

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

Grand Circuit-quality trotters expected to shine in Big Apple



By Derick Gwerner

A pair of talented 2-year-old trotters with their sights set on major accomplishments on the Grand Circuit in 2027 are standouts in two of the four \$250,000 Big Apple Finals on Friday evening at Vernon Downs. The action kicks off at 5:05 PM (EDT) and also includes divisions for 2-year-old pacers of both sexes.

Grade 1 stakes winner Ocean Storm is the 2-1 morning line favorite in the colt and gelding trot division while the undefeated Kountry Plunge is 7-5 in the final for filly trotters. Fans will want to get a good look as neither horse will be seen at the Breeders Crown at Scioto Downs in the coming weeks.

For Ocean Storm, he burst on the scene with a victory in the Grade 1 \$410,400 William Wellwood Memorial at Woodbine Mohawk Park on August 29 and has won two of his three starts since, including in the elimination round of the Big Apple in 1:53, a full second faster than the other elimination. The only recent loss for the son of



Grade 1 winner Ocean Storm looks to finish off his season with a win on Friday.

Chapter Seven came in the Mohawk Million when he was trip-compromised from post nine.

"He came out of the [Big Apple elim] really well," said trainer Cam Capone from the Lexington Selected Sale. "From what I understand, he

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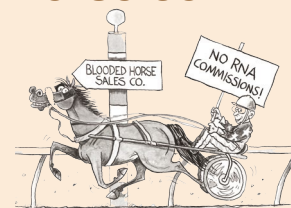
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trained really good [on Tuesday]. It should be a good situation.”

“Good situation” may be an understatement for those that watched the colt cruise home by more than five lengths in his elimination win with Brett Beckwith motionless in the bike. To the naked eye it is also obvious that Ocean Storm is not the biggest trotter around, but he does have loads of natural ability.

“He’s actually really compact, and he’s really a nice build. It keeps him really sound, and that’s kind of what I’m shooting for when I go back to Chapter Seven trotters,” said Capone.

Already a winner of \$264,392 in six career starts, Ocean Storm has an interesting ownership group that includes ADH Holdings LLC, Paul Kautz, Meadowlands CEO Jeff Gural and LeTROT President Jean-Pierre Barjon, who bred the horse.

“I won leading trainer at Tioga and I talked to [Jeff Gural] fairly often. He’d come down to the paddock and talk to me. And then I’d call him on the phone here and there. I ran the horse by him. He liked the breeding, liked the horse, and he took a quarter. The whole partnership, honestly, is great,” said Capone.

Ocean Storm will likely be closer to 2-5 than 2-1 when the gate speeds away for the fourth race on Friday. The morning line favorite is actually Gios Hope from post eight with Jason Bartlett driving for trainer Marcus Melander. Also by Chapter Seven, that colt won his elimination in 1:54.

For Ocean Storm, who is not eligible to the Breeders Crown, Friday will be the last start of the year.

“He’s done for the year.” He’ll have seven starts, and then it’s actually going to work out good because we got the Oak Grove Derby, like May 15th, I believe it is. And then we’re going to have to figure out how we’re going to go about it, which race is in between that race and Jeff’s [Gural] new race for the millions [Meadowlands Trot]. So now we’re going to have two shots to get [a million-dollar win],” said Capone, eluding to the Hambletonian as the other one.

Two races after Ocean Storm wraps up his year, Kountry Plunge will put her perfect six-for-six record on the line in the 2-year-old filly final. Also a daughter of Chapter Seven, she is the New York Sire Stakes

champion in her division and has never left the state. That fact won’t change in the near future as trainer Ake Svanstedt confirmed that she will skip the Breeders Crown and aim for the Goldsmith Maid at The Meadowlands on November 14.

“She is a Grand Circuit horse, yes, but there’s good money in New York and now we have the Big Apple, so instead of going to Lexington, we went there. And then we have Breeders Crown, but I think we will skip it and go for the Goldsmith Maid,” said Svanstedt. “It’s a lot of traveling for her also. And she has raced six times now, and after Friday it will be seven. One more race after that is enough for her. There is so much money next year, so you need to be careful.”

Kountry Plunge won her elimination race without breaking a sweat in 1:54 1/5 with Brian Sears making a cameo appearance in the bike after driving her once previously on September 4 at Vernon Downs. After a multi-year absence, Sears has been driving selectively since late July.

“I met him at Pocono,” said Svanstedt about Sears. “He was a little bored and he wanted to do something, so he started driving for some friends and then I asked if he wanted to drive a horse for us. He’s a good driver and I feel good to have him in the bike.”

Sears will leave from post five with Kountry Plunge in the Big Apple final. Julia Florence, the other elimination winner (1:55 1/5) in the field, has post one with Tyler Miller driving for trainer Julie Miller.

The two pacing finals go as races eight and nine, with Cowboy Candy the 2-1 morning line choice in the filly split for trainer Aaron Lambert and driver Jason Bartlett, and Rose Run Cowboy (Bartlett and trainer Ron Burke) the 2-1 choice in the male division.



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NEW! ON Pacing Highlights

BEACH GLASS (9)

#30, FIRE SPIRIT, F
Beach Glass-Blazing Spirit-Sweet Lou
1/2-sister to **Blaze Of Glory**,
p, 2, 1:57.3h -'26 (\$21,049)

#90, GRAB THE GOLD, F
Beach Glass-Grip N Win-Betting Line
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Bettor Than Spring**,
p, 1:49.2h (\$1,004,666)

#124, REDLAND SEA BREEZE, C, Agt.
Beach Glass-Live Free Or Die-Always B Miki
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **A Bettor Hat**,
p, 3, 1:51.1 (\$394,656)

#266, MONSOON BEACH, C
Beach Glass-Typhoon-A Rocknroll Dance
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Seaside Wishes**,
p, 3, 1:53f -'25 (\$229,292)

BETTERTHANCHEDDAR (9)

#27, POLKA DOT BIKINI, F
Betterthancheddar-Bikini Genie-Sunshine Beach
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Weeper**,
p, 3, 1:49f (\$570,708)

#69, DREAM WARRIOR, C
Betterthancheddar-Dreams Are Great-Dream Away
1/2-brother to **Settlemoir**,
p, 1:51.2h (\$400,266)

#80, FANCY N FREE, F
Betterthancheddar-Free Admission-Powerful Toy
1/2-sister to **Free Show**,
p, 3, 1:51.3s (\$292,718)

#285, SWIFT STRIKE, C
Betterthancheddar-Strike The Gavel-Rock N Roll Heaven
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Custard The Dragon, p, 3, 1:48.1f (\$777,817)

BETTING LINE (2)

#56, RITZ N GLITZ, F
Betting Line-Dance Off-Royal Mattjesty
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Spanish Dream**,
p, 1:52h (\$364,030)

BETTOR'S DELIGHT (3)

#195, BEACH BUMMIN IT, F
Bettor's Delight-My Little Beach-Somebeachsomewhere
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **My Little Dragon**,
p, 1:48.1 (\$2,386,055)

#278, BETTORS TRUST, F
Bettor's Delight-Who Can You Trust-Art Major
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **Always A Virgin**,
p, 3, 1:48.4 (\$1,135,559)

BULLDOG HANOVER (1)

#198, DIESEL DAN, C
Bulldog Hanover-Sand In The Hand-American Ideal
Family of **Somebeachsomewhere**,
p, 3, 1:46.4 (\$3,328,755)

CATTLEWASH (2)

#47, STEER CLEAR, C
Cattlewash-Clear As Glass-American Ideal
First Foal. Dam is a full-sister to
Clear Idea, p, 3, 1:50.4f (\$659,162)

DANCIN LOU (1)

#3, GUNNER'S DELIGHT, C
Dancin Lou-Action's Delight-Bettor's Delight
Family of **Worldly Beauty**,
p, 1:49.3 (\$2,146,076)

NEW! LAWLESS SHADOW (8)

#5, REDLAND MARSHAL, C, Agt.
Lawless Shadow-Alexander Valley-Captaintreacherous
1/2-brother to **One Wicked Man**,
p, 3, 1:53.2h -'25 (\$155,391)

#78, FACE OF SIN, F
Lawless Shadow-Face To Face-Camluck
1/2-sister to **Two Faced**,
p, 1:53.1h -'24 (\$358,266)

#153, REGAL LEGAL, F
Lawless Shadow-Royal Asset Queen-Royal Mattjesty
Dam is a 1/2-sister to **No Better Joy**,
p, 1:51.3f -'23 (\$404,459)

#175, FLAWLESS SHADOW, F
Lawless Shadow-PH Diagnosis-American Ideal
1/2-sister to **My Pal Joe**, p, 1:48.3 (\$416,001)

MCWICKED (8)

#8, TOXIC STRIKE, C
McWicked-Deadly Delight-Bettor's Delight
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Poisonous, p, 1:49.4f (\$286,827)

#146, CHARMING CHESNEY, C
McWicked-Modern Cinderella-Modern Art
1/2-brother to **Cinderella Delight**,
p, 1:53h (\$273,720)

#236, WICKED WAVE, F
McWicked-Sun N Sand-Astreos
1/2-sister to **Independent One**,
p, 1:50.3f (\$218,516)

SPORTSWRITER (2)

#121, GUY FOR THAT, C
Sportswriter-Michelle's Ideal-Western Ideal
1/2-brother to **Eyes Don't Lie**,
p, 1:52.3f (\$209,491)

ON Trotting Highlights

ARCHANGEL (6)

#93, ANGELS SONG, F
Archangel-Happy Michelle-Explosive Matter
Second dam is **Miss Michelle H**,
3, 1:55.2s (\$391,828)

#102, MR IVORY, C
Archangel-Ivory Pearl-Muscle Hill
Second dam is **Pure Ivory**,
3, 1:53.1s (\$1,442,888). Dam is a 1/2-sister
to **Forbidden Trade**, 3, 1:51 (\$2,392,642)

#235, COVERGIRL ALLISON, F
Archangel-Summer Sis-Swan For All
Dam is a full-sister to **Andis Alana**,
3, 1:55s (\$528,749)

GREEN MANALISHI S (1)

#192, RISK TAKER, F
Green Manalishi S-Roll Sevens-Chapter Seven
1/2-sister to 2026 ON SBOA elim. Winner
Toss Of The Dice, 3, 1:52.3s -'26 (\$178,410)

KING OF THE NORTH (1)

#150, ELBOWSUPWETHENORTH, C, Agt.
King Of The North-Muscle Mara-Muscle Mass
1/2-brother to **Evolving**,
1:56.1f -'25 (\$165,694)

MUSCLE MASS (4)

#172, DYNASTY ROSE, F
Muscle Mass-Pasadena-Father Patrick
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Mississippi Storm, 1:52f (\$1,511,947)

#234, CHELLE ON WHEELS, F
Muscle Mass-Young Michelle-Cantab Hall
Second dam is **Miss Michelle H**,
3, 1:55.2s (\$391,828)

MY MVP (2)

#13, DEVOUS DEVIL, C
My MVP-Devious Maid-Devious Man
1/2-brother to **Sir Devious Knight**,
2, 2:12h -'25; BT1:55.1s-'25 (\$117,329)

TRIXTON (4)

#17, OH MY GYPSY, F
Trixtion-Gypsy Jewell-Muscle Mass
First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Renegade Gypsy, 3, 1:53s (\$469,055)

#154, FIT TO BE KING, C
Trixtion-New Royalty-Giant Hit
1/2-brother to **Military Blue**,
3, 1:55.2f (\$245,845). Dam is a 1/2-sister to
Vivid Photo, 1:50.2z (\$3,297,662)

All information as of 10/8/26



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Pelling's Red Mile quartet led by Miss Jum Jabber in Glen Garnsey

By Jay Bergman

Saturday's final day of the two-week Grand Circuit stay at The Red Mile has a dual purpose for many. For trainer Brett Pelling, who has enjoyed great success in Kentucky during the Sire Stakes season and beyond, Saturday's closing will be the final measuring stick as he prepares for the coming Breeders Crown races at Scioto Downs. With four entered on the stakes-filled Red Mile program, much is riding for Pelling, with the top filly Miss Jum Jabber looking to regain winning form in the Glen Garnsey Memorial and perhaps supplement into the Crown on Monday (October 12).

"I've already sent the check," said Pelling when asked about the Bettor's Wish-sired Miss Jum Jabber that landed the rail and faces 10 rivals in the \$212,000 filly stake. "I'll make a [Breeders Crown] decision after Saturday's race."

Now a winner in 13 of her 16 lifetime starts and the champion in both Pennsylvania and Kentucky programs, Miss Jum Jabber was nipped on the wire by Hope Hill in last Saturday's (October 3) Bluegrass division, losing by a head after cutting the mile. Pelling saw the tables turned on his filly when Hope Hill, a daughter of Papi Rob Hanover, pulled off the upset less than two weeks after finishing a distant second behind Miss Jum Jabber in the \$400,000 Kentucky Championships over the same track.

"That was her first start for the Engblom barn and she was much better," said Pelling of Hope Hill, who drew post two right next to the pole position of Miss Jum Jabber on Saturday.

With \$625K earned this year, Miss Jum Jabber has done some of her best racing while coming off the pace and finishing with an explosive burst of speed. Her 24 4/5 closing quarter in a Kentucky Sire Stakes on September 13 served notice just how quick she is but since then two starts on the front end may have been another factor that led to a rare defeat.

"Drawing the rail could be a bit tricky for her," said Pelling, recognizing a down-the-road type of mission may work against his filly. "Coming off the Kentucky Championship and knowing she would be racing four straight weeks, I might have gone a little easy on her in training."

With 11 entered, clearly Hope Hill is the main threat with Dexter Dunn again in the bike following a 1:49 victory where she out-sprinted Miss Jum Jabber with a 26 1/5 final quarter.

Pelling wasn't as lucky with the draw in Saturday's richest contest as Sea Bistro Hanover landed post eight in the \$365,000 Tattersalls carded as race 11, and the last of the Grand Circuit meeting.

"He's had nothing but bad draws lately," said Pelling, obviously pointing to post nine in the Kentucky Championship, a race he finished third behind division leader Brandon Blvd and post eight in last Saturday's (October 3) Bluegrass division where he finished third behind Beau Jangles.

"Well, I'm at least glad the top two horses aren't in there this week," said Pelling, referring to Brandon Blvd, who is resting this week and Beau Jangles, who will race in Saturday's Ontario Gold final at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Sea Bistro Hanover had been rock solid, mostly over the Red Mile strip the last two months, and has hit the board in 14 of his 15 starts this year.

"I think he should be good in there," said Pelling. "I'm looking forward to getting him off the mile track and think he may benefit from the five-eighths at Scioto."

The reference of course is the Breeders Crown with Sea Bistro Hanover battle tested.

Trainer Ron Burke will send out four in the Tattersalls, with a pair of Little Brown Jug horses making their first starts since the two-heat affair at the Delaware County Fairgrounds on September 24. Melillo (post 1) and Al Papi (post 2) are both looking to regain winning form. Melillo finished second behind Redland Rocket Man in the Jug final, but stablemate Al Papi likely did more of the work in that mile. Burke also has Ubrute (post 9) coming off a solid placing behind Beau Jangles in the Bluegrass.

Pelling has a pair of outsiders in two of the Allerage finals, with Rocket Deo (post 3) entered in the \$67,000 Open Mare Pace carded as race two and Dandy Ideal (post 3) entered in the \$145,000 Allerage Open Horse and Gelding division going as race nine.



AMANDA STEPHENS PHOTO

Miss Jum Jabber won the Kentucky Sire Stakes final at The Red Mile.

"Rocket Deo has been racing solid all year," said Pelling. "There's only five in there and Twin B Joe Fresh is coming off a big mile, so there probably isn't going to be much pace."

Still Pelling feels the 5-year-old daughter of Captaintreacherous should be ready for a solid mile. "I think she can be third or better in there," said Pelling.

As for Dandy Ideal, the 4-year-old by American Ideal captured the Grade 1 Dan Patch at Hoosier Park in August in an epic performance but has since struggled to maintain his winning form. "He just arrived six days ago," Pelling said on Wednesday. "Hopefully we can have him better for the Breeders Crown."

Though Pelling was still getting to know Dandy Ideal, he is quite familiar with his family. "I trained his dam Ok Heavenly and she was a pretty nice mare," Pelling said of the daughter of Sportswriter he campaigned from 2017-19.

Prince Hal Hanover enters the Allerage following a seventh-place finish in the Dayton Derby on October 3 but those that watched that contest saw him locked in with no room through the stretch drive. A 4-year-old by Captaintreacherous, Prince Hal Hanover looks to rebound for trainer Dr. Ian Moore from post six in Saturday's contest.

Ken Hanover will be looking for his third victory in his last four starts in the Allerage. The Roland Mallar trained veteran enjoyed a huge September, winning both the Ewart at Scioto Downs and Hoosier Park Pacing Derby two weeks later at Hoosier Park. Ken Hanover drew post seven.

The Engblom stable sends out three in the field with Lou Hill (post 1), Coaches Corner (post 2) and Admiral Hill (post 4) dominating the inside part of the starting gate. Coaches Corner has had to deal with some difficult trips and unlucky draws in the last six weeks and may be closing in on a winning performance.

First post for Saturday's Red Mile program is listed at 1:00 p.m. (EDT).

Per Engblom remains in good standing

Despite social media speculation to the contrary after moving all of his horses into his brother Petter's name, trainer Per Engblom remains a licensed trainer with full privileges to compete while he awaits a decision on whether the appeal of his April 2023 suspension will be heard by the New Jersey Supreme Court.

The trainer told DRF Harness that with the uncertainty surrounding his situation and the likelihood that they will split the barn up into overnight and stakes horses, that it made sense to make the move. He remains confident that should his case be heard that the initial penalty will be greatly reduced.

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London Classic Yearling Sale offers strong Ontario-bred pedigrees



CONFESSIONS

By Keith Gisser

I'll be honest, I'm a Midwest guy and don't know much about Ontario Stallions. Sure, Bulldog Hanover (if you didn't know him before the Jug, you do now after Redland Rocket Man's dominating performance) and Cattlewash I knew. And I know King of the North, who had an exceptional Harrisburg Sale last year. So I was a bit surprised when I was assigned this column. But hey, I can read a pedigree and I can always call the experts.

First off, kudos to the organizers of this sale. Like most of the regional sales, they catalog between 275-300 head (actual count 285). But they do it over two days. Selling 300 in one day is a grind, and more importantly, it forces buyers to make decisions quickly. If you get to the end of a one-day sale and don't have the one you want, you may try to force the action. Just as when wagering, that is not a great idea. Splitting the horses up allows buyers to regroup at the end of day one. Maybe they got what they wanted, maybe they didn't. But they have time to discuss options and I believe that helps the prices of horses on the second day.

Greg Blanchard, Director of Racing Operations for Western Fair, told me, "That was the established format and I did not want to reinvent the wheel. Yearlings were there for a couple days before for inspection. The only significant change was switching to a weekday rather than a weekend. That positioned us immediately following the Ontario Sires Stakes Finals. It never made sense on a Saturday. A lot of buyers were leaving early because they wanted to watch the races, and you lost some of your horsemen, too."

The sale has a unique model. It is operated by the non-profit Western Fair Association, one of the largest agricultural agencies in Canada.

"It's our 5th year since taking over. We were the host venue when it was the London Select, and before that the Forest City. They rented it. Once they decided to stop, post-pandemic, we were looking for someone to take it over. It made sense," said Blanchard.

The top Standardbred nurseries in Ontario are well represented at this sale. Most of us in the lower 48 know Winbak Farm, which has operations in numerous jurisdictions.

Of course, I know Seelster Farms. But I did not know about Twinbrook Farms (the Twin B horses, notably Twin B Joe Fresh). All have solid consignments at London. Preferred Equine also has a presence as a consignor.



COURTESY GREG BLANCHARD

Greg Blanchard is in charge of the London Classic Yearling Sale.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8](#)

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Bulldog Hanover has 16 yearlings selling and that number should not overwhelm demand. There are 32 King of the Norths and 34 Cattlewash youngsters being sold. Those two make up nearly 25% of the sale. Beach Glass is represented by 24 babies and Green Manalishi has 25 going through the ring. There are also 28 Muscle Masses and my gut says they will command a very high average despite the number. Beach Glass and Lawless Shadow (who has 13 selling) are the top first-crop sires.

The first colt that caught my eye was HIP 5 Redland Marshal, an April Lawless Shadow colt from the 100% producing Captaintreacherous mare Alexander Valley. What really attracted me is that the second dam is a half-sister to millionaires Western Vintage and Vintage Master.

Another April colt who caught my eye is HIP 8 Toxic Strike, by McWicked. He is the first foal of the Bettor's Delight mare Deadly Delight. This one's third dam is She's A Great Lady, one of the greatest mares of all time.

HIP 16 is the Betterthancheddar colt All The Luck, and my third straight standout yearling from the Winbak Farm consignment. His dam B So Lucky has produced nine winners from 10 foals, with five over \$250K.

The last horse from the first 20 is Anita Beechday. She is a full sister (Sunshine Beach) to ONSS winner (one of 49 career wins) Bee Two Bee.

Take a break and then check out HIP 55, a King of the North son named North Lite whose dam is a 100% producer, including O'Brien Award winner Strobe Lite (Alarm Detector), with \$667K in the bank and a mark of 1:52 2/5. This is a stallion upgrade. The second dam is Dan Patch winner Day For Night and the very good Chasing Tail also shows up in this one's pedigree.

HIP 67 The Iron Lady is out of a full sister to \$2.5 million winner and multiple O'Brien winner Dreamfair Eternal. The Iron Lady's dam Dreamfair Eternity has a 3-year-old with a beaten time of 1:57 2/5 and a racing 2-year-old. The angle on this one is that her sire All Bets Off is an upgrade from the half-brother who was sired by Well Said.

We go back to Winbak to kick off our Day Two choices. Let's start with HIP 154 Fit To Be King, one of just six colts by Trixton in the sale. His dam New Royalty is a Giant Hit sister to Vivid Photo and Devious Man, who combined to earn over \$4,500,000 in their careers. She has a fair production record (7 of 12 winners, 9 of 12 to the races), but only one who is anywhere close to \$250,000.

HIP 192 Risk Taker is a Green Manalishi daughter of Roll Seven whose dam is the aforementioned New Royalty. If you like the pedigree, this one

might go a bit cheaper, although Roll Seven is five-of-six with only her current 2-year-old not taking a mark.

If you like old pedigree, have a look at Laughing Dancer, HIP 222, whose third dam is the great Start Dialing. The dam, Smiling Dialing, took a 1:52 3/5 mark and is a half-sister to multiple O'Brien winner So Much More. This early (February) foal is by Cattlewash and has multiple millionaires in his pedigree for the Dean & Ashley Wilson consignment.

Let's wrap things up with the Big Jim colt Southern Bridge from Preferred Equine. His dam Southern Memories is a Roll With Joe sister to millionaire Stonebridge Kisses, who won 45 career races and is the dam of Covered Bridge, who earned over \$1.5 million. This one is HIP 226.

As for Blanchard, he points out that in what he considers to be a "very deep catalog," three yearlings stand out.

"Number 55 North Lite is a King Of The North sibling to Strobe Light, an O'Brien Award winner at 2 and who was just third in the Canadian Trotting Classic. Shine Bright, the dam's other foal, is Bright Green, who has a 1:52 mark and almost \$200,000 in the bank.

"[HIP 118] Scottie Seelster is a Bulldog Hanover sibling to Dan Patch and O'Brien winner winner Stockade Seelster, who earned over \$1,600,000 in his

career and now stands at stud in Ohio. The dam Soiree Seelster has five of six foals taking marks, with just her 2-year-old without a mark, although he is racing.

"[HIP 210 Return of the Mack] dam Apple Of My Pie was a sub-1:50 pacer and is a three-quarter sister to Krispy Apple, who earned just under \$2,000,000 in her career. Her other foal, 2-year-old Rumble and Sway (Sweet Lou), has a mark of 1:51 1/5 and \$167,000+ in the bank."

Winbak Farms has a strong roster, which features nine from Beach Glass's and seven from the first group from Lawless Shadow. As new stallions always attract attention, it seems fitting to mention a few of those as well.

HIP 90 Grab The Gold is a Beach Glass filly from a half-sister to 1:49 2/5 millionaire Bettor Than Spring. Her two siblings are both racing and her second dam sports a 1:50 3/5 mark and a bankroll over three-quarters of a million dollars..

Also, there is HIP 175 Flawless Shadow. She is a Lawless Shadow half-sister to My Pal Joe, p, 1:48 3/5 and earnings over \$416,000. Her dam PH Diagnosis has five offspring in 1:55 or better.

All in all it looks like a great sale, and with the Canadian dollar at seventy cents to the U.S. Dollar, there could be some great values.

That's it for this time. Now go cash. Maybe on a London Classic Sale alumnus.



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Gaskin so happy for Indiana Sire Stakes finalist So Joyful

By Ken Weingartner

Ernie Gaskin is uncertain where the trip with 2-year-old colt trotter So Joyful may end up, but he is enjoying the ride.

So Joyful is the 2-1 morning-line favorite in Friday's \$250,000 Indiana Sire Stakes championship for freshman male trotters at Harrah's Hoosier Park. He has finished first or second in seven of nine races this season, with five wins, and earned \$126,203 for owners All-Wright Racing, Brian Code, and James Nellinger.

The son of Rebuff-Skateaway is eligible to the upcoming Breeders Crown at Eldorado Scioto Downs, and his performance Friday will likely determine whether trainer Gaskin and So Joyful make the trip to Ohio for the Grade 1 event.

"I said early in the going that he would have to put in a heck of a performance on finals night for us to consider it, but that's not beyond the realm of things, that's for sure," Gaskin said. "I don't know if he's quite that caliber, but he may be. We've never really dug deep to dip into the bottom of the well, I don't believe. We went about the whole process as a 2-year-old just trying to protect him. He's a nice colt."

So Joyful, from the first crop of stallion Rebuff, was purchased for \$30,000 at the Midwest Standardbred Select Yearling Sale. He was Skateaway's first foal and his family includes Breeders Crown winners Flirtin Miss and Pick Me Up.

"I was on to Rebuffs," Gaskin said. "We looked at them all and I bought two Rebuff colts. He was the one we liked best. It was just the cross, the individual, the video, and the price range. We got him for \$30,000, so it was right in our wheelhouse."

So Joyful, who won four times in the preliminary rounds of the Indiana Sire Stakes series, has finished no worse than second in six consecutive starts. He has won three of his past four races, including a career-best 1:54 3/5 triumph at Hoosier on Aug. 22. All five of his victories this season have been by at least 2-3/4 lengths.

"It couldn't be any better," Gaskin said of the rookie's campaign. "I thank (driver) John DeLong for a lot of that. He's really taken care of him. (So Joyful) is good enough, quick enough, so that he can help himself a little bit here and there to get some position. He's always been up close, and that's been key for us. He's drawn well, the whole year, so that's also helped him."

"He's just a quick little guy and we love him. He's a really cool individual. We haven't had to do much to him; he's been real simple, beautifully gaited. He's one of those that you really enjoy being around. He's got a great attitude and a big heart. I think he's going to grow into a really special horse. It's always nice to be part of a special horse."

So Joyful will leave from post 2 in Friday's INSS final, with DeLong in the sulky.

The colt is one of four INSS finalist for Gaskin, with 3-year-old male trotter Inverness Ave, 3-year-old female trotter Dial Nine One One and 3-year-old male pacer Brookview Glider. Dial Nine One One and Brookview Glider are 20-1 morning-line longshots, but Inverness Ave is the 9-2 second choice in his championship.

Inverness Ave, a son of Helpisontheway-Arvika, has hit the board in 16 of 20 races this year, winning seven, and earned \$172,040 for owners Theodore Engel, Douglas Shore, and Ernest Gaskin Stables. He has three victories in the Indiana Sire Stakes, and a career-best 1:51 triumph in a Kentucky Commonwealth Series division at the Red Mile on Aug. 31. Only seven sophomore male trotters have been faster this year.

For his career, the \$20,000 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale purchase has finished in the top three in 22 of 31 races, with nine victories and \$236,585 in the bank.

"As a 2-year-old, we had to sit and wait on him a little bit, but he trotted in (1):54 (in a third-place finish in a Kentucky Sire Stakes at Cumberland Run) at the end of the year in Kentucky and gave us the indication that he could be what we'd hoped had everything gone his way. This year, he came back and things have really gone his way. He won in (1):51 down in Lexington, which put him in a little rare air. He's been great for us at 3."

"We're hoping to have some good luck with him too (on Friday). The others are just hoping to get checks. I just want them to race well and represent themselves good."

Inverness Ave will leave from post 1 with Kevin Lambright in the sulky. Tuggin Thomas, who has won three of his past four starts, is the 2-1 morning-line choice in the field. Trace Tetrick will drive for trainer Ricky Macomber

Jr., leaving from post 4.

Racing begins at 5:30 p.m. (EDT) Friday at Harrah's Hoosier Park for the all-Indiana Sire Stakes card. The \$250,000 finals for 2- and 3-year-olds are races 6 through 13.

The morning-line favorites in the remaining \$250,000 events are 2-year-old filly trotter Redice (2-1, driver Atlee Bender, trainer Erv Miller), 2-year-old male

pacer Mr Bear (3-2, Marcus Miller, Erv Miller), 2-year-old filly pacer Era Dominance (2-1, Tim Tetrick, Michael Hitchcock), 3-year-old filly trotter Fresh Face Yankee (2-1, Jay Cross, Jay Cross), 3-year-old filly pacer Somewhere Blue (9-5, Marcus Miller, Erv Miller) and 3-year-old male pacer Swiss Lights (3-1, Trace Tetrick, Jeff Cullipier).



DEAN GILLETTE

So Joyful is the 2-1 favorite in Friday's 2-year-old male trot final.

Breeders Crown (Gr.1) supplements and entries close next week

The entry box for supplements to the 3-year-old and older Breeders Crown races and for all eligible horses to declare to the \$7.2 million year-end championship events at Eldorado Scioto Downs Racetrack in Columbus, Ohio closes next week.

Supplemental entries for 3-year-old and open events are due and payable by 12:00 noon [EDT], Monday, Oct. 12, at the Scioto Downs race office or the Hambletonian Society office in Cranbury, NJ. There are no supplements for 2-year-old races.

Scioto Downs previously hosted the Breeders Crown Pace (1988) and Mare Trot (1986). After major renovations, including a brand new race paddock, gaming floor and grandstand, the 2026 Breeders Crown at Scioto Downs will host a festival week culminating in the Crown finals on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24, 2026. The event will feature more than \$7.2 million in total purses, plus eliminations if needed, a golf tournament, post-position draw dinner, the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge, and other fan events.

Click here for more instructions on supplementing: <https://www.hambletonian.com/bc-races#schedule>

All eligible Breeders Crown horses enter on Tuesday, Oct. 13 by 10:30 a.m. Two-year-olds will have eliminations on Friday, Oct. 16. All 3-year-old and up events that require eliminations will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17. Eligible 3-year-olds have the option of entering the sophomore event to which they were nominated or an Open event. All Scioto Downs post times for the Breeders Crown are 6:00 p.m.

You can access the Scioto Downs Condition Sheet here: [Scioto Downs Breeders Crown condition sheet](#).

All eliminations will race for a minimum of \$25,000.

If there are eliminations, post positions in the final will be determined by an open draw with the exception that elimination winners, in an order determined by lot, will draw for post positions number one (#1) through six (#6) in the final. All other finalists will be placed in an open draw for the remaining post positions. Any horse(s) that receive a bye into the final will be in the open draw for post positions in the final. The sole "Win and You're In" horse (Birra Castle) for the freshman filly Trot will skip the elimination and draw for post 1-6 in the final. In all finals the winner receives 50% of the purse but all horses that start in the final receive money.

All 2-Year-Old Breeders Crown races will be held Friday, Oct. 23, with a post time of 6:00 p.m. [EDT].

All 3-Year-Old and Open Breeders Crown events will race Saturday, Oct. 24, also with a post of 6:00 p.m. [EDT]

For more information and racing conditions click: [Breeders Crown Conditions 2026](#).

-release (Hambletonian Society)

'Beau' vs. the 'Rocket' highlights Ontario Sires Stakes Finals Night

By Dave Briggs for Ontario Racing

Trainers Dr. Ian Moore and John Pentland said they can't wait for another round of Beau Jangles vs. Redland Rocket Man, this time in Saturday's (Oct. 10) C\$350,000 Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Super Final for 3-year-old pacing colts at Woodbine Mohawk Park. It is carded as race 9, the final race of eight straight Super Finals featuring total purses of C\$2.8 million in purses.

The two Ontario Sired pacers have traded punches 15 times already with Moore's pupil Beau Jangles winning 11 of those. But Pentland trainee Redland Rocket Man is in top form of late off a 1:46 4/5 Canadian-record mile, followed by an impressive two-heat victory in the C\$650,000 Grade 1 Little Brown Jug in Ohio, both in September.

As for Beau Jangles, he's won two straight and three of his last four and posted a career-best 1:47 2/5 mile in his C\$112,857 Bluegrass test on Saturday (Oct. 3) at The Red Mile in Lexington, KY.

That means Saturday's 16th meeting between Beau and the Rocket Man is primed to be an epic slugfest.

"I think it'll be a great race for Ontario racing and Ontario Sired horses with John's colt in there," Moore said. "I was just looking at the program, and I see where [Redland Rocket Man] has got well over \$700,000 made in Canadian dollars. That's pretty damn good for a Canadian Bred 3-year-old."

Pentland said the match-up is "wonderful" for the Ontario industry.

"We're really excited about it," Pentland said. "This is one of those races that people are talking about, and they'll certainly be talking about it after. It's exciting, and it's going to be a marquee race for sure."

Moore said it appears both pacers are heading into the Super Final in super condition.

"Earlier on in the summer [Beau wasn't in] top form, and obviously Rocket Man was, and I think still is," Moore said. "But, [Beau is] coming to top form now. I was very pleased last Saturday [with his race in Lexington]... The track was not fast that day, so [1:47 2/5] was a very decent mile, and I think the horse is going to excel from that."

BEAU VS. ROCKET MAN - TALE OF THE TAPE

Lifetime, Beau Jangles has won 11 of the 15 head-to-head races with Redland Rocket Man and finished on the board 14 times. Redland Rocket Man has finished on the board seven times.

As for recent form, Redland Rocket Man has won two of the last four three meetings and has finished ahead of Beau Jangles in three of the last four starts, including the Sept. 12 start in the C\$140,000 Simcoe at Woodbine Mohawk Park in which Redland Rocket Man set a Canadian record of 1:46 4/5.

In OSS competition, Beau Jangles has won seven of the nine meetings. Redland Rocket Man has won once, but finished ahead of Beau in two of the last three meetings.

Lifetime, Beau Jangles has won 18 of 25 starts. Redland Rocket Man has won seven of 26 starts.

During Beau Jangles' perfect 12-for-12 rookie season, which ended with him being voted the Horse of the Year in Canada and the U.S., he out-earned Redland Rocket Man by \$1,510,463 (\$1,688,750 to \$178,287). At 3, Redland Rocket Man has earned \$272,797 more than Beau Jangles (\$768,133 to \$495,336). Lifetime, Beau Jangles has earned more than double what Redland Rocket Man has (\$2,184,086 to \$946,420).

In terms of Grade 1 wins on their resumes, Beau Jangles has both the C\$1 million Metro Pace and C\$959,000 Breeders Crown to his credit, both in 2025. Redland Rocket Man has the Jug, which was held on Sept. 24 of this year. Redland Rocket Man did not contest last year's Breeders Crown, but was fourth in the Metro final. Beau Jangles did not contest the Jug.

THE OBVIOUS STANDOUTS

On Saturday, Beau Jangles, a son of Cattlewash out of Mrs Major Hill, is the 4-5 morning line favorite out of post 7 with James MacDonald in the sulky. Redland Rocket Man, a gelded son of Bulldog Hanover out of Granny Hanvoer, is the even money second choice. He will have Jody Jamieson in the bike.

Moore said Beau Jangles is, "in great shape. He hasn't lost a pound. If he did earlier, he's put it back on... This will be Beau's third race in 12 days. As you have heard me say in interviews prior, I have lightened up on the training on him, and it seems to have made a huge difference... I think [the training] might have been overdone in the past, though, not dramatically. Maybe others might have done more than I did, but I still think that's made a difference in the horse, recently. I think he'll handle the three races in 12 days no problem. I gave him an extra day off from Lexington. He raced Saturday, and

came home Sunday. So, he had Sunday, Monday, Tuesday off and, basically, jogged yesterday and today."

Pentland said Redland Rocket Man, "came out of the Jug really well. There was just no race for him, so that's the reason he hasn't had a start since. I don't think it's going to affect him, and he's ready for the Super Final.

"I gave him a pretty-easy first week after the Jug. I don't train very hard, anyways. But we trained him about a week ago, and then I went and trained him on Tuesday, a fairly good mile, but maybe about 2:04 in the jogger."

Though it's obvious the two pacers are at the top of the 10-horse field, Moore said not to discount some of the other sophomore pacers in a solid group. As such, the trainer said he doesn't know how the race will unfold.

"I still don't think [Beau Jangles] needs to go to the front every time to win, but in [his Lexington] race, nobody else wanted to. It was really odd, but I think [this Saturday] will be different for sure. And you know, everybody wants to sit behind a good horse, I guess, sit in the two hole. So, it'll be interesting to see how it pans out. But yeah, I think [Beau Jangles is] coming back to his form. John's already at his form with Rocket Man, so it'll be very interesting. It will be a good race to watch for sure."

Pentland said, "They're nice horses, but if it comes down to just Beau and Red, it'll be the trip that wins the race."

Beau Jangles, bred by Tara Hills Stud in Port Perry, ON, was a \$65,000 yearling purchase. He is owned by the Graham Grace Stable of Clifton, VA, Kiwi Stables of La Plata, MD and Bolton Stables of Clermont, FL.

Redland Rocket Man, bred by Redland Farms of Bible Hill, NS and foaled in Oyster Bed Bridge, PEI, was a \$30,000 yearling purchase. He is owned by Pentland of Dorchester, ON, Murray Cox of Rockwood, ON and Gary Volpe of St. Thomas, ON.

Both pacers were sold out of the Preferred Equine consignment at the 2024 Standardbred Horse Sales Company's yearling auction in Harrisburg, PA.

"I'm looking forward to [Saturday]," Moore said. "I think it'll be a great race, no matter what happens."

Saturday's Super Finals will feature 77 Ontario Sired horses contesting the eight C\$350,000 2- and 3-year-old divisions beginning in race 2 and running straight through the Beau Jangles vs. Redland Rocket Man grand finale. The first-race post time at Woodbine Mohawk Park is 6:30 p.m.

U.S. harness wagering increases for second straight quarter

During the third quarter, from July 1 through Sept. 30, total wagering across the United States increased by 3.38%, following the second quarter when handle was up by 2.38% compared to last year in 2025. This year, \$374,280,401 was wagered during the third quarter compared to \$362,053,310 a year ago. That increase was despite decreases in race days and the number of pari-mutuel races compared to the third quarter of last year.

September marked the fifth consecutive month that wagering increased compared to 2025. Those percentage increases were: May (+7.12%), June (+3.77%), July (+4.42%), August (+2.43%), and September (+3.22%). During those five months, wagering was \$647.3 million, an increase of \$26.2 million and 4.2% over a year ago.

With the less race days in 2026, 1,087 vs. 1,164 in 2025, a 6.62% decrease, the per race and per betting increases also increased. The per race average increased by \$3,084 (8.90%) and the per betting interest went up by \$359 (+7.59%).

The number of pari-mutuel races dropped by 530, from 10,449 to 9,919, a 5.07% decrease.

Following are the U.S. harness racing economic indicators for the third quarter of 2026.

	2026	2025	% Change
Total Wagered	\$374,280,401	\$362,053,310	+ 3.38%
Per Race avg.	\$37,734	\$34,650	+ 8.90%
Per Betting Interest	\$5,090	\$4,731	+ 7.59%
Purses	\$191,534,074	\$193,168,752	- 0.08%
Race Days	1,087	1,164	- 6.62%

Please note: The information above includes U.S. and Canadian common and separate pool wagers on races contested in the U.S.

-release (USTA Communications)

Birr Castle headlines Friday's International Stallion Stakes

Finishing no worse than second in all seven of her starts with already a half-million dollars banked, Grade 1 Jim Doherty Memorial winner Birr Castle looks to return to the winner's circle when she starts as the odds-on favorite in the first of two \$139,000 International Stallion Stakes divisions for 2-year-old trotting fillies—sponsored by Midland Acres—on Friday (Oct. 9) at The Red Mile.

Birr Castle, one of four for trainer Marcus Melander in the division slated as Race 11, lands the outermost post in the septet following a runner-up effort over an off track in a division of the Grade 3 Bluegrass last Friday (Oct. 2). Scott Zeron retains the assignment on the daughter of Captain Corey, listed as the 4-5 morning line favorite, as she starts widest of her stablemates Sabia (driven by Mattias Melander, post 4, 6-1 morning line), Love's Passion (Dexter Dunn, post 5, 9-2) and A Tale Of Kemp (Todd McCarthy, post 6, 8-1).

The second division for freshman trotting fillies attracts Bluegrass division winner Beauts Cabaret (Yannick Gingras, post 3, 2-1), who waltzed through tepid fractions on the lead to then stave off all late pursuers for a neck victory in 1:55 2/5. She faces six other rivals in Race 13 on the day including Kentucky Golden Rod Series winner Mine Mine Mine (Dexter Dunn, post 2, 7-2), who looks to stay flat following a last-place effort when breaking stride in the mud last week, as well as Golden Rod Series runner-up Putitondad'stab (Scott Zeron, post 6, 6-1) and million-dollar yearling Dejeuner (Andy McCarthy, post 5, 8-1).

Ron Burke's pair of Stonebridge Blitz (Yannick Gingras, post 4, 5-2)

and Ocean Party (Dexter Dunn, post 2, 7-2) lead the charge for the first \$104,000 division of the International Stallion Stakes for 2-year-old pacing males on Friday, carded as Race 9 and sponsored by the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown. Stonebridge Blitz nabbed a maiden-breaking win in his Bluegrass division last week by a head over Ocean Party while subsequently denying that stablemate his maiden-breaking score. Burke also sends maiden Midwind Buxton (Joe Bongiorno, post 8, 8-1) from a tough trip in the Grade 3 Elevation on Sept. 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park in a race that also includes prominent finishers from last week's Bluegrass in Fairway To Heaven (Andy McCarthy, post 7, 9-2) and Vandros (Tim Tetrick, post 6, 6-1).

Rumble And Sway (Tim Tetrick, post 4, 2-1) fronts the charge for the other \$104,000 International Stallion Stakes division for freshman pacing males, carded as Race 12 and sponsored by the Captaintreacherous Syndicate and Hanover Shoe Farms. The Brett Pelling pupil glided over the mud from the pylon draw for a pillar-to-post win in 1:51.4 by 5-1/2 lengths in his Bluegrass dash last week. He'll face another Bluegrass division winner in Blazin Lou (Todd McCarthy, post 9, 7-2) inside of this race along with Grandline Station (Joe Bongiorno, post 5, 8-1), who finished runner-up to Blazin Lou last week at odds of 51-1, in the nine-horse field.

First-race post time for the 14-race card on Friday is 1 p.m. (EDT). For more information on the 2026 live harness racing season, visit The Red Mile website (<https://www.redmileracing.com>).

-edited release (by Ray Coto for Red Mile)

Young horse owner planning for future

While 9-year-old Logan Shehan may not be the youngest Standardbred horse owner in the history of harness racing, but he may be the happiest.

"He has not stopped smiling since we got here," remarked his parents Tyler and Marna Shehan, who are stabled at the Red Mile. "Since we shipped in he has really been enjoying himself."

The Shehans, who call Hopkinsville, Kentucky home, shipped onto the Lexington backstretch in July and have had Logan with them the entire time. "He is home schooled, so we make sure he spends time with his studies in the afternoon after the barn work is done."

Logan Shehan became a young horse owner in April when a horse in their barn named The Phantom changed hands. His previous owner, Matt Kiernan, decided to give all his horses to the Shehan family.

Kiernan was 86 years old when he purchased the son of Lazurus N from the Standardbred Horse Sale in 2022 from the Hunterton consignment. At that time, The Phantom was a \$13,000 yearling purchase, who was bred by Steve Stewart and Oakwood Farms. Considering Kiernan has kept racehorses with Shehans since 2012, he sent the colt to them to train.

But he has always had one caveat; the horses could never be sold.

"We have had this colt since he was a baby," noted Marna Shehan, "and raced him lightly at 2."

At 3 he came around nicely and made about \$30,000 in the Wildcat series.

Now 5, the horse has been paying his way, earning another \$25,000 last year, with \$64,703 earned in his career to go along with six wins.

But toward the end of last season, when the owner was turning 90, his health was waning and wanted to leave a legacy for the Shehans. That's when Kiernan decided to gift the horses he owned to Marna and Tyler, which carried on his wishes that the horses never be sold. That prompted the parents of young Logan to start a college fund and utilize The Phantom's earnings to help build for the future for their only child.

Matt Kiernan passed away in April, and since that time The Phantom has only missed a few checks. In fact, the easy-going steed won a race over the historic red clay in early September, and registered USTA owner Logan M. Shehan could not have been prouder.

"Zyler drove him good and helped us make some money," noted the fledgling horse owner.

"I like going to the barn every day and helping my parents, but I really love serving the coffee and donuts each morning," stated the enthusiastic youngster.

His mom Marna agrees, "He's a people person. He loves talking to folks. Someday I bet he will be a politician!"

Since the Grand Circuit rolled into town, Hunterton Farms has sponsored "Breakfast on the Backstretch" every morning from 7 to 10 am near the deck adjacent to the draw gate. For the last week both Logan and his friend Lolah (stepdaughter of driver Devon Tharps) have been at the coffee table greeting horse people with a smile and pouring their coffee and offering them donuts.

"We have enjoyed having the young people around each morning. Logan has been here bright and early each day...ready to assist," noted Scotty Szafraniec, who facilitates the complimentary refreshments each day at The Red Mile, under the guidance of Director of Sponsorships Emily Gaskin Ratcliff.

"Having these young horse enthusiasts around each morning has been a welcome treat," noted Ratcliff. "We love encouraging the next generation of harness horse people."

The Phantom, for all the good will and hope for the future that the horse has brought the Shehans, the draw Gods had other ideas. He is saddled with post ten in the twelfth race on Thursday (October 8), with Zyler Maxwell driving, once again.

But that doesn't make any difference to Logan, who was quite optimistic about the race. "I know that Zyler will drive him good...he always does!"

First post each day is 1 pm, with the final week of Grand Circuit racing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week. For more information go to: [redmileracing.com](https://www.redmileracing.com).

-edited release (by Chris Tully for Red Mile)



RACE OF THE WEEK

11 RED MILE SAT

1 Mile Pace TATTERSALLS PACE, 3 YEAR OLD COLTS & GELDINGS, GRADE 2, Purse \$365,000

EXACTA & TRIFECTA | 20 CENT SUPER HIGH FIVE-15% TAKEOUT

1 MELILLO 3:14.82 (5/8) * \$49,260 9-5 R. Wrenn Jr. 1532-279-269-203 (247)	b c 3, by Sweet Lou, Rosemary Rose by Foreclosure N Burke Rcg Stb LLC, Fredericktown, PA; J V Melillo, Powell, OH; Weaver Bruscum LLC, Canonsburg, PA Last 4 Sts - \$300,052 1:48.2 Phl 5/8 1:48.4 Lx1	26 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - 26 Tot 16 4 6 2 - \$788,167 25 * 2 2 0 0 \$81,250 25 Tot 14 3 6 3 - \$380,357 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 30 7 12 5 - \$1,168,524
2 AL PAPI 3:14.72 (5/8) * \$54,585 2-1 Y. Gingras 1529-268-247-212 (175)	b c 3, by Papi Rob Hanover, Baron Remy by Yankee Cruiser Burke Rcg Stb, PA; J&T Silva - Purnell & Libby & L. Karr, FL; Weaver Bruscum, PA Last 4 Sts - \$193,300 1:47.2 Mw 5/8 *1:48.1 Lx1	26 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - 26 Tot 14 4 4 4 - \$764,183 25 * 1 0 0 0 \$44,000 25 Tot 8 1 0 3 - \$265,515 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 25 8 8 6 - \$1,167,265
3 TOBY ORNOT TOBY 3:14.49 (1) * \$4,614 LEX-SEL \$40,000 15-1 Ti. Tetrick 1637-347-293-234 (212)	b g 3, by Tall Dark Stranger, Mackie Hanover by Captaintreacherous Oompa's Farm Inc, Creamridge, NJ; Joseph Barbera, Melville, NY Last 4 Sts - \$18,600 1:49 Lx1 1:51.1 Lx1	26 Lx1 0 0 0 2 \$24,600 26 Tot 15 4 0 2 - \$69,209 25 Lx1 6 1 0 1 \$23,875 25 Tot 8 1 0 3 - \$265,515 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 23 5 0 5 - \$95,724
4 CAPTAIN APPLE 3:14.92 (1) \$6,136 LEX-SEL \$40,000 8-1 J. Putnam 655-96-82-88 (131)	b c 3, by Captaintreacherous, Apple Hanover by Well Said C Ryder, Aitwin, NJ; L. Ezze, Dlr, OH; A. Johnston, Syrcs, NY; Let It Ride Sts, Bc Rtn, FL Last 4 Sts - \$33,350 1:49.2 Lx1 1:50.4 Lx1	26 * 6 2 1 1 \$55,850 26 Tot 15 4 4 1 - \$122,047 25 Lx1 6 2 0 2 \$78,990 25 Tot 9 3 0 3 - \$111,790 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 24 7 4 4 - \$233,837
5 SHOW ME YOUR ACE 3:14.49 (5/8) \$6,050 LEX-SEL \$150,000 15-1 D. Dunn 372-246-180-148 (255)	b c 3, by American Ideal, Trip Aces Hanover by Bettor's Delight C Ryder, Aitwin, NJ; A. Demers, QC; L. Minowitz, Grnwh, CT; A. Swanstedt, Wrothstn, NJ Last 4 Sts - \$18,900 1:49 OaG 5/8 1:50.4 Cbr 5/8	26 Lx1 4 1 0 0 \$18,900 26 Tot 10 4 0 0 - \$60,500 25 Lx1 7 1 0 2 \$37,203 25 Tot 12 2 2 2 - \$115,672 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 22 6 2 2 - \$176,172
6 DOWNBYTHELAKESIDE 2:15.04 (5/8) Q \$1,355 LEX-SEL \$50,000 15-1 A. McCarthy 935-151-126-108 (161)	b g 3, by Downbytheseaside, Pure Paradise by McArdle Rick Berks, Paris, KY Last 4 Sts - \$6,100 1:50.4 Cbr 5/8 1:50.4 Cbr 5/8	26 Lx1 5 0 1 1 \$6,100 26 Tot 11 0 1 2 - \$14,900 25 Lx1 7 0 2 2 \$36,500 25 Tot 10 2 2 3 - \$111,300 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 21 2 3 5 - \$126,200
7 WINNERCIRCLESEEKER 3:14.83 (5/8) \$3,293 LEX-SEL \$150,000 15-1 J. Bongiorno 1077-728-795-666-551 (186)	br g 3, by Sweet Lou, Don't Forget by Well Said Burke Rcg Stb, Fdrcktn, PA; L. Carr, Bc Rtn, FL; Colpa, Mtn Tp, PA; B Grant, ON Last 4 Sts - \$26,320 1:48.3 Mw 5/8 1:51.2 Lx1	26 Lx1 6 0 1 1 \$11,420 26 Tot 17 2 2 2 - \$55,985 25 Lx1 7 1 2 1 \$55,125 25 Tot 11 1 5 1 - \$82,875 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 28 3 7 3 - \$138,860
8 SEA BISTRO HANOVER 3:14.71 (1) \$18,164 SHS-HBG \$140,000 6-1 T. McCarthy 906-143-111-135 (158)	b g 3, by Captaintreacherous, Santa Rosa by Western Ideal David H Mc Duffee, Rye, NH; Paul L Bordoana, Franklin Lakes, NJ; Melvin Hartman, Ottawa, ON, CA Last 4 Sts - \$117,480 1:52 Lx1 1:52 Lx1	26 * 6 2 2 2 \$177,480 26 Tot 15 5 4 5 - \$272,467 25 Lx1 7 1 1 1 \$22,400 25 Tot 7 1 1 1 - \$22,400 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 22 6 5 6 - \$294,867
9 ULBRUTE 2:14.94 (1) \$7,510 LEX-SEL \$150,000 8-1 J. Bartlett 1680-466-295-210 (277)	b c 3, by Tall Dark Stranger, Warware Ubeaut by Sweet Lou Burke Rcg Stb & Weaver Bruscum, PA; Hatfield Sts, OHP, Colura, PA Last 4 Sts - \$38,950 1:52 MIO 1:49.4 Lx1	26 Lx1 6 0 2 2 \$62,950 26 Tot 13 1 2 5 - \$97,632 25 Lx1 7 2 3 1 \$37,542 25 Tot 10 2 3 3 - \$358,507 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 23 3 5 8 - \$466,139
10 SWEET LOVIN LOU 3:14.73 (1) \$30,913 SHS-HBG \$70,000 3-1 S. Zeron 910-118-129-134 (130)	b c 3, by Sweet Lou, Lover's Dream by Somebeachsomewhere Lagace Sts, ON; E. V. Buhler, Wantagh, NY; Bq Als Sts, ON; Britany Fms, Mckl Raa, Versailles, KY Last 4 Sts - \$118,950 1:47.3 M1 1:50.4 Wbs 7/8	26 Lx1 1 0 1 0 \$19,750 26 Tot 13 3 4 2 - \$401,872 25 Lx1 1 0 1 0 \$30,556 25 Tot 9 3 2 3 - \$180,845 24 Lx1 0 0 0 0 - Life 22 6 6 5 - \$382,717

Creole Queen reigns on Wednesday at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale

By Greg Reinhart

After pacer Hey Bulldog led the way on Tuesday, trotters took back over the dominant role in the third session of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

Topping the board was HIP 429 Creole Queen, a daughter of Tactical Landing consigned by Alliance Bloodstock as agent and purchased by agent Marcus Melande. Creole Queen's dam Bayou is a Father Patrick half-sister to \$1,434,335 earner and Dan Patch Award recipient Bond.

Behind Creole Queen at \$250,000 was HIP 480 Abebe, a Gimpanzee colt consigned by Cane Run Farm as agent. Acquired by agent Anette Lorentzon, Abebe's third dam Bell Power produced millionaire and multiple award winner Lantern Kronos.

One other yearling crested \$200,000, and that was HIP 412 You Lucky Devil, a King Of The North colt from the Kentuckiana Farms consignment. You Lucky Devil, who went to 15215439 Canada Inc. for \$220,000, is out of the Yankee Glide mare Celebrity Angel, making him a half-brother to the likes of \$1,190,153 earner Will Take Charge.

Year-over-year the average for the third day dropped from \$50,445 in 2025 to \$46,969 today, while the gross increased from \$11,552,000 for 229 horses to \$11,930,000 for 254 yearlings.

The 2026 Lexington Selected Yearling sale will conclude on Thursday with HIPs 663-792 offered starting at 7 p.m. (EDT).



The Kountry Lane Standardbreds burger was a hot item at the Lexington Selected Sale this year.

Hoosier Champions Night garners national television broadcast

Indiana Sire Stakes champions will be crowned on Friday, Oct. 9 at Harrah's Hoosier Park, with Indiana's best doing so under the national spotlight with FOX Sports 2 coverage from 8-11 p.m. (EDT).

With over \$2.4 million on the line during the 15-race program, seven of the eight \$250,000 Indiana Sire Stakes Super Finals for 2- and 3-year-olds in races 7-13 will be featured during the FOX Sports window. Vice President and General Manager of Racing, Gabe Prewitt, will be joined by Dave Weaver on-site to offer commentary to the national audience on the championship events which will feature to horses such as North America Cup champion Odds On Mr Mamba.

First post for the Hoosier Champions card is 5:30 p.m. (EDT) and will also include \$70,000 Aged Sire Stakes Championships on the evening, featuring horses such as On To Norway, Little Rocket Man, and Can't touch these.

Bettors will also have a buffet of wagering options throughout the evening with \$65,000 worth of guaranteed pools to take aim at including:

Race 1 - \$10,000 Pick 5

Race 2 - \$10,000 Pick 4

Race 6 - \$10,000 Pick 4

Race 8 - \$10,000 Pick 5

Race 12 - \$15,000 Pick 4

Race 15 - \$10,000 Hoosier High 5

In addition to the Indiana Sire Stakes finals, \$50,000 Indiana Sire Stakes consolations will make up the remainder of the Friday card. The remainder of the consolations will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10, in addition to the \$70,000 Mare Trot Sire Stakes final, which will serve as a non-betting race prior to the Saturday program at 5:15 p.m. (EDT).

For more information on the 2026 live racing season at Harrah's Hoosier Park, guests are encouraged to visit www.harrahshoosierpark.com.

-release (Harrah's Hoosier Park)

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 8

RACE 7

(1) THEFLYINGROCK closed with pace in a second-place finish from the eight-hole on 9-28 and now gets to start from the pole. I expect he'll take advantage of that like in his handy win on 9-21.

-Greg Reinhart

EMPIRE CITY.
CASINO
YONKERS RACEWAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

RACE 3

(1) MARGOSGOTTHECARGO continues to remain in top form and comes right back against most of the rivals she bested last week.

-Kevin Plowcha

WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

RACE 9

(5) GLOBAL CHOICE dropped out of a Grade 1 and posted a monster mile that was much better than the other elim winner which is the morning line choice. Could we possibly get some value here? Probably not but maybe Bartlett choosing off will help.

-Derick Gwerner

VERNON DOWNS
Racing
Casino & Hotel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

RACE 10

(1) MISS JUM JABBER wasn't quite herself last week when she was picked off by Hope Hill. Those two match up again and perhaps the price will increase to about even money on a filly that for my money is clearly the best in the race.

-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

INSTANT RACING UPDATES VIA TWITTER: @DRFHARNES

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

STRONG FIELD ASSEMBLED FOR GRADE 3 COURAGEOUS LADY

A powerhouse group of pacing fillies will square off in this year's \$150,000 Grade 3 Courageous Lady at Northfield Park. Stakes credentials can be found up and down the entire field.

The nine-filly lineup includes a Breeders Crown and Jugette winner, a two-time Ohio Sires Stakes champion, a New York Sires Stakes champion, a James Lynch Memorial winner and a New Jersey Classic winner, making for one of the deepest editions of the Courageous Lady in its history.

Leading the way is millionaire Loua Dipa who really needs no introduction. She is a Breeders Crown champion, Jugette winner and a Fan Hanover winner. It could take another special performance from this superstar as she draws post eight with Ronnie Wrenn Jr., listed at 4-1.

Loua Dipa will also renew her rivalry with Be Perfect BG, with the two accomplished fillies set to meet once again. The pair have already finished heads apart twice this season, including a spectacular stretch battle in the Fan Hanover. These two titans of the sport will throw down once again with Be Perfect BG having a slight post edge leaving from post six with Dexter Dunn and listed at 7-2.

The status as morning line favorite belongs to Sangria Summer at 3-1 with Matt Kakaley driving from post two. She also comes in with an impressive resume including wins in the James Lynch Memorial and Shady Daisy.

Also in the field is two-time Ohio Sires Stakes champion Seaside Shuffle starting from the second tier with Chris Page at 10-1. Another Sires Stakes winner comes in from New York in the way of Savage Cindy from post 4 with Dan Noble and is listed at 9-2.

The race has a special local connection in Perfect Thought, who is stabled at Northfield Park. She'll have the home-track advantage with Anthony MacDonald aboard from post three at 12-1.

Rounding out the field are Prtynproud Hanover, with three-time winner of this race Dave Palone at 6-1; Vanna By The River with Aaron Merriman at 15-1; and Rodeo Dancer with Brett Miller at 20-1.

From the top of the morning line to the longest shot on the board, there are stakes credentials throughout the field. With multiple major stakes winners, champions from several state-bred programs, a local contender, and the latest chapter in the Loua Dipa-Be Perfect BG rivalry, the Courageous Lady has all the ingredients to be one for the ages.

Post time at Northfield on Saturday is 6:00 PM (EDT) for the first of 15 races. The program also features eight \$50,000 divisions of the Ohio Fair Championships.

Full field, drivers, and morning lines listed below in post-position order.

Courageous Lady Field

Post	Horse	Driver	Morning Line
1	Prtynproud Hanover	Dave Palone	6-1
2	Sangria Summer	Matt Kakaley	3-1
3	Perfect Thought	Anthony MacDonald	12-1
4	Savage Cindy	Dan Noble	9-2
5	Vanna By The River	Aaron Merriman	15-1
6	Be Perfect BG	Dexter Dunn	7-2
7	Rodeo Dancer	Brett Miller	20-1
8	Loua Dipa	Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	4-1
9	Seaside Shuffle	Chris Page	10-1

-edited release (Northfield)

SUPER CHAPTER, BRANDON BLVD STAY 1-2; WALL OF FAME RISES

Super Chapter and Brandon Blvd remained 1-2 in the Week 17 edition of the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll released Wednesday (Oct. 7) while Wall Of Fame made the biggest advancement in the Top 10.

Ranked 1-2 for the fourth consecutive week, Super Chapter and Brandon Blvd both added 10 points to their totals from a week ago to gain additional separation from the remainder of the Top 10, with the gap between second and third increasing from 39 points to 104. Super Chapter won the Grade 2 Dayton Trotting Derby with a world-record-equaling/track-record-setting 1:50.2 score at Hollywood Dayton while Brandon Blvd won a division of the Bluegrass Stakes (G2) at the Red Mile.

The only other winner from the Top 10 last week was Wall Of Fame,

who improved to 10-for-10 with a victory in a division of the Bluegrass for 2-year-old female trotters. She vaulted from sixth to third in the rankings thanks to the addition of 108 points to her previous total.

Shalom Hanover and Redland Rocket Man were idle last week while On To Norway, Apex, Big Ranger, Best Chip, and Miss Jum Jabber all suffered setbacks.

There were no newcomers to the Top 10, with Kentucky Futurity (G1) winner Nix Nacken landing just outside the group.

The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll, which will continue weekly on Wednesdays through the Grand Circuit season, does not determine year-end awards.

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

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll: 10/7/2026

Rank	Name (1st Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Pts	Prv
1	Super Chapter (27)	4ht	9-7-2-0	\$1,191,707	341	1
2	Brandon Blvd (8)	3cp	12-9-2-1	\$1,175,195	317	2
3	Wall Of Fame	2ft	10-10-0-0	\$608,250	213	6
4	On To Norway	4gt	13-10-2-0	\$589,250	191	3
5	Apex	3ct	9-5-2-0	\$958,908	166	4
6	Shalom Hanover	2cp	7-7-0-0	\$324,476	116	8
7	Redland Rocket Man	3gp	14-4-3-1	\$547,478	105	7
8	Big Ranger	3ct	11-7-1-0	\$582,849	99	5
9	Best Chip	4hp	16-9-4-1	\$530,805	54	10
10	Miss Jum Jabber	3fp	16-13-2-0	\$625,139	52	9

ALSO: Nix Nacken 51; Twin B Joe Fresh 42; Wrong Sounds Right 34; Loua Dipa 30; Beau Jangles 29; Miki And Minnie 25; She's Moni 19; Emotion Legacy 16; Nezuko Kamado S 11; Starstruck Dreamer 4; Mr Bear 3; Kountry Plunge 2; Ervin Hanover, Francent N, Jersey Bulldog, Nuance, Woodmere Rock It 1.

-release (Ken Weingartner for Hambletonian Society)

OHHA PHOTO CONTEST FOR 2027 STALLION DIRECTORY COVER

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is hosting a photo contest for the cover of the 2027 Ohio Standardbred Stallion Directory & OHHA Membership Directory.

The OHHA is looking for pictures of foals by a registered Ohio stallion. Please submit all photos to publications@ohha.com by Nov. 13, 2026. There is a limit of three pictures per photographer.

Include the following information when submitting your photographs.

- Name of Photographer
- Foal's Name
- Sire and Dam information

Photos should have a portrait orientation and high resolution. All photographs will be considered.

The staff of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will select the photograph to be used on the cover. The photographer of the winning picture will receive a \$250 gift card.

Any photographs submitted that are not selected as the winner may be used throughout the stallion directory.

For information about placing a pedigree page for your stallion in the 2027 directory or for information about advertising your farm, product, or service, contact the OHHA at publications@ohha.com.

-release (OHHA)

FAIR FINALS UNDER THE LIGHTS THIS FRIDAY AT THE MEADOWS

Friday night's card at The Meadows will feature the \$200,000 Pennsylvania Fair Finals, with a special post of 5:10pm. Eight \$25,000 divisions will be held, bringing together the top point-earners from the state's county fair circuit. Action began in late June at Butler, PA and ended two weeks ago in Bloomsburg.

Friday's card will also be the annual Pink Out event to help the fight against breast cancer. Several events are planned, including two races for female drivers. The track and the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association will be donating its commissions from one race to the fight against breast cancer.

-edited release (The Meadows)