



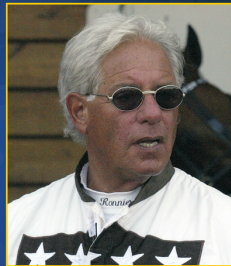
Friday, May 8, 2020

Thoughts on integrity, Gural, Schnittker and Leavitt

That and much more in this week's edition of harness racing's most popular advice column.

by Ron Gurfein

ASK THE GURU



with **RON GURFEIN**

In today's HRU

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Tidbits: I have recently been privileged to receive what I would consider inflammatory banter between both thoroughbred and standardbred industry leaders via email during the height of the 2019 season. I will not name names because it is not in the best interest of our sport, plus I stir the pot often enough.

The many claims that Jeff Gural was mistaken in declaring that we had a serious problem with drugging in our industry were not only recently proven way off base by the FBI, but they look to me to have been an insult to Jeff's intelligence.

Obviously he was well aware of the scheme of misconduct that was rampant in both industries, but to protect the ongoing investigation was tight lipped and for good reason.

I am not asking any of the naysayers for public apology merely a personal note would suffice.

* * *

No one has a better voice of truth and reason in our sport than Ray Schnittker. The opening article of last Friday's edition of HRU ([full story here](#)) says it all.

You may think he is curt, and he can be at times, but he hits the nail on the head every time he raises the hammer.

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REMINDERS FOR MAY 15TH

SUMMER SERIES NOMINATIONS DUE

DREAM MAKER

Two-year-old open pace.
Purse: \$50,000 Guaranteed
Final: Monday, August 10, 2020

MILLARD FARMS

Two-year-old open trot.
Purse: \$50,000 Guaranteed
Final: Thursday, August 13, 2020

WHENUWISHUPONASTAR

Two-year-old filly pace.
Purse: \$50,000 Guaranteed
Final: Tuesday, August 11, 2020

PURE IVORY

Two-year-old filly trot.
Purse: \$50,000 Guaranteed
Final: Thursday, August 13, 2020

YEARLING NOMINATIONS DUE

2021 CHAMPLAIN OPEN

2021 CHAMPLAIN FILLY

2022 SIMCOE OPEN

2022 SIMCOE FILLY

2022 SBOA FILLY

SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE

PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP XXXVII

Three-year-old open pace.
Final: TBA

MOHAWK MILLION

Two-year-old open trot.
Final: Saturday, September 26, 2020

ARMBRO FLIGHT

Three-year-olds and older
fillies and mares trot.
Final: TBA

BATTLE OF THE BELLES

Ontario Sired Two-year-old filly pace.
Final: Monday, August 3, 2020

BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Ontario Sired Two-year-old open pace.
Final: Monday, August 3, 2020

CANADIAN PACING DERBY

Three-year-olds and older open pace.
Final: Saturday, September 5, 2020

CANADIAN TROTting CLASSIC

Three-year-old open trot.
Final: Saturday, September 19, 2020

CASUAL BREEZE

Three-year-old filly trot.
Final: Friday, August 28, 2020

CHAMPLAIN FILLY

Trot: Thursday, August 27, 2020
Pace: Saturday, September 12, 2020

CHAMPLAIN OPEN

Trot: Thursday, August 27, 2020
Pace: Saturday, September 12, 2020

ELEGANTIMAGE

Three-year-old filly trot.
Final: Saturday, September 19, 2020

ETERNAL CAMNATION

Two-year-old filly pace.
Final: Saturday, August 29, 2020

FAN HANOVER

Three-year-old filly pace.
Final: TBA

GOODTIMES

Three-year-old open trot.
Final: TBA

MAPLE LEAF TROT

Three-year-olds and older open trot.
Final: Saturday, September 5, 2020

METRO PACE

Two-year-old open pace.
Final: Saturday, September 26, 2020

MILTON

Three-year-olds and older
fillies and mares pace.
Final: Saturday, September 26, 2020

NASSAGAWEYA

Two-year-old open pace.
Final: Saturday, August 29, 2020

PEACEFUL WAY

Two-year-old filly trot.
Final: Saturday, September 12, 2020

ROSES ARE RED

Three-year-olds and older
fillies and mares pace.
Final: TBA

SHES A GREAT LADY PACE

Two-year-old filly pace.
Final: Saturday, September 26, 2020

WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL

Two-year-old open trot.
Final: Saturday, September 12, 2020

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Online Payment Option: woodbine.com/mohawk/standardbred-nomination/



I could not agree more with his assessment that the New York State Racing and Wagering Board needs to do some immediate soul searching. True they don't have the capacity of the FBI but since the FBI has done their dirty work it's time to respond.

All who know me are well aware that I am not a hanging judge and many have accused me of being on the wrong side of track, defending the bad guys.

This is far from the truth. I just get incensed when I see a miscarriage of justice.

I have always been an outgoing guy and after spending my life in harness racing I find oft times the accused are my personal friends. I still believe they should hang if guilty.

New York has done nothing in my lifetime to truly clean house. The FBI has afforded them the opportunity, here's hoping they don't miss the boat.

* * *

Lots of wasted ink in HRU last Sunday. I like Art Gray. He is intelligent and an inventive individual. However, his outlook on integrity, although well meant, is based on a premise that doesn't work anymore.

I am getting tired of hearing myself say these words but, Out Of Competition Testing is the only prayer that our commissions have that can work and to this writer it doesn't work too well.

In the metropolitan area of New York, there are few stabling areas where sniffing dogs can apply their trade. None of the big drug trainers are stupid enough to have syringes in their possession at a track. The ones you will catch are some poor guys that can't afford a veterinarian. Ninety-five per cent of the stalls that we're available on racetrack grounds in the New York City area are gone forever. Drug detecting dogs at Vernon would be a major waste of money.

It is well documented that Macy's doesn't listen to Gimbles. Rene Allard and Richard Banca were permitted to race at Yonkers and Chris Oakes and Allard both raced at Pocono but neither was permitted to race at the Meadowlands. Is it up to Jeff Gural to present his case to New York and Pennsylvania so there will be mutual exclusion? I don't think that's going to happen. Each commission protects their own authority. Is it right? Absolutely not, but as of this date I am not certain anyone besides you and me care. It blows my mind that a Rick Kane or a Cammie Haughton wouldn't pick up a phone and call Jeff or Jason Settlemoir and say what do you have? What should I know about this situation? The answer is simple: nobody wants to make waves, no one want to get

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involved in any litigation.

Until this behavior is reversed, the federal government will be our only savior.

This brings me to Alan Leavitt's claim that there can never be a Commissioner of Harness Racing. I agree, as I have stated in the last paragraph there is no parity between states. But like all things, change is necessary to achieve greatness.

A group of three or four selected by the USTA president and his Canadian counterpart should formulate a plan and present it to the membership for comment, change and approval. Then they should meet with one Commission member from each state and province to discuss the method to which it would be implemented.

My personal suggestions for the group would be John Campbell, Jason Settlemyre, Ray Schnittker, Bill O'Donnell and Blair Burgess. This is not some pie in the sky idea, it is very workable. Somewhere someone has to take the first step.

* * *

My friend Per Henriksen wrote to add some pertinent information on my article on headpoles in Europe as posted a few weeks ago. One correction, you can use one headpole now in Sweden but you cannot use two. Two points of interest: 1. Henriksen feels that the veterinarians' scrutiny in

Europe is far superior to North America and that many of the horses that we race that are passed by the vets would be scratched in Scandinavia. 2. He also points out that the Euro tracks have way more banking in the turns than do our ovals and therefore the amount of stress on the right knee is far less than it is here.

* * *

I have been trying to avoid comment but no questions came to me in print so I feel compelled to vent.

The GOAT Challenge as an attempt at entertainment in the middle of a horrid pandemic for sure had merit. That said, that's about all the positive I could glean from the project.

To begin with, there were, in this writer's opinion, at least a dozen horses that should not have been mentioned in the same breath as the others.

So, let's say for fun that's not important. The ceding was pathetic. They have ended up with two 15's in the final four. Niatross and Mack Lobell were the two. If anyone that is functional and has watched harness racing since 1970 can name 28 better horses than those two I am buying you dinner.

Bill Bigler asks: You had a great run in one decade winning the Hambletonian three times in six years what are the chances that that can happen in this decade?

I have stated many times that the secret of success to Hambletonian victory is in the draft. What happens at the two major sales dictates future Hambletonian winners.

My feeling is that it is more likely now than it was in my time.

In the '90s there was more competition than today so it's likely the best yearling prospects will end up in the same hands.

Today, there is only a handful of major buyers and fewer top trotting trainers. In my era, I had to contend with Takter, Sylvester, Eriksson and Dancer, winners of 16 Hambletonian's combined.

Today, there are only two trainers with multiple Hambletonian wins: Chuck Sylvester and Blair Burgess both training small stables without the ability to financially compete with the Scandinavian juggernaut in the sales ring.

Don't get me wrong, there are many talented trainers out there with the ability to win the big dance. The trouble is that most don't have the money to compete in the sales ring as well.

So that leaves us with only two trainers with the ability



and the clients to have that degree of success in the 2020's. Both Ake Svanstedt and "Baby Trainer" Marcus Melander have the opportunity.

Someone out there is saying right now, 'How about Tony Alagna?' I am a fan. However, the ability to buy one top trotting colt cannot be the answer. Can Maverick win the Hambletonian? For sure he can, but what I am saying is Tony trains about 20 pacers to every trotter, he just doesn't have the numbers to win three in nine years.

I am not saying that that won't change, but he would have to acquire owners that want him to train their trotters as well as pacers. Marvin Katz would be a good start. As the breeder of Maverick and now part owner, a big season for the colt would achieve a major step in that direction.

Right now, Svanstedt and Melander, both with a good eye for horses as well as help from talented horse whisperers like Lina Alm, have all the money they need to buy the best.

Paul Robertson asks: The beaches are starting to reopen. It is time for The Guru to unleash some fabulous reading material for the summertime. What's new and good?

What happened to the modern novel? The best writers of recent time that have come up with Jack Reacher, Harry Bosch and Amos Decker – names that we all love – have apparently gone on mental vacations. Lee Child, Michael Connelly David Baldacci and John Grisham have turned out nothing but trash for over a year.

It seems almost inconceivable to me that all four who rank among my top 10 favorite modern novelists could all go from great to dismal at the same time.

And the beat goes on. In the last two weeks I have started to read Walk the Wire (Baldacci) and Camino Wind (Grisham) to no avail.

Please don't get me wrong, these offerings are readable, but not up to the class and polish that we are used to getting from the pens of these great writers.

On a good note, I have a summer reading suggestion to any horse racing fan. It's not a Hemingway piece and closer to what I would call fluff, but in hard times like these it will bring a smile to your face. It's called The Greatest Gambling Story Ever Told by Mark Paul. It's the ridiculous and totally unsophisticated story of two 31-year-old gamblers that make a sizable future wager on Winning Colors in the Kentucky Derby. It's just plain fun with a lot of description of the Wayne Lucas machine of the late '80s and early '90s.

The funny thing is that I knew Wayne Lucas (to say hello

to) at local restaurants in Lexington especially Debbie Brown's Dudley's when it was on Mill Street. By coincidence, due to the extreme cost of colts, he had talked to his owner, Gene Klein, about trying to buy a top filly to win the classic. I did the same with my band of clients and as it turned out we both were victorious at the same endeavor in a relatively short period of time.

However, I was a little pig and tried to do it again and really bit the bullet for a big ticket filly that at least became a good broodmare. Her name was Meadowbranch Magic (\$335,000), and never made it past breaking an ankle in a 2-year-old baby race.

Thanks to all of you for the kind words. Please keep the questions coming in. Instead of making this column too long I saved two interesting questions for next week... Stay tuned and have a wonderful week.

Have a question for The Guru?

Email him at GurfTrot@aol.com.

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HARNESS RACING UPDATE

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

Editor: Dave Briggs

Production: Brian Fuller

Graphic Design, Ads & Placement: Lisa Bihuniak

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

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SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE MAY 15

Previous payments must have been made to be eligible

Two-Year-Olds

BREEDERS CROWN No. 34

\$600,000 in 2020

To race Friday, October 30, at Harrah's Hoosier Park, Anderson, Indiana
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 23
-\$600-

Entrance Fee: \$5,000

THE ELEVATION

-\$125,000 Est. in 2020-

-\$500-

Open. To be raced Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park

Entrance Fee: \$750

FOX STAKE No. 94

\$55,150 in 2019

-\$450-

Open. To be raced Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis. One heat only.

Entrance Fee: \$1,200

HOOSIER STAKE No. 84

\$91,400 total in 2019

-\$100-

To be raced Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis

Entrance Fee: \$200

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT PACE/TROT 2020

-\$200,000 Est. in 2020-

To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park

-\$1,000-

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

KEYSTONE CLASSICS 2020

Early Closing Events For Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Olds

\$339,600 total in 2019

-\$400-

Colt & Gelding Pace/Trot to be raced Monday, September 14 at The Meadows

Filly Pace/Trot to be raced Tuesday, September 15 at The Meadows

Entrance Fee: \$400

LANDMARK STAKE EARLY CLOSER

-\$42,500 Est. total in 2020-

-Colts & Geldings: \$250-

-Fillies: \$125-

To be raced Friday, July 3 at Goshen Historic Track

-Colts & Geldings Entrance Fee: \$300-

-Fillies Entrance Fee: \$150-

LIBERTY BELL 2020

Early Closing Events For Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Olds

-\$75,000 Est. in 2020-

-\$400-

Colt & Gelding Trot/Pace to be raced Friday,

October 9 at Harrah's Philadelphia

Filly Pace/Trot to be raced Wednesday,

September 23 at Harrah's Philadelphia

Entrance Fee: \$400

MATRON SERIES 2020 (for 2-year-olds)

\$692,200 total in 2019

-\$500-

To be raced Thursday, November 5 at Dover Downs

Top 8 format.

Entrance Fee: \$1,000

RALPH WILFONG No. 83

\$33,383 in 2019

-\$400-

Open. To be raced Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis.

One heat only.

Entrance Fee: \$600

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL EARLY CLOSER

\$246,100 total in 2019

-\$300-

All divisions to be raced Friday, August 28 at The Meadows

Entrance Fee: \$500

JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL EARLY CLOSER

\$442,400 total in 2019

-\$400-

Colt & Gelding Trot/Pace to be raced Friday, October 23 at Harrah's Philadelphia

Filly Trot/Pace to be raced Friday, October 16 at Harrah's Philadelphia

Entrance Fee: \$400

TOMPKINS-GEERS EARLY CLOSER

\$260,700 total in 2019

-\$300-

All divisions to be raced Friday, July 3 at The Meadows

Entrance Fee: \$500

Three-Year-Olds

SUPPLEMENTS (Early Closers)

THE COURAGEOUS LADY FILLY PACE

-\$125,000 Est. in 2020-

-Supplemental Nomination: May 15 - \$3,500-

To race Saturday, October 17 at Northfield Park

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

Make checks payable and send all entries to: **THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY**
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New names for Elitloppet and a dark story at Örebro

by Thomas Hedlund

The Elitloppet is set for May 31 (without spectators) and with three weeks to go before the famous harness racing weekend, the field is taking shape.

Eight out of 16 horses are set for the mile race at Solvalla and new names on the list are: Missile Hill (Muscle Hill), Looking Superb (Orlando Vici) and Makethemark (Maharajah).

Vivid Wise As, Tae Kwon Deo, Chief Orlando, Elian Web and Attraversiamo had all previously qualified.

Vivid Wise As (Yankee Glide), the first horse that got an invitation to Elitloppet this year, earned his berth after a victory in Cagnes-sur-Mer in March, when trainer Alessandro Gocciadoro drove the Italian horse to a safe win in 1:52.1.

Things have changed around the horse the past week. Former trainer Alessandro Gocciadoro was involved in a doubtful situation in Sweden last Saturday. Well, Gocciadoro himself wasn't really involved in the situation. It was more the fact that he's the responsible trainer to the horse. At Örebro racetrack, one of Gocciadoro's horses was supposed to enter a race in V75, but the mare Zarina Bi got scratched after the warm up heat since the driver (a groom working for Gocciadoro), showed bad judgement and whipped the horse too much and way beyond Swedish regulations regarding use of a whip.

This case ended with heavy discussions in the Swedish media, social media and Alessandro Gocciadoro dismissed his groom. Meanwhile, the owners of Vivid Wise As decided to change barns for their top trotter. Swedish trainer Björn Goop is now responsible for the Elitloppet contender and the duo will enter the track together on Wednesday, May 13, in a race at Solvalla where the winner gets a ticket for Elitloppet.

The Gocciadoro story was a sad one in Sweden last weekend and the Swedish harness racing association judged Gocciadoro quite decisively. The Italian trainer is out of

competition for six months as driver and he also got a one-month suspension from entering horses in Swedish races. He also has to leave his stable that he rents in Sweden.

"We want to convey that this is not acceptable. Swedish harness racing should be something nice where the horse is in focus. The past days we've been associated with footage and behavior that lies far from our values and the sport is damaged by this situation in Örebro", said Maria Croon, CEO at the Swedish harness racing association.

The judgement will be appealed by Alessandro Gocciadoro and his legal representative.

Reminder – Pokal races at Åby tomorrow

The \$199,500 Kungapokalen (4-year-old colts and geldings) and Drottningpokalen (4-year-old mares) are scheduled at Åby racetrack on Saturday, May 9 and Green Manalishi (Muscle Hill) is one of the favorites to claim the race for colts and geldings.

Power, Aetos Kronos, Click Bait and Osterc are horses that complement the nice race at Åby tomorrow and [complete entries list can be found here](#).

In the \$199,500 Drottningpokalen, Courant Stable has a great shot in Muscle Hill mare Ganga Bae and the red and yellow racing colors may be seen in the winner's circle after both races at Åby.

The \$30,000 Gold division over 1.640 meters has collected a great field where several trotters chase their spot in the Elitloppet, and the winner will most probably get an invitation from Solvalla's part.

Billie de Montfort, Cyber Lane, Racing Mange and Cokstile are all merited top trotters that very well can be a part of the non-public party at Solvalla on May 31.



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BREEDERS

The Breeders Crown No. 35 Yearling Payment of \$150.00

For foals of 2019 is due on May 15, 2020.

This payment makes yearlings by the following stallions eligible to race in the Breeders Crown as 2-year-olds in 2021 and 3-year-olds in 2022, subject to the conditions and payments in those years.

Stallion Nominations for Breeders Crown No. 35

A Rocknroll Dance	Credit Winner	Luck Be Withyou	So Surreal
Always A Virgin	Dejarmbro	Maharajah	Somebeachsomewhere
Always B Miki	Devious Man	Manningly	Southwind Frank
American Ideal	Deweycheatumnhowe	McArdle	Sportswriter
Andover Hall	Donato Hanover	Mister Big	State Treasurer
Andoversure	Domethatagain	Mr Web Page	Straight Shooting
Angus Hall	Dover Dan	Mr Wiggles	Sunshine Beach
Aracache Hanover	Downbytheseaside	Muscle Hill	Swan For All
Archangel	Dude's The Man	Muscle Mass	Sweet Lou
Art Official	E L Rocket	Muscle Massive	Tellitlikeitis
Artiscape	E L Titan	Muscles Yankee	Text Me
Artspeak	Encore Encore	My MVP	Thinking Out Loud
Bar Hopping	Explosive Matter	Nuncio	Third Straight
Betterthancheddar	Father Patrick	Odds On Equuleus	Triumphant Caviar
Betting Line	Fear the Dragon	Panther Hanover	Trixtion
Bettor's Delight	Fred And Ginger	Pet Rock	Uncle Peter
Big Jim	Glidemaster	Ponder	Up The Credit
Bolt The Duer	Guccio	Possess The Will	Villiam
Break The Bank K	He's Watching	Prestidigitator	Walner
Bring On The Beach	Heston Blue Chip	Racing Hill	We Will See
Cantab Hall	Holiday Road	Real Desire	Well Said
Captaintreacherous	Huntsville	Resolve	Western Ideal
Cash Hall	JK Endofanera	Rock N Roll Heaven	Western Vintage
Chapter Seven	Justice Hall	Rockin Amadeus	What The Hill
Class Included	Kadabra	Rockin Image	Whataworkout
Classic Card Shark	Lionhunter	Roll With Joe	Wheeling N Dealin
Control The Moment	Lis Mara	Royal Mattjesty	Winning Mister
Conway Hall	Long Tom	Royalty For Life	Wishing Stone
Crazed	Lost for Words	Sebastian K	Yankee Cruiser
Creatine	Love You	Shadow Play	Yankee Glide

The above list is subject to omissions and corrections

Foals of 2019 by the above stallions will be eligible to the open division (for 3-year-olds and older) of the Breeders Crown in 2022 and to the Breeders Crown open division in subsequent years upon payment of the advertised fees for the specific year's open event. Owners of eligible 3-year-olds will have the option of entering either or both the 3-year-old and the open event by making the 3-year-old payment due February 15, 2022. Conditions for Breeders Crown No. 35 are available from The Hambletonian Society website: www.hambletonian.com or in the 2020 U.S.T.A. Stakes/Futurities Nomination Booklet.



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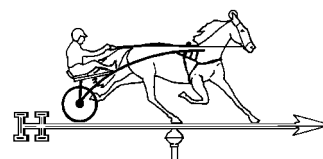
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GRASSROOTS PERSPECTIVE



with CHRIS LOMON

Have horses, will travel is Sabrina Shaw's mantra

by Chris Lomon

Her standardbred travels have taken her all across North America, but Sabrina Shaw has found a home (and great success) in the Empire State.

She laughs at the suggestion, briefly pauses, and then acknowledges it might actually make a lot of sense.

With the number of racetracks the Alberta native has competed at, would she ever consider having a t-shirt made up listing all the cities on it, akin to the ones often sold at music concerts?

"I probably should, shouldn't I? Shaw said with a laugh. "I've definitely seen a lot of racetracks in my life."

In fact, it might be easier to list the ones the driver/trainer/owner hasn't been to.

"I originally started racing in Alberta, at Northlands and Stampede Park, as well as some smaller tracks out there. I went to Fraser Downs in British Columbia, went down to California to Cal-Expo, then on to The Meadows, Hoosier Park, Yonkers, Meadowlands, Freehold, Chester – all those places. I've been to Pompano Park as well. And now I'm here in Buffalo. I've covered most places."

Shaw, who launched her training career in 2001, comes by her love of horse racing naturally.

Her grandmother was a driver as was her aunt. Her father, Doug, enjoyed great success as a driver and trainer, posting 1,597 wins in the sulky, and another 1,023 as a trainer.

Starting out as a groom in her father's barn at the age of 14, Shaw left Alberta two years later in search of her own standardbred career.

Now, 20 years later, she's mapped out a successful life in racing, one that's yielded 229 training wins and 19 victories in limited driving action.

Since her move to Buffalo three years ago, Shaw's been at the top of her game.



Courtesy Sabrina Shaw

Sabrina Shaw in action.

After a career-best 36 wins in 2017, she upped that total to 41 the following year, and then bested that number by five in 2019.

"When I started to do well on a more consistent basis, I thought to myself, 'Maybe I can make it doing this and we'll be okay.'"

Shaw has done far better than okay.

When you visit the Buffalo Raceway website and scan the track records page, you'll see her name listed there.

Not once, but four times.

Chelseas Chance, a now 9-year-old daughter of Kadabra, set the Buffalo Raceway standard for trotting mares (all ages, aged mares) on June 1, 2018. With Ray Fisher, Jr. in the bike, the bay stopped the clock in 1:56.1.

Lady London, a 7-year-old daughter of Big Jim, set the track record for pacing mares (all ages, aged mares) on May 1, 2019, piloted by Billy Davis Jr.

"Obviously, track records are fantastic. Both of those mares that hold the records, I claimed them out of 10k claimers. Lady London is just a sweetheart. She never disappoints me. Every time she races, she makes me happy. They far surpassed any expectations I had."

Then there's Joey Hackett.

A bay son of Intrepid Seelster, Shaw enjoyed a thrill ride with the veteran of 222 starts and a 24-time winner.

"He was my heart horse. I claimed him out of a \$7,500 race at Pocono and I had him up until he was 13. He was already retired, and unfortunately, he had an accident on the farm and broke his leg. He gave me some big thrills. I (as trainer) set a lifetime mark of 1:51.1 at Pocono in 2012 with him, which was pretty cool. I drove him a little bit more than I drove anybody else. I won with him in 2015 at Cal-Expo in 1:55.3. He was my pet."

The key to such successes, she offered, is hardly a complicated formula.

Instead, it's a simple philosophy that has delivered several on-track triumphs.

"My whole training regimen is based on keeping the horses happy and I've proved that the approach works. Obviously, they have to be fit, they have to be sound and they have to be healthy, but a happy horse will race to the end of the world for you. They will give you everything they've got every single time. That's my philosophy. Keeping horses happy has really been the thing that's helped me be successful."

It's also kept Shaw optimistic through the current trying times.

She's keeping busy with the five horses she owns and the 11 she has in training.

When live racing was put on temporary pause due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, Shaw had posted a mark of 8-4-11 from 52 starts.

"It's tough. We had our winter break, which is about six or seven weeks, and then we got back to racing for about a month and a bit, trying to dig ourselves out a bit. And then here we are again, with no racing. It's not easy. Without horses... these are tough times for horsepeople, but I feel lucky to have them to come to every day. The horses are extremely sharp. You're just raring to go. The horses, they give you purpose and they make you happy. When you look at them, it makes you look forward to the day we get the call to go back."

Not surprisingly, time away from racing has prompted Shaw to look back on the journey that brought her to the present day.

Time, she admitted, has gone by quickly.

"It has. Believe it or not, I was just thinking about that. I'm 36 and I've done this full-time since I was 16. It's hard to believe. It feels just like yesterday I was at Hoosier Park. It really flies by."

As for the biggest challenge she's faced over her 20 years in the sport, Shaw takes a moment to ponder her answer before she responds.

"I'm here in Buffalo now and since I moved away from home at 16, I haven't been around any family. Luckily, I'm a very independent person and I don't really need a lot of people... I'm pretty okay by myself. I've moved around all over the place – all my family is in Alberta and Saskatchewan –



Courtesy Sabrina Shaw

so that's tough. Being with your family is something you really miss. It's hard to get away every Christmas to go see family. You want to see them, but with horses, it's really hard to get away. That's the hardest thing for me – you miss a lot of things you wish you were there for. But it's a give and take. It's the price you pay in the goal to be successful."

It's a comforting thought, however, that on every stop of her North American horse racing travels, Shaw has had her own family to take care of.

"That's exactly what horses are. They are your family in every sense of the word."

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Even the Nazis' surrender couldn't save Hambletonian winner Walter Dear

Today is the 75th anniversary of VE Day marking the Nazis' unconditional surrender, a celebration followed by the glorious return of trotting to Europe after some dark days for the standardbred breed that included the tragic death of 1929 Hambletonian and 1934 Prix d'Amerique winner Walter Dear.

by Ulf Lindstrom

For those born in and around 1920 – later known as The Great Generation – May 8, 1945 was a momentous day still celebrated 75 years on as VE Day (Victory in Europe Day – marking the formal acceptance by the Allies of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces).

May 9, 1945 was less of a cause for celebration, but momentous in its own right as life started to return to normal and people went back to work. But five years of war and, before that, 10 years of economic hardship and dictatorship in most of Europe, had robbed many of their youth.

In the ruins of Europe, life returned with moments of joy to soothe the pain, allow lapses of forgetfulness and to share comfort. A decade before television made its breakthrough, people sought inspiration at political rallies, guidance at places of worship and found company for pleasure at the cinemas, dance halls and sports events.

Trotting in Europe had its window of opportunity. With prospects of both ice cream and hot dogs, the post-World War II years brought the kids to the racetracks, the baby boomers who today still make up the bulk of the spectators at the races.

Oslo's Bjerke Racetrack premiered on July 1, 1945. It was a Sunday, with 17,000 in attendance. For Berlin it was different. Karlshorst Racetrack offered soup. On that same day, July 1, in the Soviet occupied sector of the city, some of the 20,000 to 50,000 who came to the first race day after the surrender of the Third Reich on May 7 were attracted by a mug of free vegetable soup.



The Soviet commandant Berzarin had approved of the return of racing under the condition that no 'fascist' trainers, drivers, and officials were allowed to the grounds. Bomb craters were filled, debris cleared. Horses were gathered from the American sector, too, an hour from Mariendorf under the supervision of the Red Army veterinarians.

Also liberated by Soviet troops, Vienna held its first race day at Krieau on Nov. 11. Thirteen thousand came. Missing to lead the post parade was the most mythical Austrian stallion of all time, Heinrich (b. 1927, Ernest Axtell–Heimchen–Lord Revelstoke). He won the German Derby of 1931 by 100 meters (the world's oldest race for 4-year-olds). With only two offspring registered, he was stabled at Baden. When he rose against the soldiers that came to get him for the post parade, he was immediately shot.

Berlin and Vienna were the principal European turfs for the standardbred, since Paris was and is for the Franco-American. Upon liberation by the Red Army, the stocks of trotters were severely taxed. Estimates for Berlin alone say 3,000 head of trotters were taken to feed the troops, freed prisoners of war and other needy. The most prominent was Walter Dear (The Laurel Hall–Blitzie), the winner of the 1929 Hambletonian and 1934 Prix d'Amerique and the only horse in history to win both.

He had been brought to Germany by Bruno Cassirer (instead of Volomite, legend says). Cassirer, a Jewish refugee, passed away in London in 1938.

Walter Dear, in training with Charlie Mills at his farm outside Berlin, was an asset at stud. His son Probst (out of Probable), finished second in the 1939 Prix d'Amerique and Sturdy (born 1931, Guy Axworthy–The Great Miss Morris) are believed to have been abducted in the same sweep by the Red Army.

At that time, the USSR was still an important nation in the trotting industry with equine expertise at the state studs. Otherwise, the performances by the Soviet-bred horses at the legendary Russian Gala at Solvalla, Sweden in 1954 (believed to still hold the record for attendance) would not have impressed with competitive entries.

That, for reflection, opens a naive thought: what about

Soviet cavalry in the final battle for Berlin? Officers with a minimum of knowledge of horse breeding ought to have interfered to separate nags from the blue blooded head, to have them shipped home to state studs with names changed and promising prospects to expect. At about the same time, U.S. General Patton had okayed a successful raid by American cavalry (motorized) into Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia to rescue Lippizaners confiscated by the Third Reich back to the Spanish School in Vienna. The comparison is awkward, however. A similar initiative by a Red Army general would have questioned the received wisdom of communist genetics, the Lysenko doctrine on genes as subordinate to environment. Lysenko had the backing of Generalissimo Josef Stalin.

Walter Dear had 193 offspring, born between 1932 and 1945, with 32 stakes winners, 27 as damsire. Probst had 41 offspring, born 1942-1946, three stakes winners in crops with few stakes and disrupted racing schedules. Probst's most celebrated offspring was the mare Nobleness (b. 1943 out of Noble Lady). She birthed three full siblings by Permit, German Derby winners Gutenberg 1959, Hadu 1960 and Lord Pit 1964.

Data banks confirm that Walter Dear and three of his U.S.-born full brothers served at stud with success. (His half-brother Sam Williams founded the sire-line to Cocktail Jet).



Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame

Walter Dear

Ulf Lindstrom is professor emeritus of political science and a "desktop breeder," located outside Stockholm, Sweden.

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stay healthy and stay patient as we work to bring
Hoosier Horsepower back to the track.*





**TWOS IN
TRAINING**

Noel Daley



Noel Daley in the HRU Twos in Training spotlight

Trainer Noel Daley talked about returning to North America after a stint in his native Australia, his most promising 2-year-olds and some of his past stars.

by Dave Briggs

HRU's Virtual Twos in Training series continued Thursday featuring trainer Noel Daley being interviewed by Jaimi MacDonald.

Viewers interested in seeing the interview can do so on the [HRU YouTube page here](#) and on the [HRU Facebook page here](#).

Special thanks to [Blue Chip Farms](#) for sponsoring the Daley video.

Daley talked about his return to North America after a year in his native Australia, his most promising 2-year-olds and his former stars such as Mr Muscleman, Hambletonian winner Broad Bahn, Caviart Ally, My Little Dragon and more. He also answered a number of viewer questions.

To make sure you don't miss a video, subscribe to HRU's YouTube page— for free — today.



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Antonacci Family Foundation donates \$125,000 to launch Millions of Meals drive

by Peter Goonan / Masslive.com

[Full story here](#)

Harness racing's Antonacci family — through its Antonacci Family Foundation — has donated \$125,000 to launch the Millions of Meals food drive with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Antonacci family owns and operates companies in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut including Lindy Farms, USA Waste & Recycling, GreatHorse golf club and Sonny's Place.

The donation will provide 500,000 meals to “food-insecure” individuals and families served by the Food Bank in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties, officials said.

“Our family is deeply committed to supporting the communities in which we live and work,” the foundation said in a statement. “When we saw the toll this pandemic was taking on our neighbors, friends, and co-workers, we knew we had to act.”

With the hardships of COVID-19, “it has never been more important” to support the Food Bank, the foundation said.

The Millions of Meals initiative is the foundation's virtual food drive to highlight food insecurity and to encourage donations from other foundations, companies and individuals to the Food Bank.

The effects of COVID-19, including soaring unemployment from the closure of non-essential businesses, has triggered a greater demand for assistance from the Food Bank.

Those interested in donating to the Millions of Meals Initiative can do so through the Food Bank web site at foodbankwma.org/donate/donate-now-2.



Dave Landry

Members of the Antonacci family at Lexington's Red Mile (from left), Jerry, Chris, Frank M. and Frank "The Elder".



Standardbred Transition Alliance accredits first organizations

by the Standardbred Transition Alliance

The Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA) announced the completion of its inaugural accreditation and grant process on Tuesday (May 5).

The three aftercares accredited by the STA are: New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program with locations in Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania; Racer Placers in Jefferson, WI and Sunshine Horses in Clay, NY.

With this major milestone, we usher in a new era of standardbred aftercare in leading an industry-wide effort to build sustainable infrastructure and funding mechanisms to support standardbreds as they transition into second careers and homes outside of racing.

The STA recognizes organization accreditation as the first step towards the aftercare sustainability they hope to achieve. By closely examining each applicant's organizational management, business practices, and adoption policies/procedures, the STA is giving donors the confidence to make more impactful charitable contributions to STA-accredited aftercare groups.

"I could not be prouder of the collective efforts of the

harness racing community in recognizing the need for a structured and nationally-supported approach to an aftercare program for our sport, establishing the STA as the umbrella organization, and making aftercare of the standardbred racehorse a dedicated priority," said prominent equine surgeon and racehorse welfare advocate Dr. Patty Hogan, one of three veterinarians on the STA Accreditation Committee.

"I'd like to express my gratitude to the board members that worked diligently to get this project off the ground," said STA president David Reid, who operates Preferred Equine, the largest standardbred sales agency in the industry. "This wouldn't have been possible without the early support of U.S. Trotting Association leadership and that of other horsemen's groups, like the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association."

"We applaud the good work of our aftercare organizations. A critically evaluated area for all applicants was that of the horse care and training being provided. Successful programs are not only providing excellent care for the horses in their charge, they are also doing a wonderful job at promoting standardbreds in new markets and are really focused on increasing their number of adoptions. They show a collaborative spirit and a desire to work with other organizations to accomplish their mission," added STA administrator Jennifer Daniels.

Accredited organizations have received an initial grant award and will be eligible for additional monies as they are made available throughout the year.

The next application window will open on July 1.

Click [here](#) for the list of 2020 STA Accredited Organizations.

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HRU FOAL(S) OF THE WEEK

Foal of the Week

Gunjan Patel

(Editor's Note: Thanks to you, our readers, we have had more Foal of the Week submissions than we expected. While we won't be able to publish all of the photos submitted, we would like to publish more than we can running this feature just once a week. So, beginning today, until we work through some of the backlog, we will publish a Foal of the Week both on Friday and Sunday, which really makes this Foals of the Week)

This filly, foaled April 21 at Hanover Shoe Farms, is by Swan For All and out of the mare High Sobriety thus making

her the first full sibling to 2017 Horse Of The Year and world champion Hannelore Hanover 1:49.2 (\$3,069,057). The resemblance between this filly and Hannelore is uncanny giving her the barn nickname "Baby Hanna". If this filly's early athleticism and personality are any indicator she will be trying her hardest to fill big sister's shoes. Both High Sobriety and Hannelore Hanover (now a Hanover Shoe Farms broodmare) are being bred to Greenshoe in 2020.

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James Samberg dead at 85

Former vice-president of operations at Batavia Downs, James P. Samberg, passed away on Wednesday (Apr. 29) at the age of 85.

Mr. Samberg was born in 1935 in Detroit, MI where he attended Precious Blood Catholic School and Catholic Central High School. He went on to graduate from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto with a degree in Theology and Writing. He taught English and history for a year at his alma mater, Catholic Central HS and then at Aquinas Institute.

In 1983, Mr. Samberg transitioned careers and came to Batavia Downs as their director of publicity. His leadership in the organization eventually moved him to overseeing the entire plant as vice-president of operations, a position he held until the tracks initial closure in 1997. In 1998, Mr. Samberg reached out to Western Regional Off Track Betting (WROTB) with a proposal to sell the track to them and was eventually able to consummate a deal that year. The track re-opened under its new ownership in 2002.

It was the efforts of Mr. Samberg to move Batavia Downs forward that gave the shuttered track a new life under the guidance of the WROTB and that interaction eventually turned out to be financially beneficial to the residents of 15 western New York counties (that include the cities of Buffalo and Rochester) by returning over \$220 million in revenues generated by the now modern and thriving racing and gaming venue to the taxpayers of those municipalities over the last 18-years.

Mr. Samberg was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend who loved life and everyone he knew. He was well respected by all the horsemen who raced at Batavia Downs during his tenure and will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Mr. Samberg was predeceased by his parents, Louis and Martha Samberg; loving wife, Barbara P. Samberg; son, Michael P. McDonald. He is survived by his children, Martha

Smith, Mark (Jacqueline) McDonald, Margo McDonald and Meghan McDonald (Scott Boone); 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; brother, Carl L. Samberg; sister, Suzanne (Ronald) Marmol; sister-in-law, Donna Warner; several nieces and nephews; and special friend of the family, Bonnie Jones.

A Memorial Mass at St. Ann's Home will be scheduled at a later date due to the current situation. Interment at Holy Sepulchre was held privately. Memorials may be made to the American Kidney Foundation or to the Sisters of Mercy. To share a memory of James please visit

www.giltnerfuneralhomes.com.

— *Tim Bojarski for Batavia Downs*

International Moni's book full and closed

The 2020 book for trotting stallion International Moni3,1:51.4M (\$775,463) has been announced as full and closed. A son of French super stallion Love You and out of the greatest trotting mare to ever wear a harness, Moni Maker, International Moni is standing his second season at Hanover Shoe Farms in Pennsylvania for a fee of \$5,000. International Moni also served a full book of mares his first season at stud in 2019.

"International Moni's foals are uniformly good sized with good bone, length and conformation. It's gratifying to see how his French blood has helped to strengthen and give more substance to our daintier, more refined mares. Breeders are very happy with their Moni foals. In fact, several called to rebook their mares to him after seeing their 2020 foals," said Hanover executive vice-president Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky.



Barbara Livingston

International Moni.

Prominent mares bred to International Moni during his first two seasons at stud include:

Bold Dreamer – dam of Pampered Princess
3,1;53(\$1,648,362)

Bramasole – dam of Caprice Hill 3, 1:52.3F (\$1,329,072)

D Train – dam of Donato Hanover 3.1:50.1 (\$2,988,777)

Frau Blucher 4,1:51.2 (\$988,264)

Met's Inn – dam of Met's Hall 3,1:51.2 (\$1,295,306)

Mom's Millionaire – dam of Snow White 2, 1:52.4M (\$1,433,551)

Phaeton – dam of Phaetosive 3,1,51 (\$895,277)

Yankee Blondie – dam of Muscle Hill 3, 1:50.1M (\$3,273,342)

—*Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky / Hanover Shoe Farms*

Indiana announces phased approach for horse racing's return

On Friday (May 1) Indiana's governor released a five-stage phase-in for Indiana businesses to re-open using differing dates through July 4. The Indiana Horse Racing Commission and racetrack management have been working in conjunction with the governor's office to confirm where horse racing falls within this reopening plan and the timeline below outlines those stages. Please be aware that all information relayed below is subject to change at any time as new information becomes available.

In addition, Indiana racetracks have a reopening plan that includes additional protocols and procedures that all participants will be asked to abide by to ensure everyone's health and safety as these stages are rolled out. Both racetracks will be posting those protocols on their website.

Stage 2:

May 11 – Essential travel restrictions are lifted (local non-essential travel allowed). Horses currently located in Indiana will be allowed to begin moving onto the backside of both racetracks. This applies only to those trainers with horses currently located in-state. Please contact Harrah's Hoosier Park or Indiana Grand's racing office to schedule your arrival date.

Stage 3:

May 24 – No travel restrictions; horses originating from out-of-state are allowed. Horses currently located outside of Indiana will be allowed to begin moving onto the backside

of both racetracks. This applies to those trainers with horses originating from out of state. Please contact Harrah's Hoosier Park or Indiana Grand's racing office to schedule your arrival date.

Stage 4:

June 14 – Pari-mutuel racing allowed to commence – spectator free.

Stage 5:

July 4 – Pari-mutuel racing and County and State fair racing anticipated to begin (with spectators) should there be no change in the 'Back on Track Indiana' road map.

Governor Holcomb's 'Back on Track Indiana' road map includes four guiding principles the state of Indiana will utilize to determine if the stages outlined continue to move forward. Participants should be aware that if these principles are not met, the stages may be paused, or we may need to return to an earlier stage. Details regarding the principles can be found at www.backontrack.in.gov.

"Our industry leaders, from racetrack management, horsemen associations and IHRC staff have been working diligently to advocate for our racing industry to get us to this point. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding as we move forward and navigate through this reopening process," stated Deena Pitman, Indiana Horse Racing Commission Executive Director.

—*Megan Arszman / Indiana Horse Racing Commission*

Harrah's Hoosier Park sets May 11 for opening of barn area

After receiving approval from the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, Harrah's Hoosier Park will begin the process of reopening its barn area on Monday, May 11.

Horsemen will be assigned days and times for arrival to ensure an orderly entrance into the Harrah's Hoosier Park barn area beginning on May 11. On this date, horses located in Indiana will be eligible to start moving into the barn area that will house 600 horses when at capacity. Horses outside the state of Indiana will be allowed entrance beginning, Sunday, May 24th. A return to normal hours and days of training will take place on Monday, May 18.

"We couldn't be more pleased to be able to open up our barn area to our loyal horsemen who have been so patient during this most difficult of times," said Trent McIntosh, senior vice-president and general manager. "The delay in opening of our 2020 meet has been difficult for everyone and we appreciate our Governor, Eric Holcomb, and the

Indiana Horse Racing Commission staff for their leadership and guidance. We look forward to racing in the near future in a manner whereby we will take every precaution to ensure the health and safety of our employees and horsemen.”

Qualifying races will be conducted on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday schedule starting on Tuesday, May 19 up to the beginning of the meet after which Qualifying days will return to the regular Wednesday and Saturday schedule.

“This is a significant step towards starting our 2020 racing season,” said Rick Moore, vice-president and general manager of racing. “It will be so exciting to have horses out on the track prepping for the start of the meet. We look forward to partnering with the Indiana Standardbred Association on another racing season that the entire Indiana harness racing industry will be proud of.

Alterations to the previously released race dates, condition sheet and stakes schedule will be published online at www.Harrahshoosierpark.com next week. Horsemen are encouraged to contact Harrah’s Hoosier Park Director of Racing, Scott Peine, at (765) 609-4870 for information on all arrival and racing matters.

Please note the above timeline is subject to change should the Governor halt or modify any of these stages of reopening.

—Rick Moore / Harrah’s Hoosier Park

New website reflects Preferred’s growth

Despite this generally static time in the horse racing business, there’s one thing that’s new and improved for industry participants, and that’s the attractive, redesigned website recently unveiled by the sport’s number one sales agency, Preferred Equine Marketing.

“Our website, preferredequine.com, is the storefront of our company,” said owner David Reid, “and it was time for remodeling both at the entrance and inside the premises. Although our original site served us extremely well since the early days of the Internet, it was time to not only freshen the look and add some features, but to make it more readily accessible over all devices.”

Reid said he and his staff are very pleased with how it all turned out, and expects that clients and customers will be pleased as well when they see it offers an even easier-to-use interface than before.

While maintaining previous features like sale entry forms and online catalogs, the updated site adds enhancements

like a “Hall of Fame” of both yearling and mixed sale graduates, a section on the clients the agency proudly represents, and expanded information on company offerings.

Also new to users is a section of the website dedicated to Preferred Equine’s Thoroughbred sales and bloodstock business, with Philip Antonacci heading up growth and development of that recently formed addition to the company.

Antonacci, from one of harness racing’s most prominent families, is a graduate of the thoroughbred industry’s Godolphin Flying Start program and came to his position after working with a number of that breed’s most respected horsemen and women, including Wesley Ward, Todd Pletcher and Gai Waterhouse.

“Our whole team is excited to continue our expansion and further involvement in the thoroughbred marketplace,” Antonacci said. “Preferred’s 30 years of experience in the standardbred business — in which 22,000 horses have been sold — instills a certain degree of confidence that we can offer a level of service to new thoroughbred clients and crossover clients that can rival any sales agency.”

Reid said the expansion is a natural that will serve to complement their ongoing commitment to harness racing. “The goal at Preferred is to not only create value for our customers across the horse racing industry, but to offer shared ideas and the best in service and amenities.

“Our business model—along with an improved experience while using our website—are ways to help accomplish that.”

— Preferred Equine Marketing

The Raceway cancels Camluck Classic; postpones City Of London Series

After much consideration, management at The Raceway at Western Fair District has made the decision to cancel the Camluck Classic Invitational which was scheduled for Friday, May 29. The \$150,000 race is slated to return in 2021.

The City of London Series, which had finals slated for the same night as the Camluck Classic, has been postponed and will be worked into the schedule when live racing resumes at The Raceway.

The Camluck Classic is traditionally the final program of the meet at the London oval and as indicated by Ontario Racing, it is not anticipated that there will be any live racing in the province during the month of May.

Stay up to date by visiting www.westernfairdistrict.com.

— Western Fair District media

Woodbine Mohawk Park standardbred stakes payments due May 15

Woodbine Entertainment would like to inform all owners and trainers that stakes payments for May will proceed as a precautionary measure should live racing resume in June. The stakes payments are due on Friday, May 15.

April 15 stake payments have been waived completely and the list of horses remaining eligible to our stakes after the March 15 payment can be found [here](#).

Payment for the May 15 Stakes Payment can be made [here](#).

A revised standardbred stakes schedule will be announced shortly. This will include the new date for the Pepsi North America Cup and the undercard stakes, along with the qualifying schedule and first conditions sheets.

The following stakes have payments due:

Summer Series Nominations:

MILLARD FARMS	PURE IVORY
DREAM MAKER	WHENUWISHUPONASTAR

Yearling Nominations:

2021 CHAMPLAIN OPEN	2021 CHAMPLAIN FILLY
2022 SIMCOE OPEN	2022 SIMCOE FILLY
2022 SBOA FILLY	

Sustaining Payments:

PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP	ARMBRO FLIGHT
BATTLE OF THE BELLES	BATTLE OF WATERLOO
CANADIAN PACING DERBY	CANADIAN TROTting CLASSIC
CASUAL BREEZE	CHAMPLAIN FILLY
CHAMPLAIN OPEN	ELEGANTIMAGE
ETERNAL CAMNATION	FAN HANOVER
GOODTIMES	MAPLE LEAF TROT
METRO PACE	MILTON
NASSAGAWWEYA	PEACEFUL WAY
ROSES ARE RED	SHES A GREAT LADY
WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL	

— WEG

Canada's horse industry offers creative approach to sector support, without new government spending

Woodbine Entertainment, Ontario Racing and Racetracks of Canada have approached the federal government requesting the legalization of Historical Horse Racing (HHR) which would provide much needed financial relief to the Canadian horse industry without requiring government funding.

As a result of COVID-19, many sporting events including horse racing are no longer taking place across the country. This is a prudent move, designed to ensure the safety of both spectators and the people who work in these sectors.

An unfortunate outcome of this shutdown is that the horse industry has given up a critical stream of revenue, which is used to provide necessary funding for the care of horses and to support the overall horse economy. This includes more than 47,000 people who depend on it for their livelihoods.

The legalization of HHR is an innovative horse industry solution that would provide a much-needed injection of funds to the care of horses and support the livelihoods of those who work in the horse industry. HHR would provide support during the immediate crisis period, as well as during any future shutdowns that may be necessitated by the potential of a second- or third-wave of COVID-19.

This solution is unique because it provides an opportunity to offer a sustainable economic solution for an entire industry, without the need for any increase in public funding.

Horse Industry Facts:

Canada's horse racing industry generates more than 47,000 full-time equivalent jobs across rural and urban Canada and contributes \$5.6 billion annually to the national economy.

What is Historical Horse Racing?

HHR is a gaming product where individuals can wager on horse races that have occurred in the past. The product leverages a database of historical horse races and presents handicapping information in a manner where the player cannot identify the race prior to locking in the wager. Once the wager is placed, full information is presented and the race is "run", providing a similar experience to a live race. Leveraging HHR can create a model where gamers who wager on horse racing pay for the emergency sustainability of our horses. The product can be offered through an existing online platform.

The HHR product is common in many jurisdictions including Kentucky and Virginia in the United States and runs on existing datasets. In order to make this a reality, HHR requires a technical change to the definition of the term "bet" in the Criminal Code of Canada. The term "bet" is defined in Section 197(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada as "an event that is to take place". This precludes wagering on events that have occurred in the past such as HHR, even though it is anonymized.

— Jamie Dykstra / Woodbine Entertainment

OHHA offers discount feed program to members

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association has announced a discount feed program for its membership.

In partnership with Centerra Co-op, Champion Feed & Supply, Granville Milling, Heritage Co-op, Nutrena, and Tizwhiz the OHHA has put together a program that will allow members to purchase feed at discounted prices.

The program is open to all OHHA members residing in Ohio.

"We are very grateful to all of our partners that are assisting us with the program. They understand the situation that Ohio harness horsemen are in and have stepped up in a way that will help them through this difficult time, we cannot express the gratitude we feel for their contribution to our industry" said OHHA executive director Renee Mancino.

Members can request a voucher that can be presented at over 30 locations in Ohio to get discount pricing on a variety of horse feeds.

The OHHA's Benevolence program has also benefited from the generosity of its partners and their participation in the OHHA benevolent feed program has enabled the Association to provide help to more people with the rates offered for that initiative. In addition to those listed above, Purina and Tribute Equine Nutrition are generously participating in the benevolent program.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will continue to provide updates regarding financial relief initiatives as they take place via www.ohha.com and social media outlets.

For immediate updates, please subscribe to the OHHA Emergency and Informational Text Blast system by texting "OHHA" to 1-888-808-1507.

—*Frank Fraas / OHHA*

Ashley Tetrick named to replace John Brennan in USTA District 12

District 12 of the U.S. Trotting Association Board of Directors announced Tuesday (May 5) that Ashley Tetrick has been selected to replace John Brennan as a director for the organization. Brennan, who was a USTA director for 23 years and chairman of District 12, died March 10.

Tetrick's term will begin immediately and will run until the next District 12 meeting, which has yet to be determined, but typically is held in late fall.

"Ashley mentioned to Jacquie (Ingrassia) that she would be interested," said new District 12 Chairman Jeff Gregory. "We

discussed it, and both felt that she would be a good fit. She's young, has fresh ideas and is not afraid to speak her mind and she's replacing a guy who also wasn't afraid to speak his mind.

"She'll fit into the seat very well because she's well-versed and knowledgeable about our industry and wants to participate."

An owner and breeder, Tetrick is the wife of Hall of Fame driver Tim Tetrick. She is well known for creating and managing the highly successful Tetrick Racing brand and social media platforms as well as her passion regarding horse aftercare.

"It is an honor to be a part of the U.S. Trotting Association as a board member," said Tetrick. "After attending my first USTA annual meeting, I was inspired and wanted to use my knowledge to help our sport. John Brennan and I were very good friends and for many years he suggested that I take the leap to be on this board. Through his passing, I hope that I can become an asset to our business and make him proud."

A graduate of Purdue University with a degree in business marketing, Tetrick worked as the marketing and sales director for Frank's Pharmacy, a respected equine pharmaceutical company, for six years before her daughter Trysta was born.

In 2015, she created "Tetrick Racing" to promote the brand to fans through numerous social media platforms that now have more than 30,000 followers. Later, she added TetrickRacingGear.com that promotes branded clothing with sales in the U.S. and 18 different countries.

Tetrick was a guest speaker at the 2015 World Trotting Conference in Australia when she traveled there with her husband Tim, who finished third in the World Driving Championship while representing the U.S. She is a former world champion barrel racer who has combined her love for riding, racing and marketing of harness racing to fans all over the world.

Tetrick joins Gregory, Ingrassia, Chris McErlean and Jason Settlemoir on the USTA Board of Directors for District 12.

— *USTA communications department*

Leavitt back on Kentucky Horse Racing Commission

Noted standardbred breeder and owner Alan J. Leavitt has been appointed to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear.

Leavitt, a former USTA director and member of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame, previously served on the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. Leavitt replaces Hall of Fame jockey Pat Day, whose term expired.

— *USTA communications department*