

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Field of Dreams

Carding a field of the greatest pacers to race in the last 20 years for the HRU Dream Pace... and handicapping who would win and how.

by Jerry Connors

SPRINGFIELD IL	1	8	3	5	5	6	7	8	9	15
90o FAST	2	3	4	10	6	4	8	15	10	12

You thought the maiden trot was hard to figure out? Then came COVID-19, and many of the standards we had learned, and many of the routine things we were used to doing, were turned on their head in every walk of life, including harness racing.

Health, finances, occupations, working with horses, racing those horses now and racing them in the future are all unknowns at the moment.

But we need to stay upbeat and optimistic, be ready for when the tide (inevitably) turns, and we need to be doing things that will be productive.

Like having two major harness races.

In the early 1970s, Bob Marks, then working as a writer/editor/handicapper in New York City, created a story called "The Race Of The Decade." He evaluated the top horses of the 1960s pacing free-for-all scene, picked eight to race over the half-miler in New York City, drew post positions – and then put them behind the gate and turned them loose, doing one of the earliest "simulations" based on their form, to guide him on how they would race. He said in the introduction, "I didn't know who was going to win until the horses went under the wire." (The winner of the Race Of The Decade was Cardigan Bay, who was always one of my

1	REAL DESIRE	John Campbell	8-1
2	SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	Paul MacDonell	3-1
3	CAPTAINREACHEROUS	Tim Tetrick	5-1
4	MC WICKED	Louis Philippe Roy	10-1
5	LATHER UP	Montrell Teague	6-1
6	ALWAYS B MIKI	David Miller	4-1
7	WIGGLE IT JIGGLE IT	Yannick Gingras	8-1
8	ROCKNROLL HANOVER	Brian Sears	15-1
9	SWEET LOU	Ron Pierce	15-1
19	BETTOR'S DELIGHT	Mike Lachance	12-1

In today's HRU

Surick, Marino, Dane pleaded not guilty **page 8**

Bob Krivelin has food and other supplies he wants to get to horsepeople in need **page 9**

Celebrating the Antonacci family's five Hambletonians as they look ahead to the sixth **page 10**

STATE TREASURER

p, 2, 1:52.3; 3, 1:50; 1:47 (\$2,072,450)

"STATE TREASURER was all I would ever want in a racehorse. He had high speed, great gait, but above all tremendous will and desire to race and win. I have three of his babies training here in Florida and all three of them are showing the same characteristics already. Looking forward to racing them this summer."

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COLTS

Duxbury Hanover (Dagnabit Hanover) brother to Done Well P, 4, 1:50.2H (\$549,183)

Del Mar Hanover (Darena Hanover) out of Jugette winning mare

Frozen Hanover (Fashion Ecstasy) full brother to Filibuster Hanover P, 4, 1:48.3F (\$1,681,996)

Imperial Hanover (It Was Fascination) brother to Capt Midnight P, 2, 1:49.4S (\$299,038)

Lido Hanover (Lazan Hanover) brother to Dealt A Winner P, 3, 1:47.3M (\$1,311,299)

William Hanover (Well What's New) first foal from a sister to JK Will Power P, 4, 1:49.0S (\$782,442)

FILLIES

Ani Hanover (All Night Long) sister to A La Notte Hanover P, 4, 1:53.2F (\$264,155)

Hollywood Hanover (Hana Hanover) sister to Hayden Hanover P, 4, 1:47.3M (\$615,752)

Hoffman Hanover (Hug A Dragoness) first foal from a sister to Hugadragon P, 3, 1:49.3F (\$934,733)

Ipanema Hanover (Ideal Newton) sister to Inverse Hanover P, 4, 1:49.2M (\$357,411)

Mexican Hanover (Mesmerize Blue Chip) sister to Marloe Hanover P, 2, 1:50.3M (\$313,787)

Tenerife Hanover (That's What I Said) first foal from a sister to Alastor Hanover P, 1:50.1F (\$784,360)



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Photo: Dave Landry



photo by Dave Landry

#1 Real Desire

favorites because we were both foals of 1956.

We used this idea in an early '90s column in *Hoof Beats* with horses of the preceding decade, and since we are now faced with the unprecedented situation of working with our horses and not knowing how and when they will prove themselves on the racetrack, it seemed like a good idea to revive the idea – two fast-class races to keep us in mind of what we are going to achieve with those in training. We're doing the pacers this week, and the trotters next week.

I remembered that it was difficult to limit the field for the one-decade race, and then editor Dave Briggs said, "Make these races for the horses that have raced in the last two decades." So, we widened our focus to include the top horses whose major accomplishments came within the last 20 years. It was about twice as hard to come down to the final fields, but we have done our best to come up with "the best of the best."

Here's the guiding principle we used in putting together the fields for these HRU Dream Races:



photo by New Image Media

#3 Captaintreacherous



photo by Dave Landry

#2 Sombeachsomewhere

We picked the horses who, over a significant amount of time, showed that, on their best miles and without being in a crippling race position, they could win or be very close consistently with the very best horses in competition, both at that time and with champions of nearby years.

Many very good horses – Horses of the Year, world champions, rich earners – went under consideration, but eventually we had to bring it down to 10 for each gait. If your favorite horse didn't make the field, we are sorry. If a horse with whom you were/are connected didn't make the field, we are doubly sorry. To be in consideration for this kind

DE'S #1 TROTTING SIRE

CR COMMANDO

2, 1:53.2z (\$378,602)

Royal Troubadour-Airborne Gal-Spellcaster

- #1 Trotting Sire for Total \$100,000 DSBF Final Winners
- Sire of 2x 2019 DSBF Final Winner, Disco Soliel, 3, 1:59.1h -'19 (\$256,856)
- Sire of 2019 DSBF Winner, Zulu, 2, 1:58f -'19 (\$63,000)

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photo by Dave Landry

#4 McWicked

of race reflects of the quality of the final field – and of your horse’s achievements.

In picking the “host racetracks,” we decided that with this type of quality horseflesh, there would be a good chance of beating the existing world records – 1:46 on the pace, 1:48.4 on the trot. So we picked what we think were the two fastest racetracks over this 20-year period: Springfield (IL) and Red Mile (KY). Both tracks score 10-wide.

Red Mile is currently a co-holder for the world mark for the pace (1:46) and was the location of the outright fastest trot at 1:48.4. Plus it lists an 850-foot stretch, indicating rounder turns. We’ll go to historic Lexington for the trot (Remember, all of this is being done outside of a world of calendar time, where tracks not hosting racing, retired horses and horsemen, and years of breed and equipment evolution can be dealt with as wished).



photo by Dave Landry

#5 Lather Up



photo by Mark Hall/USTA

#6 Always B Miki

Of the mile tracks, Springfield had an 850-foot stretch, with the $\frac{3}{4}$ pole way up on the turn, and when the Grand Circuit regularly stopped there along with the Indiana State Fair and DuQuoin, quite often the Springfield miles were the fastest recorded in the divisions. The fastest mile in harness racing stayed there for 23 years. So Springfield will play host to the pacers.

Post positions were drawn through a random number generator in the computer. I did not give serious thought to how the race would be conducted until the posts were

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COURTLY CHOICE

p, 2, 1:53.1h; 3, 1:47.1 -'18 (\$1,345,754)
Art Major-Lady Ashlee Ann-Camtastic

- Son of 2 Hall of Fame Inductees, Art Major & Lady Ashlee Ann
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photo by New Image Media

#7 Wiggly It Jiggleit

drawn, so evenly-matched were these fields, and how position and luck might be so strong a determining factor.

After much hard deliberation, Foiled Again has been designated as AE1, and Rock N Roll Heaven has been designated as AE2.

Here is a brief introduction to the 10 champions who will compete in the HRU Dream Pace. Listed is the horse, year of foaling, any Dan Patch Awards the horse may have received, whether the horse set a world record, lifetime mark, and earnings. All of the horses in this pacing field are males.

If you start on lineage, it'd be hard to ever stop, so we won't start. Since there were ownership and trainer changes during the careers of some horses, and because it would be very difficult to determine who accomplished how much of their lifetime output for each "unit," the sponsorship is not listed – but most of you fans know who they are, and everybody associated with these horses know their greatness, and your contribution to it.



photo by New Image Media

#8 Rocknroll Hanover



photo by Michael Lisa

#9 Sweet Lou

Because some drivers were the "regulars" behind a couple of horses, we explain how the driver in the Dream Race arrived in the sulky.

#1 is REAL DESIRE, a foal of 1998, who was the Horse of the Year in 2002, and a world champion. He took a mark of 1:48.2, and earned \$3.2 million. John Campbell regularly drove him, and Campbell maintains the mount here.

#2 is SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE, a foal of 2005, the 2YO Pacer of 2007, and the Horse of the Year in 2008 as a 3YO. He was a world champion. He took a mark of 1:46.4, and earned \$3.2 million. Paul MacDonell will be his driver.

#3 is CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS, a foal of 2010 who was Pacer of the Year in 2012 as a 2YO and 2013 as a 3YO. He took a mark of 1:47.1, and earned \$3.1 million. Tim Tetrick, his usual pilot, will be guiding him here.

#4 is MC WICKED, a foal of 2011 who was 3YO champion in



photo by Dave Landry

#10 Bettors Delight

SPRINGFIELD IL		1	8	3	5	5	6	7	8	9	15
900 FAST		2	3	4	10	6	4	8	15	10	12

2014, Horse of the Year as an older pacer in 2018, and Older Pacer of the Year in 2019. He was a world champion. He took a mark of 1:46.2 and earned \$4.9 million. David Miller has elected to drive another horse, as did Brian Sears, so getting the mount is Louis Philippe Roy, who is familiar with the horse from driving him on the WEG circuit at times.

#1 is **LATHER UP**, a foal of 2015 who was a world champion. He took a mark of 1:46, and earned \$1.7 million. Montrell Teague will be in his usual perch in the sulky behind Lather Up.

#6 is **ALWAYS B MIKI**, a foal of 2011 who was Horse of the Year as an older pacer in 2016, and was a world champion. His mark is 1:46, and he earned \$2.7 million. David Miller will be driving Always B Miki today.

#7 is **WIGGLE IT JIGGLEIT**, a foal of 2012 who was Horse of the Year as a 3YO in 2015, and Older Pacer of the Year in 2016. He was a world champion. The horse has a 1:47.2 mark, and earned \$3.9 million. Since regular driver Montrell Teague is behind Lather Up, his connections have tapped Yannick Gingras, whose mounts earned \$133.2 million over the last ten years.

#8 is **ROCKNROLL HANOVER**, a foal of 2002 who was Horse of the Year as a 3YO in 2005, and was a world champion. His mark was 1:48.3, and he earned \$2.7 million. He will be driven by his regular driver, Brian Sears.

#9 is **SWEET LOU**, a foal of 2009 who was 2YO of the Year in 2011 and Pacer of the Year in 2014 as an older performer. His mark was 1:47, and he earned \$3.4 million. Regular driver Ron Pierce will be coming in to drive.

#10 is **BETTOR'S DELIGHT**, a foal of 1998 who was 2YO of the Year in 2000 and 3YO in 2001. He took a mark of 1:49.4, and his earnings were \$2.6 million. Mike Lachance will be in his usual spot behind Bettor's Delight.

That's a look at our field for the Harness Racing Update Dream Pace – and here's a look at the morning line odds for the field (top of page).

Obviously you won't be able to "see" this race. That's why the description will run a little longer than if an actual announcer were calling the race live – we have to fill in some of the "hidden" details.

The field is behind the gate for the HRU Dream Pace – 10 of the greatest performers of the last 20 years – with earnings of over \$31 million among them – and here they come...

THEY'RE OFF IN THE DREAM PACE ... Fastest away is Lather Up from the middle of the track, with his stablemate Wiggle It Jiggleit to his outside ... Real Desire is being urged by Campbell to protect position from the rail... and Bettor's Delight is wide and frontward-bound... The favorite, Somebeachsomewhere, is drifting midpack outside... and there's something you don't see every day early on the first turn, as Captaintreacherous, McWicked, and Always B Miki are staying in the two-wide tier... Rocknroll Hanover and Sweet Lou are taking back, and look like they will be dropping back to the end.

5	1					
7	2	3	4	6	8	
10						9

Up front, Lather Up keeps going on the lead, with Real Desire keeping the pocket filled early and Wiggle It Jiggleit dropping in behind him... Now Bettor's Delight is up to contest the lead against a strong Lather Up... Somebeachsomewhere remains outside as they hit the quarter in :25.2 – they're *steppin'*!

Lather Up is very reluctant to give up the lead to Bettor's Delight, and Lachance, seeing a gap behind him, backs off Bettor's Delight to tuck second as they are early in the

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UPDATE

5		1	7		8	9
	10		2	3	4	6

backstretch... Real Desire is third now, and Somebeachsomewhere is fourth and moving forward quickly, with the others in the outer tier following him up... Lather Up is still on the lead, but Somebeachsomewhere is storming up in high gear for MacDonell, and that pair will be clearing to the lead before the half, leaving Captaintreacherous first-over, with McWicked and Always B Miki in that one's wake... Bettor's Delight, Real Desire and Wiggle It Jiggleit, all forwardly-placed early, have been shuffled a bit, while Sweet Lou and Rocknroll Hanover have the best view at the half in :52.1 – 2/5 slower than in the 2009 Meadowlands Pace.

They're heading for the far turn, with the crowd choice Somebeachsomewhere ahead by a diminishing length as

2	5	10	1	7
3	4	6	9	8

Captaintreacherous comes up to challenge, with McWicked and Always B Miki nearest him in the outer flow, and Lather Up staying tight in the pocket... Bettor's Delight is locked in third on the rail, as is Real Desire right behind him.

Around the final turn towards the three-quarters pole, and Captaintreacherous is now past the wheel of Somebeachsomewhere and still inching forward... Lather Up keeps up in the pocket, but McWicked starts to gap a bit in second-over midturn, and Miller tips Always B Miki three-wide as they are past the three-quarter pole in 1:19!... We have a chance at the 1:46 world record!

They're nearing the top of the stretch, and Somebeachsomewhere retains the lead... Captaintreacherous

2	5	10		
	3	4	1	7
	6		9	
			8	

hasn't faded, but he's not inching up now either... Lather Up is still in position in the pocket... Always B Miki may be moving fastest of all at this point – fourth, now third, and perhaps second soon... Bettor's Delight looking for room... Real Desire is behind a slightly-gapping McWicked... Sweet Lou is wide, Rocknroll Hanover wider, and Wiggle It Jiggleit has been badly shuffled.

Towards midstretch, it's still Somebeachsomewhere, but Always B Miki looks strong and is advancing... Lather Up finally shows signs of not keeping up, and Bettor's Delight will try to go inside him... Real Desire may have found a lane

between horses... Captaintreacherous holding gamely but giving a little ground.

In deep stretch, it's going to come down to Somebeachsomewhere on the inside and Always B Miki on the outside... Real Desire looks like he may be third... but it's an epic battle on the front end... Somebeachsomewhere and Always B Miki... The wire – TOO CLOSE TO CALL!... Real Desire third, then Captaintreacherous and Lather Up lasting for the final checks.

But which one will it be? One thing we do know – whoever wins will be the FASTEST PACER OF ALL TIME, as the Springfield timer is frozen at 1:45.4! No one's EVER seen that time flashed at the end of a mile!

We await the photo... Miller and MacDonell head back towards the grandstand.

AND THE "6" FLASHES UP FIRST! Always B Miki, 1:45.4 world record for David Miller, just a nose ahead of Somebeachsomewhere, the "2," with the "1," Real Desire, third, and Captaintreacherous, the "3," fourth ... 6-2-1-3 on the board ... Always B Miki ... 1:45.4 ... WOW!

QUOTES:

David Miller (Always B Miki): "I had the stablemates leaving on either side of me, and there was another one leaving wide, and the inside pushed out, so I didn't want to get mixed up with that. This horse has raced well off of cover, so I thought I'd just float and follow an outer tier. Well, that's what everybody else thought, too, so I was almost last at the quarter – we were five-in / five-out.

"The flow was better down the backstretch and through the turn. Before the $\frac{3}{4}$, I was going to go three-deep and was watching to see if McWicked was, too, but he was gapping a bit – he must not have had his top game today – so I hustled Miki out three-deep, and he hit a wicked high gear. I was gaining on Somebeachsomewhere; I didn't know if I could reach him from where I was, but my horse was just eating up the ground.

"Coming back, Paul said he didn't know if he won, and I said I didn't know, either. Both horses obviously raced like champions today, beating the world record. I'm just happy and thankful that my number went up first, and all credit to the horse and all the people associated with this horse. I'll remember today for a long time."

Paul MacDonell (Somebeachsomewhere): "This horse now has only lost twice, and both times he lost he had post two. It's really kind of a tough post in fields like this, because you either have to bust away and make a regaining move, or you

just drift and wait and be the last one to the top and hope you didn't pay too high a price. This race was actually easier on him to the half than The Meadowlands Pace.

"My horse didn't get any kind of rest. The Captain horse (Captaintreacherous) came right up and raced him, so there was no breather around the turn. Early in the stretch I looked back and I could see David and his horse coming, and I asked Beach for his best. To pace four quarters under :27 and go 1:45.4, that's just a terrific race, and we were unlucky on the wire. The horse and everybody with him has every reason to come away from this race with their heads held high."

John Campbell (Real Desire): "I knew I had to try to leave some or, with all those horses outside, we'd be shuffled way back. I almost could have kept the pocket shut at the quarter, but then there'd be a huge duel on the front and there would be sweepers and I'd get shuffled back anyway, so I didn't press to keep Bettor's Delight out and take more out of my horse.

"My horse kept up well, and in the stretch Lather Up drifted out just a little, and Mike (Lachance, with Bettor's Delight) went up inside him, so I was fortunate enough to be able to angle out, and I found some room and could get third – he raced super. I am proud to have been a part of this event – it lived up to the hype."

Ron Pierce (Sweet Lou): "My horse drew post nine, and had to race from behind, and went in 1:47.1 and still finished last – that's horse racing. I'm going back to the mountains. At least it's cooler there."

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Thoughts on the field? Thoughts on the outcome? In your mind, who would win and how?

Let us know and we'll publish some of your responses next week as part of the second chapter featuring the HRU Dream Trot.

Email us at: editor@harnessracingupdate.com.



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	PP	1/4		1/2		3/4		STR		FIN		DRIVER
ALWAYS B MIKI	6	9o	7H	7o	4T	4oo	2T	2	H	1	ns	Dv. Miller
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	2	4o	3Q	1	1Q	1	T	1	H	2	ns	P. MacDonell
REAL DESIRE	1	3	3	6	4T	7	4T	6	3Q	3	1T	Jo. Campbell
CAPTAINTEACHEROUS	3	6o	4T	3o	1T	2o	T	4	2H	4	2T	Ti. Tetrick
LATHER UP	5	1	1H	2	1Q	3	1T	3	2	5	3Q	M. Teague
ROCKNROLL HANOVER	8	8	7	10o	7T	9oo	5	7	4Q	6	4Q	B. Sears
BETTOR'S DELIGHT	10	2o	1H	4	2T	6	3Q	5	3	7	4Q	M. Lachance
WIGGLE IT JIGGLEIT	7	5	4H	9	6Q	10	6	10	6	8	5	Y. Gingras
MC WICKED	4	7o	6Q	5o	3Q	5o	3	8	5	9	6H	L. P., Roy
SWEET LOU	9	10	7T	8o	6Q	8o	5	9	6	10	7	R. Pierce
		25.2		52.1		1:19				1:45.4		

Surick, Marino, Dane pleaded not guilty

The standardbred trainers – among others charged in an alleged horse-doping scheme involving performance-enhancing drugs – were arraigned Thursday

by Bill Finley

Harness trainers Nick Surick, Chris Marino and Rick Dane Jr., among 29 individuals caught up in a horse-doping scheme that involves performance-enhancing drugs and has shaken standardbred and thoroughbred racing, entered not guilty pleas when arraigned Thursday (April 2).

Due to the coronavirus, the hearing took place via teleconference. None of the harness trainers took part in the teleconference, and their pleas were entered by their attorneys.

The defendants entered their pleas before United States District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil. Thursday's hearing covered one of four indictments issued by the Department of Justice involving the case. The doping probe also includes assistant trainer Conor Flynn, who is being charged in a separate indictment. Trainers Rene Allard and Richard Banca are also involved and both were arrested. It was not clear Saturday whether or not they have been indicted.

Surick has been charged with two counts of misbranding or adulterating drugs and two counts of obstruction. The misbranding charge carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and the maximum penalty for obstruction is 20 years. Trainers Chris Oakes and Dane were charged with one count each of misbranding.

The biggest names involved in the scandal are thoroughbred trainers Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro. The list also includes a number of veterinarians and drug suppliers. But the sport of harness racing has also been hit hard. Allard, Banca and Surick are among the top seven in the U.S. in earnings for 2020 and Allard and Banca were one-two in the trainer standings at Yonkers at the time of their arrests.

Vyskocil heard the pleas of those who fell under the indictment in the case of United States of America v. Navarro. All 19 defendants included in that indictment plead not guilty as lawyer after lawyer informed the judge of their client's decision. That came as no surprise as it is very unusual for someone to enter a guilty plea at the arraignment stage.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Adams, who heads up the prosecution team, revealed that more people could be

charged before the government wraps up its case. When asked by Vyskocil if he expected that there will be additional charges or additional defendants, Adams replied: "We are certainly considering that."

"The investigation, I will note, continues," Adams said later. "As what I will describe as part of discovery, there are still documents and records coming into the government from various parties, people who have received search warrants or subpoenas. Of course, there are quite a few electronic devices in FBI control to which warrants have been obtained and now the execution of warrants is underway."

The case will now move to the discovery phase, in which the government must make all its evidence available to the defendants and their clients. Adams said the evidence was "voluminous" and would require a lengthy time frame for the discovery portion to conclude. Adams said the evidence would be released in three stages and suggested attorneys would need six months to work their way through the evidence.

"Realistically, it will take six months to complete," Adams said of the discovery stage. "In light of the volume and the manpower constraints that we have because of the coronavirus, I think that's a realistic estimate."

Adams stated that much of the evidence was acquired through wiretaps placed on the phones of the defendants. He said there is a year's worth of wiretapped phone conversations and that between three to four phones were intercepted at once.

In noting the need for a long discovery phase, Robert Baum, an attorney for defendant Alexander Chan, said the evidence would include "tens of thousands" of conversations.

Vyskocil set the next conference for June 30. She did not set a trial date, but said she may do so in the fall.

With their not guilty pleas having been entered, the defendants could go in a number of directions. They could choose to fight for their innocence and have a trial, but that would require paying hefty legal fees. Some may choose to enter guilty pleas before the case comes to a trial and attempt to get a lighter sentence. The publication *The Hill* reports that, in 2018, 90 per cent of those charged in federal criminal cases plead guilty while only just two per cent went to trial. Of the two per cent that go to trial, 83 per cent were found guilty.

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New Jersey



Bob Krivelin has food and other supplies he wants to get to horsepeople in need

by Bob Heyden

Bob Krivelin wants to help. One of the top amateur drivers in the world and a long-time owner, he owns Woolco Foods Inc. in Jersey City, NJ that currently has \$1.5 million in inventory that Krivelin wants to get to the horsemen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's up to those of us who CAN help to do so for those in the industry that need it. I'm in this business, but I have other resources... I can help. I traditionally have 15 trucks a day going to restaurants in New York City delivering food and product. Now I do four trucks a day to those dealing in takeout and deliveries. I have my warehouse in Jersey City, which is 15 minutes from the Meadowlands. I have been online since Friday (April 3) and can deliver the next day. Amazon takes three days. I want to do this. I do NOT want to make any money on this. I'll sell at cost," Krivelin said.

Everyone has been taking the hit the last several weeks, including Krivelin.

"I'm off 70 per cent. I have 65 employees and had to let half of them go. But I'll be okay. It's not myself I'm concerned

with, it's these workers, and all the people in racing that are hurting. I have everything in stock – paper products, produce, toilet paper, you name it... and I want to get it out to people. They are going to need supplies no matter what happens going forward."

For those who think they know the name Krivelin, you probably do. He had the talented filly Rapid Rail, who was runner-up in the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks in 2002 with Krivelin driving. Rapid Rail was beaten by a length by Southwind Allaire at 6-1. Krivelin was once third in the Merrie Annabelle final, and was fifth with 119-1 shot Heathen Hall in the 2000 Hambletonian elims. (Only top three made the final). He knows his way around the track, has beaten the professionals as well as the amateurs, and was great friends with the late Hall Of Famer Jim Doherty.

"Dave Duspiva looks after my horses, about 12 right now, on my farm. It's about 60 acres," Krivelin said.

"I think about those who were prepping to race at Monticello and Tioga and places like that right now, and feel the need to help. It's time."

Krivelin said he is working on a website and hopes it will be operational sometime this week. For now, to place an order, call his cell – (917) 583-7466. Deliveries are beginning today (April 5).

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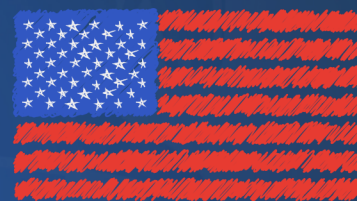


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Celebrating the Antonacci family's five Hambletonians as they look ahead to the sixth

by Murray Brown

Last Saturday morning, Frank "The Elder" Antonacci and I were practicing social distancing from our respective cars while watching the babies at Sunshine Meadows.

I was alone in mine, while Frankie was with his youngest son Philip.

I suggested to Frankie that a story on the Antonacci family's five Hambletonian winners might be of interest.

Philip interjected to say that "five are in the past. How about number six?"

I thought to myself, "How typical of an Antonacci." That's something his grandfather Guy "Sonny" might have said. Sonny was always looking ahead. The past was in the past. We need to build on the past and augment the future.

Nevertheless we agreed to talk about the five with some other tidbits thrown in.

We started with the first one, **Lindys Pride**, who was also the one I was most familiar with.

I knew him as Galahad Hanover, a Stars Pride yearling out of the Spencer Scott mare Galena Hanover.

He was also a member of my first yearling crop at Hanover Shoe Farms in 1967.

He became the seventh Hambletonian winner by his sire in the previous 11 years.

I remember him as a lovely colt who could fly on the lead strip. He could trot a hole in the wind, faster than any lead pony that Hanover had could run.

Going into the sale I was pretty certain that he would be our highest priced yearling trotter and that he would be purchased by Clarence Gaines and K.D. Owen.

I was wrong on both counts.

I had expected him to sell in the \$40,000-\$60,000 range which was a pretty good price for a yearling trotter back then. Instead, he brought a disappointing \$15,000 and was

purchased by Howard Beissinger for the Antonacci and Lomangino families.

I remember asking Mr. Owen why he and Mr. Gaines had not bought him, because all previous indications were that they would. He said that right before he sold, Mr. Gaines had asked Dr. John Steele if he had looked at the colt. Dr. Steele said that he had and didn't like his hocks. He didn't think they would hold up to racing. So, Mr. Gaines backed off, as did Mr. Owen.

Mr. Owen said if he knew he was only going to bring \$15,000, he would have taken a chance and bought the colt by himself.

The chances are that he wouldn't have got him anyway, because after Howard had bought him, he told me that he been prepared to pay double what he did.

Galahad Hanover's name was changed to Lindys Pride and he was owned by Sonny Antonacci, his cousins Frank and Tommy Antonacci and another group of cousins, the Lomangino family.

Lindys Pride was a decent, but not great 2-year-old. At 3, he won not only the Triple Crown – the Hambletonian, Yonkers Trot and the Kentucky Futurity – but also the Colonial and the Vernon Gold Cup. These races constituted what was known as the "Big Five".

He was, at least in my opinion, a truly great colt who history has not quite given the respect that he deserves.

The second, was the one that was destined to have arguably the greatest impact on our sport more than any trotter ever. His name was **Speedy Crown**. He was a homebred, by Speedy Scot out of the Florican mare Missile Toe, and was bred by Howard Beissinger's wife Ann.

He was purchased privately by Sonny Antonacci's cousins Frank and Tommy. They owned him throughout his racing career. In actuality, Sonny's family never really were involved in the ownership of Speedy Crown, but close enough. Cousins Frank and Tommy worked out a deal with Sonny where lifelong breeding rights in Lindys Pride were exchanged for breeding rights to Speedy Crown.

In retrospect, there is no doubt who got the better of that deal.

Like Lindys Pride, Speedy Crown was just a good 2-year-old, who developed into an exceptional 3-year-old. He wasn't quite as dominant a sophomore as Lindys Pride, but he was pretty darn good. He won the Hambletonian in straight heats and also set world records in winning the Kentucky Futurity at The Red Mile and the Old Oaken Bucket at Delaware, OH.

As a 4-year-old, he even surpassed his racing exploits at three. He dominated trotting in North America. He won the Roosevelt International, the Realization, the American Trotting Classic and the 1 1/4 mile Challenge Cup. In the

latter, he defeated the great trotting mare Une de Mai, then regarded as the greatest trotter in the world and the great Fresh Yankee.

His first crop was relatively average, but from that point onward it was "Katie Bar the Door". He, together with his contemporary Super Bowl, ruled North American trotting like no tandem of sires ever.

Speedy Crown led the leading money sires listing for 13 consecutive years.

Like some of our great sires, he did not come from one of the most auspicious trotting families, which — it has been my opinion for a long time — is not a necessity for greatness in a sire. In my opinion, they are great simply because they are great. I look upon it as for lack of a better word a "disease" which afflicts very, very few.

The third Antonacci-connected Hambletonian winner was to become the most controversial in the history of the event. He was also to become the first one both bred and owned by the Antonacci family.

His name was **Probe**. He was a 1986 son of Super Bowl out of the Speedy Crown mare A.C.'s Wonder. His pedigree bore little question. Back then, if you had a good Super Bowl mare you would try to breed her to Speedy Crown. Conversely, if you had a good Speedy Crown mare, you would try to breed her to Super Bowl. They were considered magic crosses for trotters for close to two decades.

In Probe's case it was the latter choice.

Sonny Antonacci had bought the Hoot Mon mare AC's Nancy from noted breeder Bill Shehan and bred her to Speedy Crown.

AC's Nancy, herself was no stranger to Hambletonian winners, since she was a full sister to Hambletonian winner AC's Viking.

Both AC's Viking and AC's Nancy were bred by Connecticut dairy man A.C. Peterson and trained and driven by Hall of Famer Sanders Russell.

After acquiring AC's Nancy, Sonny Antonacci bred her to Speedy Crown and got a filly that he named AC's Wonder.

AC's Wonder was a pretty good race filly, she took a 3-year-old time trial record of 1.58 and earned \$84,857.

When it came time to breed her, there was little question as to whom she would be bred. The answer of course was Super Bowl.

The result of the mating was a sharp bay colt that was

named Probe.

Probe was generally thought of as a good horse, but far from a great one.

He, like Lindys Pride and Speedy Crown, was a decent 2-year-old. Unlike those two, his 3-year-old season was not spectacular.

He didn't show the greatness at 3 that the other two did.

The overwhelming favorite 3-year-olds coming into the 1989 season was the colt Valley Victory and the filly Peace Corps. Both were from the very first crop by Baltic Speed. Although Baltic Speed was bred to a large variety of mares after this first crop, including many good ones, he never came close to siring another trotter remotely possessing the talent of those two great ones from his first crop.

Valley Victory got sick before the Hambletonian and was scratched. Peace Corps coming off a 17 consecutive win streak was apparently just tired and threw in a lackluster effort.

Then came the drama.

Park Avenue Joe won one preliminary heat and Probe won the other.

The scene was set for a race off between the two colts.

Park Avenue Joe driven by Ron Waples cut the mile with Probe, driven by Bill Fahy, sitting closely behind him. Just past the three quarters, Fahy pulled on the right line and a tremendous stretch drive ensued. The last quarter was trotted in a ridiculously fast :26.3. They couldn't be separated at the wire. The result was a dead heat and Park Avenue Joe was initially declared the winner because he stood better in the standings.

The counter argument was made that the standings made no provision for a race off.

A legal battle ensued with the official standing showing that both colts were declared the winners.

The Antonaccis' fourth Hambletonian winner came the very next year with **Harmonious**, a Crowning Point colt out of the Super Bowl mare Rhapsody in Blue.

Frank "The Elder" disclosed a tidbit to me, of which I had no prior knowledge. Harmonious was purchased on the strong recommendation of Pat Waldo who the Antonaccis hired to help in scouting out yearling purchases.

Not only had Waldo picked out the Kentuckiana Farms-bred colt in 1988, but the previous year he also picked out the colt that was almost universally considered to be the



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best in his class — Valley Victory.

Of all the Hambletonian winners they had, Frank “The Elder” said that Harmonious was the one that presented the biggest challenge in getting to the winner’s circle on the first Saturday in August. He had several soundness and gaiting problems.

Although the official record shows that he was trained by Osvaldo Fomia, in actuality, that year, in the thinking-out-of-the-box norm of Sonny Antonacci, he was actually trained by the duo of Osvaldo Formia and Jorn Morton Kvikstedt.

After winning the race, a significant piece in him was purchased by Bill Perretti and he took up stud residence at Wild Bill’s Perretti Farms.

His success on the racetrack was not emulated in the stud. At best, his mark as a stallion would likely be generally considered as disappointing.

The most recent Antonacci Hambletonian winner was **Victory Dream**. He came from the first crop of super sire Valley Victory and was out of the Speedy Crown mare Crown Dream. He was destined to be another game changer to the breed, but it took an extra generation to get there.

He was bred and raised by Sonny Antonacci’s cousins, the brothers Frank and Tommy Antonacci, sometimes known as the Crown Stable..

He was entrusted to Ron Gurfein to train. Sonny Antonacci bought in after his 2-year-old season.

He was destined to become the first of The Guru’s three Hambletonian winners.

He was a very talented 2-year-old, but sustained an evulsion fracture at two. He was stopped with after The Historic at The Meadowlands.

According to The Guru, the prognosis for his complete recovery was good. The use of magnet therapy was quite helpful in assuring that he returned to the racing wars in sound shape.

Several things I’ve found about Gurfein after observing him for almost 50 years.

He can be opinionated. He can be full of himself. But, he is not a fool. In fact, he is just about as far from being a fool as a human can be.

He is an extremely smart and capable horseman.

One of his greatest attributes is that he knows what he doesn’t know and is always ready to learn or try something different.

Now back to Victory Dream. He came back sound at 3 and there was hardly a point in the season where he wasn’t regarded as the best colt out there.

The offers to buy and/or syndicate him were coming left,

right and center.

A tentative deal was struck between George Segal to syndicate the colt to stand at Brittany Farms. However, he was vetted out before the Hambletonian and the veterinarian turned him down. A group of Swedes were also interested in acquiring him.

Alan Leavitt was waiting in the wings next in line and the colt was syndicated by him to stand at Meg Jewett’s Walnut Hall Limited.

There were many, including yours truly, who thought the horse was destined to become one of trotting’s greatest stallions.

He very well might have become just that, EXCEPT that he wasn’t fertile.

Gurfein told me that one of his testicles was the size of a pea and the other not much bigger than a marble.

Thus, the reason for his lack of fertility.

During his time at stud, he sired only 92 foals.

One of them, Self Possessed, captured the Hambletonian and was considered a decent sire.

It was one of his foals, Cantab Hall, who was destined to become a stallion for the ages.

Cantab Hall was a gorgeous yearling who was owned by the Antonaccis, George Segal and a disparate group. He was an amazing 2-year-old, being crowned Trotter of Year in 2003 over all older ones.

He failed to emulate his sire by not winning the Hambletonian, but still finished a credible second.

He was syndicated to stand at stud at Hanover Shoe Farms and has been recognized as one of the world’s leading stallions with every crop that he sired.

SOME TIDBITS

1. Not only did the Antonaccis own five Hambletonian winners, but perhaps just as remarkably, they owned five other colts who finished second in the Classic — **M B Felty, Lindy Lane, Cantab Hall, Lucky Chucky** and **Crazed**. Of those, Frank “The Elder” thought Lindy Lane was his greatest disappointment, even though he finished a most credible second to the incredible filly Continental victory. No other trotter was going to beat her that day..

2. Osvaldo Formia was directly involved with four of the five. He was the groom of Lindys Pride and Speedy Crown and the trainer of Probe and Harmonious.

Have a question for The Curmudgeon?

Reach him by email at: hofmurray@aol.com.

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Juravinskis donate \$3.3 million to fight COVID-19

It's just the latest donation from Charles and Margaret Juravinski, the former owners of Flamboro Downs. The couple have pledged some \$100 million to health care in the Hamilton, Ontario area.

Don Mitchell of Global News reported Friday ([full story here](#)) that former Flamboro Downs owners Charles and Margaret Juravinski are “set to give Hamilton health researchers a \$3.3-million boost to help fund urgent research projects connected to the COVID-19 pandemic and mental health.”

The Juravinskis also released a letter that read, in part, that they donated the money to tackle the “terrible virus.

“Like everyone, we are deeply troubled by the fearsome threat of COVID-19, which has truly changed the world in just a few months,” the letter said. “We are concerned not for ourselves, but for the people around us: our friends and family, our neighbours near and far, the people who work in our community’s grocery stores, restaurants and hospitals and the kids who should be out playing in our schoolyards.”

The money is an advance on the Juravinskis’ pledge, made in May of 2019 ([full story here](#), page 13) to divide their \$100 million estate between Hamilton Health Sciences, McMaster University and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton, a gift they say would generate up to \$5 million annually for the three agencies under the banner of the Juravinski Research Institute.

Charles, 90, and Margaret, 88, known for endowments with a number of projects connected to the city, McMaster University, and healthcare, compare the COVID-19 pandemic to a number of “frightening problems” they experienced during their lifetime including the Great Depression, the Second World War and the scourge of polio.

The Juravinskis sold Flamboro Downs to Magna Entertainment in 2002 for \$72 million. The track, which Charles founded with Ray Connell and John Grant, is now owned by the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation.

As a horse owner, Charles was best known as the owner of Ellamony, a talented pacing mare that landed in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 1998, 14 years before Charles was inducted as a builder in 2012.



Charles and Margaret Juravinski.



Ontario



Western Fair Agriplex to serve as COVID-19 field hospital

On Friday, Jennifer Bieman and Norman De Bono of the London Free Press reported ([full story here](#)) that the Agriplex building at The Western Fair District in London, ON will become the site of a temporary COVID-19 field hospital scheduled to open this week.

The building, which is used for the annual London Selected Yearling Sale, is adjacent to The Raceway at The Western Fair District.

The field hospital will be staffed by the London Health Sciences Center (LHSC) and open with 180 beds, but could be expanded to 500 beds, if required.

“We’re honored to fulfill that role. We are a community

association. We are here for the community and we wanted to answer the call,” said Reg Ash, chief executive of Western Fair District.

As of Saturday, Ontario, a province of some 14.5 million people, had reported 96 COVID-19 related deaths and some 3,600 positive tests for COVID-19.

On Friday, Ontario healthy officials released current modelling projections for COVID-19 in the province. Under current “stay at home” and social distancing requirements, projections are for 1,600 deaths in Ontario by the end of April. Stronger action could limit the death toll to 200.

Ontario health officials gave projections on the trajectory of COVID-19 in the province Friday, pegging the death toll from the virus at anywhere from 3,000 to 15,000 by the time the pandemic is over.

By April 30, with current public health interventions, the number of deaths in Ontario will reach 1,600, the provincial projections said. With stronger action, the province-wide death toll by the end of the month could be limited to 200.

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Paralympiatravet will be held

by Thomas Hedlund

Åby in Sweden has announced that the track will contest the Paralympiatravet on April 25 but that the purses in the race will decrease from \$295,000 to \$197,000.

Lower revenue from spectators and sponsors forced Åby to make this change, but as long as racing can continue in Sweden, everybody is happy enough that the Paralympiatravet is on the race card.

Saturday afternoon, the second elimination was held at Jägersro racetrack in Malmö. It was a race over 1.3 miles where several interesting trotters tried to earn a spot in the final at Åby later this month. Merited top trotters such as Racing Mange, Cyber Lane, Lionel, Norton Commander and Tae Kwon Deo were connected when the car accelerated and Conrad Lugauer had his plan ready when he sent Norton Commander to the front at an early stage. But Norton Commander got fired up and kept the pace high, which invited horses further back in second line when the home stretch approached.

Johan Untersteiner's Cyber Lane (Raja Mirchi) had to do the heavy job three wide during the last half mile and the duo had lengths to pick up to first over trotter Velvet Gio, who made a heroic effort and lost by a nose to Cyber Lane.

Cyber Lane won in a mile rate of 1:55 in his first race since August last year, which indicates that Johan Untersteiner has done a great job with his star during the winter.

The 7-year-old Derby winner (2017) joins Disco Volante in Paralympiatravet. The next elimination is scheduled at Romme racetrack on Sunday April 12.

Cyber Lane replay.

Upset Face wins Derby Trial

Four-year-old Upset Face (Joke Face) and Adrian Kolgjini made sure that Robert Bergh's Power didn't hit the front position in the \$29,500 Derby Trial at Jägersro and when Kolgjini had Power in his pocket, the race over 1.6 miles was over. Upset Face belonged among the best 3-year-olds in Sweden last year and it seems like the winter has been kind to Kolgjini's trotter.

Power, who won \$788,500 Kriteriet at Solvalla in September last season, followed to second place, but the race became a pretty nonspectacular story.

Upset Face replay.

French racing set for April 21 return

The COVID-19 situation is still the same in Europe, but France might open up for racing again later this month. April 21 is the date that French harness racing can be rolling again after the break due to the virus that raged and destroyed so much in societies all over the world.

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Reflections on a pandemic

Plus, celebrating John Campbell's 65th birthday.

by Bob Heyden

Today, words like re-infection and autumn surges are not part of our everyday life – yet. Things are just underway regardless of how extreme the adjustment has been.

Re-priorization, living alone, reassurance – these are all now issues. Maybe later, too. It does no good to complain – or worse: flout the rules. We may not be grinning but we ARE bearing it.

We are currently in a marriage of unsettling dreams and reality. Turbulence. Silent scrambling. Every clearing of the throat is magnified. No one is comfortable, few are working. Tom Joad is no longer a mythical character.

The days are sticking together like a moldy calendar in the attic. Kids got tsunami'd without even going to the beach. Perspectives have changed. Home schooling is no longer a curiosity.

I remember at around age 11 watching Frank Blair and the Today Show every Friday give the weekly casualty count from Vietnam. Five hundred plus was a terrible week. Recently, that has been an average half day.

Fasten up folks, we are already at 35,000 feet and that shaking you just felt, well..... That bobble you just made is now an extended break.

THIS is where we are. The past doesn't matter a whole lot now, not while we are taking on all this water. There's a saying that goes, "When you throw a rock over the fence, it's the hit dog who yelps." Open your window, that's all of us.

Sports, concerts, plays all seem inconsequential at the moment. We are on 24/7 crisis management. Misinformation abounds. The black cloud of 9/11 dissipated after a couple of long weeks. Ours of 2020 is just forming. Used-to-be inconveniences are now full-time regularities.

This is not going away or getting better any time soon. No matter what you wish or what tracks put out condition

sheets.

I recently saw a documentary on Dwight Eisenhower, and a comment he said about his childhood that I think pertains to today's crisis. "I didn't know I grew up poor until I read about it later on."

Charities are still charities and the elderly are still seniors. Let's remember that in a world of separation anxiety, refrigerated trucks, full turn out farms and SRO waiting rooms. We can all do our own small part. A consolation call, a few scratch-offs in the mail, a text or three, or a plant dropped off on a porch. It's okay for our minds to wander; uncertainty has a way of bringing that on. It's just that right now it's time to settle in. Added anxiety is like complaining to the flight attendant about five extra minutes of taxiing on your flight to New Zealand.

Celebrating John Campbell as he turns 65

In celebration of John Campbell's 65th birthday on Wednesday (April 8), let's take a look at some of amazing firsts and lasts of his Hall of Fame career:

FIRSTS

- The first driver to lead the nation in earnings in four different decades. 1979 through 2002.
- The first – and only – driver to win seven straight in Meadowlands history (February, 1983).
- The first driver to win at the Meadowlands with a trotter in sub-1:50 (J L Cruze 1:49.4. (2015)).
- The first driver to win with a female in sub 1:50 (June 27, 1998 Armbro Romance in 1:49.4 in the Ladyship Stakes for Brett Pelling).
- The first driver to win with a mare in sub-1:50 (1998 Jays Table in 1:49.3 for trainer Bill Robinson in the Open Mare Pace Breeders Crown).
- The first driver to earn \$11-\$12-\$13-\$14 million in a single season.
- The first driver to win the national earnings title 16 times.
- The first driver to win the Meadowlands driving title 16 times.
- The first driver to win any Triple Crown race eight times (Messenger Stakes).
- The first driver to win a Breeders Crown race in his 20s-30s-40s-50s and 60s.
- The first driver to win with a 3YOPC in 1:48 (2000 – P B Bullville at Red Mile).
- The first driver to go into the Hall Of Fame at 35 years 3 months (the youngest ever) in 1990.

- The first catch driver to win any million-dollar race (1982 Meadowlands Pace with Hilarion).
- The first driver to win a Breeders Crown race 15 straight years (1984-1998).
- The first driver to time trial a trotter in 1:51 flat (Pine Chip in 1994).
- The first driver to defeat Cam Fella with a female (April, 1983 at Freehold with Jefs Eternity).
- The first driver in Meadowlands history to win the Hambletonian three times in a four-year period (1987, 1988 and 1990 with Mack Lobell, Armbro Goal and Harmonious, respectively).
- The first driver to win the same million-dollar race six times in a single decade, the North America Cup in the 1990s (1991 Precious Bunny, 1994 Cams Card Shark, 1995 Davids Pass, 1996 Arizona Jack, 1997 Gothic Dream and 1999 The Panderosa).

LASTS

- Last Hambletonian drive was His Royal Harry in 2016 (finished 9th at 87-1).
- Last Hambletonian on the board finish was a second in

2014 with Nuncio.

- Last Hambletonian favorite was in 2010 when he finished second with 3-2 choice Lucky Chucky.
- Last Meadowlands Pace win was in 2002 with Mach Three.
- Last Hambletonian win was in 2006 with Glidemaster (in then stakes best 1:51.1).
- Last time any driver won the Hambletonian back to back? 1987-1988 John Campbell with Mack Lobell and Armbro Goal.
- Last time any trotter won the Breeders Crown three straight years was Mack Lobell in 1986-1987-1988 with John Campbell.
- Last time a driver won the Jug, the North America Cup, the Meadowlands Pace and the Hambletonian in the same year was 1995 when Campbell won the Jug with Nicks Fantasy, the NA Cup and Meadowlands Pace with Davids Pass and the Hambletonian with Tagliabue.

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SUPERSTAR FEMALES OF HARNESS RACING



with VICTORIA M. HOWARD

Julianna Edwards – Uber to the (Horse) stars

by Victoria M. Howard

Julianna Edwards is not your typical horsewoman. After leaving the army, (now a disabled vet) Edwards took a job for the New York Police Mounted Unit, which just happened to be located near a harness racetrack.

“The closest tack shop from my barn was on the backstretch. That was it. I caught the bug, bought a racehorse, and here I am today,” she said.

Raised owning quarter horses, Edwards always had the horse bug. When a fire burned down the barn, her show horses were shipped and stabled at Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, IL. There she befriended an old-time horseman named Ray Parker who took her under his wing.

“Even though I helped Ray with his standardbreds, at that time I would rather be on top of their backs than behind them. But when I saw how much money you could make with a racehorse, I decided I’d rather have the purse than the blue ribbon,” Edwards said.

“Shortly after, I began training my own horses and picked up owners here and there, but after I got tired of competing I decided to freelance. It’s better money and with the travel demands of this business it’s difficult for trainers not to outsource.”

Currently based out of Pocono, Edwards does it all: she trains, jogs, paddocks and ships.

“I’ve shipped some of the nicest horses in the business all over North America. I like to refer to myself as ‘An Uber to the stars,’” she said, laughing.

“Last year my most precious cargo was Greenshoe and Green Manalishi who finished first and second in the Zweig Memorial. The grooms for both horses rode with me and it was exciting seeing their faces when their horses won and placed. It was great, knowing their tireless efforts paid off.



Courtesy Julianna Edwards

Julianna Edwards and White Bliss.

That’s what makes our sport gratifying.

“While I was there I paddocked ‘Don’t Let ‘Em’, which was an added bonus – both money-wise and honor. It’s so great taking care of some of the nicest animals in the business – even if it’s just for the night.

“I absolutely love what I do and the opportunity it brings. About 60 per cent of my shipping comes from Black and White Express owned by Yinson Quezada. I also solicit privately – mostly for Lindy Farms – mainly during Grand Circuit, but I also ship from turnouts to drop offs to racing.

Grand Circuit is one of my busiest times for I do it all: ship/groom/train – whatever's needed.

"Another huge facet of my many-sided career is paddocking. I do the majority at Pocono Downs because that's where my home is located, but you can find me often doing two different tracks in one day."

Edwards likes to help make the trainers' lives less stressful for they have enough to do, and with having a vast network, if she can't do it, she knows someone who can.

As far as caring for some of the best horses in the sport, she certainly has.

"I've taken care of Lindy The Great, Il Sogna Dream, White Bliss, International Moni, and Caviart Ally. I was in Lexington last year helping run Surick's stable when Brett Pelling asked me to paddock Caviart Ally. Ally had post-position 5 and her #1 competitor, Shartin N, had post 4.

"While waiting to race I had a conversation with Shartin's trainer, Jim King, in the paddock and said something that really affected me. He told me he wants to be recognized (and his family) for more than being great horsemen – he wants to be known as great people. I can't tell you how that touched me.

"That night Shartin N, the deservedly fan favorite, faced off against Caviart Ally – two of the best mares in the sport today. As we lined up to race, driver Tim Tetrick was standing by Shartin's bike when out of left field Ally reached out and took a bite out of Timmy (not nearly enough to hurt him, but as if she were saying 'Watch out for me today').

"When the gate opened, Shartin left and got to the front, while Ally got away third. Ally's driver, Andrew McCarthy pulled first up on Shartin. I didn't know if we would catch Shartin, but Ally got up to win. We were ecstatic."

Presently, Edwards owns only one horse – Khifra Hanover – the horse that gave her the most success on the track.

"I kept and bred Khifra when she was done racing," Edwards said. "I sell her foals because I'm too busy for any other option, but I love watching her babies race and compete in stake races. I always say I'm going to claim something every year and never follow through because I'm so busy, but who knows? Maybe this is the year."

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Foal of the Week

Filippo Eigenmann photo

This colt, sired by Southwind Frank, was foaled on March 28 at Scuderia Sant'Andrea in Italy. He is out of Orsia, an Angus Hall mare that earned \$782,262. She won many major races in Italy. This is her second foal after Camelia, a Father Patrick filly that is now 2. Orsia's family comes from a classic

American pedigree the one of Noccalula. Orsia is a sister to Vitruvio ranked fifth in the Prix D'Amerique this winter in Paris and in his career won seven Group 1 races around Europe.

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The ultimate questionnaire for bettors

by Frank CotoLO

Alternative Actions (AA) once again offers racetrack public relations/marketing departments a plan in which they might use as a foundation for promoting business once racing resumes. This one is an updated and unique version of an old and tired tool — the questionnaire.

In the past, the questionnaire aimed at attaining an understanding of what pari-mutuel track patrons like and dislike about a track and the sport (product) it presents. Questionnaires attempted to show an honest concern for what a track might do to please its audience. The focus, however, was misguided, because mostly the inquiries had little to do with gambling on the product and all to do with making the customer comfortable while, and if, he or she was gambling at all.

The making-customers-comfortable approach, then, dealt with the fringes of track services; the food, the drink, the social atmosphere and the ease of navigating around the facility for general purposes (including the convenient betting-windows-or-machines locations. You know, just in case you want to bet \$2 here and there — just on a hunch).

That questionnaire's main problem is twofold.

First, it does not appeal to the track's main audience — bettors. Next, it places an unnecessary focus on a business that has no business taking precedence over the main audience. Here are examples:

Imagine you own a pizza parlor and you spend most of your advertising budget on a new product, a designer hamburger you include on the menu.

Or...

Imagine you own a brand-name car lot and you pay to produce and broadcast TV ads that concentrate on the gorgeous neighborhood where the lot is located.

These are examples of blatantly misguided attempts

because they merely flirt with presenting the main product. No wonder old questionnaires like those were never responsible for bringing in customers.

What AA's ultimate questionnaire offers is a dead-eye direct target — the bettors — and what makes AA's ultimate questionnaire more effective than just that is the fact that it serves the source (the track) as much as it serves the audience (the bettors) and does so without insulting their tenacious gambling desires.

Let's look at details for AA's ultimate questionnaire (AAUQ).

AAUQ does not ask for any personal information. When a person participates in such a "study," that person tends to express his or herself more freely when anonymous. Oddly enough, the same bettors that never suppress opinions or judgments when it comes to horses, horsemen and races, become hesitant to surrender the privacy asked to commit opinions in a questionnaire.

Next, to support participation beyond dismissing personal info, AAUQ questions will offer "rewards" to all completing an AAUQ form. This can be done without requesting personal information. Here is how:

Each AAUQ will have a unique number on it. The clear, bold number (example: U8DDD) becomes a participant's unique ID number, as indicated at the top of the AAUQ text. The participant is asked to write his or her ID number down in a safe place and to keep it a secret after submitting the form.

Then, as indicated on the form, the participant is told to wait for an announcement, which will be broadcast by the track announcer during a race program, as well as it will be presented on the track website and simulcast broadcast, about how to "cash in" using the ID. (Note: the words "cash in" are the only words to use about receiving the thank-you reward.)

The AAUQ questions are short. Their brevity will encourage people to share their thoughts because it does not take a lot of time away from whatever they want to do otherwise — such as betting and watching what they bet upon with the usual and utmost desire to win.

Here are some sample questions. Note they are not numbered; this is because numbering questions makes however many questions appear like there are too many.

How good would it feel if you never again ended an evening of betting without cashing any tickets?

- (A) Great
- (B) Just OK
- (C) Don't care

Would you like to receive cash credit for how much you wagered after an evening of betting, whether you won, lost or broke even?

- (A) Absolutely
- (B) Just OK
- (C) Don't care

If you answered "Absolutely" to the previous question, which of the following would you consider fair for the amount you bet that evening?

Bet	Credit
\$100	\$10
\$200	\$20
\$500	\$50

By now, you should realize the AAUQ is a clever advertising

maneuver which carefully presents a simple rebate plan aimed at the people taking the time to pay attention to the AAUQ. By approaching bettors this way, you are telling the people completing the questionnaire they are VIPs, specifically eligible for a reward and future support in the form of money.

The specifics of such a plan are negotiable, of course, but even if such a plan doesn't come about, you send a strong, positive message to bettors participating, one that is planted firmly. They know that your track genuinely appreciates them and takes the time (and money) to become their partner achieving pari-mutuel success.

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Hoofprints in Fog

Writer – Theodore Nelson

Agent – Richard Murray (MCA)

Agency – Seven Seas Production Association

6/12/2014

11 AM Pod

Readers; John Buser, Mike Frye, Cat Kenney

Note #1 (*originally written (not purchased) as a theatrical play. DJ Mortenson of MCA suggests the Alzheimer's segments beginning with scene 2 filmed dramatically as a segue to historic events.)

Evaluations to J. D Exter

Future meetings TBA

Scene 1 (Combat)

Mandy and Ryan, an unmarried couple in their twenties, reside in the suburbs of Detroit. Ryan is a pharmacist, pleasant looking, and reflective. Despite growing up in a dysfunctional family, he has made good choices in his young life. Mandy, attractive, is constantly checking her cell phone. She is immature, moody, and currently working as a beautician assistant. She is pushing Ryan to allow her to move into his apartment. Ryan is resisting.

It is late afternoon in a small room in the Alzheimer's wing of an assisted living facility. Ryan sits in one of two matching green plastic chairs, a small table between them. Their chairs pinch inwards and face a hospital bed. In the bed is a sleeping patient. The frail patient, a former horse trainer, is levered to an angle halfway between laying and sitting.

(Music intro 5 -7 sec)

(very light ambient hospital background for the remainder of the scene, open with three softknocks on the door, then sound of door opening)

RYAN: (voice soft)Come on in, grab a seat. He's sleeping.
(footsteps walking across tile floor)



Listen to this story here



MANDY: (sigh) I had trouble finding the place. I didn't expect it to be so small, with just one floor. It's like an old elementary school.

RYAN: The flatter the floors, the fewer the falls. Taking care of people with dementia is no picnic. Buckle up girl, some crazy stuff happens in here.

MANDY: Like what?

RYAN: Like the fire exits; they have sirens, loud ones. When a patient tries to escape, all hell breaks loose.

MANDY: (slight pause) So... this is your great-grandfather. How old IS he?

RYAN: Ninety-three, almost ninety-four. His name is Martin Kilbane.

MANDY: Does he know who you are?

RYAN: I don't think so.

MANDY: Does he talk?

RYAN: Depends on the day. He's like a car radio searching for a signal, sometimes nothing, sometimes static, other times he gets fairly strong and his mind is off to the races, *really* off to the races, horse races. It's interesting.

MANDY: It's creepy. This whole place is creepy. How often do you come?

RYAN: Most days, on my way home from work.

MANDY: Are you close?

RYAN: No, not really, I never met him until he was like 80. One day, when I was a kid, he showed up at my uncle Cecil's house. Cecil said he was my great-grandpa and told me to shake his hand. Then he said Martin was a racetrack roamer who came home to roost.

MANDY: What brought him home?

RYAN: A funeral, a sad one. Cecil's wife, my aunt Peggy, died. After they buried Aunt Peggy, uncle Cecil invited Martin to move into a spare room in the old house. (chuckles) Man, those two old coots could rag on each other. Not in a mean way, it was just their way."

MANDY: Was Cecil's house where you stayed...you know... when things got rough at your house?

RYAN: Yeah, Cecil helped me plenty. He died last year. When they sold his house, Martin got dumped here.

MANDY: (pouty) Well, why is he your problem?

RYAN: (sharply) He's not a problem, he's a person. He doesn't have anyone else, you've met my family. They wouldn't come unless they saw money stapled to his pillow and an open bar in the lobby.

MANDY: Doesn't he have ANYONE else?

RYAN: Nope, and that's probably a good thing. Alzheimer's is a frigging nightmare. His first week, he was awful, yelling and swearing. They needed to tie him down. They have him on some medication and the past month or so he's been more manageable. But he's unpredictable, two weeks ago he threw his box across the room.

MANDY: What box?

(sound of shaking box)

RYAN: This cigar box has everything he owns: an old wedding photo, a picture of his wife, dog tags, newspaper clippings, gold star, strange medallions, racing programs, and this pocket watch.

MANDY: How sad... a whole life... in a little box... in a place like this.

RYAN: After he threw it, he got upset, he was crying and yelling for his watch. He never let it go. Lots of times, he falls asleep with the box on his chest.

MANDY: What do you talk about with him?

RYAN: (sighs) He tells stories, most are good. (pause). It's weird. They almost always have something to do with horses.

MANDY: Horses?

RYAN: (nods) Yep, even his army years were about horses. He was in the war, World War II. You know... the one with the Nazis and Pearl Harbor.

MANDY: No way.

RYAN: For real, do the math. He was born in 1924 and enlisted at 18.

MANDY: So he gets that PTSD flashback thing?

RYAN: Maybe, I don't know. His army memories can agitate him.



Listen to this story here



(They do not say anything for a few seconds)

RYAN: He always begins talking about the army by saying... (use a voice change for this quote) *When the Army found out I was a farm boy who knew how to shoe horses, they stuck me in the cavalry.* (return to normal voice) Then he talks about getting sick on a ship to Luzon, about Lieutenant Eddie, about tending to horses, about the boys of the 26th, and his horse PEP. I've heard this at least three times.

MANDY: Is it true?

RYAN: I googled the 26th Cavalry.

MANDY: And?

RYAN: It's true. (sound of tapping phone screen)... Listen to this... (begins to read)

*The 26th Cavalry Regiment, led by Lieutenant **Edwin P. Ramsey**, was the last United States **cavalry** regiment to engage in MOUNTED HORSE WARFARE. When Troop G encountered Japanese forces destroying planes, the 26th killed multiple Japanese soldiers on 16 January 1942. This battle was the last cavalry charge in American history.*

MANDY: Wow, that sounds like a movie on NETFLIX.

RYAN: There are a few photos.

MANDY: Let me see (pause). He could have been like Brad Pitt in, what was that movie... Ignorant Bastards.

RYAN: In GLORIOUS Bastards... The strange thing is sometimes when he begins to talk he kind of goes into a trance. The details are incredible. How does he remember all this stuff? I mean, I can't remember the last name of my college roommate. Yet now, when he has this terrible disease, when he may not remember his name, HE IS THERE, everything is in his brain, crystal clear – like old movies he replays.

MANDY: (pause) It must have been awful, you know, war, real war, close up.

RYAN: Hand me my phone, (pause) listen to this, (reads)... *Resistance against the 26th Cavalry was not without costs. Due to a **shortage of food**, they found it necessary to **butcher their mounts**.*

MANDY: Oh my God! He had to eat his horse, Pep.

RYAN: I'm figuring that for a long time, the war was like when you and I were in kindergarten. We know we went to kindergarten, we know things happened in kindergarten, but it's gone. Somehow, with this terrible disease it all comes back. It's crazy Mandy, all those memories are in his head, they are in everyone's head, like computer files that can be plugged back in.

(pause)

MANDY: Tell me about one of his good memories.

RYAN: Well, let's see, one is about his wife and their courtship, others are about racehorses, and racetrack adventures, some of his problems, including jail. Which memories do you want?

MANDY: Their COURTSHIP, I need to know how she got her man. Maybe I can get a few pointers.

(sound of a phone ringing.)

RYAN: (exasperated) Come on, Mandy, put it away. Let ME give you a pointer... don't interrupt a conversation with your phone.

MANDY: It might have been important.

RYAN: For you, they're all important.

MANDY: Okay, okay, where were we?

RYAN: I was about to tell you about a courtship, a horse, and a buggy ride that took place in 1939.

(we hear Martin rustling in his bed, hear him moan, clear his throat and begin to mumble)

MANDY: (excited) Oh my God, He's waking up, what should we do?

RYAN: Nothing, give him a minute or two. If you're lucky, Martin will tell you about that buggy ride. He tells it better than I could. And it's a story you will never forget. (pause) Martin, Martin...

(closing music)

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Morris Feldman dead at 82

Paul Delean reported on Standardbred Canada ([full story here](#)) this week that a private graveside service was held Wednesday (April 1) in Montreal for long-time Quebec racehorse owner and breeder Morris Feldman, who died Tuesday after several months in hospital with lung issues at the age of 82.

Feldman, who headed the children's clothing company Kidstuff Creations for almost three decades, had his biggest success in standardbred racing as co-owner of trotter Incredible Abe, a winner of almost \$1 million in the 1990s.

Incredible Abe, raised at Feldman's farm in St. Lazare, QC, was a star of the New York Sires Stakes circuit at two. In 1994, as a 3-year-old, he captured a rare double, the \$370,000 Orsi Mangelli Trot in Italy and the \$400,000 Breeders Crown final at Garden State Park.

As a stallion, Incredible Abe produced the likes of Abbey Road C and Monte Hall.

Feldman also bred Quebec Sires Stakes pacing star Witch S Better.

"Morris just loved the business. He could talk horses all day. He was a really nice guy, very soft-spoken. But he could be tough on trainers; he'd flip them often," recalled friend Rick Karper.

Feldman sold his farm a few years ago but remained active in the sport as a consultant for Coyote Wynd Farm, whose trotting filly The Ice Dutchess won the 2018 O'Brien Award. Coyote Wynd's owner, John Floren, had been a neighbour and friend of Feldman in the late 1980s and the families remained close. Feldman was front and centre in the photo on awards night.

Morris Feldman is survived by his wife Palma and children David, Marla, Lorne, Rachel and Eleasa.

Please join Standardbred Canada in offering condolences to the family and friends of Morris Feldman.

—A Trot Insider Exclusive by Paul Delean

Important COVID-19 information about Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

The U.S. federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) authorizes up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis.

All loan terms will be the same for everyone. The loan amounts will be forgiven as long as:

- The loan proceeds are used to cover payroll costs, and most mortgage interest, rent, and utility costs over the 8-week period after the loan is made; and
- Employee and compensation levels are maintained. Payroll costs are capped at \$100,000 on an annualized basis for each employee.

Due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25 per cent of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs. Loan payments will be deferred for 6 months.

[Complete information here.](#)

U.S. Small Business Association – disaster loan applications

Important COVID-19 Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) [information can be accessed here.](#)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. The Small Business Association's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. This loan advance will not have to be repaid.

Direct Emergency Benevolent Initiatives for Ohio horsepeople and horses

The Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) would like to remind Ohio's standardbred racing participants that the Standardbred Equine or Human Benevolent Fund that has been in place since 2015 continues to be available upon application.

The fund is and has been available for case-by-case

application, whether it be an owner, trainer, groom, breeding farm worker or standardbred racehorse. The stated purpose is to provide grant-based assistance or aid to standardbred horses, owners, trainers, and grooms or breeding farm workers in distress or under threat of imminent harm.

OHHA Benevolent Aid is available on a case-by-case basis. Funds are distributed solely in the OHHA's discretion for the use and manner deemed most beneficial.

Eligibility Requirements: Equine relief limited to racing or breeding standardbreds. Human Benevolence limited to owners, trainers, grooms and breeding farm workers. You must be an Ohio resident and OHHA member in good standing. All circumstances must be substantiated and verified for a distribution of funds.

Requests: All requests must be made on the Standardbred Equine or Human Benevolent Fund by the person requesting aid. The form must be completed in its entirety. If grooms or breeding farm workers are requesting support, the Owner, Trainer, or Farm they work for must verify and sign.

[The form can be accessed here.](#)

SOA of New York waiving health insurance payments for two months

The Standardbred Owners Association of New York ("SOANY") has announced that effective immediately it will waive for two months insurance payments from the existing participants in its Welfare Fund which provides health insurance coverage to eligible trainers, drivers and grooms. The waiver will apply to payments due for the months of April and May. Participants who have already made payments for April will receive a two-month credit covering May and June payments.

"Beyond the devastating health consequences that have so tragically befallen a number of participants in our local harness racing family, our members are enduring significant financial hardship during this period of the temporary closure of Yonkers Raceway," said Peter Venaglia, chairman of the board of trustees for the Welfare Fund. "The SOA's trustees want to ensure those who are covered by our Welfare Fund that health insurance for our members will remain in full force and effect during this period, with the SOANY paying the full cost of the health insurance premiums."

—*SOA of New York*

SBOANJ information update

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) would like to remind our members that our staff is continuing to work diligently during these difficult times.

Recent state and federal assistance programs that have become available are currently listed on our website. We will continue to locate and post the latest information regarding these programs as it becomes available.

The SBOANJ office remains open for regular hours during the week but is closed to visitors. Our staff has been working to make sure all businesses, including insurance claims, continue to be handled in a timely manner. Please continue to mail or deposit any payments or paperwork in the drop box located at the office front door.

At this time we are all aware of the statewide stay-at-home order given by the governor, the order states that he will evaluate the Coronavirus outbreak mid-April. This means that racing will not resume until he lifts the stay-at-home order. That being said the SBOANJ, the NJ Racing Commission, other state officials, and the racetracks are working on a proposal to return to racing. With the implementation of screening programs at the training centers and racetracks and practicing safe distancing guidelines, we hope to persuade the governor to allow us to get back to racing as soon as possible. This plan would require coordinated efforts at multiple levels, especially the horsemen, but the final decision will rest with the governor. We will continue to update our members with the most important information we have. We urge you to continue to visit our website sboanj.com, for pertinent information when it becomes available.

—*Courtney Stafford / PR consultant SBOANJ*

Farm maintenance employees needed in New Jersey

Takter horse farm is in need of experienced general maintenance help: Mechanically inclined, operate tractors and other farm equipment, grass mowing, upkeep of different types of farm machinery and overall farm facilities. Salary depending on skills and experience. Contact Christina Takter by phone 609-636-3747 or by email christinatakt@gmail.com.

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Wrong breeding, Hollywood

In the March 29 edition of Harness Racing Update, in the Hollywood's Hits column ([full story here](#)), Bob refers to Slapstick as a BG's Bunny. Slapstick is by Meadow Skipper out of Hilarious Noreen.

—Bill Bigler / Pompano Beach, FL

Bonus claiming allowance proposal for when racing returns

Many people in the harness racing industry have suffered large financial racing losses as our horses lay idle because of

the Covid-19 virus. That being said, I think it would be highly unfair for someone to be able to claim a horse without considering the costs incurred to carrying a horse for 30 to 45 days. An idea I had is for 30 days after a racetrack opens up a 20 per cent (or some other number) bonus claiming allowance be added to the normal race tag. Example: a \$20,000 claimer would race in that class but could be claimed for \$24,000. The normal claiming allowances for 3-year-olds, etc. would be considered too, of course After 30 days, that allowance would be lowered to 10 per cent and after another 30 days reduced to 0.

I have passed this thought on to a number of trainers, owners and other horsepeople I know and have had an overwhelming positive response. I am asking track secretaries to please consider this proposal in some form whenever we get back to racing.

—Dr. Adam Friedland / New York, NY

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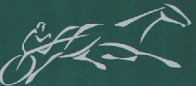
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