



**Sunday, May 31, 2020**

# Vernon Downs opening in limbo as Gural and Faraldo scrap again

*The latest in the long-running feud involves a disagreement about whether purses for stakes at Vernon should be cut the same percentage as overnights.*

by Dave Briggs

## New York



The re-opening of Vernon Downs in Vernon, NY is in limbo after the lawyer representing the track's horseperson's association advised them not to agree to a deal to return to racing unless the track cut purses for stakes races by the same 20 per cent it was cutting overnight purses.

Vernon Downs owner Jeff Gural had offered to personally fund any purse shortfalls and start the live meet on June 10 – well ahead of the opening of the Vernon casino which is key in funding purses.



**Vernon Downs owner Jeff Gural said he believes the vast majority of horsepeople at Vernon agree with him that getting open as soon as possible is much more important than quibbling about whether purses for a couple of stakes races should be cut, too.**

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“The sticking point is that everybody is taking a haircut in this business,” said Joe Faraldo, the lawyer for the Harness Horse Association of Central New York (HHACNY), referring to cuts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. “The Sires Stakes people are going to take a haircut in New York. The horsemen have certainly taken a lot of abuse and a haircut... We don’t have the opportunity to furlough (horse)people like management does. We don’t have the opportunity, for the most part, to get PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) money from the Cares Act, so (horsepeople have) suffered.”

Faraldo said he suggested to Gural that the horsepeople, “would be willing to take a cut of 20 per cent in our overnight purses... if the stakes program (were cut) proportionate to what the overnights suffered.”

Gural said he, “don’t necessarily disagree with” Faraldo that stakes races should see a commensurate cut as overnight purses, IF they were starting from scratch funding an overnight and stakes program. But that’s not the case at Vernon, Gural said.

“We only have two stakes there – the Empires Breeders Classic, where the conditions are that we put up \$100,000 and the Sires Stakes put up \$100,000 – and the Zweig, which is sponsored by the New York State breeders that put up \$150,000.

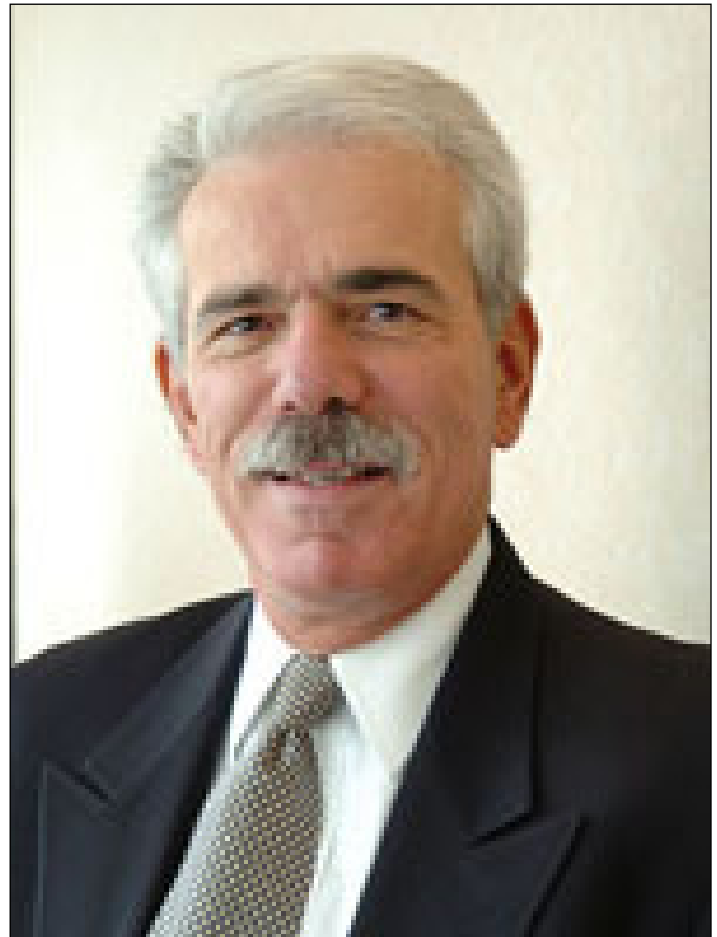
“Under my contract, if the \$250,000 we’re putting up exceeds 10 per cent of the total purses, then I have to make up the difference. So I’m probably going to lose around \$100,000 racing for the month and Joe wants me to put up another \$30,000 to maintain the purses for the Zweig and the Empire Breeders Classic.

“Enough is enough, how much do you want to lose? We’re talking about probably the differences of, maybe, \$50 (per overnight) race in purses.

“I think it’s just as important to maintain the Empire Breeders Classic and the Zweig. It’s meaningless what he’s arguing about, it’s a rounding error.”

Faraldo said he didn’t think the request would be a problem because Vernon is contractually obligated to devote 90 per cent of purse money to overnights and 10 per cent to stakes. Thus, if overnight purses are being cut by 20 per cent, stakes would need to be cut by 20 per cent to maintain the 90/10 ratio. Instead, he said Gural responded by saying he wasn’t going to open the track.

“It’s negotiation a la Jeff: threaten the horsemen, turn them against the association, turn them against the president of the association, who basically calls the shots. I’m just the attorney,” Faraldo said. “All he has to do is come up with



**Joe Faraldo, the lawyer representing the Harness Horse Association of Central New York, said he suggested to Gural that the horsepeople, “would be willing to take a cut of 20 per cent in our overnight purses... if the stakes program (were cut) proportionate to what the overnights suffered.”**

some other proposal. There were a number of things that he could suggest, but he’s taking the position that he wants to bring the fight to the people... undermine the negotiations that are going on by going directly to the people and turning them against their leadership.”

Gural said he doesn’t have a guess when Vernon will re-open.

“I have no idea. It’s not going to open. I would think that the horsemen up there are not going to be too happy. We have a lot of people training 2-year-olds, so if you have a 2-year-old that’s ready to baby race, the delay could be catastrophic. Joe’s hurting a lot of people and helping me... For me, it saves me a lot of money,” Gural said.

Faraldo warned that Vernon Downs’s management, “will have to abide by the existing contract if they want to avoid penalties for deciding not to open on or about the first week in June. The force majeure argument ends June 1 and recognizing that, concessions were made. The fact it will cost management money is the same cost for horsemen who

have suffered also.”

Gural said he believes the vast majority of horsepeople at Vernon agree with him that getting Vernon open as soon as possible and money flowing to horsepeople – some of whom are in dire straits – is much more important than quibbling about whether purses for a couple of stakes races should be cut, too.

“I think if the horsemen at Vernon could vote on it, I would say that you’d have probably 10 people that would vote with Faraldo and everybody else would vote against what he’s proposing, but those 10 people are the board of the horsemen’s association,” Gural said, adding he doesn’t have a beef with the horsepeople, at large, at Vernon.

“The horsemen in Vernon are fine, it’s the horsemen’s association (that’s the problem) and they don’t represent the horsemen, but under the rules that the state has, it’s almost impossible for the horsemen there to get rid of the association, so they are stuck with an association that doesn’t represent them,” Gural said.

Faraldo said he’s “a pretty easy target for a lot of people, but, in this case, I’m an attorney representing a client and I’m doing my job. I just don’t like trading off the overnight people for stakes people.

“Everybody is taking a haircut here. We thought that was fair and we thought that was reasonable under the circumstances. Now, the conditions of the race say the purse is guaranteed and generally you can’t do anything, but in these two stakes, the Empire Breeders Classic and the Zweig, it says, if the conditions require it, that the purses can be lowered. It’s not guaranteed. So we said, ‘Don’t give us the argument that it’s guaranteed’ because you can do something. All we are asking to do is to do something that’s fair.”

Gural and Faraldo, the president of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York, have long disagreed publicly on a number of major issues pertaining to the sport. Both believe the fractured relationship has become personal.

In the Vernon case, Faraldo accused Gural of wanting to maintain stakes purse levels because, “Jeff can’t race horses in overnight events in New York state, but he can race in stakes and New York Sire Stakes. And that’s fine. I suspect, without knowing, that he’s probably got a horse in one of these (Vernon stakes),” Faraldo said.

Gural pointed specifically at recent FBI indictments in the alleged horse doping scandal and said he thinks the indictments riled Faraldo. Gural, who has long preached the need for enhanced integrity, said he helped the FBI in those

indictments.

“I don’t think Joe was happy that I caught all of these drug guys,” Gural said. “His trainer was caught, Richard Banca. The top two trainers at Yonkers were ousted and that’s certainly a black eye for Joe’s association, so I’m sure that probably had a lot to do with it,” Gural said.

“I’ve had enough, I don’t need it. I’m doing the best I can to get three racetracks open and they are all going to cost me money to race. The people at Tioga are very appreciative. The people at the Meadowlands are very appreciative. The horsemen at Vernon are very appreciative and Joe Faraldo isn’t, basically.”

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## HARNES RACING UPDATE

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## 2020 Ontario Sires Stakes Schedule

As at May 22, 2020

DATE	TRACK	EVENT	#
<b>2-Year-Old Pace</b>			
<b>Gold</b>			
Friday, Jul 03, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	1
Saturday, Jul 18, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	2
Friday, Aug 21, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	3
Saturday, Sep 05, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	4
Sunday, Oct 04, 2020	Flamboro Downs	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Monday, Jul 06, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	1
Monday, Jul 20, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	2
Saturday, Aug 22, 2020	Hiawatha Horse Park	Grassroots	3
Tuesday, Sep 08, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	4
Thursday, Sep 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	5
Thursday, Oct 01, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	
<b>2-Year-Old Colt Trot</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Thursday, Jul 09, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	1
Thursday, Jul 30, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	2
Thursday, Aug 20, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	3
Saturday, Sep 19, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	4
Wednesday, Oct 07, 2020	Flamboro Downs	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Saturday, Jul 11, 2020	Georgian Downs	Grassroots	1
Saturday, Jul 25, 2020	Hiawatha Horse Park	Grassroots	2
Monday, Aug 03, 2020	Dresden Raceway	Grassroots	3
Tuesday, Aug 25, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	4
Monday, Sep 14, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	5
Thursday, Oct 01, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	



## 2020 Ontario Sires Stakes Schedule

As at May 22, 2020

DATE	TRACK	EVENT	#
<b>2-Year-Old Filly Pace</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Tuesday, Jul 07, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	1
Sunday, Jul 19, 2020	Georgian Downs	Gold Leg	2
Tuesday, Aug 18, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	3
Friday, Sep 04, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Gold Leg	4
Monday, Oct 05, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Friday, Jul 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	1
Friday, Jul 17, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Grassroots	2
Friday, Aug 14, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	3
Sunday, Sep 06, 2020	Clinton Raceway	Grassroots	4
Tuesday, Sep 15, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	5
Thursday, Oct 01, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	
<b>2-Year-Old Filly Trot</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Sunday, Jul 12, 2020	Georgian Downs	Gold Leg	1
Friday, Jul 31, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	2
Wednesday, Aug 19, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Gold Leg	3
Monday, Sep 21, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	4
Tuesday, Oct 06, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Monday, Jul 13, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	1
Wednesday, Jul 29, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Grassroots	2
Monday, Aug 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	3
Saturday, Aug 29, 2020	Hanover Raceway	Grassroots	4
Thursday, Sep 17, 2020	Flamboro Downs	Grassroots	5
Thursday, Oct 01, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	



## 2020 Ontario Sires Stakes Schedule

As at May 22, 2020

DATE	TRACK	EVENT	#
<b>3-Year-Old Colt Pace</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Saturday, Jul 04, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	1
Saturday, Jul 25, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	2
Sunday, Aug 16, 2020	Rideau Carleton Raceway	Gold Leg	3
Friday, Sep 18, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	4
Friday, Oct 09, 2020	The Raceway At Western Fair	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Saturday, Jun 27, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	1
Friday, Jul 24, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	2
Sunday, Aug 16, 2020	Rideau Carleton Raceway	Grassroots	3
Monday, Sep 07, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	4
Sunday, Sep 20, 2020	Flamboro Downs	Grassroots	5
Friday, Oct 02, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	
<b>3-Year-Old Colt Trot</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Sunday, Jun 28, 2020	Georgian Downs	Gold Leg	1
Tuesday, Jul 21, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	2
Wednesday, Aug 19, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Gold Leg	3
Monday, Sep 28, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	4
Thursday, Oct 08, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Wednesday, Jul 01, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Grassroots	1
Thursday, Jul 16, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	2
Saturday, Aug 15, 2020	Kawartha Downs	Grassroots	3
Thursday, Sep 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	4
Tuesday, Sep 22, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	5
Friday, Oct 02, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	



## 2020 Ontario Sires Stakes Schedule

As at May 22, 2020

DATE	TRACK	EVENT	#
<b>3-Year-Old Filly Pace</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Monday, Jun 29, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	1
Friday, Jul 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	2
Monday, Aug 03, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Gold Leg	3
Saturday, Sep 05, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	4
Tuesday, Sep 29, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Friday, Jun 26, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	1
Tuesday, Jul 14, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	2
Monday, Aug 03, 2020	Grand River Raceway	Grassroots	3
Monday, Aug 24, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	4
Saturday, Sep 05, 2020	Hanover Raceway	Grassroots	5
Friday, Oct 02, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	
<b>3-Year-Old Filly Trot</b>			
<b>Gold Series</b>			
Thursday, Jul 02, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	1
Sunday, Jul 26, 2020	Rideau Carleton Raceway	Gold Leg	2
Thursday, Aug 13, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	3
Sunday, Sep 27, 2020	Flamboro Downs	Gold Leg	4
Tuesday, Oct 06, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Leg	5
Saturday, Oct 17, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Gold Super Final	
<b>Grassroots Series</b>			
Sunday, Jul 05, 2020	Clinton Raceway	Grassroots	1
Sunday, Jul 26, 2020	Rideau Carleton Raceway	Grassroots	2
Sunday, Aug 16, 2020	Georgian Downs	Grassroots	3
Tuesday, Sep 01, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	4
Monday, Sep 21, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots	5
Friday, Oct 02, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Semi-Finals	
Saturday, Oct 10, 2020	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Grassroots Final	



## Elitloppet Day is here – let’s take a look at the field

by Thomas Hedlund

Elitloppet day is here and the big question is: who will win the prestigious mile race during the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced the race to go ahead without spectators?

Harness Racing Update can’t give the correct answer hours ahead of the races at Solvalla, but a short presentation of every contender can probably help some fans to figure out the winner of Elitloppet 2020

(Heat 1 is scheduled for 11:20 a.m. EDT; Heat 2 is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. and the Elitloppet final will be at 2:30 p.m. EDT)

[Watch the races here](#) (ATG’s English language website)

[Download the complete weekend program here.](#)

### Horses in Heat 1:

- 1. Vivid Wise As** (Yankee Glide) Björn Goop trains and drives the Italian-bred horse that was the betting company’s first choice until the horse’s last performance, where Vivid Wise As’ gait was doubtful. Post one is probably good enough to take the horse to final.
- 2. Sorbet** (Super Photo Kosmos) is one out of three 9-year-olds in the race this year and he has reached a high level again, just as he did last year in May. A good starting position means a good chance to reach final.
- 3. Disco Volante** (Scarlet Knight) was the dominant horse in Sweden during the winter and spring, but made an early break in the Paralympiatravet and his condition is a bit fuzzy. He is the favorite to reach the front position and final.
- 4. Missle Hill** (Muscle Hill) won his first race in Sweden in the



Kanal75

For the first time in its rich, long, popular history, Solvalla Racetrack will present today’s Elitloppet without spectators.



Fyraåringseliten on this day last year and the 5-year-old seems to have progressed. A dark horse in the race, but can leave very quickly behind the gate.

**5. Chief Orlando** (Orlando Vici) is bred in Norway, owned and trained in Finland and driven by one of the hottest drivers in Sweden, Rikard N Skoglund. Quick behind the gate and impressed at Solvalla in April.

**6. Milliondollarrhyme** (Ready Cash) is one of the most interesting horses in the field this year. Very strong in the finish and showed great capacity in top stakes races last year. Can very well win the final.

**7. Looking Superb** (Orlando Vici) is back in Norway after successful years in Jean-Michel Bazire's stable in France. He is very strong at the end of his races, but post 7 can be difficult to solve and he needs luck.

**8. Earl Simon** (Prodigious) is top seeded in this heat and post 8 makes the race very hard to solve. Driver Franck Ouvrie has no routine in driving on short tracks such as Solvalla, but the horse is good enough to reach final, and win it.

### Heat 2

**1. Elian Web** (Like A Prayer) won the Paralympiatravet from the lead and is heavy favorite to grab the front position, and the victory, in this heat. Jorma Kontio, the winningest driver in the northern European countries would really like to win Elitloppet and he has his shot this year.

**2. Billie de Montfort** (Jasmin de Flore) has competed among the best horses in Europe since she was 3 years old and the French "B-crop" is considered one of the best ever. Billie is quick, uncomplicated and strong mentally.

**3. Tae Kwon Deo** (Muscle Hill) won the Sprintermästaren in Halmstad last summer and showed that two heats suits him well. He posted a very positive performance in his last outing and from a great post position is a serious factor.

**4. Attraversiamo** (Kiss Francais) won the Swedish Derby over 1.6 miles last year and has been aimed to the Elitloppet for a while. He won his mile preparation race at Solvalla in

impressive style and is considered one of the hottest horses in the final.

**5. Cokstile** (Quite Easy) has found a higher level in Italian trainer Rocco Spagnulo's barn and can do the job outside of probably leader Elian Web, and still win.

**6. Racing Mange** (Orlando Vici) won the qualification race in Gävle last week and comes to Solvalla in great shape. Post 6 is tricky since the horse is quick enough to reach the lead if driver Joakim Lövgren wants, but a move like that will cost.

**7. Makethemark** (Maharajah) opened the season by winning in Solvalla and was predicted a super spring and summer after last year's third place in Elitloppet. Uncertain performances two times in a row leaves question marks to his condition.

**8. Propulsion** (Muscle Hill) makes his fifth attempt in the race. He hasn't started since January and his shape is most probably not as good as in his previous four starts in Elitloppet. He has the highest capacity of all contenders, but needs luck from post 8.

### World record performance at Solvalla

Elitloppet weekend opened on Friday at Solvalla and the Saturday race card contained big races where the \$96,500 Harper Hanover's race over 3,140 meters was the main event.

The TV audience got to see a world record performance by Björn Goop trained Moni Viking (Maharajah) in the 1.95-mile race. Moni Viking had 40 meters to catch up with the horses in front and Björn Goop solved the objective smoothly by placing the 7-year-old colt in perfect spot in second line when 5/8ths of a mile remained. The last kilometer was impressive by the chestnut colored colt and Moni Viking disarmed leader Ivory di Quattro easily at the last stretch.

The mile rate, 1:55.3, is a world record over 3,180 meters on a 5/8 mile track.

[Moni Viking replay.](#)

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## Gural glad racing is back at Meadowlands, Tioga

*For the time being, the track owner will personally subsidize purses at the two ovals.*

by Dave Briggs

Despite some hiccups convincing the governors of New Jersey and New York to allow horse racing to return to action – albeit with strict COVID-19 protocols and no spectators – Jeff Gural, who owns racetracks in both states said Saturday that he’s, “glad to see (horse racing) back.”

The Meadowlands in East Rutherford, NJ will return to live racing on June 5 and Tioga Downs in Nichols, NY will hold its first live card on June 7. The re-opening of Vernon Downs in Vernon, NY is still at an impasse (see lead story). Gural owns all three tracks.

“It’s been a long struggle and it took a lot of work in New Jersey and the same in New York, really,” Gural said. “I had to work with the (New York) governor’s people to finally convince them that they should allow racing. Originally, they classified racing in Phase 4, which didn’t make much sense...I said it should be in Phase 1, agriculture. Finally we were able to convince them to open racing and in New Jersey, also, although in New Jersey I think the governor is a fan of racing. He’s a good guy, so we’re lucky to have him.”

Gural said purses at the Meadowlands are going to drop by 25 per cent, initially.

“We’ll see how it goes,” he said. “The thing that killed us on purses is the wagering on the imported signals, the thoroughbred signals that we import and that business has been shut down for three months with no end in sight. So we take a big hit, plus there’s no live handle so we’ll see if the handle goes up because there are fewer tracks and fewer things for people to do... Who knows? Some places have seen big increases, but more and more tracks are starting to open so I don’t know if that will continue.

Gural said he’ll likely have to personally supplement the



purses at both tracks because he isn’t likely to, “generate enough revenue to offset the costs, but I know everybody is starving and we have the stakes races. It would have been catastrophic (to the horsepeople) if we waited another month or so.”

That said, he stressed everyone has to follow strict COVID-19 protocols to be allowed to race.

“We’ve got all these rules and a whole army of security out there enforcing the rules. I’ve been told that the state is going to check in and make sure we’re abiding by the rules,” Gural said. “I hope the horsemen understand how important it is to follow the rules because if the state shows up and they see people without masks or not social distancing, they’ll just close the place, so everybody has got to do the right thing.

“I want people to be safe. I don’t want anyone to get sick.”

As an addendum, Gural wanted to clear up something HRU columnist Ron Gurfein wrote on Friday ([full story here](#)) indicating horses formerly trained by those indicted by the FBI in an alleged horse doping scandal were free to race on elsewhere for other trainers.

“I just want people to know that any horse that was trained or owned by the people who were indicted earlier this year, those horses won’t be able to race at my tracks for 60 days. The owners are going to suffer a little bit, because they are going to miss some stakes,” Gural said.

“It’s the right thing to do. Ronnie kind of implied that the owners have gotten away scot free and I wanted people to understand that’s not the case with me.”

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## Return to racing at Yonkers complicated, but progressing

*The same can't be said for Monticello, which Joe Faraldo called a tinderbox.*

*by Dave Briggs*

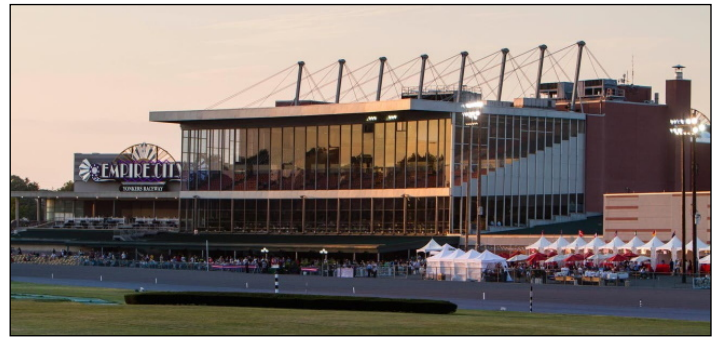
Standardbred Owners Association of New York (SOA of NY) president Joe Faraldo said the re-opening of Yonkers Raceway could happen as soon as the second or third week of June, but is fraught with complications. Fortunately, the track's management, casino company MGM, has shown interest in returning to racing as soon as possible, Faraldo said.

"Yonkers is in a unique situation because Yonkers does not have a large, substantial horse population on site," Faraldo said. "So, the terms and conditions that are being given to (Yonkers) management to comply with are stricter and more difficult to comply with than any of the upstate tracks like Vernon, Tioga, Buffalo, Saratoga and Batavia. They have big barn areas and a horse population that's on site.

"(Yonkers has) ship ins, so the Gaming Commission is requiring that, basically, we quarantine people who are shipping in. Yonkers is required to make sure the people that are shipping in have tested for antibodies and have antibodies. If someone stayed home and never got sick and never contracted this disease, they aren't going to have any antibodies. They complied with the regulations, so they are making life difficult for us because we're in a unique situation.

"To MGM's credit, they have been trying to address all of these things. They are putting in faucets where you don't have to touch the handle. They are putting plastic shields up in the race office. They are setting out points where people who want to go in and claim a horse or have business in the race office, have to stand behind a shield. They are doing all these things. We've had conference calls with them (Friday) at 4 o'clock and the day before at 3 o'clock. I think they are actually acting in good faith to try to be in compliance with these really, really strict requirements, some of which I don't know how we're going to address. I think they are trying to do that and we're working with them to do exactly that."

Faraldo said there is between \$4 million and \$5 million in reserve in the Yonkers purse account, but he has to manage any re-opening of racing to avoid a shortfall before the track's casino re-opens. Faraldo estimates the casino won't re-open before July 1, "so I have to manage the purse account



Dave Landry

**Joe Faraldo said he hopes Yonkers can re-open the second or third week of June.**

– along with the racetrack's okay – so that we don't run out of money and have to start and stop again, because the casino doesn't open. Then I have to worry about will the casino generate 50 per cent of its normal income, whatever restrictions will be set for them at first? Will it be 25 per cent or 75 per cent of their income? If they only have 50 per cent and I blow the \$4-5 million because I want to race five days a week, like a jerk, then that means I'm going to have to shut down... or, when we get up and running, cut the purses by 50 per cent. Nobody wants to do that, so we're working together."

### MONTICELLO A "TINDERBOX"

Faraldo said there's much less harmony between horsepeople and management at Monticello Raceway.

"The real tinderbox is going to be Monticello," Faraldo said. "The casino company has told us that they are not going to open unless the horsemen give up their share of on-track handle to the casino company, give up OTB revenue to the casino company, give up intrastate and interstate simulcasting share... My feeling is that it is very, very critical that we stand up against each and every one of these forces that's working against the health of this industry going forward. I cannot have a casino company dictating the terms and conditions under which racing is conducted in New York state that trumps the legislature, the contract, the governor. The casino company is basically saying that they are going to control racing. That's something that... whether you agree with me or disagree with me, I think on this level we're all in agreement. You cannot have that become the dynamic that drives this game because I guarantee you that this game is done.

"You cannot let – even under these (COVID-19) circumstances – these casino companies get a foot in the door and control racing because they'll kill it... I know there are extraordinary circumstances, but I don't want them to use these extraordinary circumstances to browbeat and bully the horsemen."

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## In Ohio, handle reaches new heights as racing returns

by Brett Sturman

It remains to be seen if harness racing is experiencing the start of a renaissance in wagering or is simply the beneficiary of being one of the only games in town, but handle out of Scioto Downs and Northfield Park over the past week is noteworthy.

Since resuming racing last Friday, Scioto Downs has come out of the gate with six straight million-plus nights in handle. After posting handles in the opening days upon resumption that were good enough for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th highest track handle numbers in the 62-year history of the track, the prior record of \$1.2 million was obliterated on Thursday when the track took in over \$1.6 million across its 14 races.

Northfield Park has returned with a resurgence as well. On its first night back this past Tuesday, the track posted a handle of just \$15,000 or so shy of the \$2 million park. It wasn't a track record as Northfield went over the \$2 million park one January night 17 years ago, but it was still an extremely rare number and the track has been well north of \$1 million every card since.

What makes the numbers impressive is how high they are relative to what is normally handled. While Northfield isn't a stranger to seven-figure handle numbers, Scioto is. This is a track that has traditionally handled towards the bottom of all harness racing tracks and for them to be putting up the numbers they are is akin to what little known Fonner Park recently did when they were all the talk of the thoroughbred industry the last couple months.

It's important to note as well that the numbers these two tracks have been posting are larger than what handle was immediately prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. For example, there were a couple of nights when Cal Expo had the racing world to themselves and while they made it over a million in those spots, Scioto and Northfield have been posting numbers not seen outside the top couple of tracks in U.S. and Canada.

Along with race secretary Jason Roth and new Senior VP of racing for Eldorado Joe Morris, Gabe Prewitt has also recently joined the team. Prewitt has had recent successes in resurrecting a following for Pompano Park, and he describes his move to Scioto as follows: "I had worked for Joe in the past, and he took over this position with Eldorado acquiring the Caesars tracks and we got reacquainted," said Prewitt. "He said that we're trying to get Scioto cranked up and at that point he didn't even have a date. So, lo and behold I got just got here a few weeks ago and within about two days we got the word when we could resume racing."

Some of the immediate deals taken by the group to facilitate interest upon its resumption of racing included reaching out and getting exposure through TVG and reaching a deal with the *Daily Racing Form* for its opening weekend. Scioto is also in the midst of a program agreement with TrackMaster where they'll offer past performances complimentary over 10 racing cards, five of which they've completed thus far.

A promotional graphic for Woodbine Standardbred. It features a background of red and white diagonal stripes. On the left, the text "WOODBINE STANDARDBRED EARLY PICK" is written in a stylized font, with a large "5" below it. On the right, the text "\$75,000 GUARANTEED" and "15% TAKEOUT" is displayed in large, bold letters. Below this, it says "SELECT THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST FIVE CONSECUTIVE RACES". At the bottom, there is a hashtag "#BetWoodbineSB" with the website "Know When To Take The Reins. ResponsibleGambling.org" and the Woodbine Standardbred logo.

Even having the advantage of the wind at their sails for the time being, Prewitt said he is proud of what the entire team has been able to accomplish.

“You look at the numbers and granted it’s a different time now with so few tracks going, but last year they averaged \$220k per night, and that’s with 13 and 14 races with full fields,” said Prewitt. “So obviously we didn’t know what we could do but we thought it should be performing a little better than that. Discussing it even during the pandemic, we would have thought \$700k would have been a success, so we’ve kind of been blown away from the support out there.

“Now again, we know that there’s a supply and demand issue and we’re fortunate enough to have one of the supplies right now, but it’s been great. We’ve opened now with six straight million-dollar nights, and we broke the record there on Thursday when the stars kind of aligned. The great thing there was that there was no west coast overlap early in the card. Golden Gate usually races on Thursday, but they raced Monday that week because of the holiday, and we were the next track starting after Churchill Downs ended at 5:45. The first couple races we just knocked it out of the park and kept a good line going.”

“It’s a lot of fun when you can do some good. But I had the least to do with anything. All the horsemen, and Jason and Joe getting this ball rolling, I’m just here hoping to bring some energy. I’ve jumped on the simulcast show the last couple nights with Barry and mainly what I’m doing is hanging the post times similar to what I did at Pompano. I’m in the tote room – that’s kind of where I hang out and watch all the other signals and try to put us in an advantageous spot as many times as we can a night.”

Of course the big question now is: what comes next? It’s one thing for Northfield and Scioto to post big numbers when they have the stage to themselves, but many new tracks will be resuming action over the next week including the Meadowlands. The fact that Scioto has been so good during this time, there is reason to believe that it may bode well for them as more tracks enter into the fray.

“We have introduced many, many new players to Scioto, just given the numbers in the past,” said Prewitt. “Regardless of how they got here, they’re in our pools and we’ve tried to create a wagering menu that appeals to everyone. “There are no jackpot bets and we’ve had super high five carryovers, superfecta carryovers, we nearly had pick-4 and pick-5 carryovers and we’ve had a lot of huge four- and five-figure payouts on those wagers. We’ve grown probably more than any track by looking at the numbers by doing five, six, or even seven times more than what we’d normally do. So, we’re

certainly getting our product in front of people who aren’t familiar with.”

Looking at the overall picture, it’s only natural that these tracks will come back to what their handle should be in a normal environment, but there’s reason to believe that these Ohio tracks will see higher average handle now than they did prior. And with a renewed interest in some of the smaller tracks, perhaps it will bode well for enthusiasm for all other tracks as they return as well as for the industry as a whole.

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## Amended breed development program approved in Indiana

*"We tried to keep the program intact as best we could," said Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) president Joe Putnam. "We still feel like it's going to be a first-class, quality-driven program."*

by James Platz

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) approved an amended breed development program Thursday (May 28) that will offer just over \$8.8 million in purses and awards. While the new plan signals decreases across the board, it resets the program based on decreased casino revenue the horse racing industry depends on for its revenue. The Indiana Standardbred Breed Development Advisory Committee (ISBDAC) and Standardbred Advisory Board (SAB) met twice in May to draft the amended program.

The modified Indiana Sires Stakes schedule has 3-year-olds competing in seven legs instead of the previously published eight rounds leading into the \$250,000 Super Final. The opening leg is slated for the first few days of July, with the second leg coming two weeks later, July 15-18. Two-year-olds previously were set to begin the season during the second week of July. Now, they will kick off the fourth week of the month (July 21-25). With the reconfigured schedule, Harrah's Hoosier Park race secretary Scott Peine placed sires stakes at times that did not interfere with the Indiana State Fair or the Grand Circuit.

The most significant change in the sires stakes program comes in the funding. In 2019, breed development seeded purses for freshman divisions at a minimum of \$121,000 per leg, with nomination and entry fees then added and the total money split between divisions. Sophomore legs were funded at a minimum \$87,000 per leg before nomination and entry fees. Based on figures provided by Jessica Barnes, director of racing and breed development for the IHRC, the program's 2020 contribution for 2-year-olds will be just shy of \$57,000 per leg, with \$48,813 allocated per leg for 3-year-olds. Projections offered during Thursday's meeting showed a single 2-year-old division could offer a \$71,000 purse, with sophomores racing for \$56,500 in a single division or \$31,750 over two divisions.

"If the (casino) projections come in a lot higher, these groups will call a meeting and bring updated proposals to the commission," Barnes said of the revised program during the May 20 breed development meeting, and reiterated again after the plan received IHRC approval. The casino operations at Hoosier Park and Indiana Grand closed in mid-March and have yet to reopen.



Part of the revised program also included a restructuring of the late closing series offered at Hoosier Park. In the new plan, four events – the Jerry Landess, Miss Windfall, Cardinal and Mya Tri – remain with augmentation. Instead of two legs and a final, a single leg will lead into the final. They are set to start the first week of live racing at Hoosier Park, with the finals contested one week later. The other 10 late closing series were cut from the calendar, and the money set aside to fund them shifted to the Indiana Sired Overnight Supplement. Peine will use the funds to write mini-series with the same conditions of those events removed from the schedule.

Finally, a trimmed down Indiana Sired Fair Circuit offers 12 programs leading into the championships. In order to qualify for the \$20,000 championships and \$8,000 consolations, a horse must make six fair starts, one less than required in 2019. Fair racing venues include Converse (July 4 & 5; Aug. 25), Portland (July 8; Aug. 8), Kentland (July 11), Frankfort (July 14 & 15; Aug. 29), Goshen (July 25, 27 & 28), Connersville (July 27 & 28), Shelbyville (Aug. 3 & 4; September 4) and Corydon (Aug. 19). Championship races traditionally take place during the Indiana State Fair. However, with fair racing beginning July 4, the Indiana State Fairgrounds will play host to the championships and consolations, on the new date of Thursday, Sept. 10. The ISA Elite races, normally held after the Indiana State Fair in late August, are set for Aug. 13. Grand Circuit racing at the Indiana State Fair is unaffected by the changes and will continue in the Aug. 12 slot.

"We tried to keep the program intact as best we could," said Joe Putnam, Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) president and a member of the breed development advisory committee. "We still feel like it's going to be a first-class, quality-driven program. I think we have, if not the best, one of the best regional stakes programs in the country."

During Thursday's meeting, the IHRC also approved Hoosier Park's revised 2020 racing calendar. The meet will offer 111 programs, beginning Tuesday, June 16 and concluding Saturday, Nov. 21. Racing will be conducted Tuesday through Saturday with the exception of the last two weeks of the season.

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## Hey, harness racing: grandma died

by Bob Heyden

The following is in two parts. The first part happened, the second part is now upon us.

Billy was just 5, maybe 6, when he got his first \$100 bill for his birthday from grandma, who lived far away.

At 6, 7 and 8, it continued, like clockwork. No matter his behavior during the year, he got his \$100 each and every year.

"This is GREAT," he said.

His parents made him spread out his spending, but no matter, \$100 is still \$100. And besides, the other kids in the neighborhood were only getting \$5 and \$10 bills.

At ages 9, 10 and 11, more than one friend, or parent of a friend, inquired as to why so much for someone so young.

"Hey, I'm not asking any questions," Billy said. "You think I'm going to kick THIS sleeping dog?"

Billy got more than his share of stares and not-so-friendly looks. No matter. His bike was new and his toys state of the art.

"They're just jealous," he thought.

By 12, 13 and 14, Billy no longer asked WHY. He already knew WHEN he got his money and that was all that mattered. He was now a teenager and had long convinced himself that he 'deserved' it. His parents told Billy to tell his friends that it had been discontinued, but kids know better than that.

At 15, 16 and 17, \$100 didn't buy what it used to. But it was still well worth making that trip to the mailbox. Thirteen straight years - \$1,300 in total. Life was good.

Then, at 18, the phone rang. Grandma was gone.

"Oh, no! What about my money? Is there and aunt or uncle who can pick up the slack? I've been COUNTING on that! "I'd even take \$50 in a worst case scenario," Billy said.

His mother was clear.

"Billy, she's gone, and so is your check every year," his mother said. "Did you think she'd live forever?"

This takes us to June, 2020 and the sport of harness racing – you know, the sport which has relied – often heavily – on financial aid since 1985.

The four "S"s – simulcasting, slots, supplements and sports betting.

Simulcasting began in 1983, was declared unconstitutional, then returned in early 1985 and was here to stay. ALL tracks lean on this income, many would not be operational without it.

Slots got up and running in 1996 at Dover and right after that in Toronto, and then in the fall of 2006 at Yonkers. With the exception of the Meadowlands, slots have been harness racing's rich grandma – and the most generous one.

Supplements are not as common but oh-so-lucrative. From 1998-2010, Atlantic City paid \$118 million to the Meadowlands to NOT have slots. ONLY in Atlantic County.

Sports betting got underway in July 2018 and is now a raging inferno in the Garden State – and a helpful hand in a few others. This is probably the wave of the future and one the sport can attach itself to on the hip of this runaway locomotive. The sky is the limit here.

Simply put, every racing jurisdiction has had an "S" on its chest and some more than one.

Now we're three months into a pandemic never before seen by anyone of this or the past generation.

We're all swimming in the same pool, but this one doesn't have any signs that say 3 FT or 6 FT. It's the DEEP END everywhere.

Yes, harness racing, even gravy trains has to stop and refuel. And sometimes they never again leave the refueling station.

The sport may have to jump start that train.

Certainly, there's going to have to be a collective effort of some sort to get back to somewhere near where we were. We're going to have to work on the front of the train to show us the way, the body of the train to keep it neat and CLEAN and usable, and the back of the train in the event it needs a push.

The coffee has just arrived, harness racing. Smell it, please. It's time.

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## John Fielding on a lifetime of being lucky

by Murray Brown

I cannot say unequivocally that John Fielding is the finest person I've know in my over 60-year involvement in harness racing. On the other hand, I cannot think of a single person that I'd rank ahead of him.

If ever there was a person I've known who's glass was always, at least figuratively half-full, my friend John would be that person.

John Fielding is the modern day incarnation of Will Rogers. He has probably never met a person that he doesn't like. Perhaps more importantly, there is likely not a person that knows John who doesn't like him.

He is that unique a person.

John's roots trace to Toronto.

His initial goal, as that of so many young Canadian boys, was to become a professional hockey player and play in the National Hockey League.

He succeeded in the first, but unfortunately wasn't quite good enough to make it to the NHL. He was good enough to play in Germany in the European circuit for a couple of years.

When he returned to Canada, he realized that he had to make a "real living."

That's when, as John phrases it, "luck stepped in."

I prefer to consider it the ability to recognize opportunity and to seize upon it.

He and his brother Bill had the opportunity to enter a field of which neither had much knowledge – the cosmetics industry.

Not the manufacture of cosmetics themselves, but the means to better display them at a very competitive price.

Previously, most cosmetics were displayed using equipment which was put together piece by piece.

John and Bill's opportunity involved producing these products by injection molding. These serve as display counters at cosmetics stores everywhere.



Dave Landry

**Popular owner/breeder John Fielding considers himself one lucky guy.**

The business has grown to the point where it now has 2,500 people working all over the world.

As is John's norm, he doesn't take credit for the success of the company. He praises Leonard and Evelyn Lauder, the son and daughter in law of the renowned Estee Lauder for giving him his first break.

Array Marketing is still John's primary business and the one from which all others grew.

John Fielding personifies the term entrepreneur.

From the cosmetics business he branched out to Ethoca (a fraud detection business recently sold to MasterCard), real estate development, assisted living residences, Amsterdam Brewery, a couple of restaurants and of course racing – both standardbred and thoroughbred.

John first started going to the racetrack at Greenwood Raceway. He was entrusted as the babysitter for his younger brother Jimmy. After their parents left the house, John and Jimmy would take the streetcars for the approximately 25-minute trip from their Scarborough residence to Greenwood. Both John and Jim were entranced by everything about it. They both knew that if they ever were in a financial position to do so, they would become involved with these wonderful equine athletes.

Last week, I had a long conversation with John Fielding, who was at his winter home in the Bahamas.

**You are involved heavily with both standardbreds and thoroughbreds. Tell us about your experiences in both.**

"People often ask me which I like the most. My experience



with both is vastly different. I am much more hands on with my standardbreds and like your first love, they hold a special place in my heart. My investment with the thoroughbreds has been more passive. I've been partners with Fred Hertrich since 1999. I've been very privileged to have had the knowledge and experience of Fred, his right hand man Rob Tribbett, and my long-time accountant and dear friend Ray Johnston to guide me. Fred has been my guiding force. We own over a hundred thoroughbred mares together. We raise, sell or buy mares, yearlings and weanlings. Fred likes to joke that he brings the wisdom to the table and I bring the luck. That's perfectly fine with me.

"Fred tells me how much to make the check out for and I comply. He has been a wonderful partner and a close friend and we have done extremely well.

"Recently, we have become involved in the racing end of thoroughbreds, as well. Freddie came to me a couple of years ago and said, 'I've got the riskiest investment imaginable for us, but I think we should do it anyway.'

"There was a syndicate being put together with SF Bloodstock, Tom Ryan and Gavin Murphy to buy a group of the best thoroughbred yearlings available. They were raising \$10 million dollars. Fred and I got in. The group ended up buying 23 yearling colts.

"To say that we have been successful would be a mild understatement. We have at least two that we think are classics winners. Charlatan has already won the Arkansas Derby; Authentic is a graded stakes winner and Eight Rings is another Grade 1 winner. We have a few others which look promising.

"It's been a great experience, but like with most things, the terrific people who we are involved with make it so much better.

"I guess with the standardbreds I do have more involvement, but nevertheless I still leave it up to the experts.

"I've been blessed to have arguably the best horse trainer of all time and certainly of this generation, Jimmy Takter, to be my primary trainer and great friend. Of course, Jimmy is now retired, but I still look upon him as being the guiding force behind his two greatest pupils, his daughter Nancy and second in command Per Engblom.

"Based on the results thus far, I'm not missing all that much in terms of horsemanship.

"For many, many years, my good friend Bryan Montgomery and his lovely wife Lella have been instrumental in the selection of the vast majority of standardbreds we have purchased. I attribute a lot of our good fortune to Bryan and Lella.

"I also have horses with Casie Coleman and with Lindy Farms where I am partners with one of the greatest people

in this business, Frank Antonacci, and his wonderful family."

### **Tell us about some of your favorite horses in both breeds.**

"With the standardbreds, I've been so fortunate and there have been so many that I am sure to leave some out. My first Breeders Crown winner was Eager Seelster who I had with Teddy Jacobs. Then I had Allamerican Nadia with John Burns. Adding pleasure to that one was her ownership was shared with both my father and my father in law and that she was bred and raised by Fred Hertrich. The ones I've had with Jimmy Takter include, but are far from limited to Father Patrick, Uncle Peter (probably my favorite because he was named for my late brother), Solveig, who was both a great race filly and has proven to be even a greater producer and In Focus.

"I've been fortunate enough to have been involved in the ownership of 22 Breeders Crown winners.

"With the thoroughbreds, thus far, my favorite has to be Catholic Boy who Fred and I bred and sold as a yearling. Catholic Boy is a multiple Grade 1 winner including last year's Travers. I was extremely proud to be a part owner of Neshama who won the Canadian Oaks for my wonderful partner David Anderson and myself. Shamardal, who Fred and I bred, was a world champion at 2 and 3 and has become a very successful sire. Of course, the Grade 1 stakes winner Eight Rings, Charlatan, Authentic and hopefully others are in the wings and are looking to do great things."

### **You've been involved with two of my passions in this life of ours – great art and great wine.**

"My involvement in art is nowhere near what it used to be, but I still love it and do some trading. My main interest involves the impressionists. My all-time favorite is Marc Chagall, but I'm also a great admirer of Picasso, Degas (especially his horses), Raoul Dufy (also horses), Joan Miro and Jackson Pollock.

"With wine, I'm not the collector that you are. I like it most when drinking with friends. I recently had the 1996 Dominus that you gave me many years ago. I was saving it to drink with you. Unfortunately, my patience ran out and we had it last week. Other, mostly California wines that I've had and enjoyed recently were David Arthur and Cliff Lede."

**Author's note:** I've still got plenty of Dominus. A few bottles from even better vintages than 1996. We can still do it.

### **You have four residences that mostly coincide with the seasons of the year.**

"I spend most of the winter at our place at the Albany Club in the Bahamas. I've become somewhat of a golf fanatic. I play nearly every day, providing the weather allows it.

"In late-spring we move to Muskoka in the lakes region north of Toronto. The fall is usually spent in Toronto. I also have an apartment in New York City. I used to spend a lot of

time there, but I've slowed down my involvement in Array, so I go there much less often."

**Like me, you love good food. What are your favorite restaurants in New York and Toronto?**

"In New York I love Smith & Wollensky, the food is great, but its secondary to the greatest waiter in the city, Danny Collins. To know Danny is to love him. I also like Scalinatella for what I think is the best Italian food in a city that has over a hundred great Italian restaurants. I also really like the Polo Bar, Ralph Lauren's relatively new restaurant for good solid American food.

"In Toronto, Soto Soto would be number one, followed by the steakhouse Harbor 60. I also own parts of Dasha and Amsterdam Brewery, both, which in my humble opinion are quite good."

**I've been told that owners of racetracks smile when they hear that John Fielding is coming to the races. It seems you are well known at the windows. What's the biggest wager you've ever made?**

"I bet \$15,000 on Catholic Boy in the Travers at Saratoga last Summer. He won. I also had him tied up in all sorts of gimmick bets.

"In Canada, I had In Focus and Holiday Credit in the Breeders Crown 3-year-old colt trot. Deweycheatumnhowe was the heavy favorite. I made a strong bet on In Focus to win it and a cold exacta of him and Holiday Credit. That's the way they finished at a pretty good price."

**You are thought of as being a very lucky guy. Please expand on that.**

"Yes, indeed I am. I suppose, though, that the luckiest thing in my life was being born to a wonderful mom and dad and being raised with a terrific group of siblings. The cherry on the cake was being born in the great country of Canada which has given me so many opportunities."

**You are on the board of WEG**

"Being chosen to sit on that board has been one of my greatest honors since entering the sport. They are a great group of people led by Jim Lawson and Clay Horner. I wish that people would recognize the great work and dedication that these two put into what I believe is the best racetrack organization in North America. The furtherance of quality horse racing is the primary goal of every single member of that board."

**What's the best thing You've ever done?**

"They are numerous. Firstly, my children Katie and David; my marriage to my wonderful and beautiful wife Pat; her great children Andrea, Christopher, Gillian and Stephanie.

Then, there's my decision at a very young age to become an entrepreneur like my dad, especially having my brothers along for the ride with me."

**You've been associated with a lot of outstanding people in the horse business, let's talk about some of them.**

**Ray Johnston** – "Ray and I have been together forever. He is my accountant in addition to being a very dear friend. Anything you would want to know about any of my businesses or horses, Ray has it right at his fingertips. I'd be lost without him."

**Frank Antonacci** – "One of the wonderful people in the sport. I'm fortunate to have him and his great family as both my partners and my friends."

**Fred Hertrich** – "You've read all about him above. He's a terrific guy, a great friend and a brilliant business man. He does so many things – all of them well. He is the chairman of the Breeders' Cup. He runs many successful automobile dealerships in addition to being an incredible breeder of both thoroughbreds and standardbreds."

**Jimmy Takter** – "Undoubtedly the greatest horse trainer of this generation and included in any conversation of the best of all time. He, his wife Christina and his entire family are dear friends as well."

**David Anderson** – "One of the sweetest people it's been my pleasure to have known. A wonderful partner, a tremendous friend and an exceptional horseman."

**Clay Horner** – "One of the most brilliant people I've ever known. Throughout my business career, Clay has advised me on several deals and critical business decisions."

**Jim Lawson** – "He's a force, a human dynamo. He never slows down and stops thinking and working. Most definitely the right man to be leading the number horse racing entity in North America."

**Bryan Montgomery** – "A great friend and is always there to help us."

**Philip Nelson** – "From London, UK, Phil has become a wonderful friend in business and in horses. I have owned many steeple chase horses – don't ask me why – because of Phil."

**Herb Liverman** – "A great friend and partner for many years. People say I am lucky and indeed I am, but so is Herbie."

**David Reid** – "He's somewhat like a younger Fred Hertrich. He has so many balls bouncing in the air and manages to keep them in motion without dropping any."

This list could go on and on and on. Included among them has been the opportunity to be involved with so many completely fantastic people in the horse business. That list definitely includes you, my very special friend **M. Murray Brown**.

**Author's Note** - Nobody could have given me a greater compliment.

**Have a question for The Curmudgeon?**

**Reach him by email at: [hofmurray@aol.com](mailto:hofmurray@aol.com).**

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## Linda Kakaley – horsewoman, proud mother of star driver Matt Kakaley

by Victoria M. Howard

Whenever the telephone rings late at night, it is every parent's nightmare that perhaps her child has been involved in a car wreck or something worse.

If your son or daughter drives harness horses and that call comes, the unknown can be intolerable.

Unfortunately, longtime horsewoman Linda Kakaley received that call one evening inquiring if her son Matt was okay. Linda hadn't heard that Matt had been in an accident, so she immediately called her daughter-in-law, Annie.

"We discovered there had been a terrible race accident at Yonkers Raceway and Matt got hurt and was taken to the hospital. Annie and I immediately left for New York, praying the whole time he was okay," Linda said.

"The outpouring of prayers and support from friends and family was tremendous, helping us get through that time. Prayers worked and the good Lord healed Matt, getting him back doing what he loves to do: driving horses.

"If anyone has been through anything like this they know the sick helpless feeling you feel.

"When I walked into the hospital, Matt was getting stitches in his face. That was hard enough, but when he yelled out to me – 'Mom, I think I'm blind; my heart shattered.'"

Thankfully, Matt did not go blind, he made a complete recovery, and today is one of harness racing's top drivers.

Linda's 40-year journey began in April 1980 when she attended Northville Downs Racetrack with friends to watch the horse races.

"In the post parade was this beautiful horse named Running Wild. I looked at him and – boom – it was over... I was in love with harness racing and the horses, and decades later that hasn't changed.



Courtesy Linda Kakaley

**"I can't imagine not having horses to take care of. I love them all," said Linda Kakaley.**

"I discovered my dad's cousin, Norm Pertunen, was a local trainer and began spending weekends working in his barn. That November, I quit my job running a small sales office in Detroit and started grooming for trainer Joe Gatteri.

"Three years later, I met John Kakaley – the man I would marry – when he was working for his brother, Mike. With my encouragement and persistence, John began driving and training standardbreds. Two year later, in 1985, we got married and started our own stable.

"During my husband's career, John drove a lot of crazy, bad-gaited horses, thus he was involved in several accidents. I learned early on not to let myself worry when he sat behind a horse – or at least I put up a good front.

"Marrying John was my first good fortune, but the biggest blessing in life came in 1988 with the birth of my only child, Matt. Matt was a happy kid who loved his family, animals and sports. He was a very good student who was always at the top of his class. Of course, I was a proud mother.

"After school he would get off the bus at the farm and help me finish the day's work – feeding the broodmares and his

pony he adored.”

Linda has owned many nice horses, but the one she enjoyed most was a trotter she trained and co-owned named Whosgoinwhosstayin.

“Whosgoinwhosstayin was very special to us, winning all his stake races in Florida at 2 and 3. It was so exciting to watch him and our most memorable times in the business were with him,” Linda said.

Currently, the Kakaleys have three horses in training.

“I can’t imagine not having horses to take care of. I love them all. Everyone says not to fall in love with the horses, but I wouldn’t want to race if I couldn’t love them.

“Especially when the sour, mean horses nicker or nudge you, letting you know they love you back. That feeling is pure joy.”

When talking about her son, Matt, Linda beams with joy.

Raised to be a responsible hard worker paid off for the young Kakaley. When Matt turned 19, he relocated to Ohio and got a job working for the sports #1 trainer, Ron Burke, which was the beginning of a lucrative and long-lasting career.

“I was so proud and happy for him, but missed him terribly. I guess you could say I experienced ‘the empty nest’ syndrome, since he was my only child.

“They say you have to let your children go and spread their wings, but you never, ever, quit worrying about them.

“After the birth of Matt’s daughter, Arianna, he wanted his father and I to live closer so we moved to Pennsylvania.”

Being in the business for decades, the Kakaleys have been through the good and bad times and have seen many changes take place.

“I always enjoyed watching the races in the grandstands and getting to know the fans. I believe due to the fact the tracks and casinos make it an unpleasant atmosphere, has cost the sport many fans.

“We need to make it more enjoyable for people so they can come back to watching live racing. I mean, why would a bettor leave the comfort of his home and online betting to come to the track to watch the races when there is no good food, drinks, or service being offered?

“Casinos give free or reduced drinks to their customers, yet the racetrack patrons have to pay more, and clubhouse dining is rare today.

“I remember dining on the 6th floor at Pompano Park – the Winter Capital of Harness Racing – back in the good ole



Courtesy Linda Kakaley

**Linda and John Kakaley with granddaughter Arianna.**

days. It was so exciting and thrilling. You never knew whom you might see there, such as George Steinbrenner, Pete Rose and Jackie Gleason, to name a few.

“Everyone dressed to the nines and the ambiance was incomparable.

“I know fans love meeting the drivers and trainers for many have come up to me and say how nice it would be to meet one; so why don’t we make that a priority?

“Our racing family is comprised of really good people. They are big-hearted, caring, and have helped me through many difficult times so I’d like to thank all of them. Even through these unknown, scary times I have faith that together we will get our sport back to where it rightfully belongs.”

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# HRU FOAL OF THE WEEK

## Foal of the Week

*Caroline Vazquez*

Foals spanning generations in the same family arrived at Diamond Creek Farm in Pennsylvania recently when Western Montana delivered a Downbytheseaside filly (bottom) and Western Montana's older daughter Pure Country delivered a Sweet Lou filly (right). Western Montana, a daughter of Western Hanover out of Incredible Margie, earned more than \$175,000 on the track, but she has really excelled as a broodmare. The 100 per cent producer has delivered such stars as Pure Country (1:48.2, \$2,438,619) and Grand Teton (h, 1:48.1, \$518,232). The Downbytheseaside filly, named Calamity, is Western Montana's 10th foal. Calamity arrived on April 13. As for the Sweet Lou filly, named Charlatan, she is the first foal out of Pure Country, a three-time Dan Patch Award winner. Charlatan arrived on April 4.



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# BREAKING STRIDE

with TREY NOSRAC

## Hoofprints in Fog

### Scene 9 (Fading)

by Trey Nosrac

The setting is a room in an Alzheimer's ward. A young couple, Mandy and Ryan, continue to visit Martin Kilbane, an elderly horse trainer. In his lucid periods, Martin describes events in his life with remarkable clarity. In earlier sessions, he has talked about serving in the US cavalry, the death of his young wife, and his life-long struggle with alcohol.

[Scene 1](#) | [Scene 2](#) | [Scene 3](#) | [Scene 4](#) | [Scene 5](#) | [Scene 6](#) | [Scene 7](#) | [Scene 8](#)

### SCENE 9

(music intro)

(Hospital ambient background, slurping sound at the bottom of a cup)

MANDY: If you want some more, they left you juice boxes. I can grab a cup and some ice.

MARTIN: (weakly) No, thank you, ma'am, I'm fine, fine as I'll ever get.

RYAN: What happened in the third race between Heaven's Rein, and what was the other horse...

MANDY: Emily's Pride.

RYAN: Yeah, right, so what happened Martin?

MARTIN: (weakly) Back to drinking.

MANDY: You? Again! Bad drinking?

MARTIN: With me, there wasn't any good drinking.

MANDY: You struggled again?

MARTIN: Not much of a struggle, when things went bad, I gave up the fight. And that third race was all the excuse I

needed to feel sorry for myself.

RYAN: What happened, we don't know the story.

MARTIN: Not much of a story. If it is, it's a tragedy. On the day of that third race, the gamblers had Emily the favorite. Heaven was the second choice. My hopes were high that we would finally get the best of Emily because we drew best this time and Emily would need to come from behind. Sure enough, Heaven leaves out behind the starting gate with three other horses, all four are neck to neck in the first turn, when out of the sky, a goose, a big grey goose with a white chest swoops down and looks like he is going to land on the racetrack right in front of the racing horses. That damned bird spooked all four horses, two of them ran, but didn't have no place to go so they tangled up, stumbling and crashing into each other, it was lucky nobody went down. Everything happened so fast.

RYAN: The accident took Heaven's Rein out of the race.

MARTIN: (slowly) That crash of speeding horses took us out of racing. In that commotion, Heaven hurt a tendon in her ankle, hurt it bad. She never raced again.

MANDY: How sad... And you started drinking? What about the meeting? What about your friends?

MARTIN: The meetings went on. The horse folks kept on racing horses. I ran away.

MANDY: Ran to where?

MARTIN: To Peggy's. She's my sister. Peggy, and her husband, Cecil, took me in. They always took me at the low times.

RYAN: (tentatively) Do you know they were my aunt and uncle, well technically my great aunt and great uncle?

MARTIN: (pause as he struggles to remember) I didn't know, maybe I knew once. So we are kin? You and me? Is the girl kin to us?

MANDY: No, I'm Mandy. I'm a friend.

RYAN: Do you know where you are?

MARTIN: (softly) No.

RYAN: You are just outside of Detroit, you're less than five miles from where Cecil and Peggy lived.

MARTIN: Lived? Are they gone?

RYAN: (pause)Yes.



# Listen to this story here



MANDY: (fills a momentary void, chirps) How long did you stay with your sister after Heaven got hurt?

MARTIN: Not long, a few weeks. I never meant to bother them, and I was a bother. It was four blocks from Cecil's front door to Sullivan's Bar. Poor Cecil, he would get a call, throw on his jacket, and show up with a big wheelbarrow to haul me back to his house and lay me on a cot in his garage. Didn't Cecil tell you this?

RYAN: No, he never told me much about you, just that you were a racetrack worker and, I remember this, he always said that, "Martin Kilbanes life was more checkered than a flannel shirt."

MANDY: Then what? After two weeks back here?

MARTIN: Then I got a postcard from Euley K. Dobbs. Later on, Euley told me he got Cecil's address from the hospital's next of kin list, from the time my head was split.

MANDY: What did it say?

MARTIN: Heaven needs you at the farm.

MANDY: Euley Dobbs, strikes again!

MARTIN: He was a fine man; he would not give up on me. I don't know why. I'd already let him down three times.

MANDY: So you went back to the racetrack?

MARTIN: No, not the racetrack, the note said to go to his farm, the farm where he grew baby horses. That's where he took Heaven after she hurt her leg. He had it all planned out. Heaven was going to be a mother. Euley knew how good she was, he wanted to race her babies. He also knew that I wasn't ready for the racetrack. There were three of us who worked full time on his farm. We slept in a room attached to the big barn. The other two fellas, Luke and Spud, did not drink, so he must have felt my chances were better.

MANDY: Everyone with addictions should have a Euley Dobbs.

MARTIN: Amen. Just like the other times, when I showed up at his farm, feeling lower than a snake's belly, Euley did not say much, he just told me to stick my hand out. I thought he

was gonna shake my hand, but instead, he plopped a roll of quarters from the bank, the kind that was inside a tube of blue paper. Then handed me a bus schedule and said that if I left the farm at 5, it was a half-hour walk to the corner of Elm and Grant. At 5:45, the bus would take me right to the meeting. I would be in plenty of time for the meeting at 7, but I would need to leave the meeting early, at 8:10, because the last bus back left at 8:15.

MANDY: You never made the entire meeting?

MARTIN: No, but it's the going to the meetings that's more important than being at the meeting. The farm was thirty-one miles from the racetrack and thirty-two miles from the meetings in the Church basement. Distance ain't much of a problem for a fellow desperate for a drink, but being out there in the country was a help. I made that trip almost every day for three years.

MANDY: And Heaven's first baby, that must have been a great day.

MARTIN: I was a terrible day, she lost her first baby. I found it in the snow one morning, with Heaven standing above the little colt. I buried the baby myself.

RYAN: Jesus, Martin...can't you ever finish a story on a high note?

MARTIN: Sure, I'll finish this one with a couple. Heaven got in foal again. The second time she had another colt, a fine colt that I named, Heavenly Days. That colt grew up and won over \$100,000 on the racetrack.

MANDY: You said two, two good things?

MARTIN: I never had another drink.

(fade music)

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# HRU NEWS



News in harness racing, notes and announcements

[www.harnessracingupdate.com](http://www.harnessracingupdate.com)

## Racing could resume in Pennsylvania in three weeks

The Pennsylvania Equine Coalition reported on its [Facebook page](#) that: late Wednesday (May 27), Gov. Tom Wolf released revised re-opening guidance for sports which could accelerate the resumption of horse racing without spectators and with safety protocols.

On Thursday, the Wolf administration met with representatives of the horse industry. That's the first face-to-face meeting since Wolf ordered casinos and six associated horse tracks in mid-March.

Todd Mostoller, leader of the horseman's groups at the tracks at Penn National Racecourse and Presque Isle Downs, said the audio meeting went well.

More discussion will follow, said Mosteller, but there was general agreement racing at some tracks could potentially restart within three weeks.

[More information here from PlayPennsylvania.com.](#)

## Entries due Monday for Mohawk Park qualifiers

Woodbine Mohawk Park's race office would like to remind all horsepeople that the entry box for qualifiers on Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5 will close on Monday (June 1) at 10:30 a.m.

Preference will be given to Ontario-sired 3-year-olds and horses needing a charted line for eligibility to race.

—*Mark McKelvie / Woodbine communications*

## Mandatory payout of Northfield Single 6 on June 3

MGM Northfield Park will have a mandatory payout of the 20¢ Northfield Single 6 wager as the highlight of the racing program on Wednesday (June 3).

Normally, the Single 6 Jackpot can be won only by the holder of a unique winning combination that selects the winners of races 9 through 14, but the mandatory payout provision on June 3 will award all winning tickets with an equal share of the Single 6 pool, including all money in the carryover, which currently stands at over \$20,000.

The 20¢ Northfield Single 6 will continue to be offered every racing night through the mandatory payout on June 3. The wager will be discontinued after the June 3 card. A conventional (non-Jackpot) pick 6 wager will take its place on Northfield's wagering menu in the coming weeks.

Northfield's live racing schedule in June will remain Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday nights, post time 6:00 (Eastern).

—*Ayers Ratliff / MGM Northfield Park*

## SBOANJ thanks governor Murphy for green light in NJ

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) would like to thank Governor Murphy for reopening horse racing in the state of New Jersey.

Friday (May 29), while New Jersey horsepeople were busy qualifying at Gaitway Farms, with the hopes of live racing returning soon, the Governor announced the best news we have heard in over two months – racing will resume at the Meadowlands Racetrack next Friday, June 5.

After weeks of working with Karyn Malinowski of the Rutgers Equine and Science Center, to provide the safety protocols to return to racing at the Meadowlands, we look forward to the long anticipated start next weekend.

The SBOANJ and all New Jersey horsemen are grateful that Governor Murphy and his administration, and Judy Nason and the New Jersey Racing Commission (NJRC), worked with us to reopen racing at the Meadowlands. This announcement gives the horsemen of New Jersey the opportunity to get back to business.

With the successful conclusion of 24 qualifying races at Gaitway Farms, while practicing safety protocols, we look forward to the return of the best racing in North America. Good luck and safe racing.

—*Courtney Stafford / PR consultant SBOANJ*

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## Scioto Downs betting numbers lack context

I read with interest your lead article about Scioto Downs starting live racing and the good betting numbers that they generated ([full story here](#)). While those numbers look relatively good you have to remember all that money is coming from off track advance deposit betting sites. So while the gross numbers look good, the amount Scioto Downs gets to keep is a lot less than normal. So those numbers, while

good, most likely will not be able to sustain good purses for long.

You also have to note they had the harness betting market all to themselves. So what happens to betting numbers as other harness tracks start up? This situation only brings more attention to how much harness racing depends on casino subsidies to keep the purses at reasonable levels. Maybe this year will wake up the participants of how important it is to come up with ways to improve the product and increase both on track and off track wagering.

Well, at least we now have live racing back and the horseman can have some income.

Thanks for your coverage of what's happening in the industry.

— John Chambers / Lansdowne, PA

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 UPDATE

## RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY

### SCIOTO DOWNS *report*

#### Friday's Results:

**5, ScD, \$18,000, Pace, FILLIES AND MARES OPEN 1-4 DREW INSIDE 5-9 & 10 DREW OUTSIDE, 27.1, 55.2, 1:23.1, 1:51.3, FT**

**1-Big Bad Jane (m, 6, Big Bad John--Flower Cart, by Abercrombie)** \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 75-24-9-9, \$341,244

O-Sandra S Burnett. B-Sam O Noble III & Sandra S Burnett. T-Christi Noble. D-Dan Noble.

**2-Letme Fly Low (m, 5, Rockin Image--Psychotic, by Art Major)** \$4,500, \$45,000 2016 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 70-13-12-12, \$227,685

O-Ct Stables LLC. B-Mystical Marker Farms LLC & Peggy C Hood & Ervin Miller Stable Inc. T-John Ackley. D-Trevor Smith.

**3-Westsluckycam (m, 7, Camluck--Terror Of The West, by Western Terror)** \$2,160, Lifetime Record: 144-38-20-24, \$315,385

O-Jason B Shumway. B-Harness Horsepower Inc, CA. T-Tom Blankenship. D-Jeremy Smith.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 1H, 1Q, 1, H, NK - Finish Order: Shecandance N, Rosemary Rose, Allbeastnobeauty, Checks On The Way, Mystical Virgin, Queen Of The Pride, Blue Ivy

**6, ScD, \$15,000, Trot, NON WINNERS OF \$11,000 IN THE LAST 4 STARTS OPTIONAL CLAIMING \$30,000 (W/A) AE: NON WINNERS OF 10 PMRLT OR \$60,000 LIFETIME, 27.4, 57.1, 1:25.3, 1:53.4, FT**

**1-Matterlei (m, 4, Explosive Matter--Hawaiian Lei, by S J's Photo)** \$7,500, \$14,000 2017 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 31-10-5-2, \$95,553

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC. B-Shanamphilankilou Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Chris Page.

**2-Pure Chance (m, 4, Triumphant Caviar--Jewell Creek, by Credit Winner)** \$3,750, \$9,000 2017 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 25-10-6-3, \$319,238

O-Christopher F Beaver & Steven J Zeehandelar. B-Jonas L Schlabach. T-Christopher Beaver. D-Aaron Merriman.

**3-Black Mamba As (m, 5, Lionhunter--Happy Year, by Passionnant)** \$1,800, Lifetime Record: 58-12-10-10, \$298,660

O-Acl Stuteri Ab. B-John Erik Magnusson & Ann-Christin Lorentzon, SD. T-Anette Lorentzon. D-Elliott Deaton.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 6, 4, 2Q, NS, 3 - Finish Order: Cassius Lane, Voyage To Paris, Classic Venture, Cantab Lindy, A Royal Line, Kiwi Pres, Pittsburgh Hanover

**7, ScD, \$18,000, Trot, OPEN, 28.0, 57.0, 1:24.4, 1:53.1, FT**

**1-Majestic Player A (g, 6, Majestic Son--Another Player, by Dr Ronerail)** \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 35-20-3-1, \$155,355

O-Jeff Fought Racing & Brian K Carsey & Casey R Myers. B-Yabby Dam Farms Limited, AS. T-Walter Haynes Jr. D-Brett Miller.

**2-Party At The Banks (m, 6, Break The Bank K--Beach Party As, by Kadabra)** \$4,500, \$5,500 2015 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 67-27-16-4, \$345,218

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC. B-Midland Acres Inc & Acl Stuteri Ab. T-Ron Burke. D-Chris Page.

**3-No Whip Chip (g, 8, Victory Sam--Merediths Hope, by Master Lavec)** \$2,160, Lifetime Record: 118-24-15-10, \$263,207

O-Deborah L Noble. B-Sam O Noble III. T-Christi Noble. D-Dan Noble.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 4H, 2Q, 1H, 1T, 1T - Finish Order: Signal Hill, Eye Ofa Tiger As, Peggy Sue, Wildfire Seelster, Cruzen Cassi, Full Surge, A Tc Queenie

**9, ScD, \$15,000, Pace, FILLIES AND MARES NON WINNERS OF \$11,000 IN THE LAST 4 STARTS OPTIONAL CLAIMING \$30,000 (W/A) AE: NON WINNERS OF 10 PMRLT OR \$60,000 LIFETIME, 27.2, 56.2, 1:24.2, 1:52.3, FT**

**1-Play For Pay (m, 4, Tellitlikeitis--Fox Valley Ivy, by Incredible Finale)** \$7,500, \$15,500 2017 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 32-7-8-9, \$189,775

O-Ira Steinberg. B-Diana L Wilson. T-Michael Arnold. D-Jeremy Smith.

**2-Western Secret A (m, 5, Western Terror--Lifes Secret, by Life Sign)** \$3,750, Lifetime Record: 39-6-10-5, \$66,651

O-Blindswitch Racing Stable & Bukers Stable. B-T L White, AS. T-J D Perrin. D-Dan Noble.

## RACE RESULTS - FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

**3-Gone Girl** (m, 6, Dragon Again--Village Mirage, by Western Hanover) \$1,800, \$9,000 2015 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 89-20-8-12, \$218,300  
O-Mark D Gillenwater. B-Rolark Stables, CA. T-Mark Gillenwater. D-Tyler Smith.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 7Q, 5, 1, 1, T - Finish Order: Gypsy Merlot, Libby's Idea, Sugar Dance, Johns Baby Girl, I Choose You, Cult Icon, Arrival

## RACE RESULTS - SATURDAY

### SCIOTO DOWNS *report*

#### Saturday's Results:

**5, ScD, \$15,000, Pace**, HORSES AND GELDINGS NON WINNERS OF \$12,000 IN THE LAST 4 STARTS OPTIONAL CLAIMING \$30,000 CLAIMER (W/A) AE: NON WINNERS OF 11 PMRLT OR \$60,000 LIFETIME, 27.0, 56.0, 1:23.3, 1:51.2, FT

**1-Gerardo** (g, 5, **Rockin Image--Amarillo Sky, by Modern Art**) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 75-12-25-12, \$256,100  
O-Mark R Bogen. B-Melanie Wrenn. T-Kayne Kauffman. D-Kayne Kauffman.

**2-Beckhams Z Tam** (h, 6, Always A Virgin--Sara's Lucky Charm, by Electric Yankee) \$3,750, \$19,000 2015 Hoosier, Lifetime Record: 62-17-13-14, \$782,029  
O-Z Tam Stables LLC. B-Lavon L Miller. T-Jamie Macomber. D-Ricky Macomber Jr.

**3-Escapetothebeach** (g, 4, Somebeachsomewhere--Shelliscape, by Artiscape) \$1,800, \$175,000 2017 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 40-9-7-8, \$315,771  
O-Odds On Racing. B-Bamond Racing LLC. T-Virgil Morgan Jr. D-Brett Miller.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 1H, 1H, 1T, 1, NK - Finish Order: Stuckey Dote, Whiskey Friskie, Dave And Dennis, Hunchie, Real Gorgeous, Pacin To Paydaze, Pine Knot Tuff

**7, ScD, \$18,000, Pace**, HORSES AND GELDINGS OPEN POST POSITION 9 ASSIGNED, 27.1, 55.2, 1:23.4, 1:51.2, FT

**1-Lifeonthebeach A** (g, 6, **Somebeachsomewhere--Arterial Way, by Art Major**) \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 58-19-12-3, \$140,632  
O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brusceci LLC. B-G R & I G & L J Johnson, NZ & S J Johnson, AS. T-Ron Burke. D-Chris Page.

**2-Dancin Dragon** (g, 5, Dragon Again--Mcdance Desire, by McArdle) \$4,500, Lifetime Record: 55-19-8-4, \$256,040  
O-Randall B Bendis & Pollack Racing LLC. B-Mark L Marroletti. T-Randy Bendis. D-Brett Miller.

**3-My Hero Ron** (g, 8, Well Said--Erma La Em, by Cam's Card Shark) \$2,160, \$80,000 2013 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 169-37-34-37, \$1,001,823  
O-Brian Witt. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Danny Dubeansky. D-Josh Sutton.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 1Q, 1Q, 1, 1, NK - Finish Order: Sectionline Bigry, Yankee Boots, Lifewithjohn, General Dolan, Christen Me N, Threeofthebest A, Air Strike

**9, ScD, \$15,000, Pace**, HORSES AND GELDINGS NON WINNERS OF \$12,000 IN THE LAST 4 STARTS OPTIONAL CLAIMING \$30,000 CLAIMER (W/A) AE: NON WINNERS OF 11 PMRLT OR \$60,000 LIFETIME, 26.3, 55.2, 1:22.4, 1:51.4, FT

**1-Grantmeawish** (h, 5, **Camluck--Fbs Terror, by Western Terror**) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 50-11-9-4, \$156,838  
O-William A Hartt. B-Harness Horsepower Inc, CA. T-Michael Hitchcock. D-Tyler Smith.

**2-Whataboy** (g, 7, Big Bad John--Parapanalia, by Noble Ability) \$3,750, \$25,000 2014 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 115-22-19-15, \$501,611  
O-Dennis R Owens. B-Dm Stables LLC. T-Christi Noble. D-Dan Noble.

**3-Captain Dolmio N** (g, 9, Grinfromeartoeat--Kate Rocks, by Caprock) \$1,800, Lifetime Record: 71-14-11-9, \$138,850  
O-Tonya R Keckler & Chris Choros. B-S R Brindson, NZ. T-Jason Brewer. D-Jason Brewer.

▶▶ [Replay](#) ▶▶ Calls: 7H, 4H, 2, NS, 2H - Finish Order: Snowball's Romeo, Funatthebeach N, Manny, Rockin Inthe Hills, Major Deception, World Of Secrets, Sharp Action Money



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