale, we aim to have something for every prospective buyer to look at. Do you want a New York colt pacer? We have six for you to look at. Hoping to purchase a Captain Corey? We have 2 fillies and 2 colts to show you. Do you love racing in the Kentucky Sire Stake program? We have both sexes and gaits for you to choose from. Even if they happen to walk away from a sale not buying a Winbak-bred horse, a buyer can never say that we didn't have what they were looking for."

To Burke's point, Winbak is not over-indexed on any one stallion and has a wide array of options to choose from. Beach Glass leads the consignment with eight yearlings as the last great son of Somebeach-somewhere. This is his first crop of yearlings to carry on the legacy of Somebeachsomewhere and Winbak has him poised for success in Ontario. All told, the 57 yearlings are spread across 23 different stallions including Bettor's Delight, Captain Corey, Captaintreacherous, Chapter Seven, Greenshoe and more.

Variety is key for Winbak and helps them stand out in the sale.

"With the variety that we bring to yearling sales we are able to see Winbak-Bred horses in winner's circles not just across North America but the world," said Burke. "This year in North America, we have had A Clean Deal dominating in the Ontario Sires Stakes, Best Chip win the Aria and Canadian Pacing Derby, Gold Impact win the Arden Downs Stakes, Made For Moni be one of the best in Ohio Sires Stakes (winner of multiple legs), McBubbles win the Kin Pace, Read The Room win multiple New York Sire Stakes (finished second in Final), Solar

Queen win the New York Excelsior Final, Toss Of The Dice win the Dream Of Glory Final, and so many more. Back to what I said earlier, we provide a wide variety for yearling buyers - from Grand Circuit winners to Winbak-Breds winning five New York County Finals."

While there is certainly something for everyone in the Winbak consignment, Burke highlighted a few of his favorite yearlings that he is most looking forward to seeing pass through the sales ring:

"One of the best families on the farm is the maternal family of Muscle Hill. We have four yearlings that come from that line (HIP#'s 59, 238, 242 and 260). There are two from that group that really stand out to me. HIP 59 Novel Life, a Chapter Seven filly out of the mare Mets Life, is a three-quarter sister to Amazing Catch and has the Chapter Seven look that people have come to know and love.

"HIP 260 Solid Catch is a Captain Corey filly out of Met's Inn, she is the dam of millionaire Met's Hall. With her good size, outstanding conformation, and a huge motor behind, she should definitely be on people's radar."



ADAM STRÖM PHOTO

The Winbak Farm team will be out in full force during the week at Lexington.

"HIP 219 Louder Than Life is from first-crop sire Volume Eight and out of Exotic Form. This filly is a half-sister to 2025 New York Sire Stakes Final winner Happy Jack B. She had a really nice video and is definitely worth checking out.

"On the pacing side, HIP 273 Dream By the Beach is a son of first-crop sire Beach Glass and proven producer Dreamlands Latte. He has everything that we look for when selling a yearling - looks, pedigree and swift moves in the video paddock. Another colt worth mentioning is HIP 55 Bennyville, a Huntsville colt that is the first foal from LA Fitness, who has a deep pedigree. This is a good-sized colt with plenty of athleticism to get around the half-mile turns in New York.

"The final one I'll highlight is the next one in your catalog, HIP 56 Uptown Angel, a Captaintreacherous filly that is a first foal from a half-sister to Odds On Equuleus, La Minita Hanover. She is a very pretty horse and dual-eligible to Pennsylvania and Kentucky Sire Stakes."

Whether you are looking for a horse to compete in the many great sire stakes programs or searching for a Grand Circuit contender, Winbak Farm's consignment brings everything to the table in Lexington this year. If the sales performance from thoroughbred racing is an economic indicator, we should see some fireworks in Lexington this year.

The **ALLERAGE FARM** Trotting Tradition Continues

Selling 14 yearlings in Lexington, one in Harrisburg & three with Preferred Equine Online (10/19), including...

SELLING IN LEXINGTON (OCT. 5-8)



HIP #91 POISE, filly

(Tactical Landing x Seventimesalady)

A full sister to Breeders Crown winner **Lady Landia**
2,1:53.3; BT1:51.3 (\$459,717).



HIP #307 HOUSE OF POWER, filly

(Muscle Hill x On The House) First foal from a stakes-winning half-sister to multiple Grand Circuit winner

Buy A Round 3,1:51.4 (\$745,782).



HIP #545 LUCKYSLASTLANDING, colt

(Tactical Landing x Lucky Ava) Out of **Lucky Ava**

(\$391,177) - a sister to the dam of Breeders Crown winner
Lady Landia (\$459,717).

ALSO SELLING IN LEXINGTON:

HIP #152 WALSPREFERREDANTIC, filly (Walner x Antonia)

A Walner half-sister to Six Pack Tony 3,1:55f (\$110,193).

HIP #350 SIPPINONCAPTAIN, colt (Captain Corey x Sina)

A half-brother to Beautiful Sin 3,1:50.1 (\$406,289).

HIP #487 CORELYN, filly (Captain Corey x Evelyn)

A half-sister to Wall Street Edge 1:53.4 (\$208,290).

HIP #569 STICK SHIFT, colt (Ecurie D x Non Stick)

Out of a half-sister to Rebuff 3,1:49.4 (\$962,490).

HIP #587 PRIDE N HONOR, colt (Cantab Hall x Pride N Joy)

First foal from Pride N Joy 3,1:55; BT1:53 (\$219,998).

HIP #665 BACKINTHECLOUDS, colt (Back Of The Neck x Hallintheclouds)

Out of a half-sister to Barn Doll 3,1:52.1s (\$874,083).

HIP #708 JAMESTOWN, colt (Father Patrick x Aela Jamieson)

Out of a full sister to Cool Papa Bell 3,1:51.3 (\$1,084,278).

HIP #709 SWING TIME, colt (Gimpanzee x Hannah)

Out of a full sister to Evelyn 3,1:52.2f (\$305,222).

HIP #746 MALBEC, colt (International Moni x Plum Wine)

Out of a half-sister to Dewycolorinthe line 3Q1:53.3; BT1:51.4 (\$1,023,841).

HIP #765 LACED ILLUSION, filly (Muscle Mass x Smoke And Mirrors)

Out of Smoke And Mirrors 3,1:55s (\$290,797).

SELLING IN HARRISBURG:

FALLINFORTHEGREEN, colt (Green Manalishi x Hall Wont Fall)

From the immediate family of Mythical Lindy 3,1:53.2 (\$629,104).

SELLING WITH PREFERRED EQUINE ONLINE:

SHADOW TRIX, colt (Trixton x Love Talk)

Out of a half-sister to Your So Vain 3,1:52.4s (\$681,559).

TYPHOON TINA, filly (Back Of The Neck x Category Four)

From the immediate family of Nows The Moment 1:51.3 (\$936,782).

UNPACKED RAGE, filly (Six Pack x All The Rage)

First foal from a daughter of Monroe County 1:56h; BT1:53.4f (\$409,699).



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Can lightning strike twice for Armitage Farm at Lexington?

By Derick Gwerner

There are many roads to success. Sometimes it takes years or decades to reach the highest levels of an industry. For Armitage Farm, which consigned the \$750,000 day two sale-topper at the Lexington Selected Sale in 2025 despite it being their inaugural sale, the results were instant.

Perhaps instant is too strong of a word considering their \$110,375 average for 16 horses (ranking third behind Kountry Lane Standardbred and All American Harnessbreds) wasn't achieved overnight. The mares were purchased two years prior and the ownership group of Dr. Rita Armitage and Jim McLane had to wait for the dividends to pay off.

Now with that very successful first run at the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavillion under their belts, Armitage is back with a somewhat bulkier 26-head for sale over the course of the four auction days and nights from October 5 to 8.

"I think as a team, we [learned a lot]," said Tim Hayes, assistant farm manager for Armitage. "I had a ton of experience from the sales just from all the time I was at Hanover. So there was really nothing unexpected for me, because I'd been going to Lexington for many, many years as a trainer and then when I picked out horses for Bill Donovan. When I got to Hanover, I always went to Harrisburg. So there's not a lot that's going to surprise me at a sale, but I think our team learned a lot as far as their experience from the sale."

The bulk of Armitage's yearlings will sell on days two and three, but that doesn't mean the consignment isn't filled with powerful pedigrees that any perspective buyer would love to go home with at auction's end.

"I think we have a lot of nice horses. Our pedigrees are starting to get better and better each year. And we'll get better next year, and the year after that they get really good with the additions of R Melina, Date Night Hanover and Kadena, that ups our pedigree, a lot," said Hayes.

On opening night Hayes called out HIP 39 Melino Armitage as a possible standout. By Walner, he's a three-quarter brother to millionaire R Melina that is New Jersey and Kentucky eligible.

"The Walner colt just has a really special look to him. If you look at him on the floor, he looks like he's ready to race," said Hayes, whose assertion is backed up by a beautiful video showcasing the youngster.

Moving on to day two, Hayes is high on HIP 193 Polltopperarmitage, a son of Chapter Seven and the first foal from stakes winner Climb The Pole.

"He's very nice too," said Hayes about Polltopperarmitage. "He's very, very athletic and has that 'I can run fast' look. He's been a little immature, but the closer we get to the sale, the bigger, the stronger and the better he's getting."

Sticking on the second day there is HIP 156 Goraceme Armitage, a New Jersey and Kentucky eligible filly by Tactical Landing and the first foal out of Avacakes, she from the family of Hambletonian winner Karl.

"I'm hoping she may exceed my expectations," said Hayes.

One with a nice bounce to her step on video is HIP 208 Wallcat Armitage, another Tactical Landing that has dual eligibility in the Garden and Bluegrass States.

"She's a very, very nice, filly. And her brother is a Volstead, and he made it into the Ohio Sire Stakes final. She's a better individual than him," said Hayes.

The solid bloodlines from Armitage don't end on day two as HIP 528 Tarnation Armitage sports plenty of pedigree in the third session. A New York and Kentucky eligible colt from the great Chapter Seven, he's out of Insta Glam, whose family has produced Famous Father (\$541K), Dan Patch winner Lantern Kronos, millionaire The Bank, and others.



COURTESY ARMITAGE FARM

(above) HIP 39 is a Walner three-quarter brother to millionaire R Melina.
(below) HIP 193 Polltopperarmitage is a first-foal son of Chapter Seven.



"He is a half-brother to Fleur Delacour, who was just second out here in the Kentucky Sire Stakes in 1:53 3/5. He's a really nice colt and a mid-May foal, so by the time I get him to the sale he should be looking really good."

Despite all of the pedigree and potential in the Armitage lineup, Hayes was reluctant to get too excited about any of the yearlings since he knows that beauty is ultimately in the eye of the beholder.

"I try to keep our expectations down and hope for the best. I try not to get too high on any of them because I just don't want anybody to be disappointed," said Hayes, who is unlikely to walk away from the sale with a frown on his face given the quality in the consignment.

OH BOY: KARL GIVES CRAWFORDS' REASON FOR MORE HAMBO DREAMS

2/21/2024 - USTA

Having a prior among the favorites to win harness racing's biggest race is nothing new for Crawford Farms. But the gender of its latest star is.

After co-owning the most recent two fillies to win the Hambletonian — Ramona Hill and Atlanta — the Crawford family now co-owns Karl, the early pick to capture this year's classic for 3-year-old trotters after going nearly undefeated last season and receiving the 2023 Dan Patch Award as best 2-year-old male trotter.

Karl is a like Ramona Hill was bred by Al and Michelle Crawford's

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KARL TAKES LIFETIME MARK IN \$240,000 NJSS FINAL

6/1/2024 - HARNESS

Karl (Tactical Landing)

make it look easy in

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(May 31) and

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KARL DASHES THROUGH THE RAINDROPS TO HAMBLETONIAN TITLE

8/3/2024 - DRF HARNESS

Racing through an absolute downpour that started just before the event

begins, the 99th edition of the Hambletonian for 3-year-old trotters on

Aug. 3 afternoon at the Meadowlands saw Karl rally off cover to win

by 1.5 lengths over driver Yannick Gingras in a much-awaited first victory

for the 3-year-old and trainer Nancy Takem her second straight, losing her

father figure in that due company.

"It was a great day for me. I said before I thought it

was a long shot, but the horse came through."

remained Gingras after the race, "I thought it set up perfectly for us.

The horse is a great horse. I don't think it would be unusual, but he

proved us what a champion he is."

THE RED MILE - TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

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THE RED MILE - TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

THE RED MILE - TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

WINNER OF THE 99TH HAMBLETONIAN

KARL

Staying in New Jersey • Standing at Walnridge Farm

BRED BY CRAWFORD FARMS | TACTICAL LANDING • AVALICIOUS • RC ROYALTY

CRAWFORD FARMS

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BY DERICK GIWNER

Trainer John Pentland is certainly proof that there are ups and downs in work and life. After some dry years, things have been looking up for the 63-year-old lately. He's having a career year in earnings and recently captured both the Little Brown Jug and She's A Great Lady Grade 1 stakes.

On a night off from racing, Pentland took some time to discuss his journey in the sport, his recent success and just harness racing in general. Enjoy!

TRAINER JOHN PENTLAND

How did you get started in harness racing?

I don't come from the family of horse racing. My brother – I just kind of followed him to the track – is a little older than me and started going with his buddies and I kind of chased along. My dad brought me the first time when I was about 13 and from the moment I walked into Western Fair Raceway, I kind of fell in love with it.

Did your brother get involved at all?

No, not at all. After a couple of years he wasn't that interested in it. And he was never into horse racing, just going with his buddies to bet and stuff.

Was being a harness racing trainer always going to be your path in life?

I was fascinated because it was probably the first business I was ever around. And then being a young boy, it was, if I looked at it in a business perspective, it was kind of overwhelming to me, but I'd never sort of been around a business. My brother had some friends that were in the business and so once I latched on to those fellows, I was kind of fascinated by the whole thing.

I wanted to be a driver and I kind of let those opportunities slip away. When I started to take it serious as I needed to, I got out of the London area and I went down to Mohawk to work. That's really where I got a work ethic and understood how to do this properly.

I started as a groom and I got my trainer's license, got my driver's license. I drove a little bit, but it wasn't until after I got into a car accident and I went through some occupational therapy that I started to go, if I'm going to make a career of this, I better learn how to do this properly.

Much of your career – dating back to 1992 – has seen you start fewer than 100 horses per year. Is it difficult to survive with such a small stable?

My wife, she worked and she was an intelligent lady. She, you know, moved up in her career. Not enough to support us, so it was a struggle. I never had any backing at all. Like I have no family in the business. It was sort of just keep on grinding and grinding. And sometimes I'd be jogging horses for other people or I might even have to take on a part-time job to stay in the business. So it was a struggle, but I was kind of determined to do it. I believed in myself. I was just trying to work my way through until I could become either relevant or hit on a horse that made me relevant.



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

John Pentland with the She's A Great Lady trophy.

In recent years your stable has grown and this year you already have a career high in starts. What changed?

A horse called Powerful Chris. I owned her myself and she made races as a 2-year-old and she was like a really good filly. She won her first – I put her in Grassroots – start. I could have put her in a Gold, but I put her in Grassroots and she won it by like 10. Then I sold a piece to Bob McClure's grandfather and I sold a piece to Jack Darling. I retained half of her and then she made close to a half a million between her 2- and 3-year old seasons. That just got me going again.

What is your favorite track to race at and why?

My favorite track to race at is Mohawk and it's simply because of a story my dad told me about John Dillinger when they interviewed him after they captured him and they said, 'why do you rob banks?' And he said, 'that's where they keep the money.' I don't really leave Ontario much. So, that's really keep the money for me.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of harness racing?

The last bunch of years I have done nothing but harness racing. My favorite thing to do now is travel with my girlfriend and spend a lot of time together.

What is one thing about you most fans/bettors don't know?

I had a horse that broke the world record for a 2-year-old filly on a half-mile track at Flamboro in her first lifetime start. Her name was Luck Of Michelle. I think she went on to win the NOVA Award back when you guys had them and she was 2-year-old filly of the year in Canada.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

BREED • BUY • RACE NEW JERSEY



Standardbred Development Fund for all qualified Standardbred Mares residing in New Jersey

For 2027, the Standardbred Development Fund (SDF) series will consist of one or more legs and a final for 2- and 3-year-olds of each gait and sex. Eligibility for the Standardbred Development Fund series will be open to all horses sired by New Jersey-based stallions as well as horses that are the result of a breeding between any registered standardbred stallion and a standardbred mare that has spent a minimum of 150 consecutive days in New Jersey inclusive of foaling.

Subsequent payments to continue eligibility include yearling nominations, and sustaining payments during a horse's 2- and 3-year-old seasons. Sustaining payments for the Standardbred Development Fund program of \$100 and \$150 are due on February 15 and April 15, respectively. Starting fees for Standardbred Development Fund races are \$200 for qualifying races and \$500 for final events.

Horse owners must register the Mares Bred by December 31 in the year they foal.

STANDARDBRED DEVELOPMENT FUND Mares Bred Registration For the 2025 Foaling Season Breeding 2025, Foals 2026, Yearlings 2027 Registration Fee: \$100 | Due Date: December 31, 2026

This is for New Jersey mares who are bred to a non-New Jersey stallion. The mare must remain in New Jersey for 150 consecutive days, up to and including foaling, in order to be eligible for the SDF program.



FOR DETAILS CALL 609.913.6514 OR VISIT
www.nj.gov/agriculture/njequine/sirestakes

Above figures are based on full fields



CONRAD PHOTO

Redland Rocket Man winning the Little Brown Jug for driver Jody Jamieson and trainer John Pentland.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32](#)

What is one word that describes harness racing for you?

Devotion.

What was your best moment in harness racing?

I'd have to say it was Saturday night when [Jersey Bulldog] won the She's a Great Lady. I would say that was my best moment because it came right after the Little Brown Jug win. To win two grade one stakes within 48 hours or whatever it was, I would say that was my best moment. I'm not downplaying the Jug, but for me, I've had my eye on the She's A Great Lady. I never had my eye on the Little Brown Jug. I don't train that many colts and I don't train American colts.

Jug winner Redland Rocket Man, he's now won three straight races including in 1:46 4/5. Will we see him in the Breeders Crown at Scioto Downs?

He will if he wins the [Ontario] Super Final. Winning the Super Final is a significant thing because he has to beat Beau Jangles to do it. I'm not putting up \$72,000 and getting beat by 'Beau' if he just beat me. Then he can beat me again and maybe Brandon Blvd can beat me, and it's all for nothing.

Looking back a few days later on Jersey Bulldog's win, how did she win that race parked the mile?

I was talking to Bob [McClure] today. We're friends, but we don't just randomly call each other that often. And I called him today just to talk about it. Bob and I never agree on anything and we finally agreed on something. Boy did we have her ready, and boy did he drive her good under the circumstances. But man, you can't do that without a monster horse.

Driver Bob McClure was teasing with you in the winner's circle about how you never won a Grade 1 race. Is that common between you two?

It is. I gave him a poke about a horse – an overnight horse now, but she's been a nice horse, she made about \$300,000 – that won the other

night with James MacDonald driving after I pulled Bob about 10 starts ago. So he turned to me and said, 'I'm going to get even with you.' So that was his shot at me.

That Powerful Chris horse I mentioned, that was the first real horse Bob started driving for me. He's been my main driver for a long time and he hit the nail on the head, I was whiny about not winning a big race.

Both horses are by Bulldog Hanover and you train three of the four richest horses from his first two crops. Are there common characteristics of a Bulldog Hanover son or daughter?

Yeah, the common characteristics to me is I find them easy to train. They can be a little hot, but I find them easy to train. I'm pretty good at rigging them up and getting them to settle. I'm not great at getting the horse to go that doesn't want to go. So they play into my strong suit and I find conformation on 'Bulldogs' to be extremely good.

Given you've eclipsed your career best in single-season earnings by a good amount, will you spend more at the yearling sales this year?

Yeah, I will, but not crazy. I don't know what I spent last year, maybe \$150,000 Canadian. I probably would spend maybe \$150,000 American of my own money.

At 63, I had a very good run in my 40s and then, and then I didn't. A guy learns from that. So I won't make that mistake again. I'm comfortable now. I'll train probably for another six or seven years, but I'll make sure that I'm always comfortable.

I noticed you only had 15 starts in the U.S. over the last 24 years. Is that because you are very loyal to the Canadian program?

Yeah, my bread and butter is the Ontario program. Like Bob and I were talking today, and I wish I had paid, you know, Redland Rocket

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 36](#)



Midwest Standardbred Horse Sale

The Midwest Standardbred Horse Sale is pleased to offer 22 non-Indiana sired yearlings in its second annual sale to be held **October 15th and 16th** at The Indiana State Fairgrounds

One by Bettor's Wish (PA/KY Eligible)
One by Branded By Lindy (OH Eligible)
One by Downbytheseaside (OH/KY Eligible)
One by Father Patrick (PA/KY Eligible)
One by Fear The Dragon (OH Eligible)
One by In Range (OH/KY Eligible)
One by Lather Up (OH/Kentucky Eligible)
One by Long Tom (OH/Kentucky Eligible)
Three by Lou's Pearlman (One OH Eligible, 2 OH/KY Eligible)
One by Molotov Cocktail (OH Eligible)
One by Odds On Equueus (KY & KY Stallion Bonus Eligible)
One by Pebble Beach (OH/KY Eligible)
Two by Rockyroad Hanover (Both OH/KY Eligible)
One by Summa Cum Laude (OH Eligible)
One by Sweet Lou (PA/KY Eligible)
Two by Volstead (OH/KY Eligible)
Two by What The Hill (OH/KY Eligible)

Visit our website: www.midweststandardbredhorsesale.com or use the EquineLine App to view our current roster and available videos.

To request a catalog contact Sale Manager Jamie Macomber via email: jmacomber@midweststandardbredhorsesale.com or call (740) 974-5048

ON THE BACKSTRETCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

Man and Jersey Bulldog into the Breeders Crown. But had I done that, there would have been a whole lot of other ones that I did as well. And they would have been mistakes.

I regret not doing it this year, but I think it's a recipe for failure for a guy like me.

How many horses are in your barn?

20.

Where are you stabled?

My stable is split between Dorchester, where I live, and Ideal Training Center.

You don't have many starts with trotters. Is that intentional?

Yeah, it's a lack of interest, to be honest. I have three I have right now. I have a nice 2-year-old. She got the strangles real bad; Muscle Mass filly. She'll be starting back soon and I really like her, but the other two trotters I have, they did okay.

Who is your favorite horse in the barn?

I guess in my barn, that's Jersey Bulldog, because I only see Redland Rocket Man a couple times a week since he's at Ideal.

If you had the power to change one thing in the sport, what would it be?

There should be an apprenticeship to become a trainer. I don't think we take that seriously enough. You should have to work with someone for a year or whatever to get licensed. It would also help trainers like me keep staff.

How do you view the future of harness racing?

Bleak. And I'm not a pessimistic guy, but I just don't know how they're gonna keep this from becoming a niche sport. When I was a kid the grandstands were packed, but it was the only game in town. There was no outside gambling. I don't know how you bring the interest back, and not just with the fans coming to the races, but the interest with young people wanting to get into the industry. So I think we're battling two fights at once here. I just hope there's somebody smarter than me that can sort of help us through that. Because I love the game. I love the industry. I think it's a great sport. But I don't know how we fight against casinos. I don't know how we fight against betting on professional sports. I don't know if we can keep up.

Time for the stretch drive.

Best Horse you ever saw: Niatross.

Lasix – Yes or No: Yes, and I just keep failing at it. I tried it on a couple, they went backwards, but anything to help the horse. Whatever medication that we can give the horses to make them more comfortable without being a performance enhancing drug, we should be able to use.

Favorite TV Show: Cheers.



APPROXIMATE ODDS | RESULTS | WIN | PLACE

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE RACES

PRESENTED BY OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

LIVE COVERAGE OF THE
**BUCKEYE STALLION
SERIES FINALS**

HOLLYWOOD DAYTON RACEWAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
POST TIME 6:30 PM

WATCH ON THE OHHA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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AMERICAN HORSE SHOWING
NORTH AMERICAN
DELAWARE COUNTY
FARMER

TOP 20 LEADING MONEY-WINNING SIRES BY AVERAGE - 2026

2-YEAR-OLD PACERS

Sire Name	2024 Foals	Starters	Earnings	Avg Earnings
SWEET LOU	93	73	\$2,081,250 (2)	\$22,379
DOWNBYTHESEASIDE	118	77	\$2,385,363 (1)	\$20,215
JK ENDOFANERA	59	43	\$1,186,232 (9)	\$20,106
HUNTSVILLE	92	61	\$1,826,517 (4)	\$19,853
CATCH THE FIRE	75	56	\$1,434,748 (6)	\$19,130
CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS	100	75	\$1,838,799 (3)	\$18,388
STATE TREASURER	25	15	\$361,833 (26)	\$14,473
PERFECT STING	95	61	\$1,321,821 (8)	\$13,914
CATTLEWASH	127	87	\$1,659,891 (5)	\$13,070
COURTLY CHOICE	39	23	\$509,560 (21)	\$13,066
ROUSER HANOVER	19	16	\$240,460 (33)	\$12,656
SO SURREAL	27	14	\$331,217 (28)	\$12,267
LUCK BE WITH YOU	19	14	\$223,921 (35)	\$11,785
AMERICAN IDEAL	72	45	\$817,449 (13)	\$11,353
STAY HUNGRY	110	77	\$1,169,693 (10)	\$10,634
BULLDOG HANOVER	133	84	\$1,413,146 (7)	\$10,625
PAPI ROB HANOVER	109	77	\$1,144,362 (11)	\$10,499
MONTE MIKI	102	67	\$1,056,287 (12)	\$10,356
SOMESTARSOMEWHERE	37	21	\$360,906 (27)	\$9,754
BETTING LINE	23	12	\$222,332 (36)	\$9,667

3-YEAR-OLD PACERS

Sire Name	2023 Foals	Starters	Earnings	Avg Earnings
ODDS ON EQUULEUS	18	15	\$863,463 (20)	\$47,970
SWEET LOU	93	82	\$4,095,947 (2)	\$44,042
DOWNBYTHESEASIDE	121	100	\$5,291,492 (1)	\$43,731
HUNTSVILLE	98	67	\$3,470,527 (3)	\$35,414
PAPI ROB HANOVER	100	76	\$3,319,335 (4)	\$33,193
CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS	107	84	\$3,239,049 (5)	\$30,271
BULLDOG HANOVER	54	39	\$1,513,889 (13)	\$28,035
AMERICAN IDEAL	82	64	\$2,101,238 (9)	\$25,625
PERFECT STING	113	73	\$2,746,086 (7)	\$24,302
ROCKIN IMAGE	93	66	\$2,113,139 (8)	\$22,722
CATTLEWASH	134	112	\$2,809,455 (6)	\$20,966
BETTOR'S WISH	72	51	\$1,471,918 (14)	\$20,443
CATCH THE FIRE	77	56	\$1,569,848 (12)	\$20,388
DUDE'S THE MAN	18	10	\$340,515 (41)	\$18,918
TALL DARK STRANGER	112	79	\$2,092,988 (10)	\$18,687
HESTON BLUE CHIP	27	20	\$481,977 (27)	\$17,851
CAPTAIN VICTORIOUS	33	27	\$573,852 (24)	\$17,389
LATHER UP	52	38	\$857,908 (21)	\$16,498
CENTURY FARROH	16	12	\$256,814 (NR)	\$16,051
CAPTIVE AUDIENCE	17	14	\$268,597 (49)	\$15,800

TOP 5 ALL AGE PACERS

Sire Name	Foals	Starters	Earnings
SWEET LOU	937	448	\$16,498,813
CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS	1010	389	\$14,494,484
DOWNBYTHESEASIDE	689	346	\$13,582,495
BETTOR'S DELIGHT	1726	543	\$11,981,694
HUNTSVILLE	618	324	\$11,134,642

2-YEAR-OLD TROTTERS

Sire Name	2024 Foals	Starters	Earnings	Avg Earnings
MET'S HALL	25	20	\$711,832 (17)	\$28,473
WALNER	124	98	\$3,408,800 (1)	\$27,490
CAPTAIN COREY	108	80	\$2,850,743 (2)	\$26,396
CHAPTER SEVEN	106	74	\$2,523,103 (3)	\$23,803
READY FOR MONI	61	38	\$1,358,756 (7)	\$22,275
IN RANGE	77	53	\$1,392,765 (5)	\$18,088
GIMPANZEE	79	51	\$1,394,628 (4)	\$17,654
MUSCLE MASS	95	60	\$1,380,795 (6)	\$14,535
BIG OIL	16	9	\$225,815 (30)	\$14,113
MUSCLE HILL	60	48	\$829,081 (15)	\$13,818
SOUTHWIND CHROME	31	22	\$405,593 (23)	\$13,084
LONG TOM	82	54	\$1,051,091 (9)	\$12,818
KING OF THE NORTH	93	68	\$1,115,649 (8)	\$11,996
TACTICAL LANDING	90	45	\$946,645 (11)	\$10,518
CUATRO DE JULIO	42	17	\$438,851 (22)	\$10,449
UNCLE PETER	34	22	\$352,869 (24)	\$10,379
REBUFF	86	45	\$868,976 (14)	\$10,104
GREENSHOE	104	75	\$1,043,118 (10)	\$10,030
FATHER PATRICK	59	40	\$589,773 (18)	\$9,996
SWAN FOR ALL	92	52	\$917,634 (12)	\$9,974

3-YEAR-OLD TROTTERS

Sire Name	2023 Foals	Starters	Earnings	Avg Earnings
CHAPTER SEVEN	98	71	\$5,076,811 (1)	\$51,804
WALNER	94	71	\$4,720,627 (2)	\$50,219
CAPTAIN COREY	104	78	\$4,064,807 (3)	\$39,085
IN RANGE	84	52	\$2,475,013 (4)	\$29,464
CALGARY GAMES	24	17	\$700,907 (18)	\$29,204
MUSCLE HILL	61	37	\$1,586,565 (10)	\$26,009
GIMPANZEE	71	48	\$1,797,262 (7)	\$25,314
BAR HOPPING	79	53	\$1,831,904 (6)	\$23,189
ALARM DETECTOR	27	16	\$588,408 (22)	\$21,793
TACTICAL LANDING	86	44	\$1,841,813 (5)	\$21,416
MUSCLE MASS	91	73	\$1,769,431 (8)	\$19,444
GOOGOO GAAGAA	19	15	\$343,463 (32)	\$18,077
READY FOR MONI	84	50	\$1,501,235 (11)	\$17,872
LONG TOM	85	49	\$1,467,495 (12)	\$17,265
INTERNATIONAL MONI	55	32	\$924,988 (15)	\$16,818
GREENSHOE	103	61	\$1,670,933 (9)	\$16,223
LOOKSLIKEACHPNDALE	15	12	\$243,188 (44)	\$16,213
UNCLE PETER	33	17	\$533,252 (23)	\$16,159
MET'S HALL	26	15	\$418,008 (27)	\$16,077
CANTAB HALL	18	6	\$280,951 (37)	\$15,608

TOP 5 ALL AGE TROTTERS

Sire Name	Foals	Starters	Earnings
WALNER	596	260	\$11,780,716
CHAPTER SEVEN	934	251	\$11,780,519
CAPTAIN COREY	212	158	\$6,915,550
MUSCLE MASS	1117	254	\$5,607,489
MUSCLE HILL	1190	184	\$4,899,326

HORSES LISTED RANKED BY AVERAGE EARNINGS - 15 STARTS REQUIRED FOR AVERAGE EARNINGS - RANKINGS IN PARENTHESIS ARE FOR TOTAL EARNINGS - ALL AGE RANKINGS BY TOTAL EARNINGS
INDIANA & ONTARIO HAVE YET TO CONTEST SIRE STAKES FINALS - STATISTICS COURTESY UNITED STATES TROTTING ASSOCIATION (ACCURATE AS OF 9/29/26)

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Big Ranger looks for revenge versus Apex in Kentucky Futurity

By Jay Bergman

It will be eight weeks since the Hambletonian was contested at The Meadowlands and Apex nosed out rival Big Ranger in an epic stretch duel. The two are among 11 entered for Saturday's 134th edition of the \$575,000 Grade 1 Kentucky Futurity at Lexington's famed Red Mile in the third jewel in trotting's Triple Crown.

This year's Futurity will also have an international feel to it as trainer Marcus Melander sends out six in the field with a pair of European driving stars Bjorn Goop and Orjan Kihlstrom hopping across the Atlantic to compete.

For trainer Anette Lorentzon, who came within a nose of capturing her first Hambletonian in August with Big Ranger, racing in Kentucky could be to her advantage. Before this year's Hambo, Lorentzon turned down a chance to race in an Ohio Sire Stakes at Northfield Park before the big race but had no issue sending Big Ranger to Delaware, Ohio where he romped in an Ohio Championship race during Jug week.

"Northfield and Delaware are two totally different tracks," said Lorentzon of her decision. "He had never raced at Northfield, and it would have been a five-hour ship."

Big Ranger was at his best when Lorentzon shipped him to New Jersey where he captured a Hambletonian elimination and then missed by a snout in a record-setting 1:49 2/5 mile.

"We gave him some time after the Hambletonian and Timmy (Tetrick) has been very happy with him since," said Lorentzon of the Hall of Fame driver who recently eclipsed the 15,000 mark in career driving victories. "The race at Delaware was more like a training mile for him. The track was a bit deep."

Big Ranger drew post nine on the outside in the Futurity and Lorentzon was concerned about it but not exactly ready to surrender. "He drew post nine for the Sire Stakes final and he drew post eight in the Hambletonian eliminations," Lorentzon said about two races which resulted in victories, with Big Ranger trotting to a 1:50 personal best in the Hambletonian elim.

In addition to the international blend in this year's Kentucky Futurity, it is also the first time that five horses in the race enter with 1:50 mile-record times or better. Apex has the fastest mile of the year with his 1:49 2/5 clocking but Inexpressable had a virtuoso performance when he captured the \$400,000 Kentucky Championship over the Red Mile surface on September 20. Inexpressable captured the first leg of the Triple Crown for trainer Lucas Wallin in June when the son of Walner took the MGM Yonkers Trot. Wallin captured the 2022 Kentucky Futurity with Rebuff for driver Tim Tetrick, who also was on board Inexpressable in the Yonkers Trot.

Though Melander has the most horses in the field, Lorentzon was focused on just one from his stable. "I think Apex and Inexpressable are the two main horses we're up against. Inexpressable went a big trip the other day," Lorentzon said of the dominant performance where he drew away from Melander's American Power in the stretch drive.

American Power took his 1:50 mark this year capturing the Zweig Memorial at Vernon Downs. Routinely unlucky in the post draw (post 10 in the Hambletonian), American Power landed post two for James MacDonald in Saturday's contest and hopes to rebound from a pair of second-place finishes.

Nix Nacken picks up Bjorn Goop as Scott Zeron, who drove him to victory in the Grade 1 Canadian Trotting Classic a week ago (September 26) at Woodbine Mohawk Park, is committed to Inexpressable. Nix Nacken, a son of Muscle Hill, showed plenty of courage tracking down stablemate Apex after racing a long first-over grind in the final half of the Canadian Trotting Classic. A 1:50 winner at The Meadowlands in New Jersey Sire Stakes action earlier this year, Nix Nacken drew the pole on Saturday.

While Big Ranger has won both of his starts since the Hambletonian, the same is not the case for Apex, who was a disappointing fourth in a New Jersey Classic elimination and then fell short in the stretch to his stablemate just a week ago. He looks to bounce back for driver Dexter



WALTER WLODARCZYK

Big Ranger (4) just missed to Apex in the fastest Hambletonian in history this year.

Dunn and trainer Melander, who are both looking for their second Kentucky Futurity victories. Dunn captured the 2020 edition with Amigo Volo and Melander took home his first in 2019 with Greenshoe.

Trainer Ake Svanstedt won his only Kentucky Futurity setting the mile standard with Six Pack, 1:49 1/5 winner in 2018. Svanstedt returns with Magic Punk (post 8), a son of Wishing Stone who captured the Kentucky Futurity in straight heats in 2010 for trainer Dewayne Minor. Magic Punk has been competitive against the top-class sophomores all season long and finished a solid third behind Inexpressable in the Grade 2 Beal at Pocono on August 22.

Svanstedt will also be represented by Read The Room (post 4), a son of Chapter Seven that has campaigned exclusively on the New York Sire Stakes circuit this year. He finished second in the lucrative Sire Stakes final at Yonkers on September 12, overcoming post eight.

The Ron Burke-trained AI took the measure of Read The Room in that \$300,000 Sire Stakes final and will be right next to him behind the starting gate from post three. Ronnie Wrenn Jr. has the driving assignment with the career earner of more than \$726K.

Melander may have been reaching a bit when he entered Neighbor Punt (post 5) but the Bar Hopping-sired colt is coming into the race following a career best 1:51 3/5 victory in the final of the Commonwealth division of the Kentucky Sire Stakes program on September 21.

Zephyr Kemp (post 10) and Spencer Hanover (post 11) are another pair from the Melander entourage that enter the race appearing to be going separate ways regarding recent form. Zephyr Kemp has captured two of his last three races, all stakes events with Todd McCarthy guiding the son of Calgary Games. Zephyr Kemp upset American Power in a Kentucky Championship on September 13, taking a career best 1:51 1/5 record in the process.

Spencer Hanover captured the Breeders Crown as a freshman and earlier this season looked to be on track for a big year after capturing the inaugural Oak Grove Trotting Derby in May. The Chapter Seven-sired colt has won just twice since then while missing the board in his last five starts. Spencer Hanover has drawn poorly in his last four races and again finds himself in the second tier on Saturday.

The Kentucky Futurity is the last of 13 races on Saturday's Red Mile program, with the \$300,000 Kentucky Filly Futurity preceding it as race 12. There were 11 fillies filling all the available slots for the final and trainer Nancy Takter will send out four with Madam Cheval (post 3), Leading Lady (post 9), Godusa (post 1) and She's Moni (post 11). She's Moni makes her first start since winning the \$400,000 Kentucky Championship over the Red Mile surface on September 20. Hambletonian Oaks winner Nezuko Kamado S (post 8) looks to rebound following a fourth-place finish in that Kentucky Championship event.

First post on Saturday's Red Mile card is listed for 1:00 PM (EDT).

Ervin Hanover aims for cool Dayton repeat in Pacing Derby

By Ken Weingartner

For Ervin Hanover, this might be the most wonderful time of the year.

Last season, the David Menary-trained pacing stallion produced his best performances during the second half of his campaign, posting eight wins and a second in his final 10 starts on his way to Dan Patch and O'Brien divisional awards.

His triumphs included a 1:47 2/5 victory in the \$250,000 Dayton Pacing Derby – the fastest mile ever at Hollywood Dayton Raceway – and a 1:46 2/5 score in the \$600,000 Breeders Crown Open Pace on a 41-degree late October night at Woodbine Mohawk Park that made him the fastest pacer ever on Canadian soil.

The previous year, Ervin Hanover closed his campaign with four consecutive wins from November into December, including a 1:47 3/5 victory at Mohawk that was the season's fastest mile in Canada by a pacing stallion.

And now this season, the 6-year-old son of Captaintreacherous-Eloquent Grace will attempt to turn back-to-back September victories into a three-race win streak when he returns to Dayton for Saturday's (Oct. 3) Dayton Pacing Derby. With a victory, he would become the first repeat winner of the race, which debuted in 2014.

"He really seems to thrive in the cooler weather," said Menary, who trains Ervin Hanover for owner Pollack Racing. "Last year, he really didn't get rolling until the Canadian Pacing Derby (in late August), and he ended the year with a bang. It would be really nice to replicate that. He's had some peaks and valleys so far this year, but I'm really happy with him right now. He's been super his last two starts.

"Maybe it didn't get cold enough soon enough. I'm hoping we haven't seen the best from him yet."

Ervin Hanover has six wins and a third-place finish in nine starts this year, with \$198,865 in earnings. His top victory so far came in the \$168,100 Dave Brower Memorial (G3) in a track-record 1:46 3/5 at the Meadowlands on July 4. For his career, he has 32 wins in 84 races and \$1.5 million in purses.

"He's so fast, and he can carry it a long way," said Menary, who began training Ervin Hanover as a 4-year-old in 2024, following Tom Pollack acquiring the horse in December 2023. "The first time I ever trained him, I thought he was the best horse I'd been sent in 10 years. He seemed like my style of horse.

"I've had a lot of good horses, but he's just goes so fast so easily. He's great on the track, he's great in the barn. He's not a mean stud, but he's electric. He's on fire all day, every day."

On Saturday, Ervin Hanover and driver Dexter Dunn will leave from post 7 in a field of nine in the \$250,000 Grade 1 Dayton Pacing Derby. He is 6-1 on the morning line, the fourth choice behind Prince Hal Hanover (driver Todd McCarthy, post 2, 2-1), Best Chip (Joe Bongiorno, post 9, 3-1) and Ken Hanover (Tim Tetrick, post 1, 9-2).

Best Chip and Ken Hanover both have won consecutive graded stakes, with Best Chip taking the Canadian Pacing Derby (G1) and Aria Invitational (G2), and Ken Hanover taking the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby and Jim Ewart Memorial (both G2). Prince Hal Hanover, who on Saturday will leave from inside post 6 for the first time in six races, has not missed the board in any of his 15 starts this season, including a win in his Canadian Pacing Derby elimination and second-place finishes in the Canadian Pacing Derby final, Dan Patch Stakes (G1) and a division of the Sam McKee Memorial (G2) in his past five outings.

"Hopefully, we can defend our title," Menary said. "It's a tough field. Best Chip has been on a big tear lately. He's outside of us, so there's going to be action from the outside. Two of the other favorites drew 1 and 2; Ken Hanover has got the rail and he's in really good form. (Trainer) Ian Moore's horse, Prince Hal, is coming back in seven days instead of being off three weeks. He's raced hard the whole year and I'm sure he's going to keep racing hard.



CONRAD PHOTO

Ervin Hanover squeezed out a win in the 2025 Dayton Pacing Derby.

"And there are a lot of good horses in the middle; I'm sure somebody is going to take their shot too. Every horse in the race is a good horse, so it's going to be action packed."

The Dayton Pacing Derby is one of four \$250,000 graded stakes on Saturday's card at Dayton, along with Dayton Trotting Derby (G2), Dayton Distaff Derby (G1), and Dayton Oaks Derby (G1).

Super Chapter, the sport's No. 1-ranked horses in the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll, is the even-money morning-line favorite in the Dayton Trotting Derby. The 4-year-old son of Chapter Seven-Lifetime Pursuit enters with four consecutive wins, including in the \$1 million MGM Yonkers International Trot, \$446,400 Maple Leaf Trot final, and \$281,200 John Cashman Memorial – all Grade 1 events.

The Dayton Trotting Derby field also includes No. 3-ranked On To Norway, who won the \$200,000 Caesars Trotting Classic (G2) last week; Emoticon Legacy, who won the \$250,000 Charlie Hill Memorial (G2) over On To Norway on Sept. 12; and defending champion Lexus Kody.

Super Chapter will leave from post 4 with driver Dexter Dunn while On To Norway (5-2 morning line) goes from post 1 with John DeLong and Emoticon Legacy (9-2) from post 3 with Scott Zeron. Lexus Kody (6-1) starts from post 2 with Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

The 5-2 morning-line choice in the Dayton Oaks Derby is Warrawee Michelle, who won the Miss Versatility Series final (G3) last week at the Delaware County Fair in Ohio. She will leave from post 5 with trainer/driver Åke Svanstedt.

In the Dayton Distaff Derby, two-time defending champ Twin B Joe Fresh is the 2-1 morning-line favorite and will leave from post 6 with Dunn in the sulky.

Racing begins at 6:30 p.m. (EDT) at Hollywood Dayton Raceway and the graded stakes are races 10 through 13.



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Unraced at 2, Touchedbythesea aiming for BSS Championship

By Wes Mayberry for OHHA

If you like consistent success, Touchedbythesea is probably not the horse for you. But in the Buckeye Stallion Series Finals on Saturday (Oct. 3), he's not to be counted out.

"He didn't race as a 2-year-old. He showed some ability but was just a little colt sore," said Kris Brechler, of Knox Services, which owns Touchedbythesea with Burke Racing Stable, Slaughter Racing Stable, and Weaver Brussemi. "We brought him back this year, and he raced pretty good early. Then he kind of hit a little wall, and now he's racing good again."

That's right, Touchedbythesea enters Saturday's BSS final for 3-year-old colt pacers with some positive momentum after winning in the fifth leg of the series at the Delaware County Fair on Sept. 24. Driven by Chris Page, the Downbytheseaside gelding out of Summer Touch won that race by a length in 1:54 2/5 to make Little Brown Jug Day that much more exciting for his connections.

"It's awesome to win at Delaware," Brechler said. "We had 20-some people there with us, and everyone got to go get their picture taken (in the winner's circle). It was a fun day at Delaware, and getting the win like that gives us confidence going into the final."

The Ron Burke trainee hasn't always inspired confidence, however. A homebred for the ownership group, Touchedbythesea was a complete unknown going into his sophomore season. So, as far as expectations, there really weren't any.

"We heard that he was fast, but we didn't know if he would stay sound, so there were really no expectations for him at all," Brechler said.

Touchedbythesea scored his first career win in just his second start, taking an overnight race at The Meadows on April 29. Just over a week later, on May 9, he added a victory in the first leg of the BSS at Eldorado Scioto Downs, edging Tsunami Seas by a quarter of a length in what remains a lifetime mark of 1:52 3/5.

"I thought he raced well with it being only his third lifetime start," Brechler said. "It was great for him."

A victory in the second leg of the BSS on June 6 at Northfield Park — this time by one and three-quarters lengths over Fire The Prez in 1:54 3/5 — inspired even more confidence.

"He drew the two hole, which is always a good thing, and he got to the front, and (driver) Chris (Page) just controlled the race from there and sprinted home," Brechler remembered. "That was good for him. It showed that he has some ability and that he could keep getting better."

That confidence was soon dampened, though, as Touchedbythesea missed the board in six of his next seven starts going into the fifth leg of the BSS at Delaware. That stretch included finishes of third, fourth, two fifths, two sixths, and a seventh. So, what was behind that prolonged drought of success? His connections were uncertain.

"He had a couple bad post-position draws, which maybe hurt, but there really wasn't any one thing to pinpoint," Brechler said.

Whatever it was, it didn't impact Touchedbythesea's performance at Delaware. His third BSS win of the season and fourth victory overall increased his earnings to \$41,275 from 13 starts and re-solidified his status as a contender going into the final.

"It shows that he belongs in the final and gives us some confidence that maybe he's bounced back a little bit," Brechler said. "What he's done this year so far has been a blessing for us."

With Page back in the sulky on Saturday, Touchedbythesea will look to beat out his eight competitors — Odds On Sugar, Ultimate Catch, Legends Rule, Odds On Mase, Odds On Rpj, Brix's On Fire, The Ebony Dragon, and Odds On Phil — for the title of 2026 BSS champion in the sophomore colt pace division. He finished the five legs of the BSS as the points leader with 160, seven points ahead of Odds On Sugar and 13 up on The Ebony Dragon. But he was not among the top three choices on the morning line for Saturday's race.

After drawing the six hole, Odds On Rpj (Luke Hanners) opened

as the 9-5 favorite ahead of 5-2 second choice Odds On Sugar (Dexter Dunn) and 7-2 third choice Ultimate Catch (Brett Miller), who will leave from posts one and two, respectively. Touchedbythesea is the 6-1 fourth choice and will leave from post four in what will be his first career start at Dayton Raceway. Brechler said the horse's inexperience at Dayton shouldn't be an issue, and he's looking forward to seeing if he can come away with a win.

"It all depends on post position, and he drew the four hole, which is good for him and gives Chris some options with him," Brechler says. "We're looking forward to watching him race. It's going to be a tough race — there's a lot of nice horses in there. But we're hoping for a good night. It's a great race card, and hopefully he gets the job done."

That race is one of eight \$80,000 divisions of the Buckeye Stallion Series Finals at Dayton Raceway on Saturday. The 14-race card also includes four \$250,000 Dayton Derby Grand Circuit events. First-race post time is 6:30 p.m.

A brief look at each of the remaining seven BSS events is below.

3-Year-Old Colt Trot

Bitcoin King (Aaron Merriman) will leave from post two as the 2-1 morning-line favorite. The Chris Beaver trainee has hit the board in 13 of 17 seasonal starts with six wins, including two BSS victories. Time Has Come (B. Miller) opened as the 3-1 second choice after drawing the far outside post.

3-Year-Old Filly Pace

Shehasaway (B. Miller) is the 5-2 morning-line favorite after drawing post five. Trained by Steve Bauder, she has two wins this season, both of which came in the BSS. Takeaway Hanover (Braiden Rhoades) drew the rail and opened as the 7-2 second choice.

3-Year-Old Filly Trot

Dream Of Charlotte (Rhoades) will leave from post five as the 5-2 morning-line favorite. The Bill Rhoades trainee scored a victory in the fifth leg of the BSS and has seven wins and seven seconds in 17 seasonal starts. Princess Karolyn (Sam Widger) opened as the 7-2 second choice.

2-Year-Old Colt Pace

Trained and driven by Kayne Kauffman, Passing Gear opened as the 5-2 favorite after drawing post four. He has four wins in seven seasonal starts, including three BSS victories. Declamation (Page) is the 7-2 second choice.

2-Year-Old Colt Trot

Obsessed With Me (B. Miller) and Lou Armstrong (Anthony MacDon-ald), both three-time winners in the BSS this season, opened as the top choices at 2-1 and 3-1, respectively. Matthew Burkholder trainee Obsessed With Me has four wins in eight seasonal starts and will leave from post eight. Easter Bb, the lone four-time BSS winner this year, drew the rail and opened with 9-2 odds.

2-Year-Old Filly Pace

Midnight Haze (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) is the 5-2 morning-line favorite. The Edward Miller trainee will leave from post three with three wins in six seasonal starts. Sea Jazz (Ronnie Gillespie) is the 7-2 second choice after drawing the far outside post. Our Grey Heart (David Miller), a three-time BSS winner this year, opened with 6-1 odds.

2-Year-Old Filly Trot

Sweet Stevie, trained and driven by Kurt Sugg, opened as the 5-2 favorite after drawing post eight. She has four wins in eight seasonal starts, including three BSS victories. Leaving alongside her from post seven is 7-2 second choice Been Thru Hill (Carson Conrad). Sweet Valorie (Hanners), who joined Sweet Stevie with three BSS wins in this division in 2026, drew the rail and opened with 8-1 odds.

Breeders Crowns Charity Challenge auction on Oct. 6

A stallion breeding auction benefiting the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge (BCCC), presented by Prolific Equine, will be held on Tuesday, October 6, at the Lexington Selected Sale.

A brunch reception will kick off the day's festivities in the Kentucky Room at the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavillion in Lexington, KY from 10am-11am, followed by the auction of the breedings at 11am. The stallion breedings available include:

Downbytheseaside - Ecurie D DK
Greenshoe - Huntsville
In Range - King Of The North
Ready For Moni - Walner
Winner's Bet

Thank you to Diamond Creek Farm, Ecurie D Syndicate, Hanover Shoe Farms, Cameo Hills Farm, Kevin Greenfield, King Of The North Syndicate, Ready For Moni Syndicate, Walner Syndicate and Winner's Bet Syndicate for donating these breedings to benefit the BCCC.

The BCCC began in 2019 and raises funds for charities in the Breeders Crown host community. The 2026 Breeders Crown will be held at Scioto Downs in South Columbus October 16-17 (eliminations) and 23-24 (finals). The local charities are the **Ronald McDonald House - Central Ohio**, **Make-A-Wish Ohio**, **Kentucky & Indiana**, **Greater Columbus Sports Foundation** and **Folds of Honor - Central Ohio**.

For more information about the BCCC and how you can be involved to support these local charities, contact Jason Roth at jroth@caesars.com or Jessica Otten at jmotten97@gmail.com.



-release (Scioto Downs)

2027 Hambletonian will be on August 21 at Hoosier Park

The 102nd edition of the \$1 million Hambletonian, the most prestigious event in harness racing, will be raced on Saturday, August 21 in 2027 at the new venue of Harrah's Hoosier Park in Anderson, Indiana.

It was the intent of Harrah's Hoosier Park management and the Hambletonian Society to preserve the race's traditional August date on the Grand Circuit stakes calendar while also properly spacing and maximizing racing opportunities for human and equine competitors. Elimination races, if necessary, will be raced the week prior, on Saturday, August 14.

The Grade 1 Hambletonian and \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks will be the primary events on a stakes-laden card that will include many of Hoosier's established races such as the Caesars Trotting Classic, Hoosier Pacing Derby, Jennas Beach Boy, Nadia Lobell, Vincennes Trot and the Peter Haughton and Jim Doherty Memorials. Hambletonian Day will be the culmination of a week-long Hambletonian Festival of events for fans, bettors and race participants.

"The Hambletonian at Harrah's Hoosier Park creates an exciting opportunity for both the Hambletonian and harness racing," said John Campbell, President and CEO of the Hambletonian Society. "Hoosier Park has a strong commitment to the sport and its fans, and we look forward to expanding the exposure and creating additional involvement for all the supporters and participants throughout the Midwest."

The move to Indiana's premier racino for the next three years was the result of a collaborative effort involving Harrah's Hoosier Park, the Hambletonian Society, the Indiana Horse Racing Commission and the Indiana Standardbred Association.

The 2027 Hambletonian will mark the beginning of a three-year run at Harrah's Hoosier Park, providing the Anderson venue with the opportunity to showcase the sport's signature event while building on Indiana's growing prominence in harness racing.

-release (Hambletonian Society)

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, OCTOBER 1

RACE 4

(3) GREEN PASTURES closed well in a third-place effort from the eight-hole on 9-17 and offsets the class hike by moving in on the gate to the three-hole here.

-Greg Reinhart



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

RACE 1

(2) DANCING DRAGON has now won two straight after moving to the Bongiorno barn four starts back; she faces a bit tougher here but does draw well and driver Siegelman has tactical options from this spot.

-Matt Rose



RACE 3

(8) KISS IN THE SKY doesn't have the experience of others but is third back after a much-improved outing from the high draw. We've seen these types have a hard time sustaining front end bids.

-Kevin Plowcha



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

RACE 13

(9) BIG RANGER has been aiming for this race for some time while others took their shots in different stakes. The outside post and competition should ensure he isn't odds-on and provides fair value.

-Derick Gwerner



FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis

Thursday Friday Saturday

Yonkers Analysis

Thursday Friday

DHP PPS

HARNESS EYE PPS

TRACKMASTER PPS

FREE PPS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

WALL OF FAME PUTS UNDEFEATED RECORD ON THE LINE IN BLUEGRASS

Andy and Julie Miller's star freshman trotting filly Wall Of Fame aims to up her record from nine wins in nine starts when she competes as the even-money morning line chalk in the second of four divisions of the \$377,000 Bluegrass Stakes for her cohort on Friday afternoon (Oct. 2) at The Red Mile.

[READ MORE](#)

OWLEO'S PRIDE TEAMS WITH DUNN FOR INDIANA SIRE STAKES VICTORY

The final leg of Indiana Sire Stakes for 2-year-old pacing fillies and 3-year-old trotting fillies was contested on the 14-race Wednesday (Sept. 30) card at Harrah's Hoosier Park, yielding formful results as the chalk delivered in each of their splits.

[READ MORE](#)

SOPHOMORES MEET UP IN MASSACHUSETTS BREEDERS STAKES

The \$3.2 million (est.) Massachusetts Breeder Stakes reconvened at Plainridge Park on Tuesday (Sept. 29) with the first leg of competition for 3-year-old state-breds of both gaits and sexes. Competing for a total of \$331,750 in purses, the trotters competed in single divisions by gender, while the pacers went in splits for both sexes.

[READ MORE](#)

INDIANA STANDOUT SWAN GOOD BI IMPROVES TO SEVEN-FOR-SEVEN

The sixth and final leg of Indiana Sire Stakes and an advance of Hoosier Champions Night for both the two-year-old trotting males and fillies was contested on Tuesday, Sept. 29, with Peter Haughton Memorial champion Swan Good Bi headlining the five stakes winners and remaining undefeated through seven starts to begin his career for Jordan Ross and Henry Graber Jr.

[READ MORE](#)

CLARIFYING MEADOWLANDS YEARLING ELIGIBILITY

For anyone interested in competing in the big events at The Meadows during 2027, it is imperative that they are aware that only yearlings from stallions nominated on February 15, 2026, are eligible to race at the mile oval.

"We plan to do the same thing next year by asking the stallion owners to contribute a full annual stud fee, which will make foals of 2026 yearlings of 2027 eligible to race in 2028," said Meadowlands Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemyer.

Every dollar of every payment will go into the stakes event purse pool.

[Here](#) is the list of stallions.

[-release \(Meadowlands\)](#)

HANOVER SHOE FARMS HARRISBURG VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

Hanover Shoe Farms 2026 Yearling Videos have been completed and are being uploaded to the Hanover Shoe Farms and The Black Book websites. www.hanoverpa.com, www.theblackbook.com. If you do not see the video you are searching for, continue checking over the next couple of days as they are being uploaded upon editing completion.

Anyone interested in inspecting Hanover yearlings can visit the Hanover Fairgrounds from October 12th through October 29th. Prior to coming, please notify Patti Murphy (pmurphy@hanoverpa.com) or Mark Loewe (mloewe@hanoverpa.com) with your date request and list of horses you are interested in inspecting. Inspections start at 11 AM.

[-release \(Hanover Shoe Farms\)](#)

HHYF TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF EDUCATION

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation will honor its 50th anniversary in scenic Lexington, KY. From HHYF President Tabatha DeLong: "Harness Horse Youth Foundation celebrating 50 years is no small accomplishment and I want to congratulate everyone for their hard work and dedication over the years. HHYF is honored to have worked with a number of amazing partners. Over the last 50 years with their support, we have been able to share our love of the sport through outreach and hands on learning experiences all while helping to ensure a bright future for Harness Racing as a whole. From past graduates to scholarship winners, HHYF has been able to touch and better every corner of our industry. We look forward to celebrating this hard earned milestone with everyone at The Red Mile October 10."

The festivities begin with an online auction featuring equine and one-of-a-kind items. The auction runs from October 1 through 10; the link to view and bid is <https://www.32auctions.com/HHYF50th>.

On October 10, there will be a brunch served at the Stable of Memories with Hall of Famer Bob Heyden acting as emcee and roving interviewer all morning. In addition to viewing HHYF history and memorabilia, attendees will be treated to comments from the keynote speaker John Campbell who has 16 national earnings titles as a driver and currently serves as President and CEO of the Hambletonian Society.

Also in attendance will be Lisa Lazzaretto, author of the new children's book Bear's Big Race.

Mr. Campbell will also act as auctioneer for two live items to be sold to benefit HHYF: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to "drive a mile around the Red Mile" with 5-time national Driver of the Year Dexter Dunn immediately following the event along with a HHYF 50th anniversary handmade t-shirt quilt.

The supporters and alumni will then be invited to the Red Mile races and informal reunion for the afternoon.

A few tickets (\$50 each) for the brunch remain available. Please contact Ellen Taylor 317.908.0029 to RSVP.

[-release \(HHYF\)](#)

OHHA TO LIVE STREAM BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES FINALS ON SATURDAY

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) will live stream "Saturday Night at the Races" presented by the Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center on Saturday (Oct. 3) from Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway.

The live stream, which can be seen on the [OHHA YouTube channel](#), will begin with the second race of the card at approximately 6:45 p.m. and includes coverage of all eight \$80,000 divisions of the Buckeye Stallion Series Finals as well as four \$250,000 Dayton Derby Grand Circuit races.

The OHHA's Susan Schroeder will be joined by Doug Ballinger as hosts of the "Saturday Night at the Races" coverage.

First race post time for the 14-race card is 6:30 p.m.

"Saturday Night at the Races" is sponsored by the Delaware County Fair, Dublin Valley Farms, Eldorado Scioto Downs, Hickory Lane Farm, North American Standardbred Mixed Sale, and the Ohio Farm Bureau.

[-release \(OHHA\)](#)

WINBAK VIDEOS POSTED FOR LONDON SALE

Winbak Farm will offer a consignment of 64 Ontario-sired yearlings at the London Classic Yearling Sale which will be held on October 13 and October 14 at The J-AAR Expo Centre (Formerly - The Agriplex) at Western Fair District.

Winbak Farm is proud to present nine from the first crop sired by Meadowlands Pace winner Beach Glass, p, 2, 1:51 1/5s; 3, 1:47 2/5 (\$1,189,416), and eight from the first crop sired by O'Brien Award winner Lawless Shadow, p, 2, 1:52 1/5; 3, 1:48 2/5f (\$995,579)!

[READ MORE](#)