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Sunday, March 9, 2014

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How To Make Harness Racing On TV Work

In last week's Harness Racing Update, Jeff Gural detailed his push to get harness racing on television.

"Even though this is expensive I think we have to find a way to make it work," Gural said. "I think it's a no-brainer to do this."

On the surface, I think most agree, and let's face it, with hundreds of millions of dollars in slot revenue the last ten years or so, it probably should've been done long ago. Sure it's expensive, but so is losing



CBS Sports Network will broadcast the 2014 Hambletonian and, perhaps, several other major races

market share and handle over the years.

However, I am not overly sold on television in its current form helping harness racing, or horse racing in general, as much as some might think.

Rodeo is still on TV in some places. Do you watch it? How about pro bowling? Are you a big pro bowling fan because it's on the tube?

The Tour of Columbia was on the box a few weeks ago. It's a bike race. Did you watch it? Did you buy a bike or one of those spandex outfits to wear around after you watched? Just because something is on television it does not mean it will help business. And with the way racing has been presented on television it has not done it much good at all.

Case in point: The current system. The ratings for the Donn Handicap at Gulfstream last month on Fox Sports 1, featuring an excellent field that included Will Take Charge, attracted only 66,000 viewers. Derby prep races are not much different. This hasn't exactly been catching on, and I don't think that would surprise anyone.

So, is it a dumb idea? Is it like flushing marketing money down the toilet? I don't think so. I think it has upside; for a few reasons.

i) The Older Demographic Watches Television: TV shows

are created with the younger demographic in mind, because they are the ones spending all the money; on shoes, or movies, or kids, or houses, or cars. This demographic drives advertising dollars and it's deemed the be all and end all. The older demo, conversely, is a niche demo that is undeserved. They are not watching a Pit Bull concert (for those who do not know, this is a man who sings, not a furry dog) on a pirated feed somewhere, they are watching television. They also have free time (racing cards are hours, not minutes) and money. What's not to like? Niche sports like curling north of the border are geared to a much older demo, and they are thriving. It can be done.

ii) Racing does not have the foggiest idea how to show live events: We see a human interest story about the horse who ended up in Suzy's field who's running in the fourth. There's a story about a horse named for a fellow who likes to drink at a bar, or likes to "have another" of something; I don't really know. None of these tactics seem to work, but telecast after telecast, there they are. There is an upside, because at the present moment, this message is all racing seems to cling to.

iii) Gambletainment: As gambling becomes more and more accepted, with poker being passed in Jersey and a

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Larry Cohen

SHARK GESTURE p, 2, 1:51.3; 3, 1:49.1; 1:48.1s (\$2,822,092)
Cam's Card Shark - Simple Gesture - Western Hanover

The winner of 31 sub 1:50 miles (4 sub-1:49), he beat the best of the best (Foiled Again, Mister Big, Art Official, Artistic Fella, Won The West, Shadow Play, and many more) and was the:

- Two-time winner of the William Haughton Memorial and Graduate.
- Winner of the Breeders Crown, Dan Patch Invitational, Bettor's Delight, Canadian Pacing Derby, Tattersalls, and Blue Grass.

His second crop, foaled in Pennsylvania, are now 2yos-in-training getting rave reviews:

- Trainer/Driver David Miller said his filly Hex as "a big, strong, great-gaited, intelligent filly who is showing excellent speed."
- Jenny Melander describes her Shark Gesture filly as "big and sturdy, with heart, speed, intelligence and strength."
- Trainer Fred Grant said his Shark Gesture colt is "very good-gaited, very sound, very willing and has tons of speed."

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slots parlor on every street corner, the gambling side of racing can be explored more and more on the air. This is a good thing, because this market has never really been attacked with a live racing event. If in the future there is a \$35 million dollar pick 6 pool like they have in Sweden because they've made things easier when it comes to wagering lottery bets (like is likely to happen in Ontario), things can explode on the tube, with people buying a ticket and tuning in to see how they do.

In Australia they sometimes run the "Fat Quaddie" promotion, which is a zero percent rake pick 4 that draws millions of dollars, and TV eyeballs. I remember chatting with the late John Cashman years ago and he wanted some sort of carryover bet that could be paid out on Hambo Day. I think he was right. Can you imagine if the Jug is shown on television and not only is there racing for a piece of Americana, but someone will win a \$10 million dollar pick 6?

iv) The built in ecosystem: 10,000 people showed up for the Gold Cup and Saucer. 15,000 attended the opener at the Meadowlands. 45,000 showed up for the Jug. And those races are not the Breeders Cup' or a Triple Crown race. Horse lovers are everywhere, and so are bettors at simo-outlets, and in front of their computer screens all day. This is a demographic smorgasbord and provides racing with a ready-made base. This base needs to be energized to support the races on television, and they have not been. Ratings drive interest from networks and advertisers. The sport needs to rally around the tube and send a message that racing is something that can draw ad dollars, and I think with some work, it can be done.

v) Partnerships and Branding: Harness racing is not Thoroughbred racing. It will never have a Broadway star singing a national anthem like we saw at the Breeders' Cup. A red carpet at the Little Brown Jug is the towel below your lawn chair that your son spilled cranberry juice on. Harness racing is small town. It's community. This, like an older demographic on television, is undeserved. NASCAR blossomed well ahead of open wheel racing in North America because it isn't open wheel racing; it's picnic tables, and Hardee's, and beer and shorts and tee shirts. State tourism boards support it, and people who are a part of the demographic it caters to, do as well. It might take time, but there are synergies if harness racing's roots are shown on a TV set near you.

Racing on the tube? Good idea, I guess. But with some work, I think it could be a great idea.



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!



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Off a Six-Year Layoff, Celebrity Secret Poised
 to Return to Races

By Perry Lefko

Celebrity Secret proved to be an outstanding racehorse before he was retired to stallion duty after his sophomore season, but all these years later he's being pointed toward a comeback. Owner Sam Stathis plans to both race the 9-year-old horse and stand him at stud this year.



The trotter is standing at Stathis' Celebrity Farms in Goshen, New York. Stathis owned and raced the son of Yankee Glide out of

Six years after he finished fourth in the Hambletonian, Celebrity Secret is back (USTA photo)

(continued on next page)

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HYPNOTIC BLUECHIP	P4, 147.2 M \$1,787,311
Santanna Blue Chip	P2, 151.3 M \$1,622,636

Top 3 All Time Record

Art Official	P3, 147.0 M
HYPNOTIC BLUECHIP	P4, 147.2 M (World Record)
OK Commander	P3, 147.4 M

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the American Winner mare Aimees Promise. In two seasons of racing, he won six of 28 starts, posted four seconds and one third, totaling almost \$1.1 million in earnings. In his sophomore season, he won six of 20 races and more than \$800,000, scoring victories in the Bluegrass and New Jersey Sires Stakes for three-year-old colts. He also posted six seconds, many of them in major races.

He regularly battled Deweycheatumhowe, one of the most dominant trotters of his generation. In one of those races, Deweycheatumhowe won in a time of 1:50 4/5, with Celebrity Secret only three-quarters of a length back, stopping the clock in 1:51 and finishing the final quarter of a



Celebrity Secret today

mile in 27 seconds flat.

Sweden's Broline International offered Stathis a substantial amount of money to buy the horse following his sophomore season and develop him as a stallion. The colt sired some horses, but when Broline offered Stathis a chance to buy the horse back last fall he seized the opportunity to bring him back home to breed to his mares while also marketing him as a commercial stud for a \$5,000 fee.

Stathis also bought five young horses that Celebrity Secret sired as a means to help market him as a stud because he believes the offspring have the potential to do well. Four of the horses are two-year-olds training in New York, including two fillies, Celebrity Sweden and Celebrity Promise, that are showing some early promise. There is also a three-year-old, Eldorado Of Gold S, training solidly in Florida with Ronnie Gurfein.

"I may be partial, but I'm also trying to be impartial and look at it practically and the babies are training really well right now," Stathis said. "He's bred some mares (in Sweden) and had some horses race in stakes races, but it's a hard gauge over there because they don't race two- and three-year-olds like we do," Stathis' assistant trainer Don Taylor said. "I think his oldest foals are now four, maybe only three. They had some success - not a huge success. We know what a great horse he is; we know what his pedigree is. His second dam comes from the crop of some of the greatest broodmares ever."

The idea to bring him back to the races stemmed from the physical appearance of the horse.

"He was a nine-year-old horse with a four-year-old body," Stathis told Harness Racing Update. "So we decided to put him back into training to see if he had the desire to race again."

Stathis is a combination entrepreneur/investor/developer/engineer/inventor who is also a hands-on owner. This move is relative uncharted territory.

"I talked to a lot of people about this - it really hadn't been tried a lot - but the horses in the Prix d'Amerique or the

Ellitloppet are always older horses," Stathis said. "They're the horses that beat themselves up for eight or nine years. We brought him back very slowly, a lot of slow miles, and right now he's in pretty good form. So far I'm really happy I decided to let him do it. I retired him sound and knew the horse as well as anybody else. There's so much upside and I think the horse deserves a shot. He's a true athlete and we're going to give him every chance to make it."

Stathis hopes the horse will be ready to qualify in mid-May.

"He's been phenomenal," Taylor said. "He's been back training in 2:25. I didn't train the horse when he raced, but as far as I can tell he hasn't lost a step. He's just a great athlete. He's not even a horse. He acts more like a professional athlete. He loves his job. He's just an exceptional individual. He's big, he's strong, has a great attitude. He seems really, really good. The horse looks forward every day to training. He gets upset if he doesn't jog. The horse enjoys his work. He loves his job and going out there and playing and having a good time. He goes out on off the track every day like a two-year-old. He feels good. He's training great. He really is."

"One thing you've got to understand about Sam: he's a big-time businessman, but he loves his horses and gives them every opportunity in the world. Every day has just been a pleasant surprise with this horse. If someone had sent him to me and told me this horse was racing as a three-year-old last year I'd have believed it. He doesn't act like he's missed a beat."

"We've made him eligible to some good stakes races," Taylor added. "I know the competition is a tall order, but

(continued on next page)

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he's going to dictate what he does, not us. If he's not ready for something, we're not going to do it. I have no doubt in my mind that once he is back in racing, he's going to surprise a lot of people. He's not going to surprise me, but he'll surprise a lot of people. He's got every reason in the world to come back and be a great horse again.

"I don't know how many trotters that have raced in 1:51, especially three-year-olds. Hopefully he'll do it again. He's one of the reasons you get up in the morning. He weighs 1,200 pounds. He's just an absolute perfect specimen of a horse. He's the most beautiful horse I've ever seen. He's a large horse and nothing but muscle. For a horse that hasn't raced in more than five years, it's scary."

Though Living in Texas, Holland Will Drive at Yonkers

Talk about your tough commutes.

Yonkers regular Brent Holland has moved to Texas but plans on returning to Yonkers shortly.



Brent Holland will be back at Yonkers

Holland said he moved to Frisco, Texas, which is near Dallas, so that his wife could be closer to her family. He has not driven since Dec. 13 at Yonkers. While in Texas and not driving Holland explored other business ventures but decided that the best place for him was back at Yonkers.

"We moved here and are trying to get some businesses going here," he said. "I have

been pursuing some other things. The cost of living is a lot cheaper here and it is a nice place. I will come back, race full time at Yonkers the rest of year and go from there."

Holland was the eighth leading driver at Yonkers in 2013 with 146 wins. He said he mulled making a switch to the Ohio tracks.

"I considered Ohio because my mom and dad live there, but Yonkers is tough to beat," he said. "It's the best place in the county to race. Most of the best drivers are there. It is competitive, it's challenging. It has a lot of good things going for it."

Holland said he has looked into ventures in the health care and beverage businesses. He said that if he were eventually able to make a go of either business he may retire from racing so that he could stay in Texas.

Balmoral & Maywood Ready for 2014 Openers (Press release)

With a new 16-month contract with the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association in place both Maywood Park and Balmoral Park are busily preparing for the opening of the 2014 racing season which will take place on Friday, March 14th at Maywood Park. Balmoral Park will host its opening weekend of racing on Saturday, March 15th and Sunday, March 16th. As always, post time at both tracks will be 7:10 p.m. (central).

Racing Secretary "Doc" Narotsky has announced the "box" is now open for the Friday program at Maywood Park and

entries will close at 10 a.m. (central) on Monday, March 10th. Entries for the opener at Balmoral will be taken until Wednesday, March 12th at 10 a.m. (central).

In a slight departure from its usual racing schedule Balmoral Park will be dark on Wednesday, March 19th and Wednesday, March 26th before getting into full swing with its usual Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday racing schedule. Maywood will race on Thursdays and Fridays as usual.

A full stake schedule for both tracks will be announced shortly.

Also, with the new contract in place Balmoral-Maywood's ADW provider, BetZotic is back up and fully operational. For more information on this exciting new way to play, please go to www.betzotic.com

Services Wednesday for Owner-breeder Bruce Mc Elven

MANALAPAN, NJ – March 8, 2014 – Bruce B. McElven, age 66, co-owner of the 2002 Trotting Horse of the Year Fool's Goal, passed away suddenly March 6, 2014 at home.

He was a lifelong resident of Pemberton, NJ, and graduate of Pemberton Township High School Class of 1966.

McElven was a fuel oil merchant and was the second generation owner of McElven Fuel Inc., Pemberton. He was a member of Grace Episcopal Church and former member of the Pemberton Rotary and the Pemberton Sportsman's Club.

He co-owned and bred, with Ron Allen, the Jim Doherty-trained Fool's Goal, who raced from 1997 to 2005, posting 35 wins, nine seconds and 10 thirds from 112

(continued on next page)

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Grand Circuit Events

#4) Kentucky Futurity #123
Foals of 2012 to Race in 2015

#5) Tattersalls Pace 2015
Foals of 2012 to Race in 2015

PAYMENT DUE FOR EVENTS #4 & 5

March 15	OPEN	FILLY
a) Supplemental Payment due March 15	\$500	\$300
	\$1,000	\$500

a) Those horses not nominated to these events by the yearling payment may be made eligible by making the two-year-old supplemental payment of the fees designated above.

#6) International Stallion Stakes #112
Foals of 2012 to Race in 2014
PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENT #6

#7) Bluegrass Series #40
Foals of 2012 to Race in 2014
PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENT #7

March 15	\$300	*March 15	\$350
April 15	\$400	April 15	\$450
May 15	\$500	May 15	\$550
b) Supplemental Payment due March 15	\$1,000	b) Supplemental Payment due March 15	\$550

b) Ineligible two year olds may be supplemented these events in 2014 by making the payment designated above on March 15 plus the April 15 and May 15 payments.

Future Eligibility:

*The March 15 payment guarantees eligibility to the Bluegrass Series #40 as a three year old.

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#8) OPEN PACE –TVG SERIES
 \$10,000G Elim: Sunday Sept 28
 \$180,000E Final: Sunday October 5

#9) OPEN TROT*-TVG SERIES
 \$10,000G Elim: Sunday Sept 28
 \$180,000E Final: Sunday, October 5

PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENTS #8 & 9

March 15:	\$1,500
April 15:	\$2,000
Declaration Fee:	\$2,500

#10) OPEN MARE PACE
 \$85,000E Event: Sunday, October 5

#11) OPEN MARE TROT*
 \$85,000E Final: Sunday, October 5

PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENTS #10 & 11

March 15:	\$1,000
April 15:	\$1,500
Declaration Fee:	\$1,500

*The Red Mile reserves the right to invite one horse to race in each of the trot finals subject to payment of all fees associated with this series.

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THREE YEAR OLD FILLY EARLY CLOSERS (OPEN)

#12) NADIA LOBELL-3YO FILLY PACE
 \$175,000E Friday October 31

#13) THE MONI MAKER- 3YO FILLY TROT
 \$175,000E Friday October 31

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS #12 & 13:

March 15	\$1,500
April 15	\$2,000
Declaration Fee	\$2,500

starts and earnings of \$3,057,070.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Edith McElven, and his brother, Buddy Dale.

He leaves his fiancé Sharon L. Scorer. He is the former husband of Kathy McElven, the father of Wendy Cicero, grandfather of Andrew and Matthew, uncle of Beth Castellini and her husband, Mike, close friend of Thomas and Lynora Budd and Marvin Maker, stepfather of Judy, Johnni, Jennifer and Jessica, and step grandfather of Andrew, Arianna and Lukas.

Visitation will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at the Lankenau Funeral Home, 31 Elizabeth Street, Pemberton Borough, NJ, with funeral service at 6 p.m.

National Debt Does It Again: Perfect Alliance Romps

National Debt remained undefeated last night at the Meadowlands as he held off Capital Account to win the final of the \$60,500 Buddy Gilmour Memorial. The Allamerican Native colt who began his career in Alberta wasn't able to dominate but he never seemed in any serious danger of losing once the field hit mid-stretch.

Though National Debt will no doubt face tougher horses and challenges down the road, Capital Account is no slouch. Owned by and bred by Brittany Farms and trained by Jimmy Takter, he came into this having won three straight, including a leg of the Gilmour.

Earlier on the card, Perfect Alliance stayed unbeaten on the year as she scored an easy win over the boys in the final of the Charles Singer Memorial.

National Debt began his career far outside the spotlight, racing in Alberta at Alberta Downs and Northlands Park in Western Canada. In search of tougher and richer assignments, his connections shipped him here for the Singer and were rewarded with an impressive win in the opening round of the series on Feb. 22. Shortly thereafter, prominent owner Jerry Silva came on board, buying a third of the colt.

Leaving from the one post, winning driver Tim Tetrick allowed Capital Account and Yannick Gingras to get past them on the first turn but quickly retook. From there it was a two-horse race. National Debt got to the half in 55.2 and the three-quarters in 1:23.1 Gingras tipped out for the stretch drive and National Debt simply held him off from there to win by a length in 1:50.3. He recorded the same time in his Meadowlands debut.

"It was a good mile," Tetrick said. "He went in 50 and it's March. That's pretty impressive for a young 3-year-old. He had a good horse on his back and that horse had every chance to get him. He dug in and got the job done. He's a little lazy. He still has a lot of learning to do but he's very, very talented.

"He's very calm and relaxed and let's me do what I want with him. I love him. He does everything right. We'll just have to see if he can go in 47."

Tetrick said he was unconcerned by the relatively short margin of victory.

"My horses did everything he had to do and he got the job done," he said. "It doesn't say on the check how much they



The house horse, Perfect Alliance, was impressive in the Singer Memorial

win by."

Owners Silva, Blair Corbeil and Kelly Hoerd and trainer Ron Coyne Jr. are hoping that National Debt will be able to pace in 1:47, the sort of time you need to win races like the Meadowlands Pace and the North America Cup. In the meantime, up next will be Pocono Downs for the Bobby Weiss series.

Perfect Alliance completed her sweep of the Charles Singer Memorial with a dominant 1:52.2 stakes record performance in the \$53,200 final for driver Andy Miller.

Ray Hall ranged up first over for Tim Tetrick and pressed the leader toward the 1:24 three-quarters before Perfect Alliance kicked into another gear and drew out to an open length win under minimal urging in the record mile. Longshot Little Bitty Lies rallied late for Marcus Miller to take the place and Time To Quit stuck around for third.

The winning exacta was an all Miller ticket as the winner is trained by Julie Miller and driven by her husband. The runner-up is trained by Andy Miller's brother Erv and is driven by Erv's son Marcus.

The owners of Perfect Alliance include Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural and Meadowlands CEO Jason Settlemyer.

Both National Debt (\$2.80) and Perfect Alliance (\$2.60) were heavy favorites.

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Gural Sheds Light on Casino/Monticello Situation in New York

As was pointed out on Friday in Harness Racing Update, what is happening at Monticello is hurting everyone. Even here at the Meadowlands our normal weekly handle on Monticello is about \$100,000 which means we are losing \$17,000 per week in revenue which we split with the horsemen. Obviously the big losers are the horsemen who, as you pointed out, are racing and in the case of the drivers are risking injury for practically nothing. Since so much has been written on the subject by both sides I thought it might be helpful if I gave a history of NYGA which hopefully will help resolve this dispute.

NYGA which is short for New York Gaming Association was formed in June 2011 and consisted of all nine racinos as members. James Featherstonhaugh, a well respected lobbyist and a partner of Saratoga Racino, was chosen as President and Chief Spokesperson for the organization. After a search Mike Wilton was hired as Executive Director and several other people were also added to the staff. The main purpose of forming NYGA was to try to convince the legislature to pass legislation authorizing a constitutional amendment that would be placed on the ballot in November 2013, which would allow casino gambling in New York State.

Beginning in 2012 when the legislature came back into session in January we all actively lobbied to try to get first passage of a constitutional amendment that would allow casino gambling. Although I spent very little on lobbyists because of the relations in Albany I had developed over the years, it is true that all of the members of NYGA had one or more lobbyists working on this issue. In March of 2012, as part of the budget debate the legislature passed language that would change the constitution to allow up to seven casino licenses to be issued statewide.

Under state law in order for that change to appear on the ballot it had to be passed again by the legislature that was elected to serve in 2013. To get the amendment on the ballot it had to be passed in the exact same form and in June of 2013, the legislature once again passed it in the same form. It was approved by the Secretary of State and was placed on the November 3rd ballot as Proposition One.

Simultaneously the legislature passed a bill that divided the state into nine regions; three of those regions had existing Indian casinos and the state negotiated compacts with all three tribes whereby they would have exclusivity in their geographic region. This effectively made it impossible for Buffalo, Batavia, Finger Lakes and Vernon Downs to apply for one of the seven licenses.



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Three of the regions were designated upstate regions; i.e., Catskills, Capital District and the Southern Tier and the legislation provided that four of the seven licenses had to be issued in those three regions. Further each region had to get a minimum of one license and one region, most likely the Catskills, getting two licenses.

There was also a provision that the three downstate regions could not be considered for casino licenses for a minimum of seven years. So as far as our industry is concerned, Tioga Downs, Saratoga and Monticello are the only racinos that can apply for licenses this year. While we had hoped when NYGA was formed for a different result where all nine of us would have been allowed to convert to casinos that is not what happened. The three of us can only compete for the license in our region with any other possible casino operator.

In the Southern Tier there are three other announced casino proposals expected. In the Catskills there are at least five or six being contemplated other than Monticello and in the Capital District there are two or three being considered plus Saratoga has to deal with the opposition from the local community. That may or may not impact the chance of getting a license.

The effect of this on the horsemen could have been extremely negative because for example at present Tioga Downs does \$60 million of VLT revenue and the horsemen and breeders receive approximately 10% or \$6 million. Were Tioga not to receive the license and one of the contenders for the license outside of Binghamton were to receive the license in all likelihood Tioga's VLT revenue would have declined to around \$40 million which would in

(continued on next page)

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P,2,1:52.1S; 3,1:47.2 (\$365,952)



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AT THREE

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effect have cost the horsemen at Tioga \$2 million.

In an effort to insure that the horsemen were protected the legislature included a provision that said that no matter who got the license in the Southern Tier region the horsemen had to be guaranteed that they would still receive \$6 million adjusted each year for inflation. So if Tioga was only paying \$4 million then whoever got the license would have to pay the additional \$2 million.

To be honest, that is what I assumed the law said but when the dispute at Monticello arose and Alan Schwartz complained that it also capped the monies going to the horsemen at the same number I was surprised. When I called Mike Wilton, the executive director, to ask him he did not know about it but offered to make some calls and find out. Sure enough the next day he confirmed what Alan Schwartz was saying, that the legislature both created a cap and a floor so in essence the horsemen at Tioga, and Monticello for that matter, which has similar VLT revenue, would be guaranteed \$6 million adjusted by inflation.

The horsemen obviously believe that if Monticello or Tioga were to get the license and see their slots revenue increase to \$80 million than they would receive the additional \$2 million. When I asked why it was done this way it was explained to me that the legislature and the governor wanted to maximize the value of the casino license fee and encourage as much economic development as possible. In their minds they were protecting the horsemen from any downside risk and at the same time accomplishing their goal of making the license more valuable.

In addition, we are all competing with outside forces making it more likely that more money would be spent developing the properties. At no time did any NYGA member have any impact on this legislation and, as I mentioned earlier, I did not even know it existed and neither did the executive director.

Having said that, I think it is hard to argue that the \$100 million that our industry receives from slots is such a bad deal especially when you consider that in New Jersey we get nothing, in Illinois they get nothing and in Canada they have to share \$80 million with the thoroughbreds.

What I do find extremely disturbing is the fact that the implication is that this piece of legislation is going to destroy the sport. What will destroy the sport in my opinion is the lack of customers, lack of interest on the part of the taxpayers and the inability to create new owners and breeders as us older guys fade into the sunset. The owners of Monticello, unlike Tioga and Saratoga, are proposing to actually relocate their facility and spend \$600 million on a new destination resort at the old Concord Hotel site. As part of that they would build a new state of the art grandstand and a new 5/8ths track while keeping the old facility and the barn area as a training facility. You would think considering the dilapidated condition that the existing grandstand is in that the horsemen would jump at the chance to have a brand new facility in which to hopefully attract new customers, new owners, etc. It is the only way we truly are going to have a future.

Instead the emphasis is solely on purses and we have seen that is short term thinking at best. While it would be nice to get an extra \$2 million it certainly is not hard to understand the state's position that they want to encourage

economic development and generate as much money as possible from the sale of the licenses. The problem the horsemen face, in my opinion, is the fact that Monticello is owned by a public company and the largest shareholder happens to be a billionaire living in Malaysia who I am sure is not nearly as impacted as the horsemen who are suffering economically with purses having been lowered so dramatically.

Mr. Schwartz can say anything he wants but I am prepared to put my hand on the bible, take a lie detector test or do anything anyone wants me to do to make it perfectly clear that the racetrack owners had no influence whatsoever on the legislation that the horsemen are so unhappy with. Since this is costing everyone money I would hope that there is a way to resolve this dispute because I doubt if the legislature has an appetite to change the law when their focus is purely on upstate economic development.

I would hope the horsemen would focus their attention on the design of the new facility and how to make it as customer friendly as possible so that we can actually attract new participants. In truth, the biggest risk for the horsemen at Monticello would be that Monticello does not get one of the licenses and if that were to happen and two new casinos with table games opened in the Catskills or in Orange County it would make it very difficult for the owners of Monticello to survive. As we just saw in Massachusetts at Plainridge the deciding factor in the selection of Plainridge as the winner of the slots license was the fact that they wanted to preserve horse racing and had they chosen one of the other two bidders it would have in essence caused harness racing to lose another venue.

I hope this is helpful as it is costing everyone money. The two sides should be working together to make sure that Monticello gets one of the licenses and actually builds what they have promised

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Mon. (4/14)	3rd Leg	\$6,500
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$20,000 Guaranteed

2 **The Legend Series**
\$8,000 Claiming Pace

Purse

Mon. (3/31)	1st Leg	\$6,500 (Per Division)
Mon. (4/7)	2nd Leg	\$6,500
Mon. (4/14)	3rd Leg	\$6,500
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$20,000 Guaranteed

3 **The Icon Series**
\$4,000 Claiming Pace

Purse

Tues. (4/1)	1st Leg	\$4,000 (Per Division)
Tues. (4/8)	2nd Leg	\$4,000
Tues. (4/15)	3rd Leg	\$4,000
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$15,000 Guaranteed

4 **The Juke Box Hero Series**
\$4,000 Claiming Trot

Purse

Wed. (4/2)	1st Leg	\$4,000 (Per Division)
Wed. (4/9)	2nd Leg	\$4,000
Wed. (4/16)	3rd Leg	\$4,000
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$15,000 Guaranteed

5 **The Diva Series**
F & M \$4,000 Claiming Pace

Purse

Thurs. (4/3)	1st Leg	\$4,000 (Per Division)
Thurs. (4/10)	2nd Leg	\$4,000
Thurs. (4/17)	3rd Leg	\$4,000
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$15,000 Guaranteed

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F & M \$8,000 Claiming Pace

Purse

Thurs. (4/3)	1st Leg	\$6,500 (Per Division)
Thurs. (4/10)	2nd Leg	\$6,500
Thurs. (4/17)	3rd Leg	\$6,500
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$20,000 Guaranteed

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Woodbine Report

2, WDB, \$28,000, P, NW \$28,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: NW \$175,000 LIFETIME. AE: OPT. CLM. \$75,000. 27, 56.2, 1:24.3, 1:52.2

1-Top Gear (b,g,7 - Real Desire-Trust Me Ashley-Ball And Chain) O-Grand River Racing Stable B-Millar Farms T-Therese Vrablic D-Michael Saftic \$14,000 Lifetime Record: 110-22-14-9 \$465,365

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Yonkers Report

6, YR, \$33,000, P, OPEN HANDICAP POST POSITIONS 1-3 ASSIGNED POST POSITIONS 4-8 DRAWN, 27.1, 56.0, 1:23.4, 1:52.2, FT

1-A J Corbelli (g, 7, Rocknroll Hanover--Valabesta, by Cambest) O-Anatolia Racing Stb Inc & Michel Allard, CA. B-Anatolia Racing Stb Inc. T-Rene Allard. D-Ron Pierce, \$16,500, Lifetime Record: 97-29-12-8, \$422,184

2-Mr Hasani N (g, 6, Christian Cullen--Miss Sands, by Sands A Flyin) O-Muscara Racing Trust. B-Aird Righ Bloodstock LTD, NZ. T-Darran Cassar. D-Jason Bartlett, \$8,250

3-Lumberjack Willie (g, 7, Lumber Hanover--Le Mora, by Cambest), \$4,000 2008 BHS O-Thomas Ceraso Jr. B-Ernie C Young & Jerry Andrews. T-Jack Franklin. D-Jordan Stratton, \$3,960

Calls: 5, 5, 3, 3, H - Finish Order: Clear Vision, Pan From Nantucket, Fat Mans Alley, American Rage, Sapphire City
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8, YR, \$24,000, P, WINNERS OVER \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS HANDICAP POST POSITION 1 ASSIGNED POST POSITIONS 2-8 DRAWN, 28.2, 57.3, 1:25.4, 1:53.0, FT

1-P H Supercam (g, 7, Million Dollar Cam--Callwood Ivy, by Run The Table) O-Bamond Racing LLC. B-Dr R James Shive, CA. T-Pj Fraley. D-Jason Bartlett, \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 123-29-19-22, \$321,601

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11, YR, \$20,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 28.1, 58.0, 1:25.4, 1:54.1, FT

1-Panongahela (g, 4, No Pan Intended--Parapanalia, by Noble Ability) O-William E Emmons. B-Peter Pan Stables Inc. T-David Pinkney Jr. D-Larry Stalbaum, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 36-12-4-4, \$167,086

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12, YR, \$20,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 28.3, 58.0, 1:25.2, 1:53.4, FT

1-Lightning Raider N (g, 9, Christian Cullen--Talent Hanover, by Albatross) O-Shaun F Vallee. B-D J Bennett, NZ & Ms L A Joyce, NZ. T-Anita Vallee. D-Brian Sears, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 133-25-23-12, \$438,654

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