

Friday, March 20, 2020

Lawson felt burden of decision to keep racing at Mohawk

"We're just all trying to do what's best for the horsepeople and the horses," said the CEO of Woodbine Entertainment Group hours before postponing live racing at Mohawk effective today.

by Dave Briggs

WIRE TO WIRE



with DAVE BRIGGS

There was a noticeable heaviness in Jim Lawson's voice Thursday morning as he explained the decision to try to keep racing horses at Woodbine Mohawk Park as the COVID-19 pandemic worsened in North America.

The CEO of Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) knew not everyone agreed with that call — and even he had some

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self-doubt about it at the time. About eight hours later, about an hour before the Thursday card at Woodbine Mohawk Park went to post, WEG made the decision to postpone racing until further notice starting today (March 20).

"I'm dealing with 2,000 people, employees at Woodbine, and another huge number in the backstretch and, to a large

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extent, have been the industry spokesperson on all of this... and, quite frankly, I am feeling the pressures, socially and otherwise, to make sure we're doing the right thing and it's challenging," Lawson said. "I'm doing my very best under the circumstances, but it's weighing... there's a heavy burden on myself."

Critics with little understanding of the economics of racing will point to the absurdity of horse racing continuing on when virtually all other sports are postponed and even casinos are closed most places.

Woodbine Mohawk Park was one of the few harness tracks racing Thursday night, albeit with spectators banned, horsepeople and track personnel down to the fewest possible needed to race those horses and extra measures taken to screen people by temperature and have horses spread out as far as possible in the paddock.

"It's just such extraordinary times, we're just all trying to do what's best for the horsepeople and the horses," Lawson said. "People's safety is paramount and comes first, of course. We're not in the business of taking risks... That's why we're getting people to cooperate by taking their temperature and limiting the crowds. Only essential people can either be in

our (thoroughbred) backstretch or in the Mohawk paddock."

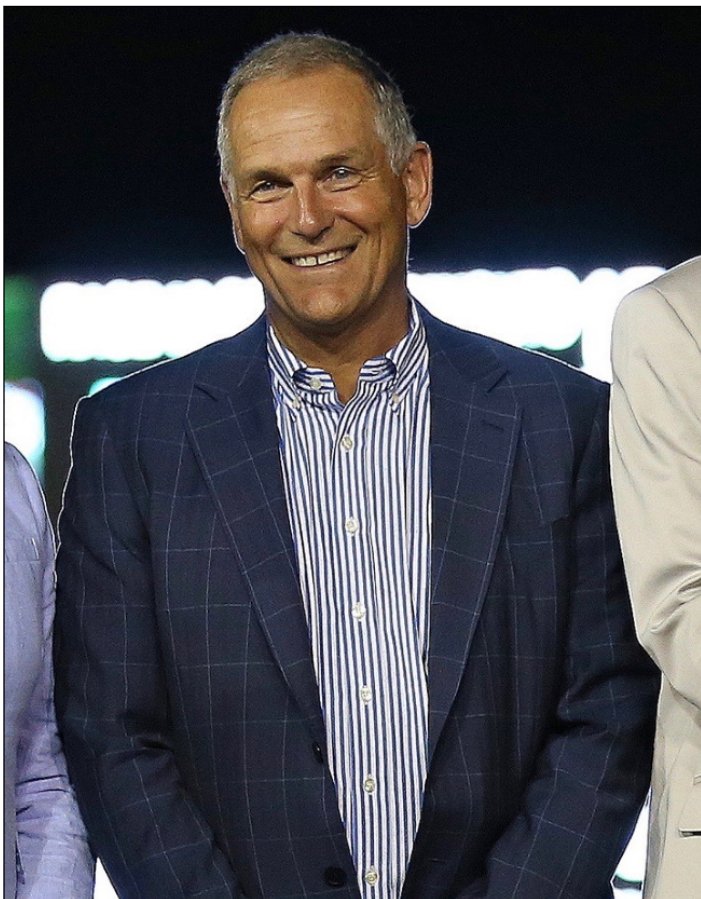
In explaining the decision to race on, before later deciding it was best to postpone live racing at Mohawk, Lawson said the reality is basic care for the horses requires, "some level of commerce, however that's done, because some people will abandon them (otherwise). They won't care for them, so there needs to be a level of commerce. We're working with government and trying to figure out how best to do that."

For Thursday night's card, that meant racing horses with the fewest people possible so the purse money could continue to flow from owners to trainers and down to caretakers and other ancillary personnel.

"The need to look after these horses and the grooms and so forth is unique to our industry. Unless you're in it, you don't really understand it, but once you're in it, you get what we (were) trying to do and why (we were) trying to do it," Lawson said.

Bill O'Donnell, president of the Central Ontario Standardbred Association (COSA), said there's no doubt the shutdown of racing due to COVID-19 will deal a blow to the industry.


"It's a few things," O'Donnell said. "Let's start with the owners. People that own horses and are paying bills on them, their business (will be) affected and it trickles down – they



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Woodbine CEO Jim Lawson.

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won't be able to pay their trainer, the trainer won't be able to keep the grooms around. What will they do, just turn their horses out? That's the best-case scenario and cheapest way, but if this subsides and we get back racing, how long would it be to get these things back going? Would it be sitting around waiting for a first months? That's the first thing.

"The second part of it is that we've got a big stakes program in the summer time here and the horsemen have to plan. Also, the Sire Stakes in this province, the money that goes into Sires Stakes comes from handle. Our estimated Sires Stakes is \$15 million and that's predicated on basically what we did last year in handle and hopefully it goes better and there will be more, but if (handle is) less than your (Sires Stakes funding will go down) with the percentage of the handle."

Now that racing is shut down, Lawson said he hopes accommodations can be made to use unused purse money as relief for horsepeople. He said he has already raised the issue with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming corporation (OLG).

"They are already considering it... We need to look at that, too."

Lawson said it's important to stress that, although Woodbine continued to race when other tracks closed more quickly, WEG acted decisively and was always in compliance with Ontario's state of emergency.

"We shut our grandstands and we sent our employees home. We shut our simulcast areas. We shut our bars and restaurants, WEGZ and Greenwood in particular. We've moved very quickly and decisively and we're doing the right things," Lawson said. "What makes us a different business from other businesses is, first of all, as it relates to Woodbine, we've got 1,000 horses on the backstretch that need care. Somehow that has to be managed and it's on our property and these horses have to be fed, they have to be walked, they have to get some exercise. It's particularly complicated on the thoroughbred side, because there are not enough farms to house these horses that have come up from the United States. I think the good news is, with temperature monitoring and screening and the social distancing all in place, (we were) doing the very best by the horsepeople to keep that Woodbine backstretch safe and protected with all the precautions.

"I said this on an Ontario Racing Board call this morning, I said, 'We as an industry have to be respectful and compliant with the government protocols that they are putting in place.'

It's not an answer that we're different, we're not different. People have to self-isolate when they come back from the United States. We have to respect that the crowds have to be 50 people or less. We have to be managing this so we're following government guidelines as an industry."

Lawson said the long-term situation for horse racing is compounded by the unknown.

"The other difficult part is that we don't know how long this is going to be. This could be two months, four months or it could be six months. We just don't know and that makes it very difficult to plan and have a firm date in place because none of us know what we're dealing with," he said.

"It's a day-to-day thing, at best. It changes constantly and it's important that everyone just stays safe, first and foremost. (We were) just trying to make this work for everyone. I think the horsepeople are very appreciative that (we were) trying for them.

"There's a very heavy burden here to do the right thing."

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with BRETT STURMAN

At Western Fair, best effort was made to keep the show going on

by Brett Sturman

These are indeed interesting times we live in. Like virtually every other industry across the globe, harness racing is constantly assessing and determining its best path forward amid the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

As several U.S. tracks have recently made the decision to suspend racing, including the Meadowlands, a small number of tracks continue to race for the time being. For these tracks, what it comes down to is weighing the risk of conducting racing against the known impact of what is certain to happen if racing is closed.

Until late Thursday, when the decision was made to postpone racing until further notice, one of those tracks still racing was The Raceway at the Western Fair District in London, ON, though, it was doing so without any spectators – as are all tracks still conducting live racing. As of this past Sunday (March 15), Western Fair closed all its facilities to the general public and only essential personnel was allowed during racing.

Greg Blanchard is the director of marketing and communications at the Western Fair and is acutely aware of the dynamics that come with racing at present time.

“As is the case all over the world, it’s not something we’ve ever had to deal with before, so it’s a very strange situation to say the least,” Blanchard said Wednesday prior to Thursday’s decision to postpone racing. “Here at Western Fair, we’ve tried to take the lead of Ontario Racing and Woodbine Entertainment, who has certainly taken the lead on it here in Ontario. In conjunction, we have been monitoring the various health authorities. We’ve got our local health authorities – Middlesex London Health Unit – you’ve got the provincial health units and you’ve got the national Public Health Agency of Canada. We’ve been monitoring their recommendations pretty much hourly and in concert with protocols that Ontario Racing and Woodbine are suggesting

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and putting in place to follow that and stay in line with what they're doing."

Woodbine announced Thursday evening that it was postponing racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park effective today (March 20). Western Fair then followed suit.

For all its troubles, harness racing is a closely-knit community. The industry has been particularly rocked by COVID-19 related deaths to horsemen John Brennan and Carmine Fusco. Which, on one hand, would seem to make it obvious that racing needs to be suspended indefinitely across the board. But, on the other hand, it's critical that industry participants be able to continue to sustain some type of living.

"The primary reason that (we were) trying to keep this going is for the horsepeople whose livelihoods are at stake," Blanchard said. "It's critical for these folks. And their livelihood depends on racing and having purse money available to race for. Having said that, this is a very serious worldwide situation. That's why we're monitoring on a regular basis. It's hard to look very far down the road with this, it's kind of a day to day thing. And as long as these various health organizations are saying it's safe within these parameters and as long as we're doing all those things, then we're trying to hang in here for as long as we can. It's new territory for everybody."

Like anyone else looking at the situation, I can readily admit that in the overall scheme of things, the amount of money bet on the Western Fair races don't really matter. But, simply through racing, Western Fair is providing an invaluable service to harness racing enthusiasts and bettors.

In times of mass uncertainty and confusion, it's important that some normalcy be maintained somewhere. With sports and essentially everything else in the U.S. and Canada in process of being shut down, it was nice to be able to watch harness racing from Western Fair on Wednesday night and if you're like me, continuously make the mistake of over-betting decent looking horses from post #7. The fact the track ran even through Wednesday was good not just for the race participants, but for anyone trying to maintain a sense of normalcy.

Though acknowledging the recent increase in Raceway handle, Blanchard was quick to downplay it. "There's no questioning that the remote wagering has gone up because there are fewer products. But, to us, that's not a consideration. It's so secondary at this point. To be honest, the incremental revenue doesn't come close to offsetting the other factors. I've heard people talking about that and of course wagering is very important and something that we're always focused on, but it really takes a backseat in this scenario. The numbers are good, but we're certainly not

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celebrating or getting excited about it, it's just the way it is."

Mere hours after Blanchard and I spoke Wednesday afternoon, the Wednesday evening card at Western Fair shattered the all-time wagering mark at the track when it turned in a handle of \$992,536 over the 11-race card. The prior record was just \$795,590. The track press released noted that the record handle was buoyed by two different Pick-4 pools, but I'd contend it was more buoyed by those fans and bettors equally appreciative that there was any racing to follow and bet on to begin with. The handle of just shy of \$1 million is symbolic of the welcomed efforts by all for the track to keep racing.

In just the last day, apart from Woodbine Mohawk Park, Flamboro Downs and Pompano Park both announced they were temporarily ceasing racing operations.

Blanchard said Wednesday it was only a matter of time before the inevitable occurred and racing was halted in London.

Thursday evening his words proved prophetic.

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John Campbell: take COVID-19 “very, very seriously”

The president of the Hambletonian Society urges people to be diligent in social distancing and limiting what they do when in public. He also shares his thoughts about being fluid about the stakes season ahead.

by Dave Briggs

Hambletonian Society president John Campbell said people need to take COVID-19 “very, very seriously” and listen to government directives on social distancing and hand washing.

“I think there’s a certain segment of the public that’s not taking it as seriously as they should,” Campbell said Wednesday. “I think everybody has to... be diligent in this social distancing and limiting what you do when you’re out in public. Just be out in public the least amount that you



Dave Landry

Hambletonian Society president John Campbell.

possibly can.

“We’re in Bergen County and that was (location of) the first (COVID-19 death in New Jersey)... that’s where John Brennan lived, so obviously everybody is on alert.”

Since last Friday, Campbell has been working from home.

“We’ve basically shut down other than going back and forth from my daughter’s house, which is really close. That’s about it, other than (my wife) Paula going to the grocery store, when need be,” Campbell said.

“We’ve staggered our staff at the office, so we have limited interaction. We can’t close our office, just because of the stake payment period, because we’ve got payments coming in. To close the office would be to shut down the entire stake process and we can’t do that.

“We took our March 15th payments and we’re processing those and, obviously, it takes a few days for all the mail to come in and get them all accounted, but that’s what we’re doing now. As for April 15th, we haven’t made any decisions or suggestions at this point in time, but it’s something that we really don’t know and we’re certainly going to have to be fluid moving through the stake period time.”

Campbell said it’s too early to talk about alternative dates for Hambletonian Society stakes.

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"It is a little premature, but we've already thought about that and... we've put an email out to a number of people and entities about just having open lines of communication as we move forward, as far as stakes, rescheduling and re-opening.

"We're going to be fluid and going to have lines of communications open with all the tracks, race secretaries and stakeholders moving forward, so nobody gets blindsided by somebody's decision."

Campbell said his hope is that this year's stakes will be raced, somehow. The economics of the game depend, somewhat, on it.

"If our major owners and people that participate don't get to race in the same amount of stakes they normally would... that's going to cut down on their revenue and that's going to cut down on disposable income for sales in the fall, so I think that's one of the main concerns. Just the revenue standpoint from the owners and trainers and drivers. That's going to have a trickle effect on the yearling sales, for sure, if we aren't allowed to race the schedule. Whatever that schedule looks like, we don't know," he said.

"I think this is going to be a situation of months and not weeks before we get any semblance of normal and I don't know what our new normal is going to be when this all passes. I think everybody should be prepared for that time frame and then, if it's less, have a party"

As for maintaining his own sanity, Campbell said he's been lucky to have had the chance to get in a little golf.

"Our golf course, you can walk and carry your own bag, so I did that and played alone," he said. "I went over and played a few holes. I think that's one of the safest places you can be out on a golf course by yourself. I'll be out a couple of times before the end of the week again. The forecast doesn't look too bad."

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Indictments, COVID-19, Surick, Dutrow and fair starts

All this and much more in this week's installment of harness racing's favorite advice column.

by Ron Gurfein

Tidbits: I haven't ever gone this long in my life not watching a sports event or going to a restaurant, and I am sure you are sick of the news so I made this column a little longer to hopefully entertain you.

Maybe it's my age, but I am overwhelmed by the reaction to the Coronavirus on social media. People putting the severity of no Keeneland, no Kentucky Derby, no Masters, baseball, basketball etc. over being sick and possibly dying.

We really have no idea where this entire scenario is going and, unfortunately, neither does our government. That said, after a good look at what went on overseas we are far better off giving up sports for a year than being severely sick. I promise you will survive sports withdrawal. I cannot say the same for the virus.

All in all, we are in much better shape than our thoroughbred friends. Their stake season has already started and although the Kentucky Derby has been moved to Sept. 5, those that line up in that starting gate avail themselves of that ability by earning points in lesser races on the way to

the big dance. Races like the Florida Derby and the Santa Anita Derby offer major opportunity for these candidates to gain a spot. However, the chances of these Grade 1 stakes actually running is doubtful at this time.

On a lighter subject, we now have a new phrase in the English language, "social distancing." Will it remain after the virus passes, your guess is as good as mine, but I must say I like the idea. When you are 20, closeness is sexy; at 80 a bit less.

* * *

In regard to the 29 horse people that have found themselves in a major s---t storm — and what a marvelous job the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) did, an enlightenment is needed.

I am not going to beat a dead horse, but the columns abound with statements from every corner of the business that the commissions are not doing their job and we have to do more to police the sport. Best of all, the FBI did more last week that we did for ourselves in years. STOP IT'S NOT OUR FAULT.

Why was the FBI successful? Because they have wiretaps on their side. Read the indictments. If it wasn't for wire taps they had little or nothing. Some common place drugs, one positive test on a horse that was transported from pillar to post with no chain of responsibility.

Instead of wasting time complaining how poorly we have done, pursue the FBI to continue the investigation and in doing so incorporate a knowledgeable person to guide them to the areas of smoke and to determine what medications are prosecute-able and which are not.

Jeff Gural has done a great job keeping most of the bad eggs out, but is missing the boat on many others. Other tracks encumbered by high paid attorneys do nothing at all, and have gone as far as ignoring positive tests to maintain

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the status quo.

By the way, whatever happened to the positive test? When is that last time Meadowlands, Yonkers or Pocono posted a positive in the program? No one wants to rock the boat.

Well my friends, it has been rocked and rocked hard.

We must give our full support to the DOJ and the FBI and hope many of those arrested sing like canaries. I am sure there are those out there that are worried more about a 6x10 cell than the Coronavirus. The first hearings are today and the rest on the 23rd. We will have a better idea of what's to follow then.

* * *

On the subject of bad, there has been more documented sightings of my boy DEXTER (Josh Marks), who has, believe it or not, charmed someone into giving him a job in south Florida. The mystery of the beer intrusion arrest in north Florida for an illegal immigrant shows me he leads some kind of a mysteriously charmed life. One would think under normal circumstances he would be in Canada or jail. Obviously, he avoided both. Better get Ray.

* * *

Jack Lakey, Toronto, asked in HRU Feedback ([2020-03-15 Feedback](#)): You defended Nick Surick last year what say you now?

Let's get one thing perfectly straight. I am not a public defender. I am a trainer-turned-writer from a very law-conscious family. My uncle was a famous federal prosecutor as well as assistant DA in New York City. Actually, he was a prosecutor and a Federal Judge in the same Southern District where the 29 indictments were handed down. My uncle (Murray I Gurfein) taught me the importance of the rule of law and that is what I chose to write about.

Judging by the unsophisticated rhetoric in 90 per cent of the indictments I read, the cops have no clue as to what the robbers are doing. Of late, the Rick Zeron debacle is a perfect case in point. It comes down to a \$10,000 fine plus time served and a ridiculous loss of income for purchasing a stomach remedy that was unlabeled and taking some doctors labels and correcting the issue. I ask you did the crime deserve the sentence?

My job is to protect the good guys. I have been a victim of this archaic system more than once and I really hate when it happens. Twice, I received positive tests and I was 100 per cent innocent. I don't want to bore you again with the details as they are availed in HRU archives, but both situations were over the top insane. I even offered to take a lie detector test which to me is something we should consider.

Back to Surick. I was not a fan and I don't even have any relationship with the man, never had a conversation with him, so let those facts put an end your thoughts on me working on his behalf. I thought the situation was off base with the facts they presented to punish him in any way until he had his day in court or the real story surfaced, which fortunately for Mr. Surick, it never did till last week.

You are not the only Canadian that jabs me about my protecting the rule of law. There are others, and you all have one thing in common — you always mention other trainers. I find that is more than overkill. Why mention Burke, Takter and Moreau? Because they are successful. In the '90s when it was Sylvester, Holloway, Eriksson, Takter and Gurfein there was never a mention of any wrong doing.

It's really out there that you think the whales have left the betting windows because of cheating. Either you are very young or very naive, because I have seen it all and there were more whales in the '60s and '70s where a cohort of any given trainer could rattle the board with a \$100,000 bet. There are no big pools left to attract a new Babe, Mort Finder, or Phil Tully.

When there were whales, the style of racing was far more competitive, the shorter bikes alone created a more level playing field. But, all in all, money is the real answer. In the glory days there was a bigger pool in the daily double than there is on a whole card today.

On the other hand, I would think if you suspect someone is cheating it's an edge. I myself was never a gambler, but a few times in my career I took advantage of suspecting a guy used PEDs. Bill Robinson had a nice filly named Ambro Monarch. Doug Ackerman had a better filly named Keystone Profile. Talk about the perfect betting situation. Ambro Monarch would always win when there was no detention barn. Keystone Profile always won when there was a detention barn. It worked 100 per cent of the time. I call that investing not gambling.

Belinda Gardiner asks? What's going on with the Rick Dutrow suspension? I read somewhere there was discovered to be some irregularities in the decision.

On the seventh of June 2008, Rick Dutrow was 11/2 miles from instant fame. His horse Big Brown had won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, and was one race away from the Triple Crown with the mile and a half Belmont Stake that afternoon on his home turf. Unfortunately, that attempt failed.

Today, with his suspended license, Dutrow cannot even enter their backstretch.

In 2011, the brash and in your face trainer had pushed the establishment too far and surprisingly three syringes were found in the desk drawer of his Aqueduct Racetrack barn. NO MYSTERIOUS DRUGS WERE FOUND.

He was immediately suspended for 10 years and give a substantial fine.

He has done seven of the 10 years, but in 2019, a retired state steward declared that there was proof that the syringes, the only real evidence, were planted and as I write this column the Queens District Attorney has decided to reopen the case.

In an interview, a high-ranking racing official, who prefers to remain anonymous, indicated Dutrow's suspension had as much to do with his personality as his performance as a trainer.

One of my first owners, Sandy Goldfarb, was a major factor in the Rick Dutrow rise to fame on the New York racing scene. Sandy, at one point, had 40 horses in the Dutrow barn. However, when that love affair ended, I remember Sandy saying that Rick truly disappointed him in some of his maneuvers. To me, the reference was to his actions, not the use of any horse-related illegal substances.

Please don't write me any hate letters on this subject I will tell you now I don't know Mr. Dutrow nor have I ever met him. To me it's just another example of overkill by a racing commission.

Darcy Mann asks: (Once again a novelette that I will try to shrink to a usable form) I am a frequent bettor in Canada. I am a retired Toronto police officer after serving 30 years. Recently I was betting the card at The Meadows and was alive in some exotic when I noticed a lame horse in the post parade. The horse was very late to the gate and subsequently off stride. The result of the ensuing inquiry was that it was a fair start. "It was a dictionary definition of NOT A FAIR START." Why must we deal with this?

Unfortunately, I get letters like this all the time. Rarely does a judge scratch a horse in a post parade. It is deemed the job of the state veterinarian. For the state vet to be outside when it is 25 degrees provides a problem, if he or she doesn't catch the lameness in the warm ups then you are truly in the hands of the Philistines.

The main source of the problem is that all the powers that be that surround racing rules and safety i.e.: judges and veterinarians, are grossly underpaid. Add to that the judges are politically appointed and their true knowledge of the sport is severely limited. I am not saying there are no great officials. I have been fortunate to race for many of the best. Unfortunately, that is the exception to the rule.

The men and women that are in these positions do the best they can and just like you and me mistakes will be made. Remember, the worst of the worst came in the thoroughbred back yard last year when Mongolian Groom passed the muster of 30 veterinarians before the Breeders' Cup and scored down like a cripple and subsequently broke down and was euthanized. THAT'S WHAT I CALL A PROBLEM.

Thanks to all of you for the kind words. please keep the questions coming in. PLEASE STAY SAFE. Have a wonderful week.

Have a question for The Guru?

Email him at GurfTrot@aol.com.

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Coping with COVID-19

Individual industry stories and thoughts from the front lines in North America.

by Dave Briggs

Harness Racing Update asked a wide number of people in the harness racing industry to share their personal stories and thoughts about coping with COVID-19. Each person was asked the following questions:

- 1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?**
- 2. What is the situation like in your area?**
- 3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?**
- 4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?**
- 5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?**

We thank everyone for taking the time to respond.

FLORIDA

Casie Coleman / Trainer

- 1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?**

We're in Wellington, Florida. We're fine but life is different this last week. We have kind of self-quarantined ourselves, as we pretty much decided to stay home. We go to work, train the horses then go home. It's sunny and we have a pool, so it's not terrible but very different. No going out for us to restaurants, no bars, no beach, no casinos etc. We have been avoiding that on our own without being told to, and using a lot of Lysol wipes / bleach etc.

We stockpiled groceries for about a month, and dog and cat food and horse feed just to be prepared in case everything shuts down.

We're lucky I had lots of toilet paper on hand before knowing we needed it! My husband always bugs me, not sure why. I always have so much toilet paper. Saying that, I have been out daily to get more for the barn. Stores are out of stock of a lot of things here, it's a mad house. I literally went to seven different stores a few days ago to stock pile everything you thought we could possibly need to get through this if we get quarantined to the house.

- 2. What is the situation like in your area and 3. How has it**

impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

It hasn't changed our work days. So far, we are on schedule with the colts and doing as I planned on all along. Saying that, I'm scared we may get quarantined and all the staff can't go to work. I'm scared some staff may head home (to Canada) as the Prime Minister asked them to. I'm scared the boarder may close and not let us come home when we planned to. I'm scared racing will close down for an extended period and really mess up stakes schedules on our horses.

I'm scared if we come home and have to have a 14-day quarantine, who will do all the work in that time?

I have no choice but to wait it out here in Florida for many reasons — staff issues, my barn (in Ontario) has a different stable in it now as I don't get it back till mid-April, shippers not available, health and coggins papers take a week almost to get here and we don't have them yet. I always re-vaccinate my horses with a certain program that starts three weeks out before shipping to keep them healthy (or try to) and I didn't start that yet. There's many different reasons we have to wait it out here and hope for the best.

Some of my Canadians are getting told their health care program they signed up for to cover them here may not be valid if they don't come home. I told them if they feel they need to get home to go, but, so far, most of them sound like they're staying, though.

- 4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?**

Help elderly people to make sure they have groceries and toilet paper — if you have extra and someone is in need help them out.

I told all my staff to be smart and get food canned and frozen stuff — be prepared. If they are stuck I will make sure they are taken care of though. No one is going to starve or have a dirty butt that works with me. LOL.

Wash your hands, stay home much as possible. No need to be out and about. Let this stuff die off. The sooner it dies off, the sooner we can all get back to real life again.

- 5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?**

I have a bad feeling we won't be doing much racing this summer. I hope I'm really wrong, but I think things will be getting shut down for a while. Our whole income for my owners of all my horses is focused on June-November only and I don't have a warm fuzzy feeling about racing this summer right now and I think and hope I have one of my

best batches of babies ever and one very, very talented 3-year-old. Now we have this to deal with.

It's not a fun time.

Paul Kelley / Trainer

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

My wife and I are in South Florida and my two boys are at our home in upstate NY. Both boys work in NYC but have been sent home as a precaution due to the outbreak.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Here in south Florida social lifestyles are being tempered, but because the weather is so nice many people are still out and about.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Because my stable is primarily based in south Florida it's been business as usual, but I do have employees and horses in NJ too, so things are obviously very concerning there. We are still planning on shipping the Florida horses to NJ on April 9, but I guess we will have to rethink that if this situation doesn't improve soon enough. It's hard to speculate too far down the road. But it will surely be devastating to everyone in the horse industry if we have a long-term stoppage.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Horsemen have a great history of helping one another out during times of strife. We're all in this together and I have no doubt that any hardship cases will find overwhelming help from their fellow horseman.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Hopefully racing. I think it's entirely possible to set up a health screening system through the horseman's association's and maintain a safe environment for the caretakers, trainers, drivers and paddock personnel to resume racing without on-site spectators.

Wally Hennessey / Driver

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Pompano Beach. Myself, I am somewhat normal. My wife and daughter are teachers and they are on shutdown. Definitely not normal circumstances.



Barbara Livingston

Trainer Paul Kelley and Obrigado.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Somewhat a panic, thought there is a lot less traffic and people out and around. It is hard to get many essential things you need at this time.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

I am very concerned about the future. This is something we've never dealt with before.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

The best advice I can give is to stay positive. I know it's tough, but keep the faith.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

This is hard to answer as we all know this is day to day right now. Let's just hope it ends sooner than later.

Brent MacGrath / Owner and Trainer

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Right now Rhonda and I are packing up in Boynton Beach Florida and heading to Nova Scotia about a 36-hour drive. We are coping well. We are certainly concerned about the situation and looking forward to getting home with our family and friends.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

In this area there is a lot of concern about how this all plays out. There is certainly anxiety, plans up in the air,

people away from home, travel etc. (I am quite sure that is the case worldwide)

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

(In terms of my main job in the auto dealership business) our biggest concern is for our staff and trying to come up with ways to keep everyone working. What seemed like a good idea a short time ago can fall apart quickly. We are familiar with issues and obstacles. This is uncharted waters for all of us. We are staying upbeat and positive.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I think we in the racing industry must stay positive and look out for and support each other the best way each of us can. It is up to us to try and think of ways to get racing back on the track while being vigilant to make sure we take every precaution to stay healthy. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the owners, we all need to keep them up to date on the horses and the situation.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I am not sure where racing will be in three months. I am hopeful there is a silver lining somewhere in this nasty situation. Maybe it's the stake races getting pushed back some and allowing the young ones more time to develop, maybe it could mean a more robust group of 3-year-olds? Maybe we take this time to find out what our customers really want and expect.

KENTUCKY

Adam Bowden / Diamond Creek Farms

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I live in Kentucky, but travel back and forth to Pennsylvania. We are locked in the house as best we can and doing our civic duty by social distancing.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Schools are closed, bars and restaurants are closed for dining in, but okay for takeout. Apps like Uber Eats and GrubHub are doing really well. Toilet paper is still in short supply. Sometimes it feels like we are reporting from a war zone.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Our work as a breeding farm has not changed, but we have spent considerable time and resources over the past few days working on contingency plans to make sure our clients have access to the stallions they are booked to. As of right now, it's business as usual (with a few minor changes) but as the shut downs continue I would think it would begin affecting the racing season.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

So far everyone we work with has been understanding and patient, which is the only way we can all behave. It is a very unorthodox situation, but society's health must remain a top priority and even if the younger generations are at less of a risk (which I consider myself to be in), we owe the older generations the respect and courtesy to do our part to stop the spread.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

My hope is that the racing season will continue on as planned even if it is spectator free to start. There is a lot of money tied up in the horses in training and it would be a shame to not be able to race. I hope by mid-summer we are in a place to start relaxing restrictions and beginning to enjoy a more normal existence.

Art Zubrod / Brittany Farms

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

We're in Woodford Co., KY. Both children and kids live in Oldham Co about an hour away. We normally see them and the grandkids weekly, but are laying low for a couple of weeks. We have shortened the hours a bit in the office to relieve some stress on staff.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Twenty-two positives in Kentucky, several in the Bluegrass area. All restaurants are closed for eat in. Grocery stores have empty shelves. Schools are closed and lots of businesses are working from home. It's very quiet. Eerily quiet. Our governor has been great. Twice daily press conferences. He has said repeatedly that he hopes he gets accused of going too far. That way he knows he went far enough.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Absolutely no changes yet and I don't see any major changes. Living in Kentucky and having livestock I'm sure all

of our employees will be able to come to work. My biggest concern is flights being cancelled and semen not arriving. We actually send most of our mares out to be bred. So if flights become an issue I will send the rest of the mares out.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

My best advice is to take this very seriously. Not sure how to be of help to one another.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I have no idea where we will be for the rest of the year regarding racing or breeding but we will have a better handle on things in six weeks or so.

NEW JERSEY

Dave Brower / The Meadowlands

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I am home in my apartment in Parsippany, NJ. I have a second job as the nighttime manager of a high-end supermarket, Kings, located in Garwood, NJ. I'm taking every shift I can get, since we don't know when we will go back to racing at the Meadowlands. Why stay home, when you can work? My mother lives in Toms River, down the shore, and is trying to transition into an assisted-living facility nearby. We're hoping that will happen before the end of the month. My sister operates her own business, legal nurse consulting. She'll be okay.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

The situation is eerie. I drove home from the store last night at 10:30, (after the "curfew") and roads were mostly empty. Normally, I wake up and see most cars gone out of my complex to go to work. Most people are staying home. That's probably a good thing.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Obviously, I have no work at the Meadowlands right now. We are totally at the discretion of the state of NJ and we can't do anything, until they tell us we can. We'd love to race, even if no spectators, but we completely understand why we can't. Oh well!! As far as the future, we can only hope that we get to go back to work before our major summer stakes season. Nobody wants to miss that, but it is what it is, and we



Claus Andersen

Brittany Farms' Art Zubrod and wife Leah Cheverie.

will be ready to do our jobs when called back.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I guess I'd just like to see everybody support the tracks that ARE racing! In Ohio. In Maryland. Many of us are at home doing nothing, so go ahead and throw a few bucks in your betting account and support those products. Not sure how long it will last, but a distraction is a nice thing right about now.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I'll be "optimistic" here and say that we're back to somewhat normalcy, racing 2-year-olds in the Sires Stakes, The Meadowlands Pace, and Hambo. That would be great. And, I wish we could sign up for that right now.

Chris Ryder / Trainer

It's Tuesday, March 17th and no leadership to be found. I'm a trainer with horses to race, condition sheets are up, I enter them here, I enter them there, and bingo NOTHING happens. No notifications until 9.00 pm at night or the next day, if you're lucky. I have no problem if tracks don't want to race, but just tell us, don't put a condition sheet out and then tomorrow pull the plug!

We all know what they are saying, is that it's all day to day and that's the best they can make of it. Maybe they are right. Now that I have my grumbings out of the way, let's add my thoughts.

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I'm training 35 horses at Winners Training Center in Chesterfield, New Jersey. My family and I are healthy. Everything is basically shut down, no racing and doesn't look like it for three or four weeks, but who really knows?

2. What is the situation like in your area?

The main problem is not knowing when we will see the CURVE in the virus decrease. They keep saying about the curve, that it needs to spike and decrease, well I've never seen this curve the news pundits keep on about. Someone please put it on the TV screen, maybe I need to just GOOGLE the thing.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

It's a wait and see situation. I've backed way off now on my training, of course, on the racehorses. On the other hand, suppose they surprisingly start back up in three weeks, you then need to be ready to rumble.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I think we should do all we can to help people out at times like this, and it should start close to home. If I have to turn horses out and lay off staff it's a bad situation, but obviously we would hire them right back again when ready, and make sure they are okay in the meantime.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I have to think positively and believe racing will kick back in, and maybe be more appreciated, just hoping!

I am worried that horsepeople will run out of cash quickly and there in is the beginnings of real hardship, at that point

what happens? Is there a government program to help out?

I've heard it said over the years that the USTA has a large amount of cash. If that's the case, wouldn't it be best funded back into our community? Why not, if it's our money. If I am way off here, please explain.

Hopefully in two to three months we are up and racing, and will be thrilled to do so, especially now that I will not have to compete against horses that are racing with performing enhancing meds.

Wonder how much money that has costs the honest horseman / owners, not to mention BETTORS WISH. Did it cost him Horse of the Year? I believe so!

This is common flu and the globe is shutting down. Yes, Fusco family hit tragically.

Owners want horses turned out, no training, how can we continue to stake them? It should be delayed.

Yannick Gingras / Driver**1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?**

We are at home in Allentown, NJ. It's definitely a big change as we are an active family, but we are making the best of it.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

It's not bad around us but it's a little nerve racking



Claus Andersen

Driver Yannick Gingras.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

We are not racing right now. What I'm most worried about is if this last months, most trainers will not be able to afford feeding the horses and paying the help. I certainly hope we are back racing before then but I'm far from sure it will be the case.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Fingers crossed and hope everyone stays safe

Jason Settlemaier / Meadowlands COO

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I am working from home in Cream Ridge, NJ. My younger son Travis is home and currently attending classes for school through "Google Meet". School was closed this past Friday, March 13th for the foreseeable future. We announced the closures of all four of our properties soon thereafter at the requests of our government officials.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

My biggest concern is the health and safety of our employees, customers and horsemen and women. That has always been and continues to be my number one priority.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Everything came all at once! I don't think anyone was really prepared for what was happening. The whole situation is a nightmare that won't end. So many tough decisions and to make them really fast with instinct. I say it all the time, and it's worth saying again, working for a guy like Jeff Gural makes it a lot easier because he seems always prepared with what to do in the best and worst of times like these.

I have daily am briefings with my entire management team and answer calls, texts and emails from all four properties day and night. Jeff Gural and I speak to each other a couple times a day. It's not much different than being in the office as I am always accessible. Everyone has my cell number, and email address so not much has changed other than personally seeing everyone (which honestly I do miss seeing everyone).

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

The situation in our area in NJ and in our country is still evolving and fluid as our government officials and medical professionals try to get their arms around COVID-19. Governor Murphy and his team have done a tremendous job in keeping everyone up to date with the situation here in NJ and has made some very tough decisions for our state to keep us safe and healthy. I'm comfortable with him doing what is best for everyone.

My concern is like everyone else outside of the safety of everyone. When will we be able to shift gears and move forward? That's the biggest question. When will life return to normal? What will the new normal look like? The horse racing community is resilient so I have no doubt we will all work together to find solutions to all the tasks at hand.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

In two to three months, I see harness racing moving forward just like everything else. Remembering the past but moving forward with much more of an eye on the future.

I would like to thank everyone within our sport who have called, texted and emailed to check on Travis and me. We are doing just fine. I actually plan on doing some hiking on Friday, something I haven't done in a long time. It's forecast to be in the mid 70's so I will keep my distance and do a little hiking. We wish everyone the best in safety and health in these troubled times.

Nancy Takter / Trainer

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Allentown NJ. So far coping pretty good with the situation. Ella has spring break and MJ has virtual learning since the schools are closed. Pretty much home - barn - home as of now.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

NJ has closed all schools and pretty much all public places. There is an 8pm curfew in effect state wide. And no racing. Last time I went to the grocery store shelves were bare but Amazon still delivers and so does Grubhub.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

My day to day work hasn't changed at all besides trying to figure out how much I should push my 3 and up horses not knowing when they will race. At least if we had a timeline it would make things a little easier. The 2-year-olds are all on the same schedule they would've been regardless of the

virus and shutdown.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I think the main thing is to stay home if you feel sick. In our business we are all brainwashed and go to work no matter what, but this time to slow the curve of the virus stay HOME! Horsemen are helpful they will make sure you're horses are fed and watered if you are sick.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I see a lot of qualifiers in the future but I hope I am wrong! I think tracks all over could continue to race with smart management and people being responsible! For example, one small thing in paddocks if they separated the horses by barn instead of race then at least the people from the same barns are the ones closest to each other. I think it would be a good opportunity for us to showcase our sport. It would require the media/TV personnel to step up their game and educate, too. We could get exposure to a whole new fan base that needs educating. I think lots of people would love this sport but so many don't even know what it is! I hope we are back to "normal" soon but when we go back to "normal" that everyone appreciates our sport and the pro ledge that we have to participate in it!

Linda Toscano / Trainer

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

We are home in NJ and aside from the same things that everyone else is dealing with, we are still working and training and, minus racing, which is minimal for our stable this time of year, we are doing well.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

It is like nothing I've ever seen before. There are no restaurants, take out only, Grocery limitations and literally no traffic on the roads. But our small horse community has been hit hard with this virus and we have lost people that we know and cared about. Groceries and eating out are really not important in that context.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

As I said before, we're kind of going along business as usual this time of year. As it goes on it will impact our lives much more. We're getting horses ready to race a stake season that may or may not exist this year. We'll take it one day at a



Vicki Wright

Trainer Linda Toscano.

time and hope for the best.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

We may be fierce competitors on the race track, but we help each other, and I think we have a way of coming together to help anyone that needs our help. We should do as instructed... use our local vendors, help our local restaurants, and chip in where help is needed in and off the track.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I hope to see us all healthy and getting back to business as usual. However long it takes, we will get there.

NEW YORK

Tim Bojarski / Publicist

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Although I live in western New York, not far from Batavia, my “day job” is on the other side of the county, not too far from Niagara Falls, so I cover a lot of miles every day. Right now in Erie County there are 29 individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 from the 523 tests that were taken.

So far everyone in my family (two of which are working from home) has managed to stay healthy here, as well as my daughter who lives in Las Vegas, who is dealing with very similar restrictions out west.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

There is a very high sense of trepidation in the area, especially after all the restaurants and entertainment outlets were closed down yesterday and all businesses were told to cut their employment occupancy to 25 per cent this afternoon. However, where I work, although seeing around 1,000 associates go in and out of their door during any 24-hour period, has somehow not complied with the order.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Clearly my jobs in the industry have been affected with all that is going on. Plainridge Park has pushed back their planned April 6 opening to a date that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission has yet to determine and with no racing currently taking place in western New York, the opening of Batavia Downs is also very much in question, depending on how long the current shut-downs continue.

My four horses training at Gaitway Farm are waiting to find out where they'll be going. After making a couple early starts at Freehold, they were going to be on their way to Massachusetts the first week of April. However, that's all on hold now and like everyone else, it's a wait-and-see situation before any firm plans can be made.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Every trainer and owner I talk to is feeling the pinch of no racing (some more than others) as the bills still come in and there is no purse money to offset those expenses. But I think it's important to remember that the most important thing we need to do is assure the welfare of all our horses. We have to make sure they get what they need because they are still

working; staying fit for when the prohibition ends and they can resume their careers earning us money. And it might be a good idea if you know someone who is struggling to properly feed or bed their horse, maybe help a brother or sister out and offer them what they need in the short term so none of our athletes go without during this very difficult time.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Hopefully when this current crisis passes (and it will end at some time) the industry will fully recover and all of its participants will still be viable. We are currently getting a lot of attention in the betting world from the tracks that have continued to race and maybe that will bode well for new customers and fans in the future.

I think the thing to remember during this dark time is its only money being lost and money can always be made. It's people's lives we can't afford to lose because you can't put a price on those.

Finally, let's all pray for the Fusco family.

Jeff Gural / Track owner, horse owner, breeder

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I am in my farm in Dutchess County. However, I do go into the city for physical therapy.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

At my farm obviously quiet.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

All of my three tracks are shut down and financially we are losing a fortune.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I have no idea other than we need, where possible, to allow the people who are in trouble to defer payments.

As a breeder right now it seems little impact but would expect sales prices to decline based on crash of stock market and economy.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

No idea how long this will last but at the Big M if it lasts long will try to see if they will allow us to race with no customers. Tioga and Vernon will remain closed till the casino is allowed to reopen.

OHIO

Kevin Greenfield / Hickory Lane

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I am working remotely at home with my law practice and stallion syndications. I am set up well at home to do what I need to do. My wife is on the front lines. She is a nurse working at the designated Coronavirus hospital in Toledo, OH, Bay Park Hospital. They have just received their first patients. Obviously, I am very worried for her safety.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Our area, Northwest Ohio, is just beginning to be impacted. I suspect things will accelerate in the near future.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

At Hickory Lane, so far so good, business as usual. My staff which includes farm manager Brad Wallace, assistant farm manager Taylor Wise, office manager, Ashley Stickel, and administrative assistant and assistant office manager Kelsey Grose and the rest of the employees are true professionals. Their dedication is unbelievable and they have instituted social distancing measures; semen pick up is targeted far away from the main office and traffic areas and we have limited access to the farm for ingress and egress for visitors and customers. So far, God willing, all are healthy

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

There are just a few breeding farms in our area along with the University of Findlay Equestrian College. I encourage communication to make sure everyone has ample manpower to take care of the animals in case anyone gets sick and needs to be isolated.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I think racing can continue without crowds and still simulcast, at least that is what is taking place in Ohio. However, with the casinos closed, I feel purses must be drastically reduced until this crisis passes. I am more worried about the fall yearling sales. In Ohio, we are featuring yearlings by five new stallions: Downbytheseaside, Fear The Dragon, What The Hill, Long Tom and Creatine. It should be our most spectacular healing sale ever. I just pray things clear up before the Fall. God bless to all and I hope everyone survives this nightmare.



Dave Landry

Sugar Valley Farms' Joe McLead.

Joe McLead / Sugar Valley Farm

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I am located at the farm in Delaware, OH. My family and staff are all healthy at this time.

When it comes to coping with COVID-19, we are all just coping with it day to day as we adhere to all of the info we get from our Governor who is doing a PHENOMENAL job.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

The situation is day to day just like everywhere else. Our county has two confirmed cases and the State of Ohio has 119 confirmed as of 2:30 (Thursday). Our Governor is asking everyone to stay home if you can, but nothing is mandatory yet.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

It has not really changed anything at our farm yet, We are taking all of the precautions seriously! Last Friday, we change to allow no visitors to the farm. Our office is not open to the public. Only staff is allowed in the office. In the office and lab we are wearing masks just as a precaution since we have to go home to our families. It is just a precaution. It is breeding season and we have an obligation to our customers as well as ourselves so we are just taking extra precautions. If one of our clients wants to come see their horses, they are more than welcome to, they just have to pee outside! LOL. Other than that, it is business as usual.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Hope and Prayer. This will pass as time goes on. Just keep a clear head and do as they suggest. If you follow what the health experts suggest you are doing your part.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

The industry in 2-3 months will be dictated by how long this pandemic lasts. We as an industry will rebound once we are allowed to commence in a normal capacity. We have persevered through many different challenges in the last 40 years. We have an opportunity through this time to actually look at ourselves in the mirror and come back with a more viable product and make the changes that we can to move forward in a positive way.

Wendy Ross / USTA

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I am located in Columbus, OH where I live with my boyfriend Brady Galliers. He trains a barn of 12 in Ohio and also drives. We are dealing with social distancing well. LOL. Brady's parents live in Toledo, OH and work full-time, and are both older, so we worry for them staying safe. My dad lives with my brother in Youngstown, OH and is at risk for the virus (68, healthy but vulnerable). It is a very stressful time just wondering how long and how bad can it really get. I, for one, am a believer that it is serious and we all need to do our part to keep each other safe.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

In Ohio we are racing, both Northfield and MVG are taking the precautions from the state to be able to keep going. So many want and NEED to race, so it is a tricky situation of what is the right thing to do. The purses were cut at MVG by 20% with the casino being shut down. I own a few horses and with Brady depending on his barn and drives for his income, I am torn on what is right and what is safe at this point. No one has tested positive from the tracks and I hope it stays that way. Nothing to say that our status could change at any moment so- fingers crossed.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

It has impacted us in our lack of content with no racing. We now are trying to make positive and informative messages for those throughout the industry. Right now we are usually talking Levy (MGM Borgata), but not the case. We have put

out things to target the kids at home with their parents. With only a few tracks left in the game right now we are trying to promote them the best we can with free PPs. We are also working closely with the horsemen associations for ideas on how to get racing on mainstream TV with it being the only sport in town.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I believe in this situation the best we can do is listen to the government. Stay safe and avoid people as much as they can. We want this to go away and things to go back to normal. I believe owners and employers can all step up and take care of each other. Owners helping trainers and then trainers can keep their crew hired. Weird as the drivers make the most with no big costs, but they are definitely going to feel a big hit. If someone is struggling, lend them a hand, a bale of hay, a bag of feed. Farms could cut down their stall rent. Tough spot for everyone and I hope we can make it through it.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

In two-three months I feel we will all be playing catch-up to get horses fit and in shape for stake season. I hope the horsemen that have not been racing were able to survive financially. I lived through The Meadows Herpes event two years ago, we had 12 horses and no racing. It broke us financially and emotionally so I have a personal experience of what a situation such as this can do and take when it happens. The big owners and trainers will be fine, but the smaller stables will feel it the most. We also cannot forget the racetracks and casinos that depend on each other for revenue and racing.

Mike Tanner / USTA

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I'm back in central Ohio and likely will be for the next few weeks, at least. I've either cleared my calendar of any non-essential travel or the conferences that I was slated to attend have been canceled. Like everyone else, my wife and I are following the suggestions of the CDC, largely staying at home, practicing social distancing when we do go out, and washing our hands frequently. We're worried about our three kids, all of whom are adults and two of whom are raising families. The restrictions are about to cause some financial challenges for the latter two, and we'll help as best as we can.



Mark Hall / USTA

Mike Tanner, CEO and executive vice-president of the USTA.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Governor DeWine declared a state health emergency, so all sorts of things are closed – bars, restaurants, fitness centers, libraries, movie theaters – you name it. Our presidential primary election has even been postponed. Everything feels unsettled, so not “normal,” but it’s everywhere. We’re all in this together.

3. How has it impacted your work in the industry, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Earlier this week, we instituted a work-from-home policy (at the USTA) that has resulted in about 85-90 per cent of our employees not coming to the office, instead performing their functions remotely. We implemented a no-visitors policy the same day. There’s maybe six of us in the building today, and we’re spread out all over the place, largely keeping

away from each other. It’s kind of surreal, honestly, but our service delivery has been uninterrupted and without issues. We have a great staff and had an emergency preparation plan already in place, so I’m happy but not surprised with how the transition has gone. Looking ahead, my worries are primarily external. Our members need to race in order to earn a living. If they can’t race, that puts a lot of hard-working people in a bad spot. The longer the restrictions stay in place, the worse it will get for the industry and its participants.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

The most practical thing to do is to listen to the experts, follow the suggestions, and help to stop the spread of the virus. Flatten the curve, so to speak, so that our national health system isn’t overwhelmed. The quicker we can do that, the faster we can start to get our lives back. And stay safe. We lost a director, John Brennan, last week to the coronavirus. This thing is real. As for others, practice kindness. If someone’s in trouble and you can help in some way, however minor, do so. Harness racing is a small industry, relatively speaking, but with a big heart. Let’s take care of each other.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Good question. Ideally, we’re looking back on March and April and saying, wow, I’m so glad that’s over and we’re back to racing! Even if that’s the case, though, I expect that the recovery, at least from a numerical standpoint, will be slower. Things won’t just immediately return to where they were, as if nothing happened.

Jay Wolf / Little Brown Jug

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

My family and I are hunkered down in our home in Delaware, OH. My daughter’s high school has been cancelled for a few weeks. My son’s college classes are now online and my wife and I are required to work at home.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has been fairly aggressive with restrictions. Restaurants can only be pick-up or delivery only. The grocery stores are fairly empty for the staple items of canned goods, paper products and meat. Gasoline prices are way down because no one is traveling.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

My wife and I work for the same bank and we are used to working remotely. I miss the interactions with my associates and not having the ability to go where I want. As for my harness racing interests, I am now working on Little Brown Jug items and completing tasks that I normally would do in June and July. We are getting ready for the 75th Jug so, we have plenty to do. I have been watching action from tracks that I normally don't follow (Saratoga, Rosecroft and Western Fair to name a few) because there was so few tracks racing.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Knowing what to do and how to help our fellow harness racing is difficult at this time. When there is a barn fire, the damage is done once and you know what is needed. We have no idea how long this work stoppage will last. I would suggest that horsemen work with their bank or lenders to see if they can defer or postpone payments on truck or property loans. I am typically not a huge bettor, but I will be making more plays once racing resumes to do my part.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Optimistically, I see all the racing returning in the next 2-3 months. Unlike the thoroughbreds, I think we will see stakes and events that were postponed not be rescheduled. Once racing resumes, I could see some meets lasting longer, but few added dates during the scheduled meet due to the shortage of horses. Normally when races are cancelled the purse fund grows, but with the casinos also closed, the purses should remain flat or even slightly down. I hope jurisdictions would reduce licensing fees and use their fine fund to help the caretakers and other workers.

ONTARIO

Matt Harrison / Tara Hills Stud

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

My family and I are located in Port Perry, ON about an hour northeast of Toronto. We're doing our best to follow the directions of the government and health organizations. Not too difficult seeing as everything is pretty much shut down anyways. We're fortunate to be able to rely on our family to take care of the kids while I and my better half go to work each day.

I'm well versed at practicing "social distancing". I've been doing it between January and July my whole career along

with many of my colleagues in the breeding sector. Social distancing sounds a lot better than being deemed antisocial!

2. What is the situation like in your area?

The area surrounding Port Perry (Durham Region) hasn't had many cases of Coronavirus reported last I checked. Maybe three? It's pretty rural here. Lots of farms. Not a very dense population.

3. How has it impacted your work at Tara Hills, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

At the moment the breeding season is continuing. We haven't had any issues yet servicing our customers in the U.S. and Canada.

On farm we have implemented isolation protocols trying keep our social distances from customers coming to the farm. We're restricting access to the building and leaving boxes outside for pickup. We're handling boxes with gloves and cleaning and disinfecting as much as possible.

One concern would be a complete shutdown of the border and/or suspension of service by FedEx or the airlines.

Another obvious primary concern would be the spread of the virus to a member of the Tara Hills team. The implications of this would be disastrous.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I would ask that we all do our part and take the directions of the health community seriously. We've already seen several tragic deaths of members of our racing family. Already too many! If we can work together we'll get through this sooner and back to racing.

I have great confidence in the harness racing community to help and support one another. I've met so many people in this industry over the years who wouldn't pause a second to give their fellow person the proverbial shirt off their back!

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

The optimist in me is hoping we'll be looking at this pandemic in the rear view mirror and life will be returning to normal. I look so forward to the baby races in June. It's that little carrot to get me through the last weeks of the breeding season.

Mark Horner / Trainer**1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?**

Myself and my family is in St. Marys, ON. Small towns are slowing down for sure but all seems well.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

As far as I know, factories and business are operating, restaurants and bars are closed except drive thru and delivery, public places seem much slower for sure.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Our farm is operating as usual at this time. Our training has not changed, but our staff is being proactive as in distancing from each other as much as possible and disinfecting as much as possible to keep each other safe. I've been in discussions with management mainly at Western Fair daily on screening and disinfectant being used as much as possible in the paddock.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

As for the industry as a whole I hope and know we will get through this intact as it looks at this point possible we could be heading for a shut down. In the event of that, I'm urging leaders to develop and investigate what possible help will be provided by government in the way of self-employment assistance and small business aid which will be made available in the near future. Also, as far as horse welfare, be diligent on feed hay bedding. Contact your local feed dealers to make sure delivery and feed will continue to be made. Also, I advise cut all unnecessary expenses for now. We have no idea how long this may last. Hope for the best, expect the worst and contact owners and partners and make a plan.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

We absolutely pray for a quick resolution to the situation as I see the industry at this time it is entirely possible that once we are shut down it could last well into the summer. Unfortunately, some may not be able to afford the down time. If that is the case, as an industry we will have to come together to look into different support solutions and make plans as we come out the other side. I'm going to do everything I can to see our industry not just survive but thrive. We are all in this together. For now, stay healthy, stay diligent, let's work together and God bless us all and our great athletes.

Anthony MacDonald / TheStable.ca**1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?**

Trying to explain to the kids what is happening, and why we are all staying indoors is tough. It's hard to articulate to a 6-year-old how eating a bat in China led to people being sick all over the world, by with the help of Alexa we are getting by.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

For the most part in Guelph, ON it appears business as usual. With the kids home, traffic is lighter but the Starbucks drive thru by our house is still packed. I think it's more a sense of disbelief as no one knows if this is something that will explode here also or something we will see more on the news.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Work at the barn appears unaffected thus far, but the reality that things could grind to a halt any moment is terrifying. Truthfully, most people in our industry live check to check, so no racing puts most barns in jeopardy. It really is a scary time for everyone inside and outside racing.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

You're right there. Horse racing houses some of the most durable humans I've ever met. If we listen to what the scientists are saying, and be vigilant, hopefully this will all be over soon.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Hopefully in 2-3 months the stakes are starting and we all have horror stories to tell our kids and grandkids about the time the earth stood still in 2020.

Blake MacIntosh / Trainer**1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?**

I'm in Ontario. We are stabled at Meadowbranch right behind Flamboro. Leanne and I are just taking it day by day, She is off because she is a teacher. I go to the barn and come right back home.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

It's not that bad right now. Other than everyone panicking and the news we are pretty normal. We had to cancel a cruise and I postponed a guy's trip to Vegas before stake season at



Dave Landry

Trainer Blake MacIntosh.

the end of April.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

I haven't been able to get to the New York barn so the not being able to train the 3-year-olds that are there getting ready for the upcoming stake season has been tougher, but Jessica Dowse does a great job as my trainer down there and I have the upmost confidence in her. Also, we have been stopped racing there with most of our horses as all the tracks but Saratoga are not racing.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Keep your head up. Wash your hands like they say and do the social distancing they have asked. Everyone remember this is a time of need and help everyone you can.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I'm hoping in 2-3 months we are back on track I know the stakes schedule will have to change a bit at this time, but let's hope it's all gets together by the summer and life can carry on.

Bob McClure / Driver

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I'm at home, me and my wife are trying to avoid going out in public unless absolutely necessary.

Obviously we made the decision to keep our son home from daycare and he is not straying far from home.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

The situation is getting more and more real by the day. It seems like small numbers but expanding at an alarming rate. We seem to be following in footsteps of countries and other places that have been hit very hard. Everyone is being told to isolate and hopefully everyone does that to the best they are able.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

It hasn't affected me yet, work-wise, but I believe it's about to. I think it won't be long before we're forced to stop racing and isolate, a sacrifice I will happily make to keep my family safe and reduce the spread.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I think a major problem the industry will face in the coming months is the fact that a lot of participants are literally cheque to cheque... they cannot go without work. I worry that many grooms may be laid off, trainers may have to reduce fees and owners will have a hard time fronting the cost of just "keeping horses" that can't race. Hopefully government and track officials can figure something out so that nobody is put out in the cold.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Interesting enough, I spoke to an owner today that had a very good 3-year-old ready to qualify and he simply didn't see a point because he felt the season may not start until September.

I think that sounds pretty drastic but then looking at other leagues around the world, that may very well be a reality

Doug McNair / Driver

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and



Claus Andersen

Driver Doug McNair.

your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I've been just staying home in Arkell, ON here by myself. My dad is still in Florida.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

It's obviously not normal but I think everyone is doing what they can. It's different having stores and restaurants closed and there is hardly any traffic.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

(Answered before Mohawk and Western Fair postponed racing) We've been fortunate enough to continue racing. So it really hasn't affected us in Ontario to this point.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I think the social distance thing is huge. Staying away from malls and big gatherings is what will help this calm down a

little bit I hope! We got to make sure we stay away from the paddock if we're not feeling well. Or visiting other people whose chances of fighting this virus isn't as good as ours.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I think they are getting better news from China. Eighty per cent of the people there have recovered from the virus and hopefully things are starting to get back to normal there and hopefully it will be the same here in North America within the next month to six weeks. But who knows? Time will tell. We've never seen something like this before and hopefully never will again, or will be more prepared next time if it happens again.

Bill O'Donnell / COSA president

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Well, we're at the COSA office, but I think we're considered non-essential so we'll have to get out of here and take some stuff home. We just came down to get some stuff here today and then we'll take it home and work from there and do the best we can.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

It's getting close, it seems like... and they've got a screening process for testing at the hospital in Guelph now. I can't imagine how many people are going to show up there that don't have it, right? And the screening process, it's only as good as the person asking and answering the questions.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

Lots of calls, that's all I can tell you, the concerns of people... The hard part, with yesterday and the Premier's emergency plan that says no more than 50 people in an area, and we've got a tremendous big area (at Mohawk)). We've probably got 40,000 square feet, but the plan is the plan to keep it below 50 people and do the best you can and ask people to be very diligent in what they are doing.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

Space it out in the paddock, tell people 'just don't congregate in a group', just stay away from one another.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

They've cancelled all kinds of events from now until next September. I was listening to a disease specialist from the University of Calgary and she said that her best case guess is

September.

Jason Portuondo / Woodbine

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

I'm located in Mississauga, ON. So far, it's been great, taking advantage of the extra family time.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Things are quieter than usual as one would expect. Grocery stores are busier with some panicking but overall we're good.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

(Answered prior to the announcement Woodbine Mohawk Park was postponing live racing effective March 20). We're doing the social distancing thing, so working from home like many. I'm still providing picks/tickets and adding insight through social media ie Twitter, Skype. I'm not too concerned right now, we're adjusting with the times and taking measures necessary to keep the industry going. These horses still need to be fed, cared for etc., and the purses definitely help the cause. Racing is also a great escape from reality. This might actually get some new eyes on the sport.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

We all have to do our part to flatten the curve. Social distancing is so important for everyone. But also pick up the phone, FaceTime, stay connected to your friends, colleagues and loved ones. It's really great to see everyone come together in a time of need... need more of this.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Hopefully in the next few months things are back to normal. Fans miss being at the races and racing misses its fans. I really feel like things will be even better than before all of this happened...not just in racing but life overall.

Ann Straatman / Seelster Farms

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Seelster Farms is located in southwestern Ontario near London. We have had many discussions over the last few days contemplating what we will do to protect our farm family from the spread of COVID-19. This morning at our regular team meeting to start the day, we discussed the importance that if anyone is feeling unwell with the virus symptoms, they should feel secure and stay home.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

In our area, the ever increasing restrictions are changing daily, as are the number of positive virus cases identified in our region.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

So far at Seelster, it has been business as usual, but we have taken steps to restrict visitors to only those picking up and dropping off mares for breeding. We've also tried to protect our office staff by creating a pick up window for semen orders. We would like to thank everyone for respecting those restrictions, so that we can continue our work here to get the hundreds of mares booked in foal.

We're worried most for our staff and having them remain healthy. We have an exceptional team and we couldn't do what we do without them.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I would suggest that everyone take care to seriously follow the advice of the health care professionals in your area to keep those around you safe. Check on your neighbours by phone, make sure everyone can look after themselves as well as their horses.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I'm hopeful that in three months we will be grateful for our family, friends, and horses as our sport and the world moves forward because we took the time now to slow the spread of the novel Coronavirus.

Adriano Sorella / Owner, breeder

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Currently I'm at my home in Guelph, Ontario. I work remotely so there is not much that has changed in regards to that. I already have an office set up here and I'm still able to connect with clients worldwide through the usual email and Skype. I've stayed home the last couple of days, so this will be a challenge as I do like get out often. I'm taking these precautions seriously, and hope others do as well.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

From what I can see people are starting to realize we need to do what's right for everyone, and that means our families and friends as well. I haven't had issues getting groceries or any of that. In fact, I just had a home delivery this morning, and I've already put an order in for next week, which is

usually what I do anyways. I do see concerns on the financial aspect for many people, especially some of our caretakers and overall staff within the industry. I'm hopeful that as the days go by, we learn of new ways to help or assist anyone that might really be struggling.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

I understand this needs to get under control, so if we shut down racing I will support that decision. Being close to Woodbine Mohawk Park, I see the changes they implemented and am hopeful it will be followed by everyone. In regards to breeding, I spoke to Pat Woods at Winbak Ontario and we discussed if there could be any implications, however as of right now we are good. Stallion bookings are coming in steady, semen is being shipped with no issues, and all systems are still good. I've spoken to some breeders who have bred to Jimmy Freight and everyone seems to be excited, and carrying forward.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I really think the industry needs owners to step up right now. If there is any shut downs in racing and we can't race, I think we need to look after our caretakers, trainers and staff. I know this is a huge undertaking for owners who will have horses sitting, however I believe someone should step up here. I posted several days ago that If racing had to be put on hold, I would reach out to my trainers that are currently racing horses, and ask them to continue billing me as if we are racing. I want caretakers to still get some restitution in the form of paddocks and win tips, even if we are not racing. Caretakers losing that part of income could be catastrophic for the industry, as we simply do not have enough hands to start off with. We could simply add "X" amount of paddocks and win tips onto the training bills, then have that distributed to caretakers. PLEASE! I urge fellow owners to do the same.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

I'm hopeful that we can get back to racing within reasonable time. This is a world-wide issue and many businesses have been put on hold in order for people to restructure how they operate. I'm confident that everyone working together will make the difference on how fast we get back to our regular lives. So put down the toilet paper and take a deep breath.... Be smart, not foolish.... And your

mom probably always told you to wash your hands, so you don't need me to preach it to you. Cheers to you all. See you in the winner's circle.

PENNSYLVANIA

Mark Weaver / Owner

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

Near The Meadows. We're all fine and just trying to pass the time each day. Our dog is really enjoying all of us being home.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

I would imagine our area is pretty typical of most others right now. Not much going on, but I don't see much panic. I guess that's the goal.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

It has hurt quite a bit with racing being down out East, especially with the Levy and Matchmaker getting ready to start. The spring is always a tough grind for a lot of us with stake payments and limited races for big purses. I don't think anyone really knows how long this will last. I've tried to look at the timeline for China and Italy to get an idea of when things will get back to normal but there are too many differences in each situation. We'll just play it by ear.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

That's a tough one. I think everyone is going to take a little bit of a haircut but hopefully we get through it. A few tracks went through something similar a couple years ago with equine herpes and it all worked out. If needed, I would be all for putting a group together to create a no interest loan to help people in need that they could pay back as they earn purse money over an extended period of time. President Trump is also suggesting assisting those in need so that could help too.

5. Where do you see the harness racing industry in 2-3 months?

Hopefully back to normal! I actually just reached out to some people a lot smarter than me to see if they were thinking about changes to stakes races and possibly delaying stakes payments. Depending on how long the shutdown lasts, it would be great to be able to get everything raced without being on top of each other. Most importantly, I hope the people that are high risk are able to stay safe.



Triscari Video Web and Marketing

Heather Wilder (left) interviewing Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky of Hanover Shoe Farms.

Heather Wilder / The Meadows

1. Where are you located right now and how are you and your family coping with the COVID-19 situation?

We are all here in Pennsylvania on our farm close to The Meadows Racetrack. The girls have cleaned and re-organized our home from top to bottom and we are going to start painting the barn next week. We are trying to focus on projects that our busy schedule does not allow for typically. We are taking a lot of walks on the farm as a family and spending as much valuable time as we can together. Our daughters are soon to be 17 and 18, so they typically have a social schedule of their own. We lead very active lives and this is a chance for us to appreciate each other before the chaos sets back in.

2. What is the situation like in your area?

Currently, as of today, there have only been two confirmed cases in Washington County where we live. My sister and brother-in-law are both doctors, and they are of course dealing with a lot of stress and fear. So many people are wanting to be tested and the kits are being reserved for those that are in the highest risk demographic. They are not taking the situation lightly and are every day preparing for the possibility that large groups of people could become very sick.

3. How has it impacted your work, so far, and what are you most concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

The morning schedule at The Meadows has remained the same for our stable. We still believe that our horses need to

be getting exercise, baths, vet care, blacksmiths, etc. We have not altered their program at all. We have always, and will continue to put their needs above our own.

Racing has been suspended until further notice. Mike typically works 14 hour days though, so this downtime is allowing him to take a brief afternoon nap, which he hates. The man has never been able to take a break in his life! What concerns me about this the most is the families that are in jeopardy of hardships due to economic constraints of the shutdown. We in Pennsylvania have been focusing a lot lately on all of the vocations and agriculture affected by harness racing. The Meadows racing community is a strong group, and we have dealt with extensive shut downs before, most recently the herpes epidemic, where we saw friends have to leave the industry to find work elsewhere. The problem this time is that there is no work to be found. It's affecting everyone, not just our industry.

4. This is an industry big on hope and helping others. What suggestions can you offer for how people can help others in the industry through this crisis?

I think that to help each other we need to be conscious of the struggles others are dealing with. We need to give a level of grace and kindness to those that are worried about how they will feed their families and their animals. We are all a family and together I know that we are grieving the people that have been already taken by this virus. They aren't just statistics on the TV, but people that we worked with and knew personally. Today, more than ever, it is important to help our fellow horsemen get through this time. There are numerous ways to show that love, monetarily and otherwise. Check on those in your local community, because I fear that mental health will be a serious issue as well. Offering a hug right now is not an option, so instead offer them your time to listen.

I believe harness racing is resilient and we will bounce back. I unfortunately do not have a clear picture of what that means two to three months down the road. I am praying that we lose no one else to the virus or secondarily to financial crisis.

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Standardbred Canada CEO on COVID-19

by Dan Gall / president and CEO of Standardbred Canada

(Editor's note: HRU asked Dan Gall, along with many in the horse racing industry in North America, to share his personal story of coping with COVID-19. Given his position as president and CEO of Standardbred Canada, HRU felt it was important to publish his more detailed response verbatim)

Hi. I am Dan Gall currently residing in Clinton, ON, population approximately 3,400 about an hour north of London, 20 minutes east of Goderich, and 40 minutes west of Stratford.

My wife Donna and I have been watching the COVID-19 roll out via our TV and Internet, linking up to credible websites like John Hopkins and other news related websites to try to understand what the hell is going on and what is real and isn't real. Sad to admit, we are still confused in some areas.

However, we are quite supportive of the social distancing concept and it is tremendously unfortunate that this should be occurring during March Break when so many families and friends have had plans to "get away" for the week. Luckily, Donna and I had no plans to go away opting to stay home and work.

Living in a small community, everyone knows everyone's business. So you hear about those people who went away or are returning from being away and not practicing good social distancing etiquette or not taking this disease seriously, which causes concern, gossip and other unwanted pent up emotions between neighbors, friends and community. However, on the other side, there is a genuine concern for how our neighbors and the community is doing.

This past weekend, the Standardbred Canada (SC) management team worked on putting the final components to our Business Continuity Plan which includes a communication strategy for employees and members, a work from home strategy whereby over 90 per cent of our employees are working from home as of last Monday, as well as preparing for the possible eventual mandatory office closure. Now with Ontario declaring a state of emergency this is becoming closer to reality than ever. This means tracking our business volumes and ensuring that our



Dave Landry

Standardbred Canada president and CEO Dan Gall (left) presenting the 2018 National Driving Championship trophy to Doug McNair.

resources are being adequately utilized during the crisis and developing further contingencies for our members and stakeholders. Further to this, [Standardbred Canada](#) recognizes the importance of being the essential communication hub in informing the Canadian industry on how all jurisdictions are managing through this pandemic.

Our main concern is with our members and their future and how to offer assistance, support, information and help during this evolving worst case scenario. These are the conversations we have had and will continue to have as we try to project next steps for the association.

Standardbred Canada will continue to report on any assistance that government has made available and will work with all associations on directing members to the proper resources to assist in any way possible.

We are also working with our stakeholders to discuss ways of preparing for future and providing whatever relief can be had through government programs and assistance. Our story needs to be told and we are ready to share it with all to protect and help our industry and members.

The best assistance we can all do is to keep the communication going and ensure that priority items are identified and stay on point to address.

There is no doubt in my mind that we will have to reinvent ourselves as a result of this pandemic and that our lives, sport and the way we operate will be changed.

As William Shakespeare once wrote "What's past is prologue."



Harness Racing Update on Instagram

@HARNESSRACINGUPDATE





**TWOS IN
TRAINING**

Luc Blais



HRU Twos in Training videos return for 2020

In the 2020 debut of HRU's Twos in Training videos, Jaimi MacDonald interviews trainer Luc Blais at his private training farm in Campbellville, ON about Forbidden Trade and 2-year-olds he is conditioning for the Determination stable of Montreal.

by Dave Briggs

Quebec native Luc Blais is the first trainer in the spotlight in HRU's 2020 Twos in Training video series now posted on our [YouTube channel](#).

Blais was interviewed by Jaimi MacDonald at his private training farm in Campbellville, ON about the 2-year-olds he has in training for Determination Stable of Montreal, as well as the return of 2019 Hambletonian champion and Canada's Horse of the Year Forbidden Trade.

That video, produced by Curtis MacDonald's CUJO Entertainment is available here.

Special thanks to the [Lexington Selected Yearling Sale](#) and [Woodbine Mohawk Park](#) for sponsoring the Blais video.

Subscribe to our channel, for free, and never miss a video.

Every time a new video is posted HRU will send out notifications through our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.



Curtis MacDonald



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Hambletonian winner and 2019 Canadian Horse of the Year Forbidden Trade preparing for his 2020 campaign at Luc Blais' barn in March.

“Real Cool” Jim Campbell on handling COVID-19

by Jerry Connors

Trainer Jim Campbell has posted 1,268 training victories and over \$46.3 million in earnings in a career that saw him post his highest single-season money total ever in 2019, with over \$3 million won by the likes of divisional champion Real Cool Sam, Next Level Stuff, Sherry Lyn's Lady, Crystal Fashion and Millie's Possession.

With many of those powerhouse performers coming back to the races, in addition to the freshmen that Campbell almost inevitably develops into stars every year, the barn is busy, getting ready for the 2020 season.

“Whenever that will start,” Campbell said.

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every form of working and living virtually everywhere, including our North American harness circuit.

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” Campbell said. “Every single facet of everybody’s life is affected. The owners of horses are having their ‘regular’ businesses and income in such an unstable position.” Remembering back to his short time as the proprietor of a pizza establishment, Campbell said, “With the (New Jersey) government order (no sit-down business, a curfew), all a place can be is open for takeout during certain hours now, and that has to hurt them. And they worry about whether they can get their supplies.

“Catch-drivers in our business, they don’t get paid unless they’re racing, and there’s not much they can do. They’re like the rest of us, hoping to find out as soon as possible for more news, for some sort of possible timetable to emerge, to give them something to plan towards. The uncertainty of ‘What’s coming up next?’ is a really difficult thing.”

Campbell may have it a bit luckier than most of his fellow conditioners, in that most of the members of his stable are either continuing to learn the ropes as 2-year-olds, or putting the final touches towards their upcoming seasons in the stakes and free-for-all ranks. “I only have three racing right now; two of them we’re aiming for the Weiss Series (at Pocono) in April,” Campbell said. “They were ready to go, and now they are still in training, but only getting light work while we see when they will get back in action.

“My owners know that the vast majority of their horses are being conditioned to race from May until towards the end of the year. It’s different from being an owner of overnight horses – those owners have expenses because horses eat regularly, but they are expecting income from the purses their horses would normally be bringing in. Some might have to make some hard owner business decisions if we don’t race for a couple of months.”

Campbell said that all of his 2-year-olds are “still on their regular schedule, still training as usual (over the 5/8-mile oval at Magical Acres in New Jersey). Many of them have been in 2:30 or 2:35, and we’ll just go on with them. We’d rather have them ready ‘on schedule’ and then have to deal if there is any delay rather than back off with them now.”



Dave Landry

Trainer Jim Campbell.

The stable’s returnees are, of course, topped by Dan Patch award winner Real Cool Sam, a winner of all but one of his 10 starts at two, and the setter of five world records. “We’re looking to qualify him in May, so he’s getting the normal preparation he’d regularly get for that type of schedule, the same as the rest of our returning horses.

“Real Cool Sam is coming back well, but in my opinion, this year’s crop of 3-year-olds is going to be a very good one, deep, and with a lot of ability. Everybody’s going to have to be ready to be at their best in his division this year.”

He said he knows that he has the stock to take a run at the money his stable won in his personal-best year of 2019, and so far the horses are on developmental schedule. Like the rest of us, Campbell said he is learning to adjust to that great indefinite that is the end of COVID-19’s current pandemic stage. But he does carry a little bit of an advantage on many people – under that trademark hat of his lies a calm and calculating brain, capable of adjusting his horses’ schedules as news becomes known and the calendar eventually firms up.

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We can't just stop the breeding season

by Laura Young / general manager Southwind Farm

Let's take a moment — a non chaotic moment, an honoring moment — to the people of breeding season. Currently, people are locked away in their homes, not allowed to go to work, school, or out to a restaurant. Our industry is in the middle of a season we cannot just shut down — breeding season. Foals are being born all over the country, mares are being bred back, stallions are on double duty. This is the busiest time of year for us. We just can't walk away from 120 horses and say 'Good luck with having your foal!' We are people that are dedicated to our lifestyle, we are dedicated to the farms we work at and most of all we are dedicated to the horses. We can't just stop breeding season.

Farm managers, veterinarians, technicians and our support teams can't just lock ourselves away. These animals depend on us, which is the most important part. Our breeding season normally starts in February and runs until the first week of July. This is not a lot of time to deliver all the foals and breed back all the mares. Any disruptions can cause huge sets backs.

Our southern friends have already been dealt a devastating blow dealing with abortions, but their people come in every day and take care of the horses, and look forward to future they will give us.

Our western friends are fighting for the monies to keep the breeding industry and racing alive, but their people come every day to take care of the horses, and look forward to the future they will give us.

I always felt the breeding industry is the beginning and the end of our industry cycle.

We are now in the height of our breeding season. Farm managers, assistant managers, veterinarians, technicians, we are already feeling the stress of this crazy time of year, pulling 110-hour weeks with minimal sleep, taking the heartache of losing a mare or baby even though you gave it all you had. Our staff is at maximum workload. We can't just stop breeding season or move it to October. We can't just tell a mare having her foal, "You've got to postpone having the baby until September."

To all the people in leadership roles, it is our responsibly to lead our teams, to guide them, offer insight and assurance. Each industry has to help each other and the standardbred breeding industry is no different. My heart goes out to the already stressed farm managers and veterinarians, the couriers maneuvering airline flights to desperately get



Courtesy Laura Young

Southwind Farms general manager Laura Young hard at work.

stallion semen to its destinations and of course of support teams. We will get through it as an industry.

People ask me how I get up every day, pull 100 hour weeks and have done that for 27 years. I never really give them the true answer because no one would understand that answer — unless you are in a leadership position, unless you are in this type of lifestyle, unless your dedication goes beyond that of most. What I do say is every morning at 5 a.m., my team is waiting for me, and through thick and thin I have to be there for them. Coronavirus or not, we are in breeding season, we all have to find that other gear and be strong. We will get through it.



Kayne Kauffman understands the sacrifices made

The Ohio-based horseman has just one regret of a solid career in the sulky.

by Chris Lomon

You don't rack up over 4,100 wins as a driver/trainer by luck. You also don't reach such heights without making some serious sacrifices. Kayne Kauffman knows all about that.

Over 25 years after his first season in the sulky, the veteran reinsman from Ohio isn't showing any signs of slowing down.

A career built on a blue-collar approach has yielded several memorable moments and earned Kauffman a reputation as one of standardbred racing's most dedicated citizens.

Regrets are few, but one in particular still bothers him at times.

"I'm married and have two kids," Kauffman said. "It's hard for a family man to be a family man, as well as a horse trainer and driver. My kids have taken a lot on the chin as far as me not being around. I've missed a lot of things I wish I didn't, but I couldn't afford to at the time. It's very trying. Now that my kids are older, you look back and say, 'Damn.'"

Kauffman launched his career in the race bike in 1994. He competed at Ohio county fairs for the first five years, managing a total of 20 victories before moving to Lebanon Raceway and starting his own stable in 1999-2000 at the age of 20.

He had learned the ropes from Dan Perdue and Dave Brumbaugh (trainers from Greenville in Darke County, OH), respected horsemen who taught him several lessons about the sport, some of which didn't require any words at all.



Courtesy Kayne Kauffman

Horseman Kayne Kauffman and his two daughters.

"When I was younger, I worked for a couple of guys before I moved away from home. Dan and Nate really helped me to become a good horseman. They worked hard throughout their careers, and by watching and learning from them, it was the only way I knew to approach horse racing. They worked hard, you worked hard, and when I went out on my own, it snowballed from there. You just did what you were taught. Working seven days a week now, it's just what you do."

And Kauffman has done it, and continues to do it, very well.

After a lone driving win in four starts and purse earnings of \$423 in 1994, he's gone on to record nearly 3,300 driving wins and almost 900 training triumphs.

As a driver, Kauffman's first two \$1 million seasons came in 2013 and 2014, followed by \$2 million-plus campaigns in 2015 and 2018. In 2016 and 2017, he reached the \$3 million plateau. He has put up 100-plus win seasons on 14 occasions, and posted over 300 victories in three consecutive years from 2015-2017.

"The biggest highlights would be winning a few Sires Stakes finals, and winning the (\$120,500 U.S.) Battle of Lake Erie with A Rocknroll Dance (1:49.1) in 2013, that was huge

for a guy like myself – to be in a race like that, for one, and then to actually win it. Guys in the Midwest don't get a lot of opportunities to drive on the Grand Circuit. That was quite a big feat, for sure."

Not bad for someone who didn't have any strong family ties to the standardbred world.

"My grandfather had horses just for something to do. He took them once a year to the fairs. He had them to get him up in the morning and to have something to do. A lot of people had a family name to lean on or grew up in the business, but that was a big challenge... you had to make a name for yourself."

While that didn't happen overnight, Kauffman didn't entertain the notion of throwing in the towel during his early years at the racetrack.

A measure of both persistence and patience has played a significant role in his success story.

"It's trying at times. You have your ups and downs, but you keep going forward. When you're younger, losing bothers you a lot more. It stays with you longer. The older you get, you

still get upset – don't get me wrong – but it doesn't stay with you as long. It doesn't nag at you nearly as much as it once did. You let it go and it helps you focus on other things."

Like being a good family man.

"We bought a boat a few years ago, so we look to do a little boating as a family. We always try to take a couple of vacations together each year, whether it's Florida or somewhere else. My one daughter is a freshman at Ohio State. She's very highly active in volleyball. The youngest one, she's 13, and she's highly active in volleyball too. There have definitely been busy times for my wife in helping them with that part of their lives."

Kauffman then paused, briefly.

"I look at what my kids have and what they've been provided with throughout their lives and I'm very proud of it. They've never done without and they'll never do without."

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COVID-19 pandemic causing major disruption to harness racing

by Jerry Connors

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to thoroughly disrupt the North American harness racing scene.

This fact may be revealed most clearly through a chart that appears on the Cal Expo website ([full story here](#)), listing all the tracks that are on temporary hiatus from live racing. Prior to Woodbine Mohawk Park and The Raceway at The Western Fair District announcing closures, a check showed 15 such harness facilities in the United States and Canada, and a 16th had not yet been posted when we checked Thursday morning – Saratoga Harness, which had been operating in a studio racing mode, announced their last card for the time being would be the Sunday program. Pompano Park joined the list after their program on Wednesday evening.

Thoroughbreds, greyhounds, and even jai alai are being affected by the pandemic. Racing has been shelved temporarily in five entire countries, according to the website: France, India, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

We contacted the harness tracks that were still in “studio racing” mode. The people we spoke to were knowledgeable people, but were reluctant to say anything on the record, recognizing the dynamics of the situation. A few racing offices referred commenting to publicity or other departments. So no names are to be used in this story, but the facts, as known at press time, are public, backed up by computer resources and overnight sheets.

It is again to be emphasized that the developing situation may cause different management decisions and a different path in the racing of horses, but that what is listed here is factual at press time.

Northfield Park, just outside Cleveland, has drawn cards into next week. Their condition sheet specifies that horses “may lose preferences” to “locally-trained” horses, and the track did receive quite a few inquiries after the initial wave of temporary live racing suspensions started, but they have used very few “outsiders,” and only to fill classes which did not fill with “local horses.”

Miami Valley, between Dayton and Cincinnati, conducted qualifying races Wednesday afternoon. They have drawn for

cards out until Monday, but stated that with the “fluidity” of the current situation, live racing’s status would remain “day-to-day” depending on public safety – the prevailing sentiment.

Rosecroft, just outside Washington DC, conducted racing on Wednesday and plans to on Sunday. Their condition sheet clearly states that “due to the coronavirus, entries will be limited to horses who raced at Rosecroft in their last start, or who have Maryland preference” (sired, owned, bred, foaled). Racing twice a week, they have been able to fill their cards; they had a few inquiries from connections racing at other tracks, but stick to their rule.

Spokespeople for **Cal-Expo** were not available at press time. However, their meet is scheduled to end on April 25, five weeks from this weekend, and with the average distance between Sacramento and the three tracks mentioned above over 2,400 miles, combined with not knowing the end of local bans or any interstate transportation difficulties, it seems unlikely that they would be getting a number of shippers.

North of the border, both **Woodbine Mohawk Park** (outside Toronto) and **Western Fair** (west of central Ontario) continued the drawing of future races on Thursday, while taking “the cautious route” in speaking about anything any distance into the future. After being contacted, both opted to postpone racing effective March 20. **Rideau Carleton** (Ottawa, on the Quebec border) also drew on Thursday for a Sunday program.

Most of the tracks mentioned in this story and in a position to discuss the topic had noticed slight if any upturn in their betting from remote spots, the reduction of product from which to pick counterbalanced by simulcast facilities at racinos/tracks being closed, and people’s minds being on other priorities. Western Fair was an exception, posting record handle of \$992,536 (Cdn) on Wednesday night.

The only “sure thing” about handicapping the races these days is that the picture is likely to be changing from day-to-day – and that harness racing’s most fervent hope is that the pandemic affects the minimal amount of lives possible, and that we as a sport can get back to our business – if not soon, then at least as soon as possible.

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Four members of racing's Fusco family dead after contracting COVID-19

[Full story here.](#)

A fourth person from the same New Jersey family has died after being infected with the coronavirus, the family's attorney told NJ Advance Media on Thursday.

Vincent Fusco died Thursday at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, said Roseann Paradiso Fodera, a cousin and the lawyer representing the Fusco family.

The death comes just a day after Vincent Fusco's mother died at the same facility. His brother, Carmine Fusco, died Wednesday morning at St. Luke's University Hospital-Bethlehem Campus, in Fountain Hill, PA.

And his sister, Rita-Fusco Jackson, died last Friday and later tested positive for COVID-19, becoming the state's second victim.

Vincent Fusco was one of six members of the Freehold-based family hospitalized for coronavirus after they attended a family gathering.

Nineteen other family members, including spouses and children, have also been tested, according to Elizabeth Fusco, a sibling who is not hospitalized said Tuesday. They all remain under quarantine.

—Spencer Kent / NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Further from The Morning Call....

[Full story here.](#)

When Gov. Tom Wolf told the public Wednesday night that a Northampton County man was Pennsylvania's first recorded coronavirus death, the Fusco family was already well into the grieving process.

Carmine Fusco, 55, died Wednesday afternoon at St. Luke's University Hospital in Fountain Hill, five days after his sister

Rita Fusco-Jackson, also in her 50s, died from the virus in New Jersey and shortly [before his mother, Grace Fusco of Freehold, succumbed to the same illness](#). Grace Fusco's death was reported by *The New York Times* and other outlets Wednesday night.

Four other family members are also ill, with several in critical condition.

"To everybody, this is a virus. To us, it's a person," said Andriana Fusco, sister to Carmine and Rita and Grace's daughter, speaking to The Morning Call before learning of her mother's death. "It's our family."

While the majority of his family lived in New Jersey, Carmine Fusco lived for the last seven or eight years in Pennsylvania, where he trained harness racing horses in Wind Gap.

Andriana Fusco doesn't know how her brother contracted the virus. But she said it wasn't from a family gathering in New Jersey, as some news outlets have reported.

"There was no party, there was no people in from Italy," she said. "Me, myself, I have not seen my brother since February, and the last time he was even in New Jersey was March 3. I don't want any false things being said about my brother."

While the Fusco family's sorrow is palpable, Carmine Fusco's death was a sobering moment for Pennsylvania as well. Speaking from his home in York, the governor delivered the news without identifying Fusco, saying: "I come to you with a heavy heart. Earlier today, the Department of Health confirmed that a person in Northampton County passed away from COVID-19. This is the first death from the novel coronavirus in Pennsylvania."

The Health Department said the patient had been hospitalized. And St. Luke's said a patient who tested positive was first admitted to its Anderson campus last Thursday. At the time, the Health Department said that person contracted the virus through out-of-state travel.

According to published reports, Rita Fusco-Jackson's death was connected to [the death of John Brennan](#), a horse trainer who lived in New Jersey and was that state's first resident to die from the virus.

The Fusco family has a strong connection to harness racing. Carmine Fusco was involved since he was a teenager working for his father, a harness horse driver and trainer from Freehold, New Jersey, whose 2017 obituary noted that he raced horses there as well as in Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts.

Carmine Fusco was a partner in Wingate Farm, a standardbred training facility in Bushkill Township, according

to Dan Markowitz, an owner of the facility. Fusco had about 20 horses there, he said, training them for races at tracks such as Mohegan Sun Pocono and Yonkers Raceway.

"Everybody in the business knew him, that's for sure," Markowitz said, adding that Fusco was a hard worker who was very involved with his family.

"This thing is terrible," Markowitz said. "It's unbelievable — this virus."

Andriana Fusco called Carmine and Rita "the most wonderful brother and sister that anybody can have." She said Carmine was a successful businessman who was married with no children. To his 27 nieces and nephews, he was known as "Shrek," a beloved uncle who could make them laugh. Rita, who taught religion classes in Freehold, was married with three children. Both, Andriana Fusco said, "were amazing."

"They were good people," she said. "I don't know why this is happening. They didn't deserve this, they're too young."

—*Manuel Gamiz, Jr. and Jon Harris*

SBOANJ sends condolences to the Fusco family

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey offer our deepest condolences to the Fusco family.

The devastation to one family is unfathomable and particularly personal as the Fuscus are a large part of our local racing community.

We would like to remind our members that the SBOANJ is available to help if needed.

—*Courtney Stafford / PR Consultant SBOANJ*

Frank J. Bellino dead at 85

Frank J. Bellino, 85, owner of hundreds of standardbred during his life including 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven, passed away Tuesday morning (March 17) of a heart attack.

Bellino, who founded a successful construction firm and also owned commercial real estate throughout the United States, started in the harness racing industry in 1982 and has owned a number of top pacers and trotters by himself and in partnership with his sons Joe and George.

In addition to Rock N Roll Heaven, a 2017 Harness Racing Hall of Fame inductee who earned \$2,748,818 during his

career and went on to stallion duty, Bellino owned Pet Rock (\$1,780,454), another stallion who stands at Midland Acres.

While the resident of Bronxville, NY may be best remembered for some high-priced yearling purchases along with the above stallions, his eye for upper-level conditioned horses was second-to-none. The list includes several horses that earned hundreds of thousands as part of Bellino's stable.

Classic Rock N Roll earned \$814,556 during his career, nearly three-quarters of that for Bellino. Casimir Jitterbug spent six years on the track for Bellino and brought in approximately \$800K while American Rage and Polak A also earned well north of \$300K each for the stable.

"He loved harness racing more than any business he was ever involved with," said Joe Bellino, who added that his father's favorite race was when Rock N Roll Heaven won the Little Brown Jug in 2010.

Bellino is survived by his son Joe and many grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were not available at press time.

—*Derick Givner / DRF Harness*

USTA closes office to visitors; most employees to work remotely

The U.S. Trotting Association understands that there is a great deal of anxiety and confusion regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact that it is having on everyday life.

The USTA is monitoring and following the guidelines and advice of federal, state and local government authorities. Here in Ohio, our governor has declared a state of emergency and closed schools, restaurants and bars.

While these circumstances are creating personal and professional challenges for all of us, our first and foremost concern is for you and your families. The health and safety of our members, employees, racing fans and visitors to our office are our top priorities during this public health crisis.

In order to minimize the possibility of being infected by and spreading the virus at work, the USTA is closing our office to visitors effective Monday (March 16) and will have most of our employees work remotely from home. Only employees whose functions require that they be present in the office will work from there.

However, be assured that the USTA will continue to provide the reliable access to important services that are needed. Many USTA employees already work remotely at night and

over the weekends. Preparations have been made and are already in place to allow us to seamlessly conduct business remotely.

As a reminder, all online services are available as usual. In addition, pictures of completed forms can also be emailed to memberservices@ustrotting.com with payments made by including that information in the photos or by calling the phone numbers on the forms.

As new developments occur and additional information becomes available, we will keep you informed.

– *USTA communications department*

Horse people being evicted from Pompano Park

All trainers, caretakers and their horses in the backstretch at Eldorado's Isle Pompano Park racetrack have been told that they must vacate the premises by March 31, 2020.

The notices were sent out to the horsemen and women at Pompano Park late Thursday morning. The flyers posted in the backstretch state: "Closure Notice....For the safety and security of all, the backstretch will be closing March 31. All dorms and barns need to be vacated by March 31."

"This is just outrageous, dangerous, and just plain disappointing," said Dein Spriggs, president of the Florida Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association. "The horsepeople in the backstretch and their horses at Pompano Park should remain stabled right where they are. The backstretch is the safest place for them right now.

"There is almost no place for the trainers to go with their horses and caretakers. Many caretakers live almost year-round in the dorms. Now they want them to move. Where are they supposed to live? This is just so wrong for Eldorado to do this.

"We would like to work things out. But was told by Troy Buswell the Isle Casino general manager at 10:41 AM that Pompano Park was terminating the race meet."

Currently, there are approximately 50 caretakers that live on the backstretch of the track and approximately 650 horses that are stabled on the grounds.

The racetrack was conducting fan-less live racing on Wednesday and now have canceled live racing indefinitely at Pompano Park while Gulfstream Park is still holding their races without any fans.

"Eldorado's eviction of the horses and horse people from the backstretch, along the ceasing of racing, will cause

serious financial hardships to the Industry, as well as the safety and welfare of the horsemen and horses," said Spriggs.

– *Steve Wolf, for the FSBOA*

Hippodrome 3R postponing start of 2020 season

The Quebec Jockey Club has announced that the 2020 harness racing season at the Hippodrome 3R, scheduled to start on May 2, has been postponed until further notice.

"The racetrack and all of the Off-Track-Betting sites (OTB) in Quebec have been closed," said Murielle Thomasson, general manager at the Hippodrome 3R. "Because of the pandemic over the coronavirus-19, we will not hold qualifying races or training at the facility. As soon as we are able to open the facilities again, we will set a new date to start racing. All stakes races will be rescheduled for later in the season."

Horsepeople are reminded that all stakes payments, Prix d'Ete and Quebec-bred series, must be maintained in order to be eligible for the stakes. To make nomination payments, owner/trainers can go to www.standardbredcanada.ca or H3R's new website, www.hippodrome3r.ca, and get the necessary nomination forms.

– *Quebec Jockey Club*

2020 Florida Hall of Fame banquet postponed

The 2020 Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame Banquet that was scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2020, has been postponed until future notice due to the pandemic over Coronavirus-19. The banquet is run by the Florida Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association.

The event was to take place at McDivot's at the Carolina Country Club in Margate, FL.

Once a new date for the dinner is established, all participants and guests that have already ordered tickets, or still wish to attending, will be notified. For additional information contact Florida USHWA Chapter president, Steve Wolf, at email, stevenwolf1956@gmail.com or call at 954-654-3757.

– *Florida chapter of USHWA*

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RACE RESULTS - SUNDAY

MIAMI VALLEY RACEWAY *report*

Sunday's Results:

7, MVR, \$15,000, Pace, HORSES & GELDINGS CONDITION/CLAIMER N/W 10 PM RACES AT EXT. MEETS CLAIMING PRICE \$40,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 26.3, 55.0, 1:23.4, 1:52.4, FT

1-Super Pac Hanover (g, 5, Dragon Again--Subtle Charm, by Die Laughing) \$7,500, \$30,000 2016 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 78-10-7-7, \$129,015
 O-Rodney J Lorenzo & Brian L Running. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Justin Lloyd. D-Trace Tetrack.

2-Noah Z Tam (g, 5, Rockin Image--Portia Blue Chip, by Bettor's Delight) \$3,750, \$28,000 2016 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 84-9-14-8, \$140,290
 O-Brian Witt. B-Lavon L Miller. T-Larry Finn. D-Dan Noble.

3-Er Sam (h, 4, Shadyshark Hanover--Suzie Blue, by Art's Chip) \$1,800, Lifetime Record: 59-12-5-8, \$70,558
 O-Eash Racing Stable Inc. B-Eash Racing Stable Inc. T-Don Eash. D-Shawn Barker II.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: T, 2, 1Q, Q, T - Finish Order: Rj's Dragon, Happy Trio, Swift Shark, Medoland Brutus, Vegas Again, Fordham Sixty Two, Meadowbrook Raider

11, MVR, \$15,000, Pace, HORSES & GELDINGS CONDITION/CLAIMER N/W 10 PM RACES AT EXT. MEETS CLAIMING PRICE \$40,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 27.2, 57.0, 1:24.4, 1:53.2, FT

1-Delco Papa Bear (g, 6, Dali--Princess Zoie, by Village Juno) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 73-16-17-14, \$146,212
 O-Rodney J Lorenzo & Brian L Running. B-Jesse J De Long. T-Art Gregory Jr. D-Tyler Smith.

2-Always A Law (g, 4, Always A Virgin--Lisbellaw, by Artsplace) \$3,750, \$16,000 2017 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 34-7-4-4, \$49,550
 O-Wilson Racing Stable Inc & Ann E Calvert & Mark J Eichberger. B-Elmer L Yoder. T-Timothy Wilson Jr. D-Trace Tetrack.

3-Southport Beach (g, 4, Somebeachsomewhere--Benear, by Badlands Hanover) \$1,800, \$250,000 2017 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 32-7-5-6, \$76,560
 O-Carl T Howard & Winners Circle Stable LLC. B-Geoffrey M Martin, CA. T-Virgil Morgan Jr. D-Brett Miller.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 2Q, 2, 2T, 2Q, HD - Finish Order: Pine Knot Tuff, Rock Solid Image, Drew The Dragon, Authentic Hanover, Mystical Charger, Sunfirewindrain, American Chrome

12, MVR, \$17,500, Pace, HORSES & GELDINGS CLAIMING \$30,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 26.4, 55.1, 1:23.3, 1:52.0, FT

1-Hawk's Red Chief (g, 9, I Scoot Hanover--Fancy Trouble, by Troublemaker) \$8,750, \$15,000 2012 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 134-34-22-18, \$374,602
 O-Burke Racing Stable LLC. B-Frederick C & Carolyn K Shiery. T-Ron Burke. D-Chris Page.

2-Play The Field (g, 8, Bettor's Delight--A Votre Pante, by Artsplace) \$4,375, Lifetime Record: 163-20-25-27, \$264,144
 O-Mary M Megerle. B-Let It Ride Stables Inc & Doc's Farm. T-Kayne Kauffman. D-Kayne Kauffman.

3-Street Boy (g, 5, American Ideal--Trend Setter, by Grinfromeartoeart) \$2,100, Lifetime Record: 81-15-10-9, \$170,482
 O-Frederick M Linz. B-Mac T Nichol, CA. T-Michael Arnold. D-Tyler Smith.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 1, 1, 1, 1Q, 1Q - Finish Order: The Dark Shadow, Hal N Sammy, Full On Rocknroll, Limited Edition, Normandy Beach, Blakemore, Duel Of Truth

HARNESS RACING

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RACE RESULTS - SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

SARATOGA HARNESS *report*

Sunday's Results:

7, Stga, \$15,000, Trot, Open Handicap Post Position Nos. 1 - 3 and 6 Assigned Post Position Nos. 4 & 5 - Drawn, 27.2, 56.3, 1:26.3, 1:56.2, FT

1-Certify (g, 4, Credit Winner--Good Intentions, by Cantab Hall) \$7,500, \$9,000 2017 MORRIS, Lifetime Record: 43-17-6-8, \$180,885

O-William A Hartt & Marc J Reynolds. B-Brittany Farms LLC. T-Melissa Beckwith. D-Jay Randall.

Another **BRITTANY FARMS** Bred Winner!



Preferred Equine YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

2-Shorething Fashion (g, 6, Andover Hall--Tyg Hanover, by Donerail) \$3,750, \$20,000 2015 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 75-22-19-9, \$187,435

O-Michael E Eaton & Robert J Mc Hugh. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Michael Eaton. D-Shawn T Gray.

3-Cartier Volo (m, 6, Cash Hall--No I'm Not, by Windsong's Legacy) \$1,800, \$39,000 2015 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 99-14-22-20, \$187,014

O-Michael E Polansky. B-Jorgen Jahre Jr, NO. T-Margaret Spagnola. D-Brian Cross.

►► [Replay](#) ►► Calls: 7T, 8, 1H, 2, 2 - Finish Order: Mr Cool Seaeyre N, Gemologist, Cash Me Out

RACE RESULTS - MONDAY

MIAMI VALLEY RACEWAY *report*

Monday's Results:

12, MVR, \$16,000, Trot, N/W \$8000 (MARES \$10,000) IN LAST 4 STARTS AE: CLAIMING \$20,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 28.1, 58.1, 1:26.2, 1:55.4, FT

1-Milford's Z Tam (g, 7, Swan For All--Northern Mystique, by Kadabra) \$8,000, \$19,000 2014 IN-PREM, Lifetime Record: 127-19-20-22, \$360,119

O-William A Hartt. B-Alan R Troyer. T-Michael Hitchcock. D-Jeremy Smith.

2-Cruzen Cassi (g, 5, Cassis--Registered Nurse, by Super Bowl) \$4,000, Lifetime Record: 86-13-17-17, \$171,115

O-Summer L Zubkoff. B-Fair Meadow Farm. T-Becky Zubkoff. D-Brett Miller.

3-Steel Reserve (g, 8, Credit Winner--Iron Lass, by Muscles Yankee) \$1,920, \$22,000 2013 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 103-18-13-15, \$197,596

O-Lucinda L Belcher. B-Frederick W Hertrich III. T-Herman Hagerman. D-Tyler Smith.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 5H, 2Q, 2, 2, 2Q - Finish Order: A Royal Line, Manny L, Lazurus, Hititoutofthepark

NORTHFIELD PARK *report*

Monday's Results:

7, Nfld, \$16,000, Pace, GUARANTEED \$10,000 PICK 4 STARTS HERE OPEN HANDICAP (POST POSITIONS 1, 6 & 7 ASSIGNED: DRAW 2-5), 26.2, 55.1, 1:22.4, 1:51.3, GD

1-Bully Pulpit (g, 7, Well Said--Cupcakeswhipcream, by Camluck) \$8,000, \$25,000 2014 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 131-28-26-24, \$381,789

O-Bradley R Schwartz. B-Stephen Perrine Dey. T-C Brian Loney. D-Hunter Myers.



Preferred Equine YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

2-Southwind Amazon (g, 10, Camluck--Artoonist, by Artsplace) \$4,000, \$35,000 2011 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 230-92-36-31, \$1,034,016

O-Ameer Najor. B-Southwind Farm. T-Paul Holzman. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr..

3-The Wayfaring Man (g, 8, Dragon Again--Armbo Wichita, by Western Hanover) \$1,920, \$62,000 2013 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 136-31-22-20, \$486,940

O-Allard Racing Inc, CA & Vip Internet Stable LLC & Stephen Klunowski, CA & Donald G Mac Rae, CA. B-98 Degree Farm & Midland Acres Inc. T-C Brian Loney. D-Kurt Sugg.

►► [Replay](#) ►► Calls: 4H, 2H, 1H, H, HD - Finish Order: Carolina Beach, Mister Spot A, Pacin To Paydaze, R J P

11, Nfld, \$16,000, Trot, GUARANTEED \$10,000 PICK 4 STARTS HERE OPEN, 27.1, 55.4, 1:24.2, 1:54.3, GD

1-Trixie's Jethro (g, 6, Cassis--Tropical Trixie, by Armbo Tropicana) \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 110-29-23-12, \$272,381

O-Samuel J Schillaci & Samuel Bova & Wrenn Jr. Racing LLC. B-Charles Doehring. T-Sam Schillaci. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr..

RACE RESULTS - MONDAY (CONTINUED)

2-Some More Prince (g, 5, Rosemont Principal--S'more, by Well Done) \$4,000, Lifetime Record: 82-16-20-13, \$153,914

O-Joe Palatas. B-Paul D Liles. T-William Rhoades. D-Aaron Merriman.

3-Allgrooveallthtime (g, 8, Swan For All--Grooveykindaluv, by Kadabra) \$1,920, \$2,500 2013 IN-PREM, Lifetime Record: 98-25-14-13, \$270,775

O-Alvin R Miller. B-Victory Hill Farm Inc. T-Zachary Miller. D-Greg Grismore.

►► [Replay](#) ►► Calls: 1H, 1, Q, 1, 3H - Finish Order: Iron Mine Johnny, Luminosity, Fashion Chocolate, Sass, Palmers Pride

THE MEADOWS *report*

Monday's Results:

1, Mea, \$18,000, Trot, **OPEN HANDICAP** P.P.1-2 DRAWN; 3-6 DRAWN, 27.0, 56.2, 1:25.1, 1:53.4, FT

1-Perlucky (g, 5, Lucky Chucky--Paper Girl, by Donato Hanover) \$9,000, \$15,000 2016 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 58-18-15-6, \$407,059

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Phillip Collura. B-Fair Winds Farm Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Dave Palone.

2-Wind Of The North (g, 10, Cantab Hall--Talk To The Wind, by Pine Chip) \$4,500, \$5,000 2011 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 179-55-40-22, \$1,105,548

O-William T Bercury. B-Quantum Farms Corp. T-William Bercury. D-Aaron Merriman.

3-Icanflylikeanangel (g, 6, Archangel--Fox Valley London, by Vaporize) \$2,160, \$27,000 2015 Goshen, Lifetime Record: 80-20-20-13, \$347,896

O-Randall B Bendis & Pollack Racing LLC. B-L Michelle Oglesby & John R Hallett. T-Randy Bendis. D-Mike Wilder.

►► [Replay](#) ►► Calls: 1H, 1H, 2, 1, H - Finish Order: Final Breath, Whats The Word, Explosive Magic

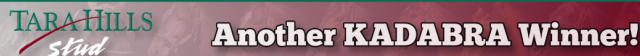
WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

Monday's Results:

1, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$8,600 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 28.3, 59.1, 1:29.1, 1:57.2

1-Tymal Riggs (b,c,3 - Kadabra-All Filled Up-Muscles Yankee) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$9,450

O-Mark Etsell B-Tymal Farms T-Mark Etsell D-Bob McClure



2-Victor Invictus (b,g,4 - Kadabra-Whitesand Electra-Angus Hall)

O-Home Stretch Holdings Inc B-Joanne Wray T-Jerry Duford D-Chris Christoforou

3-Sebastian U (b,g,3 - Sebastian K S-Broadway Paige-Broadway Hall)

O-Thestable Sebastian U GRP B-Anthony Risi T-Jason McGinnis D-Anthony Macdonald

►► [Replay](#) ►►

3, Wbs, \$20,000, Trot, NW \$11,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$22,000 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: OPT. CLM. \$30,000, 27.3, 56.3, 1:25, 1:54.1

1-Gold Edition (b,h,4 - E L Titan-Ticket To Broadway-Broadway Hall) \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 47-8-6-5, \$146,791

O-Stirling Fisher, Karin Olsson Burgess B-Christopher Beaver T-Blair Burgess D-Phillippe Hudon



2-White Tiger (b,g,4 - Muscle Massive-Just Not Into You-Donato Hanover)

O-Thestable White Tiger GRP B-Order By Stable T-Harry Poulton D-Anthony Macdonald

3-Exemplar (blk,g,10 - Andover Hall-Southwind Serena-Varenne)

O-Ecurie Richard Moreau Inc, Sylvain Descheneaux, GAAR Racing Stables B-Andrea Lea Racingstables T-Richard Moreau D-Sylvain Filion

►► [Replay](#) ►►

4, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$8,600 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 30.1, 1:01.1, 1:30.3, 1:58.3

1-Gamblin Road (b,g,3 - Holiday Road-Give Me A Hand-Angus Hall) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-0, \$18,719

O-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, James Walker, Mardon Stables B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc T-Robert McIntosh D-Trevor Henry

2-Tymal Tarot (b,g,3 - Kadabra-J M Aggie-Angus Hall)

O-Rodney Hughes B-Tymal Farms T-Rodney Hughes D-Bob McClure

RACE RESULTS - MONDAY (CONTINUED)

3-Petro Chrome (b,g,3 - Muscle Mass-Sassy Dreamer-Taurus Dream)

O-Darryl Laver B-Darryl Laver T-Robert Don Fellows D-Darryl Laver

►► [Replay](#) ►►

7, Wbs, \$17,000, Trot, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 (FM 3) RACES OR \$20,000 (FM \$25,000) LIFETIME, 28.2, 58, 1:28.4, 1:57

1-Up And Trending (b,f,3 - Royalty For Life-Oaklea Uppity-Amigo Hall) \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-1, \$22,040

O-Bax Stable, Robert Van Camp B-Bax Stable, Robert Van Camp T-John Bax D-Stephen Byron



Another ROYALTY FOR LIFE Winner!

2-Savini (b,g,3 - Explosive Matter-Ivory Lindy-Buvetier Daunou)

O-Robert Mc Nerney B-K R Breeding Llc T-Victor Puddy D-Douglas McNair

3-Charmbo Prince (ch,c,3 - Royalty For Life-Hetties Charm-Angus Hall)

O-John & Randy Rier B-John & Randy Rier T-John Rier D-Michael Saftic

►► [Replay](#) ►►

9, Wbs, \$36,000, Trot, PREFERRED, 27.4, 56.3, 1:25.1, 1:53.3

1-P L Jill (b,m,7 - Kadabra-Fridays Gem-Keystone Nordic) \$18,000, Lifetime Record: 102-29-13-8, \$531,693

O-Prince Lee Acres, Jill Coleman, Alan Christensen B-Prince Lee Acres T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Mario Baillargeon



Another KADABRA Winner!

2-Big Rich (b,g,8 - Donato Hanover-Kidman Hall-Like A Prayer)

O-Ecurie CSL, Frank Spagnolo B-Vieux Carre Farms T-Richard Moreau D-Louis Philippe Roy

3-R First Class (b,g,6 - Kadabra-World Class Image-Balanced Image)

O-Thomas & Rankin B-Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Sylvain Filion

►► [Replay](#) ►►

10, Wbs, \$24,000, Trot, NW \$16,500 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$28,000 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: NW \$120,000 LIFETIME. AE: OPT. CLM. \$40,000, 27.2, 57, 1:25.4, 1:54

1-Buzz (b,g,8 - Kadabra-Annie Hall-Like A Prayer) \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 152-27-16-18, \$392,099

O-Kick It Stables B-Beechwood Acres T-Carmen Auciello D-Jonathan Drury



Another KADABRA Winner!

2-Bautista (br,h,5 - Muscle Hill-Ever Gorgeous-Andover Hall)

O-Claude Hamel B-Al Libfeld, Marvin Katz T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Sylvain Filion

3-Pikachu Hanover (b,h,6 - Andover Hall-Playwood-Donerail)

O-High Stakes Stable Inc B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Gregg McNair D-James Macdonald

►► [Replay](#) ►►

RACE RESULTS - TUESDAY

MIAMI VALLEY RACEWAY *report*

Tuesday's Results:

8, MVR, \$15,000, Trot, DR. DAN FARWICK MEMORIAL LATE CLOSER - 1ST LEG - 1ST DIVISION N/W 6 PM RACES OR \$60,000 LIFETIME ON MARCH 8, 28.3, 58.0, 1:26.2, 1:55.1, FT

1-K' Love (g, 6, Triumphant Caviar--Tilly Bomb, by Chip Chip Hooray) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 39-19-4-3, \$63,887

O-Charles N Ringger B-David T Ehrenberg T-Charles Ringger D-Kyle Ater.

2-Back Door Man (g, 4, Bluto--Funny Fashion, by Broadway Hall) \$3,750, \$7,500 2017 MICHIANA, Lifetime Record: 36-7-5-5, \$56,229

O-Ira Steinberg B-Amos S Eicher T-Michael Arnold D-Jeremy Smith.

RACE RESULTS - TUESDAY (CONTINUED)

3-Aunt Percilla (m, 4, Uncle Peter--Ilazue, by Dream Vacation) \$1,800, \$15,000 2017 Buck-CL, Lifetime Record: 24-4-2-4, \$92,884
O-Robert Silberberg & John R Schwarz Jr. B-Martz Creek Farm. T-James Eaton. D-Trace Tetrick.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: H, T, 2H, 2H, 2 - Finish Order: Just A Passenger, Frontloader, Ilooklikeanallstar, Stonebridge Symba, Sweet Swan Of All, Feel Invincible As

10, MVR, \$15,000, Trot, DR. DAN FARWICK MEMORIAL LATE CLOSER - 1ST LEG - 2ND DIVISION N/W 6 PM RACES OR \$60,000 LIFETIME ON MARCH 8, 27.4, 57.0, 1:26.1, 1:55.3, FT

1-Cassius Lane (g, 4, Cash Hall--Winning Colors K, by American Winner) \$7,500, \$30,000 2017 Buck-CL, Lifetime Record: 30-6-4-1, \$73,935
O-The Panhellenic Stb Corp & Kenneth M Rucker. B-Sally Shaffer Parkinson. T-Ken Rucker. D-Kayne Kauffman.

2-Cash Hit (g, 4, Uncle Peter--Swing Anna Cash, by Cash Hall) \$3,750, \$20,000 2017 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 40-5-7-11, \$95,246
O-Lone Wolf Stable. B-Jonas L Schlabach. T-Steven Walters. D-Brett Miller.

3-Er Kim (m, 4, Encore Encore--Karen's Karma, by Muscles Yankee) \$1,800, Lifetime Record: 58-7-13-12, \$68,317
O-Eash Racing Stable Inc. B-Eash Racing Stable Inc. T-Don Eash. D-Lewayne Miller.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: NS, 1, 1Q, 1, 1 - Finish Order: Quick N Balanced, Crews Hilltopper, Gonnawishonastar, Fanatic, Forget It Im Crazy, Bridge Works, B Threeseven

12, MVR, \$18,000, Trot, N/W \$10,000 (MARES \$12,000) IN LAST 4 STARTS AE: N/W 10 (MARES 12) PM RACES AT EXT. MEETS AE: CLAIMING \$30,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 29.0, 57.3, 1:25.3, 1:54.1, FT

1-Wildfire Seelster (m, 4, Explosive Matter--Warrawee Lassie, by Kadabra) \$9,000, \$23,000 2017 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 44-12-3-4, \$117,165
O-Morgan L Hagerman. B-Seelster Farms Inc, CA. T-Herman Hagerman. D-Tyler Smith.



Preferred Equine YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

2-Peggy Sue (m, 5, Donato Hanover--Motivational, by Muscles Yankee) \$4,500, Lifetime Record: 62-12-19-7, \$181,150
O-Galliers Racing LLC. B-Kathleen La Montagne. T-Brady Galliers. D-Brady Galliers.

3-Kiwi Pres (g, 9, The Pres--Kristalvagen N, by Sundon) \$2,160, Lifetime Record: 165-20-24-19, \$214,440
O-Lisa M Gosselin. B-D Keith Gibson, NZ. T-Pat Melloy Jr. D-Brett Miller.

Replay Unavailable - Calls: 1, 1H, 1, 1H, H - Finish Order: Andy M, Trumpets, Fomor, Ursis Des Caillons, Body Of Work, Dylan The Great, Martini Show

RACE RESULTS - THURSDAY

SARATOGA HARNESS *report*

Thursday's Results:

6, Stga, \$15,000, Pace, Fillies & Mares - Winners Over - Open Handicap Winners Over - Post Position Nos. 1 - 3 - Assigned Open - Post Position Nos. 4 - 6 - Drawn, 27.3, 57.1, 1:27.0, 1:55.0, GD

1-Bontz N (m, 9, American Ideal--Blue Delight, by Bettor's Delight) \$11,250, Lifetime Record: 93-18-11-20, \$185,886
O-April C Aldrich. B-J B & J J Geddes, NZ. T-Gary Levine. D-Shawn T Gray.

2-Miss Irish Rose A (m, 8, McArdle--Killinchy Rose, by Iraklis) \$3,750, Lifetime Record: 133-25-22-17, \$265,474
O-Larry D Stalbaum. B-L J & J P & D J Burley, AS & S Hassan, AS. T-Tracy Tarantino. D-Larry Stalbaum.

►► **Replay** ►► Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, H, H - Finish Order: Hilaria, Firstup, Fool Me Again, Milliondollargem A

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

Thursday's Results:

1, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.2, 57.4, 1:27.1, 1:55.4

1-Rain Man Blue Chip (br,g,3 - Sunshine Beach-Peppermint Patti-Bettors Delight) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, \$9,125
O-David Mcdonald, A K Malik Stable B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald

2-Cantfindabettorman (b,g,3 - Bettors Delight-Shes Long Gone-Artsplace)
O-R A W Equine Inc, Cantfindabettorman Stable B-Beechwood Acres T-Phillippe Hudon D-Phillippe Hudon

RACE RESULTS - THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

3-Rocknrolls Shadow (blk,g,3 - Shadow Play-Thebestofrocknroll-Rocknroll Hanover)

O-Travis Henry, Princeton Farms Inc, Glen Wark, Samuel Stoltzfus B-Harry Loyens T-Madalyn Henry D-Bradley Harris

►► [Replay](#) ►►

2, Wbs, \$16,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$21,500 LIFETIME, 28, 58.1, 1:27.3, 1:54.4

1-Beyond Better (b,g,3 - Bettors Delight-Somethinincredible-Ponder) \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, \$23,500

O-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, C S X Stables, Dave Boyle B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc T-Robert McIntosh D-Trevor Henry

2-Resounding (br,g,3 - Thinking Out Loud-Racey Miss-Shanghai Phil)

O-Hudson Standrbrd Stb Inc B-Hudson Standrbrd Stb Inc T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald

3-Daddy Devito (b,g,3 - A Rocknroll Dance-Otherpeoplesmoney-Pro Bono Best)

O-Brenda Selwyn Waxman B-Gabe Prewitt T-Isaac Waxman D-Douglas McNair

►► [Replay](#) ►►

6, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, CLAIMING HANDICAP \$20,000 TO \$25,000. ALLOWANCES FOR AGE & SEX. ENTER IN MULTIPLES OF \$1,000, 26.1, 54.4, 1:25.1, 1:53.2

1-Brookletsjustified (br,g,7 - Personal Power-Armbro Banjo-Armbro Operative) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 147-27-21-12, \$192,336

O-Michael & Sam Sergi B-Gary Wilcox T-Richard Moreau D-Sylvain Filion

2-Sin City Boogie (b,g,6 - Yankee Cruiser-Kat N Mouse-Expensive Scooter)

O-Kelly Waxman B-Michael Callipare T-William Budd D-James Macdoanld

3-Casimir Rumrunner (b,h,5 - Daylon Frontier-Tropicana Chris-Die Laughing)

O-Louie Sorella, Katie Gene Miller, Donald J Mac Lellan B-Casimir Stables T-Robert Kyle Fellows D-Douglas McNair

►► [Replay](#) ►►

8, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. WITH ALLOWANCES, 28, 57, 1:27, 1:56.2

1-Valentine Delight (b,f,3 - Bettors Delight-Lady Valentine-Jeremes Jet) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 11-1-1-4, \$15,235

O-Yves Rondeau, Robert Vinet B-Yves Rondeau, Robert Vinet T-Dominic Gladu D-Jody Jamieson

2-Patricia Mae (b,f,3 - Mach Three-Rub N Tug-Art Major)

O-David Brown, Jim Elburg B-David Brown, Jim Elburg T-David Brown D-Louis Philippe Roy

3-Classica (b,f,3 - American Ideal-Wall Of Art-Art Major)

O-Gregg McNair B-W Springtime Racing Stb T-Gregg McNair D-Douglas McNair

►► [Replay](#) ►►

9, Wbs, \$17,000, Pace, NW 2 RACES OR \$39,000 LIFETIME, 27, 56.2, 1:25.1, 1:52.4

1-Bernie (b,g,4 - Big Jim-Matilda-Artiscape) \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 22-3-3-4, \$48,680

O-Bill Manes, William Cripps, Steven Papillon, Gerald Lilley B-Ronald Mersky T-Gerald Lilley D-Phillippe Hudon

2-Bankroll (b,g,3 - Mystician-Millbanks Ariel-Usher Hanover)

O-Jodie Cullen B-Jodie Cullen T-Jodie Cullen D-James Macdonald

3-Millennium Seelster (br,g,4 - Sunshine Beach-Maurockin-Rocknroll Hanover)

O-Charalambos Christoforou B-Seelster Farms Inc T-Charalambos Christoforou D-Chris Christoforou

►► [Replay](#) ►►



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