

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

## Digital platform launches new stakes series, aims for enhanced transparency

*Four new \$200,000 stakes at Lexington's Red Mile exclusively for 4-year-olds will be added to the calendar in 2022 and no stakes payments are required. To qualify, horses must register to be on the new EquineX platform before May 10 – with 20 per cent of the proceeds directed toward an industry Coronavirus Hardship Fund.*

by Dave Briggs



A new stakes series exclusively for 4-year-olds will be added to the calendar beginning in 2022 – and, like the Jimmy Freight stakes – this series won't involve stakes payments. Eligibility will be determined by those that sign up for a new digital platform called EquineX designed to bring transparency and integrity to the sport.

"There's no stake payments. It's just basically being on our platform for the 30 months. The registration deadline will be May 10," said company chairman and standardbred owner Paul Simmonds about the platform developed in conjunction with former standardbred owner and start-up maven Derek Ivany and Parminder Singh, who helped develop and oversee Microsoft's Xbox.

The cost of subscribing is \$29.99 (U.S.) per horse, per month. The registration deadline is for current 2-year-olds looking to be eligible for the races two years from now.

"What we're doing is we've set up a Coronavirus Hardship Fund for the industry, so we're donating 20 per cent of the subscriptions from that to the industry... We've actually divided that depending on whether the horse is a U.S.-bred or a Canadian bred horse. So, if the horse registered was, say, by Father Patrick, then that 20 per cent would go to the States and if it was a Kadabra it would go to Canada," Simmonds said.

All four of the stakes, each carrying a \$200,000 (U.S.) purse,

### In today's HRU

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## 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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*—Jeff Fought*

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will be held at Lexington, KY's Red Mile during the Grand Circuit meeting in 2022. All four events will also be contested at a distance longer than a mile — likely a mile-and-a-quarter or mile-and-a-half. It is hoped each race will have between 12 and 14 starters, with the field determined by earnings. Further details are available on the EquineX website ([www.equinex.com](http://www.equinex.com)).

The race for trotting males will be called The Jimmy Takter. The male pacing race will be called The John Campbell. The company is currently considering names for the female events, but plans to name them after prominent women in the sport. EquineX is planning a five-year commitment to the stakes races to extend through 2026.

Simmonds said the EquineX platform is, "all about transparency and accountability in the industry."

"The way it works is... the horse is the center of the universe, and the platform. Basically, when you subscribe to the platform, your horse is now on the platform and the trainers of that horse will automatically get the app free of charge. Basically, it's a training tool that will do several things — it will help them communicate with all the owners and what we call, the 'inner circle' of the horse. That could be the owners, the vet, the farrier and so on. The tool will also enable him to manage his stable and his staff.

"Then there's also a vet app and that's very important. The vet app is basically a horse management tool for vets on these horses to secure every procedure, every medication administered to horses and it goes on this permanent, secure record. That's really the core of the platform.

"Really what this is all about is transparency and accountability in the industry. When a vet actually performs some sort of a procedure on a horse, the trainer will have to verify that he is aware or confirmed that the procedure was done. Then, that goes on a permanent and secure record.

"When that horse gets transferred to a new owner, the vet record will go with the horse. The owners technically have the right to say whether they want to provide those records, but those records, for every horse on the platform, will exist.

"What we're trying to do, quite frankly, is to address the issues that the industry has right now, which is transparency and being accountable to stakeholders in the industry. And to owners... I think when you look at all these indictments that just happened, you have to feel sorry for a lot of the owners that had no idea. I'm sure some owners did have an idea, but there's got to be lots of owners that really didn't know that their trainers were doing this stuff."

Simmonds, — perhaps best known in the industry as part-owner of trotting star Wesgate Crown, a 2011 inductee into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame — said Singh, "an expert in the field of motion sensors and motion detectors" is working on developing wearable technology that may be able to detect when a horse may be at risk of developing an injury.

"Maybe there's an injury brewing or something that you wouldn't see with the human eye, but you could see it if you had one of these boots," Simmonds said. "It's pretty high-tech stuff that, quite frankly, in the horse racing industry, hasn't been that prevalent in the past."

Simmonds said Takter is a co-founder of EquineX and has, "been very involved since the beginning in the formation of the company. Bryan Montgomery is one of our advisors to the insurance industry. We think there's a real need in the industry, too, from an insurance standpoint for a platform like ours. I've talked to a number of insurance companies and they struggle insuring horses, just because often we don't know what the (horse's) history is or we don't know what's going on from a medical standpoint.

"We're also setting up an adversary committee for veterinarians. As I said, one of the most important parts of this is maintaining the secure vet records for horses... Barry Carter is a vet out of Ohio with a large standardbred practice and he's leading our vet advisory board. We're going to be adding additional vets in that regard, too."



As for how the technology would deal with the small minority of disreputable vets that, obviously, choose not to disclose that a horse may have been administered a performance enhancing drug, Simmonds said he believes recent FBI indictments will increase the likelihood of whistleblowers in the industry, "because in these last indictments they also nailed some assistant trainers and some grooms... I've got to believe there is going to be a certain degree of paranoia in these barns of people not playing by the rules, so I'm hoping that will be one step."

"The second thing is that really what we want to do is develop the relationships and partnerships with industry regulators and associations and, possibly even, racetracks... Basically what we want is to become the gold standard for transparency in the industry."

Simmonds said he's hoping EquineX can have similar impact on horse racing that Carfax had on the used car business.

"Carfax changed the used car business... because people would say, 'If you can't provide me with the service record on your car, then I'm not going to buy it. I'll buy some other car,'" Simmonds said. "Well, with horses, why shouldn't you be able to see all the medical and health records over the years on that horse?"

"In what we call the amateur-competitive market, the dressage and eventing and show jumping, a lot of those horses are \$20,000 or \$25,000 horses that have come off the racetrack. Those people tend to get really ripped off because they really have no idea what they are buying and what the history of that horse is. So, that's a segment of the market that we are certainly paying lots of attention to."

EquineX will roll out first as a tool for the standardbred industry and then expand into the thoroughbred business and beyond, Simmonds said.

"We're not going after just one segment of the (equine) market, we're going after the entire industry," he said.

"Really what we're doing is we're bringing to bear in the industry the accountability necessary and the transparency necessary to be able to survive. If the industry doesn't address this, I think the survival of the standardbred industry is at risk and probably the thoroughbred industry... it's got the same problems we see in the standardbreds."

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## HARNESS RACING UPDATE

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## ADVENTURES IN HARNESS RACING



with DAVID MATTIA

### Lessons from Ruth Gordon

*How to get back to the business of harness racing.*

*by David Mattia*

Recent reports suggest that harness racing, at least in New York and New Jersey, will be back in action by the beginning of May, or maybe the middle, or maybe the end, or maybe...

I suppose “never” is a harsh word, but the “COVID-19 Lockdown” will be a life-changing event for many or most people who work beside other people in any field of endeavor. Those unaffected by the potentially deadly possibilities of regrouping in harness racing, are living in a kind of blissful obliviousness. Statistically speaking, most people in North America aren’t personally acquainted with someone who has died from the virus. Sadly, that statistic doesn’t apply to most folks in the harness game.

There’s a thin line between bravery and ignorance, but sometimes you need to shake someone’s shoulders vigorously to bring home that point. If what happened to John Brennan and the Fusco family isn’t a sufficiently vigorous shakeup, nothing is.

Ironically, and almost simultaneously, a deadly viral pandemic, while infecting millions of people, has mercifully disinfected the FBI’s revelations of gross malfeasance within the harness racing industry. It’s the oddest thing. For racing’s public perception, the pandemic couldn’t have been better timed. Sometimes nature’s weather fronts are merciful, but those prevailing winds always change direction. Trouble is that the humiliation of the federal indictments has had time to cool down to room-temperature. In other words, the pandemic stole the FBI’s thunder.

The fact that I’ve opted to capitalize the phrase “COVID-19 Lockdown” is ample testament to its ultimate historic significance. What would D Day or the Battle of The Bulge be without the capital letters? There’s no set journalistic rule for doing this about COVID-19, not yet anyway, but there will be eventually, so I want to stay on the right side of history by commemorating illness and death and economic mayhem



**Ruth Gordon.**

with capital letters.

Horse racing folks don’t have time for ordinary illness and death. That’s not to mock them or to suggest that they’re more daringly defiant than most people who need to make a living. It’s just that they’re bound by a bloodborne sickness. Once you’re infected by the racing bug, you’re cooked. Statistically, it’s far more infectious than COVID-19.

In racing, there’s a provincial aspect attached to one’s work ethic. Unless you have a terminal illness, there is no such thing as being too sick to come to work at the barn. Harness racing is a show, and the audience members are the villagers who stop in for a night’s entertainment. The show must go on! The curtain must go up! But you might want to hold your horses. I assume the virus doesn’t care about the show or anyone in it. Like the character Bob in the film, “What About Bob?,” it’s not GONE. It’s never gone!

The Academy Award-winning actress-writer Ruth Gordon once said, “Who said that the show must go on? That’s the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. Lord, if there’s ANYTHING that doesn’t have to go on – it’s the show.”

In olden days, long before planes, trains, automobiles and

Ruth Gordon, we didn't have roadside motels. We had inns and taverns where stagecoach passengers could spend the night on a long trek. The innkeeper tended to the human passengers, while a man called an ostler cared for the horses and harnesses.

Ostlers usually lived in the basement or a nearby shack. Most ostlers were crusty old Aqualungs, but others were raggedy orphans or stray children, much like David Copperfield who cries to his long-lost aunt, "I have been slighted, and taught nothing, and put to work not fit for me. I was robbed at first setting out, and have walked all the way, and have never slept in a bed since I first began the journey."

Usually, the ostler subsisted on rum or ale and crusts of bread from wealthy travelers, or perhaps a few hambones tossed to him by the innkeeper's wife. Unless he was found dead upon his bed of rags and straw, an ostler was never too sick to be excused from his endless job of stabling road-weary horses and cleaning tack. Death was the only holiday for the ostler.

Let me know when you figure out why I am using an ancient trade – the ostler – to describe something that's very wrong with harness racing.

Years ago, a prominent horseman asked me to meet him in the paddock. I asked him which paddock he was referring to. The Meadowlands? Freehold? Yonkers? He replied, "The paddock where everybody limps." That hint was not helpful.

Most horsemen view themselves as being especially robust and separate from the average Joe, but they're no different from anyone else who puts on a show. Despite the attention focused on the headlining equine performers, horsemen can't forget that they are an important part of the chorus. Remember, despite the conflicting opinions of Ruth Gordon as opposed to Freddie Mercury, the curtain must go up and the show must go on.

Well, this time the theater is different. It's haunted. Friends are dead, and the living, for the time being, will be reunited in a cloud of airborne-droplets-of-suspicion. This won't go on forever, but the fear of coronavirus will literally hang in the air for a considerable length of time.

"Did he wash his hands a lot like Dr. Fauci said?"

"Did she really quarantine for as long as she says she did?"

"I thought I heard someone coughing."

To assume, with checkmarks on a calendar, that horsemen can waltz right back into the paddock, pretending that it's just like a golf course after a thunderstorm, is magical thinking. This is an event that will be talked about for ages to come, and that doesn't include what might or might not



happen in the upcoming months and years with regards to both the virus and the FBI indictments.

Stranger still, harness racing bettors, starved for harness racing action in North America, have turned to watching races in Australia.

Talk about life imitating art, did you ever see a motion picture called "On The Beach"?

A 1959 sci-fi drama masterpiece directed by Stanley Kramer, *On The Beach*, starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner and Fred Astaire, tells the story about an American nuclear submarine and her crew. Tucked away in their submarine, the crew has survived a nuclear war, while all life on earth has been wiped out by the radioactive fallout. The only place unaffected is Australia. The cloud of radiation hasn't reached them yet. The submarine heads there to find a country having one giant party while knowing that they have, at best, a month to live. Gregory Peck falls in love with Ava Gardner and her beautiful horses. The aging racecar driver played by Fred Astaire – not dancing this time – knows that everyone else will eventually have to face the music and dance.

If you haven't seen, *On The Beach*, you should. It will remind you about things like isolation and mortality. That might sound like a dramatic overstatement, but as you don your surgical mask to go nowhere, you can't say that grim images haven't crossed your mind.

Okay, so here's the thing. The inescapable truth is that horse racing has horses. These horses are owned by people who pay for their upkeep. Trotters and pacers do not subsist on blue ribbons and trophies. They need to race and earn money. That's what they do. If they can't race and earn money – even enough to pay their own feed bill – what do the owners do?

On the other hand, the horses are trained and groomed by



people who earn a living by doing their jobs. Like the ostlers who came before them, most of these horsemen have literally worked themselves to death. When racing returns, who will be the first to set foot in any potentially dangerous zone? My best guess is that it would be the grooms, trainers and drivers. The owners can switch the channel from Netflix and watch it from home. Now do you see why I wrote about the ostlers of old?

I am not accusing the owners of being uncaring innkeepers, not by a longshot. If anything, the COVID-19 Lockdown is far worse for them because they're still paying for a thing that is no longer a thing. From what I hear from friends, most owners, to their credit, are being very kind and generous about this. In my own experience, I can only think of two owners who would have continued paying their bill to me without argument, so I imagine that there are a few owners out there who aren't handling this very well, and perhaps there is some degree of owner versus trainer conflict. It's to be expected. I mean, it's not like my owner who refused to pay me for Sundays because his horse didn't go out on the track. Geez, how did I let him get away with that?

Okay, so imagine being blind and someone takes you on a tour of the Louvre? That would be weird. Imagine being deaf and a friend takes you to the symphony. Okay, that's a little different, but what if the friend texts you a message that reads, "You don't know what you're missing." Get the picture? That's what it's like to be an owner now.

So, would you rather be a blind owner in the Louvre or a working horseman with a family whose job is defusing colossal bombs like in the movie *The Hurt Locker*?

Think about it. The racetrack is right there, right before your face, but this virus is taunting everyone who should be on it or near it. Literally, it's like hanging a carrot on a stick in front of a horse's face.

Remember earlier when I quoted the actress-writer Ruth Gordon? Allow me to quote her again. Ages ago, when asked about her key to success she replied, "Never give up, and never, under any circumstances, should you face the facts."

What are the facts that we shouldn't face if we're ever going to race our horses again? Primarily, we cannot face the fact that the virus, even after it wanes, can return. We cannot face the fact that horsemen will be wary of one another. We cannot face the fact that we might get sick and die. Think of not facing the facts as an exercise in courage and dignity. That's kind of what Ruth Gordon was talking about.

And, for the love of God, stop screaming at each other in social media. So many people are bickering about the

imaginary politics of the virus. About 50 per cent of these people aren't qualified to have any opinions about anything let alone the origins of a virus no one has ever seen before. Granted, many of our social media screamers were loopy long before the pandemic, but this time it's like a painful Halloween.

Regardless of your political stripe, there is no politician in North America who has willingly killed anyone or caused the virus to happen. Everyone is doing the best they can do. Even if you don't believe this, you accomplish nothing when you mouth off about it. You're just annoying.

This pandemic is an undiscovered country. There will be sinkholes and crevasses to cross. Along the way, there will be mistakes and disagreements about policy. There will be politicking and partisanship. That's the way it goes. That's what we sign up for when we carry an American or Canadian passport. Nothing that favors the owners, trainers, grooms, or the horses most of all, can be accomplished when higher-ups in harness racing – if there is such a thing – start clashing it out in the harness media.

Anyway, the horses must race or else the business is finished. Will there be collateral damage? No one knows for sure. If racing gets cancelled, what will we do with all these horses? Who will pay for them? Where will they live? You can't just make horses disappear, can you? Well, if you study the FBI wiretaps, it seems that there is a way to do this, but that's a whole other can of worms that's yet to be proven in a court of law.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I never offer platitudes and I rarely use euphemisms. For me, people and animals don't "pass away," they die. And things that don't kill you, don't make you stronger, they're annoying and meaningless and usually painful. The only exception I will make, right now, is to say that this COVID-19 Lockdown is a "bad patch" and that "all things must pass," and then I will quote Ruth Gordon again, even though she uses both a euphemism and a platitude. Ruth was a brilliant writer. I'm not, so she gets a pass.

Late in her life, Ruth said, "Life is all about getting through the moment. I had more trouble in my life than anyone. But your first big trouble can be a bonanza if you live through it. Get through the first trouble and you'll probably make it through the next one and the next one and the next one."

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## Thoughts while trimming my own hair

by Bob Heyden

It's hard to believe that Cat Manzi and Mike Lachance will both turn 70 this year on June 27 and Dec. 16, respectively.

### The rarest of the rare

Only two drivers have won any Triple Crown race three straight times.

John Campbell won the Kentucky Futurity in 1992 (Armbro Keepsake), 1993 (Pine Chip) and 1994 (Bullville Victory).

Billy Haughton won the Messenger in 1974 (Armbro Omaha), 1975 (Brets Champ) and 1976 (Windshield Wiper).

As far as horses go, consider these three-peaters:

Androvette won the Roses Are Red in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Magician won the Su Mac Lad in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Sir Dalrae won the U S Pacing Championship (legs included) in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mack Lobell won the Breeders Crown in 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Jennas Beach Boy won the Breeders Crown in 1994, 1995 and 1996.

### Moni Maker shocker

Moni Maker is the last horse to be voted Horse of the Year in back-to-back seasons (1998 and 1999), yet she was never voted Horse of the Month in her entire illustrious career.

### Chuck Sylvester's most important Hambletonian

What was the most important Hambletonian for four-time winner Chuck Sylvester?

Mack Lobell in 1987 you say? How about Muscles Yankee in 1998 or 1989 when his Park Avenue Joe dead-heated with Probe? Was it 2002 when he pulled off the upset with Chip Chip Hooray?

Actually, none of the above. It was 1982. Here's why:

Sylvester was unknown in 1982 when he started his first colt— a \$6,000 mistake purchase named Diamond Exchange — in the Hambletonian at age 41. Diamond Exchange made a break and finished last, but the following year, he became the very first Meadowlands 1:55 winning trotter, doing so on July 4, 1983 with Robert Williams in the bike.

What else happened that year? Two favorites broke on the lead and failed to advance in the Hambletonian won by Speed Bowl. Mystic Park was 2-5 when he jumped it off and finished 9th. Arndon was 6-5 when he broke and wound up 8th.

Those two just happened to be the sire of two of the best trotters of the last half century, Sylvester trainees Mack Lobell and Pine Chip. Mack Lobell is from the first crop of Mystic Park and was only \$17,000 as a yearling. Pine Chip also sold low, and his sire Arndon was one of the fastest ever when he stayed trotting.

Even though all three broke stride, the 1982 Hambletonian figured prominently, at least to a young Chuck Sylvester, in his Hall Of Fame career.

One more Sylvester-related note, this one going back to that dead heat Hambletonian: There are 63,360 inches in a mile and we couldn't even get one inch to separate Park Avenue Joe and Probe.

### A half-length that would have altered history

In the 2008 Hambletonian, Deweycheatumnhowe (Ray Schnittker) defeated Crazy (Tim Tetrick) by a half-length. That was the year that Tetrick won the driver money title at \$19.752 million. He was some \$248,000 shy of becoming the only driver ever to hit \$20 million. No one has come close since. Though it was and is a new record, it would have been \$20 Million-plus if Crazy had another half-length in him. (\$750,000 for first, \$375,000 for second).

### Spousal Daily Double

On Dec. 9, 1984 at Freehold Raceway, Jacqueline and Frank Ingrassia each won an end of the Daily Double, marking a rare wife and husband combo that hasn't been equalled since.

Jacqueline won the opener with Easter Miracle in 2:05.3, then husband Frank took the second with Barbra Jill in 2:05.1. The payoff was \$14.

### Naming the race for a previous winner?

It happened. In 1953, the one-time "Yonkers Derby"



changed its name to the "Good Time Pace" in honor of the 1950 winner.

## Even before Cam Fella...

... his sire Most Happy Fella set the single season earnings record for a stallion at \$8,588,636 in 1980.

## Some famous non-eligibles

2001 Hambletonian — S Js Caviar

2002 Hambletonian — Kadabra

1991 Breeders Crown — Precious Bunny

1982 Jug — Cam Fella

## Where do you see this anymore?

Jeremys Gambit, the 1996 Woodrow Wilson winner and Breeders Crown runner-up in 1997, earned \$1,152,247 in his career, but all 10 of his victories came in New Jersey. He never won a race outside of the Garden State.

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## Attraversiamo is back

by *Thomas Hedlund*

The \$40,000 Berth Johanssons Memorial for 5-year-old trotters was held at Umåker racetrack on Saturday afternoon (April 18) and a former, present and future star made his comeback on the track.

Svante Båth's Attraversiamo (Kiss Francais) dominated in Sweden as a 3-, and 4-year-old and among his biggest successes the \$800,000 Derby for 4-year-olds last year stands out.

Båth opted for Umåker in northern Sweden for Attraversiamo's first race as a 5-year-old and the heavy favorite had to find himself parked outside of leader Thrust Control all the way. Thrust Control went out of stride, still in the lead, in the last turn and Attraversiamo hesitated for a short moment when Björn Goop steered Thrust Control away from the field.

But in the home stretch, Attraversiamo got back in full focus and in mile rate 1:56.2 over 1.3 miles, Båth's trotter defended himself when Maxus attacked strongly from second over the last 100 meters.

[Attraversiamo replay.](#)

## Next Direction wins Paralympiatriavet elim

The last elimination for Paralympiatriavet at Åby went on at Umåker and Finland will have two qualification winners in the final next Saturday since Elitloppet contender Next Direction (Orlando Vici) showed great strength from position first over.

Son Of God opened quickly for the lead, which was quite surprising for the opponents and driver Daniel Redén had no intention of letting Next Direction getting the lead after a quarter of a mile. Instead likka Nurmonen trailed the leader for a while before he lifted his Next Direction to position first over. Next Direction disarmed the leader at mid-stretch and won in mile rate 1:57 over 1.3 miles.

The entourage around the horse accepted the invitation for Paralympiatriavet and the 7-year-old gelding will join compatriot Elian Web at Åby next weekend.

The final of Paralympiatriavet is the first big race for the elite in Europe since the outbreak of COVID-19 and from Denmark – where racing resumes next week – an announcement was made yesterday that Copenhagen Cup at Charlottenlund racetrack in Copenhagen will be held on May 17, without spectators. The purse in Copenhagen Cup will decrease from \$109,000 to \$72,800.

"Of course, it's sad that we can't arrange this day with audience, but the most important thing is that we can arrange the Copenhagen Cup with regard to the betting, the horse owners and the active (horses)," said Klaus Koch, manager of Charlottenlund according to [danskvhv.dk](#).

[Next Direction replay.](#)

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# LATHER UP

p,4,1:46 (\$1,735,623)

*I'm Gorgeous (Bettor's Delight-Joy)–Pocket Comb (In The Pocket-Shampoo Girl)*



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In all, Lather Up set seven track records and his 1:46 in the Graduate Final is the fastest mile ever recorded at night, equaling the world record of Always B Miki at Lexington.

His sire, I'm Gorgeous by Bettor's Delight, was among the top colts of his year winning a heat of the Little Brown Jug in 1:50.4h and finished a close second to "Horse Of The Year" Rock N Roll Heaven in the \$410,000 final. He also won an elimination to the Cane Pace at Freehold in 1:50.4h.

His dam, Pocket Comb is responsible for the winners of nearly \$3.7 million including Lather Up. In all, nine of her 10 foals have been significant winners.

With essentially outcrossed pedigree, **LATHER UP** becomes the outcross outlet for the numerous Western Hanover-Western Ideal line mares by such sires as Pet Rock, Well Said, The Panderosa, Western Terror and We Will See, in addition to those by Dragon Again and his great son Fear The Dragon resident to Ohio.

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**TWOS IN  
TRAINING**

**Carter Pinske**



## **Carter Pinske in the HRU Twos in Training spotlight**

*The well-spoken 24-year-old, fourth-generation trainer discussed bursting onto the scene in Lexington last year, his family's deep history in harness racing – including the family-owned Southern Oaks Training Center in Florida – and what's next for his career.*

**by Dave Briggs**

The second in a series of HRU Virtual Twos in Training videos features rising star trainer Carter Pinske in conversation with Heather Vitale.

The well-spoken, fourth-generation trainer discussed bursting onto the scene in Lexington last year, his family's deep history in harness racing – including the family-owned Southern Oaks Training Center in Florida – and what's next for his career. Pinske also answered some viewer questions, including an important one from his grandmother, Marlys.

Viewers interested in viewing the interview – which was originally broadcast live – can do so on our [Facebook page](#) and on our [YouTube page](#).

**To make sure you don't miss a video, subscribe to our YouTube page - for free - today.**

Thank you to [Blue Chip Farms](#) for sponsoring the Pinske video.

HRU's Twos in Training videos returned Thursday with Vitale's interview with reigning Trainer of the Year Marcus Melander, also sponsored by Blue Chip Farms. It is also available for viewing on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

HRU intends to feature a new live interview with a trainer every Thursday, Saturday and Monday evening beginning at 7 pm EDT. Stay tuned for word on Monday's guest, who will be interviewed by Jaimi MacDonald.

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**VIRTUAL**

# **TWOS IN TRAINING**

## **2020 - Carter Pinske**







## Missy Rothfuss – Outrider

by Victoria M. Howard

Missy (Dennis) Rothfuss comes from a pedigree of third generation horsemen. Her father, Roy, got his start in Delaware, and her mother, Sharlene (Stark) Dufford, in Western New York. Her stepfather, Bruce Dufford, is also a horseman from Pennsylvania.

Like many others, Rothfuss started showing horses, instead of racing. She showed her Arabians and was actively involved in 4-H and Pony Club.

“I was born in Freehold, New Jersey. Besides showing my own, I did a lot of catch riding for people who had problem horses,” Rothfuss said.

A lot has happened since then. Currently, Rothfuss is the head outrider at The Meadows Racetrack and Casino and has been for the past 20 years. She has also been the head outrider at the Little Brown Jug for the past three years and was one of the outriders at the Breeders Crown at Poconos in 2013 and 2018.

How did this experienced, dedicated horsewoman get her start outriding?

“I was in my senior year of high school when Tom Leasure, the race secretary at The Meadows, asked my mother if I would be interested in being the backup outrider. Luckily for me, the principal, Mr. Dell, worked out a schedule so I could leave school and train at the track in the afternoons. Twenty-four years later and I’m still there,” Rothfuss said.

“Those days we were called parade marshalls, and believe me, it is not all smooth sailing. It may look like a glamorous, easy job, but it’s not.

“The first loose horse I ever caught will be one I’ll always remember. My horse was petrified to get near another. One day, a shaft hit my horse in the stifle and while pulling him up he bucked me off, tossing me into the winner’s circle. The whole thing was caught on tape and I would love to have that tape now.



Chris Gooden

### The Meadows' outrider Missy Rothfuss.

“At that time, I was a bartender. One night, driver Brian Sears came in and told me I could ride, but if I got a better horse, he would help me.

“I bought a nice old cowpony named Henry and away we went. Brian, along with driver George Brennan helped me out a lot.

“I remember when I was ponying one for George and it was beating me in the arm with a roller burr. He yelled, ‘Don’t let go – it will make you tougher.’ I didn’t and it did. Ray Paver and my father-in-law, Don Rothfuss, also helped me out a lot with my new horses on the track.”

Currently, Rothfuss owns seven riding horses. Her main man is Salem, a 24-year-old standardbred/quarter horse cross who has been busy at his job since he was 3.

Then there’s Dude, a palomino/quarter horse Missy saved from the kill pen five years ago. T (Mount Tirley) is an ‘off the track’ quarter horse, as is Sam, her ‘other off the track’ quarter horse.

Pali, the ‘newbie’ of the bunch is a 28-year-old Paso/Fino cross who is now retired, enjoying the good life in the field. Oz is another Palomino Missy pulled from the kill pen two years ago, and Wingnut Dinger, is a 6-year-old trotter she is currently training to be an outriding horse.

“Dinger is currently racing, but he’s so willing and smart, I’m hoping he can do both,” Rothfuss said.

And last but not least is Oz, who has the best personality in the world and babysitter to the racehorses in the field.

Teaching a horse to be an outriding horse takes patience, skill and knowledge – everything Rothfuss has.

“I start with ground work – lots of lunging and getting them used to the track. I do a lot of work just riding on the back tracks with the joggers. There’s a lot of trotting and my

husband, trainer Jim Rothfuss helps me once they are ponying – then they are ready for qualifiers. My daughter, Shaunna Morris, is my back up who brings them down and rides with me.

“It’s so much less pressure that way and the horse learns in a positive way. The Meadows is a really hard track to ride at for you go about 1/8 of a mile walking back and forth. You ride back to the race with them and the starting car comes behind you.

“Believe me, it can be mighty stressful at times and is probably the least favorite part of my job. My horses will ride qualifiers awhile until they can handle that by themselves. I never practice pulling one up at speed and never want my horses to learn to be hot on the track. I want them calm and cool. I’m incredibly slow in starting one. It’s about three months before I start qualifiers with them because I want to know exactly what’s under me, for a bad horse not only can hurt you, but drivers and other horses too.”

An outrider’s job can be quite dangerous. Drivers and horses in a race rely on the quick thinking and expertise of the outrider and her horse.

“We are like the clean-up crew – you never really see us until something goes wrong. My horse and I handle the bad actors making sure they get to the starting gate safely. We

run down any loose horse and keep them out of harms way.

“It can be tough at times and you and your horse must be fearless. There is no room for fear and you must always be on top of everything. Anything can and does happen, such as I’ve have had horses rear up on me; bikes fly over my head, and been ripped off my horse a time or two. No situation is ever the same.

“And an outriding horse is just as much an athlete as a racehorse – they just don’t get the fame and glory.”

Because of the horrific pandemic we are experiencing, racetracks are temporarily closed. What is Rothfuss doing during this downtime?

“I walk my dogs a lot. I have two Rottweilers, a min pin and a spaniel mix. We walk about 3 miles a day. My husband Jim and I still have the racehorses to tend to. We currently have a stable of eight. We’ve had to back off, so we do a lot of trail riding and the horses are getting field time,” Rothfuss said.

“My outriding horses have been turned out for the time being, and we are all praying and waiting for this nightmare to end.”

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# HRU Foal of the Week

## Foal of the Week

This Captaintreacherous colt out of Pink Terror was foaled on March 26 at Hunterton Farm in Kentucky. The colt, which is maternally inbred 3x3 to World Order from the maternal family of Captaintreacherous, is owned by Visionary Breeders LLC and Riverview Breeding LLC. This is the second foal out of Pink Terror, a Western Terror mare out of Outtathisworld. That makes Pink Terror a half-sister to Bettors Delight

gelding Beyond Delight, who earned just shy of \$550,000 on the track. Pink Terror's first foal, Captain Terror, is a Captaintreacherous colt that sold for \$150,000 to Lindy Farms at the 2019 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

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## Hoofprints in Fog

### Scene 3 (Hospital)

by Trey Nosrac

The setting is a room in an Alzheimer's ward. A young couple continues to visit an old horse trainer, Martin Kilbane. In his lucid periods, Martin tells of adventures in his life. In scene one ([full story here](#)), he spoke about his time in the U.S. cavalry, in the second scene ([full story here](#)), he described meeting his late wife. Today, a decade after these memories, the couple learns Martin has traveled a rough road down the racetrack backstretch.

(music intro)

(Light ambient hospital background, quick knock on the door, then footsteps on a tile floor)

RYAN: You decided to come back for a sequel. Have a seat, he's been napping.

MANDY: Yesterday was unreal, it was like somebody plugged him in. For a while, Martin WAS driving that buggy, and he WAS sitting behind that horse with his sweetheart next to him. That WAS his reality, as real as you and me sitting in this room.

RYAN: You never know where his mind will be. Some days he doesn't talk. Sometimes we can nudge him along with specific phrases.

MANDY: (whispers) What's with all the horse stuff?

RYAN: He was around them every day of his life. A lot of people believe there is a magical connection between some people and horses.

MANDY: (sighs) Watching him yesterday, holding his hand and listening to him talk about his wife at first upset me. Then it was almost magical. Tell me about the racehorse,

what was the name?

RYAN: Heavens Rein, R-E-I-N.

MARTIN: Yawns, begins to stir, coughs, and clears his throat.

RYAN: (two steps) Martin, do you know who I am?

MARTIN: (pause) You're the one who comes here.

RYAN: Yeah, that's me. And this is Mandy. Mandy wants to know about Heaven's Rein.

MARTIN: (loudly) Heaven was the best damned trotting filly there ever was.

MANDY: Was she your horse?

MARTIN: Yes, she was. I got Heaven because I was a drunk. That mare saved my life. I got her in '55 but she didn't have her first race until '57.

MANDY: In the Kentucky Derby?

MARTIN: NO, NO, she was a TROTTING horse.

RYAN: The kind where the horse pulls a cart.

MARTIN: Gimme your hand young lady. Feel here, right here, behind my ear, feel that scar, you feel that?

MANDY: Yes, what happened?

MARTIN: In the summer of '54, a drunk smashed a beer bottle against my head in a roadhouse in Jefferson Parrish, Louisiana. I don't remember who swung it, or why it got swung, but in those days, I didn't remember much after the sun went down.

MANDY: What were you doing in Louisiana?

MARTIN: Getting horses ready to race for Euley K Dobbs. Mister Dobbs sent me with one of his trainers, Lester Davis, who we called Big Flea, and two other grooms, all the way from Chicago. We all rode down in special train cars. We were going to race in the opening season of a new racetrack named Magnolia Park.

RYAN: In Louisiana? There were trotting races in Louisiana.

MARTIN: Not for long, they only raced for one year. In '56 they changed the name to Jefferson Downs and raced thoroughbreds. The place was jinxed. It got hit by a hurricane, they dried the place out and then it burnt down. None of that mattered to me. I never even made it to the racetrack.

RYAN: Why not?



# Listen to this story here



MARTIN: My head. The track vet sewed up the split on my thick skull, but that crack left me feeling bad. I kept getting sick, throwing up to beat the band. I did my usual doctoring with Jim Beam and beer. Things got so bad that Flea Davis hauled me to the train station, stuck a five-dollar bill, and a one-way ticket back to Chicago into my pocket.

MANDY: For treatment?

MARTIN: To get rid of my drunken ass.

MARTIN: I got off the train in Chicago and did not walk three blocks before I found a hooch house. A hooch house and a five-dollar bill in my pocket was a nail to a magnet. Next thing I know, I opened my eyes in a hospital bed. You would never guess who was standing in front of me.

MANDY: Your mother?

RYAN: An army buddy?

MARTIN: **Euley K Dobbs**. He was sitting in a chair, just like you two are sitting right now. But instead of two young people looking at an old man, he was a fat, half-bald man of about sixty wearing a fancy suit with a vest and gold watch chain looking at a 35-year-old drunk.

MANDY: Your boss from the racetrack?

MARTIN: He was the boss of my boss. Euley K Dobbs owned about fifty racehorses. Seeing Mr. Dobbs walk over and stand by that hospital bed was strange. I thought I was dreaming. I never spoke a single word to him in my life. I'd SEEN him from time to time at the racetrack, but there was not a single reason for him to be in that hospital room.

MANDY: What did he say?

MARTIN: Plenty. He did all the talking, I remember damn near every word. I just laid there and stared up at him.

MARTIN: (speaks slowly). He said, "Martin, I know four things about you - you are an army veteran, your wife died before you came home from the war, you are a fine horseman, and you are an alcoholic. I'm going to talk to you about the last thing. I'm going to talk from experience and tell you something that only my close friends and fellow travelers know. I'm an alcoholic, just like you. I've been sober for over twelve years, but I will always be an alcoholic. That's enough talk about me, now let's talk about you."

MANDY: Oh, my god. I feel like I'm listening to one of those books on tape, and Euley Dobbs was your guardian angel.

MARTIN: Mister Dobbs slid a piece of paper into the pocket of my hospital robe and said, "Your job at the racetrack will be waiting when you are released from the hospital. I want you to make a promise, not a promise to me, but a promise to yourself. Martin, there is an address on that paper. Every night at 7:30 there is a meeting in the basement of that building, a meeting for folks like you and me. If you go to a meeting, and I hope you do, you will see me. I'm not going to say much more about the meeting. I know that right now your life seems hopeless. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't, but I will make you a promise - if you can make it through six-months of meetings, you will receive a coin, like this coin. When you receive that coin, you will receive a young trotting horse."

(Martin give a big yawn, closes his eyes, yawns again, and drifts off to sleep).

MANDY: (whisper voice) Damn it. Martin...Wake up... Martin... don't leave me hanging. (audible sigh)

(quiet, sound of tapping on her phone).

RYAN: Your phone again? What are you looking for now?

MANDY: I'm googling his horse, Heavens Rein.

RYAN: Nah, be patient, let Martin tell his story. He's told it to me more than once.

MANDY: I'm not a patient person. He may never wake up.

RYAN: He will. If he doesn't, I'll tell you his story.

MANDY: I can guess, it's obvious to anyone who ever watched a movie. Martin gets sober, he gets the horse, the horse is a champion, he makes a lot of money, finds a new wife, and lives happily ever after.

RYAN: No, not even one of those things came completely true. It's complicated. When the story comes in small doses, it's easier to follow. Plus, the story means more when the person who has lived the life says the words. And it was a helluva life."

MANDY: (excited) I have a great idea. An idea for Martin, for all of us.

RYAN: What?

MANDY: (teasingly) Be patient, I'll tell you tomorrow.

(music fades)

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# HRU NEWS



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## New York Sire Stakes announces schedule changes due to COVID-19

The New York Sire Stakes will not be raced in the month of May due to the state's ongoing COVID-19 response and the announcement this week by Governor Andrew Cuomo that NYS on PAUSE will remain in effect until May 15.

This affects six scheduled events for state-bred 3-year-olds in both the top tier Sire Stakes and Excelsior Series.

**May 5 – 3-Year-Old Filly Trot at Yonkers**

**May 8 – 3-Year-Old Colt Trot at Vernon**

**May 11 – 3-Year-Old Colt Pace at Monticello**

**May 12 – 3-Year-Old Filly Pace at Yonkers**

**May 24 – 3-Year-Old Colt Pace at Saratoga**

**May 25 – 3-Year-Old Filly Pace at Vernon**

The NYSS is focused on racing events safely this summer, contingent on guidance from state and federal government agencies. We will do our best to provide horsemen and owners the most certainty we can by announcing changes and rescheduling of events on an ongoing basis as the situation evolves.

"This is a challenging time for horsemen and owners and our first concern is for your health and safety. After that, our priority is for our participants to race and receive a return on their investment in this program," said Kelly Young, executive director of the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund.

"Under current conditions, we must acknowledge that it may not be possible to offer a full complement of eight legs for each of our divisions. We know this is disappointing, but we plan on each division having an equal number of legs and a final. Our goal is to preserve as many of our scheduled race dates as possible, but some changes will be necessary. We will work with state regulators, racetracks and horsemen to devise a strong plan for racing this year.

"Further, I want to assure stables which are winter training in other states and are waiting for backstretches to open that we acknowledge your situation, along with the need for all stakes horses to qualify, and we will factor that into our first race date."

At this time no changes have been made to County Fair racing dates. Horsemen racing in all tiers of the program should be prepared for social distancing and other health-related safety protocols at all racing venues, including fairs.

The New York Sire Stakes appreciates the understanding of its horsemen and women and will continue to send updates as we navigate the future of the racing season. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the New York Sire Stakes at [info@nysirestakes.com](mailto:info@nysirestakes.com).

– Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund

## More on the death of Phil Langley

While plans for funeral or memorial services have not yet been announced for former U.S. Trotting Association president Phil Langley, following is contact information for his wife Margo and the foundation that the family has designated for memorial contributions in his honor.

Condolence cards may be sent to Margo Schrack Langley, 382 Redbud Court, Frankfort, IL 60423.

Memorial contributions may be made to Silver Cross Foundation, Tracy Simons, Executive Director, 1900 Silver Cross Blvd., New Lenox, IL, 60451; by phone to 815-300-7105 or by email to [tsimons@silvercross.org](mailto:tsimons@silvercross.org).

– USTA



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## Put your money where your mouth is

Paul Fontaine's letter (April 17, 2020) about the 2020 United States Trotting Association directors' meeting ([full story here](#)) gives me a good chance to recount some important information about the USTA directors and staff, the meeting about which Paul wrote his letter, and what we are doing to prevent the allegations in the recent indictments from ever happening again.

Paul neither mentions nor alludes in his letter to the outbreak in the United States, shortly before our meeting, of an extremely contagious, high-mortality disease, though I certainly hope he is aware of COVID-19 and is protecting his health. About a week before the opening session, we decided to cancel the physical meeting in Columbus and to hold a series of conference calls instead, as provided in our bylaws. Each of the five committee meetings (Racing, Registration, Rules, Finance and Executive) and the Board of Directors' closing general session were very well attended and conducted efficiently via teleconference.

The reason for this decision was our desire not to expose any of these dedicated directors to risk. Many of those that were planning to attend are in the higher-risk category and public health officials were then urging convention organizers to postpone or cancel their events. Sadly, two of our best have died from COVID-19 complications. A third battled his way through it and immediately returned to the fray, working to solve the multiple problems that harness racing faces.

It must be said, looking back on our cancelled meeting, that our situation today could be far more tragic than it already is. We now know that at least two of our directors were infected. Flying 60 of us into Columbus to mingle with still more people in committees and boardrooms for several days, then flying everyone back to the many places they came from could have multiplied our share of the pandemic exponentially. It might have become a "super-spreader"

event, which is even more horrible than it sounds.

Before I turn to what happened at our meeting, which concluded on April 9, let me go back to something that happened on March 30. I received a letter from five important harness racing stakeholders that we posted with my reply on the website on that date ([full story here](#)).

The letter asked the USTA to (1) condemn the conduct alleged in the indictments, (2) reactivate our Integrity Hotline, and (3) form a committee to replicate the investigations that led to the indictments. These things have all been done. We will publicize the hotline number within days, as soon as it is active in our telephone system. The committee designated is the newly-reconstituted Executive Committee of the USTA Board of Directors ("Exec"), which as a group is more competent and experienced with industry integrity issues than any other committee I could name.

On March 30, we also posted an editorial about the indictments, in which I discussed keeping the harness racing narrative true, the futility of the federal medication legislation now in its third session of Congress, and three concrete recommendations for making things better: see something say something, financial support for investigation of wrongdoing, and changing the licensing process to require consent to such investigations ([full story here](#)).

Getting back to the meeting, there were three contested officer elections. The elected officers automatically join Exec. Meanwhile, our bylaws require the USTA president to appoint a director from each district (there are 12) to Exec. every year. It would have been wrong, because of possible undue influence if second ballots became necessary, to make Exec appointments before election results were announced at the close of balloting, which occurred at our final full-board session on Friday, April 9. Early the following week, I announced the Exec appointments and scheduled a meeting.

Another thing that Paul forgot to mention in his letter is that racing at harness tracks is completely shut down for the first time in history. For the USTA, this means that the income stream instantly becomes a trickle. The USTA's survival was at stake.

Before the meeting, several USTA staff and the chairman of the Finance Committee got the difficult assignment to devise a plan under which the USTA could get through an unknown number of months of slashed income. The directors discussed the resulting recommendations and accepted them during our meeting. Ten employees (out of 47) received a 12-week furlough that enabled them to retain benefits and receive unemployment compensation. The USTA will pick up

the part of their healthcare premiums that they ordinarily would pay. Retained employees took a pay cut. We separated from about a dozen contractors, some of which have been with us with for a generation or more.

I will tell anyone who will listen that the USTA has the finest staff of any horse association in the country. My words cannot adequately express the heartache that went along with the actions that had to be taken at our meeting. But there is more than enough heartache to go around in these times and, out of respect, I will say no more about it here.

During the week after the close of our directors' meeting, Dr. J (Bridgette S. Jablonsky VMD, executive vice president of Hanover Shoe Farms) showed me a draft letter in which she expressed the pain that standardbred breeders feel when confronted with allegations of horse abuse like those in the indictments. We raise them with care and truly love them, and we will not accept the prospect of sending them to the treatment described in the indictments. This resulted in the \$250,000 challenge grant issued in her letter on April 16.

It will be administered by the USTA and is designed to stimulate effective efforts to eradicate any cheating and abuse that remain in our sport, and to help fund those efforts. The first action identified is to fund highly competent investigation of allegations of wrongful conduct. We immediately heard from breeders and operators of horse sales, expressing their readiness to match the grant. Moreover, I have already heard from an eminent member of a leading professional association expressing interest in investigating ways to extend the integrity initiative across the entire American horse industry, not just harness racing. No letter I could write would adequately express the feeling of gratification and encouragement that comes from this immediate surge of support for our work.

The Executive Committee met on April 17 and worked on two things: ways that the USTA can help harness racing interests get back on their feet despite the USTA's own economic injuries, and implementation of the integrity initiative. Regarding the latter, we began to lay out how to structure the business organization, how to get input from industry stakeholders, and how to effect change among the state racing commissions and other regulatory structures.

The USTA directors and staff appreciate the need to lead through times of trouble, but I've got to tell you, it is a great feeling to work on things that will have positive, permanent effects.

We return, now, to Paul Fontaine's letter. Sometimes, when we feel passion for a cause, we act on emotion. I imagine that we all have erupted with more emotion than

forethought when we cared deeply about something, and Paul probably cares deeply about harness racing. Although libelous attacks on the integrity of others are inexcusable, perhaps the rest of Paul's letter was a cry from the heart rather than a clownish exercise in sarcastic grandstanding.

Accordingly, Paul, I invite you to add \$250,000 of your own to the challenge grant, so that matching contributions from others in the industry will give us a \$1 million fund to start with; we will need the money, and you can easily afford to do so.

Paul, you have drawn the attention of the entire industry to yourself with your words. Now demonstrate your sincerity with your deeds.

—*USTA president Russell Williams / Hanover, PA*

## **More from Fontaine**

I note two things in the USTA Chairman's response to my OP-ED ([full story here](#)).

Firstly, he admits he had horses he owns trained by Banca who was arrested by the FBI for alleged criminal activity involving his training of horses.

Secondly, he is correct that during my 30 years on the USTA board I consistently attempted to create a method by which owners would be held responsible for giving horses to trainers who cheat.

The entire rest of his response is obviously only intended to divert attention from the real issue of our crying need for integrity. Amen.

—*Paul A. Fontaine / Rhode Island*

## **2020 – The year of turmoil**

I remember back to the day as a child the one Christmas when my mother took me to Simpson's department store to meet with Santa and get my picture taken on his knee. This Christmas was special because this year I asked Santa for a Toronto Maple Leaf jersey and Santa replied "I'll see what I could do for you." Well this Christmas Eve I couldn't sleep a wink because of this Leafs jersey on my mind so When I heard a noise downstairs I had to go look. From halfway down the stairs the noise was my mother putting gifts under the tree and there was my dad eating the cookies and drinking the bottle of Coke I left out for Santa, I was devastated and went back to my room. There was no real Santa.

This pretty well explains my anger when all of these

indictments came down in March. I had been in the game all my life and finally pulled out because I was going against what had become the new normal of cheating and designer drugs in harness racing. As angry and dejected as when I found out there was no Santa now in my chosen profession I found out that too was a fallacy. These guys were not horsemen, they were nothing more than a disgruntled worker who after looking after someone's horses decided that when they put in enough time they would get their trainers licence and through drugs would fast track their way to riches, taking food off the table of the honest horseman and his family. We now have to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic which somewhat put a halt to the proceedings as well they should, but I ask with skepticism will this pandemic kill what has started with the indictments like it is killing humans daily? In all seriousness, we should all forget about racing and put our families first in these times, stay at home to reduce the risk and listen to the health experts. To one and all god bless.

—*Bob Adams / London, ON*

## Shoulda-Coulda-Woulda

So here we are again, a pie-in-the-face moment for professional horse racing. We are being fed a story that all of our current problems with horse racing are the result of drugs and a few cheating trainers. This is partially true at best. Every contest in this universe has two things without which there is no contest. Those two things are participants and rules. To judge one part of this equation without consideration of all others is the very definition of insanity.

To assert, as the media and rule-makers would have you believe, that the sole responsibility for our current integrity quagmire is a group of dishonest trainers is to liken it to a college professor teaching basic math to an advanced class of nuclear physicist students. That simply won't fly. Without reasonable oversight and apathy we wind up with our current problems. How could we reasonably expect a fair and honest game if the very people we put in charge of policing and judging are NOT held accountable for the current breach in honesty-integrity-fairness.

How much bang-for-our buck in oversight did we get at Freehold (to name just one track)? Where were the judges, where were the state gaming officials for that matter? You can't tell me the responsible officials didn't know there were big problems and if they didn't know, they enabled the corruption to permeate and fester. Perhaps the Attorney General and the FBI should widen their investigation to

include all enablers. As an engineer, I know that when you have a trainer performing beyond six sigma there's something wrong and I know at the very least when I have the ability to analyze betting patterns but fail to lift a finger — then there should be further indictments.

In summary, until such a time that we completely and satisfactorily investigate and punish both the perpetrators and enablers at all tracks my dollars will stay in my wallet and as they say "May The Buyer Beware".

—*David Perry / Dearborn, MI*

## More thoughts from David Perry

So are the current racing indictments having any impact on the racing game? Now that a number the industry's cheaters and enablers are aware the microscope is on them have we seen any changes in the way current races are impacted? Since harness racing is currently curtailed, let's look to our thoroughbred brothers. What we see if we look carefully at the running tracks such as Will Rogers Downs, Fonner Park, Tampa Downs and Gulfstream are an unbelievable amount of longshots winning and at the same time an unbelievable amount of favorites are nowhere in sight. If you think this is a coincidence, I've got a bridge to sell you.

So how is this obvious issue being dealt with by the officials at the track charged with maintaining integrity? The answer is they are out-to-lunch. The tracks' websites show no follow-up actions taken and keep in mind every track has a state official present.

My suggestion is that we have an independent entity sanctioned by the state to oversee, investigate, ask the tough questions and REPORT. Very simply, the good ole boy system currently in place FOR US has not worked in years. Why is it that we can't seem to catch anything until after it has happened. What we need is the equivalent of the TSA system used at the airport. A system designed to catch problems before they materialize unlike the CATCH THEM AFTER THEY CHEAT system we currently employ at all racetracks.

At the very least, the 25 per cent takeout of all races bet by the racetrack should pay for the type of oversight we deserve. The curtain has been snatched back and the game has been exposed, if we don't demand and get change then we deserve the cheating we're being spoon-fed.

—*David Perry / Dearborn, MI*





## Feedback on the Dream Trot

From our readers on the Dream Trot ([full story here](#)):

I applaud the effort of HRU to give some light relief during these trying times. But what are you guys smoking? Sebastian K. getting away 7th from the 4-hole...

Also, it is obviously a very North American biased field as only horses that started at least one full season in North America are included. If you want to make it a global list, here is my list (expanding beyond the original limitation of horses that raced in the last 20 years). Post positions drawn through my in-house RNG (I am in the gaming business after all lol)

1. Muscle Hill
2. Varenne
3. Ideal du Gazeau
4. Victory Tilly
5. Moni Maker
6. Chapter Seven
7. Ourasi
8. Sebastian K.
9. Bold Eagle
10. Mack Lobell

AE1: Ready Cash

AE2: Greenshoe

I have limited the entries to horses racing post 1975.

—Tristan Sjöberg / chairman Knutsson Trotting

## Muscle Hill easy winner

Muscle Hill easy winner over Sebastian K with Hannelore Hanover getting the trip for third. Muscle Hill rates with Nevele Pride and Mack Lobell as the best trotters I've ever seen and Sebastian K maybe the fastest, while Hannelore Hanover, at her best, was the most consistent.

—Mike Sentiwany

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