



Friday, January 18, 2013

Garcia-Herrera Ready to Get Back in Action, But Not at the Meadowlands

By Bill Finley

Trainer Gilbert Garcia-Herrera has yet to start a horse in 2013, but don't read anything into that. When Yonkers closed for its annual holiday break late last year, Garcia-Herrera shut down his stable to return to his native Guatemala and tend to his mother, Rufina. She is suffering from diabetes and recently had to have her leg amputated.



Gilbert Garcia-Herrera has been tending to his ailing mother in Guatemala

Having returned to the U.S., Garcia-Herrera said he will likely start entering horses again next week. Because he owns the majority of his own stock he does not have to answer to owners who might have wanted to race their horses while he was away.

Garcia-Herrera competes mainly at Yonkers, but has made the occasional foray to the Meadowlands in recent years, last winning a race there on June 22. But he was

told by Meadowlands racing secretary Peter Koch that he will not be permitted to race at the New Jersey track this year.

"I have no idea why Peter told me I can't race there," Garcia-Herrera said. "It really doesn't hurt me that much because the racing there is tough and I've never done that good there."

Garcia-Herrera is friendly with Lou Pena and the two have enjoyed a business relationship in the past. When Pena was briefly banned at Yonkers in 2011 many of the horses that had been racing under his name were turned over to Garcia-Herrera. Since, he has had to deal with allegations that he is a "beard" for Pena.

Both got their starts in racing in California.

"Yes, that's probably it, that I am friendly with Louie," Garcia-Herrera said when pressed on the Meadowlands ban. "I have a lot cleaner record than a lot of guys who are allowed to race at the Meadowlands. I haven't had a positive of any kind in a long, long time. They're basing this on pure assumption.

"Louie and I are friends, but we were also fierce competitors when we raced in California. They just assumed that I was working for Louie, but look at the USTA records and you'll see I own most of these horses myself and he has nothing to do with them.

"I understand that it is a privilege to race at any track. But I don't understand why that privilege is being denied to me at the Meadowlands."

Garcia-Herrera had a handful of minor positives when racing in California, but his record has been spotless since he came East in 2010.

Garcia-Herrera was a dominant force at Yonkers last year, winning 125 races from 327 starters (38.2) percent. He was the leading trainer there for the year.

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Meadowlands	2 nd , Clyde Hirt	\$16,000	pps
Meadowlands	4 th , Clyde Hirt	\$16,000	pps
Meadowlands	11 th , Clyde Hirt	\$16,000	pps
Yonkers	6 th , F&M, Open	\$35,000	pps
Yonkers	8 th , Open	\$35,000	pps

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Marcus Miller Looking to Head East

By Joe Scarpa

Driver Marcus Miller will be at the Meadowlands tonight, Step 1 in what he hope is a successful transition to the Mid-Atlantic area tracks.

The 23-year-old driver, a major success at the Illinois tracks, said he will go back and forth between Chicago and the Meadowlands this winter, but plans to make a permanent shift to the East in the spring.



Marcus Miller is about to try the Jersey and Pennsylvania tracks

"Around March, that's when Chester and Pocono open up and I'll make the move back east and see where I land," said Miller, the son of trainer Erv Miller. "If things are going good enough at the Meadowlands I'll stay here as much as I can. Dad is going to race a bunch of young horses in Pennsylvania this spring, so that might be a good spot for me, too. I'm just going to see what happens. In March, I'll leave Chicago and see where I end up."

In his few visits to the East Coast tracks Miller has liked what he's

seen.

"The East Coast is a totally different world, and that's not just because of the horses," he said. "The horses are better and a lot of people are making money, so the people are friendlier. A lot of good things happen when you race here. I think I am ready to take this step. I also think it will help me personally as a driver to drive with these guys. That forces you to be a good driver."

The support of the Erv Miller stable would go a long way toward helping Miller be successful, but he said he has gotten no promises from his father.

"We haven't had that conversation yet," he said. "It will kind of depend on where I am at. The stable is so spread out you can't drive them all. I am hoping to drive as many as I can, at least as many as he and the owners will allow. If I get them to the winner's circle I don't think that will be a problem."

Miller also knows that he will have to make a name for himself and not just be "Erv Miller's son."

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ELEGIBILITY FOR EVENTS 4,5,6 UP TO AND INCLUDING JANUARY 18, 2013.

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 1. Fri., Feb. 8 \$12,500
 2. Fri., Feb. 15 \$12,500
 3. Sat., Feb. 23 Final \$25,000A
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Event #5 Pace — 4 Year Olds
Stallions & Geldings

“EXIT 16W”

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For information contact:

Peter J. Koch

Director and Race Secretary Standardbred Racing
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Please enter horse's age as of January 1, 2013

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"I already went through that once in Chicago and was able to get past that there," the driver said. "I know I will have to do that again. It's kind of a double-edged sword. You get your name on the sheet, you get live horses to drive, and that's a key. You cannot become a successful driver without live horses. But at the same time, you have to show people you can do it with the ones that aren't the favorites. It helps to win with some long shots and it helps to be personable in the paddock. That's when people are likely to give you a chance."

Miller won 436 races in 2012, 14th best in North America.

Roll With Joe Gets Race in His Honor

Tioga Downs' top race for pacing horses has a new title.

With Bettor's Delight being relocated to Pennsylvania, race sponsor Blue Chip Farms has requested that the race now recognize his younger full brother Roll With Joe.

Along with his impeccable bloodlines, Roll With Joe enjoyed an accomplished career on the racetrack. A stakes winner at two, the colt blossomed at age three listing the Meadowlands Pace, Messenger Stakes and Battle Of Brandywine among his victories. He retired with over \$1.8 million earned and a record of 1:48.2.

He stands his second season at Blue Chip in 2013 and his foals are New York eligible.

Visit the websites for further information on this and all other Tioga & Vernon Downs stakes and live racing.

January Supplement, Updated Racelines Available

The supplement catalog, plus updated past performances for all racehorses in the Meadowlands January Select Mixed Sale, are now available for download on the Tattersalls website, www.tattersallsredmile.com, and on the Equineline® sales app for the iPad.

The first sale of the 2013 season will be held Monday, January 21 in the Meadowlands race paddock, and will get underway promptly at 12:00 noon.

Adding to the 235 head in the original catalog are 24 supplemental entries, 18 of which are racehorses. There is also a share in 2012's leading money-winning trotting sire, Cantab Hall, that will sell as a supplement.

"We've had an exceptional response to this sale and expect a strong turnout of buyers," said sale manager David Reid. "Our website has had a record number of hits for downloads for the January sale, and we've sent out a very large number of catalogs this year. With the racehorse market being what it is, demand will be high, and I believe we have the

kind of horses people are looking for."



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"We have over 30 horses selling that have already won since the catalog came out," he added.

In addition to the full slate of racehorses to go under the auctioneer's hammer, the sale also includes fillies and mares that are outstanding racing and/or broodmare prospects, including Canadian Champion and Jugette winner Idyllic, Breeders Crown winner Martiniontherocks and millionaire Voelz Hanover.

In addition to now being available on the Tattersalls website, both the updated past performances booklet and the printed supplement catalog will be available at the sale.

Tioga Renames Race in Honor of Roll With Joe

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Pierce Wins Seven at Dover

Dover, DE --- Hall of Fame driver Ron Pierce drove seven winners, while Dancin Yankee and Mustang Art were the winners of the \$35,000 Preferred and \$30,000 Delaware Special features on an overcast night at Dover Downs on Thursday (Jan. 17).

Trainer Josh Green conditioned four winners after three wins the previous night. Owners Ken Wood, Bill Dittmar and Steve Iaquina and trainer Eric Ell had three wins.

After two qualifying wins and his first start in nearly three months, Josh Green-trained Dancin Yankee affirmed that he was ready to return to fast-class racing as Corey Callahan piloted the 5-year-old son of Yankee Cruiser-Dancewiththebest to a 1:50.1 victory in the \$35,000 Preferred.

Owned by Bob Briley and Baron Racing Stable, Dancin Yankee, who won nearly a quarter-million dollars last season, fought off gritty Stolen Car and Pierce in a tenacious stretch battle to win by a head. Mainland Key N came on to finish third for Ross Wolfenden. Dancin Yankee has now won \$424,462 in his career.

The Delaware Special was also decided by the photo finish camera as Mustang Art, reined by Pierce, had just enough to outlast Nova Artist and Allan Davis in a 1:51 mile. Toby Lynch left hard with Sunshine Superman to exhaust Rusty's All In (Callahan) after a :26.4 opening panel. Sunshine Superman had enough left to finish third.

Adventure Bound became the fourth of seven winners for Pierce. Trained by Ell for owners Wood, Dittmar and Iaquina, the altered son of Camluck-Unchained Speed stormed home in 1:51.2 to win the \$23,000 Open Pace. Im Fulla Luck N (Callahan) was runner-up with All Week (Wolfenden) the show finisher.



Movie Review - Amazing Racer

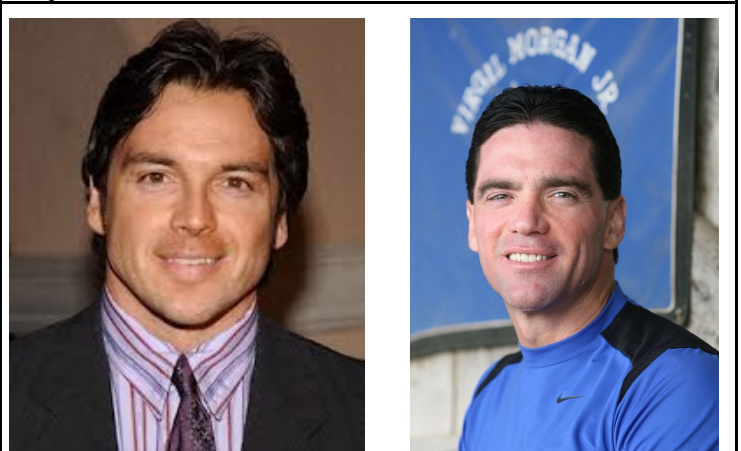
By Allan Schott

Amazing Racer (2012) - Available at Walmart, and On Demand (distribution to open up later). Starring Julianne Michelle, Claire Forlani, Louis Gossett Jr, Eric Roberts and Daryl Hannah. Also features Michael Madsen, Jason Gedrick, Charles Durning, and Steve Guttenberg. (92 minutes) Rated PG for thematic elements and some mild language.

I have been looking forward to this film since it was first announced in the late 2000's, then known as Shannon's Rainbow. Legal issues held up the release of the movie and it has finally been released in the video market as *Amazing Racer*. So it was with delight that I got to sit down this afternoon and watch *Amazing Racer* as it has been a long time since I have seen a movie with a harness racing backdrop, the last one being a 1978 television movie on the ABC Network called *Leave Yesterday Behind* starring Carrie Fisher and the late John Ritter.

So what did I think of the movie? My feelings are mixed. Let me say up front I am thankful this movie went direct to video and bypassed the local cinema. More about this later.

While there were some lesser known actors in the film, the movie did have some veterans such as Daryl Hannah, Eric Roberts, and Lou Gossett Jr, someone I haven't seen in movies in a long time and was a welcome addition. However, I thought all the actors and actresses did an admirable job in the movie.



Separated at birth? Jason Gedrick (left) plays a trainer in the movie *Amazing Racer* and bears a striking resemblance to real life trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. (right).

In general, this film is what I expected. A story of a teenage girl dealt a cruel blow in life, meeting her mother for the first time and how they managed to get over the problems they both have to become a family and live happily ever after. Of course, this was all done with a harness racing back story. In some ways, the interaction of the girl and horse reminded me somewhat of *Casey's Shadow*, a 1978 film starring Walter Matthau and Alexis Smith. I don't think I will be letting the cat out of the bag when I mention the movie ends when Shannon's horse wins the big race.

For those involved in harness racing, they will likely enjoy the film after accepting there has been some artistic license taken to make the film fit time constraints. Speaking as someone who has been around racing, I think there could have been some more story development; for example, why does the Eric Roberts character dislike the boyfriend of the mother so intensely? What was the back story about Louis Gossett Jr's character and why did Eric Roberts' character hate him so much? Developing this part of the story could have allowed the elimination of certain other scenes in the film. For those involved in harness racing, I would rate the movie three out of five stars.

Earlier, I mentioned I was glad the movie didn't go into general release. If this movie was meant to introduce the sport of harness racing to those not familiar with it, I suspect it may have backfired with some. Even for me, seeing the horse deliberately abused then sent to be put down out

of spite made me uneasy. In addition, hearing the whip being used in the abuse scene (must confess I don't recall seeing the whipping) was something which could have been done without. Less objectionable was the scene where someone attempted to tamper with Rainbow. Fortunately, at the end justice is done to the malefactors which shows some accountability for their actions.

I realize some of these scenes were included to add spice to the movie, but in my opinion, a movie like this would more likely turn people away from harness racing than attract new interest in the sport. To make sure I was not being over sensitive I asked someone who watched the movie with me (not involved in the sport) what they thought of it and they too were uneasy over some of the disturbing scenes. Even in a movie, showing horse abuse is not the way to attract new fans. It would have been much better if the story was developed further and these objectionable scenes left out. For those who have never seen a harness race before, I would rate the movie only one and a half stars.

All in all, those involved in harness racing will be satisfied, but if the industry was looking for a film to promote the sport, that mark has been badly missed; it may have done more harm than good.

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By Brett Sturman

Race 7, FFA/A-2

TAC'S DELIGHT shot right up the ladder doing so through a number of different tracks and now ends up here on quite the form spree for Allard. This one was solid even in that try where his win streak was derailed at Philly but he still managed to pass FFA trotter Anders Bluestone for the place spot. Pierce's choice too. ICE MACHINE showed speed in his most recent, sat the trip and had strong late trot to get up over dueling leaders in 1:53 for Corey. Similar looking field. SPICE IT UP LINDY raced first over in his last, looked vulnerable for a moment at the top of the stretch but then all of the sudden sped away from everyone. Will absolutely be given a shot with Meittinis. The win streak of UNEFOISDANSMAVIE will be put to the test; Meadows invader has been here before.

Race 8, Fillies & Mares B-2

MISS SAND CREEK was buried two back and then last out was parked first over from 9. She actually went past the

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race leader and was able to hold off everyone except the tripped out mare that rode her cover. Ford listed Tetrick tonight and got him. All positive signs of intent. LAST MINUTE CINDY exits a near career best mile where she was parked past a :27:3 opening quarter and rallied late to win at the Meadows. Moves to the Dinges barn; Metropolitan mare looks like she fits. DRAGON PRINCESS won here in 1:51 last year and is more than capable of beating these; came from out of nowhere to just miss in her last. Deserving favorite. HERE'S MY TICKET played the role of pocket rocket in her most recent to just last over an incoming #2; similar Pierce magic needed.

Race 9, B-1

SOME LIKE IT HOT zipped around the Meadowlands oval to a 1:54:2 clocking in his recent qualifier, losing only by a neck to Open trotter Hava Kadabra. Top connections; worth a swing although 15/1 morning line won't come close to holding. VICTORY NUT has the almost exact profile of recent upsetter Firethorn, coming down from Rideau for Ricco and MacDonald; can likely go fast enough. FOUNTAINBLEAU VOLO was a FFA trotter this time here last year; return mile last out wasn't bad. More aggressive try coming now. MUGSHOT JESS made a good recovery after an early break at Yonkers; IN YOUR ROOM drops from the A-2 ranks and shows a :54 win three back.

Race 10, Fillies & Mares B-1

GORDYYYY'S PET proved her win two back as a long shot was no fluke as she came right back to dominate while stepping up. Miller opted off tonight but Carlson is suitable enough. Needs to find a way from this starting slot into the cover flow. ELLEOFNXAMPLE was the beaten favorite in her most recent and had every chance in the world to go by Mojarra Hanover but couldn't. The field she beat two back is far weaker than this one; I'm inclined to swing against. I believe that Landy got BELL ON WHEELS home here once last year; will offer a very fair price tonight. DELIGHTFUL DIVA couldn't keep pace last out and probably isn't good enough right now; OLE MISS hasn't been racing lately as good as she's capable of. REILLY's DAUGHTER comes off a no shot try; will be live tonight.

The Plays

\$16 ticket (\$1 base): 8 / 1-2 / 2-4-5-7 / 7-10

\$54 ticket (\$1 base): 1-8 / 1-2-4 / 2-4-7 / 4-7-10

Dover Report

Monday's Results

10, DD, \$23,000, Pace, FILLIES/MARES Open, 26.2, 55.2, 1:23.1, 1:51.2, FT

Monochromatic (m, 8, Dream Away--Miss Ty, by Big Towner) O-North State Street Stable. B-Charlene M Crissman. T-Dylan Davis. D-Corey Callahan, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 132-34-20-15, \$563,370

Wednesday's Results

10, DD, \$23,000, Trot, Open Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 4 Drawn Post Positions 5 & 6 Drawn, 27.2, 56.0, 1:25.1, 1:55.0, SY

Cash On Delivery (g, 5, Cash Hall--Direct Dial, by Balanced Image) O-David D Miller. B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, CA & C S X Stables & Michael P Kohler. T-Vince Copeland. D-Vince Copeland, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 48-10-11-8, \$150,752

Thursday's Results

8, DD, \$23,000, Pace, Open, 26.4, 54.3, 1:22.3, 1:51.2, FT
Adventure Bound (g, 5, Camluck--Unchained Speed, by Ball And Chain) O-Wm Kenneth Wood & William J Dittmar Jr & Stephen J laquinta. B-Millar Farms, CA. T-Eric Ell. D-Ron Pierce, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 63-13-10-8, \$194,112. To view replay click [here](#)

10, DD, \$30,000, Pace, DELAWARE Special Handicap Post Positions 6 & 7 Assigned, 26.4, 54.0, 1:22.2, 1:51.0, FT
1-Mustang Art (g, 6, Artiscape--Paula Seelster, by Camluck) O-Max R Walton & Gregory H Papaleo. B-Almost Doesnt Count Stb, CA. T-James Mc Guire. D-Ron Pierce, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 112-20-22-15, \$278,142

2-Nova Artist (h, 6, Real Artist--Avon Lady, by Elegant Osborne), \$35,000 2008 SHS-HBG O-Howard Edward & Kathleen Davis. B-Arlene L & Jules J Siegel. T-Martin Davis. D-Allan Davis, \$7,500

3-Sunshine Superman (g, 6, Rocknroll Hanover--Carolina Sunshine, by Cambest) O-Alton E Lynch Jr. B-Docs Farm Inc & Shari Watchman. T-A Toby Lynch Jr. D-A Toby Lynch Jr, \$3,600

Calls: 3, 3, 1H, 1, NS

Finish Order: Fancyfreshark, Restless Native, Dirty Devil, Rusty's All In

To view replay click [here](#)

11, DD, \$35,000, Pace, Preferred Handicap Post Positions Assigned, 26.2, 54.0, 1:21.4, 1:50.1, FT

1-Dancin Yankee (h, 5, Yankee

Cruiser--Dancewiththebest, by Cambest), \$17,000 2009 OH-SEL O-Robert L Briley & Baron Racing Stable.

B-Elizabeth C Wagner. T-Josh Green. D-Corey Callahan, \$17,500, Lifetime Record: 56-20-7-13, \$432,462

2-Stolen Car (h, 5, Mach Three--Ashlee's Luck, by Camluck)

O-Joseph V Muscara. B-Nurko N Sokolovic, CA & Craig A Barss, CA. T-Jeffery Clark. D-Ron Pierce, \$8,750

3-Mainland Key N (g, 8, Shiney Key--Eastwood Bluejeans, by In The Pocket) O-Harry von Knoblauch. B-L R Melhopt, NZ & T C Behrns, NZ. T-Peter Tritton. D-Ross Wolfenden, \$4,200

Calls: 3Q, 2H, 2, Q, HD

Finish Order: Southwestern Dream, Ideal Champ, Cam B Zipper

To view replay click [here](#)

HARNES RACING UPDATE IS:

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Meadowlands Report

Thursday's Results

2, M, \$15,000, Trot, SUPER BOWL 4 Year Olds NW 2 Extended PM Races or \$30,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/15/2012 2nd Leg, M, 28.0, 57.3, 1:27.1, 1:56.0, FT Sweet Ben (h, 4, Like A Prayer--Sweet Sahbra, by Striking Sahbra) O-Bay Pond Racing Stable. B-Winbak Farm. T-Danny Collins. D-John Campbell, \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 15-5-4-1, \$36,119
To view replay click [here](#)

5, M, \$15,000, Trot, SUPER BOWL 4 Year Olds NW 2 Extended PM Races or \$30,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/15/2012 2nd Leg, M, 27.3, 57.3, 1:26.2, 1:54.2, FT Windsun Galliano (g, 4, Ken Warkentin--Sa Mariposa, by Kadabra) O-Tracy L Brainard & James A Harper Jr & Elizabeth A Harper. B-Windsun Farm Inc, CA & Chuckery Hill Stable, CA. T-Julie Miller. D-Andy Miller, \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-0, \$13,050
To view replay click [here](#)

9, M, \$15,000, Trot, SUPER BOWL 4 Year Olds NW 2 Extended PM Races or \$30,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/15/2012 2nd Leg, M, 28.1, 56.3, 1:25.3, 1:54.3, FT Wisenheimer (g, 4, Revenue S--Connemara, by Lindy Lane) O-Jenny J Melander. B-Arlene E Cameron. T-Jenny Melander. D-David Miller, \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 23-5-1-2, \$39,405
To view replay click [here](#)

Meadowlands Recap

The upset bug hit early and often at The Meadowlands Thursday night. In the first division of The Super Bowl, Sweet Ben upset heavily favored Joyeux Dream at 6-1 while holding off 106-1 longshot Jailhouse Juice by a nose. That upset along with a pair of others triggered a Pick 5 payout of \$2,291.50.

The second division of The Super Bowl saw Windsun Galliano get back to his winning ways following a break last week as he wore down first round winner Where To Hanover in the stretch. The win may cause driver Andy Miller an interesting dilemma as he is also the driver for first round winner Helios, who was narrowly defeated tonight by Wisenheimer in the final division of The Super Bowl. Both Windsun Galliano and Helios are trained by Julie Miller. Either way, Andy will have a tough decision to make.

The Late Pick 4 returned \$26,998 thanks to a 55-1 upset in the first part of the pick four on the part of Ladybones and driver Eric Carlson.

The positive wagering trends continue at The Meadowlands as the Thursday night all sources handle of \$1,895,533 was an increase of 29% from the 2012 total of \$1,465,671 for that same Thursday. Racing returns on Friday featuring the second round of the Clyde Hirt series

with post time at 7:15 P.M. For more information, go to meadowlandsracetrack.com

—Rachel Ryan

The Meadows Report

Monday's Results

9, Mea, \$22,500, Pace, *F&M NOT LISTED PREF/PREFERRED HANDICAP* P.P. 1-6 DRAWN; 7-9 DRAWN, 27.2, 55.4, 1:24.1, 1:53.0, FT Do Me Honor (m, 5, Cheyenne Rei--Do Me Right, by Keystone Raider), \$1,600 2009 GRLAKES O-William T Bercury. B-Engle Equine LLC. T-William Bercury. D-Aaron Merriman, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 73-16-18-8, \$244,588

Tuesday's Results

1, Mea, \$20,000, Trot, **PREFERRED HANDICAP P.P. 1-6 DRAWN; 7 ASSIGNED, 27.4, 57.3, 1:26.0, 1:53.4, FT Run And Tell Pap (g, 6, High Falls--Adele's Jade, by Noble Jade), \$1,300 2008 ILLINI** O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & M1 Stable LLC. B-Mary Lea Jeffers. T-Ron Burke. D-Brett Miller, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 85-31-11-6, \$312,561

Wednesday's Results

6, Mea, \$22,500, Pace, *W/O \$10,000 LIFE/PREFERRED HANDICAP* P.P. 1-4 DRAWN; 5-9 DRAWN, 27.3, 57.0, 1:24.2, 1:53.2, GD Lonesome Attack (g, 5, On The Attack--Lady Lonesome, by Nobleland Sam) O-Gerrie S Tucker, CA & Ciro B Gentile & Debbie M Bird, CA. B-Sam O Noble III. T-Virgil Morgan Jr. D-Brett Miller, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 57-15-17-7, \$246,884

STATS CORNER

2013 Leading Drivers By Wins

(Stats courtesy of USTA)

Driver	Starts	Wins	Earnings
Corey Callahan	202	48	\$441,219
Ron Pierce	154	30	\$388,497
Cat Manzi	86	28	\$135,637
Chris Page	119	25	\$43,241
Dave Palone	116	25	\$210,085
Aaron Merriman	152	25	\$181,850
Anthony Morgan	137	23	\$143,921
Luke Plano	74	23	\$49,895
Tyler Smith	119	23	\$49,007

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