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**HARNESS RACING**  
— UPDATE —

**Fresh**  
*Breeze*

**TWIN B JOE FRESH** is the overwhelming choice for **Horse of the Year**.





# Certified *Fresh*



Claus Andersen  
**Horse of the Year**  
**Twin B Joe Fresh**  
**(Dexter Dunn)**  
winning the  
**Roses Are Red**  
**in June of 2024**  
**at Woodbine**  
**Mohawk Park.**

*Twin B Joe Fresh dominates the Horse of the Year balloting with Jiggy Jog S taking the Trotter of the Year title.*

story by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager  
quotes by Dave Briggs

Twin B Joe Fresh breezed through her season last year, going 10-for-10 in stakes or invitational finals, and added another triumph Sunday (Feb. 23) when she was named the 2024 Horse of the Year to conclude the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Awards banquet, presented by Caesars Entertainment, before a crowd of 300 at Rosen Centre.

The Chris Ryder-trained mare, who also received Pacer of the Year for her 4-year-old campaign at Sunday's banquet, was named Horse of the Year on 126 of the 142 returned ballots. Five-year-old mare Jiggy Jog S, who was announced as Trotter of the Year on Sunday, was second with seven votes.

It is the first time in history that mares have been named Pacer of the Year and Trotter of the Year in the same year. The awards date back to 1970.

"It's great," said Ryder. "There have been a lot of people telling me that she's going to get this, but I never count my chickens before they hatch. So, obviously, it's not the biggest surprise, but it's exciting and really cool."

Also receiving votes for Horse of the Year were 3-year-old trotting colt Karl with four, 3-year-old pacing colt Captain Albano with three, and 3-year-old pacing colt Nijinsky with one.

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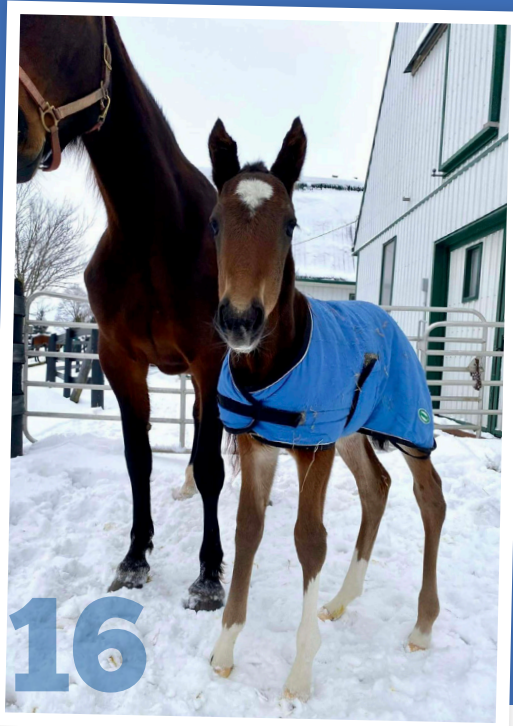
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## Episode 5



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“ It’s great. There have been a lot of people telling me that [Twin B Joe Fresh was] going to get this, but I never count my chickens before they hatch. So, obviously, it’s not the biggest surprise, but it’s exciting and really cool. ”

~ Chris Ryder

Twin B Joe Fresh became the second pacing mare in the 78-year history of the Horse of the Year Award to receive the honor, joining Shartin N in 2019.

In balloting for Pacer of the Year, Twin B Joe Fresh was the only horse to get more than five votes, leading the way with 131. In balloting for Trotter of the Year, Jiggy Jog S received 84 votes to top a trio of horses in double digits. She was followed by Maryland with 34 and Karl with 13. Sig Sauer, who topped Karl



Dave Landry  
**Twin B Joe Fresh is the first Horse of the Year trained by Chris Ryder, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer.**



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Mike Lizzi

**Trotter of the Year Jiggy Jog S (Dexter Dunn) winning the MGM Yonkers International Trot last September.**

in divisional Dan Patch Award voting for best 3-year-old male trotter, was the only other horse with more than one vote. He received eight.

Twin B Joe Fresh finished no worse than second in all 13 of her races last year, winning 11 and earning \$895,562 to lead all older pacers in money. She captured eight of the nine most lucrative races for pacing mares, including the Breeders Crown Mare Pace, Dayton Distaff Derby, Roses Are Red, Milton, FanDuel Mare Championship, Lady Liberty, and Dorothy Haughton Memorial.

She was voted No. 1 in the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll for the final 21 weeks of the rankings.

Twin B Joe Fresh, a daughter of Roll With Joe—Fresh Breeze, was owned by trainer Ryder, driver Dexter Dunn, Peter Trebotica, and Barry Spak. She was bred by Brittany Farms.

The mare is the first Horse of the Year winner for Ryder, who in the previous five years had finished second on three occasions, with three different horses. Ryder will be inducted into the harness racing Hall of Fame in July of this year.

Twin B Joe Fresh is the second Horse of the Year winner for Dunn, who drove 2022 honoree Bulldog Hanover. Dunn flew to the Dan Patch Awards from Australia where he competed in the [Ladbrokes Ultimate Driver Championship](#) on Saturday

“ [Twin B Joe Fresh] has had it all since she’s been a 2-year-old – speed, you could use her any way you want to, but I think this year she really went to another level. I could use her a lot tougher in races and she’d finish them all off much better and she was just so strong. She was very dominant this year. She really grew up. ”

~ Dexter Dunn



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**Dave Landry**

**Jiggy Jog S was trained by Ake Svanstedt.**

night (Feb. 22). He arrived in Orlando at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, just as the banquet was starting.

“I came straight from the airport to here, got my suit on and came down,” Dunn said. “We didn’t make it on time, but we were here.”

Dunn, who also collected his fifth Driver of the Year Award in the last six years and drove a record eight Dan Patch winners, said he’s used to rushing from one track to the next to just make it in time for a big race, so coming from Australia to Orlando via San Francisco wasn’t a lot different. Though, he said he expects, “the next couple of days will be pretty tough, but it’s exciting to be here and get the Horse of the Year. Being tired is nothing to worry about.”

Dunn said Twin B Joe Fresh has, “had it all since she’s been a 2-year-old – speed, you could use her any way you want to, but I think this year she really went to another level. I could use her a lot tougher in races and she’d finish them all off much better and she was just so strong.

“She was very dominant this year. She really grew up. I own a piece of her, too, which is a big bonus.”

Ryder and Dunn said Twin B Joe Fresh will return to the races this year at age 5.

“It’s fantastic,” Dunn said. “The sport needs champions and I have never seen it so much as I did with the 4-year-old year of Bulldog Hanover. I saw so much outside interest come because of him. It was one year of it and then it was done, but it really brought racing alive, especially with what he did. So, hopefully, [Twin B Joe Fresh] builds a big following for this year. Hopefully, she comes back and it’s even better again.”

Jiggy Jog S was a perfect six-for-six last year, earning \$929,188, before being retired because of a ligament issue. She defeated an international group of male rivals in the MGM Yonkers International Trot in addition to beating the boys in the John Cashman Memorial (in a career-best 1:49.2), Arthur J. Cutler Memorial, and Sebastian K Invitational.

A daughter of Walner—Hot Mess Hanover, Jiggy Jog S was trained by Ake Svanstedt and owned by Ake Svanstedt Inc., Steve Stewart, John Lengacher, and Hickory Hollow Stables. The mare, who was a divisional Dan Patch Award winner in 2023 at age 4, was bred by Vestmarka AB.

Previously announced Dan Patch Award divisional champions also were honored Sunday at the banquet.

Division-winning pacers in addition to Twin B Joe Fresh were 2-year-old colt Louprint, 2-year-old filly Miki And Minnie, 3-year-old colt Captain Albano, 3-year-old filly My Girl EJ, and 6-year-old stallion Abuckabett Hanover.

Division-winning trotters in addition to Jiggy Jog S were 2-year-old colt Maryland, 2-year-old filly Champagne Problems, 3-year-old colt Sig Sauer, 3-year-old filly Allegiant, and 4-year-old stallion Winner’s Bet.

Other honorees included Stan Bergstein-Proximity Achievement Award winner Wanda Polisseni, Trainer of the Year Noel Daley, Owner of the Year Burke Racing/Weaver Brusceci, and Rising Star Brett Beckwith.

Also recognized at the banquet were the members of the 2025 Hall of Fame class, which will be inducted on July 6 at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY: Ryder, Tom Aldrich and Bob Boni, as well as communicators Debbie Little and Judy Davis-Wilson.

A complete list of winners can be found here on the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s website. For complete Horse of the Year, Pacer of the Year, and Trotter of the Year vote totals, click here. A replay of the Dan Patch Awards banquet will be available on the U.S. Trotting Association’s website www.ustrotting.com this afternoon (Feb. 24).

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
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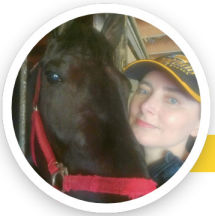
**POINTS NORTH p,6,1:49.2s (\$825,433)**

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## THE VIEW FROM WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK

with **MELISSA KEITH**

# Points North pointing south

by **Melissa Keith**

“Horses for courses” is an expression conveying that individuals perform best in settings that favor their strengths. Points North (p,6,1:49.2s; \$825,434) has illustrated the concept at Woodbine Mohawk Park ever since Aug. 6, 2019, when he won his first qualifier at the Campbellville, ON track. He also won his Mohawk pari-mutuel debut, prevailing in 1:52.2 for Trevor Henry on Aug. 22, 2019.

Although he did not become a Mohawk regular until Dec. 21 of that year, the then 4-year-old pacer soon rose through the ranks for trainer Carmen Auciello, winning his first two tries in 2020 and first joining the preferred handicap on Jan. 18, 2020, finishing second to Sintra.

Since then, Points North has been a constant at Mohawk. Now 10, the gritty gelding reached \$1 million (Canadian) in career earnings on Feb. 1, 2025, winning that Saturday night for driver Jonathan Drury.

After reaching the earnings milestone, Auciello told interviewer Peter Gross that Points North had been overdue for Canadian millionaire status.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Auciello said. “He was about 1,200 bucks away from a million for the longest time. We knew he’d do it eventually, but it was nice to do it with a win. I knew he fit the bottom class, and I wanted to qualify him three times, just to make sure he was ready to win, and it worked out.”

Points North began his racing career as a 2-year-old at The Meadowlands, racing for trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman. The son of Somebeachsomewhere—Northwest Hanover recorded his maiden victory at Harrah’s Philly for driver Andrew McCarthy on Aug. 20, 2017, beating a field of seven other 2-year-old male pacers in 1:53.4. It was Points North’s fifth lifetime start in a career that would span 228 starts as of Feb. 22, 2025.

Recently owned by Jim Winske of Marlborough, MA, and David Winske of Hudson, MA, the now 10-year-old gelding changed hands last Monday (Feb. 17) in a Preferred Equine Online Mixed Sale.

Jim had originally purchased the pacer in another Preferred Equine Online sale, back on April 11, 2022, when Points North became one of the highest-priced horses ever sold on the site at that time, bringing the sale’s top bid of \$140,000. He had been consigned by Preferred Equine Online, LLC. as agent for Aaron Waxman. Bidding started at \$50,000 but quickly escalated, as he drew 42 bids before going to Winske.



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*Photos: Walter Wlodarczyk, Conrad Photo, Amanda Stephens*



“When I first bought Points North, we did plan to race him in the U.S. He did race and win a few opens at Plainridge Park then we sent him back to Carmine to race in Canada,” said Jim.

In the latest Preferred online auction, the gelding sold for \$18,000 to Mark Beckwith of Wilton, NY, marking a return to the stable which had briefly campaigned him between April 25, 2022 and Aug. 29, 2022. Points North was then trained by Melissa Beckwith, Mark’s wife, who shared ownership of the horse with Jim and David Winske at the time.

In fact, Points North is not moving on to new owners, but circling southbound to where he began for the Winskes.

“We decided to sell Points North if he brought a decent price, but since he only brought \$18,000, we bought him back and the plan is to race him in the USA,” Jim said on Saturday (Feb. 22).

Points North made just 12 U.S. starts for Beckwith, competing at Plainridge Park and Saratoga Harness and winning three winners-over \$10,000 events at the Massachusetts track. In Sept. 2022, Points North was pointed back towards Campbellville, ON, and the Auciello stable, where he would spend the next two and a half years.

“We’ve had this horse a long time,” Auciello told Gross. “He was sold once, and then actually sent back to me to train again.”

The Stouffville, ON, trainer estimated that Points North had made a total of 180 starts for him, winning 36 of them, including the 2020 Canadian Pacing Derby consolation, in which he edged out favorite Western Joe by a nose. Points North has never raced in a claiming race.

“He was always good enough, when he was at his best, especially, he won the preferred a handful of times, but he was always good enough to get up there, make it to the preferred, and then we’d always go a couple of starts, you know, finishing fourth or fifth, or third and work some money off the card, and then work his way down in the conditions,” Auciello said. “Then once he got to the bottom, he would always be good for a couple of wins, and then work his way back up. When you have a horse with that ability... you’re never forced to put them in claimers, because they’re always constantly making money. He tries his heart out every week, and we’ve never had to worry about it.”

Auciello said with a laugh that the prestige of becoming a Mohawk millionaire didn’t do much to raise Points North’s stateside profile in the latest online sale.

“It’s one of those things too: In Canadian dollars, he’s over a million, but the second he goes back to the U.S., it’s 825 [thousand dollars] American, so that kind of sucks, but as long as we keep him in Canada for the rest of his life, then it’s okay,” he said.

Points North was last entered at Mohawk on Saturday (Feb. 15), a card which ended up canceled due to expected heavy

“ Racing him at Mohawk was a great experience, but there seems to be more options for him in the U.S. right now and the purse money is much better because of the exchange rates. [But] I have been racing horses for over 50 years and have many contacts in Canada, where it’s always a pleasure to race. ”

~ Jim Winske

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“ [Points North hitting the million-dollar milestone has] been a long time coming. He was about 1,200 bucks away from a million for the longest time. We knew he’d do it eventually, but it was nice to do it with a win. I knew he fit the bottom class, and I wanted to qualify him three times, just to make sure he was ready to win, and it worked out. ”

~ Carmen Auciello

snowfall. His most recent start was Feb. 8, when he finished eighth in a field of 10 NW8500L5 conditioned pacers. He tired after an overland trip for driver Jean-Rene Plante.

Although yet to make a start since being sold to Mark Beckwith, trainer Melissa Beckwith’s horses have been competing primarily at Saratoga this year, occasionally venturing to Yonkers or The Meadowlands. Her son, Brett Beckwith, frequently drives. He was voted the 2024 USHWA Dan Patch Rising Star Award winner in just his fourth season of regular driving.

Before Points North’s latest sale, Auciello declared him to be a fit, durable warhorses throughout their time together.

“When they’re sound and healthy and they’re nice animals, they can pile up a lot of money,” he told Gross, predicting that the horse had “one more good year left in him” on the track.

Jim said he will miss Points North’s time at Mohawk, but times have changed, leading to difficult decisions. “Racing him at Mohawk was a great experience, but there seems to be more options for him in the U.S. right now and the purse money is much better because of the exchange rates,” he said.

Current political tensions between the United States and Canada did not influence the choice to bring his horse back home.

“I have been racing horses for over 50 years and have many contacts in Canada, where it’s always a pleasure to race,” said Jim.

When Points North makes his American return to racing, he will lack the earnings milestone earned at his former home track. What he will not lack is back class. As Auciello noted in his latest interview about Points North, “Any horse who makes a million dollars is a damn nice horse.”

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## First foal sired by Lawless Shadow arrives at Seelster Farms

story by Elizabeth Lewis-House  
/ photo by Jaclyn Prisciak

The first foal sired by Lawless Shadow arrived on Jan. 23 at Seelster Farms in Ontario. The filly is the third foal from her dam Dress To The Nines, whose oldest sibling is now 2. Dress To The Nines is a half-sister to Naughty Lady B, p, 1:52s (\$303,586), and Hat Trick Honey, p, 1:50.4s (\$297,455).

Lawless Shadow was an O'Brien Award Winner at 2. At 3, he won the Max Hempt Memorial and was declared the winner of the Meadowlands Pace. He retired with \$995,579 in earnings.

He stands at Winbak Farm of Canada.

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