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Pierce: "I Need the Money"

By Bill Finley

Veteran driver Ron Pierce said that his decision to switch allegiances from the Meadowlands to Yonkers boils down to the simple fact that he needs to make more money.

Pierce announced Sunday that he will drive at Yonkers on



Ron Pierce (right) said that his decision to bail on the Meadowlands was a matter of dollars and cents

Friday and Saturday nights instead of the Meadowlands, at least until stakes season starts in East Rutherford. With the switch, he joins George Brennan and Brian Sears as drivers who have made the move across the Hudson to take advantage of the big purses at Yonkers.

For the next few months, Pierce will split his time between Yonkers and Dover Downs.

Anticipating that Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural would be upset with his defection, Pierce said that he hopes Gural understands that drivers can't ignore how much money can be made at Yonkers.

"Mr. Gural has to understand that I have a mortgage on my house, have car payments, insurance payments. I've got an ex-wife that I have to give a large chunk of alimony money to," Pierce said. "I have to do what's best for myself. I need the money. I think he should understand that I am in a predicament where I have to make as much money as I can."

With the Meadowlands closed last weekend for the Super Bowl Pierce drove at Yonkers and said being there was an eye-opener for him. He had a huge weekend, winning eight races.

"I have been considering going over to Yonkers now for several years," he said. "After I went over there the other night and did pretty well over the weekend, I had the race bike in the back of my truck driving home and a buddy of mine called me and said I should just stay there because I would make a lot more money. I knew that all along but it really hit me when he added up my purses and said I made \$87,000 in two days at Yonkers."

Gural reiterated that he wants the top drivers like Pierce at his track.

"I'm disappointed because you would think that there would be some degree of loyalty and appreciation for the fact I spent \$100 million to keep the Meadowlands open, which is probably one of the main reasons that we haven't seen a catastrophic collapse of the industry," he said. "Having said that, Ron has had a distinguished career and I

recognize that he's at the tail end of a distinguished career and I guess he's trying to make as much money as possible."

Gural and Pierce both touched on a youth movement at the Meadowlands, where younger drivers like Corey Callahan, Scott Zeron, Joe Bongiorno, Marcus Miller and others have become a major part of the scene.

"At the Meadowlands, they are pushing these young guys," Pierce said. "John (Campbell) and I probably haven't been mentioned twice all year on the TV program there. They are pushing every young guy that they can. I think they want young blood there so I don't think it should bother them too much that I am leaving."

"With these guys leaving it gives some of the younger guys an opportunity," Gural said. "If you look at it realistically, if Pierce, Sears and Brennan all still drove at the Meadowlands there would be almost no opportunity for Scott Zeron, Marcus Miller and some of the other young, up-and-coming drivers. In a way that's a positive development."

Gural said he has also changed his mind on the impact name drivers have on the betting handle. When Sears and Brennan left he said he thought their absence would lead people to bet less on the Meadowlands product.

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p.3,1:47; 4,1:47.4 (\$2,082,885)
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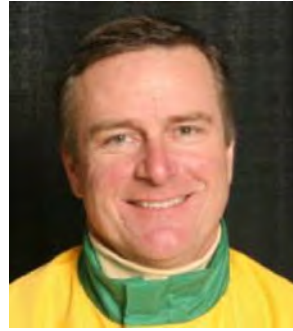
"It doesn't affect the gambling end of it as they don't seem to care who drives," he said. "But it does affect the owners who would rather have someone like Ronnie than some of the younger guys."

Pierce is fifth in the current Meadowlands standings with 20 wins. He said he plans to make himself available for the major stakes races held at the Big M later in the year.

On an unrelated Meadowlands development Gural said he was worried that the Saturday card at the Big M had so much trouble attracting horses. Only 115 horses are entered to go for the 13-race card and there are four races with eight or fewer horses.

"Saturday is a disaster; way too many short fields," he said. "It is disappointing and I don't know what happened. Having a Saturday night card with all these short fields will cost me a half million in handle, which we can ill afford with all the bad weather we've been having and the negative impact that's had on our business. And we're having this problem with the two Pennsylvania tracks closed and we're coming off two-week break. I hope this isn't a bad omen for when the Pennsylvania tracks open."

assessing penalties and does not have to go by the RCI rules. He said that part of his thought process included Welch's record.



Roger Welch

"If you took the time to look up Roger's race record, quite frankly, it's as pristine a race record as I've seen a trainer have," he said. "You look at trainers that have been in the business a long time, particularly ones who race a lot of horses, you'll tend to see several medication violations, and I think Roger has one in 25 years."

Gorajec said the Welch matter might have come up at meeting he was scheduled to have yesterday with the Indiana Standardbred Association, but the meeting was canceled due to weather problems.

Miami Valley Opens Tonight

A new era in Ohio racing will kick off tonight at 6:30 when Miami Valley holds its inaugural card. The five-eighths mile track has replaced the old Lebanon Raceway. The new track was built to take better advantage of the legalization of slots at Ohio racetracks. Miami Valley is a joint venture between Churchill Downs and Delaware North.

To get through the card, drivers, horses and trainers will have to brave some difficult conditions as the Cincinnati

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Gorajec Speaks Out On Welch Suspension

The fact that trainer Roger Welch was handed a suspension of only 15 days for a positive for the drug Tramadol has led some in Indiana racing circles to complain that the penalty was too lenient. Officially, a positive for Tramadol, a painkiller, results in a one-year suspension. But Joe Gorajec, the executive director of the Indiana Racing Commission, said extenuating circumstances led him give the trainer a much less severe penalty.

Gorajec said that scientists have come to the conclusion that Tramadol has little if any effect on a horse and should not fall into a category that yields a one-year penalty. In an upcoming meeting, Racing Commissioner's International is expected to deal with Tramadol and lower it to a "B category" drug. Positives for "B category" drugs normally yield 15-day suspensions.

"The commission and the staff has done their due diligence reviewing the positive test and a determination was made that the current RCI classification on this particular drug doesn't reflect the current science which shows that the drug is better considered a penalty category B drug," he said. "And our penalty is consistent as a B drug."

Gorajec said he is allowed to use his judgment when

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area forecast calls for temperatures in the mid-teens when the first race rolls around.

Miami Valley will host 66 nights of racing, running through May 7.



Dave Palone will be at Miami Valley this weekend

The opening weekend will have added spice with a special driving appearance by Dave Palone. With Palone taking on Ohio regulars Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Dan Noble, the leading dash winning drivers from the last three years will be going head-to-head.

The richest race on the card is a \$9,500 Open Trot. From the Ron Burke stable, Holy Halibut is the 3-1 morning line favorite.

"I think everyone is looking forward to the racing," said local driver Tyler Smith, who is from Washington Court House, Ohio. "There's going to be a lot of new faces and it should be very competitive. It's good. I think Ohio needs more drivers, new faces, to make the racing better. Whenever you've got money (for purses) you're going to get good horses, and good horses bring good races."

Jim Pantaleano and Pat Berry are among the new faces that have joined the Miami Valley driving colony. Pantaleano's appearance at Miami Valley Friday night will mark his first drives since he was injured in the starting gate accident at Freehold January 10.

Lawyer, Horsemen Rep Frustrated by Freehold's Post-Accident Response; Rucker Has Surgery

Attorney Howard Taylor and Tom Luchento, the president of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey, both suggested to Harness Racing Update yesterday that Freehold management has been uncooperative following the Jan. 10 spill in which six drivers were injured.

Luchento said that management has backed off on its promises to inspect the racetrack.

"They promised to bring in an independent person to look at that racetrack and evaluate it," Luchento said. "I don't trust them. They say they are going to do this or that but when it comes down to it they avoid anything that has to do with putting out any money. They promised the horsemen they would bring someone in and the person would be independent. They haven't done a damn thing yet. I am starting to get really, really aggravated because all I get from them is the runaround. Then if I send them a lawyer's letter or go to the racing commission, they're all up in arms, saying 'Why did you do that? You knew if you came to us we would have taken care of it.' But they don't. It's useless."

Taylor, who is representing drivers Debra Rucker, Jim Pantaleano and Chris Scicluna, said that Freehold has failed to respond to faxes and other correspondences he has sent them as he works on potential lawsuits for his clients.

Freehold management met with horsemen following the

spill and, according to a press release put out by the SBOA-NJ, it was requested that the track pay for the equipment and bikes broken in the accident. According to Taylor, Freehold has yet to compensate any of his clients for any costs that arose in the spill.

Harness Racing Update was banned by Freehold from the meeting between horsemen and track management and a security guard threatened to call the police if we did not leave the track.

Taylor said that Rucker was hurt worse than what was originally reported and had surgery yesterday to repair a broken knee and deal with some blood clotting and internal bleeding issues that resulted in the accident that began when the starting gate spun out of control and then slammed into the field of horses.

One question yet to be answered in the aftermath of the spill is the future of driver Cat Manzi. Manzi has hired the Freehold firm of Lomurro, Davison to represent him in a possible lawsuit against Freehold. Manzi has made no public statements since the accident and it is not known if he will ever return to driving.

Monticello Handle Plummetts

With the Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association having withdrawn its permission for the track to simulcast its races outside the state of New York, handle at the Catskills track has fallen sharply.

Only \$115,290 was bet on yesterday's Monticello card.



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Nominations Close February 15, 2014
Eligibility up to and including February 15, 2014

2 BRAND NEW SERIES

<p style="text-align: center;">Event 7 - Pace - Fillies & Mares "Artistic Vision"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N/W of 4 pari-mutuel races or \$100,000 lifetime</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1. Friday, April 4</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 22,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Friday, April 11</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 22,500</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Saturday, April 19 FINAL.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 35,000 A (75,000 E)</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Nominating Fee: \$800</p>	1. Friday, April 4	\$ 22,500	2. Friday, April 11	\$ 22,500	3. Saturday, April 19 FINAL.....	\$ 35,000 A (75,000 E)	<p style="text-align: center;">Event 8 - Pace - Horses & Geldings "WHATA BARON"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N/W of 4 pari-mutuel races or \$100,000 lifetime</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1. Saturday, April 5</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 22,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Saturday, April 12</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 22,500</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Saturday, April 19 FINAL.....</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 35,000 A (75,000 E)</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Nominating Fee: \$800</p>	1. Saturday, April 5	\$ 22,500	2. Saturday, April 12	\$ 22,500	3. Saturday, April 19 FINAL.....	\$ 35,000 A (75,000 E)
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3. Saturday, April 19 FINAL.....	\$ 35,000 A (75,000 E)												

Event No.	Name of Horse	Color Sex/Age	Sire	Dam	Owner & Address

Entered by _____
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On the previous Thursday, a total of \$5671,967 was wagered on the Monti races. On the Tuesday card, the first



after the simulcasts were stopped, \$117,671 was bet on the program. Monticello charges 3 percent for its simulcast signal so a

\$500,000 decline in handle would result in a loss of revenue of \$15,000. Part of that money would go toward purses.

Monticello horsemen are upset with rules that cap their share of purse money at 2013 levels, which means they will not see a significant increase if the track hits a home run with a full-fledged casino, which could be coming to Monticello soon.

"We are getting hurt, the track is getting hurt and the industry is getting hurt," horsemen's representative Joe Faraldo told drf.com. "Sometimes you have to fight for the future because if you don't, you won't have one."

Horsemen, Management to Meet Again Today in Illinois

The Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association and management from Maywood and Balmoral will meet again Thursday in attempt to settle a dispute that has shut down racing at the two Chicago tracks thus far this year.

Arguing over purse levels, which were cut for 2014, the two sides have not been able to work out a contract. Without a contract in place the Illinois Racing Board will not allow the tracks to race. Thus far, between Maywood and Balmoral, five racing dates have been canceled.

Negotiating on behalf of the horsemen, David McCaffrey said some progress has been made in the on-going talks.

"There has been some give and take and we are moving closer," he said. "But one person's definition of closeness and another's might be different. It's not like we are miles and miles apart. We moved closer, but no deal is imminent."

The two sides met Wednesday without reaching a deal.

McCaffrey said that if a contract is somehow finalized on Friday racing could resume at Balmoral on Wednesday. His group is looking for some control over the purse account and for Balmoral and Maywood to give back some of the "recapture" money, which is a portion of simulcast revenue.

Correction: In some versions of the Feb. 2 Harness Racing Update, an ad for the Artistic Vision series and the Whata Baron series at the Meadowlands listed the wrong conditions. For both events, horses that are non-winners of 4 pari-mutuel races or \$100,000 lifetime are eligible. The original ad had listed the earnings figure at \$175,000

Report: Cobalt a Problem in Australian Racing
According to a recent story in the Sydney Morning Herald, Australian racing authorities believe that some trainers are using cobalt as a performance-enhancing drug.

The report quoted an unnamed racing official who said one horse on cobalt "went around the track like a new Learjet"

According to the paper there have been six positive tests for cobalt in the New South Wales area of Australia.

To read the story click [here](#)

Art Major Colt Tops Australian Sale



The Melbourne sales topper

Sales season in Australia kicked off last Sunday with the Australian Pacing Gold Sale in Melbourne.

The average sales price was \$23,276 (Australian), up from last year's figure of \$21,786.

Only two horses topped the \$100,000 mark and both were by Art Major. The sales topper was an Art Major colt sold for \$120,000, which converts to \$107,179 in US dollars. The colt was bought by Emilio and Mary Rosati.

The Australians, at least at this sale, were not in love



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with the offspring of red-hot sire Somebeachsomewhere. There Beaches were sold and they went for \$18,000, \$44,000 and \$50,000. Three others did not meet their reserve price.

Tetrick Picks Up First Meadowlands Win of 2014



Tim Tetrick won last night's 3rd race at the Meadowlands (Lisa Photo)

It didn't take the "Bionic Man" long to get back to the winner's circle at the Meadowlands. Making his first Meadowlands appearance this year after sitting out more than two months while dealing with his latest hip replacement surgery, Tim Tetrick won last night's third race at the Meadowlands with Eagle Say for trainer Eric Mollor.

Tetrick made his return a day earlier at Dover Downs, but did not have a winner on Wednesday's card there. With his first drive back he finished third as the 2-5 favorite in a Dover race won by his little brother Trace.



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Harness Racing Should Never Run Away from its Roots

When I was about 14 my family bought a 1/5th share in a yearling colt, to have a little fun. After several months of setbacks, the colt was making his pari-mutuel debut in a Sires Stakes event in Goderich, Ontario. Goderich (I know now, but I did not know then) is a little town on Lake Huron, a few hours north of Windsor and Detroit.

We set off from the big smoke (Toronto, where we were hanging our hat beforehand) to make the 1:30 post time on a nice Sunday. Traffic was light and everything went well until we hit the smaller roads. Highway 5 turned into 10, and that turned into something else, which turned into something that resembled gravel. A GPS was needed, but it wasn't invented yet. We got lost.

As time was ticking down to the start of the raceday, we asked directions from a few people along the side of the

almost always deserted road, consulted a map, and finally saw the racetrack. Our horse was in the third race and everyone expected that it was approaching. Three of us - older and younger - sprinted to the grandstand like six year olds running to an ice-cream truck, paid \$2 and looked at the infield tote board to see there were 0 minutes to race 3. The horses were coming around the turn to the start. Well, all the horses but our trotter, who was galloping like Pegasus. I don't think he ever caught the field.

When we finally settled in to take in the event - the first tiny track event any of us had been to for a harness race - we were pretty amazed. There were hot dog stands, and cotton candy. There were trucks - lots of trucks - and dogs were running around in the side play area. I even saw a tractor in the parking lot; I guess that gentleman lived nearby. The grandstand was full. Some of the 'patrons' were betting, some were playing with their kids, some were chatting, some just seemed to enjoy being outside on a nice summer day.

It was harness racing.

In the 1950's and 60's, with big city tracks like Roosevelt and Yonkers in New York, Greenwood in Toronto and later on the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, we were lead to believe that being near a major urban center was what harness racing needed. It needed that population base to draw from. The proof was in the pudding, after all. 20,000 or more people would come play the "trots" while walking off the streetcar. 44,000 would make it to Jersey to watch a \$2 million stakes race like the Wilson.



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Take that, Goderich Raceway.

But the question that needed to be asked at that time was, "were all those people there because they loved the sport of harness racing, or because in the big city there was nowhere else to gamble?"

We all know the answer to that. As lotteries, sports betting, casinos, fantasy sports, slot machines, and a half-dozen other things began to dot the landscape; these "racing fans" were gone.



There's something to be said for the Goderich Raceways of the harness racing world

In urban centers it's a fight for any event. Just last week there were upwards of 18,000 seats available for the Super Bowl, held in a place with over 10 million to draw from. If the Jets or the Giants aren't in the game, apparently there

are other better things to do in the city.

Conversely, I watched the Grey Cup - the Canadian football championship game - this year. It was held in Regina Saskatchewan, which is a football mad small town. The stadium is in a residential neighborhood, the city was abuzz with an event they all wanted to see and experience in every way imaginable. It was completely electric.

The Canadian Football League, after years of trying to somehow out-football the NFL, has embraced their roots. It is a small town league and its championship game attracts party and football goers just like it always has. Folks who would never set foot in a private box to watch the game, or attend a pre-party hosted by Jay Z, attend Grey Cup functions. Attendance in smaller cities like Regina is higher than in big ones like Toronto or Montreal and it has been like that for quite some time. That league has grown, in part, by knowing who it is and promoting it accordingly.

Harness racing as a sport has an identity crisis. Because of the early success of the Meadowlands it led some to believe that \$2 million stakes races inside a metro area was its future. Although the Meadowlands is a betting Mecca and I do not underestimate the importance of the betting aspect, for branding purposes and "harness racing being what it is", that was a false premise.

This summer the "sport" of harness racing will do best where it always does best. The Little Brown Jug will attract thousands of State Fair goers with small town sensibilities, good food, and beer in paper cups. Charlottetown, PEI, will pack them in for the Gold Cup and Saucer and you won't be able to walk down the street of the city without someone asking "who do you like in the big race?" The big race is a \$60,000 Free For All, of course, which is tantamount to a regular feature on any given Saturday at Yonkers.

Jack Trout, a marketing professional and scholar, wrote some of marketing's seminal work. One of his "22 Immutable Laws of Marketing" is that any successful enterprise needs to own a word or phrase in the prospect's mind. Mercedes owns engineering, Volvo owns safety and BMW owns driving, to name but three in one space. What does harness racing own? Some readers of this might say 'excitement', or 'betting', or 'fun', or 'horse racing'. We own none of those. Most are adjectives, and when people think of horse racing, they think of Secretariat not Somebeachsomewhere.

Harness racing owns small town entertainment at state fairs, in the summer. It's who it was, is, and likely always will be.

If I could rewrite harness racing's history (without paying attention to monetary and slot realities), the Hambletonian would've stayed in the Midwest, and a central organization, complete with television coverage highlighting this slice of Americana would've been the marketing formula. The Breeders Crown would be in Lexington, Kentucky at the Red Mile, every year for a "Crown week" that builds that event's brand not as a competitor to the Breeders' Cup, but a competitor to no one.

The brand we all grew up on, from Dan Patch to Greyhound to Bret Hanover to Niatross to Foiled Again, is harness racing. If the sport embraces it, does not try to be everything to everyone, and sticks to that one message, I believe harness racing will be around forever.

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By Brett Sturman

Race 7, C-1/B-2 Trot

CORAGGIOSO was way overbet in his debut for Julie Miller last out which was already three weeks ago, and might go further now in his second start back while moving to the inside. A better price can be anticipated now, can win this wide open race. BROOKROAD KNIGHT has generally been facing better and is likely to ensure some value coming from low percentage connections at this track; possible. TIGER'S TOO GOOD and RIVERFEST were sharp when last seen squaring off for the third straight time; each upending the other in their prior two starts. FOUR STARZ SPEED is an obvious short priced threat for Burke and WHEELS has been strong on the front end as starters from the Fava barn. The classy FIRSTCLASSPRINCESS debuts for Trond and makes her first start since 2012; I'm going to guess she'll need one.

Race 8, F&M B-2 Pace

HOBE SOUND has been super over at Yonkers since moving to Andrew Harris and now gets a shot here. Miller gets the call for the Somebeachsomewhere 4-year-old; the one to beat in my opinion. SARANDON BLUE CHIP is fast enough when right but is such a tough proposition with these outside posts. If she is anything close to her 20/1 offering from last out she should be included. SHAWNEE DANCER tired last out at Yonkers but almost all of her prior efforts here were good enough; picks up Tetrick (Tim) for Harder. SPIRIT OF DESIRE is bound to attract attention on the driver change; THE SUMMER WIND lands the pole while facing slightly lesser.

Race 9, C-1 Trot

SPICE IT UP LINDY has been doomed in recent starts by the post draw; upset call from the rail for good trotting barn. RAVEN VICTORY goes into the Toscano stable coming down from Canada and was a winner over this track last year; concerns are the outside post and first start since the end of December. UPFRONTSTRIKESGOLD has regained some of his better form of late, and the rival he beat when last seen here came right back to win next out. RAY HALL was a sub 1:55 winner two back; HELIOS is always a tough call at a short price. That 12/27 mile from FRISKY STRIKE would give him a big chance in wide open race.

Race 10, C-2 Trot

CURRENT CRISIS was Yannick's pick over #6 and he almost got this one home from post 10 a few starts back; hard to be overly enthused with any of these in the bottom level trot. SKYLINE ROAD goes third start for the new barn and broke in his last; wouldn't be a total shock. HASTY PROFFITT goes for a stable that's tough to disregard but I just don't think this one is good enough. PLAY FAIR was used a bit hard early last out; at least Lachance was somewhat aggressive. CREDIT BLUES deserves a look as a shipper from Delaware; Eli Scott and Callahan get along well. ACADIA AS won here in December and gets Tetrick; PILATUS might have a late say.

\$18 ticket (\$1 base): 2-3-6 / 7 / 4-5 / 2-9-10

\$60 ticket (\$1 base): 2-3-5-6-7 / 2-7 / 1-4-5 / 9-10



Track	Race	Purse	
Meadowlands	2 nd , A-1/FFA	\$30,000	pps
Yonkers	8 th , Open	\$33,000	pps

Past performances courtesy of TrackMaster. For full card pps from the Meadowlands and Yonkers go to www.trackmaster.com



Monday's Results

10, DD, \$20,000, P, FILLIES/MARES Winners Over \$12,000 Last 6 Starts or \$50,000 Lifetime / Open Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 6 Drawn Post Positions 7 & 8 Assigned, M, 26.3, 55.1, 1:23.2, 1:52.3, SY

Jeremes Sweetheart (m, 5, Jereme's Jet--Fox Valley Evanna, by Incredible Finale), \$92,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Wm Kenneth Wood & William J Dittmar Jr & Stephen J laquinta. B-Jeff S Jones. T-Eric Ell. D-Ron Pierce, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 55-14-14-8, \$283,512

Wednesday's Results

10, DD, \$20,000, T, Open Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 4 Drawn Post Positions 5 & 6 Assigned, 27.3, 55.4, 1:25.0, 1:54.1, GD

Modern Family (h, 5, Cantab Hall--Domestic Diva, by Yankee Glide), \$110,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Daryl Scott Bier & Charles A Dombeck & Richard Poillucci. B-Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par. T-Daryl Bier. D-Daryl Bier, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 39-14-3-5, \$283,822

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Thursday's Results

8, DD, \$30,000, P, Open Preferred Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 4 Drawn Post Positions 5 thru 8 Drawn, 26.2, 54.4, 1:23.0, 1:50.2, FT

1-Dancin Yankee (h, 6, Yankee Cruiser--Dancewiththebest, by Cambest), \$17,000 2009 OH-SEL O-Baron Racing Stable. B-Elizabeth C Wagner. T-Josh Green. D-Chris Page, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 85-28-14-14, \$629,822

2-Texican N (g, 6, Bettor's Delight--Bury My Heart, by In The Pocket) O-Harry von Knoblauch. B-Mrs M Carson, NZ. T-Peter Tritton. D-Ross Wolfenden, \$7,500

3-Rock On Moe (g, 6, Rocknroll Hanover--Armbro Maureen, by Cam Fella), \$82,000 2009 LEX-SEL O-Jrlr LLC. B-Emerald Highlands Farm. T-Rosemary Smutz. D-George Dennis, \$3,600
Calls: 4Q, 3, 2H, 1, 2

Finish Order: Adventure Bound, Bigtown Hero, A Cool Card, Gd Airliner, Special Forces

To view replay click [here](#)

10, DD, \$27,500, P, DELAWARE Special Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 3 Drawn Post Positions 4 thru 8 Drawn, 26.2, 54.0, 1:22.0, 1:50.4, FT

All Stienam (g, 5, Tell All--Odds On Stienam, by Western Hanover), \$27,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Jj&M Stable & Green Racing Inc. B-Robert B Burgess, CA & Poole Farms, CA. T-Josh Green. D-Chris Page, \$13,750, Lifetime

Record: 54-13-11-3, \$208,073
To view replay click [here](#)



Near the Limit Scores 50th Career Win
Thursday, February 06, 2014 - by Ayers Ratliff, Northfield Park Publicity Department

Northfield, OH --- Near The Limit trotted home for his 50th career victory, winning the 11th race at Northfield Park on Wednesday (Feb. 5).



Near The Limit is a Win Machine
(JJ Zamaiko Photo)

The classy veteran has 222 career starts, winning 50 times, and finishing second and third 28 and 31 times, respectively. Near The Limit (Yankee Glide-Cardinal Lexie) has career earnings of \$361,542 and a lifetime mark of 1:54.1 at the Meadowlands at age four.

The trotter's richest win was for a purse of \$23,000 in a \$50,000 claiming race at the Meadowlands in 2009. His 50 wins have been spread across 10 different racing surfaces and four different states.

Near The Limit started from post six on Wednesday and virtually made every pole a winning one, posting fractions of :28.3, :57.4, 1:28 and 1:59.2. He finished 1-1/4 lengths clear of his closest competitor, Smooth Power (Robin Miller). Near The Limit returned \$14.40 to win.

Bert Dale Hershberger owns Near The Limit. Trainer Marvin Raber called upon JD Wengerd to drive for this milestone triumph.

The Raber/Wengerd connection teamed up for another victory in the evening's 12th race with veteran trotter Timer.



Monday's Results

3, Wdb. \$34,000, Trot. Preferred. 26.4, 56.1, 1:24.4, 1:53 FT

Hldontghttoyurdrms (g,5 - Muscles Yankee-Sweet Gabriella-Malabar Man) O-Frank Spagnolo-Frank Schimizzi, Saverio Spagnolo. B-Carolyn Atherton. T-Colin Johnson. D-Jonathan Drury, \$17,000. Lifetime Record: 37-12-5-3, \$146,204