

Monday, February 1, 2021

Century Farroh voted Canada's Horse of the Year for 2020

During Sunday's O'Brien Awards Virtual Gala, Richard Moreau was voted the nation's Trainer of the Year for his eighth straight year, trainer Dr. Ian Moore collected four O'Brien Awards, including Horse of the Year and Bob McClure was voted Driver of the Year for the first time in his career.

by Dave Briggs with files from Standardbred Canada



Dave Landry

The 2020 O'Brien Awards were announced virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's HRU

Face Time Bourbon repeats in the Prix d'Amérique	page 9
Maine legend Clayton Smith dead at 99	page 13
Betting topped \$4 million Saturday at Big M	page 14



THE BANK

2, 1:53.4; 3, 1:50.4 (\$1,214,895)

Donato Hanover-Lantern Kronos-Viking Kronos

- Son of Lantern Kronos, 3, 1:52.3 (\$1,020,150)
- At 2, Winner of Bluegrass & PA All Stars division
- At 3, Winner of Breeders Crown Final, & Stanley Dancer Memorial
- A Leading Sire of 3-Year-Old Trotters in Sweden
- Sire of Top Italian 2-Year-Old Filly, Caramel Club

Standing at Winbak Farm of Ontario for \$5,000 CAD!

Limited syndication opportunities available.

[Click here for more information on The Bank!](#)

Pat Woods, Winbak Farm of Ontario Manager

905.838.2145 / pat.woods@winbakfarm.com

www.winbakfarm.com / f / t



New Image Media

Century Farroh (Sylvain Filion, shown winning the Somebeachsomewhere in 2019) was named Canada's 2020 Horse of the Year.

Century Farroh was announced as the winner of Canada's 2020 Somebeachsomewhere Horse of the Year on Sunday (Jan. 31) during a virtual edition of the O'Brien Awards honoring the best in Canadian harness racing produced and broadcast by Standardbred Canada.

It was the fourth O'Brien Award of the night for trainer Dr. Ian Moore. Century Farroh, the 2020 Breeders Crown and Dan Patch winner, both at Harrah's Hoosier Park, also took home the honors as the country's Older Pacing Horse after scoring 12 top-three finishes in 16 starts and compiling earnings of \$637,000. Moore trainees **Lawless Shadow** (Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year) and **Tattoo Artist** (Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year) were also winners.

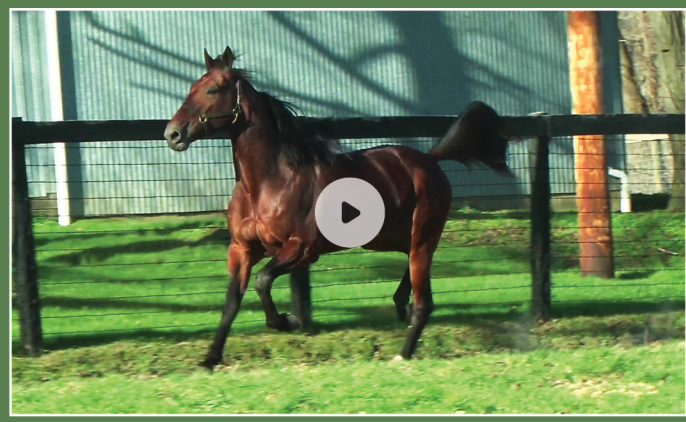
"It's just nice to see the horses get recognized. Good help and good horses... and some good management, maybe, makes for a good combination, so it's nice to see," Moore said when reached Sunday night in Florida where he is training 20 horses, 14 of them 2-year-olds, along with four 3-year-olds — including Lawless Shadow, Alumni Seelster and Lady Arthur — as well as older horses Century Farroh and Tattoo Artist. "The only reason I've gotten some of those horses have been long-time participants in the industry... Dave Ratchford, Ron and Gail McLellan, Serge Savard, Frank Cannon and Eric Cherry's Let It Ride Stable.

STALLION VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

CATTLEWASH

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE-ROAD BET

*Click to watch the World Champion
at Work and at Play!*



Lawless Shadow had an ultra-consistent season that saw him hit the board in eight of nine races, including four victories, while earning more than \$307,000. He scored two wins in Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) events, a win in the Nassagaweya, runner-up finishes in his Metro elimination and OSS Super Final and a third-place finish in the Metro Final.

Tattoo Artist was a winner of eight of 17 starts and more than \$666,000 last season with victories in five OSS events and a division of the Simcoe Stakes. One of his biggest efforts was a runner-up finish in the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup.

Moore said he was proud that Lawless Shadow, Tattoo Artist and Century Farroh all got their start in the OSS Grassroots Series.

"Each of those three horses started their career in the Grassroots. Century Farroh was the Grassroots champion as a 2-year-old. Lawless raced in the Grassroots once because he was late getting ready. I had some problem with him making breaks and then he stepped up to the Gold after that. And Tattoo did the same. He raced in a Grassroots once to start his career and then he stepped up," Moore said.

"I think with babies, especially in today's style of racing and driving, it's important (to start slowly)... They are all so well-bred and good and they want to do it for you, that no matter how fast you train or qualify them they are going to go out and race their guts out, five or six seconds better than they've ever been in their life and that might be a detriment to a lot of 2-year-olds so I think it's good to start them in a place where you can finish the race hanging onto them and knowing that there's a lot more for next week.

"I take pride in all of our horses, whether they win a Sires Stakes series or Gold or whatever. Practically every horse in our stable has been yearlings that we have developed and made into racehorses, so that makes it even more satisfying and gratifying when they go out and win their first race.

It was the second Horse of the Year title for a Moore



Claus Andersen

Dr. Ian Moore trains the winners of four O'Brien Awards – Century Farroh (Horse of the Year and Older Pacer of the Year), Lawless Shadow (Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year) and Tattoo Artist (Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year). It was the trainer's second Horse of the Year title since 2015 when State Treasurer won the honor.

trainee in the last six years. His pupil State Treasurer won the 2015 Horse of the Year award the same year Moore was named the O'Brien Award winner for Horsemanship.

"State Treasurer was a \$6,500 yearling and Century Farroh was a \$17,000 yearling. Century Farroh has got \$1.4 million and the other guy had \$2 million," Moore said, proudly.

"The pressure will be on this year, won't it?"

Meanwhile, **Richard Moreau** added a record eighth O'Brien trophy to his mantle in the Trainer of the Year category after a season which saw him top the earnings and win charts for Canadian trainers. Based in Puslinch, ON, Moreau is one of the country's busiest trainers sending postward 1,604

ONLINE STALLION AUCTION
OPENS 12 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 1
CLOSES AT 12 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 5
FANTASTIC STALLION LINE UP!
CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR BID TODAY!

SBOA



DIAMOND CREEK

A CUT ABOVE...
in the sales ring

OUR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

#1 CONSIGNOR by Yearling Average (more than 10 horses) at Ohio Jug Select Sale

#1 CONSIGNOR by Yearling Average (more than 20 horses) at Lexington

#1 CONSIGNOR by Mixed Sale Average at Lexington

#1 CONSIGNOR by Yearling Average at Timonium

#1 CONSIGNOR by Mixed Sale Average at Timonium

*Now accepting entries for 2021 Ohio Jug, Lexington, and Harrisburg Sales.
Contact us for foal/yearling inspections, bloodstock appraisals, and private sale representation.*



As we expand our sales division, Diamond Creek looks forward to earning your business.

Phone: 717-638-7100
office@diamondcreekfarm.com
www.DiamondCreekFarm.com

starters that made 237 trips to the winner's circle and earned more than \$3.6 million in purses.

Bob McClure of Rockwood, ON, won his first O'Brien trophy as Canada's Driver of the Year following a career-best season for earnings. McClure was the country's leading money winning driver and he also reached several major milestones last year — eclipsing the \$7 million mark in earnings, winning his first Breeders Crown Championship and capturing the Lampman Cup as the Ontario Sires Stakes' leading driver. Some of the horses he regularly drove who contributed to his earnings milestone and 233 trips to the winner's circle included divisional champions Donna Soprano, Lauras Love, Lawless Shadow and Tattoo Artist, while sharing the driving duties aboard On A Streak.

"It's a nice accomplishment," McClure said. "It says a lot for the great stables I was lucky enough to drive for."

Kelly Hoerdt of Beaumont, AB, won his second O'Brien Award of Horsemanship following a year that saw the Alberta-based trainer-driver condition 157 winners and horses to more than \$877,000 in earnings, while driving 163 winners and horses to purse earnings in excess of \$895,000.



True Nature Communications

Richard Moreau won his 8th consecutive Trainer of the Year award.

Scarlett Hanover was crowned champion in the Two-Year-Old Pacing Filly division following a stellar season which saw her post 11 top-three finishes from 14 starts and bank more than \$449,000 in earnings. She won two OSS events including the OSS Super Final and also competed against Grand Circuit company, scoring a season's best 1:51.3 victory in the Champlain Stakes while also winning an elimination of the Shes A Great Lady.

In the Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly division, **Lauras Love** took O'Brien honors. The Betterthancheddar filly was a model of consistency in 2020, scoring 16 top-three finishes, including eight victories from 20 races, and earning \$331,000 for her connections. In addition to a victory in an OSS event, she scored multiple victories in overnight competition and also won a division of the Simcoe Stakes against Grand Circuit company.

So Much More, a dominant competitor in the fillies and mares preferred ranks at Woodbine Mohawk Park, took Older Pacing Mare honors. She won 12 of 30 starts and eclipsed \$300,000 in earnings last year while scoring a career best 1:49.3 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Trainer Luc Blais had two O'Brien Award winners — **Donna Soprano** and **On A Streak**. Donna Soprano was voted Two-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the year. The Donato Hanover filly won five of seven races and more than \$575,000 for her connections in a season that included sweeps of the Pure Ivory and Peaceful Way Stakes, a win in a Champlain division

Yearlings Shine When They Sell With Preferred



The world's no. 1 Standardbred sales agency is now accepting yearlings for the fall sales.

ENTER NOW



Preferred Equine Marketing



PREFERREDEQUINE.COM
(914) 773-7777

HANOVER SHOE FARMS CONGRATULATES O'BRIEN AWARD WINNER

— TWO-YEAR-OLD PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR —



Hanover-Bred **SCARLETT HANOVER**

p,2, 1:51.3s -'20 (\$449,690) · Bettor's Delight - Sammys Magic Girl

OWNED BY: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Frank Baldachino,
J & T Silva, Purnell & Libby, Weaver Bruscemì

TRAINED BY: Ashleigh Hensley

DRIVEN BY: Eddie Hensley and Yannick Gingras

THIS FALL WE WILL OFFER HER YEARLING SISTER BY SPORTSWRITER, SUBLIME HANOVER



(717) 637-8931 fax: (717) 637-6766 www.hanoverpa.com hanover@hanoverpa.com



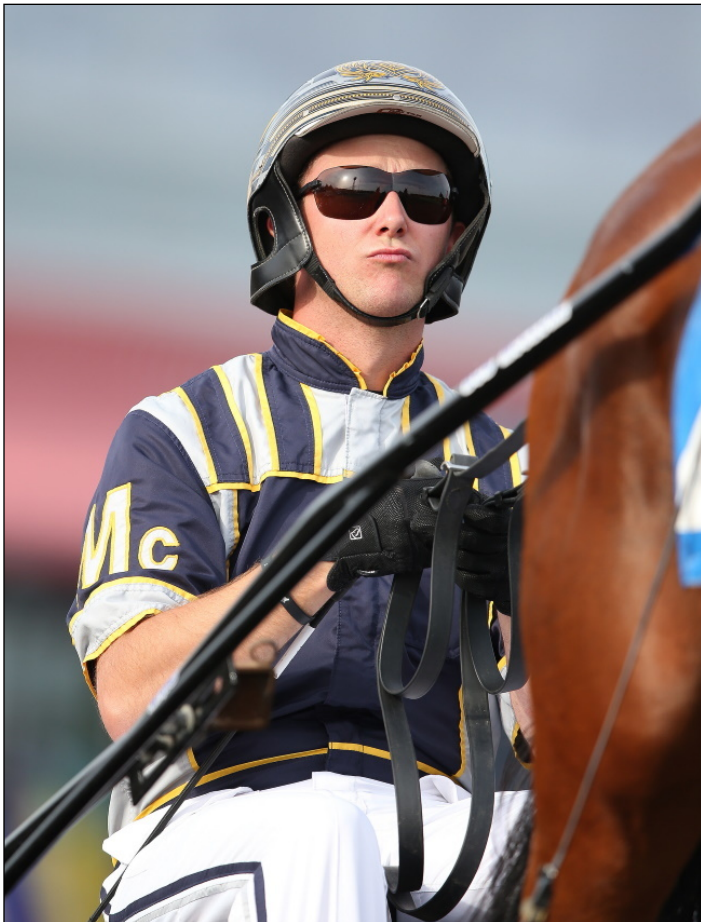
ANDOVER HALL · BAR HOPPING · BETTING LINE · CANTAB HALL · CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS · GREENSHOE
INTERNATIONAL MONI · NUNCIO · PAPI ROB HANOVER · STAY HUNGRY · TALL DARK STRANGER

and an impressive runner-up finish in the inaugural edition of the Mohawk Million.

In the Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt division, On A Streak beat out stablemate Macho Martini. On A Streak had only two wins in 10 starts, but they were both very lucrative ones. His maiden-breaking effort came in the \$525,000 William Wellwood Stakes, which was worth \$267,500 and a coveted spot in the inaugural Mohawk Million where he finished a solid third. His second victory came in the Breeders Crown, and was worth \$300,000. In total the Cantab Hall colt earned in excess of \$850,000 for his season which also included a runner-up finish in the Valley Victory.

Sorella took divisional honors as Canada's Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year for a season which saw her win eight of 15 races and \$737,000. The Muscle Hill filly posted victories in multiple stakes events including the Hambletonian Oaks, the Reynolds, the Casual Breeze, the Bluegrass and the Matron.

Pemberton, a son of Wheeling N Dealin, was voted Canada's Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year. A winner of eight of 10 races, he earned more than \$363,000 during his sophomore season. Four of his victories came in Ontario Sires Stakes events including the season-ending Super Final.



Claus Andersen

Bob McClure won the Driver of the Year award for the first time.

In the Older Trotting Mare category, **Hey Livvy** won O'Brien honors for her season which included nine wins and more than \$283,000 in 23 trips postward, highlighted by her richest payday, an impressive victory in the Armbro Flight Stakes.

Perfetto was voted Older Trotting Horse of the Year after winning seven of 25 races and more than \$151,000 while making all but one start at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The son of Majestic Son posted a career best effort of 1:52.3 on December 14.

Austin Sorrie, of Freelon, ON, was recognized with the Future Star Award. The Prince Edward Island native was in demand on the Ontario B Track circuit in 2020, driving in more than 1,200 races, scoring 151 wins and driving horses to more than \$923,000 in purse earnings.

In the Armstrong Breeder of the Year category, **Seelster Farms** in Lucan, ON, added a fourth O'Brien bronze to their trophy case. In 2020, horses bred by Seelster won 260 races and earned more than \$3.5 million. Top performers included O'Brien divisional winner Lawless Shadow, O'Brien finalist Karma Seelster along with Tokyo Seelster.

Garnet Barnsdale, writing in HRU, took home the Media Excellence Award for Outstanding Written Work for his tribute to the late Bill Galvin ([full story here](#)). **Clive Cohen** won his fifth Media Excellence Award for Outstanding Photography and the **Woodbine Entertainment Group** won its

O'BRIEN AWARD WINNER
TWO-YEAR-OLD PACING COLT

LAWLESS SHADOW
(Shadow Play-Ladycino-Bettors Delight)
p. 2, 1:52.1 (\$307,624)

Congratulations to the connections:

Owners: Dr. Ian Moore, R G McGroup Ltd,
Serge Savard, Frank J Cannon

BREEDER
Seelster Farms .COM

Trainer: Dr. Ian Moore
Driver: Bob McClure

Early Closing Events



MEADOWLANDS

EVENTS CLOSE FEB 15, 2021

Winner of Cutler Memorial may receive invitation to the 2021 Elitlopp

2YO

\$1,500,000 Kindergarten Classic Pace & Trot
with \$20,000 Legs. 2021 Kindergarten Finals at the Meadowlands.
\$400,000 Valley Victory 2YO Colt Trot
\$400,000 Goldsmith Maid 2YO Filly Trot
\$400,000 Governor's Cup 2YO Colt Pace
\$400,000 Three Diamonds 2YO Filly Pace
\$350,000 Peter Haughton Memorial 2YO Colt Trot
\$350,000 Jim Doherty Memorial 2YO Filly Trot

3YO

\$700,000 Meadowlands Pace
\$285,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial Colt Trot
\$250,000 Del Miller Memorial Filly Trot
\$200,000 Mistletoe Shalee Filly Pace

OLDER HORSES

\$1,000,000 TVG FFA Championship Pace & Trot
with mare divisions for both.
\$500,000 Graduate 4YO Pace & Trot Finals
with \$75,000 Legs.
\$450,000 WR Haughton Mem FFA Pace*
\$275,000 Sam McKee Mem FFA Pace*
\$175,000 Roll With Joe FFA Pace*
\$175,000 Artiscape FFA Mare Pace*
\$175,000 Dorothy Haughton Mem FFA Mare Pace*
\$175,000 Lady Liberty FFA Mare Pace*
\$300,000 John Cashman Mem FFA Trot*
\$180,000 Arthur Cutler Mem FFA Trot*
\$175,000 Crawford Farms FFA Trot*
\$175,000 Joie De Vie FFA Mare Trot*
\$165,000 Dr John Steele FFA Mare Trot*
\$100,000 Miss Versatility FFA Mare Trotting Series *

**denotes leg of TVG championship series*

Meadowlands stakes and race dates at playmeadowlands.com

TIOGA + VERNON DOWNS

EVENTS CLOSE MAR 15, 2021

NY SIRE

\$1,000,000 Empire Breeders Classic
2YO, 3YO & Stallion Nomination
for both Pacers & Trotters

Tioga & Vernon stakes and race dates at tiogadowns.com/horsemen

All purses not listed as guaranteed (g) are estimates.

unprecedented 10thMedia Excellence Award for Outstanding Broadcast.

Brady Jackson of Sunderland, ON was voted the Outstanding Groom of 2020.

Here is the complete list of 2020 O'BRIEN AWARD WINNERS

PACERS

TWO-YEAR-OLD PACING FILLY

SCARLETT HANOVER (Bettors Delight—Sammys Magic Girl)

Bred by: Hanover Shoe Farms

Owned by: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Fredericktown, PA – Frank Baldachino, Clarksburg, NJ – JandT Silva Purnel & Libby, Delray Beach, FL – Weaver Brussemi LLC, Canonsburg, PA

Trained by: Ashleigh Hensley / Ron Burke

Driven by: Ed Hensley / Yannick Gingras / Matt Kakaley

Caretaker: Ashleigh Hensley

TWO-YEAR-OLD PACING COLT

LAWLESS SHADOW (Shadow Play—Ladycino)

Bred by: Seelster Farms

Owned by: Dr. Ian Moore, Cambridge, ON – R G McGroup Ltd., Bathurst, NB - Serge Savard, St-Bruno, QC – Frank Cannon, Sanford, FL

Trained by: Dr. Ian Moore

Driven by: Bob McClure

Caretaker: Emma Marie Pierson

THREE-YEAR-OLD PACING FILLY

LAURAS LOVE (Betterthancheddar—Fit N Bad)

Bred by: Winbak Farm

Owned by: John Pentland, London, ON – Gracie Mae Barr, Thamesford, ON

Trained by: John Pentland

Driven by: Bob McClure

Caretaker: Gracie Mae Barr

THREE-YEAR-OLD PACING COLT

TATTOO ARTIST (Hes Watching—Stylish Artist)

Bred by: Tara Hills Stud

Owned by: Frank Cannon, Sanford, FL – Let It Ride Stables Inc., Boca Raton, FL

Trained by: Dr. Ian Moore

Driven by: Bob McClure

Caretaker: Giselle Loder



Courtesy Garnet Barnsdale

Garnet Barnsdale won the Media Excellence Award for Outstanding Written Work for his tribute to the late Bill Galvin published in Harness Racing Update.

OLDER PACING MARE

SO MUCH MORE (Big Jim—Ladysai)

Bred by: Doug MacPhee

Owned by: Don Beatson, Granton, ON – Ken Beatson, Palgrave, ON – Cole England, Exeter, ON

Trained by: Don Beatson

Driven by: James MacDonald / Louis-Philippe Roy

Caretakers: Cole England / Don and Kenn Beatson

O'BRIEN AWARD WINNER

OLDER PACING MARE

SO MUCH MORE

(BIG JIM - LADYSAI - REAL ARTIST)
p, 3, 1:50.2s, 1:49.3s -'20 (\$544,367)

Congratulations to the connections:
Owners: Don and Ken Beatson and Cole England
Trainer: Don Beatson
Driver: James MacDonald
Breeder: Doug MacPhee

Seelster Farms .COM

CANTAB HALL CONGRATULATES HIS O'BRIEN AWARD WINNING SON — TWO-YEAR-OLD TROTTING COLT OF THE YEAR —



Hanover-Sired **ON A STREAK**

2, 1:52.4s (\$852,284) · Cantab Hall - Habits Best

OWNED BY: Determination

TRAINED BY: Luc Blais

DRIVEN BY: Bob McClure

WE WILL OFFER 18 YEARLINGS BY CANTAB HALL THIS FALL!



(717) 637-8931 fax: (717) 637-6766 www.hanoverpa.com hanover@hanoverpa.com



**ANDOVER HALL · BAR HOPPING · BETTING LINE · CANTAB HALL · CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS · GREENSHOE
INTERNATIONAL MONI · NUNCIO · PAPI ROB HANOVER · STAY HUNGRY · TALL DARK STRANGER**

OLDER PACING HORSE

CENTURY FARROH (Mach Three—Beachy Girl)

Bred by: Century Spring Farms

Owned by: Ratchford Stable NS, North Sydney, NS

Trained by: Dr. Ian Moore

Driven by: David Miller / Sylvain Filion

Caretaker: Dustin Boyd

TROTTERS

TWO-YEAR-OLD TROTTING FILLY

DONNA SOPRANO (Donato Hanover—Windsong Soprano)

Bred by: White Birch Farm

Owned by: Determination, Montreal, QC

Trained by: Luc Blais

Driven by: Bob McClure

Caretaker: Nadia Carrieres

TWO-YEAR-OLD TROTTING COLT

ON A STREAK (Cantab Hall—Habit's Best)

Bred by: Fredericka Caldwell

Owned by: Determination, Montreal, QC

Trained by: Luc Blais

Driven by: Bob McClure / Scott Young

Caretaker: Randy Cudney



(Clive Cohen / New Image Media)

New Image Media

Clive Cohen won his fifth Media Excellence Award for Outstanding Photography with this photo from the first day training resumed at Woodbine Mohawk Park after the 2020 lockdown.

THREE-YEAR-OLD TROTTING FILLY

SORELLA (Muscle Hill—Kadealia)

Bred by: Elmer Fannin

Owned by: Elmer Fannin, Lincoln, DE – Crawford Farms Racing, Syracuse, NY – Brent Fannin, Milford, DE

Trained by: Nancy Takter

Driven by: Yannick Gingras

Caretaker: Anette Zackrisson

THREE-YEAR-OLD TROTTING COLT

PEMBERTON (Wheeling N Dealin—Dayshifter)

Bred by: Christine Walker / Brenda Walker

Owned by: Brenda Walker, Owen Sound, ON – Christine Walker, Tara, ON

Trained by: Paul Walker

Driven by: Trevor Henry / Paul Walker

Caretaker: Brenda Walker

OLDER TROTTING MARE

HEY LIVVY (Donato Hanover—Nervis Bi)

Bred by: M. Biasuzzi Stable Inc.

Owned by: Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., Wallkill, NY – Ellen Ott, Buffalo, NY-Trevor Henry, Arthur, ON

Trained by: Jeff Gillis

O'BRIEN AWARD WINNER
THREE-YEAR-OLD TROTTING COLT

Congratulations

PEMBERTON
(Wheeling N Dealin—Dayshifter—Muscle Mass)
3, 1:52.2 (\$363,684)

Congratulations to the connections:
Owners: Brenda and Christine Walker
Trainer: Paul Walker
Driver: Trevor Henry

Seelster Farms .COM

Driven by: Trevor Henry

Caretaker: Sandi Lawrence

OLDER TROTTING HORSE

PERFETTO (Majestic Son—Perfect Prelude)

Bred by: Seawind Amg Stables

Owned by: Gerald Haggerty, Camden East, ON

Trained by: Dagfin Henriksen

Driven by: Dagfin Henriksen

Caretaker: Laura Trask

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE HORSE OF THE YEAR

CENTURY FARROH

PEOPLE AWARDS

O'BRIEN AWARD OF HORSEMANSHIP

KELLY HOERDT, Beaumont, AB

ARMSTRONG BREEDER OF THE YEAR

SEELSTER FARMS, Lucan, ON

DRIVER OF THE YEAR

BOB MCCLURE, Rockwood, ON

TRAINER OF THE YEAR

RICHARD MOREAU, Puslinch, ON

FUTURE STAR AWARD

AUSTIN SORRIE, Freelon, ON

OUTSTANDING GROOM AWARD

BRADY JACKSON, Sunderland, ON

MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OUTSTANDING WRITTEN WORK

GARNET BARNSDALE

OUTSTANDING PHOTOGRAPHY

CLIVE COHEN

OUTSTANDING BROADCAST

WOODBINE ENTERTAINMENT

CLICK HERE

To Share This Story



FOLLOW HRU ON TWITTER
@HARNESSUPDATE

**CLICK
HERE**



LAURA'S LOVE

Betterthancheddar-Fit N Bad-Badlands Hanover
p, 3, 1:50.3s -'20 (\$331,853)

**BETTER-
THANCHEDDAR**

Congratulates

LAURA'S LOVE

**2020 O'Brien Award Winner
for 3-Year-Old Pacing Fillies**

Trainer: John Pentland

Owners: John Pentland & Gracie Mae Barr

BETTERTHANCHEDDAR stands at
Winbak Farm of Ontario for \$5,000 CAD



Click here for more information on Betterthancheddar!

Garrett Bell, General Manager / **Pat Woods**, Ontario Manager
905.838.2145 / pat.woods@winbakfarm.com / Find us on Facebook & Twitter

INTRODUCING TO KENTUCKY IN 2021

CRAZY WOW



- ◆ **World Champion** at 2
- ◆ Multiple stakes-winning son of **CRAZED (\$1,063,059)** out of the stakes-winning mare **NO PAN NO GAIN (\$415,630)**
- ◆ **22-time** winner and earner of **\$2,532,143**
- ◆ **Out-cross pedigree**; matches with mares from a wide variety of sire lines.
- ◆ First yearlings this year

MULTIPLE MARE DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

 **DIAMOND
CREEK**

PENNSYLVANIA | 717-638-7100
office@diamondcreekfarm.com

FARM

CRAZED x NO PAN NO GAIN | 2021 FEE: \$3,000

EUROPEAN REPORT



with THOMAS HEDLUND

Face Time Bourbon repeats in the Prix d'Amérique

The Sébastien Guarato trainee, driven by Björn Goop, set a stakes record that translated into an impressive mile rate of 1:54 over 2,700 meters

by Thomas Hedlund

He was not an upset winner in 2020, but still, Face Time Bourbon was 5 years old last year and it's always a tough task for "younger" trotters to be the best among 15-17 more merited and established elite horses in the Prix d'Amérique. Sébastien Guarato's Ready Cash son showed all ingredients necessary to win the biggest race in the world for older



Gerard Forni

Face Time Bourbon (Björn Goop) won his second straight Prix d'Amérique with a stakes record that translated into an impressive mile rate of 1:54 over 2,700 meters.

trotters and when the \$1.2 million event was held at Vincennes in Paris on Sunday afternoon (Jan. 31), Face Time Bourbon was the chased horse.

As usual in this particular race, the start was a mess with 18 horses and drivers in a disorganized jumble in the spot where horses gather before they enter the track. A couple of recalls — as happened this year — is tradition in the Prix



LAURA'S LOVE

Betterthancheddar-Fit N Bad-Badlands Hanover p, 3, 1:50.3s -'20 (\$331,853)

WINBAK FARM

Congratulates

LAURA'S LOVE

**2020 O'Brien Award Winner
for 3-Year-Old Pacing Fillies**

Trainer: John Pentland

Owners: John Pentland & Gracie Mae Barr

Bred, Raised & Sold by Winbak Farm

**Congratulations to all 2020 O'Brien
Award Winners!**



Winbak Farm was the #1 Breeder for Ontario Sires Stakes in 2020!

Garrett Bell, General Manager / Pat Woods, Ontario Manager

905.838.2145 / pat.woods@winbakfarm.com / Find us on Facebook & Twitter

d'Amérique.

Face Time Bourbon was calm on his way back to the start and Björn Goop opted a start on the outside. The 6-year-old trotter left quite quickly.

Bahia Quesnot, the mare who came from an impressive win in Prix de Cornulier one week ago, opened quickly for the lead, but Robert Bergh was eager three wide with his Power and the latter horse took over the front with 1,900 meters to go. Soon thereafter, Bahia Quesnot was seen in the lead again and a decisive incident had occurred just moments before, a little bit further back in the field when Jean-Michel Bazire was on his way towards the front of the field, three wide.

Goop and Face Time Bourbon were positioned ahead of Davidson du Pont, but in second line and Goop had to act quickly when he lifted out Face Time Bourbon three wide. In a hockey game, Goop would most probably have been sent off for two minutes, it was a clear interference from Goop's part, but in French harness racing, that kind of move in races is more common and more allowed compared to other countries' racing rules and regulations. The move by Goop meant that Face Time Bourbon landed first outside of Bahia Quesnot, with Davidson du Pont following behind. With all the facts on hand, it would be unfair to say that the complete

outcome of Prix d'Amérique was determined by the possible interference. Face Time Bourbon could rest behind Bahia Quesnot when the uphill part of Vincennes track waited and Davidson du Pont didn't have to choose the position first over since there was space behind Face Time Bourbon. So, a fair battle between the two favored horses in the race was expected with 600 meters to go. At that point, Goop placed Face Time Bourbon on the outside of leader Bahia Quesnot once again and thereby Davidson du Pont got perfect cover throughout the last turn.

When Face Time Bourbon disarmed Bahia Quesnot in the turn, Goop played all his cards and tried to make it difficult for the follower Davidson du Pont. The two lengths advantage he earned by that move was enough and Face Time Bourbon claimed his second win in the race, this time in a stakes record that translated into an impressive mile rate of 1:54 over 2,700 meters.

Davidson du Pont finished second, some two lengths behind the winner and 5-year-old Gu d'Heripre finished strongly as third.

Goop described the race as a war moments after the prestigious win and it really was a war between him and the king of Vincennes, Jean-Michel Bazire. Bazire himself is known as one of the most daring drivers in France, but it's



Adam Ström

It was the third Prix d'Amérique title for Björn Goop to go with Face Time Bourbon's victory last year and Readly Express in 2018.

HARNES RACING UPDATE

About Harness Racing Update

Harness Racing Update is owned by HRU Publications of Millwood, NY and will publish Fridays and Sundays from fall through late spring. HRU will add Saturday editions early summer through fall, publishing 3 days per week, and will add editions throughout the year as major news breaks.

Editor: Dave Briggs

Production: Brian Fuller

Graphic Design, Ads & Placement: Lisa Bihuniak

Advertising Sales: Wilma Van Vaerenbergh | [contact for ad sales/questions](#)

Results & Stats Editor: Lisa Duong

Founder: Bill Finley

Contributors Claus Andersen, Garnet Barnsdale, Tim Bojarski, Murray Brown, Jerry Connors, Frank Coto, Paul Delean, Bill Finley, Joe FitzGerald, Dean Gillette, Ron Gurfein, Thomas Hedlund, Bill Heller, Bob Heyden, Dean Hoffman, Victoria Howard, Melissa Keith, Dave Landry, Lauren Lee, Dave Little, Debbie Little, Chris Lomon, David Mattia, Trey Nosrac, Tom Pedulla, Andrea Pietrzak, James Platz, Bob Roberts, Sandra Snyder, Brett Sturman, Jay Wolf

Get in touch with HRU

PO Box 230 | Millwood, NY | 10546 | Telephone: (226) 374-9999

Editor/News Stories: editor@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising: advertising@harnessracingupdate.com

Customer Service: customerservice@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising info & rates:

If you are interested in advertising with us [please contact Wilma](#)

In Memoriam

ROBERT J. KEY

1933 - 2021



Farewell to a harness racing
ambassador, leader & friend.

You will be greatly missed.





Gerard Forni

As predicted, the Prix d'Amérique ended up as a battle between Davidson du Pont (left, Jean-Michel Bazire) and Face Time Bourbon.

not common that he is the victim of someone else's cheeky moves in big races and the incident that occurred after 700 meters became a hot topic of conversation.

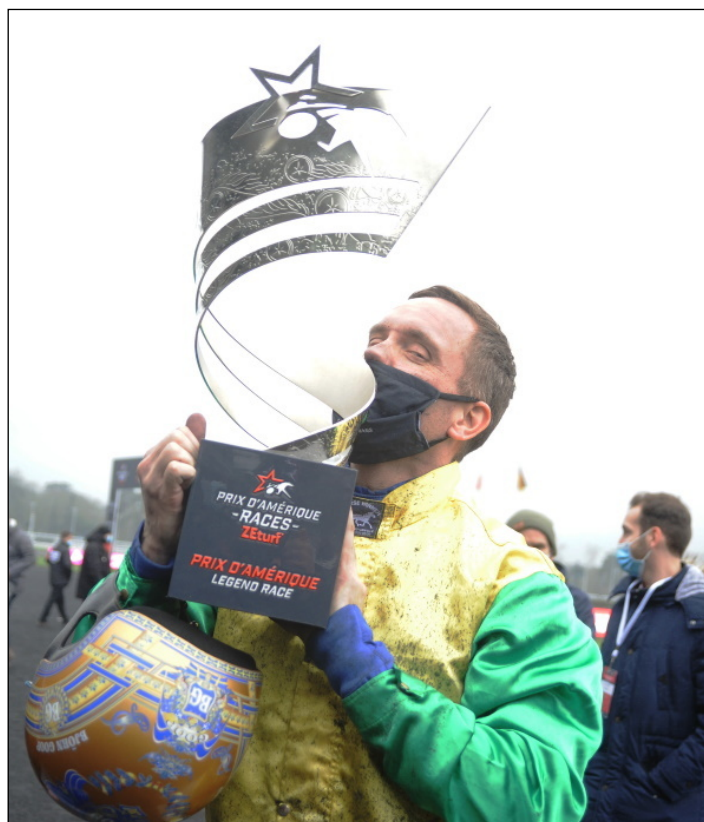
"We fought about the same position at that point and I was tough on Bazire, that's for sure, but Bazire would have done the same thing if he had been in my position," said Goop to atg.se after the race.

"I wasn't sure at all that we would win the race after that incident. I hoped that we could reach the lead, but Junior Guelpa (driver of Bahia Quesnot) wanted to drive in front and we could rest with cover uphill. The I had to leave the cover with 600 meters to go and I opted to play out all my cards since I'm aware that the last turn is difficult for Davidson du Pont.

"Face Time Bourbon is just stunning and he solves every obstacle that's put in the way. He never makes us disappointed and I'm really happy today, even though I miss the spectators here at Vincennes."

Goop grabbed his third win in Prix d'Amérique. Readly Express in 2018 was his first victory and now he can look back at two consecutive wins with Guarato's super trotter Face Time Bourbon.

Trainer Guarato danced in happiness when Face Time Bourbon crossed the wire as a winner.



Adam Ström

Despite being contested without fans present at Vincennes, winning the Prix d'Amérique was still a cause for celebration for Goop.

"I was quite calm during the race's first half, but it was a little bit surprising that Bahia Quesnot came to the lead and stayed in that position. Björn drove a perfect race with my horse and it was Davidson du Pont I was afraid of in the end," Guarato said after his fourth triumph in Prix d'Amérique. Bold Eagle won the race in back to back 2016-2017 and Face Time Bourbon has now done the same in 2020-2021.

Bazire's thoughts about his horse and the race in general were never cabled out in television, so we can basically just speculate on how he felt as runner-up this time, especially after the mentioned incident between him and Goop.

To French media Bazire said: "I knew Björn was going to put in his effort at the halfway point and I didn't panic because my horse was doing very well too. I thought I would get close and beat Face Time Bourbon, but it didn't turn out that way. There is no shame in finishing second behind a legendary horse like Face Time Bourbon," he said.

The battle of southpaws – which the Prix d'Amérique 2021 really turned out to be – was won by Björn Goop this time and the future of Face Time Bourbon is still bright, so we can most likely look forward to another battle in 2022.

Results Prix d'Amérique 2021

1. Face Time Bourbon - Björn Goop (Sebastien Guarato) €450,000
2. Davidson du Pont - Jean-Michel Bazire €250,000
3. Gu d'Heripre - Franck Nivard (Philippe Billard) €140,000
4. Delia du Pommereux - Eric Raffin (Sylvain Roger) €80,000
5. Bahia Quesnot - Junior Guelpa €50,000
6. Diable de Vauvert - Gabriele Gelormini (Bertrand Le Beller) €20,000
7. Feliciano - David Thomain (Philippe Allaire) €10,000

Prix d'Amérique replay.

Raffin dominated

Eric Raffin had a great day at Vincennes on Sunday's card. In the \$123,000 Prix Jacques Andrieu monté race, Raffin swept to the front on Franck Leblanc-trained **Freeman de Houelle** (Vigove) and flew away from the field at the backstretch, where Vincennes' track mounts. That move meant checkmate and the opponents were never close at the finish. Over the distance of 2,850 meters (approximately 1.7 miles), Freeman de Houelle noted a strong mile rate 1:56.2.



Gerard Forni

Face Time Bourbon (above) produced the fourth Prix d'Amérique victory for trainer Sébastien Guarato who also won back-to-back in 2016-2017 with Bold Eagle.

In the \$123,000 Prix Charles Tiercelin for 4-year-olds, Raffin was second choice with Jean Michel Baudouin-trained **Hirnodelle Sibey** (Gazouillis) and the duo hit the lead midway through the 2,100 meters long race. In front, Hirondelle Sibey defended herself well and held on to safe win in mile rate 1:55.1.

The newly established \$123,000 Prix Bold Eagle for 5-year-olds was one of the most interesting races during the race card in Paris and with two of the best in the crop missing (Power and Gu d'Heripre both were entered in the Prix d'Amérique). Jerry Riordan-trained Aetos Kronos (Bold Eagle) had a suitable task ahead of him, even if the horse's previous performance was weak. In the Prix de Croix, or rather ahead of Prix de Croix, many factors delayed the start and Aetos Kronos, who basically always performs on top, was far from his best.

In the Prix Bold Eagle, the son of Bold Eagle was back and in the hands of Jean-Michel Bazire Aetos Kronos performed well from first over. The manifold Group 1-winner fought bravely on the outside and came home in a mile rate of 1:55.3 over 1.3 miles.

CLICK HERE
To Share This Story



Harness Racing Update on Facebook

/HARNESSRACINGUPDATE



His first crop races in 2021!



ODDS ON EQUULEUS

Art Major-Latte Lady-Jenna's Beach Boy

2, 1:50m; 3, Q1:50.1m; 1:47.3m (\$935,816)

One of Art Major's fastest sons

Odds On Equuleus stands his fourth season in Indiana after a distinguished racing career. The fourth fastest son of Art Major brings a solid record of production and desirable bloodlines to the Hoosier State. On the track, Odds On Equuleus battled the best on the Grand Circuit over multiple seasons. Some of his highlights include:

Won his \$87,550 International Stallion Stake division in a time of 1:50

Finished a neck behind Captaintreacherous in the \$1,000,000 Metro Final

Raced second in the \$635,750 Meadowlands Pace with a 1:48.4 effort

Paced second in the \$100,000 Meadowlands Maturity in a time of 1:49.3

At two, Odds On Equuleus banked over \$400,000 in earnings and hit the board in eight of nine seasonal starts, registering five wins. He captured his \$109,206 division of the Nassagaweya at Mohawk in 1:52.3, his fourth career start, before claiming a Metro elimination and racing a close second to Captaintreacherous in the final. The colt finished his freshman campaign with a victory at The Red Mile in the International Stallion Stake.

As a sophomore, Odds On Equuleus finished second five times in some of the sport's biggest races. He was second in a North America Cup elimination, runner-up in the Meadowlands Pace, and second in a Little Brown Jug heat, clocking a 1:50.3 mile before pacing in 1:51.2 later that afternoon in the Jug final. Odds On Equuleus finished in the money in the Empire Breeders Classic, Messenger Stake and American National. Competing in the open ranks for four seasons, Odds On Equuleus continued to reach the winner's circle and record fast miles. He took his 1:47.3 mark at five and paced in 1:48.4 as a seven year old, logging miles of 1:51 or faster six times in his final season.

His first group of yearlings were well received at auction, averaging just under \$21,000 at the Hoosier Classic sale for a near seven-time return. Look for his freshmen to make an impact this summer at Harrah's Hoosier Park!

2021 Fee:
\$3,000

PremierAcresIndiana.com



Premier Acres
12559 CR 30, Middlebury, IN 46540
574-312-4685
premieracres@gmail.com



Maine legend Clayton Smith dead at 99

An obituary in the *Portland Press Herald* ([full obituary here](#)) on Sunday (Jan. 31) said Maine harness racing legend Clayton Smith died peacefully at home on Jan. 25 at the age 99. The full obituary follows:

A resident of Yarmouth, ME for over 74 years, Smith was born in Lynchburg VA on July 9, 1921 to Neeley and Vera (Higgins) Smith and the family returned to Portland shortly thereafter. He attended Portland schools and it was at Deering High that he met Marjorie, his wife of 74 years.

He enjoyed school and sports, and graduated with the Deering High School class of 1939. After attending the University of New Hampshire he enlisted in the Navy during WWII. He and Marjorie married in 1943 before being assigned to duty in the Pacific aboard the USS Hovey as a bridge officer. When the Hovey sank in the Philippines after a torpedo strike, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war, Clayton and Marjorie bought a farm in Yarmouth which remained their lifelong home. Clayton became a teacher at his alma mater Deering High where he taught English, coached baseball, basketball, public speaking, and was involved in school drama productions. Many past students remained in touch over the years and he always remembered them and their individual talents.

He had an early interest in harness horse racing, purchasing his first racehorse, Miss Marie Grattan, at the age of 25. This purchase was the beginning of a life-long treasured friendship and partnership with Donald Richards, with Donnie training and racing horses for him and jointly owning several over the years. Clayton's involvement in harness racing took an unexpected turn when he served as announcer for a friend's trick horse show held at the Cumberland Fairgrounds. Overheard by track management,

he was hired to announce the races for the Cumberland Fair and his career as a track announcer was launched.

Eventually leaving teaching altogether in the early 1960s, he became a full-time harness racing official at tracks along the East Coast. He became the announcer at Foxborough Raceway in Massachusetts, as well as a racing official at tracks such as Rosecroft outside Washington D.C., Pocono Downs in Wilkes Barre, PA, and he enjoyed a long tenure at Rockingham Park in Salem, NH. Clayton was also a well-known fixture at the Maine tracks of Lewiston, Bangor and Scarborough Downs to name a few. Highly regarded by horse owners, drivers and track management he was honored to be inducted into the New England Harness Writers Hall of Fame in 2000. After retiring in 1986 from full time officiating duties he continued to work summers at several Maine fairs, finishing out his career as Director of Racing for the Skowhegan State Fair in 2018 at the age of 97. For many years Clayton also owned and operated Pine Tree Sales Company which auctioned racehorses and equipment at venues across Maine.

Clayton was an avid golfer, with memberships at Val Halla Golf Club, Freeport Country Club, and Toddy Brook. He played in countless local tournaments over the years and was a keen competitor in the Maine Seniors Golf Association League. He and Marjorie enjoyed playing together in Maine, and also in Myrtle Beach, S.C. where they wintered in their retirement years. Clayton was also a familiar face on the first tee at Toddy Brook where he worked for several years as a course starter, continuing to work and play golf there until after the age of 93.

Clayton is predeceased by his wife Marjorie; sons, Barry and Gregory Smith; his parents; and his sisters, Virginia Knight, Jean Barnes, and Barbara Pride.

He is survived by son, Jeffrey Smith, daughter, Andrea and her husband Patrick Mullen, daughter-in-law, Bonnie Smith; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

His cheerful presence, listening ear, helping hand, and generous advice will be greatly missed by family and his many friends.

The family would like to thank Dottie, Bonnie, and Darlene for their care given to Clayton in his later years and to Beacon Hospice for providing comfort in his final days.

A celebration of Clayton's life will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather and share memories in person.

To share memories and offer online condolences [please visit here](#).

— *Portland Press Herald*

Betting topped \$4 million Saturday at Big M

Powered by a pair of races that featured huge action, all-source handle totaled \$4,083,026 Saturday night (Jan. 30) at The Meadowlands, the second time this month where wagering blew past the \$4 million plateau.

During all of 2020, the \$4-million barrier was broken three times, the first of which did not occur until June 20.

Saturday's play marked the second-best night of the year, topped only by Jan. 2, when wagering reached \$4.5 million. All five Saturday programs during the month of January have seen action of at least \$3.4 million.

The 20-cent Pick-5 got things off to a big start, with \$105,890 put in the hat, keying the first race grand total of \$379,815. The sixth race 50-cent Early Pick-4 took in a 2020-best \$135,815 as a total of \$417,983 was pushed through the windows on that dash.

Rarely will wagering top \$300,000 on the last race of the night, but that's just what the Big M faithful put in play (actually \$300,670) in the 14th event, keyed by an exacta pool that topped \$95,000.

The Late Pick-4 saw \$107,428 pushed through the windows, marking the second time this year where both Pick-4s reached six figures. The other night (Jan. 2), Pick-4 betting totaled a little more than \$223,000 while on Saturday, the total wager was \$243,243.

JL 'CRUZES': Fan favorite JL Cruze came back to his favorite track and took the featured \$22,500 high-end conditioned trot in impressive fashion.

The Eric Ell-trainee rebounded off a sixth-place finish in the Open Handicap at Dover Downs 18 days ago with a crisp performance to get back into the win column for a second consecutive start at The Big M, hitting the wire in 1:54.4 on a night where the real-feel temperature was 19 degrees.

A 10-year-old gelded son of Crazy—Topcat Hall, driver Dexter Dunn guided JL Cruze away quickly from the rail in the nine-horse field with designs on sitting right in behind speed-burner Warrior One.

It worked to perfection.

After Warrior One cut out fractions of :28.1, :57.4 and 1:26.4, Dunn moved JL Cruze from the pocket well before they completed the far turn, took a 1-length lead with three-sixteenths of a mile to go, and drew clear to 2-length win over Buck Dancer. Scirocco Rob was third. Warrior One weakened to finish seventh.

"We had his knees done," said Ell. "I thought he was about

80 percent heading into the race. He flipped a palate [in his last race] at Dover. The five-eighths mile track doesn't suit him, but I took him there to put a line on his card so he wouldn't have to qualify."

JL Cruze, who was the first trotter to break the 1:50 barrier at The Big M when he went 1:49.4 six years ago, returned \$6.80 to his backers as the lukewarm 2-1 favorite. He now has 42 wins from 125 career starts and a bulky bankroll of \$1,555,517 for owners W Kenneth Wood, J Dittmar Jr. and S J laquinta.

"I hope The Meadowlands keeps filling races for him to go in," said Ell. "When Dexter pulled him on the turn and he opened up, I said to myself 'He's an unbelievable horse. He loves what he does'."

A LITTLE MORE: Springsteen took the \$22,500 featured pace for Todd McCarthy and trainer Brett Pelling from off the pace in 1:51.2 as the 5-1 third choice... Dunn and Andy McCarthy both recorded driving triples on the card, while Corey Callahan, Todd McCarthy and Yannick Gingras won two apiece... For a second straight night, the red-hot Jeff Cullipher barn sent two to the winner's circle... Chalk players finally had a good night. After only 10 post-time choices had emerged victorious over the three previous race cards, a total of six chalks scored on the program... Racing resumes Friday at 6 p.m.

—*Dave Little / Meadowlands media relations*

MGM Northfield Park sets 5 p.m. post time starting in February

Beginning Tuesday (Feb. 2) MGM Northfield Park's post time will move to 5 p.m. The move in post time is in conjunction with Governor DeWine's new order of an 11 p.m. curfew for the state of Ohio.

Governor DeWine's order has been implemented for two weeks and will be re-evaluated at that time. MGM Northfield Park will continue to adjust to future gubernatorial orders regarding curfews.

—*Ayers Ratliff / MGM Northfield Park*

CLICK HERE
To send us
your feedback!





RESULTS & REPLAYS



PURSE CRITERIA FOR RESULTS/REPLAYS

Non-stakes races with a purse of \$15K+

Stakes races with a purse of \$10K+

www.harnessracingupdate.com



RACE RESULTS - SUNDAY

MIAMI VALLEY RACEWAY *report*

Sunday's Results:

12, MVR, \$15,750, Pace, HORSES & GELDINGS CLAIMING \$30,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 28.2, 57.0, 1:25.0, 1:53.3, SY

1-Jet Rock (g, 5, Rock N Roll Heaven--Jet Wash, by Jerome's Jet) \$7,875, \$15,000 2017 MORRIS, Lifetime Record: 58-13-4-8, \$150,023

O-Brian&Ira Wallach Racing. B-Crawford Farms LLC. T-Tyler George. D-Trace Tetrick.



ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY FROM CRAWFORD FARMS!



Preferred Equine

YEARLING &
MIXED SALE
GRADUATE

2-Revelry (g, 5, Captaintreacherous--Platinum Hanover, by Western Ideal) \$3,937, \$17,000 2017 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 65-12-8-6, \$130,966

O-Beasty LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Christi Noble. D-Dan Noble.

3-Upfront And Gone (g, 6, Upfront Hannahsboy--Precious Alibi, by His Alibi) \$1,890, Lifetime Record: 106-14-10-22, \$112,378

O-Thomas L Luther. B-Lori A Davis. T-Jennifer Redmond. D-Brandon Bates.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 4H, 2, 2Q, 2H, H - Finish Order: Rockette Baby, Ginger Tree Marty, Rose Run Uriah, Fox Valley Hustler, Hal N Sammy, So So Delightful, Ron's Eom

