

Friday,
February 3, 2012

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The Tragic Story of Oceans Motion

By Bill Finley

The latest chapter will occur tonight at the Meadowlands where **Oceans Motion** (Camotion) takes on six others in the first leg of the Cape & Cutter Series. She's coming off a win in the \$33,000 Open at Yonkers and is the third choice in the morning line against some tough mares. With every day and every accomplishment, she gets a bit further away from her infamous past. Escaping it, though, is impossible.



Dr. Melvyn Aylor

No matter what she accomplished on the racetrack **Oceans Motion** will always be the horse that killed Dr. Melvyn Aylor.

"He was a unique personality," Aylor's close friend, Dr. Mark Wooten said. "If you went down to Florida, everybody had a Melvyn story. He was just a fun guy and very entertaining. Nothing got to him; he didn't worry about anything. I remember Melvyn telling me this particular filly had a lot talent, but that she was crazy."

It happened on January 20, 2009 at the Gilcrest Training Center in Bella, Florida. The ingredients were a nervous, inexperienced horse and some terrible luck, and the result was that the popular Florida veterinarian and horseman lost his life.

With slots having come to Pompano Park, Aylor wanted to beef up his stable, so he bought the dam CR Charisma in foal to Camotion at the Harrisburg sales. He wasn't looking for stars, just horses that could grind out some money. CR Charisma's foal was a small, nervous filly, **Oceans Motion**.

"She was tiny," Aylor's son Kyle said. "But she was great gaited and had tons of speed. She was like a deer—flighty, easily spooked."

Everyone knew that the filly was hard to manage, but his friends say that Aylor never shied away from a challenge. She had just turned two and it was time to get a little more serious with her, so he put the hobbles on her for the first time that particular morning. At some point, **Oceans Motion** spooked, took off and got tangled up. Aylor was thrown and landed in between the filly and the jog cart.

"The filly went down and he was pinned under her and he was kicked in the face," recalled Wooten, who owned many horses with Aylor over the years. "It broke him up something terrible."

Aylor was taken to the University of Florida's Shands Hospital in Gainesville where he was placed in an induced coma. Initially, it appeared that he was going to make it.

"They had to keep him in a coma for a while until they got

everything put together," Wooten said. "He was really making a turnaround and it looked like everything was going to be good. But then he suffered a stroke and it ended up being one problem after another after the stroke."

Aylor lost his battle on Nov. 28, 2009, dying at the age of 54.

Amid having to deal with his father's death, Kyle Aylor also had to decide what to do with **Oceans Motion**. Some people told him to put her down.

"The accident wasn't anything malicious," he said. "People told me I should put her down, like I should seek revenge on her. I didn't see it like that. We didn't need to take another life."

Still, Kyle, knowing that there were too many bad memories surrounding the filly, wanted her gone. He eventually put her in sale that December at Pompano, where, really, no one wanted her. She was bought by one of the auctioneers who was willing to pluck the cheapest horses out of the sale to sell them to the Amish. But, according to current trainer Chuck Connor Jr., he miscalculated, bought more horses than he had wanted to and had no room for **Oceans Motion** on his truck.

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The advertisement features a background image of a horse's head and a hand holding a lead rope. The text is overlaid on this image. The main headline "Reach NEW HEIGHTS" is in large, bold, red letters. Below it, the text "Consign your 2012 yearlings with harness racing's leading seller of \$100,000 horses!" is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there is a logo for "Preferred Equine" which includes a horse head silhouette and the word "PREFERRED" in large red letters, with "EQUINE" in smaller letters below it. Contact information for Geoffrey Stein and David Reid is provided at the bottom.

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p,2,1:53.1; 3,1:48.2-'11 (\$1,805,102)
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So he left Oceans Motion with local trainer Jake Huff, who sold her to Connor for \$450.

"The horses were in the shipping barn at Pompano and I was stabled there at time," Connor said. "Jake come over to me in barn and said, 'I have an interesting horse, you're kind of horse, the kind you like to fool with.' She was very nervous, scared of everything. But there was a lot of quality about her that I liked."



Oceans Motion (Lizzi Photo)

Connor didn't find out until later about the incident with Aylor, but he knew right away that this particular filly was going to be a real challenge.

"There was never a trusting moment with her for first six or seven months," Connor said. "I went to Flamboro to race her by myself one time. Everybody was kind of nervous about it because I had never done anything alone with her. Up to that point, it always took three, four people to hook her into the cart or bike. We never gave her an opportunity to do anything wrong. Noise drove her crazy. She was always quite a challenge."

Whatever problems Oceans Motion may have had, they didn't hamper her performances. She won seven times in 2010 and earned \$75,972.

"In a way, I think the accident made her career," Kyle Aylor said. "Instead of us rushing ahead and racing her as a small undersized 2-year-old, she got turned out and was able to start over again as a 3-year-old."

Under Connors' care, she's continued to prosper.

"She's a totally different horse now," he said. "She doesn't do any of that stuff. She's more mature. I think that's because I never fought her over anything. If you challenged her you might have ended up in a bad spot with her. I always kept my cool with her and never let her bother me. You had to keep a calm hand with her. If you get excited she just flips."

The Aylor family did keep the dam, CR Charisma. The year after Oceans Motion was born she produced a colt out by Mannart Howard. The family named him Melvyn.

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Red Mile Back To Nights

By Lucas Marquardt

Despite gains in attendance and handle that were attributed to a switch to nights, the Red Mile will return to daytime racing for this year's 2012 Grand Circuit meet.

The Grand Circuit meet will kick off Sept. 27 with a 1 pm post time.



"We're changing it around because we wanted people to enjoy the whole Lexington experience," said Frank Antonacci, one of the track's owners. "We're trying to balance between what's best from the pari-mutuel side and people having fun. People told us they

preferred we race during the day. At first, we thought about racing nights the first week and days the second week, but we decided that people really enjoyed the daytime racing."

The Red Mile was proud of its ability to lure younger customers last year at nights, something that will be a challenge this year.

"We're going to focus on getting the younger people to come to the early meet," Antonacci said.

The annual Lexington sell, held in conjunction with the Red Mile's Grand Circuit meet, will begin Tuesday, Oct. 2 and continue through Friday. It will begin each night at 7 p.m.

Major Stakes & Spring Series

Nominations Close February 15, 2012

WOODBINE

The Horseman's Answer to Luck

By Andrew Cohen (reprinted with the permission of www.theatlantic.com)

Last week, when I happily reviewed HBO's *Luck*, I bemoaned the otherwise wonderful series' failure to better tell the kinder, gentler side of the story about horse racing. The side where sweet people not only work their butts off but keep their desperation a helluva lot quieter than it is in Hollywood's stylish portrayal. A lot of horse people agreed with that assessment--I am still getting emails--but we all were left with the questions: How would Hollywood find these people, and would any potential viewer even care?

I cannot answer the second part of that question--it is way beyond my depth of knowledge about why people watch what they watch. But I think I can begin to answer it. Last Wednesday, I received a DVD from Kelly Spencer, who is a photographer, nascent filmmaker, and director of marketing and communications at Grand River Raceway, a harness racing track up in Elora, Ontario. Turns out that Spencer led a very cool project last August 6th to document "a day in the life" of the harness horse industry in North America.

The DVD that Spencer sent me is the same film she debuted Saturday night at the O'Brien Awards, harness racing's equivalent of the Oscars, held every year near Toronto. The crowd went wild, from what I am told, not because Spencer's volunteer chroniclers are likely to be the next David Milch or Michael Mann but because the brief story they shot about their horses showed the true highs and lows of the sport--not the often exaggerated ones you'll see so much of in *Luck*. *A Day In The Life* is short and sweet, almost a response to *Luck*.

To see clips of Spencer's work click [here](#)

The scene at the end of this clip, with Stephanie Horner looking into the camera at the end of a long and frustrating day, dead tired but still game, is really what horse racing is about when you break it down and strip it of its hype. All over North America, hard-working people like Horner live their lives at the mercy of their racehorses and the horse industry, honestly seeking out a living. *Luck* only hints at these people in its first season--like the gorgeous horses themselves they are mostly props, in the background.

Horner not sympathetic enough? Don't think you could build a narrative around her life and relationships? Then how about the story of Bruce Gilkinson and his Cat Sass Stable? He's the poor guy in Spencer's documentary who is on his way to the track, horse all loaded up in the back, when he learns from the track that his horse has been scratched because her owner hasn't properly filed her licensing paperwork. Any trainer in the world will tell you, that's horse racing. And the look on Gilkinson's face when he tells us this is priceless.

David Milch told Lenny Shulman of the *Blood-Horse* magazine last week that he hoped that people who didn't know much about racing would be convinced by *Luck* "that it's the greatest game in the world." He also says his series is a "love letter to the game." On the next page of Milch's

love letter--Shulman tells us already there will be a second season of the show--he should show a little bit of that love to a few of the magnificent people who reside in the middle of the story about the sport of kings. They deserve it. And they watch HBO.



Driver Chris Page



HRU: How did you get your start in harness racing?

CP: My uncle is a horseman and he had a stable in Ohio. I would sneak off to the barn on Saturday's and kind of got hooked on it then. My mother wasn't really too

keen on me doing it full time, she wanted me to go to college so I went to Ohio State where I was an Equine Science Major. I got a job working for a veterinarian named Dr. David Crumb, and I was at the track probably five days out of the week, and I really started liking the horses and the racing side of it. I had been a fan since I was a kid. In Ohio, there is one race, the Little Brown Jug, and my mom used to let me skip school to go see the race. I was a fan of The Meadowlands from day one. That and going to by uncle's barn is where my passion for driving came from.

HRU: Where did you start driving horses?

CP: I started my first horse in a matinee at the Delaware Country Fair when I was 15 years old, and then the following year at my home in Mount Vernon I drove a horse. I became a driver at Colonial, which has become a getaway for me, like an eight week vacation. Driving in Ohio with the fairs in the afternoon and racing at night, you can get burnt out, so going down to Colonial and just driving at the one racetrack it's kind of like a mini-vacation for me. It's beautiful down there, beautiful weather. I love racing there.

HRU: You have driven a handful at The Meadowlands and opened up some eyes doing it. What has this experience been like for you?

CP: It's a dream come true. Driving at the big track with the best horses, the best trainers and the best drivers in the country, it's unbelievable.

HRU: What are your goals for your career? Where do you want to be driving?

CP: I've had the opportunity to do a lot of driving in a lot of places around the sport. The Meadowlands is the place to be, and it's where it's at, and I would love to be there. Also, Ohio is home, and there is no place like home. If things work out, and they get the slots out there, that would be great. But the Meadowlands, and being a regular driver there, that's a dream, a dream that I have had since I was a kid. I'm just enjoying life right now. Sam McKee said I have a gypsy life with all the moving around I do, he may be right, but it's a good life.

HANDICAPPING TONIGHT'S PICK 4

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By Brett Sturman

Friday, February 3

Race 6: N/W \$16,000 L5

AISLING couldn't quite get to Proud Moment last week, but it was still another solid looking effort after his 1:54:1 win the week before. Coleman is off to a strong meet and this one is difficult to go against with a move back to an inside post. BANK PRESIDENT was used hard last out and still had enough to come back on late to get the win following the month layoff. Speed coming again with Dube. SALUTATION HANOVER has become a risky proposition and likely won't offer a high enough price for me to take a chance with. VICTORS VICKY may be closing late at a price, and LIVE JAZZ looked poor last week for Schnittker.

Race 7: Exit 16W

It almost looks too easy with Burke/Gingras again, and RISK MANAGEMENT finds himself starting from the rail after facing tougher in Complex series. Faced River Shark four back, and was second to recent series winner Itrustyou three back. It'll be his race to win or lose. MICKEY HANOVER will show speed again but has been a letdown so far for Allard. TYLER HANOVER will look to do the same, and his win in 1:53:3 two back at Yonkers looks good. UPFRONT ELLIJAY ED can't be ruled out; especially if the pace sets up for him like it did three back. SONIC DANCER won his debut for McDermott then had too difficult a trip to overcome in the Hirt final.

Race 8: Fillies & Mares N/W \$16,000 L5

MYSTICAL MJ had her tour of the track last week and a more aggressive effort should be expected now. Classy Sportsmaster mare purchased by Bamond goes second start in the Fraley barn after being raced at 2 and 3 by Erv Miller; let's see what she's got here. LOVE YOU ALWAYS nearly beat Tomorrowpan two back; now moves all the way to the inside. That was an interesting no-shot effort last week for REILLY'S DAUGHTER. Sat on the rail the entire mile as the favorite, had plenty. ATHLETICLYINCLINED is an obvious short priced contender for sharp connections, ODDS ON AVENTURE has been here before.

Race 9: N/W \$10,000 L5

Tough race to figure here. CHAPLIN HALL travels back to the tri-state area for Allard after a couple races up at Rideau and looks just as capable as any in this field. Took a mark last year at Georgian in 1:55, and a horse with a similar profile won last week here at 19/1. Sears choice. CAMERON CHIP is likely the best if you look at his overall work over the last year, but he hasn't looked like his usual self in his last couple starts. Likely coming from far back. FORTISSIMO may not be that outmatched in this spot despite his 20/1 morning line status. That recent qualifier against Rose Run Hooligan and Proud Moment wasn't bad. AMERICAN HOT ROD missed by less than two lengths in his last to Bank President in his move back to the mile track.

The Plays

\$16 ticket: 3-8 / 1-4 / 1-9 / 8-9

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Dover Report

Monday's Results

8, DD, \$30,000, Pace, Open Preferred Handicap Post
Positions 1 thru 4 Drawn Post Positions 5 thru 8 Drawn,
27.0, 55.1, 1:23.2, 1:51.4, FT

1-Mainland Key N (g, 7, Shiny Key--Eastwood

Bluejeans, by In The Pocket) O-Harry von Knoblauch.
B-L R Melhopt, NZ & T C Behrns, NZ. T-Peter Tritton.
D-Tim Tetrack, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 85-21-16-11,
\$352,662

2-**Dirty Devil** (g, 6, Real Artist--Ms Eyes And Thighs, by
Magical Mike), \$7,000 2007 SHS-HBG O-Michael P Horn
& Alexander R Rice Sr & Charles N Bonham. B-John P
Hurtgen. T-Bob Rice. D-Matt Kakaley, \$7,500

3-**Jeremy's Successor** (g, 8, Mach Three--Gentle Audrey,
by Artsplace), \$70,000 2005 SHS-HBG
O-Heavenly Ways. B-Tara Hills Stud LTD, CA. T-Crissy
Crissman-Bier. D-Sean Bier, \$3,600

Calls: Q, 1T, 1H, 1H, H

Finish Order: Save Me A Place, Southwestern Dream,
Wambam Sam, Panfully Cool, Schoolkids

10, DD, \$30,000, Pace, Delaware Special, 27.1, 55.2, 1:22.3, 1:50.0, FT
1-Broadies Song (g, 5, Camluck--Hawaiian Dancer, by Abercrombie) O-Chasing Paper & Dorothy D Parker & Joshua L Green. B-E Stephen Scarff, CA & J Leonard Birch, CA. T-Josh Green. D-David Miller, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 50-12-10-7, \$331,249
2-Highbeam Rusty N (g, 6, Artsplace--Nicky Michele, by Bo Scots Blue Chip) O-Carter Racing Stable LLC. B-P I Renwick, AS. T-Michael Hall. D-Matt Kakaley, \$7,500
3-Cams Art (g, 5, Cams Fortune--My Foolish Art, by Artiscape) O-Morgan S & Jeanne M Mc Innis. B-Jeanne M & Ryan S Mc Innis. T-Ryan Mc Innis. D-Ron Pierce, \$3,600
Calls: 4H, 1H, 1H, 1H, 1
Finish Order: Catchmecullen A, Roman Conqueror N, Nova Artist, Artists Rally, Roy Orbisong

Wednesday's Results

10, DD, \$23,000, Trot, Open Handicap Post Positions 7 & 8 Assigned, 28.1, 57.3, 1:25.3, 1:54.0, FT
The Budster (g, 7, Broadway Hall--Distaff, by Self Possessed), \$20,000 2006 SHS-HBG O-Jeffrey K Bartels. B-Bluestone Farms LLC. T-Eli Scott Jr. D-Ron Pierce, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 119-26-17-15, \$467,143

The Meadows Report

Monday's Results

10, Mea, \$22,500, Trot, **F&M PREFERRED HANDICAP** P.P.1-8 DRAWN; 9 ASSIGNED, 28.3, 58.3, 1:27.0, 1:55.2, FT
Trotslikethewind (m, 7, Pegasus Spur--Familiar Goal, by Armbro Goal) O-Andy W Rickert. B-Michele R Moran. T-Andy Rickert. D-Tony Hall, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 59-20-7-6, \$172,490

Tuesday's Results

1, Mea, \$22,500, Pace, ***PREFERRED HANDICAP*** P.P.1 ASSIGNED; 2-5 DRAWN; 6 ASSIGNED, 26.3, 56.1, 1:24.2, 1:52.3, FT
Full Of Sand (g, 4, Full Of Fun--Soft Towel, by Beach Towel) O/B-White Creek Stable Inc. T-Ray Paver. D-Ray Paver, \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 29-10-4-3, \$100,639

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Meadowlands Report

Thursday's Results (all Meadowlands photos courtesy of Lisa Photo)



2, M, \$12,500, Pace, TENDER LOVING CARE 3 Year Old Fillies N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$25,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/10/2011 1st Leg, M, 28.3, 58.2, 1:27.2, 1:54.3, FT

Gottaseaboutagirl (f, 3, Western Terror--Minnie Driver, by Cam's Card Shark), \$2,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Michael P Horn & Charles N Bonham & Alexander R Rice Sr. B-Robert T Unice. T-Bob Rice. D-David Miller, \$6,250, Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$11,125

[here](#)



4, M, \$12,500, Pace, TENDER LOVING CARE 3 Year Old Fillies N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$25,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/10/2011 1st Leg, M, 27.4, 59.0, 1:27.2, 1:54.1, FT

Winning It (f, 3, Dragon Again--Day After Day, by Western Hanover), \$7,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver BrusceMI LLC & The Panhellenic Stb Corp. B-Robert A & Lauren B Tucker. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$6,250, Lifetime Record: 4-4-0-0, \$15,575.

To view the replay click [here](#)

5, M, \$12,500, Pace, JUNIOR TRENDSETTER 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$25,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/10/2011 1st Leg, M, 27.3, 57.1, 1:25.4, 1:53.4, FT

Social Network (c, 3, Tell All--Newsletter, by Western Ideal), \$25,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Val D'Or Farms. B-Brittany Farms & Val D'Or Farms. T-Joe Holloway. D-David Miller, \$6,250, Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-1, \$32,572
To view the replay click [here](#)

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6, M, \$12,500, Pace, JUNIOR TRENDSETTER 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$25,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/10/2011 1st Leg, M, 27.1, 56.3, 1:26.1, 1:55.1, FT

Take A Walk (c, 3, I Am A

Fool--Walk Of Shame, by Western Hanover) O-The Wiz Kids Stable LLC. B-Bulletproof Enterprises. T-Tony Dinges. D-John Campbell, \$6,250, Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, \$10,250

To view the replay click [here](#)



7, M, \$12,500, Pace, JUNIOR TRENDSETTER 3 Year Old Colts & Geldings N/W 2 Extended PM Races or \$25,000 Lifetime Up to & Including 12/10/2011 1st Leg, M, 27.4, 57.4, 1:26.4, 1:53.4, FT

Eastwood Blue Chip (g, 3, Dragon Again--Shes Smashing, by Jate Lobell), \$10,000 2010 MORRIS O-Eric Ell & John M Emmons. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. T-Eric Ell. D-Ron Pierce, \$6,250, Lifetime Record: 14-2-3-1, \$28,856

To view the replay click [here](#)

Woodbine Report

Thursday Mohawk Qualifiers Cancelled After Three Races

Campbellville, ON --- Mohawk Racetrack's Thursday (Feb. 2) qualifying session was cancelled after three races due to unsafe track conditions.

The remaining six qualifiers have been rescheduled for Friday (Feb. 3). Qualifiers will begin at 10 a.m.

Monday's Results

2 Wdb. \$25,000, Pace. 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 3 RACES OR \$92,000 LIFETIME. 26.2, 55.3, 1:24.2, 1:38.4, 1:53.1 SN

Guns An Roses (g,4 - Life Sign-Best Lady-Cambest) O-Joanne Colville-Emma E Christoforou B-High Stakes Inc. T-Frank Colville. D-Jack Moiseyev, \$12,500. Lifetime Record: 33-9-1-2, \$114,518

3 Wdb. \$25,000, Trot. NW \$24,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: OPT. CLM. \$60,000. 27, 57.2, 1:26.4, 1:41.1, 1:55.3 SN

Windsong Geant (g,5 - Kadabra-Early Secret-Earl) O-The Brabant Stable, Fred D Brayford. B-William & Paulette Loyens. T & D-Rick Zeron, \$12,500. Lifetime Record:51-9-9-5, \$300,055

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Gilkinson Happy to Address World Wide Web Purchase

(WEG press release)

TORONTO, Feb 2 - On July 26, 2010, Bruce Gilkinson was at home on his computer surfing the Internet, not quite realizing what he had just done.

The Alliston resident had just purchased a horse online, sight unseen, for \$21,000. Now, a few years later, he has reaped the rewards of that unique investment, as Just Assign to Me has banked \$199,600 for Gilkinson, along with his brother, Murray, who operate Cat Sass Stable.

"I didn't even know what the horse looked like," Gilkinson admitted. "There was just a pedigree page. No photos or videos of the horse."

Just Assign To Me was part of a liquidation of horses bred by Perfect World Enterprises that were auctioned on the popular horse racing website Ongait.com.

"In the final hours, it was between me and one other person and in the end I was the high bidder," Gilkinson said. "The other thing that I used to my advantage was a qualifying line just one day before the auction ended. He qualified in 1:58.3 at Pocono Downs which I thought was a terrific qualifier for a first time two-year-old."

Gilkinson's foresight was right on the mark as the son of Geartogear-Justassign Hanover dominated the Ontario Sires Stakes program winning nine of 11 starts as a rookie including the \$100,000 OSS Grassroots final.

He capped off his freshman campaign with over \$140,000 in earnings.

Everything seemed to be on schedule during Just Assign To Me's three-year-old campaign. The 12-time winner had just finished fourth in the \$100,000 Somebeachsomewhere Stakes against the best sophomore pacers in North America. Then, just a few days after the race, Gilkinson received bad news.

"We found out that he was diagnosed with EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis). Because of that, we had to do what was in the best interest in the horse to get him back to form. We lost most of the summer because of that and to be honest, he's just started to get back to his old self now."

In Gilkinson's eyes, the misfortunes Just Assign To Me has had to contend with don't impact his affection and adoration for the pacer in the least.

"He owes us nothing," Gilkinson said. "We took a big gamble purchasing him and we don't overlook that. We are just enjoying the ride and it sure has been a fun one."

Just Assign To Me will make his fourth start as a four-year-old for driver Scott Coulter when he begins in the first leg of the \$20,000 WEGZ Pacing Series at Woodbine on Saturday evening.

The series is for four-year-old and older non-winners of \$50,000 (three-year-olds \$75,000) in 2011 (minimum 10 starts).