



Friday, December 13, 2013

Is Instant Racing a Panacea For New Jersey Racing? Probably Not

By Bill Finley

A bill that would legalize Instant Racing games at New Jersey racetracks has been released by a state Senate committee and may eventually be voted on by the legislature. Instant Racing is a reasonable facsimile of a slot machine and is legal in some states where slots are not. In one, Arkansas, Instant Racing machines have resulted in massive purse increases at Oaklawn Park.



But any hopes that Instant Racing will soon be a part of the fabric of New Jersey racing and/or that they will be legalized and create a fat purse increase seem overly optimistic.

With Instant Racing the gambler is wagering on a random race that has been previously run. They basically know nothing about the race or the horses competing in it. The entire experience is made to recreate the whiz-bag, instant gratification effect of slot machines. And that's the problem. Why would Atlantic City, which always gets its way, allow the racetracks to have something that is so similar to a slot machine?

Can Instant Racing give New Jersey harness racing a boost?

"I don't think they will," Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural said. "The governor has made it clear that he is intent on protecting Atlantic City for at least five years, so I'd be really surprised if he were to allow us to get Instant Racing."

Gural believes the only way the tracks will get Instant Racing is if Atlantic City interests believe legalizing Instant Racing will ultimately be an impediment to the tracks getting a full fledged casino or, at the very least, slots.

"I think that's the only way it will ever get approved, if Atlantic City thinks our getting them will actually keep us from getting a casino," he said. "Given the choice of us having either Instant Racing or a real casino I am sure Atlantic City would prefer Instant Racing. This isn't something I have been pushing. It's something the people at Monmouth want and (Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey President) Tom Luchento wants. I was willing to give them my support, but I am skeptical whenever it comes to Atlantic City giving us any kind of break."

Luchento has the same worries that Gural has, but he said

he decided to get behind the Instant Racing push because he feels New Jersey racing needs any kind of help it can get.

"I'm not asking for anything from the state," he said. "I'm asking for the right for us to help ourselves, which we've done ever since the governor laid out the marching orders that we have to become self-sufficient. This is something that could raise purses by 50 percent or more. If you look at the Arkansas numbers it doubled and tripled the purses. You just don't know how much we'd do up here. At a little place like Freehold Raceway it could mean anywhere from \$5 to \$8 million. It's hard to speculate but it would certainly really pump us up. It may not do what slots would do but it would definitely help us. It's popular everywhere it is played and has done wonders for their racing. Considering the fact that we have nothing right now we have to take our chances on something like this."

Luchento has noticed that Atlantic City has had little to say about Instant Racing. He admits that is a worry.

"Up until now I haven't heard anything against Instant Racing, which makes me worry a little bit," he said. "If they're not fighting it that might mean they know it's

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already in the bag and we're not getting it."

Different tracks have had very different experiences with Instant Racing. The game was the brainchild of executives at Oaklawn Park, where it has been a major success. According to a story by David Hill on the website followhorseracing.com Instant Racing Machines at Oaklawn are averaging a "win" of \$170 a day, far less than the typical racino slot machine but enough that the profits have breathed new life into Oaklawn.

According to Hill, Instant Racing Machines at Ellis Park in Kentucky are averaging a daily win of only \$41. The conventional wisdom is that Oaklawn does well because the closest competing casino is three hours away. At Ellis, there is a casino just down the road in Indiana.

That would seem to be a worry for any New Jersey racetracks. Would patrons play Instant Racing when actual slot machines are everywhere in the area? Ron Geary, the owner of Ellis Park, thinks they will. The legality of Instant Racing machines has been challenged in the courts in Kentucky by religious groups and Ellis wanted to go slowly with Instant Racing while a battle is being fought in the courts. For that reason, Ellis did very little marketing.

"Our machines did not do as well as we wanted, but that's directly attributable to the fact we only have 187 machines and we have chosen not to go head to head against the competition," he said. "We have yet to do any kind of full advertising. Once we get over some humps we think we will be fine and Instant Racing will help us and Kentucky horse racing in the future."

Instant Racing is just one way to improve the fortunes of New Jersey racing, something Gural, Luchento and the management at Monmouth Park is always working on. In another development, the Bergen Record's John Brennan reports that an Assembly committee on Thursday released legislation sponsored by Democrats Ralph Caputo, Speaker Sheila Oliver and Valerie Vainieri Huttle to create a commission "to evaluate recently-enacted gaming reforms and explore expanding gaming into Bergen County." Bergen County means the Meadowlands.

On paper, it all sounds good, just like Instant Racing sounds good. But will anything positive ever happen? As long as Governor Chris Christie and others in power continue to put Atlantic City first it appears that New Jersey racing is going to have to make do without any alternative forms of gaming.

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The Crisis Situation in Illinois

An Analysis by Neil Milbert

The Illinois legislature has created a life-threatening situation for Illinois racing.

And now only the legislature can come to the rescue but it has only one day in which to act, Jan. 29, when the lawmakers return to the state capital in Springfield to hear Governor Pat Quinn deliver his State of the State address.

Technically, the legislature will be in session that day. Some years bills get passed; other years they don't.

If the lawmakers pass a law that extends Advance Deposit wagering and fills the \$725,000 void in Illinois Racing Board's budget for the fiscal year that ends June 30 the state's 2014 harness and thoroughbred schedule will be virtually the same as this year's.



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TROTTERS OWNER'S CLUB in the new Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment grandstand will be open during every live racing night as well as Kentucky Derby Day. Those who own a membership to Trotters will always have first priority for seating. In the event that space is available, New Jersey licensed owners, trainers and drivers can reserve a spot for any racing night other than the blackout dates listed below:

Saturday, November 30, 2013
TVG FFA Championships/Fall Final Four

Saturday, May 3, 2014
Kentucky Derby Day

Saturday, July 12, 2014
Meadowlands Pace Night

Saturday, July 26, 2014
Hambletonian Oaks Elimination Night

Saturday, August 2, 2014
Hambletonian Day

These "blackout dates" are members-only and there will be no charge for food for members on these dates.

On all other racing nights, when space is available, a New Jersey licensed owner, trainer or driver can reserve a spot at Trotters, including up to three guests. The price structure per-person for non-members in Trotters is as follows for the buffet:

Thursday Night - \$19.95

Friday Night - \$29.95

Saturday Night - \$39.95

Those that are members of Trotters receive a \$5 discount on all nights for all in their party, up to three guests. In addition, all Trotters customers will be given a free program upon arrival. Owners that are spending their evening in Trotters and have purchased a buffet, when their horse wins, will be offered a free buffet for two in Trotters for their next visit.

"I am hopeful that providing our owners with an opportunity to spend their evening in a venue like Trotters will give them an incentive to come and watch their horse race," said Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural. "Trotters provides the perfect atmosphere for owners to enjoy watching their horse race with family members and friends."



Non-members are encouraged to see the hostess of Trotters to inquire about availability while members can contact Marianne Rotella at 201.842.5059 to reserve their priority seating. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are preferred.

If they procrastinate and don't do anything until they reconvene for their spring session the thoroughbred schedule will shrink significantly and the harness schedule will shrivel to next to nothing—no racing at Maywood Park and only 13 nights at its sister track, Balmoral Park.

Knowing that a huge loss in racing tax revenue and a significant loss of jobs would exacerbate the state's horrendous financial problems, consensus seems to be that the legislators will answer Illinois racing's equivalent of a 911 call. It would be foolhardy not to.

The future of Illinois racing is in the hands of the state's politicians

(harness) racing industry," Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association president Dave McCaffrey emphasized.

But there's no guarantee the legislators will act on Jan. 29. The state's riverboat casino operators are huge political contributors. The casinos know the colossal damage that racing will suffer if passage of the ADW legislation is delayed and they might make it financially rewarding for

some of the legislators to drag their feet.

It should be noted that if the legislators had responded to a 911 call last January the current crisis wouldn't have arisen.

ADW is both the cause of the complicated crisis and its solution.

This form of betting on the Internet became legal in Illinois in 2009. One of the provisions of the current ADW statute is that a portion of the revenue it generates be earmarked to the Racing Board to enable it to perform its regulatory responsibilities.

The tracks and horsemen settled for a yearly renewal of the law, effective Jan. 31, thinking that it ultimately would be bundled with an omnibus statute allowing slot machines at the tracks.

But the governor steadfastly refused to even consider a slot machine bill until lawmakers passed a law addressing the state's \$100 billion government pension shortfall and this year they put off renewing the ADW law until late May during their spring session.

As a consequence, the Racing Board lost nearly five months of revenue for the fiscal year that will end on June 30, 2014, creating the \$725,000 budget deficit.

This deficit was staring board members in the face in September when they held their annual dates hearings and drafted the 2014 harness and thoroughbred racing schedules. Faced with the uncertainty of having enough



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money to regulate the sport, the board made an unprecedented move and approved four schedule options.

The first option—calling for racing dates almost identical to those of this year—is dependent on renewal of the ADW law by Jan. 31 and the legislature finding a way to come up with \$725,000 to alleviate the board's fiscal year budget deficit.

The fourth option is the one that will turn harness racing on the Chicago circuit into a 13-night affair at Balmoral on weekends from July 5-Sept. 27.

After that frightening prospect became a clear and present danger when the four schedules were drafted in September it was assumed that the legislature would head off the crisis during its two week fall veto session in late October and early November.

Legislative leaders promised to pass a bill: all the tracks and horsemen had to do was come to an agreement on the provisions.

Easier said than done. Immediately there was in-fighting. Arlington International Racecourse and its Churchill Downs, Inc. bedfellow and Internet provider, Twinspires.com, wanted the bill to call for a .135% increase in the pari-mutuel tax on tracks, off-track betting locations and ADW wagers.

A diverse coalition made up of Balmoral/Maywood and Internet provider BetZotic, Hawthorne Race Course, Fairmount Park, the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association, Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Illinois Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association sought a .9% surcharge on every ADW bet.

Hawthorne's provider, Xpressbet, and Fairmount's provider, TVG, sided with the Churchill Downs, Inc. combine but were willing to back the coalition's bill if it were put up for passage.

The impasse continued throughout the veto session, no bill was proposed and the rhetoric got nasty.

In its monthly newsletter Arlington denounced the alliance of the four other tracks and three horsemen's organizations calling it "a toxic cabal" and referring to them as "toxic profiteers...masters of self interest" bent on "exploitation of customers" to "further line their own pockets."

Maywood president Duke Johnston charged that Arlington had ulterior motives.

"The reason Arlington and CDI are doing this is they know Hawthorne is struggling financially, and everybody knows they want to knock Hawthorne out of business," Johnston alleged. "They're willing to push Hawthorne over the cliff and then come back and pass ADW in May."

Arlington would fare by far the best of the five Illinois tracks under the worst case scenario. It would race 49 days versus 89 under the best case whereas Hawthorne would race a meager 15 days under option 4 as opposed to 100 under option 1.

However, Racing Board chairman Bill Berry is determined not to let option 4 take effect. Thanks in part to his arm twisting, the combatants finally reached a consensus on a new ADW proposal for the legislature when they held a five-hour negotiating session after the board's November

meeting. The main provision in the accord was there would be an 0.2% surcharge on wagers made on track, at OTB and Intertrack locations and through ADW to provide supplemental funding for the board. The proposed new law also would be in effect for three years.

It appeared that passage would be a slam dunk when the legislators returned on Dec. 3 for a one-day special session to deal with pension reform. They succeeded in finally passing the pension reform bill that the governor had been demanding but they didn't take any action on the proposed ADW bill.

The supposed rationale was that the lawmakers and the governor wanted the media spotlight to focus solely on pension reform.

Thus, it all comes down to what transpires on Jan. 29 when the lawmakers return to Springfield.

As a consequence of the delay, damage already has been done. The uncertainty over what will happen has prompted some owners and trainers to send their horses elsewhere and the once-thriving breeding end of the business is spiraling downward.

"In order to keep the owners that I have, I've had to buy Indiana-bred yearlings," trainer Roger Welch said. "I'm the main owner in my stable. We have about 18 horses now. At one time there were as many as 50."

Nelson Willis has 52 horses and the 70-year-old trainer co-owns some of them.

"We race two or three times a week in Indiana," Willis said. "The purses are three times higher and the competition isn't as tough as it is in Illinois. It's going to be a bad situation for the people at Maywood if they close down. There are 100-some head of horses at Maywood and most of the farms around here have closed. Where are they going to go with those horses?"

Hosea Williams is one of the trainers based at Maywood.

"If they don't pass that (ADW) bill we're going to be in very bad shape," Williams said. "The way it looks now it doesn't look good. If it doesn't get any better I can't see racing lasting much longer in the State of Illinois."

Young on Nitelife: "I am Leaning Toward Racing"



It's looking good that I Luv The Nitelife will race in 2014

Though yet to make a firm decision concerning his horse's future, Richard Young said he is "leaning toward" bringing I Luv The Nitelife back to the races in 2014.

While preparing for the Nov. 30 Nadia Lobell at the Meadowlands the daughter of Rockroll Hanover suffered a slab fracture of the knee. Young's previous star mare, Put On A Show, suffered a similar injury before taking a year off and returning to the races.

"According to the vet, he feels her chances of coming back are good," Young said. "They never say great. But he did say good."

The problem Young faces is that he will have to make a decision about the horse's future before he has all the necessary information. He said she would not be able to return to serious training until May and would not be ready to race until late June or early July. By that time it would be too late to breed her.

"I won't know how good or bad she is until the end of June and once I have decided to try to race her I don't think I have the option of breeding her," he said. "I can't go to the Somebeachsomewhere people at end of May and say do you have a spot for her? I have to decide within the next two or three months what I am going to do. I am leaning toward racing."

Young said the one thing he does not want is to bring I Luv The Nitelife back only to have her perform below expectations.

"The real question is what do you come back as? If you're going to come back as a regular horse I would rather breed her," he said. "That's a tough one for me. When you have a great one you want to come back great or not come back at all."

He also ruled out taking an entire year off, like Put On A Show did, and returning at five.

I Luv The Nitelife was 13 for 15 this year and will soon be named the 3-year-old filly pacing champion. She earned \$1,253,757 on the year.

Meadowlands Planning on Changes to TVG Races

Hoping to attract that most attractive fields possible for the 2014 TVG Trot and Pace, the Meadowlands is planning to open the races up to more horses in 2014. This year, the races were open to the top competitors in previous legs of the series plus the winners of the Breeders Crown races for 3-year-old male trotters and pacers.

Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural said plans are being formulated to increase the list of horses that can compete in the TVG races. He said it is likely that the winners of the Breeders Crown races for older mares will be invited, as will the Hambletonian winner.

"The goal is to get one or two horses more to compete in those races," he said. "I am concerned that the next owner will say Captaintreacherous tried it and he didn't win, so it's probably a bad idea. Part of it is that owners of Captaintreacherous did it because they wanted to give back to the sport, They thought it would be a shot in the arm and it clearly was a shot in the arm. Our handle on that race was the highest of the night by far."

Gural said Meadowlands management will continue to work on a formula where the races is open to as many top competitors as possible, no matter their sex and age.

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Yonkers To Race on Tuesday Afternoons

BY FRANK DRUCKER, *Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway*

YONKERS, NY, Thursday, December 12, 2013--Yonkers Raceway has announced its 2014 live harness schedule.

The Raceway's 236-program schedule shall begin Monday, Jan. 6, pending approval of New York State Gaming Commission. The usual five-night-per-week itinerary remains in effect, with first post every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday continuing at the customary 7:10 PM...with an asterisk.

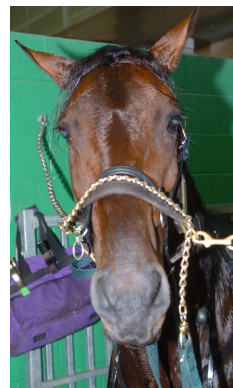
Included in the calendar are 15 Tuesday matinees (Sept. 2 to Dec. 9, inclusive), with first post at 12 Noon. Note these are not doubleheader Tuesdays, but rather single noontime programs.

The 2014 stakes schedule is to be announced shortly. Yonkers' 2013 season ends Saturday, Dec. 21.

Injuries Curtail So Surreal's Career; He'll Stand in NY at Cameo Hills Farm

Just 2, So Surreal has had his last race.

The colt by Somebeachsomewhere suffered a broken cannon bone while preparing for the Governor's Cup at the Meadowlands. Because his retirement was due to an injury he will not be penalized by the rules that ban offspring of stallions who did not compete through their 4-year-old season.



So Surreal

So Surreal, a half-brother to Well Said, will stand at Steve Jones' Cameo Hills Farm in Montgomery, New York for a fee of \$2,500. He was a \$125,000 yearling buy.

"He showed unbelievable ability and he's got a great pedigree and he's a good looking horse," said Jones, who bred the colt. "In my mind he's got it all going for him. Unfortunately, he can't race any more but that doesn't mean he can't be bred."

So Surreal is the second fastest 2-year-old of 2013, winning an International Stallion Stake division at the Red Mile in 1:49.4. In his first baby race at the Meadowlands he won in 1:55.4 and covered the last quarter mile in 26.

"Anybody who watched the Meadowlands baby races this year saw that he immediately showed he had lot talent," Jones said. "He was the most impressive colt that showed up there. He didn't have a lot of starts, but took a mark of 49 and 4 at Lexington and that's not too shabby for a 2-year-old."

He was 3 for 8 lifetime with earnings of \$94,547. He is the first son of Somebeachsomewhere to stand at stud.

Cameo Hills Farm has committed 12 of their best mares to So Surreal, including Sweetheart winner Pedigree Snob, Donkey's Can Talk (a sister to Put On A Show), \$750,000 winner Please Me Please, \$465,000 winner Under Your Spell and several others.

Leading sires of 1:52 3yo pacers

SIRE	latest reported location	state of eligibility	Foals	1:52 performers	% to foals
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	PA	PA	124	35	28.23%
DRAGON AGAIN	PA	PA	102	13	12.75%
WESTERN IDEAL	PA	NJ	102	12	11.76%
MACH THREE	ON	ON	108	12	11.11%
ROCKNROLL HANOVER	died	NJ	141	15	10.64%
CHARLEY BARLEY	OH	IN	19	2	10.53%
YANKEE CRUISER	PA	PA	57	6	10.53%
SHANGHAI PHIL	ON	ON	39	4	10.26%
RADAR SIGN	IN	IN	10	1	10.00%
THE PANDEROSA	OH	PA	61	6	9.84%
PONDER	PA	KY	31	3	9.68%
ART MAJOR	NY	NY	109	10	9.17%
PRO BONO BEST	exported	IN	11	1	9.09%
ART'S CHIP	OH	IN	47	4	8.51%
CAMBEST	KY	KY	25	2	8.00%
SPORTSMASTER	IL	IL	50	4	8.00%
CHRISTIAN CULLEN	exported	PA	26	2	7.69%
REAL DESIRE	IN	PA	81	6	7.41%
NO PAN INTENDED	OH	ON	112	8	7.14%
WESTERN MAVERICK	ME	ON	14	1	7.14%
ALLAMERICAN NATIVE	ON	PA	98	7	7.14%
BETTOR'S DELIGHT	PA	NY	126	9	7.14%
WESTERN TERROR	PA	PA	157	11	7.01%
AMERICAN IDEAL	NY	NY	102	7	6.86%
HENRY CLAY	IL	IL	15	1	6.67%
MAKE MY DAY	IN	IN	15	1	6.67%
PANSPACIFICFLIGHT	IN	IN	33	2	6.06%
CAMYSTIC	AB	AB	17	1	5.88%
LISLEA	NY	NY	17	1	5.88%
GUNTHATWONTHEWEST	OH	IN	17	1	5.88%

Statistics courtesy of the USTA, through racing of 12/11/13

Leading sires of 1:55 3yo trotters

SIRE	latest reported location	state of eligibility	Foals	1:55 performers	% OF FOALS
CANTAB HALL	PA	PA	80	12	15.00%
HERE COMES HERBIE	IN	IN	14	2	14.29%
ANDOVER HALL	PA	PA	78	11	14.10%
POWERFUL EMOTION	IL	IL	26	3	11.54%
INFINITIF	exported	KY	18	2	11.11%
DONATO HANOVER	PA	PA	101	10	9.90%
DEWEYCHEATUMNHOWE	NY	KY	92	8	8.70%
YANKEE GLIDE	PA	PA	82	7	8.54%
CREDIT WINNER	NY	NY	96	8	8.33%
KEYSTONE BLITZ	IN	IN	13	1	7.69%
KADABRA	ON	ON	82	6	7.32%
MUSCLE MASS	ON	ON	84	6	7.14%
SOUTHWIND BREEZE	IL	IL	15	1	6.67%
CLASSIC PHOTO	exported	PA	67	4	5.97%
RC ROYALTY	NY	NY	35	2	5.71%
JUSTICE HALL	ON	IN	55	3	5.45%
SJ'S CAVIAR	exported	PA	75	4	5.33%
BROADWAY HALL	PA	PA	78	4	5.13%
CHOCOLATIER	exported	NJ	59	3	5.08%
CHIP CHIP HOORAY	OH	PA	20	1	5.00%
LOCKKEEPER	MI	MI	20	1	5.00%
MUSCLES YANKEE	PA	NJ	105	5	4.76%
GLIDEMASTER	PA	PA	65	3	4.62%
KEN WARKENTIN	exported	ON	68	3	4.41%
MUTINEER	NY	ON	24	1	4.17%
LIKE A PRAYER	exported	KY	31	1	3.23%
CASH HALL	NY	NY	63	2	3.17%
TOM RIDGE	PA	PA	34	1	2.94%
ANGUS HALL	ON	ON	114	3	2.63%
CONWAY HALL	NY	NY	81	2	2.47%

Statistics courtesy of the USTA, through racing of 12/11/13.

Coletta Status Quo, Will Have Race in His Honor Sunday at Chester

Family friend Anthony DeFrancesco reports that stricken driver Anthony Colleta remains unconscious at a Philadelphia area hospital where he has been since a Nov. 17 accident at Chester.

The 7th race this Sunday at Chester has been named in honor of Coletta and friends, family and fellow drivers are invited to congregate in the winner's circle afterward.

Aldrich Beats Wrenn, 6-4, at Monticello

Bruce Aldrich Jr. had six winners yesterday at Monticello as he bested Ronnie Wrenn Jr. as the two faced off in a race-off. Wrenn had four winners on the card.

Wrenn leads North America in wins and Aldrich is third. Monticello brought the two together to square off on the racetrack. Only Aldrich drivers regularly at Monticello. The two drivers were allowed to pick their mounts in each race on an alternating basis.

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2 Twilight Bonfire	The Panderosa	Gillock/Hall
3 Dedi's Dragon	Dragon Again	Burke/Palone
4 Word Power	Western Ideal	Remmen/S. Zeron
5 Apprentice Hanover	Somebeachsomewhere	Wallace/Jamieson
6 Good Day Mate	Christian Cullen	Burke/B. Miller

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By Brett Sturman

Race 7, B-2/B-1 Trot

SWEET JUSTICE goes from a restricted 3-year-old race to tackling these more seasoned foes, but that race last week was unbelievable. The Justice Hall gelding remains unbeaten in the Saunders barn and I think he can go with these right now. DONT KNOW CHIP got a win last week on the drop and acquisition of Gingras; starts his climb back up the ladder. IL MAGO drops and for a horse that was racing very well last year against some "A" caliber, this should be his chance to shine. No excuses. I suppose BANKER VOLO needed his first start back but it still remains to be seen if he can move forward; does possess talent. ELISARRA HANOVER and AS YA'LL LIKE IT both went brave uncovered tries last week but this group seems a bit tougher; we'll see.

Race 8, Fillies & Mares B-1 Pace

That race last week from MAJOR LOOK was the spark we've been looking for her for a while now and she's almost guaranteed to take action tonight off her 8/1 programmed line. Mare has loads of class and that was a dead game first over attack she comes out of; playable. SHOOTOUTTHELIGHTS is just three races removed from a pair of Opens at Yonkers; one of which where she was only a few lengths behind Swinging Beauty. Things to like with Tetrick and Fraley from the rail. LIGHTNING PAIGE was predictably going to be overbet last week and while she didn't race terribly, she didn't have enough either. Will offer a more fair price tonight from the outside post for those wanting to come back with her. BEST BOSS is a perfect two for two here in this winter meet and will get her third new driver in as many starts; any live flow will greatly aid her cause. BULLET POINT got very sharp here for Blake Macintosh last year and made a big move last out. I'll leave out THE SUMMER WIND with Burke and Gingras; hopefully that won't come back to get me.

Race 9, B-2 Trot

MM'S LUCKY BOY makes just his fourth start back on the year and he's no stranger to this oval. He now moves back to the big track while taking what looks to be a drop; I'd expect an honest try for Erv and Marcus. MYSTICAL STARLIGHT is an interesting proposition for Croghan;

usually does his best work at Yonkers so it makes you think what he's doing in this spot. ALL ABOUT JUSTICE is another who surprised here last year; might be overlooked due to the connections. BROOKROAD KNIGHT didn't fire in his first start over the track, but the winner of that race came back to run very well here next out. STIR ME UP can stay close from the rail.

Race 10, Fillies & Mares C-1/B-2 Pace

MISS SAND CREEK has been in pretty tough her last couple races including a first over try two back and then a no-shot race last week from the outside. This looks like a key drop; must include. JANIE BAY swept off perfect second over cover last week to give Scott Zeron his first Meadowlands win; this spot is more difficult. SOLID QUEEN was handled very aggressively last out by Campbell being used twice through an uncovered :54 half; this one has a chance with a more smooth trip. Adds YG tonight.

ASTREAS NOTICE invades from Philly and goes first start for Ron Cushing; DON'T BLAME HER isn't without a prayer should she get lucky late with Joe B.

\$16 ticket (\$1 base): 2-6 / 1-7 / 5-7 / 4-6

\$72 ticket (\$1 base): 2-6 / 1-4-7-8 / 3-5-7 / 4-5-6

Dover Report

Monday's Results

10, DD, \$20,000, P, FILLIES/MARES Open Handicap Post Positions Assigned, 26.0, 55.3, 1:23.3, 1:52.2, FT

Spend It All (f, 3, Tell All--Dream Card, by Dream Away),

\$5,000 2011 SHS-HBG O-Brooke A Givens & Steven Head. B-Robert B Burgess, CA & Karin B Olsson Burgess, CA. T-Les Givens. D-Jim Morand, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 28-15-0-2, \$129,790

Wednesday's Results

10, DD, \$20,000, T, Open Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 4 Drawn Post Positions 5 thru 8 Drawn, 27.2, 57.1, 1:25.4, 1:54.3, FT

Jersey Boy (g, 4, Yankee Glide--Atlanta Games, by Crowning Point), \$5,000 2010 LEX-SEL O-Dawn Marie Gannon & Yannick Gingras & Domenic Costanzo. B-Tom Crouch. T-Edwin Gannon Jr. D-Trace Tetrick, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 50-12-4-6, \$116,896

The Meadows Report

Tuesday's Results

1, Mea, \$20,000, T, *PREFERRED HANDICAP* P.P.1 ASSIGNED; 2-6 DRAWN; 7-8 DRAWN, 27.3, 57.1, 1:26.2, 1:55.4, GD

Unefoisdansmavie (m, 6, Revenue S--Peace To The

World, by Yankee Glide) O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Jack B Piatt III. B-Ronald K Turcotte. T-Ron Burke. D-Tony Hall, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 80-24-11-7, \$375,317

Thursday's Results

8, DD, \$27,500, P, DELAWARE Special, 26.1, 53.2, 1:21.2, 1:49.3, FT

Its That Time (h, 8, Real Artist--Mib Hanover, by Tyler B)

O-E & K Stable Inc & David L King. B-Walnut Hall Limited & Denim Stable. T-Eddie Dennis. D-Eddie Davis Jr, \$13,750, Lifetime Record: 99-19-15-13, \$470,371

To view replay click [here](#)

10, DD, \$30,000, P, Open Preferred Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 3 Drawn Post Positions 4 thru 6 Drawn, 26.1, 54.4, 1:21.4, 1:49.2, FT

1-Dynamic Youth (g, 4, Bettor's Delight--Always True, by Western Hanover),

\$85,000 2010 SHS-HBG O-J&T Silva Stables, LLC & Kenneth R Tucci & C&G Racing Stable. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Aaron Lambert. D-Victor Kirby, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 52-16-8-7, \$841,957

2-Texican N (g, 5, 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-Bullet Speed (g, 5, Camluck--Lady Ann Mathew, by Matt's Scooter) O-Kdm Stables Corp.. B-Pinske Stables. T-Nick Surick. D-Marcus Miller, \$3,600

Calls: 2, 1H, 1, 2, NK

Finish Order: Adventure Bound, Escape The News, Nova Artist

To view replay click [here](#)

Harrah's Philadelphia Report

Wednesday's Results

6, Phi, \$20,000, P, NW \$17,500 in Last 5 Starts 4 Yr. Olds & Older Last Start for a purse of greater than \$30,000 ineligible AE: NW 9 Ext. PM Races or \$90,000 Lifetime, 27.1, 56.1, 1:24.0, 1:53.0, GD

Summer Camp (g, 6, Rocknroll Hanover--Roman Art, by Artsplace), \$28,000 2008 SHS-HBG O-Baron Racing Stable & Vip Internet Stable LLC. B-Perretti Farms. T-Gary Green. D-Ron Pierce, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 101-28-22-6, \$481,710

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Woodbine Report

Upset Winners Kick Off Niagara Series

TORONTO, December 12 – Three-year-old pacing fillies highlighted the Thursday programme at Woodbine in the opening round of the Niagara Series.

With a pair of \$15,000 divisions taking place, Wonderful Charm and Bad Girl Vegas provided the upsets for their respective connections.

Wonderful Charm and Jody Jamieson clicked in the first division as they kicked-off the 12-race programme at odds of 5-1.

Jamieson guided Wonderful Charm to a two-hole trip



behind even-money favourite Envious Hanover (Billy Davis, Jr.) through panels of :27.1, :56.2 and 1:25.1.

Turning for home, Wonderful Charm was blocked in the two-hole, but Jamieson was able to stickhandle his way through traffic en route to a 1:56.1 score. Miss

Wonderful Charm (New Image Media)

Poppycock (Chris Christoforou) finished second, with Jeremeyes Jewel (Paul MacDonell) third.

Trained by Benjamin Paquette for owner Lawrence Litwin, Wonderful Charm celebrated her fourth career tally as her bankroll now sits at \$46,814. The daughter of Christian Cullen has crafted a 4-1-5 record from 17 starts this season.

In the other split, Jonathan Drury guided Bad Girl Vegas to victory at odds of 35-1.

Drury elected to put Bad Girl Vegas in the pocket behind D Gs Pesquero (Sylvain Filion), who knifed out fractions of :29.2, :59.3 and 1:28.2.

Down the stretch, Drury pulled on the right line and Bad Girl Vegas did the rest as she marched to victory in 1:57.1. D Gs Pesquero finished second, with Dance Hall Girl (Mario Baillargeon) finishing third.

Trained by Louis Eftimiadis for owner Randy Zhok, Bad Girl Vegas enjoyed her sixth career score as her bankroll climbed to \$48,654.

The daughter of Believeinbruiser now has a 3-1-1 record from 19 starts this season.

She paid a handsome \$73.60 to win.

The Niagara Series is for three-year-old fillies, who are non-winners of \$50,000 lifetime as of October 31.

The second \$15,000 leg will go postward on Thursday, December 19. The \$30,000 (added) final will take place on Boxing Day (December 26), which holds a special 1:00 p.m. first-race post time.

Yonkers Report

Monday's Results

8, YR, \$20,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF 6 P-M RACES OR \$60,000 LIFETIME. 2, 3&4 YEAR OLD FILLIES & MARES, 28.0, 57.2, 1:26.0, 1:55.2, SY

It's A Miracle (f, 3, Always A Virgin--Iva Miracle, by Electric Yankee) O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver BrusceMI LLC. B-William R Huggins. T-Ron Burke. D-Matt Kakaley, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 19-9-1-1, \$53,034

11, YR, \$20,000, P, NON-WINNERS OF 6 P-M RACES OR \$60,000 LIFETIME. 2, 3&4 YEAR OLD FILLIES & MARES, 27.3, 56.3, 1:25.2, 1:55.3, GD

Outrageousdelightn (m, 4, Bettor's Delight--Soky's Rage, by Sokys Atom) O-Joseph V Muscara. B-J M Whittaker, NZ & F M Endacott, NZ. T-Darran Cassar. D-Brian Sears, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 35-9-7-3, \$58,780

This Lady is GaGa about Harness Racing Baby, she was born this way!



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