

Sunday,
November 20, 2011

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Zeron 100%; returns Thursday...p3
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Horse Heaven: A Visit With the Cancelliere Brothers

Story and photos by Darin Zoccali

Despite the perception of many in harness racing, a relationship with the equine is nothing new to John and Tom Cancelliere. It is a love affair that dates back for nearly a generation, a love affair that is found in the purest form. It was neither the idea of making a lot of money, nor gambling that attracted the Cancelliere brothers to harness racing. It was simply their love for the horse.

For Tom, it was a double dose of good fortune. Simultaneously he met his wife, and was introduced to horses by his father-in-law. In the beginning, it was simple enough for Tom, driving to his father-in-law's farm and playing with the horses, all the while not even thinking about becoming a horseman.

"Back then I didn't know which end of the horse was which," said Tom. "All I knew is I loved being around them, playing with them, and just having fun."

Naturally, John caught the same bug that captured his brother. But he had other ideas. "One day, John said to me, 'I want to buy a horse,' recalled Tom. "I spent a long time trying to talk him out of it, pointing out anything negative I could, especially the costs. But he didn't care." They asked a fellow trainer to find them something. Compared to their recent purchases, they gave him a modest price range with which to work.

"Weeks went by without any luck, and then one day we were told there was a horse for us. That horse ended up being Philos Hanover." The significance of Philos Hanover cannot be understated. "Without Philos, we wouldn't have any of this."

Philos Hanover was a very good racehorse. When the Cancellieres purchased him, he had made roughly \$40,000. By the time his career was over, he had \$523,246 on his card, including a magical season in 2008, winning 12 races and earning \$308,441. Today Philos Hanover has a special place in Tom and John Cancellieres' hearts.

"He's our baby," said Tom. "He's the first one we had, and we love him to death. It doesn't matter if he's retired or not, he will always have a home right here."

The home that Tom Cancelliere is referring to is the Cancelliere farm in Chesterfield, N.J. But to call the Cancellieres' farm just a farm, would be like calling The Four Seasons Maui just a hotel. Essentially, it is paradise



Pilgrims Chuckie takes a swim

for horses. Not only do they have the convenience of large stalls in a beautiful building, but they also have access to amenities that people would find at a four-star resort. Following a training session in the morning, each horse is brought to the newest structure on the Cancelliere farm. There, he or she is given a bath, followed by a nice session in the spa. "They love the spa, said Tom. After a race or training, they walk into the spa and it helps heal the muscles. It tightens them up so they don't get sore."

If they don't train or race, they are brought to the swimming pool, which has a treadmill in place of where the pool's bottom would be. "They can't wait to get into that pool. As soon as they see it, they start to stomp on the ground and splash the water. I can just sit there with a cup of coffee, holding the horse's rein, and they'll just go on that thing for as long as they want."

(Cont. P. 2)

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And on the off days? That is when the horses are given access to the Cancellieres' most prized possession, a state-of-the-art hyperbaric chamber.

"The hyperbaric chamber has given us a lot of success this past year," explained Tom. "The horses just walk right in, and they stay for about an hour."



The Cancellieres' prize possession: the hyperbaric chamber

What's the chamber's purpose? "The chamber brings the oxygen inside as close to 100% pure oxygen as you can get," Tom said. "This relaxes the horses, allows them to breathe easier and increases blood flow."

How do the Cancellieres know the horses enjoy it? There is a camera inside, allowing them to watch the horse from a monitor directly outside the chamber.

The Cancellieres said that making sure the horses are happy is the single most important thing to them.

The farm's state-of-the-art security system includes countless cameras. The best part about the system is it allows the Cancellieres to watch each horse in his or her stall from home, or even through their smart phones.



Some Of The Beach at the farm

Sweet built," said Tom, referring to his World Champion Bettor Sweet. "Philos is the reason we started, and his success led us to Sweet. Sweet led us to where we are today."

'Today' is a barn full of broodmares, champion racehorses, and perhaps the most promising collection of yearlings ever assembled in one barn. Two yearlings that are side by side in their stalls are Some of the Beach and Detour Hanover, the combined \$1.25 million dynamic duo from Harrisburg.

"We always want to make sure they are happy," Tom says. "Make a horse happy and he will take care of the rest." The luxuries that all of the horses are given is attributed to one horse's success in particular. "This is the house that

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Tom Cancelliere has nothing but praise for his sales toppers. "They are tremendous looking individuals, and they will have every opportunity to succeed," he said. "You just never know what you have until a certain point, but I think we have something special and only I can screw that up," he joked.

When will the point arrive where Tom has a feeling for their ability? "I think by March 1st we will start to get a gauge on how they are. But all indications are positive so far.



"He trots." Detour Hanover in the field

Some Of The Beach looks great and so does Detour. With the trotter, you never know if they are going to want to trot, but watching him in the field... he trots."

In addition to the six figures the Cancelliere brothers spent in Harrisburg, they also spent \$700,000 on six yearlings at Lexington.

"They are all doing super so far," Tom reported. "It's exciting. I don't have the quantity that most trainers have in the barn in terms of yearlings, but I have quality here."

When it comes to expectations, Tom Cancelliere is very realistic. "All nine aren't going to make it. On April 1st, I

won't have nine two-year-olds all at the same point of training; things happen. Everyone asks me about Some Of The Beach and Detour, but I tell them, you never know in this game. I have a homebred that only cost me a \$20,000 stud fee, and I really have high hopes for him. He's doing great. Maybe he'll be the one. You just never know."

One thing that is known is the Cancelliere brothers excellent philosophy. They want to keep the horses happy and healthy. They are given everything they need, and they are all treated exactly the same. Every horse in the Cancelliere barn is given an equal opportunity to succeed, and if they don't, the Cancellieres love them anyway, and give every horse a home for their lifetime. It is very easy to root for them to succeed, and it would be great for harness racing if the Cancelliere way becomes the winning way.



Pompano Cancels Saturday Night Card

(edited press release)

Due to unsafe track conditions the Saturday evening card had was cancelled at The Isle Casino Racing Pompano Park.

"After the end of last Wednesday evening's program, our crew got a good start on the annual resurfacing and grading job which usually takes about 48 hours to complete" explained Pompano's Director Of Racing Operations John Yinger. "As it turned out, Thursday afternoon had some intermittent rain and overcast skies and it was impossible for the track to dry out in a satisfactory and safe manner. Into Saturday, our crew was making good progress and then it rained again. It was the recommendation of Dan Coon, a premier track surface expert, and Wally Hennessey, a Hall Of Fame driver representing our horsepeople, that we should cancel the Saturday night card in the interests of the safety of the participants and horses," Yinger said.

Zeron To Be Inducted Into Oakville's HOF; Returns Thursday

By Greg Gangle, Woodbine

Veteran trainer/driver Rick Zeron, who has distinguished himself through his contribution to harness racing, will be inducted into the Oakville (Ontario) Sports Hall of Fame in the new year.

Zeron along with football's Michael 'Pinball' Clemons and Mike Vanderjagt and soccer's Kara Lang will be inducted on February 16 at 6 p.m. at the Oakville Conference Centre.

As a trainer, Zeron has sent out over 2,000 winners and collected more than \$24 million in purse earnings. As a driver, the Oakville resident has sent over 7,400 horses to the winner's circle, earning over \$95 million in purses.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Zeron said. "The phone rang one day and the Hall of Fame committee told me I was inducted. It's just a great feeling to even be considered let alone be inducted. I'm looking forward to having my family and friends with me that night."

The 55-year-old also plans to return to the racetrack this Thursday evening (November 24) at Woodbine.

Zeron, who has been sidelined since October 8 after being involved in an on-track accident, says he's 100 per cent healthy.

"I schooled two horses on Thursday morning at Mohawk and I felt great," he said. "My only concern was my shoulder, but when I got off the bike I had no issues. I'm ready to go."

Zeron, the winner of the 2010 O'Brien Award for Horsemanship, admitted how important it was for him to have a clean bill of health before returning to his driving duties.

"I knew I couldn't come back 50 or 75 per cent," he said. "Sure, I could probably drive, but if I did that, I would be putting other drivers at risk and I would have no part of that. I wouldn't jeopardize other drivers on the track, so I had to make sure I was 100 percent ready to go."

And it was a lengthy trek back to the racebike for the reinsmen. "It has been a very long recovery period, especially on my family," Zeron said. "They have never seen me this banged up, but with great patience from my wife, Joyce, along with the rest of my family I was able to fully recover sooner rather than later."



Saturday's Results:

1, DD, \$20,000, Pace, DELAWARE STANDARD BRED BREEDERS' FUND 2 Year Old Fillies First Eliminations - First Division, 27.3, 57.4, 1:26.4, 1:56.2, FT

No Picnic (f, 2, Badlands Hanover--Michiko, by Jate Lobell), \$18,000 2010 WINBAK O-Badlands Racing LLC & Leblanc Racing Inc. B-Winbak Farm. T-Steve Le Blanc. D-Ross Wolfenden, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 8-4-2-0, \$57,871

To view replay click [here](#)

4, DD, \$20,000, Trot, DELAWARE STANDARD BRED BREEDERS' FUND 2 Year Old Fillies First Eliminations - First Division, 29.1, 1:01.4, 1:31.1, 2:01.3, FT

Alleigh Girl (f, 2, Don Boss Vita--Armbro Odalisk, by Super Pleasure) O-Nanticoke Racing Inc & C Delbert Cain. B-Sylvia J Malone & Hilda Houlihan & Michael Balea. T-Les Givens. D-Ross Wolfenden, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 8-6-1-1, \$91,440

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6, DD, \$20,000, Trot, DELAWARE STANDARD BRED BREEDERS` FUND 2 Year Old Fillies First Eliminations - Second Division, 31.1, 1:02.4, 1:33.3, 2:05.1, FT
Ja's Charmer (f, 2, Cr Commando--Anastasia J A, by Anastasia Andy) O/B-Pamela E Wagner. T-John Wagner. D-Victor Kirby, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-1, \$40,300
To view replay click [here](#)

7, DD, \$20,000, Pace, DELAWARE STANDARD BRED BREEDERS` FUND 2 Year Old Fillies First Eliminations - Second Division, 28.3, 57.4, 1:27.2, 1:56.4, FT
Designer Bags (f, 2, Roddy's Bags Again--Alyshima, by Kentucky Spur) O/B-Edward J Walls. T-David Rearic. D-Allan Davis, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 8-6-0-1, \$83,727
To view replay click [here](#)

8, DD, \$20,000, Pace, DELAWARE STANDARD BRED BREEDERS` FUND 2 Year Old Fillies First Eliminations - Third Division, 27.4, 58.0, 1:27.2, 1:57.0, FT
Mac's Journey (f, 2, Badlands Hanover--Mac's Only Iris, by Only Mine) O/B-Mary V Martin. T-Clarence Martin Jr. D-Sean Bier, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 10-1-2-0, \$18,695
To view replay click [here](#)

Woodbine Report

Saturday's Results:
2, Wdb, PACE, \$38,000. PREFERRED. 26.1, 54.1, 1:22.4, 1:50.2, FT
Sparky Mark (b,h,4 Astreos-Luckbealadytonite-Camluck)
O/B-Leo J Thibodeau,Windsor,ON T-Mark Austin D-Sylvain Filion
Lifetime Record: 34-16-3-4, \$255,590
To view replay click [here](#)

7, Wdb, PACE, \$30,000. NW 4 RACES OR \$200,000 LIFETIME. AE: 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS, CLAIMING \$100,000. 27.2, 56, 1:23.3, 1:51.1, FT
Twin B Legend (b,g,3 - Mach Three-What An Attitude-Cams Card Shark) O-Jack Darling Stables Ltd B-Twinbrook Limited,Embro,ON T-John Darling D-Paul Macdonell
Lifetime Record: 26-8-5-2, \$338,813
To view replay click [here](#)

9, Wdb, PACE, \$30,000. PREFERRED 2. 25.4, 54.2, 1:23, 1:50.2, FT
Upfront Hoosierboy (b,g,5 - Western Hanover-Artaffection-Artsplace) O-R Berthiaume Inc B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc,PA T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Mario Baillargeon
Lifetime Record: 82-14-20-15, \$334,044
To view replay click: [here](#)

Yonkers Report

Saturday's Results:

1, YR, \$20,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$12,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS WINNERS OVER \$80,000 IN 2011 NOT ELIGIBLE., 7, 27.3, 57.4, 1:26.4, 2:02.2, FT
Image Of Dawn (h, 12, Life Sign--Clear Copy, by Jate Lobell), \$85,000 2000 TAT O-Patrick D Lachance. B-Brittany Farms. T-Pat Lachance. D-Pat Lachance, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 317-53-40-44, \$1,179,759
To view replay click [here](#)

2, YR, \$20,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$12,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS WINNERS OVER \$80,000 IN 2011 NOT ELIGIBLE., 7, 27.4, 57.4, 1:26.3, 2:01.3, FT
Jettin Justin (g, 4, Allamerican Ingot--Jettin Jenna, by Jenna's Beach Boy) O-Dandee Racing Stable. B-M Gregory Gehman. T-Scott Blackler. D-Jason Bartlett, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 63-11-6-13, \$166,573
To view replay click [here](#)

3, YR, \$21,000, Pace, CLAIMING ALLOWANCE \$40,000 WINNERS OVER \$55,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS NOT ELIGIBLE. 3 YO 50%, 4 YO 25%, F&M 20%, 7, 27.1, 55.4, 1:25.0, 2:00.2, FT
Fox Valley Tyrese (g, 6, Richess Hanover--No Uglies, by Incredible Finale), \$9,000 2006 WALKER O-James F Snyder. B-Fox Valley Standardbreds. T-Mark Ford. D-Brian Sears, \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 127-28-15-11, \$367,927
To view replay click [here](#)

4, YR, \$21,000, Pace, CLAIMING ALLOWANCE \$40,000 WINNERS OVER \$55,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS NOT ELIGIBLE. 3 YO 50%, 4 YO 25%, F&M 20%, 7, 26.4, 56.0, 1:24.0, 1:59.2, FT
Steeler (g, 9, Dragon Again--Betty Lobell, by No Nukes), \$45,000 2003 SHS-HBG O-Casie Coleman, CA. B-Troy S Eyler. T-Casie Coleman. D-Daniel Dube, \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 186-44-28-23, \$531,474
To view replay click [here](#)

5, YR, \$21,000, Pace, CLAIMING ALLOWANCE \$40,000 WINNERS OVER \$55,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS NOT ELIGIBLE. 3 YO 50%, 4 YO 25%, F&M 20%, 7, 26.2, 55.2, 1:23.4, 2:00.1, FT
Sand Benelli (g, 5, The Panderosa--Panterafansinlove, by Cambest), \$18,000 2007 SHS-HBG O-Patrick J O'Brien. B-Peter Pan Stables Inc. T-Mark Kesmodel. D-Eric Goodell, \$10,500, Lifetime Record: 93-20-9-7, \$348,880
To view replay click [here](#)

6, YR, \$32,000, Pace, WINNERS OVER \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS HANDICAP POST POSITION 1 ASSIGNED POST POSITIONS 2-4 DRAWN POST POSITIONS 5-7 DRAWN POST POSITION 8 ASSIGNED, 7, 26.3, 56.0, 1:24.4, 1:59.3, FT

1-Lucky Man (g, 6, Camluck--Under Her Spell, by Artsplace), \$90,000 2006 LEX-SEL O-Thomas Hill, EN. B-Brittany Farms & Daisy Acres. T-Casie Coleman. D-George Brennan, \$16,000, Lifetime Record: 94-19-18-15, \$828,349

2-Corky Baran (g, 8, Rambaran--Coinkydink, by Covert Action) O-Stephen B Schneider & William W Siegel. B-Odille J Deleersnyder, CA. T-Marthe Drolet. D-Eric Goodell, \$8,000

3-Rojette's Best (g, 4, Cambest--Rojette Hanover, by Matt's Scooter) O-Cappy Stable. B-Dm Stables LLC & Denny Miller. T-Tyler Raymer. D-Brent Holland, \$3,840 Calls: NS, 1H, 1H, 1H, NK

Finish Order: Silent Swing, Nob Hill High, Four Starz Trace, Digital Z Tam, My Last Laugh

To view replay click [here](#)

7, YR, \$23,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.0, 55.2, 1:23.3, 2:00.1, FT

Mattoutflying (g, 6, Matt's Scooter--Bunny Antics, by B.G's Bunny) O-Boss Racing Usa. B-Perretti Farms. T-Paul Blumenfeld. D-George Brennan, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 106-27-19-16, \$112,648

To view replay click [here](#)

8, YR, \$23,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.3, 57.0, 1:26.1, 2:02.0, FT

Palmer's Z Tam (g, 6, Mcardle--Born To Be Best, by Cambest), \$80,000 2006 SHS-HBG O-Z Tam Stables LLC & Patrick D Lachance. B-Perretti Farms. T-Pat Lachance. D-Pat Lachance, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 123-19-20-12, \$343,235

To view replay click [here](#)

9, YR, \$23,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$18,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 27.2, 56.2, 1:24.4, 2:00.0, FT

Warning Zone (g, 6, Jate Lobell--Cambridge United, by Topnotcher), \$25,000 2006 LEX-SEL O-Mildred B Ventriglio. B-Winbak Farm. T-Scott Di Domenico. D-Jordan Stratton, \$11,500, Lifetime Record: 108-24-20-18, \$582,356

To view replay click [here](#)

10, YR, \$24,000, Pace, 3&4 YEAR OLD CLAIMING ALLOWANCE \$50,000 WINNERS OVER \$65,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS NOT ELIGIBLE. 3 YO 50%, 4 YO 25%, F&M 20%, 7, 27.4, 57.4, 1:25.4, 2:01.0, FT

Real Hero (g, 4, Real Desire--Dream Card, by Dream Away) O-Fouk Stables Inc & Gary B Evans. B-Robert B Burgess, CA & Karin B Olsson Burgess, CA. T-Jack Franklin. D-Brent Holland, \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 43-13-3-3, \$188,746

To view replay click [here](#)

11, YR, \$24,000, Pace, CLAIMING ALLOWANCE \$50,000 WINNERS OVER \$65,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS NOT ELIGIBLE. 3 YO 50%, 4 YO 25%, F&M 20%, 7, 27.2, 56.3, 1:25.1, 2:00.0, FT

Sam's Escape (g, 5, Artiscap--Fox Valley Leota, by Incredible Finale) O-Melvin D Harris. B-Eash Racing Stable Inc. T-Brad Moffitt. D-Larry Stalbaum, \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 72-16-7-5, \$199,908

To view replay click [here](#)

12, YR, \$27,000, Pace, NON-WINNERS OF \$25,000 IN LAST 6 STARTS, 7, 26.4, 56.1, 1:24.4, 2:00.1, FT

Grab Your Keys (g, 6, Pacific Fella--Touch Of Class, by Artsplace) O-Sam W Demchak & Brian P Bennett. B-Laura Anne Raimondo. T-Taylor Gower. D-George Brennan, \$13,500, Lifetime Record: 126-18-21-24, \$404,328

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