



Monday, May 26, 2014



Market Shares Sizzles in World-Record Performance in Maxie Lee

By Bill Finley

CHESTER, Pa.—Eight days after what may have been the worst night of his career Market Share roared back with a vengeance yesterday at Harrah's Chester winning the \$250,000 Maxie Lee in the world record time of 1:50.2.

"He was crazy good today," said winning driver Tim Tetrick, who had six victories on the afternoon and also won



It had been an up-and-down couple of weeks for the Market Share team. The son of Revenue began his year with an impressive win in the elims for the Cutler Memorial, which seemed

Market Share, on his way to victory in the Maxie Lee (photo by Chris Tully)

to set him up for a memorable showdown with Sebastian K in the final and, perhaps, a trip to Sweden for the Elitlopp. But everything unraveled when Market Share broke early into that race.

Afterward, trainer Linda Toscano said all the right things and claimed she wasn't the least bit worried about her horse. Yesterday she was more forthcoming.

"Was I worried today? I was ready to barf until the quarter," she said.

"When you can't explain something it's hard to fix what you can't explain," she added. "If you know going into it you have a problem, you do something and work on it. The truth is the horse came into the race great and came out of the race great. He just made a break."

After the Cutler final Toscano and owner Richard Gutnick decided that going to the Elitlopp was not in their best interests and focused instead on the Maxie Lee. With Sebastian K sitting this one out and with Uncle Peter and Maven competing in Sweden the race looked like a gimme for Market Share, but he had to work hard for the victory.

Market Share, the 3-10 favorite, settled into fourth after Sevruga won a scramble for the lead. On the backstretch, Tetrick pulled and began a sustained drive, going after Sevruga. He collared him on the final turn and got by him in mid-stretch to win by two lengths.

The time eclipsed the previous world record set last year at Pocono Downs when Uncle Peter went in 1:50.3

"Everyone knows this is a tough track for trotters and he

overcame," Tetrick said.. "He's a great horse. You look at him and you don't think he can trot in 50, but he's got a big heart. He did everything right. Sevruga raced his butt off; he set big fractions and still got home in 28.2. I just got home in 28.1. He just had a bad day last week. Athletes have bad days. Michael Jordan didn't always score 50."

It was a gratifying win for all involved as it appears the tough decision to pass the Elitlopp was the right one.

"It really did work out for the best," owner Richard Gutnick said. "He wasn't quite ready to go over to Sweden after what we were hoping would be a much better Cutler final. Things happen and you go forward. I am ecstatic today. Maxie Lee was my mentor and he taught me a lot. To win a race in his honor is big for me."

Market Share's redeeming win set the stage for what figures to be a memorable year for the free-for-all trotters. As good as Market Share was yesterday he still has to show that he can beat Sebastian K and there are plenty of other horses out there waiting in the wings to prove they are the best in the division. Toscano knows nothing will come easy this year.

"I just want him to go out there and race his best race every week," she said. "I have no delusions that Im going to win every race. That's not the way we're going into it. We decided to bring theses horses back as aged horses and I think what we're hoping to do is to promote the sport that we all love and want the general public to get involved in. I want great rivalries and great match-ups between all of us. I don't want people to turn this into a two-horse match-up (with Sebastian K) because I don't believe that is the case."

With so many fast trotters in the division everyone will keep their eyes on the teletimer in future races looking for someone to break the 1:50 barrier on a track that is a mile or shorter in circumference. If Market Share can go in 1:50.2 on a five-eights tracks how fast can he or one of his rivals go in optimal conditions on a mile track?

"Our racing is synonymous to the Olympics these days," Toscano said. "In order to win you're going to have to set records. We go forward. We get faster. The breed is getting faster, our equipment is getting lighter. We treat them as equine athletes at this point and just like in the Olympics every time they win they seem to set an Olympic record or a world record and I think you're going to see the same thing here."

Gutnick said the 2015 Elitlopp is definitely in his plans, but that's a year away. There are more immediate goals, like beating Sebastian K.

"I was wishing we could race Sebastian K tomorrow," Gutnick said. "I congratulate him. He raced great. But we want to go head to head with him."

That's sure to happen soon and Market Share will be ready. He could not have looked better yesterday.



With Shebestingin Out, Anndrovette Wins Betsy Ross

By Bill Finley

CHESTER, Pa–They tried a new strategy with Anndrovette, and it worked. With driver Tim Tetrick taking a



more aggressive approach than he had in the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers the veteran pacing mare was sharp in victory yesterday at Harrah's Chester as she won the \$250,000 Betsy Ross by two lengths over Rocklamation in 1:50.2

The USTA's Mike Tanner presents the Betsy Ross trophy to trainer P.J Fraley (Chris Tully photo)

It was her first win since an early leg of the Matchmaker on April 4. In the Yonkers race she was content to wait and come from mid-pack, but Tetrick had her on go yesterday. She made a

brush on the first turn, got to the half in 53.4 and never looked back.

"Getting her off the half mile was the key," winning trainer P.J. Fraley said. "She can get around these turns a little better. She can go the 26 quarters here where at Yonkers she can't get around those turns that well. Once she gets to the front she can go as much as you want her to go."

The race bacema lot easier when morning line favorite Shebestingin was scratched, sick. With her out, the bettors settle don Drop The Ball, making her the 13-10 chalk. Driven by Corey Callahan, she was second after three-quarters but faded late to finish sixth.

Now 7, Anndrovette also won this race in 2011.

"She is all guts, that's all I can say," Fraley said. "And she is sound; she doesn't have any lameness issues. Jogging and stuff she takes care of her self' she doesn't pick the bit up, she just kind of lopes along and that helps."

Anndrovette paid \$13.40 to win and won for the 37th time in her career.

Good News, Bad News for Holloway

For trainer Joe Holloway the Betsy Ross was a bit of a mess. He had hoped to race both of his stand-out pacing mares, Shebestingin and Somwherovrarainbow, but was told

by Chester officials that he could only go with one. He chose to enter Shebestingon, only to have defect with that mare after she came down with an illness.

But the day was not a total loss for the veteran trainer as Somwherovrarainbow won Plan B, a \$25,000 Preferred at Pocono Downs. With Tim Tetrick driving, she won by 7 1/4 lengths in 1:48. It was the fastest time ever by an aged pacing mare, shaving four-fifths of a second off the record held by Drop The Ball. By way of comparison, the race went 2 2/5 seconds faster than the Betsy Ross.

Holloway was hoping to record two big wins yesterday but chose to scratch Shebestingin after she came down with a temperature.

"I guess it just wasn't meant to be," Holloway said of the Betsy Ross. "She might have been able to race today and she might or might not have been ok. But I know that by scratching her she will definitely be ok. It just wasn't worth taking the chance."

At Pocono, Somwherovrarainbow paid \$2.80 and gave Tetrick his seventh winner on the day.

Menary: He's Watching Will Be Back to Fight Another Day

Trainer Dave Menary has yet to come up with an explanation for He's Watching's poor performance in Saturday's elims for the Art Rooney but vowed yesterday that the American Ideal colt will bounce back.

In his first start as a 3-year-old He's Watching finished last as the 1-10 favorite Saturday.

"I don't know yet what it is but when a horse that good races like that there's always a reason," Menary said. "For now, we'll take it day by day. This horse did not get beat. He beat himself. He's still better than good horse. He's still a freak. We'll be back."

With He's Watching not making it into the Rooney final, Menary will have to veer off of his original plan. He said the Somebeachsomewhere at Mohawk is an option as is a New York ire Stakes race next Sunday at Tioga. Menary said he will also consider waiting until the elims for the North America Cup.

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Maven Sixth as Timoko Wins Elitlopp By Lucas Marquardt

STOCKHOLM, Sweden--After a tough, two-wide trip in the first heat of yesterday's Elitloppet at Solvalla that got her to the finals, the Jonas Czernyson-trained Maven (Glidemaster) failed to muster her best in the main event and had to settled for sixth, as French invader Timoko (Imoko) held off Panne de Moteur (Credit Winner) to win the roughly \$892,000 event in a race-record 1:51.4. Both Timoko and Panne de Moteur won their respective heats; Maven finished third in Timoko's elimination.

"She was tired in that second heat," said Maven's driver



Yannick Gingras. "The shipping, the tough trip in the first elimination, it was just too much. I knew going into the [final] it wasn't going to work out."

America's other hope, trainer Jimmy Takter's Uncle Peter (Cantab Hall), couldn't overcome his own wide trip in the second of two heats for

Uncle Peter heads to the track for the Elitlopp elims

the Elitlopp and didn't make the cut, fading toward the back of the pack.

"He felt fine, but it was just too tough a trip to ask him to do," said driver David Miller, who pulled early and was never able to get cover. "It was a long way to be first up. I was hoping to maybe get somebody in front of me there, but it just didn't work out."

Things began well enough on the day for Team America. Gingras won the first race on the card with the 7-1 chance Spark Rick. But that's where the winning ended.

Prior to the first heat, Maven got agitated when groom Carline Mundin tried to put on a head pole with just a few minutes to post. A Solvalla employee yelled to Gingras that he was allowed to steer her off the track, and after a minute delay Maven returned in proper order.

"She wasn't really crazy about stopping and putting on the headpole," said Gingras. "But that was Maven being Maven. I was actually surprised how relaxed she was here today. Other than that incident, she was perfect with the noise and the crowd."

With Maven leaving from post six in the first elimination, Gingras had to pull early to give the 5-year-old a shot at even making the final, and she kicked on well enough to complete the trifecta behind Timoko and Digital Ink, who needed a photo to separate them.

Asked about the ground loss, Gingras said, "I figured that's what was going to happen. I didn't want to torture her early in that first heat and maybe save something for the final. Maybe I was a little too anxious there and moved too early. But she put in a good performance."

The elimination did take its toll. In the final, Maven--again in the six hole--was forced to take the overland route, and this time she lacked the needed punch in the stretch. The 7-year-old Timoko, meanwhile, was sent right to the front by Sweden's leading driver Björn Goop, who was able to steal away through :28 and :56.4 fractions. It was Goop's second Elitlopp win, but the first in which he crossed the line on top. In 2006, the first two across the wire, Jag de Bellouet and Lets Go, were disqualified in a doping scandal.

Timoko is trained by Richard Westerink, who said at the winner's circle presentation, "This is not just the biggest day in my career, but the biggest day in my life."

While it wasn't trainer Jonas Czernyson's biggest or best day, it still was a noteworthy one. The U.S-based conditioner was returning to his native country to send out his first Elitlopp starter in Maven, and it's a good guess that he'll be back again. He was disappointed but philosophical about Maven's defeat.

"We were in the slower first heat, so I was hoping to see a little more out of her [in the final], but she raced good and stayed at it," he said. "She just got tired in the end, Unfortunately. I think it was everything all put together--she had a tough journey getting here--but I'm still proud of my mare. We've got more races to win with her. We came to win with her, and that didn't happen, so I guess we'll have to come back again."

His driver, Yannick Gingras, said he enjoyed his first Elitlopp experience.

"This was great," he said. "This race ranks right there with the Little Brown Jug, the Meadowlands Pace, the Hambletonian...it's a race I want to win. It's on my bucket list now. I'll be back, either as a driver or a spectator. I've had a great time. It could have been better, as far as racing luck, but the rest of it couldn't have been any better."

Takter Wins With Corky On Undercard

Trainer Jimmy Takter didn't make it to the Elitlopp final with Uncle Peter, but he did get a consolation prize when another U.S. shipper from his barn, Corky (Muscles Yankee), won a feature race on the undercard that carried a purse of about \$140,000. In the bike was his brother Johnny Takter, who also won the female division of the race with The Divine Miss F. (Kiss Francais). The 4-year-old Corky is owned in part by John Fielding, who was on hand with his son David. The affable Fielding didn't let Uncle Peter's disappointing result get him down, and was all smiles after Corky's win. Fielding also had a nice day at the windows--he hit 6 of 7 on the V75 (Sweden's Pick 7).

"That was quite an exciting thing," Fielding said about the Elitlopp. "We'll be back. Maybe with Father Patrick. Heck, maybe with Corky. Someone told me that a lot of 4-year-olds who win that race come back and do well in the Elitlopp."

Takter said he was happy to win at least one race for his owners. "It was good to bring my owners from the United States, to have John [Fielding] and his son David," he said. "It means a lot to me to have them come over to my home country. They believed in me and sent over this horse, and

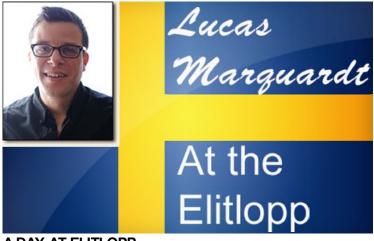


I'm so happy for them. I've been here before, and don't get me wrong, I love it. But I love to see my friends have success like this more. "

As for Uncle Peter's elimination, Takter said he saw the writing on the wall early in the race. "You can't go

Maven in action at Solvalla

outside here in a race like that, with that speed and those fractions," he said. "I knew right away when David chose to go outside we were screwed. It's always the horses that save ground. You saw it in the final, with the horses that ran first, second and third. If you're outside, it's two lengths every turn, and it was the same with Yannick's horse in the final. She never got a shot, going three, four wide. It's impossible."



A DAY AT ELITLOPP

Well, my first Elitlopp was a success in every way an event can be judged. I got to hang out with some terrific people, including the connections of Maven and Uncle Peter, cashed a few winning tickets, and avoided the sunburn that roughly a fifth of the local crowd seemed to be sporting. Haven't been to Sweden's biggest horse race? Here are some impressions.

The crowd was a mix of middle class and blue collar folks intent on soaking up the sun and Åbro (a local ale). It was a great atmosphere, falling somewhere between a soccer game and a county fair. There was no shortage of shirtless, heavily tattooed men--i'm not sure i've seen as many arm sleeves in one place at one time--and the women were no shrinking violets. Many sported an equal amount of ink.

Solvalla expected 35,000 on Sunday, and with a largely cloudless day, it can be guessed they reached at least that number.

After the fourth race on the card, an opening ceremony was held, with rows of children in white, hoisting bright pink Elitloppet flags, trailing a massive, 75-foot banner that was carried along down the center of the racetrack. The drivers and trainers of the Elitlopp were introduced to the crowd. Wearing their colors, they stood atop a pink, open-roofed double decker bus that drove along the edge of the track. Yannick Gingras clearly got a kick out of the experience. The Canadian waved at the crowd and posed for pictures with the other international drivers. He was joined by Jimmy Takter, Jonas Czernyson and, sitting at the back of the bus, David Miller. Swedish driver/trainer Daniel Redén showed good arm strength launching Elitlopp t-shirts into the crowd.

A children's choir performed a rendition of a local pop hit,



Yannick Gingras checks out the action yesterday at Solvalla

"Wake Me Up," and the Swedish national anthem brought the crowd to its feet.

There were some nice touches as the Elitlopp races approached. The horses were well spaced during the post parade, giving a dramatic flare that was accentuated by an operatic soundtrack. The races themselves were terrific. Obviously, the

results weren't what American fans were hoping for, the horse's connections couldn't have represented the U.S. better. Big international events are important for the sport, and North American participation adds to these days.

On a personal note, that inspired attention to detail I referenced in my first blog--when I flew into the 'wrong' airport in Stockholm--nearly meant a \$1,200 swing yesterday. Unlike in America, where trifectas are given to the teller verbally, Sweden's "trios" are done on a card the bettor fills out.

My heart was with Maven, but after seeing Timoko on the backstretch before that first heat, the French invader had my money. So for the final, I had a teller help me fill out a card: Timoko on top, four others underneath, with an 80 krona base wager, so 960 in all, or about \$150. I did another, smaller bet with Timoko and Maven on top for about \$50. About 15 minutes later, as race 12 was going off, I looked at the betting slips I was given, and realized I'd put down the wrong race number--13 instead of 14. No problem. I went to the nearest teller to void the bet. She shook her head. "Sorry, bets can only be changed after couple minutes," she said in broken English. "Too long."

I thought maybe there was a language barrier, and so went to another teller. Same thing: the bet can only be changed in the first few minutes after making it. Now, \$200 isn't all that much money in the grand scheme, but for a racing reporter, it's enough that throwing it away is unpleasant. So, literally sweating now, I gave a third teller a chance. Same thing. But in came a FOURTH teller, who overheard and was maybe a manager. He furiously typed away at his console, and one by one, was able to void the defective tickets. A good thing, since the replacements were worth a bit under \$1,000. After the race, I made sure I found the last tellers to cash out, and offered up a small tithe to my new favorite Swedes.

In all, a great first trip to Sweden and Solvalla, and not my last. Maybe HRU can arrange a group trip next year for

elitloppet 14 - sunday



Groom Caroline Mundin runs alongside Maven



Uncle Peter's co-owner John Fielding (right) and son David



Trotters under saddle on an undercard race





photos by Lucas Marquardt



Jimmy Takter hitches a ride from brother Johnny after Corky's win



(I-r) Jonas Czernyson, David Miller and Yannick Gingras at Solvalla



Sweden's Björn Goop, driver of Timoko

interested readers--it's a time. A special thanks to our hosts at Solvalla, in particular ATG's Åsa Jacobsson, who helped make sure I knew what was where, and answered all my many questions in a friendly manner.

HRU at Elitloppet - Video Blog

Elitlopp: A Day at Solvalla We were at

Solvalla yesterday for the 2014 edition of the Elitlopp, and had our video cameras rolling to give you a feel of Sweden's biggest Harness event. We also got plenty of footage of Maven, Uncle Peter, Timoko, and several other Elitlopp starts.

Harrah's Philadelphia

8, PhI, \$30,000, P, Winners Over \$25,000 Lifetime, 26.2, 55.1, 1:22.1, 1:50.3, FT

1-Heston Blue Chip (h, 5, American Ideal--Shot Togo Bluechip, by Cam's Card Shark), \$30,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-Kenneth E Jacobs. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. T-Linda Toscano. D-George Brennan, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 53-32-6-4, \$1,599,481

2-Bettors Glass (g, 6, Bettor's Delight--Abbey Won, by The Panderosa), \$25,000 2009 SHS-HBG O-Jfe Enterprise LLC & Triple D Stables Inc. B-John W & Linda Glassford, CA. T-Scott Di Domenico. D-Tim Tetrick, \$7,500 3-Emeritus Maximus (h, 4, Rocknroll Hanover--Eternity's Delight, by Bettor's Delight), \$20,000 2011 LEX-SEL O-John Cancelliere. B-Arlene L & Jules J Siegel. T-Thomas Cancelliere. D-Ron Pierce, \$3,600 Calls: 4, 3T, 3, 3Q, HD Finish Order: Dedi's Dragon, Voice Of Truth, Abelard Hanover, Bestjetyet, Texican N

To view replay click here

10, PhI, \$250,000, T, Maxie Lee Memorial Invitational Detention: 9:40 A.M., 26.1, 54.3, 1:22.1, 1:50.2, FT 1-Market Share (h, 5, Revenue S--Classical Flirt, by Yankee Glide), \$16,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Richard S Gutnick & T L P Stable & William J Augustine. B-Hayley A Moore. T-Linda Toscano. D-Tim Tetrick, \$125,000, Lifetime Record: 42-23-6-8, \$3,260,011

2-**Sevruga** (g, 6, SJ's Caviar--Stunning Lindsey, by Malabar Man), \$18,000 2009 SHS-HBG

O-Kdm Stables Corp.. B-White Birch Farm. T-Julie Miller. D-Ron Pierce, \$62,500

3-**Dw's Ny Yank** (g, 5, Dilbert Hanover--Nicky Mantle, by Muscles Yankee)

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Howard A Taylor & Weaver Bruscemi LLC. B-W D La Page Stable. T-Ron Burke. D-Matt Kakaley, \$30,000 Calls: 4, 4T, 1T, T, 2 Finish Order: Arch Madness, Opening Night, Undercover Strike, Not Afraid, Daylon Magician To view replay click here

12, Phl, \$250,000, P, Betsy Ross Mares Invitational Detention: 10:20 A.M, 26.1, 53.4, 1:21.3, 1:50.2, FT 1-Anndrovette (m, 7, Riverboat King--Easy Miss, by Big Towner) O-Bamond Racing LLC & Joseph Davino. B-Golden Touch Stable. T-Pj Fraley. D-Tim Tetrick, \$125,000, Lifetime Record: 95-37-15-16, \$2,776,000 2-Rocklamation (m, 6, Rocknroll Hanover--Art Sale, by Artsplace), \$50,000 2009 SHS-HBG O-Our Horse Cents Stables & Stable 45 & J&T Silva Stables, LLC. B-Perretti Farms. T-Ron Burke. D-Matt Kakaley, \$62,500 3-Jerseylicious (m, 4, Western Ideal--Jet Lag N, by Direct Flight) O-Legacy Racing Of De Inc & Pamela M Curran & Niel J Gargiulo. B-Brian Nixon. T-Wayne Givens. D-Ron Pierce, \$30,000 Calls: 1T, 1Q, T, T, 2

Finish Order: Monkey On My Wheel, Jk Letitgo, Drop The Ball, Yagonnakissmeornot, Shebestingin To view replay click here



5, PcD, \$33,212, T, "Historic Series - Coaching Club Oaks" 3 Year Old Fillies 1st Division of 2, 28.3, 58.3, 1:27.2, 1:55.0, FT

1-Broadway Socks (f, 3, Broadway Hall--I Gotta Feelin, by Malabar Man), \$35,000 2012 LEX-SEL O-David W Wade & Gerald W Brittingham & William F Peel III. B-Polly S Hilliard. T-David Wade. D-Dan Rawlings, \$16,606, Lifetime Record: 13-6-3-1, \$110,866 To view replay click here

10, PcD, \$25,000, P, Mares Preferred, 25.4, 53.3, 1:20.0, 1:48.0, FT

Somwherovrarainbow (m, 4, Somebeachsomewhere– Rainbow Blue, by Artiscape) O-Theodore Gewertz & Diamond Creek Racing. B-K & R Racing LLC & Teague Inc. T-Joe Holloway. D-Tim Tetrick, \$12,500, Lifetime Record: 33-18-6-4, \$1,165,509. To view replay click <u>here</u>

11, PcD, \$33,212, T, "Historic Series - Coaching Club Oaks" 3 Year Old Fillies 2nd Division of 2, 28.3, 1:00.0, 1:28.4, 1:56.1, FT

Shake It Cerry (f, 3, Donato Hanover--Solveig, by Yankee Glide) O-Solveig's Racing Partners. B-Solveig's Breeders. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Ron Pierce, \$16,606, Lifetime Record: 13-10-2-0, \$894,125 To view replay click <u>here</u>