

Friday, June 12, 2020

Gural steps up to card 18 at Big M to get horses raced

After failing to get approval to add a third day to the Meadowlands' weekly schedule, track owner Jeff Gural opted to card 18 races a night beginning next week after 777 horses were dropped into the entry box.

by Dave Briggs

New Jersey



Mark Ford said horsepeople owe Meadowlands Racetrack owner Jeff Gural a huge debt of gratitude for creating 18-race cards at the New Jersey track in an effort to get horses raced following a three-month shutdown due to COVID-19.

Ford, the president of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ), said Gural first tried to add a third weekly race card at the Meadowlands, but was turned down by the New Jersey Racing Commission (NJRC). That's when Gural opted to temporarily increase both weekly cards to 18 races each beginning next week with the June 19 card. It's all in response to having 777 horses entered to race at the Meadowlands this weekend as Pennsylvania tracks have yet to resume live racing and Yonkers Raceway in New York is also still on shutdown. Currently, the Meadowlands has 13-race cards, meaning 500 of the horses entered this week were shutout.

"Jeff Gural is a friend here and he has gone far and above what he is required to do to help out," Ford said. "He has bent over backwards trying to make more race days, but it's not that simple. There's a lot of bureaucratic problems, there's a lot of health scares, there's a lot of COVID-19 protocols that we're trying to overcome."

Ford said his association hasn't always agreed with Gural, but he said in this case Gural has tried to find a solution to get horses raced and money flowing to horsepeople struggling without racing income.

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Michael Lisa

Starting June 19, The Meadowlands will temporarily increase to 18-race cards starting with a 6 p.m. first post in an effort to get more horses raced after the three-month COVID-19 shutdown.

“I have to give him credit here, he’s really stepped up,” Ford said. “He doesn’t get a lot of credit for a lot of things, but in this situation he’s taking a bit of a hit and he’s doing the right thing for the horsepeople and we appreciate it.

Jason Settlemoir, the chief operating officer and general manager of The Meadowlands, said the number of horses entered spurred Gural to act to try to get more horses raced.

“(Former race secretary) Pete Koch used to open the (entry) box at this time of year and there would be 50 horses, so when you open the box and there’s 777 horses it’s kind of mind-blowing,” Settlemoir said.

“We realized that there was obviously a situation and we wanted to try to add race dates, but that would take a meeting of the commissioners in New Jersey. So, after speaking to the executive director, we decided, rather than to wait on the monthly meeting, which is a few weeks away, we decided to move the post-time up to 6 o’clock and add races on the end, so we could try to get as many horses raced as possible.

“Jeff is always thinking outside of the box. It was one of those things where we’re happy to try to help the industry as much as possible. We’re obviously trying to help people get back to normal again.”

That said, Ford and Settlemoir agree 18-race cards are not ideal.

“But it’s a lot better than nothing,” Ford said.

A Meadowlands press release said, “To stay close at all to the budgeted purse account will require a 20 per cent reduction excluding the planned three 12-horse races per night which will see 10 per cent trimmed from their purse. Purses will return to previous levels upon returning to the normal number of races.”

Settlemoir said there will likely be less time between races to get through the long cards.

“That’s something we’re going to have to coordinate with WEG. Obviously, we want to stay away from them and we want them away from us, so we’ll coordinate with the guys that set the post-times up there, so we make sure that we’re off of each other,” Settlemoir said.

Those technical issues and some very long days for Meadowlands staff – which will start in the morning for qualifiers and be there late into the night – pale in comparison to the strife facing many horsepeople.

“People are (upset) because they are hungry,” Ford said. “Nobody knows what’s going to happen and it’s a very scary time... There’s an obstacle around every corner. I’d really like to give credit to (SBOANJ executive administrator) Al Ochsner and the staff of the SBOA that are fielding calls and hearing the plight of the horsepeople.”

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What's behind the surprising handle numbers since racing's return?

by Brett Sturman

As harness tracks continue to come back online, most are overachieving in handle. With tiny Scioto Downs now added to Northfield Park as going over the \$2 million handle mark in the past week, Hawthorne Racecourse, too, went over the milestone. Conversely, when the Meadowlands and Woodbine Mohawk returned last weekend, their handle, surprisingly, could be described as somewhat underwhelming.

What dynamics are at work that can reconcile the differences in relative handle between the tracks?

According to one professional horse bettor, what it comes down to is that the traditionally smaller tracks are more price appealing. It might be a topic that your average bettor doesn't consciously think through, but it's something of extreme importance to a small number of individuals who comprise a high dollar wagering volume.

Scioto Downs began their meet a couple weeks ago with a string of million-dollar handles. For a track that had historically averaged total handle of \$225k a night, the increase was massive. During this time, the track had the harness racing world almost to itself and I don't think anyone realistically thought that the track could still do \$1 million once the Meadowlands and Woodbine came back. Amazingly, even with those premier tracks returning last Friday, Scioto Downs showed real staying power by still making it into seven figures.

The bettor I spoke to explained it.

"There's just opportunity for everybody. Scioto started back before the Meadowlands and people were excited for harness racing, and so people obviously drifted to them because they were available but also saw that the product

and the pools were okay. The thing is, once tracks gain pool size, it becomes a snowball. Once a track like Scioto gains a pool size that's bet-able, the bigger bettors start betting and the smaller bettors get attracted to it also.

"I bet Scioto last night (Wednesday), and I'll bet Scioto again tonight (Thursday)."

Last Friday, when Scioto stayed over \$1 million, the Meadowlands returned with \$2.8 million. Of course, that number still leads the way across harness racing as it always has, but it didn't return with the same bang that other tracks did. In fact, the Saturday handle dropped slightly from Friday, coming in at \$2.7 million. I'm sure that's happened before, but I can't recall off-hand an instance of Saturday handle being less than a Friday other than on maybe a night where all the top drivers are away for a big night elsewhere.

In offering his explanation for the Meadowlands numbers, this bettor was very direct.

"The Meadowlands let's Monarch distribute their signal for them and then Monarch charges a high host fee," he said. "Plus, they had a 2 per cent Monarch fee to rebate shops, which they get all of. None of it goes to the Meadowlands or horsemen. So, all the price-sensitive bettors – the bettors who bet the most money – won't bet because their rebate is very low. Also, Monarch doesn't give their signals to some ADWs and rebate shops. And the places they do give their signals to – they require that a customer must bet \$1 million per year to get a rebate and have access to their products, which obviously includes the Meadowlands."

Doing some basic math, he describes takeout for rebate bettors as essentially being equal to host fees plus distribution fees plus fees from the ADW. What it comes down to is that due to the higher variance in host and distribution fees between let's say the Meadowlands and Hawthorne, a bettor could be paying twice as much in takeout fees to the Meadowlands than it is to Hawthorne. In a specific example from a couple years ago, he cites a mandatory payout on a Jackpot Hi-5 from the Meadowlands and Hawthorne. That night with a \$50k less carryover to work with, Hawthorne got \$1.4 million in new money compared to \$260k at the Meadowlands. He says that anyone who bets on a large-scale basis knows this, and that's why the smaller tracks are seeing far more gain relative to the bigger tracks.

As another example of surprising handle from earlier this

week, Northfield Park outhandled Woodbine. That seems like something that would have been unheard of not too long ago.

“It’s the exact same thing,” said the bettor. “Northfield has a decent host fee for the price sensitive players, and they’ve always had that. It’s why they’ve always had some decent handle. When you’re trying to get growth in a betting market and in your pools, you have to make it lucrative for all sections of your customers. Price sensitive, regular people, and that’s what Woodbine – they kill off their regular bettors with 27 per cent takeout and stuff like that. So, when you kill off your regular bettors your pools diminish, and then your big bettors can’t play.

“You have a ton of customers on all different level that you need to appeal to and that’s what these bigger tracks don’t understand. You can’t kill your bettors and ever expect to have any growth is what it comes down to.

“If you want to bet the bigger tracks and fire away and get no rebate or a small rebate compared to the other tracks then go right ahead, but unless you’re a miracle worker

you’re just not going to win. And if you’re not winning, you can’t increase handle unless you keep pulling money out of your pockets. And not only that, but if you’re losing, you’re going to lose faster.”

Speaking from direct experience he said, “Nearly 15 years ago I bet \$2 million a year at the Meadowlands and that’s when their host fees were low, and the product was good. And as the product started deteriorating, they started raising their host fees and now I bet zero at the Meadowlands. They race on nights where there are tracks racing with better opportunities for me.”

The irony is that in the opinion of this individual, the historically premier tracks are the ones making it least friendly for bettors such as himself to play. At the same time, the smaller tracks that had been overlooked prior are starting to make real gains and have been successful of late in attracting new customers, both small and large.

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Diners, Drivers and Tris

A culinary betting adventure around and near MGM Northfield Park, which has handled \$17.3 million since its return to racing without spectators.

by Bob Roberts

It's been 93 nights since fans leaned against the grandstand fence at Northfield Park, beer or beverage of choice and tote ticket in hand, and rooted for the horse they bet on. It's very likely they'll be allowed back in next weekend.

I can't wait for the doors to be unlocked, so here's the next (and closest) best thing – Diners, Drivers and Tris.

Say what?

Most food lovers are familiar with the popular television series “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives” and its bearded and bleached host, Guy Fieri. Well, this is a pari-mutuel spin-off for railbirds like me. We're all on the outside looking in.

In this episode, the diner is me, the drivers are those of Northfield Park, where the pacers and trotters go round and round year-round, and the tris are trifecta wagers.

Northfield, located on the southeast side of Cleveland, has a clubhouse dining room and a grandstand concession stand offering a variety of food choices, but nobody is wearing a bib to the track these nights because you can't get in the place.

Ohio

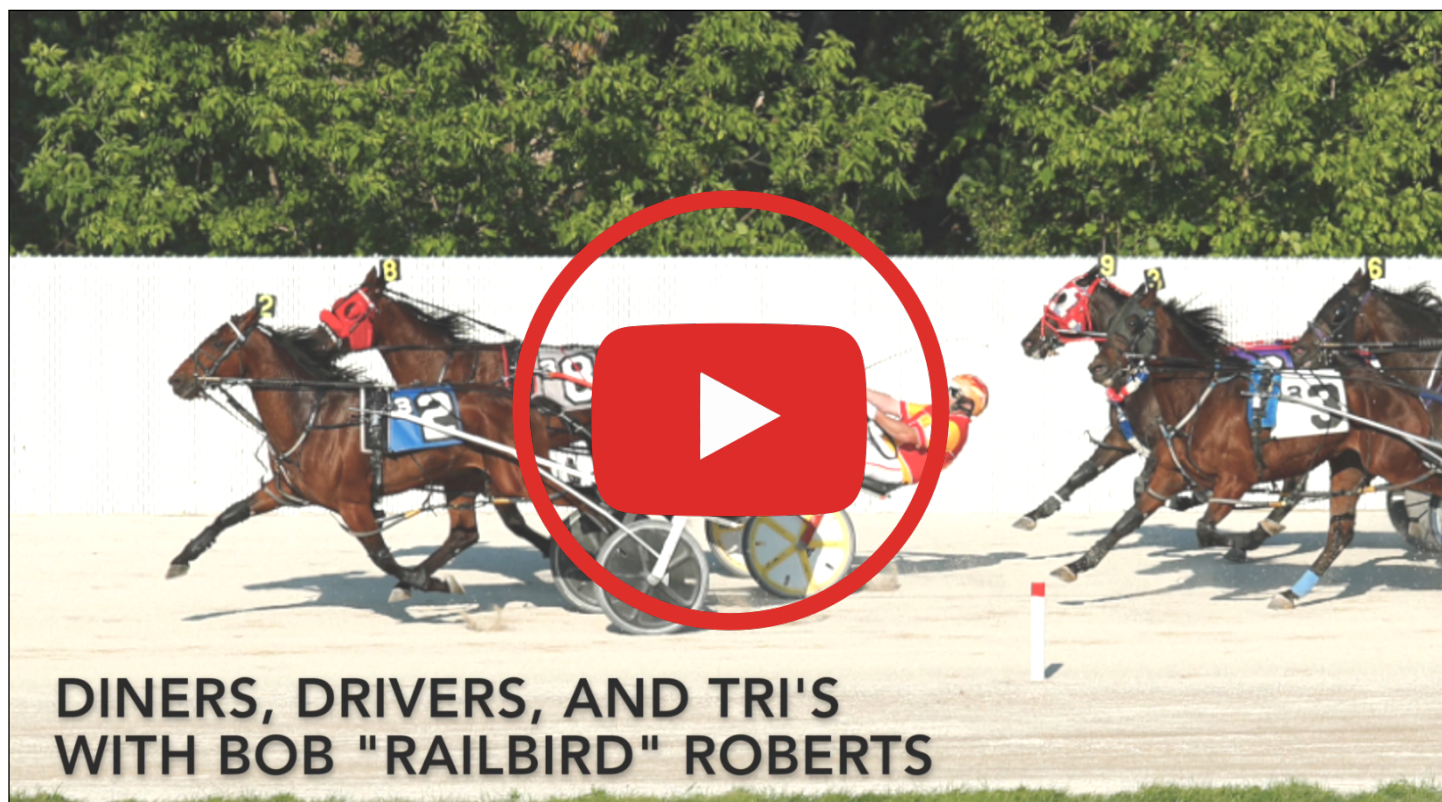


Luckily, the area surrounding the track offers a surprisingly wide variety of dining and dessert choices, some sit-down, some fast food, and two of them long-standing and outstanding Italian eateries.

Not wanting to go hungry as I handicapped, bet and watched the races on my phone, I mapped out a gastronomical plan for Tuesday night and then drove into Northfield's neighborhood. It would make for the closest thing to one-stop shopping as all the restaurants are within a half mile of the track's finish line.

The first stop at 5:30 p.m., just a half hour to post time for the first race daily double, was Spennato's Ristorante & Pizzeria. It's popular with horseplayers and horsemen, because not only is the food very good, Egidio Di Paola, it's owner and head chef, used to own the track kitchen, where he served up a wicked breakfast pizza.

I'm hooked on Spennato's chicken marsala and that's what I ordered and ate while I watched my daily double and opening trifecta wagers finish up the track. There is no correlation between feast and wagering famine. I wolfed down the chicken as my picks headed back to the barn area,



unimpressive and unplaced.

Meanwhile at Northfield Park, the paddock and drivers' room was pacing itself for another lengthy night of racing. More is always more at the Rt. 8 oval, where 15 race cards is the norm. Tuesday night's program clocked in at five hours and 32 minutes.

Bettors love the extended action. Through the first 10 programs since reopening following its coronavirus shutdown, Northfield has handled \$17.3 million. Its top handle was the \$2.1 million of June 1. There have been two other \$2 million-plus evenings.

Napoleon has been credited with saying that an army marches on its stomach. Some drivers at Northfield like to hit the track with a satisfied tummy. Others forego foodstuffs.

"I don't like to eat during the races," said Aaron Merriman, the winningest driver in North America the past five years. "I'll have something in the afternoon before I get to the track. If I get hungry later, maybe I'll have some candy."

I followed up my chicken marsala by driving across the street to a McDonald's for a cup of coffee and a winning ticket on a hunch bet. Who wouldn't pair Mighty Cowboy and M T Gunslinger in the third race exacta? They finished one-two, but the gimmick paid only \$6.20 for a deuce and I didn't have the trifecta.

Back at Northfield, driver Jason Thompson wasn't having much luck in the sulky, but he was well-fed in defeat.

"I could eat Italian or Mexican food seven days a week," said Thompson. "At home, I'm well stocked with spaghetti and meatballs and tacos and chips. I always have plenty of food with me at the track."

"He (Jason) is something else," said Merriman. "He's always eating a full meal in the (drivers') room."

Feel free to be jealous of Thompson. He is tall and lanky and burns calories so quickly that he carries two nicknames – Bones and Bony.

A few more losing wagers drove me to drink, so I headed a quarter of a mile down the road to Larry Sack's Northfield Inn for a glass of wine. The restaurant has been a regular stop for racetrackers for nearly 60 years. When in town for stakes races, it wasn't uncommon to see the likes of John Campbell and Bill O'Donnell dining at the Northfield Inn, with its loaded grilled chicken salads, outstanding pizza, and Italian bread, served warm.

The success of a small trifecta (\$37.40 in the seventh) triggered my sweet tooth, so I drove down the street to

Handel's, a homemade ice cream and yogurt shop started by Alice Handel and sold for the first time out of her husband's Youngstown, OH gas station 74 years ago.

I settled on a cup of red raspberry sherbet, which should have put me a length or two in front of Thompson and his tacos for the road.

With a full stomach and a wounded wagering account, I headed for home for the second half of the 15-race card. The food in the pantry, already paid for, was free, but the betting didn't improve. It meant for the night, I gained weight and lost money.

I might have to mooch a meal from Jason Thompson when Northfield welcomes back its fans.

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HARNESS RACING UPDATE

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WE WILL ROAR



To say the least, it's been a difficult few months. We send our sincere thanks to the frontline workers during this pandemic; our concern to those in the industry whose livelihoods have been in jeopardy; and our most heartfelt condolences to those who have lost a loved one.

But one thing I've learned in my 40 years of working in harness racing is that we have the most resilient sport on earth.

And in time we will all be back doing what we love — racing horses — with greater passion and intensity than ever before.

We won't just make a comeback. *We will roar.*



**Greg Schuler
Interactive**



Does a mare's number of foals impact yearling buying and do a horse's eyes work separately?

That plus my misadventures with high wheel sulkies and much more.

by Ron Gurfein

Tidbits: My life is well into the last quarter and maybe that is why poorly-versed obituaries bother me. Del Biccum passed away at the ripe old age of 93 recently. Del was a wonderful man and a very talented driver and trainer at Monticello Raceway for many decades. He had many good horses and was a fan favorite for years.

Sadly, the obituary posted on industry websites had only passing mention that Del participated in harness racing and had no mention of his lifetime achievements in the sport. Mostly, it was about the massive number of family members he left behind. To me, it made the entire release a waste of time in the context of our industry. Please, if you are going to write about the passing of a horseman, give some history of his involvement in the sport as well as his accomplishments.

* * *

My sincerest condolences to the family of Real "Coco" Cormier a good friend and a wonderful man who passed



away this week at 84. I raced with him in Monticello and Yonkers and Roosevelt for many years. He was a talented reinsman as well as a top horseman. R.I.P. my friend.

* * *

Congratulations to Julie Miller winner of five of the seven first baby races of the season at Gaitway Farm.

* * *

Marie Ortolan has corrected an error I made last week. Jag De Bellouet was the horse that won the Prix D'Amérique and the Cornulier in 2005 not General Du Pommeau.

Speaking of French bargains, as I was last week, Marie named Jag was a 6,700 Euro horse that won 4 million Euros; Ideal Du Gazeau cost 1,500 Euros and won 2 million and Meaulnes du Corta was 2,000 Euros and won 2 million.

* * *

We are back in action and I don't want to beat a dead horse but the great show put on by the Meadowlands this weekend deserved better financial reception than was awarded it. I realize things have been tough. I am not asking for those in need to advance the wagering pool. Instead I would like to see the insightful management team do some things that would add to the profitability of the endeavor.

We could start with having some of the great TV personalities that Jeff Gural employs videotape interviews with trainers, drivers, owners and gamblers before the card begins and play the tapes prior to each race they discuss.

Since there are no people in the stands, and the video will be of major interest to the bettors, let's increase the time between races so the presentation is not too rushed.

The post parade and scoring should not be put on the back burner for graphics.

This is far from my field of expertise, but if graphics are deemed necessary, some sort of split screen will suffice as the scoring is a major factor to many gamblers.

Another area needing serious improvement, although it will be an uphill battle, is TVG coverage. Having an announcer that is knowledgeable of our sport would be a big plus. I think it would be great if some of the in-house handicapping interviews could be shown on TVG with enough time for a bettor to digest the information and still get a bet in.

Basically, there should be no quiet time on the show. Someone should always be pushing a horse, a driver, a trainer or a betting gimmick like a Pick 3, 4 or anything that will get the viewer to pick up his tablet and start betting.

I am fully aware that the thoroughbred fan base is

substantially greater than ours. However, we must take a good look at how they draw in the bettors. I don't have all the answers, but some smart fellow somewhere certainly does.

Both Belmont Park and the Meadowlands opened at almost the same time after a long sojourn due to the virus. There were lots of people dying for the action.

Belmont's handle was up 84 per cent for the first five days I don't know our percentage, but the handle wasn't even \$3 million a night, which pales in comparison.

The odd thing about it is that we card more races (not necessarily smarter) and being a fan of both, our product was equal or superior in that period of time.

What if we raced Thursday, Friday and Saturday, had 10 races and paid the seven top finishers with at least 12 entries per race?

Just a thought, resulting from the present surplus of entries in the box with Yonkers, Pocono and Philadelphia closed.

* * *

Interesting story. I was talking to a friend the other day and we were discussing our first jobs and he had one that involved a process I never knew existed.

Did you ever wonder why a 50 cent candy bar cost \$7.50 in a movie house or why 50 cents worth of popcorn around \$6.00. I have the answer for you.

Back in the day, my friend's job was that of a runner for a movie chain. He would run bids on a list of movies to Colombia Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox and other studios to land the showing rights to new movies. These bids were in the form of a percentage of every ticket sold on how much the theatre was willing to pay to show the movie and for how long.

In those days, the late '50s, the bid would be in the vicinity of 20 per cent to go to the studio.

That was then and this is now. The average for the first week of a top movie could be as low as nothing, but could be as much as 45 per cent.

In reality with only 20 per cent of the ticket price retained by the movie house, it is easy to understand why theatre owners in the present market consider themselves candy store operators.

Richard Adams asks: I saw a photo of Doug Ackerman and Howard Beissinger in high wheel sulkies, presumably racing. Have you ever done that?

I never had the opportunity to race in a high wheel sulky, but, unfortunately, have had the opportunity to ride in one on

more occasions than I would like to remember.

The first time was at the World Trotting Derby when "Doc" Narotsky asked me to lead the post parade one year. It wasn't that bad getting in, but it is a very hard ride – something like being in a sulky with two totally flat tires.

Getting out was another story. It must have taken three or four big guys to get me off that perch. It is so high off the ground and there is so much to the contraption I couldn't figure out how to get my feet to clear enough to get to the ground. I would be embarrassed to tell how long I was a captive to the huge bike.

Now, to prove how much I really like punishment, a few years later they auctioned off a high wheeled replica at the Pre Hambletonian Dinner at the Meadowlands and dope that I am, I sprung for \$2,400 to buy it.

On top of that, it cost serious money to ship it to my barn in Florida. I don't have the heart to tell the rest of the story, but it was not good.

Jocz Stanley asks: I read that each horse's eye works separately, and the left and right sides of the brain have trouble sharing information. How does this affect your approach to training and do you have any stories regarding this in the horses you have raced?

This is a very interesting question as the standardbred trainer has less eye theories and brain theories than his thoroughbred counterpart.

Unfortunately, I am not certain that there is any scientific evidence to your claim.

It is true that due to the unusual placement of the eyes they are not in tandem. However studies although not conclusive seem to tell us that by virtue of the actual structure of the horses brain it could not possibly permit this theory .

I have read an old tale that "right brained" horses are fearful and submissive and "left brained" horses are brave and dominant, but, there again, when you are dealing with an animal that can't tell you very much, it's hard to decide on what theories are right or wrong.

Some thoroughbred trainers go as far as saying that both sides of the animal must be introduced to certain functions in training in order for the endeavor to be successful. I personally have never been confronted with any situations regarding these theories.

There are some interesting things to know about a horses vision.

The most amazing point being, that because of the

location of the eyes a horse can see almost 340 degrees. There are two blind spots but very narrow in scope. The blind spots are directly in front and directly behind, about 10 per cent in each case.

I had an unusual interest in the equine eye as I had a beautiful Nero filly named Roman Miss that I had sold to Billy Popfinger as a 2-year-old for a nice profit. When I came to the barn the morning she was sold she had punctured her eye in the stall during the night.

Needless to say, the sale was not completed and we spent three days trying to save the eye to no avail. I bought her a hood with a full cup to protect the area of the missing eye and she went on to be a really nice 3-year-old. It never did have any ill effect on her racing ability. In her few starts for me, she was second to the great filly Jeff's Eternity in an early closer at the Meadowlands. Subsequently, Charlie Karp sold her to Mort Finder of Pine Hollow Stud for more than twice what I was getting from Showbiz. Even a blind squirrel can find an acorn.

Joseph Klis asks: When yearling shopping, does number of foals have any effect on you?

If this was easy, we wouldn't be having any discussion. I could give you a hundred old wives tales on yearling buying that in one circumstance or another may have worked. To me, most of them hold no water. The best advice is: first love the individual and the pedigree and worry about the nonsense later.

I did read somewhere that 49 of the top 50 standardbreds were all ninth foal or before. What the criteria of the top 50 was biased on still remains a mystery to me.

My personal taste is that seven foals is reasonable. However, I was there in Lexington, Kentucky at the Tattersalls Yearling Sale in 1970, when Jim Harrison convinced Donnie Prussack to buy Songcan the 10th foal of Ami Song for \$5,000 and two years later I had a blank check to buy the 13th foal of the mare, Songflori purchased by Delvin Miller. In fairness to myself, Phil Tully and Mort Finder agreed with my decision. Songflori went on to be a top colt.

So you see there are rules on buying but there are always exceptions.

To me, it is so hard to find a colt or filly that I love I am almost forced to eliminate worry as to the number of foals the mare has had.

That said, when I go through the catalogue I will eliminate foals of older mares where the entire pedigree is less than stellar.

I will give you one suggestion that will exempt a mare

from considering her age and that is, production of good horses with lesser sires. One has to go no further than Continentalvictory's dam Intercontinental to see this play out. She was a non-record, non-descript mare Jan Johnson trained and he said she was not very quick.

However, bred to Speedy Somolli she had a top colt, LV Glory Bound, winner of almost \$200,000 and she had a Prakas Filly, Atlantic that trotted in 1:58 at 2 which, at that time, was very fast. Now a beautiful filly by Valley Victory – already the sire of a Hambletonian winner from his first crop – arrives. What more could a fellow want?

Thanks again for all the positive mail. Please keep the questions coming. I hope you're enjoying the rebirth of racing. It sure has put a smile on my face.

Have a wonderful week...

Have a question for The Guru?

Email him at GurfTrot@aol.com.

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Debut of Racing Night Live in Canada draws strong reviews

The first of 13 weekly broadcasts on national sports network TSN Thursday night featured both standardbred and thoroughbred from Woodbine with eye-catching visuals. "What stood out were how great the horses looked," said WEG VP Jessica Buckley.

by Chris Lomon

For Woodbine Entertainment, Racing Night Live (RNL) is a perfect opportunity to showcase the best of both horse racing worlds.

Thursday evening marked the first of 13 RNL television broadcasts, airing on TSN3 and TSN5 [one of Canada's national sports channels], which showcase a mix of live standardbred races from Mohawk Park in Milton, ON, and thoroughbred action from Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto.

TSN's Laura Diakun and Woodbine Entertainment's Jason Portuondo are the co-hosts, with Brodie Lawson and Chad Rozema contributing reports from track level.

The opening show [RNL airs from 6-8 p.m. ET] offered three standardbred dashes and a trio of thoroughbred races, the action complemented by a variety of viewer-friendly camera angles.

"What stood out were how great the horses looked," said Jessica Buckley, WEG senior vice-president of standardbred racing and thoroughbred racing. "The golden hour of the sun setting over both Woodbine and Woodbine Mohawk Park was spectacular. The broadcast quality and camera angles, including the drone footage from Woodbine, was a highlight. I loved the enthusiasm of everyone involved – great interviews with a focus on the racing participants, and the hosts did an excellent job setting up the show in between the live action. The Top 5 'Things to Know About Horse Racing' was a great segment for new viewers."

Although live horse racing is currently being conducted spectator-free, a scan of social media yielded several rave reviews from Ontario-based horsepeople and others.

"When any horsemen see Jessica Buckley and Jim Lawson [WEG CEO] at the track, please go up and say thank you for the wonderful job they have done not only get us back racing but for the TSN show that is amazing," standardbred trainer Blake MacIntosh posted on Twitter and Facebook.

"What an absolutely tremendous job WEG and TSN are doing with this broadcast," said writer, handicapper and HRU contributor Garnet Barnsdale.

Another notable moment from the premiere show included TSN's Brian Williams interview with Lawson about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the horse racing industry and how WEG continues to operate live racing in large part due to the comprehensive health and safety protocols that



Dave Landry

Woodbine Mohawk Park was in the national spotlight Thursday during the debut of Racing Night Live on TSN.

have been put in place for all participants.

RNL also featured a special acoustic video performance of Canadian country music duo The Reklaws new hit single, "Where I'm From," as a way to help raise funds and awareness for racehorse aftercare programs.

Most importantly for Canada's biggest racetrack operator, RNL offers a welcome opportunity to attract a new audience of horseplayers, while also satiating its present fan base across the country and North America.

Those tuning in now have the ability to access the recently-launched horse racing app known as Dark Horse. The app, which utilizes artificial intelligence, was designed to simplify wagering on horse racing while allowing users to stream the races, play for free or play with cash.

"As the first professional sport to return in Canada, it is a great opportunity to showcase racing to people that love sport and competition," said Buckley. "Woodbine is hoping to intrigue a new audience and draw them in to our great sport. Dark Horse is a gamified wagering app that helps give new bettors an edge using artificial intelligence. It's intuitive and easy to use, and built to appeal to the sports wagering crowd. I think the show was fun for new people, and interesting coverage for our long-time racing fans too."

Said Lawson, who took to Twitter after the show wrapped, "Bravo - cannot wait until Week 2 of Racing Night Live!"

The weekly broadcasts lead up to TSN's airing of all three legs of the Canadian Triple Crown, including the 161st running of the Queen's Plate, which has been rescheduled for Sept. 12.

"After seeing tonight's show, I can't wait for next Thursday," said Buckley. "The teams came out strong and the show will get better and better as we go."

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Trainer Melissa Essig hitting her stride in Indiana

by Chris Lomon

Luck on the racetrack, she said with a laugh, wasn't on her side after she walked down the aisle, but Melissa Essig would eventually hit her best stride.

It was a horse racing match made in heaven when up-and-coming standardbred conditioner Melissa Beeman married accomplished driver Joe Essig — a winner of 3,754 career races, as well as 87 more training triumphs — on Feb. 9, 2009.

Not everything, however, lived up to the same good fortune of the special day.

At least not in the days and weeks after the vows were exchanged.

"Our biggest challenge was that when Joe and I got married, we couldn't get any of our horses to finish higher than sixth place," Melissa said. "When we got married, at the beginning, nothing seemed to go well with the horses for us. It was very challenging. But then we got Dontfusswithruss and Russell Mania. They put us on the map, and things started going forward from there. When we got those two, everything turned around."

And then some.

The dynamic duo of Dontfusswithruss, an Indiana Sires Stakes champion at both two and three, who earned over \$530,000 throughout his illustrious racing career, and Russell Mania, also an Indiana Sires Stakes champion, thrust Essig into the Hoosier State racing spotlight.

A bay trotting son of Elegant Man [IN], Dontfusswithruss won 24 of 119 starts, along with \$537,214 in career earnings.

Russell Mania, also a son of Elegant Man, was bred by Aaron Stutzman.

Essig campaigned the bay gelding from June 2012 until November 2014.

Both horses are named after Essig's father, longtime horseman, Russ Beeman. Her mother, Jacalyn, bred



Courtesy Melissa Essig

The Essig / Beeman family (from left, sitting): Jackie, Faith and Russ Beeman. Standing is Missy and Joe Essig.

Dontfusswithruss.

"Dontfusswithruss won most of the legs for the 2- and 3-year-old Sires Stakes," said the trainer. "They both won their Super Finals on the same night [September 8, 2012], at Indiana Downs. That's my proudest moment."

But it's by no means her only memorable one.

Both unraced at two, Little Rocket Man and Shamwow were a force throughout the 2019 Indiana Sires Stakes season.

Not bad for a duo that didn't exactly turn heads before they went postward.

Bred by Victory Hill Farm Inc. [IN] and co-owned by Russell Beeman and Jack Freeman, Little Rocket Man finished eight lengths behind Rockie Got Framed in 1:58-flat in his first lifetime qualifier.

"We didn't think that much of him training down until he got behind the gate and lined up beside other horses to race," said Essig. "I didn't realize we had a good one. We didn't race him at 2. He's a ridgling, and he had a complicated surgery, so by the time we got him ready, it was too late in the year. My dad wanted to turn him out and we brought him back as 3-year-old. He just wasn't interested in racing until he had the chance to go up against other horses."

When the opportunity came, Little Rocket Man fired on all cylinders.

In his first lifetime start, on April 15, 2019, he crossed the wire a convincing winner in 1:53.4 at Hoosier Park.

Little Rocket Man hasn't missed a beat since the milestone victory.

The bay sports an impressive 11-1-2 mark from 17 career engagements, all contested at Hoosier Park.

Shamwow, a homebred owned by Cornerstone Stock Farms, was also unraced at 2.



Linscott Photography

Little Rocket Man (Trace Tetrick) has posted an impressive 11-1-2 mark from 17 career engagements, all contested at Harrah's Hoosier Park.

At 3, the son of Always a Virgin [IN] won six of his 12 starts, posted five second-place finishes, and earned \$197,075 for his connections.

The bay gelding, owned by Jeff Fought Racing and David Fought, didn't see Indiana Sires Stakes action until last July, making his debut in the fourth leg of the 3-year-old colt pace a winning one.

LeWayne Miller drove Shamwow to a rallying one-and-a-half length score in a snappy 1:49.4.

A key to such success stories and others, offered Essig, is in maintaining a manageable operation.

"We try not to keep a huge stable, so we can keep focused on what we've got. We have 17 right now, and a couple more coming in. We race 2-year-olds if we think they are fit and strong, but if they need their time, we'll turn them out. We have some nice babies that we really like, and none of them are at the point where we think we should turn them out. They are all training well, so hopefully, we'll have a good year with our 2-year-olds."

Simply having the opportunity to race again in Indiana is a win for Essig and other horsepeople across the state, who like many others throughout North America, have been greatly affected by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

Spectator-free standardbred racing is expected to commence at Hoosier Park on June 16.

"It's been very stressful. We have all these horses and you are trying your best to stay in communication with your owners. When you didn't know when the date would be for the return of racing, it made it tough. We were in Florida

longer than normal. We just wanted to get back home and get racing started. We just focus on what we have in the barn."

Essig will soon have a much clearer picture of how the season might play out for her stable.

And, just as it has been since she arrived on the standardbred scene in 2008, she'll have plenty of familiar faces to help her build off that stellar 2019 campaign.

There has also been a new addition to Team Essig.

"I have my niece, Faith Beeman, working for me now. She's grooming. This is the first year that she was able to get a license and paddock. She's really excited. My husband, my father and I, we all jog and train the horses together. It makes it fun."

Even more so when you have a solid one-two punch to call upon each week.

Essig is hoping this year yields a few more highlights she can add to her racing resume.

With her post-nuptial racing misfortunes now well behind her, does she think 2020 can be a strong season?

"I do," she said.

It seems like a most fitting response.

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HRU FOAL OF THE WEEK

Dave Landry

This lively Royalty For Life filly out of unraced Donato Hanover mare Warrawee Truce arrived recently at Warrawee Farm in Rockwood, ON. It is the second foal out of Warrawee Truce. She also has a 2-year-old Muscle Mass colt named Warrawee Xmas.

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Breeder Harry Rutherford dead at 83

Standardbred Canada has reported ([full story here](#)) that Harry Rutherford, one of Canada's most successful breeders, died Thursday (June 11) at the age of 83.

Rutherford operated Cool Creek Farm in Mount Pleasant, ON with partner Diane 'Joey' Ingham for decades and produced a number of notable trotting stars including Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Famer Elegantimage as well as O'Brien Award winners Pure Ivory – the dam of 2019 Canadian Horse of the Year Forbidden Trade – and Casual Breeze. Ingham and Rutherford were honored as Canada's Breeder of the Year in 2009 when their 19 starters, including O'Brien winner Il Villaggio, averaged \$64,528 for a total of \$1.2 million in earnings.

Last October, Rutherford topped the third session of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale when he sold a Kadabra filly out of Glide By named Up And Ready to a group of fellow Ontarians that includes Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld.

"For a yearling, that's certainly top drawer for me. I can't wait to get back to the hotel and call Joey," Rutherford told



Dave Landry

Marvin Katz (left) congratulated breeder Harry Rutherford after the latter sold the third day sale topper at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale – a Kadabra filly out of Glide By named Up And Ready – for \$300,000 to a group of fellow Ontarians that includes Katz and Al Libfeld. Rutherford died Thursday at age 83.

HRU in Lexington. Up And Ready was consigned by Preferred Equine Marketing.

Rutherford got involved in harness racing in the 1960s while working with the Brantford police department. His neighbor was noted participant Max Webster, and he obtained a mare with Max's son Brian Webster when Max was upgrading his stock. That foray into racehorse ownership gave Rutherford his first taste of the business, but he found the breeding side more to his liking.

Rutherford and Ingham started out in the breeding business in the late 1970s with a mare by the name of Hurricane Honey, who was purchased in Lexington and didn't pan out as a racehorse. Hurricane Honey definitely excelled as a broodmare, producing a pair of divisional champions in the 1980s by the names of Cosmic Storm 3, T1:57 (\$338,506) and Ride The Wave 2, 2:00f (\$276,260). Rutherford retired from the police force in 1988 to focus on the breeding farm.

That focus produced a parade of champions over the next three decades that also included breeding stakes winner Raising Rachel, while also owning a piece of 2008 Hambletonian winner Deweycheatumnhowe.

Rutherford served on numerous industry boards over the years, and he was honored along with Ingham by the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association in 2013 with the Chris Van Bussel Memorial Award, an honor is awarded to persons of integrity who have who served the SBOA and industry.

–*Standardbred Canada*

COSA TV to broadcast this morning's baby races from Mohawk

COSA TV has teamed up with Woodbine Mohawk Park and is pleased to be able to provide enhanced coverage of the first full session of baby races this Friday morning from the Campbellville oval beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Greg Blanchard will host the show and will be joined on the broadcast by Mark McKelvie who will also call the action.

Blake MacIntosh and Anthony MacDonald, who spoke about a number of their rookies during Wednesday night's Baby Race Preview Show on COSA TV, will send out several starters this morning.

Fans will also get their first look at Marlboro Seelster, a record \$270,000 purchase from last Fall's London Selected Yearling Sale. The son of Bettors Delight–Macapelo Rose has drawn post four in this morning's seventh race with Louis

Phillipe Roy driving for co-owner/trainer Ian Moore.

The show will be available on various COSA TV platforms, including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter as well as Woodbine Mohawk Park's YouTube channel. Standardbred Canada will post FREE TrackIT program pages on their site this morning and will also offer the live broadcast to their online audience.

—*Greg Blanchard for COSA TV*

Yonkers management insisting only those that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies will be allowed on the grounds

The Standardbred Owners Association of New York (SOA of NY) has been advised by the director of racing at Yonkers Raceway that each horseperson (trainers, drivers and grooms) seeking to participate in racing at Yonkers needs to get an antibody test. This is not something the SOA of NY agrees with in any way shape or form. The way we were told this is meant to work is that the first time a horseperson comes on the grounds he/she will need to show the test document result to the race office or to the director of racing. Importantly, the current version of the Gaming Commission protocols requires that the test result shows that the individual is positive for antibodies. Without a positive test, we are told you will not be able to access the grounds. Accordingly, every horseperson who wishes to race at Yonkers is encouraged to get tested in the event the current protocol stands as currently stated. The type of test required was not specified. One version is a pinprick that we understand is being done even at some pharmacies and other versions employ the drawing of blood.

SOA of NY president Joe Faraldo said in a release, "the interpretation Yonkers management is giving to the Dept. of Health guidelines is different from that given by other tracks and it works in Yonkers' interest to defer or delay opening. Casinos and racinos were born on the back of the racing industry, but now want to control racing's very existence or limit it to save money. Hats off to all the other tracks not playing this game. Whether they are driven by increasing handle or a concern for the sport itself, doesn't matter, they are opening without throwing up impediments."

We are hopeful that the robust protocols being implemented at other tracks (for example, Meadowlands, Tioga and Vernon) which involves, among many things, the answering of relevant health questions, will be considered more appropriate and better suited to the circumstances at

hand, but as of now the existing protocol as relayed to us by the Director of Racing stands. It makes no sense to us since more people do not have positive antibodies.

Regardless, numerous other protocols will be implemented at Yonkers, including temperature checks (anyone with a temperature greater than 100.4 will not be allowed access to the paddock), the requirement of wearing masks, social distancing, sanitary procedures and the aforementioned answering of relevant health questions.

Reminder: No owners or fans are permitted on site during this initial start-up period until further notice

—*SOA of NY*

Almost post time at Harrah's Hoosier Park

Harrah's Hoosier Park is officially set to begin the 27th season of live harness racing on Tuesday, June 16. In close coordination with industry stakeholders and government regulators, Harrah's Hoosier Park has outlined a detailed plan to safely play host to its first card of racing since the end of the 2019 season. Entries for the season opener were drawn on Thursday (June 11).

The 2020 live racing season at Harrah's Hoosier Park will feature a reduced number of live racing programs with 111 racing days and follow a Tuesday through Saturday schedule throughout the season. With a daily post time of 6:30 pm, live racing will be conducted through Nov. 21 and held in a spectator free manner until further notice.

"I want to again thank Governor Eric Holcomb, the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, the Indiana Standardbred Association and Caesars Entertainment for all the hard work and collaboration that went into making the start of horse racing in Indiana possible," said Rick Moore, Harrah's Hoosier Park's vice president and general manager of racing. "We share a full commitment to the success of the racing program and look forward to presenting a racing season that all stakeholders will be proud of."

All of Harrah's Hoosier Park's familiar betting options are back with a few updates featured for the 2020 season. In partnership with the United States Trotting Association Strategic Wagering program and the Indiana Standardbred Association, Hoosier Park will once again feature a \$10,000 Guaranteed Pick-4 pool on Thursday nights in races 3 through 6. Hoosier Park will also continue to offer other specialty guaranteed wagers on various nights throughout the season.

Harrah's Hoosier Park is proud to offer a \$10,000 guaranteed Hoosier High-5 pool in the last race of the program every Tuesday through Friday for the duration of the live racing season. With an industry low takeout of 12 per cent and a minimum wager of 20 cents, the Hoosier High-5, which requires a bettor to select the first five finishers in a race in exact order, will be offered on the last race each night, provided there are at least seven entrants. If there are no winning tickets sold, the net money wagered that day will be carried over to the next day's Hoosier High-5 pool.

Harrah's Hoosier Park will offer a free, live racing program online for the first week of live racing and every Friday throughout the racing season. In addition, Hoosier Park will feature a free Trackmaster tip sheet available for download and several other free handicapping tools available on the Hoosier Park website.

Harrah's Hoosier Park will once again place an emphasis on an expanded social media campaign to raise awareness and engagement around this year's racing season. Racing fans will have the ability to ask questions, post comments and participate in promotions using social media. Utilizing the hashtag #PlayHP, racing fans and participants are encouraged to follow Harrah's Hoosier Park on Facebook and Twitter for up to date information and promotions.

One of the most highly anticipated weekends on the 2020 harness racing calendar will take place in October as Harrah's Hoosier Park will welcome the coveted Breeders Crown events back to Indiana on Friday, Oct. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 31. After an overwhelmingly successful event in 2017, Harrah's Hoosier Park will play host to all 12 year-end championship races, worth a combined \$6 million.

In addition to the Breeders Crown events and activities, Hoosier Park will play host to an extended stakes schedule throughout the 2020 racing season worth nearly a combined \$3 million. The stakes season, which remained virtually unchanged, will feature several Grand Circuit stops and Hoosier Park's signature pacing event, the \$300,000 Dan Patch Stakes, which is slated for Friday, Aug. 14. The Indiana Sires Stakes season will kick-off at Harrah's Hoosier Park on Wednesday, July 1. For more information on the live racing and stakes schedule, please visit www.harrahshoosierpark.com.

—Emily Gaskin / Harrah's Hoosier Park

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North America Cup eligibles dazzle at Mohawk Park

The road to the Pepsi North America Cup might be a little longer this season, but that didn't mean local hopefuls weren't ready to rock on Monday night at Mohawk Park.

Pepsi North America Cup eligible Indictable Hanover and Beaumont Hanover put on a show for those watching Monday, each putting an exclamation point on their 3-year-old debuts.

Beaumont Hanover took top billing by posting a devastating 1:49.4 victory in a Non-Winner of Two or \$30,000 Lifetime event for driver Jody Jamieson and trainer Jack Darling. The lightly-raced son of Sportswriter made a second-quarter move to the lead and proceeded to post fractions of :55.3 and 1:22.3 before kicking away from rivals effortlessly in :27.1 to win by five-lengths in sub-1:50 fashion.

Owned by Jack Darling Stables, Beaumont Hanover debuted last fall at Mohawk Park, winning four of five starts, including a sweep of the Ontario Sired Harvest Series.

A \$45,000 Harrisburg purchase in 2018, Beaumont Hanover had a single qualifier (1:54.1 on May 28) prior to his season debut. He instantly becomes a major player in the Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold level and one to watch for Grand Circuit play.

The betting public was all over Beaumont Hanover, who paid \$2.70 to win.

Monday's card started with a bang thanks to Bettors Delight colt Indictable Hanover, who stormed home impressively in :25.3 to win his career-debut.

Bob McClure sat behind Indictable Hanover for trainer Casie Coleman, mapping out a second-over trip before unleashing the Ontario Sires Stakes eligible in the lane to win comfortably by two-lengths in 1:51.3.

A \$52,000 purchase at Harrisburg in 2018, Indictable Hanover qualified in mid-May at Sunshine Meadows in Florida prior to shipping north. He is owned by West Wins Stable, John Fielding and Mac Nichol.

Indictable Hanover was also the talk of the tote board, returning \$3.20 to win.

McClure and Coleman teamed up later in the evening for another victory with a debuting 3-year-old. Reagan Blue Chip tracked down a drifting Lucid Dreams with a :25.4 final-quarter to win by a length in 1:53.2.

A gelded son of American Ideal, Reagan Blue Chip had

qualified four-times since March in Florida prior to his debut. He was a \$90,000 Harrisburg buy in 2018 and is owned by Fielding and Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.

The Pepsi North America Cup will be contested this year on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Live racing (without spectators) continues Tuesday evening at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Post time is 7 p.m.

INDICTABLE HANOVER [replay](#).

BEAUMOND HANOVER [replay](#).

—*Mark McKelvie / Woodbine communications*

Big M return sees fast miles, solid betting

Right from the get-go, the return of racing at the Meadowlands on Friday (June 5) after the 12-week COVID-19 shutdown provided big thrills.

The Nancy Takter-trained Manchego became the fastest trotter of 2020 with a 1:50.3 clocking in the first race before Takter's mare Kissin In The Sand became the season's fastest pacer – regardless of sex – after stopping the clock in 1:47.4 eight races later.

Betting was unaffected by the three-month layoff, as \$2,882,819 was wagered Friday before \$2,743,510 was pushed through the windows Saturday. The average per race was \$216,397.

Action at the Big M has now exceeded \$2.5 million on nine straight occasions and 14 of the last 15 cards have been the industry's handle leader. Over the last seven weekends of racing, wagering has surpassed the \$5 million mark six times.

It's a good bet that those handle hurdles will be cleared this weekend, as tonight's (June 12) card will see \$160,000 in guaranteed pool money.

The Meadowlands' "Big Four" wagers of the 20-cent Pick-5 (Race one, \$40,000), 50-cent Early Pick-4 (Race six, \$50,000) and 50-cent Late Pick-4 (Race 10, \$40,000) offer their usual pool promises, and this week, the 20-cent Pick-6 (Race four) will offer a \$30,000 guaranteed pot as part of the United States Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering initiative after last Saturday's P6 resulted in a carryover of \$6,843.

The carryovers in the track's 20-cent Jackpot Super High-Fives continue to swell, as the fifth race on Friday will begin with \$46,622 in the hat while race 13 has \$55,057 waiting for anyone who is the lone ticket-holder with the correct top five in official order of finish.

Some payoffs of note from last week include Friday's Pick-5 (which returned \$4,422) and Pick-6 (\$6,337), and Saturday's Early Pick-4, which came back \$11,361 after \$80,205 in action was taken.

While 54 per cent of last week's races were won by horses who were sent off at odds of 3-1 or less, the average win payoff nonetheless was almost 7-1, at \$15.81 for every \$2 bet. The always popular Big M exactas resulted in an average return of \$122.

Over 700 horses dropped into the entry box for this weekend's (June 12-13) races, so there promises to be full fields from start to finish during the 26 total dashes that will take place this Friday and Saturday. Post time is 7:15 p.m.

"All of us at the Meadowlands were so glad to get back racing," said Big M chief operating officer and general manager Jason Settlemyer. "Our horsemen and employees did a great job of following safety protocols in this 'new normal', post-COVID-19 world. We encourage our fans to keep following our live action on the Roberts Television Network ([rtn.tv](#)), TVG ([tv.g.com](#)) or their favorite ADW (advance deposit wagering) platform. Unfortunately, we still cannot have people in our building. Hopefully, it won't be too much longer before we can have our fans back in the grandstand at the Meadowlands."

TIM TERRIFIC: Driver Tim Tetrick swept Saturday's late double to finish the weekend atop the driver standings with five victories. He was followed by Dexter Dunn, Yannick Gingras and Andy McCarthy, who had four apiece.

On the training side, Takter and Jeff Cullipher both saw three of their students visit the winner's circle.

FREE STUFF: For free past performances of tonight's Pick-6, Early Pick-4 and Late 20-cent Jackpot Super High-Five, go to [playmeadowlands.com](#). At the website, you'll also find track oddsmaker and analyst Dave Brower's race reviews and selections as well as track announcer Ken Warkentin's blog, which offers commentary and selections.

—*Dave Little / Meadowlands media relations*

Dining available next weekend at the Meadowlands

Next weekend, Friday, June 19 and Saturday Jun 20, the Meadowlands Racetrack will open up outdoor dining on the West Deck to New Jersey Racing Commission licensed horse owners and patrons looking to dine al fresco.

The dining menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken and sliced steak along with salads and dessert. The

price is \$29.95 plus tax and gratuity and includes soft drinks. Items will be cooked to order on the grill and served by our waitresses. A service bar will also be available offering beer, wine, hard seltzer and mixed drinks served in to go containers.

Reservations are a must and can be made by calling 201-842-5059 or emailing Marianne Rotella at MRotella@playmeadowlands.com. A credit card and phone number will be taken to guarantee the reservation. Walk ups will not be allowed. Credit card payments only, no cash allowed.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, June 17. There will need to be 100 people per night in order to offer dining.

All recommended COVID-19 protocols will be followed with hand washing stations available and 6ft distancing strictly enforced. Also smoking is prohibited in the dining areas per NJ Executive Order 150.

Wagering is still prohibited onsite, but we are hopeful that if all goes well, wagering may be allowed the following weekend of June 26 and 27.

Post time for next weekend (June 19 & 20) will also be moved up to 6 p.m. to accommodate the 18-race cards anticipated for the next few weekends to get more horses in racing.

— *Meadowlands media relations*

Positive changes for Ohio Jug Sale

Big changes are in store for this year's Ohio Selected Jug Yearling Sale. And for both consignors and buyers, they're all to the good.

Topping the list is a new location for this year's sale. It is now to be held at the Pickaway Agriculture and Event Center in Circleville, OH on Friday, Sept. 18, with the traditional Yearling Show Day scheduled the day prior.

Also new this year is "live" online bidding, coordinated in real time with each horse that steps into the ring the day of the sale. Those bidding online will be competing simultaneously with buyers at the sale.

"We're delighted to be selling now at the Pickaway Ag and Event Center," said sale manager Randy Manges. "It's a beautiful new facility that's first class all the way. The horses are all housed under roof in separate stable areas, yet it's an open air facility—perfect for the times we're in."

"All the usual COVID-19 precautions — sanitizing, social

distancing and masks — will be in place for the sale, and the layout of the barns and the size of the sale arena itself help us meet those requirements. But for those who prefer to bid online we now have a state-of-the-art setup for that as well."

Manges said the Wendt Group, headquartered in Plain City, OH, is strategically partnering with the sales company and Danny Green's auction team to set up and facilitate the simultaneous online bidding process. The Wendt Group is considered a pioneer in online livestock sales and has conducted 6,000 live and 5,500 internet auctions.

Those desiring to bid online will be required to pre-register with the Wendt Group, so there is adequate time for the necessary approval. Specifics for signup will be available later, both in the sale catalog and in future announcements.

"Ohio was the first state to race when COVID-19 restrictions were eased, and all eyes will be on us as we'll be among the first to conduct a yearling sale," Manges said. "The new sale facility, coupled with online bidding, makes us feel we're offering the best possible experience to all of our current and potential customers."

— *Ohio Selected Jug Yearling Sale*

Meadowlands open Saturday for training

The Meadowlands will open the main track to training this Saturday, June 13 after the qualifiers which begin at 9 a.m.

The number of horses coming in to train will be limited to 70. They may not arrive on the grounds before 11 a.m. and will be directed to assigned stalls.

The [NJ COVID-19 protocol](#) is of course enforced and your cooperation is appreciated.

Call the racing office after 3 p.m. today (June 12) to sign up.

— *Nick Salvi / Meadowlands media relations*

Date change for NJ Breeders Maturity Pace

The New Jersey Sires Stakes (NJSS) is announcing a date change for the New Jersey Breeders Maturity Pace. The date for this stake is being changed from the previously scheduled dates of elimination races on Saturday, June 20 and the final on Saturday, June 27 to eliminations on Friday, July 24 and the final on Friday, July 31 at The Meadowlands.

The [NJ Breeders Maturity](#) is a new stake funded and serviced

by the New Jersey Sires Stakes with separate divisions for 4-year-old horses and mares on both the pace and trot. The trotting races are scheduled for September 11 & 18.

The purse for all Maturity elimination races is \$12,500 - \$15,000 based on number of entrants. The finals purses will be determined by the number of entries at \$40,000 if 8-10 entries, \$32,000 if 5-7 entries and \$24,000 if less than 5 entries.

Questions should be directed to NJSS: Lynn Mathews at 609-292-8830

—*Nick Salvi*

Tioga Downs sets handle record

Tioga Downs held its 2020 opening day on Sunday (June 7). The 12 race card set a new handle record of \$368,978. Thanks to everyone who helped make opening day such a success.

—*John Horne for Tioga Downs*

Rhoades helping injured drivers

When Drivers Hunter Myers and Tony Hall went down in an accident in the 13th race at Northfield Park on May 26th, trainer Billy Rhoades got the idea to set up a drivers relief fund. Rhoades is seeking to raise \$10,000 for the purchase of a horse that will be raced by Rhoades Racing. All monies raised for and earned by this horse will go into an account to help injured drivers across the country. Currently Hall and Myers have a long road to recover and the fund would help to cover their medical expenses and other needs. All expenses in racing the relief fund horse will be covered by Rhoades Racing. Donations can currently be made by check payable to "Helping Hooves Driver Relief Fund" and are tax deductible. A PayPal account for the fund is being set up and will be available in the near future. Those wishing to donate can send checks to Rhoades Racing in care of MGM Northfield Park 10705 Northfield Rd. Northfield Ohio 44067. Those wishing more information can contact Rhoades Racing at 19brhoades87@gmail.com.

—*Raymond Lance*

Hippodrome 3R given clearance to race again

On Tuesday, June 9, the Quebec Jockey Club Board of Directors announced that the Hippodrome Trois-Rivières (H3R) has received the green light to host spectator-free live

racing in 2020.

After months of forced shutdown, we are pleased to announce the return of the races at Hippodrome 3R for the 2020 season.

We have worked with the Department of Health and Safety to provide a safe place for all workers of the industry.

A strict control system has been put in place to properly meet government requirements and we are asking your full cooperation and comply with it. To this end, a code of conduct and certification have been created. They must be read, signed and adhered to at all times when you are on the racetrack grounds.

A schedule of appointment-only training will be established with the concept of first-come, first-served. More details will be emailed today regarding the code of conduct and making an appointment to train your horses. Qualifying, regular and stakes race schedules will be redone in the coming days. We will notify you as soon as possible of the opening date.

Important reminder: You must have renewed your licenses with the RACJ and Standardbred Canada, paid your eligibility fees (SC) and your insurance (SC or ATAQ), otherwise your horses will not be able to race. Please also make sure you have the Coggins test done on your horses before you show up at the racetrack.

Thank you and welcome back,

—*Board of Directors of the Quebec Jockey Club*

Elliott, Hachey, Hatter named new USHWA Youth Members for 2020/21

It's a talented triple dead-heat at the finish of the 2020/21 USHWA Youth Membership drive.

Tony Elliott (Twitter: @elliotttracing99) was recently hired as assistant to the general manager at Hanover Raceway, Ontario. The 20-year-old University of Western Ontario student is a writer, handicapper, standardbred owner and harness racing promoter. Tony is also Hanover's on-track analyst, and was profiled on the Ontario Racing website earlier this season.

Grady Hachey (Twitter: @grady_hachey) made headlines in the *Fredericton Gleaner* newspaper in 2017, when he called matinee races at Fredericton Exhibition Raceway in his New Brunswick hometown. He was 12 years old at the time. Grady continues to develop his race calling and writing skills, while also assisting a local trainer.

Edison Hatter (Twitter: Edison_1999_) is a 20-year-old University of Maryland student who is Rosecroft Raceway's Wednesday-night announcer. His skills also include writing, handicapping, and promoting the sport. Look for an upcoming article about Hatter, written by USHWA Youth Committee Chair Melissa Keith for a major harness racing publication.

Nominations ended June 1 for this year's Youth Memberships, which have been generously sponsored by Tim Konkle, editor of *Midwest Harness Report*, since they were introduced in 2018. Konkle has covered the first year of new USHWA Youth members' dues (\$20) for the past three years, encouraging talented young participants in harness racing and its media side.

The three latest USHWA Youth members join Nathan Bain, Jessica Hallett, Nicholas Barnsdale, and Ryder Skinner as the next generation of emerging talent to join the world's oldest organization for harness racing communicators.

The USHWA Youth Membership category was founded to help youth (under age 21) with a demonstrated interest in standardbred media participate in their local USHWA chapter meetings and activities, and connect with resources like the Clyde Hirt Journalism Workshop, USHWA chapter scholarships, and relevant networking opportunities. Please contact the committee chair if interested in finding out more, or in offering opportunities for USHWA Youth to further their skills in harness racing media.

—*Melissa Keith, chair USHWA Youth Membership Committee*

Howard pens enchanting tale of Gunner, a rescued racehorse

Victoria M Howard, author or co-author of such renowned "horse" books such as *Roosevelt Raceway Where It All Began* and *Meadow Skipper The Untold Story* has completed *The Enchanting tale of Gunner* a standardbred who went from the racetrack to the Amish before being rescued from a kill pen after which he emerged as a world renowned police horse.

"In many ways, Gunner has become the spokes-horse for all horses as the book is written in his words as dictated to me by Gunner who embodies the atrocities far too many horses racing and otherwise endure once no longer needed and discarded by their owners" said Howard who also penned the heartwarming tale of Junior and Elena two Canadian standardbred foals thrown together after Junior's dam died foaling.

"Being an animal lover, it virtually broke my heart after hearing his current owner tell the story of rescuing Gunner from a kill pen and I knew instantly something had to be done to call attention to these helpless animals.

"After all, they are totally inaudible but Gunner will be their voice and hopefully through *GUNNER AN ENCHANTING TALE OF A RACEHORSE* we can call attention to the plight of so many no longer wanted animals. In many ways "I allowed Gunner to dictate his story to me embellishing some to make it readable and I think his message will warm the hearts of animal lovers everywhere."

Gunner The Enchanting Tale of a Racehorse will be available soon through Author House, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other book outlets. A percentage of the proceeds will be distributed to standardbred rescue.

— **Bob Marks**

Next USHWA free handicapping contest at Hoosier Park

The United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) will play host to its next free harness racing handicapping contest on Scott Alberg's Facebook page on Tuesday, June 16 on opening night at Harrah's Hoosier Park.

One special race will be selected from the Hoosier Park Tuesday program and contestants can enter free of charge. All you have to do is select the correct exacta (first two official finishers in the race, either by their starting post position number or by the name of the horse).

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) and trainer Brandon Bates have arranged for the three Swag Bag prizes that will be given away in this week's contest. If more than three correct answers are submitted, then a drawing will take place with all the correct winners and the first three names drawn will win a prize.

This week's prizes include two complete sets of HHYF Harness Hero Trading Cards (2018 and 2019), an HHYF cap and t-shirts and a stable cap and t-shirt from the Brandon Bates Stable.

Scott Alberg, the 2006 National Harness Handicapping Champion, who also has numerous other handicapping titles, has been a Standardbred owner in the past, and has agreed to partner with USHWA as the contests new title sponsor.

"Our first contest with USHWA as our title sponsor," said Alberg, "Was the most contestants we ever had at 249 people. "This contest is all about having fun and we hope even more people will enter this week."

To enter the contest, fans must go to [Scott Alberg's Facebook page](#) where the contest will be prominently displayed. Alberg, as he has done in the past, will run the contests. All contest winners will have their name posted after the event and the ranking they finished in from the prize drawings.

As soon as the draw takes place at Hoosier Park this Thursday, the program proof page for the race selected will be posted for race fans to handicap from.

For more information check out Scott Alberg's Facebook Page, USHWA's Facebook Page, Twitter and Instagram accounts or the new USHWA website at www.usharnesswriters.com.

—*Steve Wolf for USHWA*

UK to try pay per view qualifiers

Technology is great and it has been used extensively by harness racing tracks around the world to bring their races to your home on your TV or computer.

Racetracks now even feature live streaming of qualifying races with live race calls. But York Harness Racing track in

the northern part of England is taking it a step further, featuring a trial stage of pay per view for the qualifying races scheduled on Saturday (June 13).

Under the sanction of the British Harness Racing Club, the governing body for Harness Racing in Great Britain, the qualifiers will be offered at a price of £1.99 (\$2.53 US).

"This is a first for the UK," said Craig Stevenson, Racing Manager at York. "Now anyone in the world will be able to watch our qualifiers at York's half-mile hard track."

The race announcer and host for the pay per view show will be none other than Darren Owen, who is one of the premier race callers in the UK and Ireland and is also Chairman of the BHRC.

The pay per view setup is being conducted by Rich Green.

First race post time for the qualifiers is 1 p.m. UK time. The pre-show gets underway at 12:30 p.m.

For further information about getting the pay for view qualifiers go to <http://www.bhrc.org.uk/>.

The first day of live harness racing in the UK will take place on Saturday, July 4 at York Harness Track.

—*York Harness Track*

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RACE RESULTS - SUNDAY

SCIOTO DOWNS *report*

Sunday's Results:

8, ScD, \$18,000, Pace, HORSES AND GELDINGS OPEN, 26.2, 55.1, 1:22.1, 1:50.2, FT

1-Sectionline Bigry (g, 5, Pet Rock--Aquatic Yankee, by Cambest) \$9,000, Lifetime Record: 50-20-8-9, \$402,617

O-Harold Lee Bauder. B-Harold Lee Bauder & Michael G Dixon & Harold L Bauder. T-Steve Bauder. D-Tyler Smith.

2-My Hero Ron (g, 8, Well Said--Erma La Em, by Cam's Card Shark) \$4,500, \$80,000 2013 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 170-37-35-37, \$1,006,323

O-Brian Witt. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Danny Dubeansky. D-Josh Sutton.

3-Dancin Dragon (g, 5, Dragon Again--Mcdance Desire, by Mcardle) \$2,160, Lifetime Record: 56-19-8-5, \$258,200

O-Randall B Bendis & Pollack Racing LLC. B-Mark L Marroletti. T-Randy Bendis. D-Sam Widger.

►► [Replay](#) ►► Calls: 9Q, 5H, 4, 2, NK - Finish Order: Gerardo, Gd Western Joe, Yankee Boots, Christen Me N, Blazin Baron, Whataboy, Funatthebeach N

9, ScD, \$15,000, Pace, HORSES AND GELDINGS NON WINNERS OF \$11,000 IN THE LAST 4 STARTS AE: NON WINNERS OF 10 PMRLT OR \$60,000 LIFETIME, 28.2, 57.0, 1:24.1, 1:51.2, FT

1-Gold Digger King (g, 4, Pet Rock--Hope For Pot Gold, by Panspaciflight) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 29-8-8-3, \$178,597

O-Linda E Van Camp. B-T D Van Camp. T-Scott Mogán. D-Chris Page.

2-Black Hole (g, 4, Mr Apples--Feel The Thunder, by Modern Art) \$3,750, Lifetime Record: 13-10-3-0, \$249,999

O-L & L Stables. B-Foulk Stables Inc. T-Clarence Foulk. D-Tyler Smith.

3-Dave And Dennis (h, 6, Sand Shooter--Andi Andi, by Albert Albert) \$1,800, Lifetime Record: 99-16-14-13, \$253,490

O-Dennis R Hritz. B-Dennis R Hritz. T-Timothy Lane. D-Trace Tetrick.

►► [Replay](#) ►► Calls: HD, 1Q, T, 1Q, NK - Finish Order: Bit Ofa Tiger N, Captain Dolmio N, My Buddy Ninkster, Pacin To Paydaze, Major Deception, Whiskey Friskie, Big Game Hunter

RACE RESULTS - MONDAY

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

Monday's Results:

1, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.3, 56.4, 1:25.2, 1:51.3

1-Indictable Hanover (b,c,3 - Bettors Delight-Im Sassy-Western Hanover) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$7,500

O-West Wins Stable, John Fielding, Mac Nichol B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Casie Coleman D-Bob McClure

***Hanover* ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!**

2-Better Take It (b,g,3 - Bettors Delight-Everybreathutake-Western Hanover)

O-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc, Dave Boyle, Mardon Stables B-Robert McIntosh Stables Inc T-Robert McIntosh D-Trevor Henry

RACE RESULTS - MONDAY (CONTINUED)

3-Mack (b,g,3 - Mach Three-Backstreet Sweetie-Dragon Again)

O-Gregg McNair, Bloomingwood Farms Ltd, McKinlay & Fielding, Ross Holmes B-Karen Carroll T-Gregg McNair D-Sylvain Filion

►► [Replay](#) ►►

2, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.3, 57.4, 1:27.2, 1:56

1-Stravinsky (br,g,3 - Sebastian K S-Frisky Magic-Kadabra) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$7,500

O-Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin B-Steve Organ T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Sylvain Filion

2-Illdoitmyself (b,f,3 - Chapter Seven-Dornello-Angus Hall)

O-Rick Zeron Stables, James Walker, Van Camp Trotting Corp B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Richard Zeron D-Richard Zeron

3-Tesla Seelster (b,f,3 - Muscle Mass-Tara Seelster-Kadabra)

O-Gestion R Zane Inc B-Seelster Farms Inc T-Tiffanee Staley D-Denis St Pierre

►► [Replay](#) ►►

3, Wbs, \$24,000, Trot, NW 8 RACES OR \$120,000 (FM \$165,000) LIFETIME, 28, 57, 1:25.2, 1:53.2

1-Memo (b,h,4 - Trixton-Easy Agenda-Cantab Hall) \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 43-7-7-4, \$184,080

O-Bradley Grant B-Brittany Farms Llc T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas McNair

Another **BRITTANY FARMS** Bred Winner!



2-Refi (b,h,4 - Chapter Seven-Blazing Musclegirl-Muscles Yankee)

O-Benoit Baillargeon, Santo & Nunzio Vena, Claude Hamel B-Deo Volente Farms Llc T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Mario Baillargeon

3-Buckeye Starlet (b,m,4 - Uncle Peter-Vitamin M-Muscles Yankee)

O-W J Donovan B-Michael & Randy Wilt T-Richard Moreau D-Louis Philippe Roy

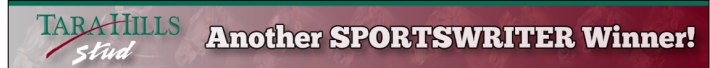
►► [Replay](#) ►►

5, Wbs, \$17,000, Pace, 5 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$30,000 LIFETIME, 27, 55.3, 1:22.3, 1:49.4

1-Beaumond Hanover (b,c,3 - Sportswriter-Bittersweet Terror-Western Terror) \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 6-5-1-0, \$60,900

O-Jack Darling Stables Ltd B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-John Darling D-Jody Jamieson

Hanover ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY **HANOVER SHOE FARMS!**



2-Team Best (b,c,3 - Somebeachsomewhere-Sports Chic-Sportswriter)

O-Hutt Racing Stable, Mac And Heim Stables, Touchstone Farms Inc, Daniel Plouffe B-Winbak Farm T-Blake Macintosh D-Douglas McNair

3-Captivate Hanover (b,c,3 - Bettors Delight-Carolina Angel-Western Ideal)

O-Hudson Standrbrd Stb Inc, Stephen Klunowski, James Feeley B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald

►► [Replay](#) ►►

6, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.4, 58.2, 1:26.3, 1:53.2

1-Reagan Blue Chip (b,g,3 - American Ideal-Day Blue Chip-Art Major) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$7,500

O-John Fielding, Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc T-Casie Coleman D-Bob McClure

2-Lucid Dreams (br,c,3 - Well Said-Beach Jenny-Beach Towel)

O-Robert McMillan B-The Ok Corral T-Robert Don Fellows D-Jody Jamieson

3-Choir Master (b,c,3 - Mach Three-Ideal Helen-Western Ideal)

O-Bradley Grant, Willow Oak Ranch, Robert Leblanc, In The GYM Partners B-Willow Oak Ranch T-Tony Alagna D-Douglas McNair

►► [Replay](#) ►►

7, Wbs, \$16,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$15,000 LIFETIME, 28.4, 58.2, 1:26.2, 1:53.3

1-A Positive Hanover (b,c,3 - Captaintreacherous-Always True-Western Hanover) \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 9-3-0-2, \$33,334

O-Blake Macintosh, Steve Heimbecker, Touchstone Farms Inc, Larry Denley B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Blake Macintosh D-James Macdonald

2-One For Julius (b,c,3 - Hes Watching-Claireabell-Jeremes Jet)

O-Andrea Lea Racingstables Inc B-Andrea Lea Racingstables Inc T-Dustin Jones D-Chris Christoforou

3-Century Grizzly (b,c,3 - Sunshine Beach-Up Front Holly-American Ideal)

O-Paul Ritchie B-Glenn Bechtel, Century Spring T-James Ritchie D-Jody Jamieson

►► [Replay](#) ►►

RACE RESULTS - MONDAY (CONTINUED)

8, Wbs, \$26,000, Trot, NW \$25,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: NW \$150,000 LIFETIME. AE: OPT. CLM. \$60,000, 27, 55.3, 1:25.1, 1:53.1

1-Run Director (b,h,5 - Kadabra-Keep The Spirit-Revenue S) \$13,000, Lifetime Record: 34-12-4-3, \$560,037

O-Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin B-Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Sylvain Filion



Another KADABRA Winner!

2-Mass Fortune K (b,h,4 - Muscle Massive-Ice Fortune K-Fame N Fortune)

O-Aaron Waxman, Santo Vena B-Robert Key T-Carmen Auciello D-James Macdonald

3-Free Willy Hanover (br,g,7 - Credit Winner-Free Spirit-Dream Vacation)

O-Armando Cappuccitti, Robert Watson, Mike Bartram, Auciello Stables B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Carmen Auciello D-Jonathan Drury

►► [Replay](#) ►►

RACE RESULTS - TUESDAY

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

Tuesday's Results:

1, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27, 55.3, 1:26, 1:53.4

1-Major Battle (b,f,3 - Art Major-Savhorsesrideacowboy-Mister Big) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-1, \$14,210

O-Murray Brethour, Daniel Phillips B-Margaret Payne T-Murray Brethour D-Bob McClure

2-Classica (b,f,3 - American Ideal-Wall Of Art-Art Major)

O-Gregg McNair B-W Springtime Racing Stb T-Gregg McNair D-Jody Jamieson

3-Beach Boutique (b,f,3 - Somebeachsomewhere-Dashboard Dancer-Artiscape)

O-Thestable Beach Boutique B-Kovach Stables Llc T-Harry Poulton D-Sylvain Filion

►► [Replay](#) ►►

4, Wbs, \$17,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 (FM 3) RACES OR \$20,000 (FM \$25,000) LIFETIME, 28, 56.4, 1:25.3, 1:54

1-Nylander (b,c,3 - Muscle Hill-Superstar Hanover-Cantab Hall) \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-0, \$50,986

O-Steacy Macmillan Stable, Dale Larson, Hudson Standrbrd Stb Inc, Stephen Klunowski B-Marvin Katz, Al libfeld T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald

2-Combs Hanover (b,g,3 - Archangel-Chez Lucie-Malabar Man)

O-Chris & Michael Storms B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Paul Macdonell D-Paul Macdonell

3-Sebastian Ray (b,g,3 - Sebastian K S-Baby Bella-Raffaello Ambrosio)

O-1187422 Ontario Inc B-Stephanie Smithrothaug T-Isabelle Darveau D-Robert Shepherd

►► [Replay](#) ►►

6, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 29, 59.3, 1:29.1, 1:56.4

1-Hot Wheelz b,g,3 - Wheeling N Dealin-Affair Hall-Deweycheatumnhowe) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$16,140

O-Jody Jamieson B-Twinbrook Limited T-Stephanie Jamieson D-Jody Jamieson

2-Powerful Spirit (b,c,3 - Archangel-Tracy My Love-Dream Vacation)

O-Kevin & Thomas Sizer, Peter Christie B-Winbak Farm T-Kevin Sizer D-Paul Macdonell

3-Spartan General (b,c,3 - Muscle Hill-Severence-Kadabra)

O-Charalambos Christoforou, Banjo Farms B-Banjo Farms, Charalambos Christoforou

►► [Replay](#) ►►

7, Wbs, \$16,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, NW \$6,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$13,600 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: NA \$1,200 PER START IN 2019-20. (MIN 10 STARTS)
AE: OPT. CLM. \$18,000, 27.1, 58.1, 1:26.3, 1:53.4

1-Lovely Donna (b,m,4 - Betterthancheddar-Family Love-Western Hanover) \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 22-6-5-3, \$126,892

O-Rebecca Williamson B-Winbak Farm T-Robert Daer D-Michael Saftic



RACE RESULTS - TUESDAY (CONTINUED)

2-Twin B Tipster (b,m,4 - Bettors Delight-Millers Bird-Mcardle)

O-Bradley Grant, Scott McEneny B-Twinbrook Limited T-Scott McEneny D-Sylvain Filion

3-Jimbelina (b,m,7 - Big Jim-Buddys Gal-Bettors Delight)

O-Roland Trudel B-Karry Howard T-Jean Tourigny D-Louis Philippe Roy

►► [Replay](#) ►►

8, Wbs, \$36,000. Trot, PREFERRED, 27.2, 56.2, 1:23.4, 1:52

1-P L Jill (b,m,7 - Kadabra-Fridays Gem-Keystone Nordic) \$18,000, Lifetime Record: 103-29-13-8, \$531,693

O-Prince Lee Acres, Jill Coleman, Alan Christensen B-Prince Lee Acres T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Mario Baillargeon

TARA HILLS
stud

Another KADABRA Winner!

2-On The Ropes (b,g,5 - Chapter Seven-Rs Giggles-Revenue S)

O-Percy Elkins B-Maple Hill Stdbd Farm T-Carmen Auciello D-Jonathan Drury

3-R First Class (b,g,6 - Kadabra-World Class Image-Balanced Image)

O-Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin B-Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Sylvain Filion

►► [Replay](#) ►►

9, Ws, \$17,000, Trot, FILLIES & MARES, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$22,000 LIFETIME, 28.1, 58.3, 1:28.4, 1:56.3

1-Gp Dreamin (b,f,3 - Cornaro Dasolo-Fiorentina-Angus Hall) \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$23,903

O-Carolyn Polillo B-Guy Polillo T-Jared Bothwell D-Jody Jamieson

2-Fortune Telln Lady (br,f,3 - Trixton-For A Dancer-Conway Hall)

O-Rick Zeron Stables, Cool Cat Racing Inc, Jeffery Ruch, Noblock Racing Stable B-Bluestone Farms LLC T-Richard Zeron D-Sylvain Filion

3-Kombucha (b,f,3 - Kadabra-Terrific Dream-Daguet Rapide)

O-Chris & Ashton Storms, Paul Macdonell Racing Stb B-Atlantic Trot Inc T-Paul Macdonell D-Paul Macdonell

►► [Replay](#) ►►

RACE RESULTS - THURSDAY

WOODBINE MOHAWK PARK *report*

Thursday's Results:

2, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, NW \$6,000 LAST 5 STARTS OR NW \$13,000 LAST 10 STARTS. AE: NA \$1,300 PER START IN 2019-20 AE: OPT. CLM: \$20,000, 28, 57, 1:25.3, 1:54

1-Hockey Hanover (b,g,5 - Explosive Matter-Hotentrot Hanover-Donato Hanover) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 72-19-8-8, \$259,034

O-Bradley Grant B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc T-Richard Moreau D-Douglas McNair

Hanover

ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

2-Mister Magic (b,g,5 - Kadabra-Daylon Mistress-Duke Of York)

O-Wheelhouse Racing Stable B-Herb Liverman T-Carmen Auciello D-Jonathan Drury

3-Nothing But Muscle (b,g,5 - Swan For All-Black N Bluegenes-Muscles Yankee)

O-Fox Racing Inc B-Homer Hochstetler T-Carmen Auciello D-James Macdonald

►► [Replay](#) ►►

3, Wbs, \$16,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$15,000 LIFETIME, 27.3, 56.4, 1:24.3, 1:51.3

1-Rhythm In Motion (br,g,3 - Big Jim-Racy Gal Hanover-Modern Art) \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 10-2-3-0, \$59,884

O-Santo & Nunzio Vena B-Santo & Nunzio Vena T-Benoit Baillargeon D-Sylvain Filion

2-Bettor At Hightide (b,g,3 - Bettors Delight-Queensland Beach-Somebeachsomewhere)

O-Schooner II Stable B-Schooner II Stable T-Paul Macdonell D-Paul Macdonell

3-Siddhartha (b,g,4 - So Surreal-Diva La Delight-Bettors Delight)

O-David Barrette B-David Barrette T-Gerard Demers D-Robert Shepherd

►► [Replay](#) ►►

RACE RESULTS - THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

4, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 29.3, 59.1, 1:28.1, 1:57

1-Northern Sultan (b,g,3 - Royalty For Life-Dover Miss-Andover Hall) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$7,500
O-Northfields Farm Inc B-Northfields Farm Inc T-Murray Brethour D-Chris Christoforou



2-Remember Titans (br,c,3 - E L Titan-Oaklea Samantha-Amigo Hall)
O-Landmark 12 Racing Stable, Dale Larson, A K Malik Stable B-Douglas Millard T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald

3-Sixteen (b,c,3 - Donato Hanover-Mets Inn-Mutineer)
O-Rick Zeron Stables, Howard Taylor, Hutt Racing Stable, James Walker B-Winbak Farm T-Richard Zeron D-Richard Zeron

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5, Wbs, \$15,000, Pace, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 27.1, 56.1, 1:23.4, 1:52.3

1-Sunshine List (b,c,3 - Sunshine Beach-Armbr Wallflower-Village Jasper) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$7,500
O-Hudson Standrbrd Stb Inc, Stephen Klunowski, Diane Bertrand, Robert Gilhespy B-Stan Klemencic T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald



2-Lyons Skipper (b,c,3 - Well Said-Cpa-Real Desire)
O-Three Lyons racing B-Willow Oak Ranch T-Mark Goddard D-Trevor Henry

3-Noch Ten (b,g,3 - Warrawee Needy-Astrmowin-Astreos)
O-James Downer, Auciello Stables, Jonathan Drury B-Warrawee Farm T-Carmen Auciello D-Jonathan Drury

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6, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 3 YEAR OLD FILLIES, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 29.3, 59.3, 1:28.4, 1:57.2

1-Royalty Deal (b,f,3 - Royalty For Life-Cha Cha Glide-Yankee Glide) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$7,500
O-Coyote Wynd Farms B-Stan Klemencic T-Clark Beelby D-Clark Beelby



2-Zakarina (b,f,3 - Muscle Mass-Scottish Starlet-Angus Hall)
O-Lachance Racing Stable, Dragon Racing Inc, Martin Lachance B-Lori Ferguson T-Martin Lachance D-Sylvain Filion

3-Talahasse Seelster (b,f,3 - Muscle Mass-Tymal Timeout-Royal Strength)
O-Celestey Hill B-Seelster Farms Inc T-Eddie Green D-Eddie Green

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8, Wbs, \$15,000, Trot, 3 YEAR OLD FILLIES, NW 1 RACE OR \$7,000 LIFETIME. NO ALLOWANCES, 29.2, 1:00.1, 1:30.3, 1:58.3

1-Lmc Bumble Bee (b,f,3 - Muscle Mass-Hornby Gem-Kadabra) \$7,500, Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$7,500
O-Loredana Cirillo, Frank Cirillo B-Frank Cirillo T-Nick Gallucci D-Louis Philippe Roy



2-Modern Mass (b,f,3 - Muscle Mass-Perfect Prelude-Cantab Hall)
O-Just In Time Stable, R A W Equine Inc, Big Als Stables Inc B-Seawind Amg Stbs 2005 Inc T-Roger Mayotte D-Roger Mayotte

3-Alpina (b,f,3 - Archangel-Tymal Fireitup-Kadabra)
O-Synerco Ventures Inc B-R K Joe Miskokomon T-Rod Boyd D-Bob McClure

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9, Wbs, \$17,000, Trot, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 (FM 3) RACES OR \$20,000 (FM \$25,000) LIFETIME, 29, 58.4, 1:27.3, 1:56.3

1-Charmbo Prince (ch,c,3 - Royalty For Life-Hetties Charm-Angus Hall) \$8,500, Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-2, \$34,650
O-John & Randy Rier B-John & Randy Rier T-John Rier D-Michael Saftic



RACE RESULTS - THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

2-Mckees Angel (b,f,3 - Archangel-Top Photo-S Js Photo)

O-Legendary Standardbred Fa B-Legendary Standardbred Fa T-Ted Macdonnell D-Sylvain Filion

3-Savini (b,g,3 - Explosive Matter-Ivory Lindy-Buvetier Daunou)

O-Robert Mc Nerney B-K R Breeding Llc T-Victor Puddy D-Douglas McNair

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10, Wbs, \$16,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES, 4 YEAR OLDS & YOUNGER, NW 2 RACES OR \$15,000 LIFETIME, 27.4, 56.3, 1:25.1, 1:53.3

1-Mary Kat (b,f,3 - Bettors Delight-Nanny Withafanny-Incredible Finale) \$8,000, Lifetime Record: 6-3-1-1, \$21,980

O-David McDonald, Diane Bertrand, Robert Gilhespy, A K Malik Stable B-Stephen Dey T-Shawn Steacy D-James Macdonald



Preferred Equine YEARLING SALE
GRADUATE

2-Free Flyin Ticket (b,f,3 - Betterthancheddar-Free Ticket-Quik Pulse Mindale)

O-Anthony Beaton, David Mercer, Gary Volpe, George Quartarone B-Winbak Farm T-Anthony Beaton D-Paul Macdonell

3-Cover Story (b,f,3 - Sweet Lou-Character Flaw-Bettors Delight)

O-Garth & Glenn Bechtel B-Old Block Stables Inc T-Donald Lindsey D-Sylvain Filion

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