

Friday, May 29, 2020

Why horses from indicted trainers race on; my judgement of Hambletonian DQ and a wild tale about Wild Bill

All this, plus thoughts on gutless email critics and much more in harness racing's most popular advice column.

by Ron Gurfein



**ASK
THE GURU**

with **RON GURFEIN**

Tidbits: Here we go again. The evil jealousy of the average race fan will keep me in business writing this column forever. Social media is wild again, this time trying to bury arguably the GOAT of horse racing trainers Bob Baffert. You heard it here first: if the positives in Arkansas become official they are, without question, environmental.

Desperate people do desperate things. Bob Baffert may be the furthest trainer from desperate that has ever raced a horse. I will not drag this out right now because the Arkansas Commission has not even named a substance.

As I have said in all these cases when there are multiple positives, 99 per cent of the time it's from some oddball source. Stay tuned...

* * *

In the close to four years I have written for you I have received less than a handful of vicious emails. Since the arrival of the virus, I get a handful a week. I don't mind so much if a name goes with the critique so I can judge the

In today's HRU

| | |
|---|---------|
| <i>Elitloppet 2020 is an empty party for some of the best trotters in Europe</i> | page 4 |
| <i>Jay Hochstetler relishing chance to try to fill family's big horseshoes in Indiana</i> | page 7 |
| <i>Return to betting poised to profit</i> | page 10 |
| Article | page |



**HRU WANTS YOUR
BEST FOAL PHOTOS
FOR OUR NEW FEATURE**

Foal of the Week

SEND PHOTOS AND AS MUCH INFORMATION
ABOUT THE FOAL & FAMILY AS POSSIBLE TO:
DAVE BRIGGS • HRUEDITOR@GMAIL.COM



HRU
HARNESS RACING
UPDATE

RONNIE BENCAL 1943 - 2020



**WE HAVE LOST A GREAT
FRIEND AND BROTHER
REST IN PARADISE RONNIE**

**JEFF & PAULA GURAL
BOB & MONICA BENCAL
AND ALL THOSE WHOSE LIVES
YOU TOUCHED**



comments with the virtues or lack thereof of the author. There are those that like to poke fun of my appraisal of the stock at Sunshine Meadows and my interest in the Four Seasons of Harness Racing called the Alagna Barn. That's okay. They are not shy to proclaim their dislike for Tony and me. But they sign their name to every note.

Sorrowfully, I received an email from Mahatma Gandhi who is no longer among the living, and to top that, spelled his name wrong. To paraphrase the letter, I was accused of preying on those with addiction and mental illness and having an ill effect on their family and children.

My column is the least negative, most upbeat in the sport. I can honestly say that I don't even know a mentally ill or addicted individual. Where does this venom come from?

If you want to beat me up at least give me some facts and a real name. I pray to god this email is NOT in defense of DEXTER...

* * *

They missed the wedding now they want to attend the funeral. What on earth is the New York Racing Commission doing after the fact with the FBI indicted Jason Service and Jorge Navarro? Looking into vet reports? What's that going to do? I need help here. What drug could be in a horse's system for four months? The board took samples of hair from 43 horses to investigate drugs supposedly so that the horses can have a clean bill of health for the new trainers. Why should that be on the taxpayers' dime? If I was the new trainer on a Navarro horse (not a pleasant thought) I would test the day the horse entered the barn. If something is actually unearthed by this escape from reality I will be very surprised.

* * *

I mentioned last week I was considering returning to training. The first three responses were all: What will be your daily rate? To those of you seeking a trainer, the difference in daily rates should not influence your choice because the amount from cheap to expensive on a daily rate is less than \$600 per month.

On the other hand, ask this question: What will be my total monthly expenses? I know trainers that could give you a day rate of ZERO, and kill you with huge vet bills, shipping, equipment etc.

Paula Davenport asks: I have heard all kinds of stories about things that went on in public auctions in the past. Are the horse auctions today more legitimate than in yesteryear?

I am not 100 per cent sure what you are getting at. I have been going to horse auctions for 60 years and I can say that

in the flow of the auction, the auctioneers have been known to run you once in a while but that is the extent of the malpractice.

As far as sellers bidding their stock up, it happens, but from what I have witnessed, most farms just get the bidding going a bit on certain horses and rarely protect a colt for more than 75 per cent of its true value unless they had decided to keep it.

I have done business with a farm for years that protects some of their stock to very reasonable numbers and some not at all. They have sold too many top horses for \$10,000 or less. There were major farms that had racing stables in the day, that were very active bidding on their own colts in the ring because if they didn't bring what they wanted they would just as soon train and race the colts themselves. That was in the '60s and not really relevant in today's market.

In recent times, I would say you get a very honest shot at auction. There will always be a guy that overestimates the value of his horse and creates a false market, but that is for sure the exception rather than the rule.

The true hanky panky ended with the passing of my friend and client Wild Bill Perretti. He was without question the most outrageous of consignors in modern history. He could protect a \$50,000 colt to \$150,000. It was just his way and he could not help himself. He got the name Wild Bill while in the automobile business, but it truly fit as a horse trader.

I was training some horses for him at the time and there was a very high-profile colt with a fabulous pedigree in the ring at Harrisburg, midway through the first session.

I hated the colt, he was not near as correct as he should have been and when I saw him in the paddock all he would do is pace. As the numbers in the board were quickly rising out of control – the bidding had gone over \$250,000 – I turned around to see if I could spot the bidders. Bill was sitting directly behind me and grabbed me by the shoulder and said, 'Bid \$300,000.' I gave him a quizzical look and said, 'You know what I think of that horse.' His reply, 'Just bid, don't worry about it.' Knowing that there was a method to his madness I bid \$300,000, and seconds later the auctioneer came right back at me with \$325,000. I smiled and turned around to Bill and said, 'Don't even think about it.' I can't tell the rest of the story, but will say it wasn't pretty. The bottom line is, do your homework, have a price set in mind that you find appropriate and stay relatively close to the plan. Going a bit over on a colt you love is only natural, 10 or 15 per cent is fine, but please avoid going crazy.

Ronnie Hobbs asks: How can horses from trainers that were caught by the FBI show up in Ohio in a different trainers name and no one says a thing?

Fortunately, when a trainer is accused of wrong doing the owner is free to send his horses wherever he wants. The

owner or horse suffer no penalty.

There have been discussions about penalizing owners and horses in cases like that of the Southern District of New York, but as of this writing there has been nothing anywhere set in stone.

Things are hard enough on an owner in this business to increase the complexity of the game. Case in point: Lindy Farms and Robert Rudolph sold Lindy The Great at public auction a few months back. Rene Allard who had been interested in the horse since The Red Mile meet, got a group together and paid \$450,000 for him. Fast forward and Rene is named in the indictments. Imagine if the horse could not race because of this situation. The new owners would be out a half-million dollars. Would that be fair? It would be the beginning of the end of the sport as we know it. There would be a new kind of liability insurance in our business. Just what we need, another expense.

I am not in support of owners that give horses to designer drug trainers but I do give them a pass and hope they don't become repeat performers.

Owners are like an endangered species and should be treated accordingly.

Susan August asks: Who were your favorite drivers when you raced in Monticello?

I started my stable in Monticello in the 1960s and moved to Florida in 1992 so I raced there for almost 30 years and most likely used ever driver around.

Monticello had a great driving colony the years I was stabled there. Lots of guys that could drive anywhere with anyone and some diamonds in the rough.

Gilles Lachance, Cat Manzi, Walter Case Jr., Billy Parker Jr. and Marvin Maker at their best we're all great harness drivers. But there were some that could well compete in their own right. George Berkner, Art Bier, Joe Ricco Jr., John Gilmour, and Jimmy Allen were all under-rated reinsmen in my opinion.

Larry Rolla was a journeyman driver smart and capable but

could drive a bad horse better than most good drivers. Some more that were very capable that drove for me were Ronnie Ingrassia, Bobby Donofrio and the best driver ever for a big guy, Dave Marshall.

I am sure I left someone out, but at this point in my life I should get a pass.

Bryan Boughton asks: Guru, if you were a judge in the Hambletonian when David Miller was disqualified what would your decision have been?

What a great question. For sure I thought about this a lot as there were times I was thinking about being a judge.

This is not an easy call. David did cause interference without question. I didn't even need to see a replay to determine that fact. The problem I have with the DQ is that he interfered with a horse going nowhere in the most important race of the year.

If it was up to me, I would have fined David severely and let the order of finish stand. Unfortunately, it was not up to me and there are no provisions in the rules to make the call that I made.

That said, it would be a good idea for the powers that be to come up with a plan that would make that type of solution viable in the future.

To properly answer your question, I would have to go along with the judges' call, but I would have been very uncomfortable doing it.

With racing returning, please stay aware that the virus is still present and be careful. We have lost more than our share already. Best of luck and success to all of you in the 2020 season. Have a wonderful week.

Have a question for The Guru?

Email him at GurfTrot@aol.com.

CLICK HERE

To Share This Story



WOODBINE STANDARD BRED EARLY
PICK

5

**\$75,000
GUARANTEED**

**15%
TAKEOUT**

**SELECT THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST
FIVE CONSECUTIVE RACES**

#BetWoodbineSB
Know When To Take The Reins. ResponsibleGambling.org



**WOODBINE
STANDARD BRED**

EUROPEAN REPORT



with THOMAS HEDLUND

Elitloppet 2020 is an empty party for some of the best trotters in Europe

by Thomas Hedlund

The 2020 Elitloppet will be remembered as an empty party for some of the best trotters in Europe that have arrived in Stockholm for the weekend. Despite the fact the Elitloppet will be held without spectators at Solvalla due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the interest for the race has been

gigantic and pretty much as usual.

Sadly, the predicted nice weather and incredible race cards at Solvalla Saturday and Sunday have been somewhat overshadowed by more negative headlines and comments at the end of last week.

The sports management at Solvalla received a lot of negative criticism on social media and the scope of disparaging comments from several groups of so called harness racing fans reached levels that never have been seen before.

All this is a small part of the charm that surrounds the Elitloppet – the incredible fan interest.

In this case, the criticism revolved around which horses grabbed the last two or three spots in the big race. Some fans, obviously, did not like Solvalla's choices and led to online attacks on horses, trainers, Solvalla and the Elitloppet as an event.

Anders Malmrot, the sports manager at Solvalla, has done what he can to invite the best trotters in Europe and if we try



Mia Törnberg/Sulkysport

Earl Simon drew the eight hole in his heat, but is still one of the favorites to win the 2020 Elitloppet.



Mia Törnberg/Sulkysport

It will be the fifth straight Elitloppet for American-bred Propulsion, who will start from post eight in his heat on Sunday at Solvalla.

to look at the two heats with objective opinions, he has succeeded.

“Of course, there are horses that I dreamt of having in the race this year. Face Time Bourbon is number one, but regarding him, I knew already after the Prix d’Amérique that he wouldn’t come. His trainer, Sébastien Guarato, told me ‘no’ to 2020, but made a promise to come to Elitloppet next year. Otherwise, it’s an American horse that’s missing and Gimpanzee is the horse that I wanted to see in the field. Corona and the whole situation with the world-spread virus made it very difficult to invite horses from America, obviously,” Malmrot told HRU on Thursday afternoon.

Race cards at Solvalla May 29-31 card be viewed [here](#).

Elitloppet heat 1

Sunday, May 31 - 5.20 p.m. (local time – 11:20 a.m. EDT)

Vivid Wise As – Björn Goop
Sorbet – Per Linderoth
Disco Volante – Carl Johan Jepson

Missle Hill – Johan Untersteiner
Chief Orlando – Rikard N Skoglund
Milliondollarrhyme – Fredrik B Larsson
Looking Superb – Jomar Blekkan
Earl Simon – Franck Ouvrie

Elitloppet heat 2

Sunday, May 31 – 5.45 p.m. (local time – 11:45 a.m. EDT)

Elian Web – Jorma Kontio
Billie de Montfort – Gabriele Gelormini
Tae Kwon Deo – Adrian Kolgjini
Attraversiamo – Erik Adielsson
Cokstile – Christoffer Eriksson
Racing Mange – Joakim Lövgren
Makethemark – Ulf Ohlsson
Propulsion – Örjan Kihlström

The most open race in history?

Elitloppet 2020 appears, in advance, to be one of the most

open editions in the long history of the race. Sixteen horses are ready for battle and 16 horses can really win the final, even if only eight of them will advance for the big fight on Sunday evening.

Propulsion and Earl Simon were seeded as the two best horses in the field and they both got post eight behind the gate, which make the race even more spectacular, especially since the talent levels of the contenders is so high.

Earl Simon, trained by Jarmo Niskanen, a Swede in France, is probably, at his very moment, the best French trotter over a mile (if we exclude Face Time Bourbon) and if driver Franck Ouvrie solves the critical post position, Earl Simon will be a factor in the final.

Ouvrie is not named as one of the top drivers in France, but he is calm and has some routine in driving top horses. But 5/8ths mile tracks is not something that Ouvrie is used to in France, so there are question marks surrounding Earl Simon.

American-bred Propulsion enters Elitloppet for a remarkable fifth year in a row. The 9-year-old son of Muscle Hill has reached the final in his four previous attempts, but this year the objective seems tougher than before, especially since Propulsion hasn't started since January in the Prix d'Amérique in Paris.

Trainer Daniel Redén has done what he can to put Propulsion in the right condition and is confident that the horse is as good as he can be regarding the conditions that prevail.

Atg.se offers odds on every contender ahead of the first elimination and it's clear that Elitloppet 2020 is a very open story.

LOPP 1

31 MAJ 2020 KL 17:20 VEM VINNER ELITLOPPET

ELITLOPPET

1609M AUTOSTART TRAV

LOPP

Vem vinner Elitloppet

1

Spellista med 16 hästar till försök 1 och 2, de fyra första hästarna i resp. försök går till 2 deltar i spelet. Insatser på hästar som stryks inför försök 1 eller 2 återbetalas. Insats

| HÄST | KUSK | V-ODDS | VÄRMN. |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 MISSLE HILL | Johan Untersteiner | 17,73 | |
| 2 TAE KWON DEO | Adrian Kolgjini | 8,23 | |
| 3 MILLIONDOLLARRHYME | Fredrik B Larsson | 9,07 | |
| 4 CHIEF ORLANDO | Rikard N Skoglund | 29,64 | |
| 5 DISCO VOLANTE | Carl Johan Jepson | 25,38 | |
| 6 RACING MANGE | Joakim Lövgren | 27,80 | |
| 7 COKSTILE | Christoffer Eriksson | 9,94 | |
| 8 LOOKING SUPERB | Jomar Blekkan | 57,05 | |
| 9 SORBET | Per Linderöth | 27,12 | |
| 10 VIVID WISE AS | Björn Goop | 12,74 | |
| 11 ELIAN WEB | Jorma Kontio | 9,18 | |
| 12 ATTRAVERSIAMO | Erik Adielsson | 12,61 | |
| 13 MAKETHEMARK | Ulf Ohlsson | 32,34 | |
| 14 EARL SIMON | Franck Ouvrie | 10,70 | |
| 15 BILLIE DE MONTFORT | Gabriele Gelormini | 34,90 | |
| 16 PROPULSION | Örjan Kihlström | 7,17 | |

CLICK HERE
To Share This Story



GRASSROOTS PERSPECTIVE



with **CHRIS LOMON**

Jay Hochstetler relishing chance to try to fill family's big horseshoes in Indiana

Last week, the third-generation horseman and social media fan moved to Anderson, IN, got married and opened his stable at Hoosier Park.

by Chris Lomon

Jay Hochstetler may have standardbred racing royalty in his DNA, but the hardworking horseman has shown a capacity

for creating his own crowning moments on the racetrack.

His father, Homer Hochstetler, has tallied nearly 1,900 wins as a trainer. His mother, Connie, has been part of the harness racing world for a big part of her life. His late grandfather, Douglas J. Ackerman, is a Hall of Fame horseman.

No doubt, those are big horseshoes to fill.

But the young man who holds the role of assistant trainer for Homer Hochstetler Racing Stable is very much making a name for himself.

It was just over 10 years ago when the Chicago-born Hochstetler was named the 2009 Illinois Amateur Driver of the Year.

It was an impressive honor made even more special considering horse racing wasn't on his radar until a few years before he received the recognition.

He had, however, shown a keen eye for horse talent at a very young age.

Having a front-row seat to watch the great Kadabra remains a fond memory for Hochstetler.



Vicki Wright

Jay Hochstetler picked out Bro at the 2017 Standardbred Horse Sales Company auction in Harrisburg and helped guide him to a successful 2019 campaign.

Bred by Connie Hochstetler, the trotting giant and future Hall of Famer would go on to win 25 of his 36 career starts, accompanied by over \$2.1 million in earnings.

After his 2-year-old campaign, the Hochstetlers made the decision, albeit reluctantly, to sell Kadabra to Peter Heffering, who, along with Irving Storfer's Banjo Farms, Lee and Linda DeVisser's L and L DeVisser LLC, Irving Liverman and David McDuffee, raced under the Abra Kadabra Stable umbrella.

"When he won the (2001) American National – he actually dead-headed – I cried as an 8-year-old because I thought he was never supposed to lose. When we sold him, they came and saw him. It was an \$800,000 sale, and I looked right at them and said, 'You got a bargain.' Years later, I saw them again, and Mr. Heffering said, 'You were right.'"

Although Hochstetler knew top-tier ability when he saw it, horse racing wasn't a top pursuit during his teenage years.

Life on both the baseball diamond and volleyball court was, at one point, his primary focus.

Hochstetler was a standout in both sports, especially volleyball, at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights.

With an unmistakable tinge of self-deprecation in his voice, he recalled the moment he realized overhand serves and digging hard-driven spikes wouldn't make for a prosperous career.

"I played quite a bit of volleyball in college for Kentucky, playing on their club team. There aren't too many spots open for 5-foot-7 guys in professional volleyball leagues, so I had to set my sights on something else."

There was a place where he felt he could stand out.

And he had quite the team to learn the ropes from.

Hochstetler, who started jogging horses for his father about a dozen years ago, contested his first amateur driving race on July 19, 2009 at Balmoral Park.

While he's sat in the sulky sparingly since then, he found his true horse racing calling as an assistant trainer.

"I've been lucky to learn from my dad, who has had plenty of good horses, and from my grandfather as well. I've been able to learn so much from them."

It's why Bro, a now 4-year-old son of Rock N Roll Heaven, is a bona fide source of pride for Hochstetler.

Bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. (New York), the imposing bay, Hip #660, immediately caught his attention at the 2017 Harrisburg Sale.

"When I first went to see him at the sale they had all girls



Courtesy Jay Hochstetler

Last weekend, Hochstetler and Amy Norotsky were married and moved to Anderson, IN.

working for them," said Hochstetler. "And they were petrified of him. When they walked him out, he had everything. He had a really nice presence about him. He's a big, dark horse. He has a lot of muscle tone on him, even as a baby."

Hochstetler had done his homework on Bro, and was eager to buy the pacer.

The only caveat? The price needed to be right.

"I was familiar with the family. His mom (Gro) was a really good open mare for a long time in Illinois and New York. I knew a brother of a dam, so I knew the family, and I knew they were fast. He was the right price (\$22,000 USD) for what I was looking for. I'm very lucky that I have a good partner, Arty Finkelberg, who lets me pick out the babies, and he takes half of them."

Trained by Homer Hochstetler, Bro had a memorable 2019 campaign.

He won the New York Sires Stakes Consolation Final, a two-length score at Vernon Downs in September, and followed it up with a smart score in the Gary Kamal

Memorial Pacing Series Final, a half-length triumph at Saratoga Springs in October.

"I think my proudest came last year. I bought Bro myself and picked him out on my own at the sale. To have him go out and win two stakes races has been amazing. It was affirmation that all the lessons I tried to learn finally paid off.

"He was good right from the start. He was really fast. You could tell he had that quick trigger. He ended up with a bone cyst at two, and it really started to bother him after his second start, so we immediately shut him down. His whole family showed they were at their best when they were four, five and six. He came back at three – knock on wood, he hasn't had any more trouble with that bone cyst – and it's paid off. I think he'll be even better this year. He's grown up so much. He's such a strong horse. I'm hoping that he can follow his family, and keep getting faster as he goes along. It will be great to be part of that journey."

Hochstetler has recently been on a journey of his own.

While there are seemingly endless stories about the

tedium and trying times associated with life during the COVID-19 pandemic, he has a couple of things to celebrate: marriage and a move.

On May 21, he and his fiancée, Amy Norotsky, moved to Anderson, IN.

Three days later, the couple tied the knot.

After years of sojourning throughout New York State, Hochstetler won't have to hitch-up his trailer and fill his gas tank nearly as much as he's been used to.

"We've had Indiana-breds off and on over the years, so we have enough – 12, in total – to have a stable at Hoosier Park. Now that I'm getting married, I want a place that I can call my own, instead of travelling around a lot. We can start a family, and at Hoosier, without the shipping, it will be a nice place to be. My dad and I thought it would be a good direction to go, so we're going to start it up out here.

"I have one horse that I'm really excited about here. It's actually my grandma's horse, General Doug A. He's a really nice horse, and we ended up shutting him down early last year. I think if he stays right, it should be a pretty exciting



PHOTOS BY ANN MARI DALEY 2018

Ann-Mari Daley

Jay Hochstetler in action.

summer for us.”

He’s hopeful it will be a summer of content.

“After racing in the New York Sires Stakes for so long, now, I can walk to the paddock. I can’t tell you how many times I had all the long nights driving home from Yonkers. It takes a toll on the horse and it takes a toll on the person. I really think that’s a great thing about Indiana – I can race and come home and have dinner afterwards. I think that’s an underrated thing in our career, that work-life balance.”

One part of his racing life that he won’t leave behind in the Empire State is his penchant for being a strong presence on social media.

Hochstetler, who has over 1,700 followers on his Twitter page (@JDHarness), isn’t shy about offering up his opinion on racing-related topics.

“Since I’ve been on social media, I realized it’s not as tapped into in our business as it should be. There are people that do a tremendous job with it, but it’s still growing. I think it’s the best way to get your name out to people that don’t know you. I’ve had a lot of luck on social media, and I’ve also put my foot in my mouth a few times. I think everybody does at some point. But, I’ve met owners and people who have bought and sold horses – for our business, I think it’s crucial to have that type of wide-reaching network.”

And for the Indiana-based horseman, it’s equally as important to stay levelheaded in a sport where it’s not easy to be.

It’s a mindset Hochstetler is still looking to master.

“I can be a bit pessimistic. In this industry, there are so many peaks and valleys. When you hit the valleys, it’s hard. I’ve been lucky to have people like my father who is very good not getting too carried away with the highs and the lows. My grandfather was the same way. I’m much better at it, but I think that’s the toughest thing, trying to stay calm and composed, reminding yourself what you are doing is right, and it will take care of itself.”

Just like the day three years ago when he picked out Hip #660 at the Harrisburg sale.

“I’m so lucky to have learned so much about horses from my family. Not a lot of people can say they have that. It makes you feel...”

Like a king?

“Exactly. That’s exactly it.”

CLICK HERE
To Share This Story



Return to betting poised to profit

by Frank CotoLO

This is warning.

During the “harness hiatus” I heard and read how many bettors said they were going through severe withdrawal from having to retreat from all wagering territory.

They needed “action.”

North American harness raceways are now relaunching the 2020 season a few meets at a time. If the COVID-19 curve

continues shrinking, more tracks will present racing programs again, without or with spectators. For the time being, though, the choices for betting are concentrated on just so many tracks, no attendance and remote access only for wagering.

This is good news.

This may also be bad news; harmful news.

You bettors that were impatient and eager for “action” are most likely panting at the thrill of making bets (action), all kinds of bets (action), everywhere bets can be made (action). The bigger the doses of action, the more you will feel your world is normal again. Even with only a few tracks available, much action is offered on each program and you are ready for it; so, like a starving vagrant, you are bound to become a glutton and stuff yourself with bets, as if you could make up for the time and action lost.

Take a breath, because if order comes from chaos, make no mistake about it, this is the chaotic period; order may take some time and to experience order, you will have to call upon your patience, money and the vision to move with caution.

Bettors Banquet (BB) devotes itself to the ways and means of "profit play," which is no foil to the simple and foolish practice of playing for action. BB encourages betting, of course, but not wagering for the sake of wagering (action), which, no matter how good you think you may be at handicapping and betting, your wheels will be spinning if you start wasting your bankroll contents on mere action, when you should be aiming it at long-term profit.

"The long run be damned," you say, "just let me at those Pick 3s and Pick 4s, 5s and 6s, and Hi-Fives and Triples and Superfectas."

Sure, you may hit a few bets here and there. Good for you. But action play cannot be sustained, cannot be trusted, to complement your bankroll with profits when you account for your bets. You do keep a record of the money backing your bets, right? You note your wins and losses and how your bankroll is affected, right? Not if you seek mere action, I guess. That would be strange for an action player, because they would rather bet again and again than keep tabs on profit – or, more than likely, loss.

Action players usually do not even have an official "bankroll" (a specific amount of money set aside to grow through wagering). They bet out of their pockets, rarely keeping tabs on how much is in there. They bet every race and lots of different types of wagers, including multi-race exotics, using every horse that moves on huge tickets. All in all, their wagering behavior is sloppy, at best – and that's how they play even when they are not coming off a betting blackout.

What did they do with all the time between bets? Nothing productive, I am sure, having to do with securing an amount for a bankroll and how they would manage that money for profit.

The recent harness hiatus should not have been a nail-biting case of the "jones," cured only by jumping back into the pools when racing returned and making bets of all kinds. It should have been a period for review and preparation to smartly meet the battles to come against the enemy (other bettors).

A profit-play agenda should include stalking bets that your enemies create by playing too much or too little on particular horses, so you could pounce on a bet offering a high-percentage return and do so from any race at any track where it may be found, selecting those spots, instead of looking at the next race here or there to get some action.

Ask yourself this: Would you have taken a recess from betting had you not been locked out of wagering? Moreover, when you find yourself in a rut filled with horses finishing out of line with your packed horizontal bets or any of the countless other reasons for holding a worthless ticket, do you walk away? Or do you rationalize and play another race, hoping to "make it back" and ease the pain of losing?

If you went for the next-race scenario, I have to let you know that you should never bet pari-mutuel racing to break even. The second option is an excuse to find more action and a road to the poorhouse.

Profit players bet with the goal to win more money than they wager. They do not care about action. In fact, they pass more races than they play. And when losing streaks affect their emotions, they retreat. And after a keeping some distance from the fray, they gather their senses and return with the same goal.

CLICK HERE
To Share This Story



HARNESS RACING UPDATE

About Harness Racing Update

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](#)

Results & Stats Editor: Lisa Duong

Founder: Bill Finley

Contributors: Claus Andersen, Garnet Barnsdale, Tim Bojarski, Jerry Connors, Frank Coto, The Curmudgeon, Paul Delean, Bill Finley, Joe FitzGerald, Dean Gillette, Ron Gurfein, Thomas Hedlund, Bill Heller, Bob Heyden, Dean Hoffman, Victoria Howard, Melissa Keith, Dave Landry, Lauren Lee, Dave Little, Chris Lomon, David Mattia, Trey Nosrac, Tom Pedulla, Andrea Pietrzak, James Platz, Bob Roberts, Sandra Snyder, Brett Sturman, Jay Wolf

Get in touch with HRU

PO Box 230 | Millwood, NY | 10546 | Telephone: (226) 374-9999

Editor/News Stories: editor@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising: advertising@harnessracingupdate.com

Customer Service: customerservice@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising info & rates:

If you are interested in advertising with us [please contact Wilma](#)



HRU FOAL OF THE WEEK

Foal of the Week

Jim Avritt

This Captaintreacherous colt out of Hall of Fame broodmare Precious Beauty was foaled on May 19 at Jim Avritt's farm in Kentucky. Precious Beauty — already the dam of Sportswriter (\$1,566,460) Prescient Beauty (\$464,250) and 2019 Pacing Broodmare of the Year Precocious Beauty (\$838,004) — also has a 2-year-old Somebeachsomewhere colt named Beachhead in the Casie Coleman Stable and a yearling Somebeachsomewhere colt named American Frontier in the 2020 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

Precious Beauty — also the graddam of Beautyonthebeach (\$540,428) and Tall Dark Stranger (\$717,514) (both out of Precocious Beauty) — is now being bred to Sweet Lou. Precious Beauty, a 100 per cent producer whose progeny has won more than \$3.3 million, is due to be inducted into the Living Broodmare Hall of Fame this year. She is a daughter of Jate Lobell out of Dominique Semalu.

CLICK HERE
To Share This Story





Program pages for Gaitway qualifiers

Gaitway Farm in New Jersey will play host to 24 qualifying races today.

[Program pages for the qualifiers are available here.](#)

Horsepeople required to take COVID-19 test before racing at the Meadowlands

The state of New Jersey protocol requires all employees and horsemen to complete a **mandatory** COVID-19 test before returning to work.

Begin by clicking on the link provided below, which will lead to a tele-visit with a doctor where you will receive a date, time and location to be tested.

Be advised that there is a 4-5 day lead time between making the appointment and getting your result.

All horsepeople are required to have this test prior to racing at The Meadowlands on June 5.

The Meadowlands Racetrack has set up COVID-19 testing for all employees returning to work.

Testing will also be provided for all New Jersey Racing Commission licensed horsepeople and state officials.

Dates of Testing: open every day

Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Place: After tele-visit, you will receive an email and SMS with the date, time, and location of testing.

Procedures are as follows:

- **Pre-registration** required for COVID-19 Screening:

<https://nmr.agileurgentcare.com/s/>

- Registration includes:

- Name as it appears on your photo ID

- Date of birth

- Address

- Copy of your State ID (driver's license preferable); If you do not have a driver's license, your state-issued NJRC license should suffice/

- Copy of your insurance card

- Employees will NOT BE RESPONSIBLE for any out-of-pocket costs. All expenses for COVID-19 testing are covered by insurance. If you do not have insurance, these expenses will be covered by the State.

- Appointment is for virtual telehealth visit with provider for initial screening. Once screening is complete, you will receive a date, time, and location for testing via SMS and email.

On-site drive thru test site instructions:

- Please follow signs to Covid/Agile testing and line up as instructed

- Stay in your car

- Only employee/horseperson allowed

- Two person max per vehicle

- Keep your windows rolled up until you are asked by the technician to roll them down

- Have your photo ID and insurance card readily available

- **ID is mandatory**

- Follow technician instructions

- Once test is complete, roll up your window and leave the testing area

- Test results will be provided to you as well as our medical department

— ***State of New Jersey***

Qualifiers Saturday at Big M, live racing scheduled for June 5

With COVID-19 having cost the Meadowlands 12 weeks of racing – a total of 24 racing days – there is no doubt Saturday (May 30) morning's qualifiers will be received in a big way. They will serve to remind us all that racing is coming back. They will serve as a step back to normalcy.

"COVID-19 has had such an incredibly horrific impact on so many people, and that includes all of us in the harness racing business," said Meadowlands chief operating officer and general manager Jason Settlemyre. "Many of us have lost friends and loved ones while so many horsemen have had to scrape by during the last three months as they continued to

feed and care for their horses, not knowing when they would be able to get back to work and make some money to care for their families. We cannot change the bad things that COVID-19 has already done to us as an industry and a society, but we must move forward, because now that we are able, it's time to get back to work."

The first of what figures to be many Saturday qualifiers at the Big M will kick off at 10 a.m. For those interested, the entry box for the qualifiers closes at 10 a.m. Friday morning. Moving forward, any qualifiers after Saturday will take place only with regulatory approval.

Pari-mutuel racing at the Meadowlands is scheduled to resume on Friday, June 5 at 7:15 p.m., and once it does, live action will take place every Friday and Saturday throughout June and July with a first-race post time of 7:15 p.m. At this time, the dates are pending regulatory approval. Of course, given what is now known as the "new normal," there will be no fans allowed inside the Big M for the foreseeable future.

"Because of safety concerns, we will not be able to have our fans come to the track to see the races," said Settlemoir. "But we look forward to our faithful betting the races on their favorite app or online platform. As always, we are happy that our races will be shown nightly on TVG across the country. For those who might not have access to TVG, the Roberts Television Network (RTN) also carries our races live.

"COVID-19 was – hopefully – a once-in-a-lifetime event. All of us at the Meadowlands are thinking about everyone affected by the loss of life during the course of the pandemic, and want everyone to know that we will conduct our business at the Meadowlands in the safest way possible for our employees and horsemen, so that we can adjust to the new normal, and then, ultimately, one day, return to life as we knew it."

— *Meadowlands media relations*

MacIntosh students shine in Qs at Mohawk Park

The first of several upcoming qualifying sessions at Woodbine Mohawk Park took place Thursday, as a total of 11-races were contested.

All of Thursday's action saw male pacers primarily in the spotlight with trainer Blake MacIntosh's students grabbing most of the glory.

MacIntosh sent out four sophomore winners during the session, with two of his winners eligible to the Pepsi North America Cup.

On the heels of a standout rookie campaign, **Groovy Joe** delivered a strong 2020 debut with a 1:53 victory in the seventh qualifier for the duo of MacIntosh and driver James MacDonald. The son of Roll With Joe circled to the lead heading to the half and proceeded to finish off his mile with a :26.2 final-quarter (:54.4 back-half) to win.

Groovy Joe had a tremendous rookie season, racing primarily in the New York Sires Stakes program. The MacIntosh student won seven of 10 starts and never finished outside the top-two. His final start of the season was a runner-up finish in the NYSS Championship to complete his campaign with \$230,845 earned. He is eligible to the Pepsi North America Cup.

The other 'Cup' eligible of MacIntosh's to win was **Beach Blanket Book**, who successfully converted off a two-hole trip from driver Doug McNair to win in 1:52.3. The son of Sportswriter was charted with a :26 final-quarter.

Beach Blanket Book won two of 12 starts as a rookie, including a leg of the Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold division. He also won an elimination of the Battle of Waterloo and competed in the final of the \$750,000 Metro Pace, earning \$116,028 on the season.

MacIntosh's quickest win of the morning came from 3-year-old colt **A Positive Hanover**, who stopped the clock in 1:51.4. The son of Captaintreacherous and reinsman MacDonald were coast-to-coast winners, posting a :54.3 back-half and :27.1 final-quarter.

A Positive Hanover went two-for-eight last season, testing the Grand Circuit waters at the end of the year, which included finishing third in a division of the Bluegrass at The Red Mile. He made \$25,334.

Not to be left out, Bettors Delight colt **Sixfingerfreddie** won the first qualifier of the day for McNair and MacIntosh. The sophomore colt won convincingly by over seven-lengths in 1:56.2 (final-quarter :27.3). The season debut is a strong start following a winless rookie campaign, in which he earned \$16,714 in 11 starts.

Here is a breakdown of the other winners on Thursday morning:

Q2: Day Delight (1:55)... 3-year-old son of Bettors Delight was a coast-to-coast winner for driver Trevor Henry and trainer Victor Puddy, just holding off a late-push by Rob Fellows trainee Lous Delight.

Q3: Unique Beach (1:55.4)... 3-year-old son of Somebeachsomewhere brushed to the lead in the second-quarter and left his rivals behind to win confidently for driver Chris Christoforou and trainer Tony O'Sullivan.

Q4: **Better Take It** (1:54.4)... the best finish of the morning saw Bob McIntosh trained 3-year-old Better Take move to the outside from sixth at the half, grind up on the far turn and dig in down the lane for driver Henry to muscle by multiple rivals. Matt Dupuis trainee Poseidon Seelster just missed pulling off the wire-to-wire score, finishing second by a neck. The top-five were separated by just under two-lengths.

Q5: **Captivate Hanover** (1:54.3)... the Shawn Steacy trained 3-year-old posted a strong :26.3 final-quarter to come from third at the head of the lane for a narrow victory over McIntosh trainee Sundown Kid. MacDonald guided the winner.

Q9: **Beaumont Hanover** (1:54.1)... last year's Harvest Series winner delivered a strong 3-year-old debut by going coast-to-coast on top for a two-length score over OSS Gold winner Aneto. Jack Darling trains Beaumont Hanover, who was four-for-five as a rookie. He delivered an easy-looking :26.2 final-quarter for driver Jody Jamieson.

Q10: **Muscle Mach A** (1:51.4)... the new Carmen Auciello student and driver Jonathan Drury posted a 10-length score in his North American debut. The 7-year-old gelding last raced in mid-February in Australia.

Q11: **Uptown Funk** (1:52.4)... another Auciello trainee to post a 10-length score. The 5-year-old gelding and Drury took off on rivals early, opening up a 20-length lead and pacing :26.4 third-quarter before coming home in :30.

Qualifiers continue this morning (May 29) at Woodbine Mohawk Park with 3-year-old pacing fillies and older pacing mares in taking over. Post time is 9:30 a.m. The qualifiers can be streamed live on

www.Woodbine.com/Mohawk/WMP-Qualifiers/.

—Mark McKelvie / Woodbine communications

Woodbine releases new dates for standardbred stakes

Woodbine Entertainment has announced new dates for several standardbred stakes to be held this season at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The stakes rescheduling only impacts events that were originally slated for May or June. All other races remain the same on the 2020 stakes calendar.

As previously announced, the **\$1 million Pepsi North America Cup** for 3-year-old pacers has been rescheduled to **Saturday, Aug. 29**.

The **Fan Hanover** (3-Year-Old Filly Pace), **Roses Are Red**

(Mare Pace) and **Armbro Flight** (Mare Trot) have all been rescheduled to join the Pepsi North America Cup on **Aug. 29**.

Eliminations (if necessary) for all four events will take place on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The **Goodtimes** for 3-year-old trotting colts has been rescheduled to **Saturday, Sept. 5**. Eliminations (if necessary) will be held on Friday, Aug. 28.

The **Somebeachsomewhere** for 3-year-old pacers has been rescheduled for **Saturday, Sept. 12**.

The final event to be rescheduled is the **SBOA Stakes** for Ontario-sired 3-year-old fillies. The SBOA will now take place on **Saturday, Nov. 14** with eliminations (if necessary) scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7.

Woodbine Mohawk Park will no longer play host to a leg of The Meadowlands administrated Miss Versatility Series (originally scheduled May 29) or Graduate Series (originally scheduled June 6) in 2020.

The Meadowlands has confirmed with Woodbine their intentions to reschedule the Mohawk Park leg of the Miss Versatility for later this season at the New Jersey track, while the Graduate Series leg has been cancelled due to scheduling constraints.

Live racing, without spectators, is scheduled to resume on Friday, June 5 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

—Mark McKelvie / Woodbine communications

Woodbine Mohawk Park releases protocols for racing operations

Woodbine Entertainment has released its phase one protocols applicable for all racing operations at Woodbine Mohawk Park, including race nights, qualifiers and training.

All racing participants and staff are required to familiarize with and practice the protocols.

All live racing, qualifiers and training will be held without spectators.

Woodbine Mohawk Park – protocols, applicable to all operations, including race nights, qualifiers and training mornings:

We are working hard to keep our racing participants safe and healthy. Please help us all keep racing operations going safely by following the protocols set out in this document. Every essential staff person and racing participant must follow the safest practices on-site and off-site: please try to limit exposure outside of the racetrack, stay 6 feet/2m away from others, wear

a mask outside the home, if possible, do not touch your face, and wash hands/sanitize frequently.

The health of our horsepeople is of paramount importance, but the group that poses the greatest risk to continue racing are the drivers and the start car driver and starter. Please handle these groups with great care and respect and encourage others to do so, too. Always wear your mask, keep your hands sanitized, and wear gloves when coming into contact with frequently touched areas such as water taps, crossties and stall door latches.

As per Government guidelines the Woodbine Mohawk Park site will be closed to all spectators. Owners and media are not permitted at this time. Only essential personnel will be granted access.

General rules of paddock operation:

The Paddock shall be disinfected after each racing, qualifying and training day. Sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the paddock. Entry into the paddock shall be limited to essential personnel only. Non-essential personnel will not be granted access to the site.

Every person entering the paddock shall undergo screening and temperature checks at the security check point. This will be the only point of entry for all Woodbine staff, regulatory officials and racing participants.

All communications should be carried out electronically where possible to limit in person contact.

There shall be no loitering in or around the entrance to the paddock, as all COVID-19 protocols on physical distancing shall be adhered to.

The paddock kitchen shall remain closed. All essential personnel must bring their own food and non-alcoholic beverages until further notice. There will be no microwave in the paddock. Racing participants are encouraged to bring their own supply of drinking water during the extreme warm temperatures.

Masks (or face covering nose and mouth) are mandatory at all times for racing participants. It is strongly recommended racing participants also wear gloves when coming into contact with frequently touched areas such as water taps, cross ties and door latches.

Essential paddock personnel includes:

- Paddock judge, horse identifier, saddle pad attendant, parking lot attendant, outrider, two starting car persons, security, blacksmith, veterinarians, TC02 tech, test barn techs, property services laborer, trainers, grooms, drivers, judges, official racetrack photographer.

- Owners are not permitted at this time as per provincial guidelines for sports without spectators.
- Only trainers with an entry will be permitted, unless entering a claim that night.
- No one under the age of 16 shall be permitted onsite until further notice.
- Only the paddock judge and equipment inspector will have access to the paddock office.
- The grandstand will remain closed, other than the race office and bookkeeper.
- There are NO food or beverage operations in the grandstand until further notice.
- Grandstand washrooms are closed. Paddock facilities will be cleaned as per protocols.

Hand cleaning and sanitization stations have been added to all key areas.

Race night operations:

Post times to be communicated from race office. Races will be spaced at 25-minute intervals. All horses must report to the paddock as per their one-hour retention time.

Physical distancing:

Racing participants are instructed to get in and get out quickly and efficiently.

Horses in the old portion of the paddock shall be placed in every other stall to ensure physical distancing is being practiced. Horses racing out of the new paddock expansion shall be placed in stalls side by side, as these stalls are much wider, and the wall between stalls raises over 8ft high. Handlers of all horses must ensure they are keeping the appropriate distance from the handler of the horse beside them and wear a face mask and gloves at all times.

Horses shall only be allowed to go one warm up trip. Trainers wishing to go two warm trips must go the first warm-up at home/training center. There shall be no extra warm up people in the paddock. Trainers must warm up their own horses. Each horse racing shall have a maximum of one handler. Trainers racing multiple horses must have grooms taking care of multiple horses. All horses and their handlers must leave the paddock half an hour following their race, unless the handler is tending to horses in a later race. Horses who have been post-race tested may leave the paddock 45 minutes following their race.

The drivers locker room, lounge and showers shall remain closed at this time.

Drivers are to wear face masks and gloves at all times, except when driving during the race. While waiting between races, drivers should maintain physical distancing protocols.

Upon the driver's last race of the day, he/she should leave the paddock immediately after notifying the paddock judge.

Lasix and CPMA test barn procedures:

Lasix shall be administered in the two stalls at the southwest corner of the old paddock. These stalls will be fenced off, so that non-lasix horses do not have access to these stalls. Trainers shall unload their horses at the southwest door, and their horse will be administered its Lasix. Once it receives its Lasix the horse shall be taken back to Barn 8. There shall be no loitering in or at the entrance of Barn 8. All Handlers must either be outside in an open area practicing physical distancing or waiting in their vehicle until it is time for their horse to report to the Paddock.

Post-race testing: Following each race, two horses shall be tested. Blood shall be drawn on all test horses after 30 minutes if the horse is unable to provide a urine sample. A Woodbine security guard shall be stationed outside of the test area to ensure all horses and their handlers are entering and exiting the test area in an appropriate fashion. The security guard will also supply anyone entering the test barn a new mask and gloves.

- Physical distancing to be practiced at all times, when entering the test barn with a horse. Attend the opposite side of the horse, from the technician.
- Remain vigilant and respectful of the Racing Forensic Technicians at all times.
- Hands sanitized on the way in and way out.
- Masks and gloves mandatory

Start car:

- All start car drivers, and the starter will wear medical masks at all times.
- The start car shall be sanitized and cleaned daily.

Racing offices and bookkeeper racing finance:

Race office staff must ensure physical distancing is practiced. An extreme push shall be made to have trainers make their entries online. No more than one person shall be at the counter at one time. All others must wait outside of office doors with appropriate distance between each person. There shall be plexi-glass or plastic sheet between employees and horsepeople at counter.

The bookkeepers office shall only have one person in addition to the bookkeeper at any time. All others must wait outside office doors with appropriate distance between each person. There shall be a plexi-glass window around desk.

The bookkeeper will only be open for business during LIVE racing hours.

The protocols above apply to all qualifying races.

Training Mornings – Wednesday and Saturdays 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Training slots will be limited to 50 horses per two-hour block.
- Trainers must sign-up in advance online using the online sign-up tool on a first come first serve basis. Contact Dylan Allain, assistant race secretary with any questions dallain@woodbine.com.
- **All protocols listed in the document are in effect for morning training hours.**

—Mark McKelvie / Woodbine communications

2020 Buckeye Stallion Series schedule revised

With the resumption of racing in Ohio, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is releasing the revised schedule for the Buckeye Stallion Series.

The first leg of the 3-year-old colt trot series which was scheduled for May 2 at Miami Valley Gaming and Raceway has been rescheduled for Monday June 15 at MGM Northfield Park. Leg two has been rescheduled for June 30 at Eldorado Scioto Downs and the third leg will be July 14 at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

The 3-year-old filly pace series has been rescheduled for Tuesday June 16 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. The series was originally scheduled for April 30 at Miami Valley Gaming and Raceway. The second leg has been rescheduled for July 6 at MGM Northfield Park.

The 3-year-old colt pace series has also been rescheduled for Tuesday June 16 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. The series was originally scheduled for May 2 at Miami Valley Gaming and Raceway. The second leg has been rescheduled for July 8 at Eldorado Scioto Downs with leg three July 20 at MGM Northfield Park.

The 3-year-old filly trot, originally scheduled for April 30 at Miami Valley Gaming and Raceway has been rescheduled for Saturday June 20 at MGM Northfield Park. The second leg has been rescheduled for July 1 at Eldorado Scioto Downs with leg three July 14 also at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

The schedule for legs four and five remains the same.

The OHHA would like to thank Dave Bianconi, the executive vice-president of racing and simulcasting at MGM Northfield Park and Eldorado Scioto Downs racing secretary Jason Roth for their assistance in rescheduling these races.

For additional information about the 2020 Buckeye Stallion Series and a revised schedule please visit the OHHA website at www.ohha.com/nominations.

—Frank Fraas / OHHA

Update on Ontario Purse Funding Re-Allocation

Ontario Racing understands that these are difficult times and have done our best to ensure funding for the Purse Funding Re-Allocation program was distributed as quickly as possible while still meeting the requirements of the application process.

We are happy to announce that the remainder of the April checks have been sent out and those still waiting for payment should receive a cheque by the end of this week.

- We will begin to compile the May payments to be sent out the first week of June.
- A list of eligible horses will be published on the Ontario Racing website shortly.

Any questions regarding the eligibility of horses in the Purse Re-Allocation Funding Program should be directed to the relevant horseperson's association. Verification of all horses on the submitted applications was done exclusively by HBPA, COSA, and QROOI so questions regarding criteria should be directed to your applicable association.

In addition, please note the following:

- The COVID-19 Racetrack Protocol Minimum Standards have been posted on the website [here](#).
- The updated AGCO Race Date Calendar can be found [here](#).
- The Standardbred Qualifying Schedule can be found [here](#).

—Ontario Racing

Haughan aspires to sweep tournament as Barncat Trivia concludes tonight

Tonight (May 29) marks the fourth and final edition of Barncat Trivia, and Anthony Haughan is hunting for a clean sweep of the tournament.

Since its launch on May 8, more than 500 players have competed against fellow harness racing enthusiasts in these live virtual contests where 60 all-original multiple-choice questions are presented over three games (rounds). The contest is free to play.

An online show corresponds with each trivia event featuring a game host and special guests.

Haughan joins this week's half-time show after trivia game one (approx. 7:20 p.m. EST).

The Cambridge, ON trainer/driver has won all three legs of Barncat Trivia and comes into the finale with 13,239 points.

(Runners-up Justin Fisher and Nick Salvi have 12,275 points and 12,247 points, respectively.)

Haughan and partner Meg Crone operate an 11-horse barn at Classy Lane Stables in Puslinch, ON. He joins the show after trivia game #1 to chat about his boundless appetite for racing and how Irish winters in the '80s stocked his memory bank with harness racing history and factoids.

Friday's game and live show begin at 7:00 p.m. EST and can be accessed at www.barncattrivia.com.

This week's trivia categories are: Epic Rivalries, Winning Colors, Breeders Crown, Big Time Owners, Yowzas Yearlings, and Odds & Ends.

Although the current tournament concludes tonight, new players can still join this week's game. This week's top scorer wins \$25.99 in game play for the mobile apps Catch Driver or Off And Pacing. The top overall scorer of the tournament wins a \$100 gift card for the vendor of their choice.

The tournament is made possible with the generous support of sponsors, including: • Catch Driver • Clinton Raceway • Central Ontario Standardbred Association • Grand River Raceway • Hambletonian Society • Hanover Raceway • MadBarn • Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment • Off And Pacing • Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association • Tara Hills Stud • TheStable.ca • TROT Magazine • Woodbine Mohawk Park

—True Nature Communications

Ohio Fantasy Racing League returns for 2020

Harness racing is back in Ohio and that means the 2020 Ohio Fantasy Racing League is back for its fourth season.

Owners will create a fantasy stable which will consist of six horses, two must be 2-year-old Ohio-sired. The other four can be of any ages but must be chosen from pre-determined rosters of horses.

Entry forms and lists of eligible horses are available on the OHHA website.

First prize is: \$2,500 cash prize and a one share in a fractional ownership stable that is registered with the USTA for 2021. Second place is \$1,000 cash prize, third place \$750 cash prize, fourth place \$500 cash prize and fifth place \$250 cash prize. Additional prizes will be awarded. See contest rules for details.

The contest is open to anyone that has not owned a standardbred that has raced in the past two years. Fractional

ownership of less than 5 per cent does not count as ownership for this contest.

The winning stable will be determined by total stable earnings between June 12, 2020 and Breeders Crown Day – Oct. 31, 2020. See official contest rules for tie breaking procedures.

Stable owners are encouraged to use a virtual stable to inform them when their horses will be racing.

Standings will be updated on the OHHA website and via social media outlets.

The OHHA would like to encourage current industry people to tell their friends about the contest. For every person that a current horseman refers, the person referring will get one entry into a drawing to win two tickets to the 2020 Little Brown Jug Hospitality Tent. The more unique people referred, the more entries they receive. A drawing will be held after all entries have been received.

For more information: Frank Fraas: ffraas@ohha.com.

—Frank Fraas / OHHA

Camluck Classic Tribute show Sunday on COSA TV

The return of horses behind the starting gate will bring renewed excitement to the Ontario racing industry this weekend. But, it will also be bittersweet as this was to be the weekend of the Camluck Classic, presented by Seelster Farms – the annual Closing Night event at The Raceway at Western

Fair District.

The event has been cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, however COSA TV will pay tribute the longstanding event during its Facebook Live broadcast this Sunday night.

Hosts Greg Blanchard, Greg Gangle and Shannon 'Sugar' Doyle, will re-live some of the greatest editions of the race which was formerly called the Labatt Pace and then Molson Pace before being renamed the Camluck Classic in 2018.

The race was renamed in honor of the late, great Camluck who became the most prolific pacing stallion in Canadian history during his time at Lucan, ON's Seelster Farms. He will be remembered in a special feature during the broadcast.

Sunday's show will also feature a pair of simulated 'virtual' Camluck Classic races put together by Ryan Clements' Farmgames.com – one comprised of past champions and the other made up of possible starters from this year's crop. There will also be trivia during the show with commemorative Camluck Classic baseball caps to be given away as prize.

To tune into the broadcast, visit the COSA TV and Raceway at Western Fair District Facebook pages or watch through the Standardbred Canada website.

—Greg Blanchard for COSA TV





Have a great photo you would like to share?
editor@harnessracingupdate.com



HRU EDITIONS FROM THE PAST

Previous HRU editions are available any time for FREE on the HRU website

www.harnessracingupdate.com/archives

HOME SUBSCRIBE PAST EDITIONS ADVERTISING ABOUT US

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |