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Sunday, July 29, 2018

Dorsoduro Hanover delivers hometown Adios win for Burke

The sophomore pacing colt overcame brutal trips in his previous two starts to win the \$400,000 Adios Pace for the Orchids by 1 ¼ lengths over Amercian History.

by Evan Pattak / The Meadows



Chris Gooden

Dorsoduro Hanover (Matt Kakaley) won the 52nd Adios in 1:50.1 Saturday afternoon at The Meadows.

Victimized by brutal trips in his last two starts, Dorsoduro Hanover finally got the journey he needed and pounced on the opportunity to win Saturday's \$400,000 final of the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids in 1:50.1 at The Meadows.

Dorsoduro Hanover gave The Meadows-based trainer Ron Burke, perennially the sport's leading conditioner, his first blanket of Adios orchids as the head of his stable, although he was assistant for his father, Mickey, when their horse, May June Character, won the 2007 Adios.

Once Dorsoduro Hanover crossed the wire, a jubilant Burke and members of his staff sprinted from the paddock to the winner's circle, eschewing the golf cart that customarily provides transport. Burke, however, indicated the wins in 2007 and 2018 were equally important to him.

"We have a big crew, and to me, that's what it's about: doing it together," Burke said. "We probably spent about \$10 million chasing this, and we finally got one. It's a great feeling to enjoy it with our

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the winner gamely but was all out late to preserve his place finish.

Chris Gooden

It was a jam-packed winner's circle as the Burke Brigade celebrated a cherished hometown victory in the Adios.

In that core group are the owners of Dorsoduro Hanover, who now has earned \$575,803 for them: Burke Racing Stable; Silva, Purnell & Libby; Weaver Brusceci LLC, and Wingfield Five.

American History, who won an elimination of the 52nd edition of the Adios, raced well first over to finish second, 1-1/4 lengths back, while Hitman Hill, the other elimination winner, could not improve position in the Lightning Lane and settled for show.

Bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, Dorsoduro Hanover is a Somebeachsomewhere—Deer Valley Miss gelding who cost \$100,000 as a yearling at the Standardbred Horse Sales Company's auction in 2016 in Harrisburg, PA.

Roughed up from post 10 in the Meadowlands Pace final and again in is Adios elimination, Dorsoduro Hanover still managed to finish second each time. It seemed likely that he was only a good trip away from a signature victory and Matt Kakaley provided it for him Saturday giving him a :28.3 second-panel refresher after a :26.3 opening-quarter burst to the lead.

“We got a big breather there in the second quarter,” Kakaley said. “I knew he would be tough off that... if he didn't win with that trip, something was wrong. I'm happy for the horse. He's showing everybody that he's a top colt.”

American History took up the chase before the half and pursued

“He raced phenomenal. I couldn't be more happy with how he

11, Mea, \$400,000, P, ***DELVIN MILLER ADIOS***** 3 YEAR OLD OPEN PACE, 26.3, 55.1, 1:22.3, 1:50.1, FT**
1-Dorsoduro Hanover (g, 3, Somebeachsomewhere--Deer Valley Miss, by Artsplace), \$100,000 2016 SHS-HBG O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Silva, Purnel & Libby & Weaver Brusceci LLC & Wingfield Five LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Matt Kakaley, \$200,000, Lifetime Record: 24-7-2-2, \$575,603

Hanover ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

2-American History (c, 3, American Ideal--Perfect Touch, by Camluck) , \$150,000 2016 LEX-SEL O-Brittany Farms LLC & Marvin Katz, CA & American History Racing. B-Brittany Farms LLC. T-Tony Alagna. D-Yannick Gingras, \$100,000
3-Hitman Hill (g, 3, American Ideal--Fox Valley Shaker, by Incredible Finale), \$145,000 2016 SHS-HBG O-Tom Hill, UK & Northfork Racing Stable. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. T-Chris Oakes. D-Brett Miller, \$48,000
Calls: 1H, 1H, 1, 1Q, 1Q - Finish Order: Thinkbig Dreambig, Gd Western Joe, Babes Dig Me, Wes Delight, Summer Travel, Done Well

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raced,” said American History’s trainer Tony Alagna. “We knew Matt had the fractions his way, but even around the last turn, we had a shot to win the whole thing. He hung tough to be second.”

Burke said Dorsoduro Hanover will be pointed to the Carl Milstein at Northfield.

ADIOS NOTES :Burke entered 26 horses on the 16-race Adios Day card, not a record for him but still a heckuva lot better than average. Burke ended the day with seven wins – also a heckuva lot better than average – including four by Kakaley, two by Yannick Gingras and one by Dave Palone.

For the second straight year, James Witherite – who also works as a race analyst, race charter, copy editor and jazz organist – found time to entertain the crowd as Adios Day bugler.

Youaremycandygirl romps in Adioo Volo at The Meadows

Youaremycandygirl the 2017 Dan Patch Award winner for freshman pacing fillies, has been fine at 3 but not as dominant as she was last year. Trainer Ron Burke thought her problem might lie in post parades.

“Sometimes she goes on ‘tilt,’” Burke said, “and she wants to fight you the whole way.”

Thus, in Saturday’s \$121,000 Quinton Patterson Adioo Volo at The Meadows, Burke experimented, leaving Youaremycandygirl in the hands of the marshal while the other fillies were parading. The strategy worked like a charm, as Youaremycandygirl jogged to a facile 1:50.4 victory in.

The Adioo Volo, a Grand Circuit stake featured on the Adios Day card, was contested over three divisions, with **Alexa’s Power** and **Sidewalk Dancer** taking the other splits.

Youaremycandygirl, a daughter of American Ideal–Sweet Lady Jane who has earned \$1,065,508 for owner William Donovan, got away third for Yannick Gingras before roaring to the point near the half. She downed the first-over Baron Remy by 4-1/4 lengths, with early leader Serene Stride third.

“She was a great horse last year – she still is,” Gingras said.



Chris Gooden

Youaremycandygirl (Yannick Gingras) returned to form to win her Adioo Volo test in 1:50.4.

“Things haven’t really gone our way a lot of times so far this year, but she’s a sweetheart of a filly.”

Shuffled to third at the top of the stretch, Alexa’s Power – the 4-5 favorite – shot the Lightning Lane for Tim Tetrick and triumphed in a career-best 1:52, a head better than Reign On Me. I’m Trigger Happy completed the ticket.

Jim Campbell conditions the daughter of Somebeachsomewhere–Michelle’s Power, who lifted her lifetime bankroll to \$281,490, for Jeffrey Snyder and Michael Snyder.

Sidewalk Dancer, who took nearly a month off following a disappointing performance in the Lynch final, made a first-over move for Brett Miller look easy, scoring in 1:52.1. Painted Lady was second, beaten a length, with Strong Opinion third.

“Going into the Lynch, I thought we could win, and the trip was working out for us,” Miller said. “When I called on her, she didn’t fire. They scoped her after the race, and she was severely sick that night. So she definitely had an excuse. She can go with the top fillies. She can race on the front, but she loves passing horses.

Chris Oakes trains Sidewalk Dancer, a daughter of A Rockroll Dance–Road Sign who now boasts \$182,779 in career earnings, for Northfork Racing, Omar Beiler and Dennis Coons.



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Michael Lisa

Phaetosive (Trond Smedshammer) also set a career best while winning her Oaks elimination. The 1:51.

Manchego and Phaetosive impress in Hambletonian Oaks eliminations

by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager

Manchego and Phaetosive each won their respective eliminations Saturday (July 28) for the Hambletonian Oaks, with Manchego capturing her division by 3-3/4 lengths over Lily Stride in 1:51.1 and Phaetosive victorious in her division by 4-1/4 lengths over Live Laugh Love in 1:51 at the Meadowlands Racetrack.

The top-five finishers from each \$50,000 elimination advanced to next week's \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks final for 3-year-old female trotters at the Big M. Hey Blondie, What A Knockout and Seviyorum advanced from the elim won by Manchego, while Plunge Blue Chip, Blonde Magic and Nixie Volo advanced from the elimination won by Phaetosive.

Phaetosive and driver Trond Smedshammer were in fourth place at the half-mile point of their elimination, with Plunge Blue Chip – who on July 14 trotted a world-record 1:49.4 mile at the Meadowlands – leading the field to that point in :56.1.

Plunge Blue Chip, who started from post eight in the eight-horse field and was three-wide around the first turn before getting the lead, remained on top heading into the final turn, but Phaetosive was on the move and threatening. She took the lead at the top of the stretch and came home in :26.3 to win for the third time in four races this year. Her time of 1:51 was a career best.

Phaetosive, a daughter of Explosive Matter out of Phaeton who is owned by Purple Haze Stables and trained by Smedshammer, has won seven of 11 lifetime starts and earned \$377,358. She has never finished worse than third.

7, M, \$50,000, T, HAMBLETONIAN OAKS NO. 93 - ELIMINATION 3
Year Old Fillies, 28.0, 56.1, 1:24.2, 1:51.0, FT

1-Phaetosive (f, 3, Explosive Matter--Phaeton, by Angus Hall),
\$65,000 2016 SHS-HBG O-Purple Haze Stables LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Trond Smedshammer. D-Trond Smedshammer, \$25,000, Lifetime Record: 11-7-2-2, \$377,358

Hanover ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

2-Live Laugh Love (f, 3, Donato Hanover--Shes Gone Again, by SJ's Caviar), \$90,000 2016 LEX-SEL O-Melvin Hartman, CA & David H Mc Duffee & Diamond Creek Racing. B-Diamond Creek Farm LLC & Melvin Hartman, CA. T-R. Nifty Norman. D-David Miller, \$12,500

3-Plunge Blue Chip (f, 3, Muscle Mass--Dunk The Donato, by Donato Hanover), \$42,000 2016 SHS-HBG O-Ake Svanstedt Inc & Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc & Tomas Andersson, SD & Rick Zeron Stables, CA. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. T-Ake Svanstedt. D-Ake Svanstedt, \$6,000

Calls: 2T, 4H, H, 1, 4Q - Finish Order: Blonde Magic, Nixie Volo, Perfect Summer K, Lima Novelty, Winbak Noelle

"She was good," said Smedshammer, who trained 2008 Hambletonian Oaks winner Creamy Mimi. "She's been good her whole life. She just keeps impressing me."

Phaetosive finished second to Manchego in last year's Jim Doherty Memorial and Peaceful Way Stakes and was third behind Manchego in the Breeders Crown. The Hambletonian

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Michael Lisa

Manchego (Yannick Gingras) set a career best mile of 1:51.1 while easily winning her Hambletonian Oaks elimination Saturday at the Meadowlands.

Oaks final will be their first encounter this season.

“We haven’t met up yet this year, so we will see next week,” Smedshammer said. “She got the best of me last year every time they hooked up, but I think it’s a little closer this year.”

When asked how Phaetosive compared to other great filly trotters Smedshammer trained during his career, the trainer responded, “It’s tough to compare from different eras, but she is extremely talented.”

Phaetosive, the 4-5 favorite in her Oaks elimination, paid \$3.60 to win.

Manchego, who in her previous start finished second by a nose to Plunge Blue Chip in her world-record 1:49.4 mile, was guided to the lead in her Oaks elimination by driver

Yannick Gingras on the backstretch and was unthreatened the rest of the way.

Her time of 1:51.1 was a career best as she won for the fourth time in six races this year. The filly has won 15 of 17 career races and earned \$986,170.

“I don’t think (she’s ever been better),” winning trainer Jimmy Takter said. “It was a little upsetting to lose the last start and get such a nice record, but she did the dirty work. She went :54.3 (to the half) with a :27.1 second quarter and that kind of hurt her a little bit in the stretch, and maybe Yannick underestimated (Plunge Blue Chip) a little bit, too. But I’m happy where we are right now.”

Takter and Gingras have teamed to win the past four editions of the Hambletonian Oaks. Takter holds the record for most training wins in the race with seven. The trainer said he did not consider bypassing the Oaks to try Manchego against the boys in the \$1 million Hambletonian next week. The connections of filly Atlanta, who is undefeated in five races this year, took that route.

“I don’t blame them for taking a shot, but I’ve tried that and it’s hard to do,” said Takter, who raced filly Pampered Princess in the 2007 Hambletonian won by Donato Hanover. “Fillies go two heats and it’s a little bit too tough, especially for Manchego because she is not a very big filly. Going two heats would be risking the future of her racing career.”

Manchego, a daughter of Muscle Hill out of Secret Magic, was the 2017 Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old female trotter. She is owned by Black Horse Racing, John Fielding, and Herb Liverman.

Sent off as the 1-9 favorite, Manchego paid \$2.20 to win. Post positions for the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks final will be drawn and morning lines assigned on Tuesday (July 31) at 2 p.m. (EST) and shown on live on the Meadowlands Facebook page and Meadowlands YouTube channel.

The \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks and \$1 million Hambletonian will be featured on a live 90-minute broadcast on CBS Sports Network from 4-5:30 p.m. (EDT) on Aug. 4.

Hambletonian Day is closing day at the Meadowlands, with a post time of 12 noon.

Fans can follow Hambletonian Day news at www.Hambletonian.com, www.meadowlandsracetrack.com and on Twitter at #Hambo18.

5, M, \$50,000, T, HAMBLETONIAN OAKS NO. 93 - ELIMINATION 3
Year Old Fillies, 26.4, 55.2, 1:24.1, 1:51.1, FT
1-Manchego (f, 3, Muscle Hill--Secret Magic, by Cantab Hall),
\$120,000 2016 LEX-SEL O-Black Horse Racing & John D Fielding,
CA & Herb A Liverman. B-Brittany Farms LLC. T-Jimmy Takter.
D-Yannick Gingras, \$25,000, Lifetime Record: 18-16-1-0, \$986,170

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2-Lily Stride (f, 3, Muscle Hill--Sterling Volo, by Donato Hanover),
\$220,000 2016 LEX-SEL O-Emilio & Maria Rosati, AS.
B-Kentuckiana Farms LLC & Jorgen Jahre Jr, NO. T-Mark Harder. D-Tim
Tetrick, \$12,500

3-Hey Blondie (f, 3, Cantab Hall--Winbak Blondie, by Muscles
Yankee), \$125,000 2016 SHS-HBG O-Steve Jones & Mary Kinsey
Arnold & Paul L Bordogna & David H Mc Duffee. B-Hanover Shoe
Farms Inc. T-Chuck Sylvester. D-Andrew McCarthy, \$6,000
Calls: 2Q, 1Q, 1H, 2H, 3T - Finish Order: What A Knockout,
Seviyorum, Courtney Hanover, Piranha Fury, Fly Fly Selena, Bill's Lady



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AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Winners announced in Ask The Guru Hambletonian contest

On Saturday's Meadowlands' simulcast show, the three prize winners in HRU's Ask The Guru Hambletonian Contest were randomly selected by hosts Dave Brower and Gabe Prewitt.

The winner of dinner for two at Il Villaggio with Hall of Famers Ron Gurfein and Mike Lachance (to occur at a later date) plus a \$500 betting voucher courtesy of the Meadowlands is **Carl Coppola**. His question was:

Of your three Hambletonian wins which was the most rewarding and why?

The second-place winner of a \$250 Meadowlands betting voucher is **Art Zubrod**, who asked:

Do you favor open draw for the final or earn your post?

The third-place winner of a \$100 Meadowlands betting voucher is **Les Stark**, who asked:

The 1989 Hambletonian was arguably the most exciting ever, with a dead heat in the raceoff. Do you believe the ruling of Park Avenue Joe the winner over Probe was the right decision?

Please contact The Guru to find out how to claim your prizes: GurfTrot@aol.com

The 10 questions selected as finalists in the contest – and The Guru's answers to those questions [can be read here](#).

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Trained by: Ron Burke

Driven by: Matt Kakaley

*Dorsoduro Hanover sold as
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Lazarus scorches first NA qualifier in 1:48.3

by Nick Salvi / Meadowlands media relations

Breakfast With The Babies (BWTB) sponsored by Fashion Farms, final edition, got off with a bang Saturday morning when the heralded New Zealand import Lazarus N made his auspicious North American debut in dazzling fashion.

For a first start, particularly in a qualifying race, Lazarus faced a very talented group including the 2018 North America Cup winner Lather Up and last season's fastest freshman at 1:50, Hayden Hanover.

The race unfolded with Lather Up (Montrell Teague) crossed over around the first turn on the way to a :28.2 opener with Lazarus N and Yannick Gingras pinned to his back past the :55.3 half. As they circled the last bend Lazarus was tugging on Yannick, anxious to pace, so the pair tipped from the pocket midway through it and was around Lather Up before the 1:23 three quarters.

It was a sprint from there as Lather Up rallied back at Lazarus to get within a length through the blazing :25.3 finish to the 1:48.3 mile. Both horses were asked for pace only minimally by their respective drivers and went to the wire strong.

"I couldn't be any happier with him," said Yannick as he dashed off to catch a flight to The Meadows for today's Adios stake. "He's very easy on himself and had tons of pace."

Lazarus N is trained by Jimmy Takter for the elite thoroughbred operation Taylor Made Stallions of Nicholasville, KY who bought him from his Down Under connections and imported him to the U.S. earlier this season.

The 2-year-olds started off the morning with the Father Patrick filly **Sister's Promise** coming from mid-pack to win in 1:58.1 / :27.4 for Tim Tetrick. Biding their time as Amazato (Trond Smedshammer) led the field by the half in 1:00.2 and 1:30.2 three panels, when Tetrick fanned Sister's Promise wide in the stretch she sailed by under her own power to win by 3 ½ lengths over that rival, her last quarter timed in :27.2. Linda Toscano trains the winner for Brittany Farms who paid \$120,000 for her at Harrisburg and Fred Hertrich, III is the breeder.

Aldebaranwalkabout (Andy Miller) survived the furious close of White Tiger (Anthony McDonald) to win the third in 1:56.2. Left with a long lead after a few broke behind him, the winner passed the three quarters alone in 1:28 while White Tiger was maneuvered around traffic, trotting an individual :27.1 home to just miss. Aldebaran Park bred and owns the winning son of Muscle Hill.

The enigmatic **Greenshoe** made another strong impression this morning with an absolutely effortless 1:55.1 jaunt for Brian Sears, trotting home alone in :27 with the driver



Dave Landry

Lazarus was huge Saturday morning in his first North American qualifier, winning in 1:48.3 at the Meadowlands.

motionless. With Peter Haughton Memorial eliminations unnecessary, this served as a prep for the \$422,350 stake on Hambletonian Day. The Father Patrick colt, a \$330,000 Lexington Select buy for Anders Strom as Courant, INC was bred by Al Libfeld and Marvin Katz.

Donald DuPont won with Roy Dobbins homebred Muscle Hill filly **Misscheckmatehill** in 2:00. 3, holding Bride (DR Ackerman) at bay through the stretch.

Another impressive homebred kicked off the pacing races as the 3 Brothers Stable's **JK Mardi Says** zipped around the oval all by herself in 1:55.2 for Scott Zeron. Left to a long lead throughout the 1:00.1 half and 1:28.1 three panels, the Somebeachsomewhere filly sprinted home in :27.1 on her own. Nancy Johansson trains her.

In the season finale for BWTB the Sweet Lou half-brother to Vintage Master and Great Vintage **Division Bell** (Josert Fonseca) took a 1:53.4 record for owner/breeders Christina Takter and John Fielding. Jimmy Takter is, of course, the trainer.

The day closed with **Pure Country**, the "Grande Dame" of Adam Bowden's Diamond Creek Farms zooming around the course in 1:51.3 / :26.1 for Brian Sears as she prepares for the Lady Liberty and the second half of the 2018 campaign. It was just a year ago that trainer Jimmy Takter qualified her in an amazing 1:48 which launched the now 5-year-old champion into another Dan Patch award winning season, making her the only female in Standardbred history to win that prestigious award at ages 2,3 and 4. It looks like she's raced herself back into contention for one more shot at the title.

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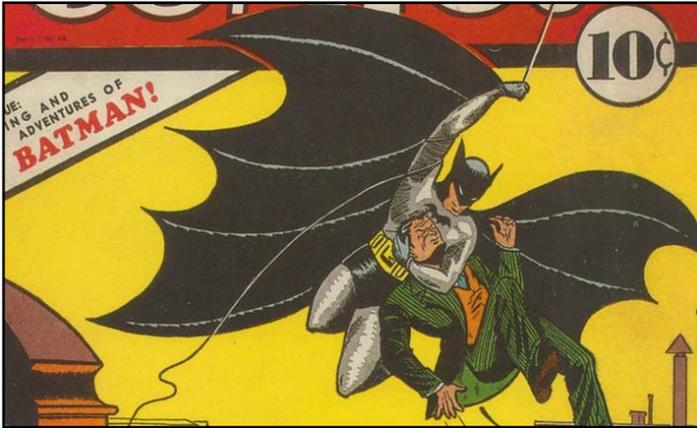
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Batman makes a move - Devo Rides 21

(The ventures and adventures of Batman and Trey)

by **Trey Nosrac**

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Driving through cornfields bordering County Road 27E, my wealthy passenger from Silicon Valley dropped a salvo of bombs.

“I’m moving to Ohio. I have loose ends to ties up in California. My mom is doing fine, but she will need me. At this point in my life, the family farm is where I want to be, it just feels right.”

Sounding like a complete jerk, I said, “What about me, what are you going to do, get a driver’s license or a self-driving car?”

“You keep driving me if you’re willing.”

“Willing? This has been my longest and best paying job since three weeks in 2010 when I unloaded semis filled with smuggled kitchen appliances in the middle of the night. Three of us worked in an abandoned warehouse that looked like a Steven King setting. My CEO for that caper was a skinny tattooed ex-con named Eric the Lip who I met at a mandatory meeting.”

He smiled, “Really?”

“Long story. Hey, from now on I want to be called Ground Transportation Coordinator.”

He gave me a thumb up.

I punched a pair of horn toots to make the new name official, then I said, “And I’m sick of dancing around what to exactly call you. Development Operations Director doesn’t roll off the tongue.”

He spread his hands, “That’s simple, my name is Tom.”

“Too boring, I give everybody nicknames, let’s go with Batman.”

“Batman?”

“Billionaire Always Thinking,” I tapped my head with my index finger, “That spontaneous acronym took me 20 minutes to come up with.”

He gave a little head-clearing shake of his peach-fuzzed grey head. We traveled in silence for a few miles towards the interstate that would link us to the airport.

Then he dropped another bomb.

“When I come home, let’s go into the harness racing business.”

Like a bad actor, my jaw dropped. I took a few beats to recover, “Batman, we have a balance problem. I don’t have a balance. You, on the other hand, could buy every horse in a sale.”

“Your costs will be covered by your new position as an equine/advisor/mentor.”

“I’ve only been Ground Transportation Coordinator for forty-five seconds.”

He pointed at me, “We call that fast-tracking.”

I saluted, “Well, I call that bat-shit crazy. What’s next, you giving me the deed to your farm?”

“Not yet.”

I sounded like a six-year-old on Christmas morning, which was exactly how I felt when I yelled, “Are you serious?”

He nodded, “Prepare to take me to Harrisburg for the fall sale. Make a list of prospects. We are going to select a yearling, a broodmare in foal and an open broodmare for this first phase.”

Placing my left hand on top of my head I sputtered out, “I need details. How much is the bankroll? What state programs you want to try? Can I go to the Lexington sale? What is phase two, what sires, what’s the plan, and about a dozen other things that I can’t think of because my head is about to explode because if you haven’t noticed, I am currently overworked with TWO jobs.”

He smiled, “Well, obviously the plan is to make wise investments and make money.”

I tilted my head, “Well, obviously, you haven’t read my resume or rap sheet.”

“You’ll surprise yourself.”

“This is crazy, even on my scale of craziness.”

“It makes perfect sense. All of our talking about harness racing for the past two months has me curious. My semi-retirement gives me time for new adventures. You tweaked my interest.”

“Maybe a psychiatrist should tweak your medication.”

“Trey, you know about harness racing. You have owned racehorses. You can teach me about the sport. I own a fine fallow farm.”

We both froze and then I howled, “Did you really just say FINE FALLOW FARM?”

He winced, “I knew that would bite me as soon as it fell out of my mouth.”

“Well,...Batman...I’m too FUDDLED to ride you about using the words FINE FALLOW FARM for the moment. You might want to know that I have a tattoo on my left shoulder that says, “**Not responsible for...** much.” Seriously, I need supervision, at least boundaries, and possibly incarceration.”

He shook his head, “In my world, key employees don’t get lists of what to do. People have free rein to figure things out and be creative. We expect they will tell us what to do and for what reason.”

I snorted, “In my business world we keep a low profile, avoid responsibility, gamble and rarely listen to reason.”

He just smiled like the cat that swallowed the canary and said, “Look, this scenario is simple. You put me, a relative newcomer, into the harness racing business. You pick what you believe is the best path, walk me through each step and explain your thinking. Then I will add my two cents and

together we will try a few new twists.”

“This business is very twisty and will cost you more than two cents.”

“I don’t plan on losing.”

“Nobody does. But you asking me to go into the harness horse business sounds like one of my lowlife pals saying, ‘Hold my beer and watch this.’”

He grinned, “So, that’s a yes, you’ll hold my beer?”

I whooshed out some air, “Just answer me this – What’s more important to you, making money or having fun.”

He bobbed his head side to side, thinking, and then answered, “I prefer both, but let’s go with fun.”

“Then I’m your man.” I tooted the horn again and held out my right fist for a knuckle bump.

He bumped back.

*(**Reader’s Note; thank you for taking these “Devo rides.” This series will have a new title. The plan is to move from viewing the sport from theoretical to real. Please join us for The Ventures and Adventures of Trey and Batman - actual horses, sales, farms, state programs, stallions, broodmares etc.)*

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HARNES RACING UPDATE

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Production: Brian Fuller

Graphic Design, Ads & Placement: Lisa Bihuniak

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

Results & Stats Editor: Lisa Duong

Founder: Bill Finley

Contributors: Claus Andersen, Karen Briggs, Jerry Connors, The Curmudgeon, Paul Delean, Bill Finley, Joe FitzGerald, Dean Gillette, Ron Gurfein, Bob Heyden, Dean Hoffman, Dave Landry, Lauren Lee, Dave Little, Chris Lomon, David Mattia, Trey Nosrac, Tom Pedulla, James Platz, Bob Roberts, Sandra Snyder, Brett Sturman, Dean Towers, Jay Wolf

Get in touch with HRU

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

Editor/News Stories: editor@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising: advertising@harnessracingupdate.com

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Joanne Colville – world-class multi-tasker

by Victoria M. Howard

Joanne Colville, the chair of Standardbred Canada and the outrider at Woodbine Mohawk Park is a multi-tasker who owns, breeds, races, and serves as the outrider at several tracks.

Outriders have one of the most important and dangerous jobs in the industry, as they are responsible for maintaining a safe environment at the track during live races (both human and equine). If there is a loose horse it is the rider's job to catch the runaway before anyone is hurt.

The hours are extremely long for the outrider as they close the track every day, and financially they do not make nearly what the drivers earn.

Born in East York, ON, Colville has always been an animal lover. She purchased her first horse – a weanling filly with a white blaze – after spotting her while visiting Murray Brethour's farm with her dad, Frank Colville. The horse's name was Wil Lor Wilma.

"I had a choice – it was either the filly or the fancy winter coat I wanted," Colville said. "Guess what won? Of course, the horse."

Although her father enjoyed owning and racing standardbreds, he was one of the few who considered it a hobby.

"He obtained a trainers' license, but never made it a career. Dad and I would visit Greenwood Raceway every weekend where I would watch those beautiful animals. It was love at first sight and I made it my lifelong career," Colville said.

"I love them all, but I guess (my favorite) would probably be a horse named Juggles. Although he never raced, Juggles became my outriding horse and would do anything for me. As far as a racehorse it would be Wazzup Wazzup, a horse I bred and raised. Unfortunately, he lost his eye when he was only a few month old, but did race and earned \$566,000. I

still have his mom and two sisters on my farm."

Colville became an outrider as a fill-in for special events at Flamboro Downs, Grand River and other smaller tracks.

"I rode while completing high school and started to fill in when needed at Woodbine and Mohawk seven years ago," she said. "For the past five years I have been full time with a team of three really good horses – one mare and two geldings."

At one time, Colville had her own staking business, but it consumed so much of her time that today she only stakes her own.

"I'd rather work one on one breeding and foaling. The babies are the best," she said, laughing.

Colville's significant other is noted driver/trainer Jack Moiseyev.

"We've been together for 15 years and train and break the horses together," Colville said.

Moiseyev recently has concentrated on training youngsters and driving occasionally, due to a back problem, but is kept very busy training a stable of 16 at First Line Training Center.

As with many horsepeople, Colville's involvement is a family affair.

"It's definitely in the blood. My daughter Emma's father is Canadian driver Chris Christoforou. Emma helps train and has started warming up and training our horses," Colville said. "Emma's a natural. She takes after her mom, and is actively involved in all aspects of the business. But we have one rule – school comes first."

Besides helping Jack train and run her breeding farm, Colville is serving her third year as chair of Standardbred Canada and a breeder/director in Ontario.

"I am heavily involved with organizational boards such as Standardbred Canada and COSA (Central Ontario Horseman's Association), and the administrator of the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society (OSAS)," Colville said. "I want to be part of the change for the future and understand the dynamics as we push forward to a more sustainable industry across the board."

If anyone can help the business in a positive way it's Joanne Colville. With her passion, drive and love for the sport, she is one of the most dedicated and honorable people representing our great sport of harness racing.

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JJ Zamaiko

Count On Cody (Kurt Sugg) setting a 1:55.2 Northfield Park track record Saturday night in the Summit County Fair Stakes.

Count On Cody breaks Northfield track record

Count On Cody crossed the finish line as the fastest sophomore trotting colt ever at Northfield Park when he won the \$6,200 Summit County Fair Stakes in 1:55.2 on Saturday (July 28).

The former 1:55.3 3-year-old trotting record was held by Buckeye Boss (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) from 2017.

Acadia Farms of Canfield, OH and G&B Racing of New Wilmington, PA own Count On Cody. Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Famer Marty Wollam is his conditioner and Kurt Sugg was in the sulky for the winning drive.

Count On Cody (Full Count—Caviar Forthe Lady) started from post five. He left from the gate sat the pocket through :27.2 and :57 opening fractions. Just past the half Count On Cody came to the outside, took the lead and never looked back. He rolled through final fractions of 1:26.1 and 1:55.2, besting his competition by 1 ¼-lengths.

Count On Cody now has two wins in three starts this year. Saturday's victory represents his fourth career score and bolstered his bankroll to \$136,570. He was heavily favored and returned \$5.80 to win.

— *Ayers Ratliff / Northfield Park*

Arden Downs wrap-up on Adios undercard

Saturday's card at The Meadows, which featured the \$400,000 final of the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids and the \$121,000 Quinton Patterson Adios Volo, also offered four additional Grand Circuit stakes. Here are the highlights of those Arden Downs events:

\$57,914 James Manderino – 3-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Trotters

Scirocco Rob got some help when 3-5 favorite Joey broke stride at the start. But the Explosive Matter—Fun At Parties gelding might not have needed the assistance, as he rolled to his third straight victory, in 1:56, for Corey Callahan, trainer John Butenschoen and owners Lewis Whitaker and Kathleen Whitaker. Keystone Apache rallied for second, two lengths back, with Garnet third.

“When that other horse ran behind the gate, he was the only horse that I was worried about,” Callahan said. “So I was able to just kind of mosey around there. When you can go somewhat of a training mile, it’s a lot easier than having to stretch him out.”

Scirocco Bob now boasts \$199,603 in career earnings.

In the other division, Im Your Captain also caught a break when the leader, Quality Kemp, jumped it off near the half. Im Your Captain inherited the front and scored in 1:55.3, 5-3/4 lengths better than the fast-closing What A Hunk. House Hubby completed the ticket.

“I kind of had it down to Quality Kemp and my horse, so I didn’t want to do anything too goofy,” said winning driver Marcus Miller. “I thought he could either cut it or win out of the two hole. It worked out okay.”

Julie Miller, Marcus’ aunt, trains the son of Muscle Hill—Frisky Strike for Andy Miller Stable and Black Horse Racing.

When asked what he might recommend to Aunt Julie about the horse’s next start, Marcus Miller took a diplomatic approach.

“I just plan to tell her thank you,” he said.

— *Evan Pattak*

\$47,634 Gov. David L. Lawrence – 2-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Pacers

Perhaps wiser and more determined after a frustrated first-over bid in his last outing, Volley Ball Beach converted a similar move to victory Saturday, prevailing in 1:52.4 – his fastest – for Tony Hall, trainer Norm Parker and owner/breeder Bob Key. Escapetothebeach was second, a half-length back, while No Mas Amor earned show.

“It was different this week because he got to sit to the half,” Parker said of the son of Somebeachsomewhere—Alladorable. “We’ve had some issues with him regarding when to make his move. We changed some equipment this week, and it seemed to help.”

In the other split, Pyro found late racing room in the center of the track and rallied for Matt Kakaley to score in 1:53, his second win in four career starts. Actor Hanover gave trainer Ron Burke the exacta sweep when he finished second, beaten 2-1/4 lengths, with early leader Aflame Hanover third.

"I figured I'd be able to shake loose somewhere, but I wasn't going to move him first up," Kakaley said. "It was pretty easy for him today. He was really sharp."

Burke Racing Stable, Larry Karr, Phillip Collura and Weaver Brusceci LLC campaign Pyro, a son of Sweet Lou-Whetstone Hanover.

– *Evan Pattak*

\$47,634 Mary Lib Miller – 2-Year-Old Filly Pacers

Louphoria and Sylph Hanover are both members of the Burke stable (two of the 26 horses he entered on the Adios Day card, and a pair of the 48 he sent post-ward across the U.S. for the day), and both were sent off at 1-1 by The Meadows' punters. Both of them started "against the fence" – Louphoria from the "inner fence," Sylph Hanover from the outermost post eight.

And the pair were at each other during most of the :56.1 last half of their division in the freshman filly pace, Louphoria on the lead and Sylph Hanover attacking first-over. In the stretch it was Sylph Hanover who proved the stronger, powering off by 2¾ lengths late over her stablemate for Kakaley as the end horse of a Burke/Kakaley consecutive triple. The daughter of Somebeachsomewhere—She's A Fan, owned by Burke Racing Stable, William Switala, James Martin, and Joseph Critelli, took a maiden mark of 1:54.1; she had already won in a Philly qualifier just two ticks slower than today's mile.

"We were always high on her, but she's been just okay, I guess," Kakaley said. "She wasn't that good on the front at Pocono, so we wanted to change tactics. She was super today."

She's Allright remained undefeated after three starts by taking the other division in 1:53.1 and giving Burke his sixth training win of the afternoon, but Darn Tootn Hanover, in only her second lifetime start, made sure the winner knew she was in a tussle. She's Allright, a Sweet Lou-Atsallrite Hanover miss owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, Michelle Yanek and Collura, was put on the lead by Yannick Gingras, rated the half, then sprinted home in 55.4, but first-over Darn Tootn Hanover gained inch by inch the last half and came up only a head shy.

– *Jerry Connors*

\$56,440 Ned McCarr – 3-Year-Old Filly Trotters

Kenziesky Hanover sure made it interesting as the even-money favorite in the first section of the sophomore filly trot, but she emerged with a 1:57.1 victory for driver Brian Zendt, trainer Bill Zendt, and owners J. Patrick Huber and Glenn Congrove.

Brian Zendt got the Cantab Hall filly a perfect two-hole trip, but as the pair awaited the Lightning Lane behind pacesetter Southwind Angelica and first-over Fish Is Fish, Kenziesky Hanover made a break. She was steered into the passing lane and never went inside the pylons while regaining composure; in the meantime Ms American Muscle came through inside the pacesetter and got the lead. But Zendt and his filly got back on stride and finished with a furious last 50 yards to win by 1/2 length after the improbable but impressive comeback.

The Zendts completed a sweep of this Grand Circuit event as the Donato Hanover filly Donato's Jewel went coast-to-coast in 1:54.2, a new mark and a stakes record. Donato's Jewel had made miscues in four of her last six starts, but before the hometown crowd she was on her best behavior, setting a quick pace and maintaining her advantage despite the late rush of favored Pat Matters, with 3/4 of a length between the rivals at the finish. Gary Saul owns the winner.

– *Jerry Connors*

French trotter Deo seeks second stateside win today at Yonkers

Deo already has one win under his belt since arriving in the United States as part of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York's French American Trotting Club. This afternoon, the trotter will seek a second local score for trainer Scott Di Domenico ahead of the series first leg Aug. 5.

Deo announced his presence with a victory in a \$13,000 overnight for non-winners of two races lifetime July 20. With George Brennan in the sulky, Deo came away evenly from the gate and settled into sixth racing 10 lengths off the lead. Brennan angled the son of Repeat Love off the pylons with five-eighths to trot and picked up the race's 4-5 favorite Grammy Winner.

With the whip on his tail and with his nose to the helmet of Grammy Winner's driver Tyler Buter, Deo advanced to just 3 lengths from the lead with a quarter-mile to race. Brennan tipped three-wide around the final turn and with the lines in his lap and Deo under a hold, the trotter breezed by his

rivals. In the final strides, Deo extended, streaking away from the field to win by 3 ¼ lengths in 1:57.3.

“I was really happy with him. I liked the fact that he raced from off the pace, closed good and was wide off the turn,” Di Domenico said. “He did everything very professionally to say the least. I’ve been happy with him right along from the day we qualified him. He left the gate good and to see a horse in his first start in this country, first start over the half win from off the pace, it was impressive. We’re pretty well tickled with him.”

The French American Trotting Club intrigued Di Domenico from its announcement this spring. It didn’t take much convincing for the trainer, who is second in the local standings with 98 victories and \$1.69 million earned this year, to take the plunge.

“Any time that there’s something new at Yonkers or a series of some sort, I always try to be a part of it,” he said. “Yonkers is my home track and when this was mentioned, I spoke with Alex (Dadoyan) and Joe (Faraldo) and I certainly was pretty eager to be involved in it. Thankfully to the process, how everything shook out getting the horses, the guys going over there to look at the horses, I feel like I’m pretty lucky to this point and I’m pretty optimistic for the future of this horse.”

Through the luck of the draw, Di Domenico was assigned Deo, a 5-year-old trotter with one win in 32 starts overseas for Romuald Mourice. The youngest of the French trotters imported, Deo is eligible to the conditions at Yonkers in addition to the rich series.

“To this point, I like the horse, I like the fact that he’s five years old. I like the fact that he fits the conditions at Yonkers if the series doesn’t quite fit his style of racing,” Di Domenico said.

When Deo arrived in Di Domenico’s stable in June, he proved a straightforward addition to the barn. Di Domenico approached the gelding as he would any horse from overseas and gave the horse time to adapt to his new surroundings. Deo impressed his new trainer with how quickly he took to the American style of training.

“We gave him a week where we didn’t do anything with him, we just put him out in the pasture and let him put his head down and collect his wits,” the trainer said. “When we started actually working him, he went out jogged like any horse, he trained like a horse who’s trained here a hundred times and he was not a horse that took a lot of guessing with.”

Deo’s simple manner took his trainer by surprise. After watching replays of the horse’s French form, which included

four breaks in stride in his last six starts, Di Domenico didn’t know what to expect.

“I’m not smart enough to understand how those races go or understand how to speak French and try to decipher what happened and the kind of sulky he wore and if they pulled his shoes off,” Di Domenico said. “It certainly gets you thinking about how you want to handle it and what you want to do.

“He’s not had a bad day and he hasn’t been a bad actor. He hasn’t done anything that wasn’t expected of him. I think I was most impressed by that. Any time you get a horse from another country, it’s a new system, new people, different track surfaces, putting them on an airplane, you always have a concern of a lot of different things,” he continued. “To finally meet the horse and get him here and see how he’s acting and for him to be as simple and straightforward as he’s been, it says a lot about the horse and the people in France who had him before me.”

Deo will make his second start for Di Domenico in today’s fourth race at Yonkers, a \$21,200 trot for non-winners of four races. He’ll start from post three as the 3-1 second choice on the morning line. Unlike in his first race, which was at a mile, Deo will stretch out to the 1 ¼-mile distance today, the same distance he’ll face in the first leg of the series next week.

“We’ll see how he handles it. It’s all new to the horse and to me,” Di Domenico said. “Watching the replays and going back and looking at some of his stuff in France, he didn’t always excel going long distances, but maybe the different track surface and the different training, maybe he’ll adapt to it and really like it. At this point, I’m really optimistic in that it’s something new and I’m really just excited and happy with him.”

In addition to Deo, today’s card at Yonkers features French trotters Barry Black in race two and Undici in race three.

The French American Trotting Club Series begins with a \$35,000 first leg Aug. 5. The second and third legs of the series will be held Aug. 19 and 26, respectively and the \$120,000 final is set for Sept. 2.

— *Brandon Valvo for the SOA of NY*

SBOA/NJ seeks bookkeeper administrative assistant

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey is looking to hire a Bookkeeper Administrative Assistant.

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Ontario horse owners questioning AGCO ruling

(Editor's Note: The following letter was originally sent to Harnesslink and then later sent to Harness Racing Update to publish regarding a case in Ontario that the letter writer believes is similar to recent allegations of mistakes at the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission and reported on in the Paulickreport.com)

Dear Sirs,

I, Anne Shunock, Tammy Aspden and Linda Wellwood, read with great interest your article today "Pennsylvania Harness Regulators: Questions of Cover-Ups And Conflicts of Interest." (in Harnesslink).

You see, we are in a similar circumstance except that we have been ordered by Mr Jean Major, Registrar of The Alcohol And Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), to repay purse monies to a horse that tested positive for a class 2 drug. Our mare, Magic Of Brussels, was second in a race at Georgian Downs June 2015 but in December 2015 we were placed first by the Ontario Racing Commission because Heathers Shadow who had won the race tested positive for Oxilofrine with CPMA.

In January 2017, we were notified by phone that Mr Major had reversed the judges decision even though CPMA maintained the positive certificate stayed the same.

When we raised questions a response came from the legal department from AGCO saying there was a testing error. When we asked for clarification we were told the Registrar has absolute discretion to make this decision. This escalated to the point that we were suspended because we had not repaid the purse money by a date set by AGCO counsel. We appealed and it was stayed.

It came to a point that we needed to retain a lawyer. We contacted Mr Dan McMahon who came to our rescue.

Fast forward to April 2018 when the case was heard by HRAP, Horse Racing Appeal Panel. Our witnesses included Mr

Rod Seiling, former head Ontario Racing Commission, who stated he did not know of a case where a horse with a positive test retained its purse money.

AGCO presented no evidence against us or any witnesses.

We won our case, but AGCO is not finished with us yet. They have now retained outside counsel and have filed a notice of application to divisional court for judicial review with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice – arguing the panel has no jurisdiction to hear cases that include the Registrar.

We are concerned about cover-ups and the new attitude by AGCO applying their own opinion on positive test certificates rather than accepting the scientific evidence that these are positive tests by CPMA, which was the normally accepted process with ORC (now AGCO since April, 2016).

Interestingly, we were not the only race with this positive test. There were three others, but we seem to be the only ones who question the decision.

The (Pennsylvania cases) seem so similar to our situation, except we are at the other end having to repay money to a positive tested horse.

We believe strongly in honesty, transparency and integrity in the horse racing industry.

– *Anne Shunock, Tammy Aspden and Linda Wellwood / Ontario*

Big difference when betting Big M

There are two things that cannot be ignored for much longer if harness racing is going to survive – better purses at the Meadowlands and more stakes races on the 7f/8f tracks. Bettors like myself look forward to the big nights/day cards at the big ovals. The bigger the field, the bigger the handle, the bigger the payoff. Two races in a row on the Meadowlands Pace card serve as primary facie evidence. The 12 horse/9f Golden Girls handle and payoffs are what we play for. A 1-5 shot finished 4th and the exacta, trifecta and superfecta prices are probably the highest we've seen in harness racing this year. Then McWicked wins the Haughton at 3-5 and we still get a \$1k superfecta for a \$1. In summation, for the bettors, harness racing is less than average without The Mecca. Neighboring PA and NY, DE to the south and now OH in the midwest have a slot luxury that still doesn't generate bettor interest like NJ does. CA and IL along with NJ has the ovals/potential to make for boxcar payouts, but respective state leaders are either incompetent or compromised. Sports betting is good, but not nearly enough. Enough is enough. Save harness racing by

supporting the states with the infrastructure to keep the game alive. Slots or purse supplements to level the playing field NOW!!!!

– *Blaine Macmillan / Cypress, CA*

Miles responds to Williamson's letter

RE: (full story here) in response to Williamson's letter criticizing Mike Miles' letter.

Brian Sears has the right to earn a living. He has options. He doesn't have to drive at the Meadowlands. Mr. Gural is isn't stopping him from driving other tracks. Mr. Gural is only trying to have him drive MORE at the Meadowlands. You fail to realize without Mr. Gural there is NO Meadowlands. He is only trying to put up the best product he can.

The Meadowlands needs help. I am sure he asked Brian to drive more and he refused. It's like a relative or friend you help out to when they needed help. Are they going to turn their back on you when you ask for a favor? I hope not! I little compassion and humility go a long way.

Mr. Gural is NOT asking him to drive ALL the time at the Meadowlands. Brian Sears can STILL drive other tracks.

Lastly, your argument about steaks is ridiculous. If Morton's wants to stop selling steaks that is fine. I just go elsewhere. Morton's isn't giving me a free steak, I am paying for it. Brian Sears is given an opportunity, he isn't PAYING for it. No one is putting a gun to Mr. Sears head to drive at the Meadowlands. If you were a business owner you would understand. If you don't like Mr. Gural's policies then don't bet the Meadowlands.

– *Mike Miles / Elmhurst, IL*

Heading for better bettor honesty

Harness racing is continuing to try and earn our respect, then the curtain is pulled back on how much those in charge really care about us. It's always about the money, when questionable racing is called into light and there's no place to hide, what is the excuse? Let's look at the 10th race this past Saturday (July 21) at Yonkers where the powers at be place the # 5 horse ahead at the finish of the race favorite #1. We listen to the announcing handicappers say Mr. Smith on the #5 just got photoed out for the second time on the program and then the override is announced. It appears that honesty got jettisoned at the same time as the passing lane. Also notice that the finish of several of their race finish line

displays used the camera that was replaced months ago, supposedly in order to give us a more representative perspective. Please KEEP your better purses and better drivers I'm headed in the direction of better honesty.

– *David Perry / Dearborn, MI*

Even more on PA Harness Week

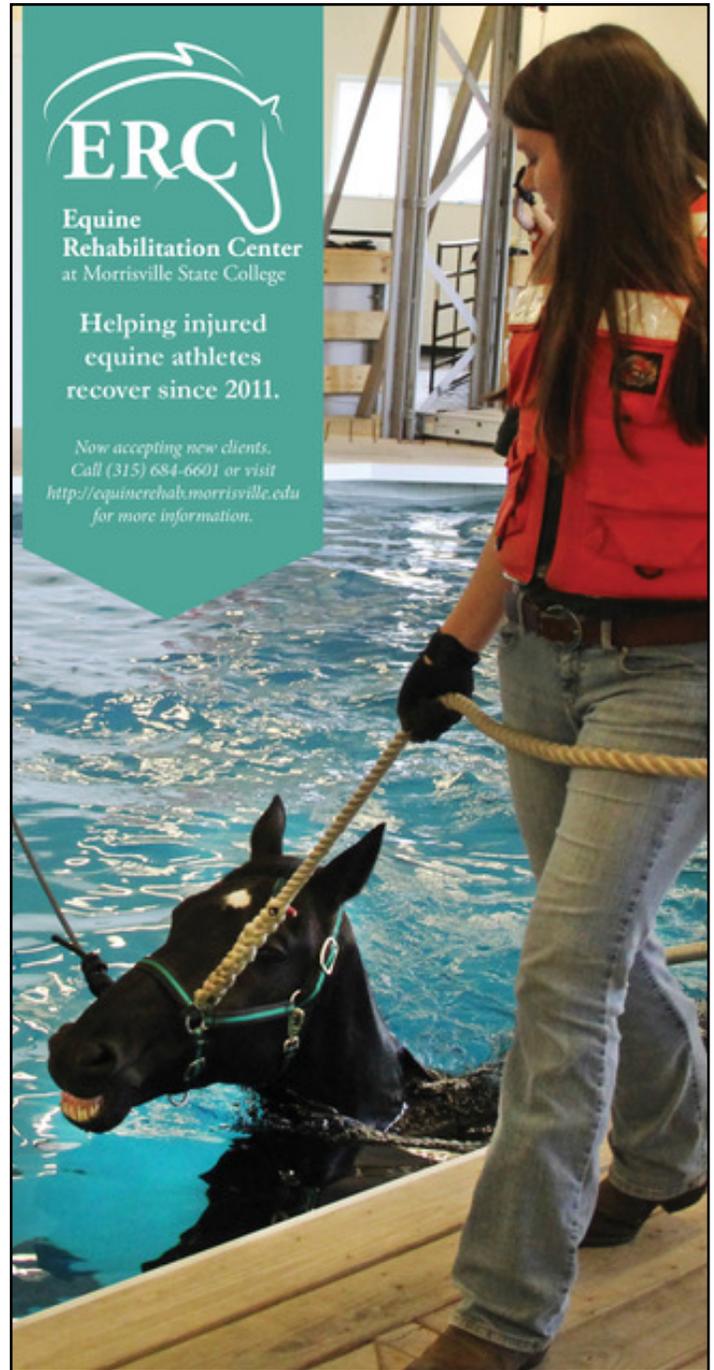
Harness racing's in big trouble. Everyone knows that. They need more fans, but are lost as to how to get them. Which brings me to why I'm writing to your fine publication that I read every week. I was not going to bother writing until I saw some other people writing about the new (but definitely not improved) PA Harness Week TV show! I watched the show for years and it was fun to watch on Saturday mornings. Even my wife, who's not a fan watched. So can somebody tell me who the genius was that decided to fix what wasn't broke in the first place? Why would they take an entertaining show off and then replace it with one that's just one race after another? I don't get it. I like harness racing, but I'm not a degenerate! Even Heather's bubbly personality that I always loved is now gone. And so am I.

– *David Weisberg / North Wales, PA*

Ross fan

Watching PA Harness Week without Steve Ross, is like watching Two and a Half Men without Charlie Sheen!!

– *Bethany Harris / Oreland, PA*



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PLEASE NOTE:

Complete results for Saturday's races will appear in our next issue to be published Tuesday, July 31 following the draw for the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks.