



Winning is in their blood.
What is in their joints?

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

Friday, August 22, 2021

McCarthy brothers win seven of 14 races on Sun Stakes day

Australian-born Todd and Andy McCarthy put on a show Saturday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

by Bob Heyden

HOLLYWOOD'S HITS



with **BOB HEYDEN**

Saturday's (Aug. 21) Sun Stakes card at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono was notable for much more than some \$2 million in purses.

Seven of the 14 races on the afternoon card were won by driving brothers Andy and Toddy McCarthy. The latter was making his Sun Stakes debut since the stakes were not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TODD WON FOUR RACES:

- Race 4 with Dazzling Reign in the \$125,000 Delmonica Hanover consolation I
- Race 9 with Grace Hill in the \$250,000 James Lynch Memorial
- Race 10 with Darlene Hanvoer in the \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover
- Race 14 with Allyway Hanover in the \$75,000 Always B Miki invitational

ANDY WON THREE RACES:

- Race 1 with Paternity Suit A
- Race 5 the James Lynch Memorial consolation I with Nashville Elgenna for a \$125,000 purse

Now Accepting Entries Harrisburg Mixed Sale



2020 Black Book Mixed Sale-Topper Sister Sledge
Sold For \$265,000 By Preferred Equine, Agent

ENTER NOW WITH THE NO. 1 SELLER



Preferred Equine Marketing



PREFERREDEQUINE.COM
(914) 773-7777

Results Unavailable.

Due to a weekend-long software update from one of our design providers, results are unavailable for this issue. Results for Friday and Saturday will be included in our Wednesday, Aug. 25 issue.

IN TODAY'S HRU

Brett Bittle on carrying on the Yankeeland and Keller family legacy	page 13
The essential yearling video	page 18
Total dominance by Nordström in E3 finals	page 20
What's in a name? Not enough in our case – Part 3	page 24

- Race 7 the Max Hempt Memorial consolation I with Whichwaytothebeach for a \$200,000 purse.

In summary, the McCarthy brothers won half of the races on the card at the only track in North America where brothers are 1-2 in the driver standings: George Napolitano and Anthony Napolitano.

Go ahead, try and find a time in the sport's history when two brothers won five six-figure races on the same card.

Maybe the most amazing part is this:

Todd won two major six-figure events with trotting fillies – Darlene Hanover and Dazzling Reign. Last year, he was driving Anoka Hanover to the 2YOFT division title. Todd is just completing his first full year in the states having arrived last September. Nobody drives 2-year-old trotting fillies in Australia and New Zealand. You can't find any. He more or less had to learn on the fly.

Get your passports out

Get your passports and ID out for the next one:

Twelve straight races (races 1-12) and the 14th as well, were won by drivers not born in the U.S.

Australia's McCarthy brothers won seven races, as previously mentioned.

Sweden's Ake Svanstedt won the Earl Beal Memorial with Captain Corey.

Canada's Mark MacDonald won the Max Hempt Memorial with Lawless Shadow and Yannick Gingras won three races: the Sebastian K with Atlanta for \$75,000, the \$100,000 Max Hempt consolation II with Lous Pearlman and a conditioned test with

HARNESS RACING UPDATE

About Harness Racing Update

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

Editor: Dave Briggs

Production: Brian Fuller

Graphic Design, Ads & Placement: Lisa Bihuniak

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

Results & Stats Editor: Lisa & Lucy Duong

Founder: Bill Finley

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

Get in touch with HRU

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

Editor/News Stories: editor@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising: advertising@harnessracingupdate.com

Customer Service: customerservice@harnessracingupdate.com

Advertising info & rates: [please contact Wilma](#)

Covered Bridge.

Only Joe Bongiorno waved the American flag in Race 13 with second choice J M Mandamin.

Tongues wagging over Allywag

Allywag Hanover, one of 20 "Hanovers" on the card, equaled the track 4-year-old mark with a day's best 1:47.2 in the finale.

Share This Story

www.harnessracingupdate.com



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

Know When To Take The Reins. ResponsibleGambling.org
™ Trademark of Woodbine Entertainment Group



\$100,000 Guaranteed
Early Pick 5 Every Race Night

NORTH AMERICA'S #1

STANDARD BRED RACING
5 NIGHTS A WEEK

CLICK FOR DETAILS



Curtis Salonick

Darlene Hanover (Todd McCarthy) won Saturday's (Aug. 21) \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover Stakes in 1:51.4 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Darlene Hanover, Captain Corey win Sun Stakes trots

by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager

Darlene Hanover scored an emotional win in Saturday's (Aug. 21) \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover Stakes for 3-year-old female trotters, winning by three lengths over Flawless Country in 1:51.4 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. You

\$250,000 Delmonica Hanover

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

DARLENE HANOVER

CHAPTER SEVEN—DANIELLE HANOVER

Time: 1:51.4

Splits: :26.3, :55, 1:23.4

Margin: 3 lengths

Hanover ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

Owners: Yankeeland Partners LLP

Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms

Trainer: Brett Bittle

Driver: Todd McCarthy

Purchase price: \$130,000 Standardbred Horse Sales Company yearling sale in 2019

PLACE & SHOW

FLAWLESS COUNTRY
YOU ATO DREAM

Pennsylvania



Ato Dream finished third.

The victory came eight days after the passing of Hall of Famer Charlie Keller III, who was among the filly's Yankeeland Partners ownership group.

Two races later, **Captain Corey** won the \$300,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial for 3-year-old trotters in his first start since capturing the Hambletonian on Aug. 7. Captain Corey won by 1-3/4 lengths over stablemate Johan Palema in 1:51, with Take All Comers finishing third.

In the Delmonica Hanover, Darlene Hanover was fifth at the half-mile point before using a first-over march to eventually take the top spot from even-money favorite You Ato Dream in the stretch. Mazzarati had led to the quarter in :26.3 before You Ato Dream took over and set fractions of :55, and 1:23.4.

The final time was one-fifth of a second off the track record for a 3-year-old filly trotter.

Todd McCarthy drove Darlene Hanover for trainer/co-owner Brett Bittle, who is Keller's nephew.

"This win obviously meant a lot today," McCarthy said. "I'm sure we might have had a little bit of help from above. Brett



Northwood
BLOODSTOCK

NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES

for the **2021 HARRISBURG MIXED SALE**
November 11 & 12

The **Number One** Marketplace for Racing & Breeding Stock



Phone now or enter online - **CLICK HERE**

"The most experienced and professional sales representation"

Public Auction • Private Sales • Appraisals and Evaluations

Bob Boni / Jillian Luff
P.O. Box 2053
Secaucus, New Jersey 07096
201-863-2082
fax 201-863-4104

nwbloodstock@aol.com
northwoodbloodstock.com

Visit us on and

THE GREATEST NAME IN HARNESS RACING

CONGRATULATES

\$250,000 Delmonica Hanover Final winner



Hanover Bred

DARLENE HANOVER

3, 1:51.4f-'21 (\$481,462) · Chapter Seven - Danielle Hanover by Cantab Hall

OWNED BY: Yankeeland Partners Llp | **TRAINED BY:** Brett Bittle | **DRIVEN BY:** Todd McCarthy |

Her half-brother by International Moni, **DECLAN HANOVER**, sells in Lexington this fall!

THIS ONE WAS FOR YOU CHARLIE!



(717) 637-8931 fax: (717) 637-6766 www.hanoverpa.com hanover@hanoverpa.com



ANDOVER HALL · BAR HOPPING · BETTING LINE · CANTAB HALL · CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS · GREENSHOE
INTERNATIONAL MONI · NUNCIO · PAPI ROB HANOVER · STAY HUNGRY · TALL DARK STRANGER



Curtis Salonick

Hambletonian champion Captain Corey (Ake Svanstedt) won the \$300,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial over stablemate Johan Palema in 1:51.

\$300,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial

3-YEAR-OLD OPEN TROT

CAPTAIN COREY

GOOGOO GAAGAA—LUV U ALL

Time: 1:51

Splits: :26.4, :55.3, 1:23.4

Margin: 1T

Owners: S R F Stable, Knutsson Trotting Inc., Midnight Sun Partners Inc., Ake Svanstedt Inc.

Breeder: Carter Duer

Trainer: Ake Svanstedt

Driver: Ake Svanstedt

Purchase price: \$150,000 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale in 2019

PLACE & SHOW

2ND: JOHAN PALEMA

3RD: TAKE ALL COMERS

GRADUATES OF THE LONDON *Virtual* YEARLING SALE

LAWLESS SHADOW

p,3, 1:48.2f-'21 (\$878,130)

Shadow Play - Ladycino

\$300,000 Max Hempt Memorial Final winner
in a life best of p,3, 1:48.2f, yesterday at
The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by Dr. Ian Moore, RG McGroup Ltd.,
Serge Savard, Frank Cannon

Trained by Dr. Ian Moore

Driven by Mark Macdonald

Bred by Seelster Farms Inc.

LAWLESS SHADOW sold for \$52,000
at the 2019 London Selected Yearling Sale.

JOIN US, BEGINNING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

is super to drive for. Full credit to him, he had the horse spot on today and made my job real easy.

"The way the race panned out, there were a couple moves (early) and I figured we'd be slowing down a little from the half, so it was a good time to pull her. She's raced like that before. She's got a lot of heart, that filly, and she showed it today."

Darlene Hanover, a daughter of Chapter Seven out of Danielle Hanover, has won two of seven races this year and six of 15 in her career. She has earned \$481,462. The filly was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms.

Sent off at 5-1, Darlene Hanover paid \$13.00 to win.

In the Beal Memorial, Captain Corey sat behind an early duel for the front between Take All Comers and Johan Palema, with the latter leading to the first quarter in :26.4. From there, Captain Corey took over, reaching the half in :55.3 and three-quarters in 1:23.4 on his way to victory.

"It's easy to drive when you drive a horse like him," trainer/driver Ake Svanstedt said about Captain Corey. "He's a really smart horse. I think that's the reason good horses are good; they are smart. And they like to race."

Captain Corey has won four of six races this year and nine of 13 in his career. He pushed his lifetime earnings to \$1.06 million with his Beal triumph.

The colt is owned by S R F Stable, Knutsson Trotting Inc., Midnight Sun Partners Inc., and Ake Svanstedt Inc. The son of Googoo Gaagaa-Luv U All was bred by Carter Duer.

Captain Corey paid \$2.10 to win as the 1-9 favorite.

\$200,000 EARL BEAL JR. MEMORIAL CONSOLATION

The Ake Svanstedt stable took the top two spots in the \$200,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial consolation, with **Fly Light** finishing three-quarters of a length ahead of Capstone in 1:52. Magical Muscle Man finished third. Dexter Dunn drove Fly Light (Father Patrick—Hustle Heart) for owners Ake Svanstedt Inc. and Stable Why Not. The gelding was bred by Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld. He picked up his first win in five races this year and second in 13 starts lifetime. He has earned \$248,271.

\$125,000 DELMONICA HANOVER CONSOLATION

In the \$125,000 Delmonica Hanover consolation, **Dazzling Reign** rallied in the stretch following a circuitous trip from mid-pack on the backstretch to win by 1-1/4 lengths over Aunt Irene in 1:55.1. Above The Clouds finished third. Dazzling Reign (Father Patrick—Broadway Chuckles) was driven by Todd McCarthy for trainer Claude Huckabone III. The filly is owned by James Crawford IV and was bred by Red Well Stables. She has won five of nine races this year and six of 16 starts in her career, earning \$125,749.

\$300,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial Final Winner



CAPTAIN COREY **3, 1:51-'21 (\$1,065,333)**

By Googoo Gaagaa - Luv U All, by Angus Hall

2019 LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

BRED BY: CARTER DUER

CONSIGNED BY: PENINSULA FARM INC.

Congratulations to his owners Srf Stable,
Knutsson Trotting Inc., Midnight Sun Partners Inc.,
Ake Svanstedt Inc.,
trainer/driver Ake Svanstedt.

LEXINGTON

Selected Yearling Sale

Join us Oct. 5-9 and take in the "Lexington Experience"
lexingtonselected.com | (859) 255-8431

Photo: Curtis Salonick



Curtis Salonick

Meadowlands Pace champion Lawless Shadow (Mark MacDonald) held off Perfect Sting to win the \$300,000 Max C. Hempt Memorial in 1:48.2.

Lawless Shadow and Grace Hill capture Sun Stakes paces

Meadowlands Pace champ Lawless Shadow wins the Max Hempt; Grace Hill takes the James Lynch Memorial.

\$300,000 Max Hempt Memorial

3-YEAR-OLD OPEN PACE

LAWLESS SHADOW

SHADOW PLAY-LADYCINO

Time: 1:48.2

Splits: :25.2, :54, 1:21.2

Margin: Nose

Owners: Dr. Ian Moore, R G McGroup LTD, Serge Savard, Frank Cannon

Breeder: Seelster Farms Inc.

Trainer: Dr. Ian Moore

Driver: Mark MacDonald

Purchase price: \$52,000 London Selected Yearling Sale in 2019

PLACE & SHOW

PERFECT STING
HELLABALOU

CONGRATS

GRACE HILL

p,3, 1:49f-'21 (\$494,355)

Always B Miki - Western Silk

\$250,000 James Lynch Memorial Final winner for 3yopf's in a stakes record time of p,3, 1:49f, yesterday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by Tom Hill

Trained by Nifty Norman

Driven by Todd McCarthy

Bred by White Birch Farm

ALWAYS B MIKI

Always A Virgin - Artstopper

DIAMOND
CREEK

PENNSYLVANIA | 717-638-7100
office@diamondcreekfarm.com

FARM.COM



Curtis Salonic

Grace Hill (Todd McCarthy) set a 1:49 stakes record while winning the \$250,000 James Lynch Memorial.

by PHHA / Pocono

Lawless Shadow and driver Mark MacDonald used track geometry to perfect advantage on a speed-favoring day, bursting away to set the pace from the rail in the \$300,000 Max C. Hempt Memorial on Saturday (Aug. 21) at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, and then holding off Perfect Sting in 1:48.2.

Lawless Shadow, Perfect Sting (post four), and Hellabalou (post six) all started the race in maximum gear, but as the first turn loomed and Lawless Shadow showed no signs of letting up,

THE SALE OF CHAMPIONS CONGRATULATES



CURTIS SALONICK PHOTO

DARLENE HANOVER

3, 1:51.4f-'21 (\$481,462)
Chapter Seven - Danielle Hanover

\$250,000 Delmonica Hanover Final winner for 3yotf's in a life best of 3, 1:51.4f, yesterday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by: Yankeeland Partners Llp

Trained by: Brett Bittle

Driven by: Todd McCarthy

Bred by: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.

DARLENE HANOVER SOLD FOR \$130,000 AT THE 2019 HARRISBURG YEARLING SALE.

JOIN US NOVEMBER 8-12 IN HARRISBURG!



Standardbred Horse Sales Company

(717) 637-8931
fax: (717) 637-6766
theblackbook.com

\$250,000 James Lynch Memorial

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

GRACE HILL

ALWAYS B MIKI-WESTERN SILK

Time: 1:49

Splits: :26.2, :55, 1:22

Margin: T



Preferred Equine YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

Owners: Tom Hill

Breeder: White Birch Farm

Trainer: Nifty Norman

Driver: Todd McCarthy

Purchase price: \$75,000 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale in 2019

PLACE & SHOW

FIRE START HANOVER

THE BEACH IS CALLING

Perfect Sting tucked second and Hellabalou third, though still paying a price in the :25.2 red-hot opening quarter. MacDonald was able to back off the son of Shadow Play—Ladycino to a :54 half, then accelerated as Southwind Gendry came up first-over before the 1:21.2 three-quarters.

The Pocono “inner groove” on the warm (81 degrees) afternoon surfaced again as the horses off the pegs faded on the far turn, and the race came down to the leader and the pocket sitter, who kept eating into the leader’s advantage, but came up a nose shy as he continued a hard-luck campaign.

Lawless Shadow, the official winner of The Meadowlands Pace, has had better luck, and here he took a new mark while winning for trainer Dr. Ian Moore, co-owner with R G McGroup LTD, hockey great Serge Savard, and Frank Cannon, for whom he now has career earnings of \$791,064, \$558,625 of that this year.

“I was taking no prisoners from the rail with the two horses coming at me,” MacDonald said afterwards. “Coming to the wire, I knew Perfect Sting was a great horse, and it was a hard race to the wire.”

Dr. Ian Moore could have told MacDonald that he was in a good spot late: “I was afraid he might come up dull after being hung the mile last week, but warming up, I knew he would be ready to go today.”

\$250,000 JAMES LYNCH MEMORIAL

The \$250,000 James Lynch Memorial had a “Nifty” finish as trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman sent out the 1-2 finishers, with **Grace Hill** (Todd McCarthy) rallying in the stretch to catch pace-setting stablemate Fire Start Hanover by three-quarters of a length, reducing the Lynch record to 1:49.

The stablemates were away quickly, practically a necessity at Pocono through mid-card; the other well-regarded horses, Blue Diamond Eyes (post seven) and favored Hot Mess Express (post nine) had to settle third and fourth, respectively, before the :26.2 quarter. Fire Start Hanover, the 2020 divisional champion, made a second move to the lead and hit the half in a relatively moderate :55, then picked up the pace as Blue Diamond Eyes and Hot Mess Express came out down the back, forcing Fire Start Hanover to a 1:22 three-quarters.

The outside horses could not sustain their gains, as was the case with many horses on the card, which set the stage for Grace Hill, licking her chops in the pocket. Fire Start Hanover battled valiantly, but Grace Hill paced past for her third straight win.

“Andrew (Todd’s brother) had been driving this horse, but when he picked off I was glad to get the opportunity,” said Todd McCarthy. “She has been racing well, and the trip worked out fine. And Nifty had the 1-2 finish, right?”

He did, headed by Grace Hill, who also equaled her mark with the victory. The daughter of Always B Miki (after whom the Invitational pace on the card was named) out of Western Silk is owned by Tom Hill, who got to see his horse at a reasonable hour in England for once in the afternoon Pocono extravaganza.

The ALLERAGE FARM

Trotting Tradition Continues



Congratulations to

DABRA DAY

2, 1:55.2s-'21 (\$65,700)

Kadabra - Day Lily

\$101,400 OSS Gold Leg winner

**for two-year-old trotting fillies in a life best
of 2, 1:55.2s, August 20 at Mohawk Park.**

Owned by W J Donovan, Purnel And Libby Llc.

Bred by Little E Llc.

Trained by Meg Crone

Driven by Philippe Louis Roy

**Her sister by Southwind Frank, DAISEY DAY
sells in Lexington this fall!**



Jeff & Paula Gural, Owners
Ashleigh Bennett, PA Farm Manager (570) 247-0126
Ricardo Otero, NY Farm Manager (845) 868-7365
Visitors always welcome... please call ahead.
alleragefarm.com

\$200,000 HEMPT CONSOLATION I

Andrew McCarthy, in prime driving form, scored his third win during the first half of the card with the Somebeachsomewhere—Swinging Beauty gelding **Whichwaytothebeach**, who ran his career record to 17-10-4-2-\$289,658 while taking a new mark of 1:50.1. McCarthy moved Whichwaytothebeach from the pocket to the lead around Mysweetboymax nearing the quarter, before he could be hemmed in by parked horses. The Brett Pelling trainee was then able to handle everything for which he was asked, posting splits of :26.3, :54.2, and 1:22.1 before withstanding Mysweetboymax by 1-3/4 lengths for owners Alan Johnston and John Craig.

\$100,000 HEMPT CONSOLATION II

For a horse who had won only twice this year, and both of those by a nose, the Sweet Lou—Pearl colt **Lou's Pearlman** showed he knew how to air it out, too, turning his Lasix debut into a nine length rout of some nice sophomores in 1:48.4. Yannick Gingras made two speed moves to control the pace through fractions of :27.2, :54.4, and 1:21.3, then paced strongly to the wire to increase his lifetime earnings to \$297,181 for trainer Ron Burke and the ownership of Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, Elizabeth Novak, and Howard Taylor.

\$125,000 LYNCH CONSOLATION

Things weren't looking so good for the Always B Miki—Anndrovette filly **Nashville Elgenna** late in the backstretch, as Odds On Whitney had just stormed up in a :26.3 third quarter to take the lead from pacesetter Mackie Hanover, behind whom Nashville Elgenna was sitting. But Mackie Hanover stayed up on the bit, the outer tiers stalled, and the shuffled Nashville Elgenna had enough time to go to the Pocono Pike and catch Odds On Whitney by 1-1/4 lengths and lower her mark in 1:50.2. Andrew McCarthy drove the slight favorite to victory as she more than doubled her lifetime earnings to \$111,200 for trainer Tony Alagna and owner Crawford Farms Racing.



ALL AMERICAN
HARNESBREDS

CONGRATULATES

CHRIS GOODEN PHOTO

\$80,872 PASS division winner for 2YOPF's
ST NEVIS
p,2, 1:51.4f-'21 (\$59,306)
Always B Miki - St Kitts by Somebeachsomewhere

**We are proud to have raised and sold another
All American Performer!**

OWNERS: Patricia Stable, Cool Cat
Racing Inc., David Mc Duffee
TRAINER: Nifty Norman
DRIVER: Dexter Dunn

**PURCHASE AN ALL AMERICAN YEARLING
IN HARRISBURG AND LEXINGTON THIS FALL!**

www.harnessbreds.com
(302) 629-5100



Curtis Salonic

Atlanta (Yannick Gingras) won the \$75,000 Sebastian K Invitational for older trotters in a track-record 1:50.1.

Atlanta captures Sebastian K Invitational at Pocono in 1:50.1 track record

Pennsylvania



\$75,000 Sebastian K Invitational

OLDER TROT

ATLANTA

CHAPTER SEVEN—HEMI BLUE CHIP

Time: 1:50.1

Splits: :26.4, :55.2, 1:23.1

Margin: 2 lengths

Owners: Crawford Farms Racing, Brad Grant, Howard Taylor

Breeder: Order By Stable

Trainer: Ron Burke

Driver: Yannick Gingras

Purchase price: \$60,000 Standardbred Horse Sales Company yearling sale in 2016

PLACE & SHOW

WHEN DOVESCRY

LINDY THE GREAT

\$250,000 James Lynch Memorial Final Winner



GRACE HILL

p,3, 1:49f-'21 (\$494,355)

By Always B Miki-Western Silk, by Western Terror

2019 LEXINGTON SELECTED YEARLING SALE GRADUATE

BRED BY: WHITE BIRCH FARM

CONSIGNED BY: PREFERRED EQUINE INC., AGENT

Congratulations to her owner Tom Hill,
trainer Nifty Norman and
driver Todd McCarthy.

LEXINGTON *Selected Yearling Sale*

Join us Oct. 5-9 and take in the "Lexington Experience"
lexingtonselected.com | (859) 255-8431

Photo: Curtis Salonic

by Ken Weingartner / USTA media relations manager

Atlanta won Saturday's (Aug. 21) \$75,000 Sebastian K Invitational for older trotters in a track-record 1:50.1, beating When Dovescry by two lengths at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Lindy The Great finished third.

The winning time was the fastest mile by a female trotter in Pocono history. Atlanta, a 6-year-old mare, is trained by Ron Burke.

Lindy The Great led the way for the first three-quarters of a mile, setting fractions of :26.4, :55.2 and 1:23.1, while Atlanta was second and When Dovescry third. When driver Yannick Gingras put Atlanta in motion heading to the stretch, she cruised to her fourth win in six starts this season, and 29th in 57 lifetime races.

"That's kind of the way I wanted it," Gingras said about the trip. "Lindy The Great is a nice horse and he was going to get me where I needed to go. Two-hole trips with this mare, I'll take them whenever I get them."

Atlanta is owned by Crawford Farms Racing, Brad Grant, and Howard Taylor. The daughter of Chapter Seven—Hemi Blue Chip was bred by Order By Stable. She has earned \$2.89 million in her career.

Sent off as the 1-2 favorite, Atlanta paid \$3.00 to win.



Seelster Farms.com

**Seelster
BRED**

LAWLESS SHADOW
p,3, 1:48.2f-'21 (\$878,130)
Shadow Play - Ladycino

\$300,000 Max Hempt Memorial Final winner in a life best of p,3, 1:48.2f, yesterday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by Dr. Ian Moore, RG McGroup Ltd.,
Serge Savard, Frank Cannon
Trained by Dr Ian Moore
Driven by Mark Macdonald
Bred by Seelster Farms Inc.

WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE



After they race, we find them a place!
New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program

For More Information:
www.newvocations.org
winnie@horseadoption.com
(734) 320-7918


NEW VOCATIONS
Rehab. Retrain. Rehomed.


**STANDARD BRED
TRANSITION ALLIANCE**
Accredited Organization
2020

Bushwacker
Adopted October 2020

Christy Beaver Photography



Curtis Salonick

Allywag Hanover (Todd McCarthy) setting a 1:47.2 track- and-world-record-equalling mile while winning the \$75,000 Always B Miki Invitational Pace.

Allywag Hanover equals 1:47.2 track and world record in Always B Miki

by PHHA/Pocono

Imagine a 1:47.2 mile with a :29 second quarter. That's a hard concept.

But it's just what the Captaintreacherous—Anderosa Hanover 4-year-old gelding Allywag Hanover accomplished as he upset favorite Nicholas Beach in the \$75,000 Always B Miki Invitational Pace, the card-capper on Sun Stakes Saturday (Aug. 21) at Pocono.

"I was a bit surprised how fast we went to the quarter," said Todd McCarthy, referring to the :25.3 opening split. Todd knew what to do after that: back the second quarter down to that :29 clocking, reaching the half in :54.3, send the razor-sharp Allywag through a 26 backstretch sprint (1:20.3), then keep him strong through the :26.4 kicker to defeat the hard-trying Nicholas Beach by 1½ lengths and equal the track and world record set by Always At My Place six years minus one day ago.

"He felt very comfortable getting over the track," said McCarthy, who finished his day with four victories, including three of the six featured events, and horses earning \$356,250 under his guidance.

Pennsylvania



\$75,000 Always B Miki

INVITATIONAL PACE

ALLYWAG HANOVER

CAPTAINTEACHEROUS—ANDEROSA HANOVER

Time: 1:47.2

Splits: :25.3, :54.3, 1:20.3

Margin: 1H



ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

Owners: Allywag Stable

Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms

Trainer: Brett Pelling

Driver: Todd McCarthy

Purchase price: \$95,000 Standardbred Horse Sales Company yearling sale in 2018

PLACE & SHOW

NICHOLAS BEACH

RUTHLESS HANOVER

Allywag Hanover, bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, is trained by Brett Pelling for the Allywag Stable, for whom the horse has amassed \$331,450 this year and \$585,438 lifetime.

IN SUMMARY: Todd McCarthy, as noted, won four races; brother Andrew won three, as did Yannick Gingras. Ron Burke sent out three winners... A quick handle calculation came out to \$1,058,800, not including non-commingled betting in Sweden.



COME JOIN US FOR THE FULL "LEXINGTON EXPERIENCE!"

LIVE RACING August 1–October 10

MAJOR STAKES October 1–10

LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE October 5–9

All post times at 1pm

www.redmileky.com · (859) 255-0752

1200 Red Mile Road, Lexington, KY

Interested in sponsoring our Major Stakes? Call Cindy Solverson at (847) 845-0659



Brett Bittle on carrying on the Yankeeland and Keller family legacy

A conversation with the trainer of Darlene Hanover, the winner of the inaugural \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover held Saturday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

by Murray Brown

In writing this column, I almost always submit the first question and most of those thereafter. This week, at the start, Brett Bittle first asked me: "Why would you choose someone like me to devote your story?"

The answer, my friend, is easy and the reasons are numerous.

Primarily, you are an excellent horseman and a good person who has left his mark on this great sport.

There are some trainers, but not too many, who have had a part in choosing and training Hambletonian Oaks, Breeders Crown and James Doherty Memorial (formerly Merrie Annabelle) winners.

Secondly, and this might arguably be primarily, you are part of and now with the recent passing of Charlie Keller III, the face of one of the greatest harness racing families of the last century,



CONGRATS

FLY LIGHT

3, 1:52f-'21 (\$248,271)
Father Patrick - Hustle Heart

\$200,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial consolation winner for 3yo open trotters in a life best of 3,1:52f yesterday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by **Ake Svanstedt Inc., Stable Why Not**
 Trained by **Ake Svanstedt**
 Driven by **Dexter Dunn**
 Bred by **Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld**

FATHER PATRICK

40524

Cantab Hall - Gala Dream
DIAMOND CREEK FARM
 PENNSYLVANIA | 717-638-7100
 office@diamondcreekfarm.com

that of the Kellers of Yankeeland Farms. The week Charlie Keller III died, Bittle won the inaugural \$250,000 Delmonica Hanover at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono with Darlene Hanover, his only trotting filly. It must be kismet.

It certainly could be said that Bittle was born into the business. His grandfather, was the legendary New York Yankee outfielder Charlie Keller. Bittle is among three members of the third generation of the Keller family to become involved in harness racing and the only one to become a trainer.

Harness racing has been the biggest part of your life for as long as you have been among the working. Has it always been so?

"Well, yes and no. I recall the first thing I wanted to be was a cowboy working on a ranch out west and maybe having my own place. I always preferred working with the horses over the farm work, though. My grandparents Charles E Keller junior and Martha had three children, Charlie III, Donald and my mom Jeanie. Charlie's son Charles IV, known as Chaz has always preferred farm work and is somewhat of a homebody. My brother Dan has always loved every aspect of harness racing, breeding, raising the horses and following them. Then there was me. Although I was raised on the farm, I always preferred working with the horses to doing the jobs on the farm. That certainly did not mean that I was spared any of the work on the farm. No way, especially when Charlie Keller was the farm owner and your boss."

Tell us about your grandfather.

"My grandad was a great man. He was tough, but exceptionally fair. He expected his sons and grandchildren to work hard, but he would expect himself to work just as hard, if not harder. We would all work together, making hay, picking rocks from the fields, building and painting fence, all the work that everybody on a working farm would be expected to do. Then there were the horses. Grandad loved and took great pride in raising his yearling crop and occasionally racing a filly or more. It was something inherited by his children and grandchildren."

How did your transgression from picking up rocks in the field evolve to becoming a Grand Circuit trainer?

"I loved working with the horses — doing the farm work, not so much. My first job requiring some responsibility with the horses was being involved with the yearling fillies going to the sales. I quickly learned that the horses were my preference.

"Bib Roberts was given the few horses that Yankeeland Farms put into training. I went to work for him in 1983 and you could say that I never looked back. I stayed with Bib for four summer years while I was going to college. During that time, my grandfather

THE SALE OF CHAMPIONS

CONGRATULATES



CAPTAIN COWGIRL

p,2, 1:51f-'21 (\$101,889)
Captaintreachorous - Rideintothesunset
by Western Hanover

**\$81,072 PASS division winner for
2yopf's, August 20 at The Meadows,
equaling the stakes record of 1:51f.**

**Owned by: Joann Looney King and
Kenneth Frieder**

Trained by: Jim King, Jr.

Driven by: Tim Tetrick

**Bred by: Kentuckiana Farms, LLC.,
Pinske Stables**

**CAPTAIN COWGIRL SOLD FOR
\$20,000 AT THE 2020 TIMONIUM
YEARLING SALE.**

JOIN US NOVEMBER 8-12 IN HARRISBURG!



Standardbred Horse Sales Company

(717) 637-8931
fax: (717) 637-6766
theblackbook.com

had a horse, Ominous Yankee, that wasn't considered to be any good. I asked him if he would allow me to try to make "a horse" out of him. He said sure and somehow I managed to do so. We ended up selling him to Frank Conlin for \$30,000 which was a huge amount of money back then, especially to a kid barely wet behind the ears. My granddad was quite pleased and rewarded me with a commission for the sale. After I graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in animal science, I went out on my own with a few head for Yankeeland Farms. I first trained exclusively for Yankeeland Farms, not because that was the plan, but rather because they were the only ones who would give me horses to train. As time went by, I would occasionally get an outside horse or two.

"I met Lon Frocione one of the most unsung heroes of the sport. He was a truly wonderful and exceptionally loyal man. From the first time I met Lon, there was never a time when he didn't own at least one horse in my stable until his passing."

We just lost your uncle Charlie one of the most beloved people ever in our sport.

"Charlie led a wonderful and full life. There is no one, at least no one that I've ever known, who has anything but kind words to say about him. Initially, his brother Donald was more involved with the farm than was Charlie. We didn't see all that much of Charlie. Charlie was working for a living. He had established a top level accounting firm. He always maintained his interest in harness racing though – specifically in Yankeeland Farms and the horses produced by the Farms. There was nobody prouder than Charlie when a "Yankee" won a major event. He took a great interest in the Farms and the family. His health had not been the best in the last several years, but he would still say in touch, especially around sales time when he would come up with the list of yearlings that he thought that Chaz, Dan and me should look at with a view towards adding to our racing stable and quickly growing broodmare band.

"He was always involved in the industry and was a great asset to the USTA, the Hambletonian Society and the Harness Racing Museum among the sport's important organizations he served with great honor."

*What about the decision to disperse the farm in 2006?
I'm certain it wasn't one reached easily.*

"It certainly wasn't. In addition to the mares, we were dispersing a great part of our lives and the blood, sweat and tears that we went through establishing and building one of the greatest group of broodmares in the history of the sport. In one word it was sad. However, the land had grown too valuable. Frederick had become a small metropolis. It was a bedroom community not too far from Washington, DC. It was time to cash in our chips.

"But getting horses out of our blood was nowhere near as easy as we thought it might be. Since the dispersal, we have regularly bought fillies. Fillies become mares. The quality of the fillies we acquired led to them becoming broodmares. We now have

CONGRATS

LOU'S PEARLMAN

p,3, 1:47.4-'21 (\$297,181)
Sweet Lou - Lucy's Pearl

\$100,000 Max Hempt consolation winner for
3yo open pacers in p,3, 1:48.4f, yesterday at
The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by **Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brussemi LLC.,
Elizabeth Novak, Howard Taylor**

Trained by **Ron Burke**

Driven by **Yannick Gingras**

Bred by **Burke Racing Stable,
Weaver Brussemi LLC.,
Elizabeth Novak**

SWEET LOU

Yankee Cruiser - Sweet Future



**DIAMOND
CREEK**
FARM.COM
PENNSYLVANIA | 717-638-7100
office@diamondcreekfarm.com

13 broodmares, which together with their yearlings, weanlings and sucklings are boarded at Hanover Shoe Farms. It's a good news/bad news situation. The good news is that all 13 of the mares are in foal. The bad news is that we will have 13 more mouths to feed. I would expect and hope that for as long as harness racing is in existence there will always be one or more Keller descendants active in it."

Brett Bittle's stable today could be described as small and mighty.

"I only have five head in training now. But horse for horse, they are pretty decent. Enough to give me enough to do to keep me out of trouble. We've got Darlene Hanover, the Doherty Memorial (and inaugural Delmonica Hanover) winner, Sweet Omen a decent 2-year-old filly, Skyy, a nice 3-year-old filly who will become a broodmare next year, Current Yankee, a homebred 2-year-old pacing colt and Onecrookedleg, a very good 2-year-old pacing filly who will be heard from.

Onecrookedleg? Surely that wasn't her given name?

"No it wasn't. But she sure as heck has one — her front left. She shows how much of a puzzle this business can be. We bought two Sweet Lou fillies last year Sweet Omen for \$185,000 and Onecrookedleg for \$9,000. Sweet Omen to this point is okay, but just that. Onecrookedleg is very good now and could in my opinion become outstanding. Dan and I were at Kentuckiana Farms looking at yearlings last year. They brought out this gorgeous, stout Sweet Lou filly. 'Wow!' I thought to myself. 'She's gorgeous!' Then I looked down. Her left front was significantly offset, not just a little, but a lot. I thought to myself, there have been a lot of good fillies, especially pacing fillies who were offset, maybe not this bad, but offset nonetheless. I might gamble on her if she sells reasonably, say for less than \$15,000. I ended up getting her for \$9,000. At this point, she is as good a pacing filly as I have ever been around."

Which is your favorite all time horse?

"That would have to be Windylane Hanover. It's not often that you buy a yearling filly for a reasonable price (\$50,000), see her develop into a Hambletonian Oaks winner and earn over a million dollars. Then you sell her for half-a-million dollars and get to train one of her foals, Muscle Diamond, who earns \$834,424 for your family."

I'm glad to hear that you have finally given up smoking.

"It was not easy. That was eight months and 15 pounds ago."

Who is the best horseman you have ever been around?

"Almost certainly it has to be Chuck Sylvester. I got perhaps the greatest compliment that I've ever received this past winter

THE SALE OF CHAMPIONS

CONGRATULATES



CHRIS GOODEN PHOTO

ST NEVIS

p,2, 1:51.4f-'21 (\$59,306)

**Always B Miki - St Kitts
by Somebeachsomewhere**

**\$80,872 PASS division winner for
2yopf's, August 20 at The Meadows in
a career best p,2, 1:51.4f.**

**Owned by: Patricia Stable, Cool Cat
Racing Inc., David Mc Duffee**

Trained by: Nifty Norman

Driven by: Dexter Dunn

Bred by: Fred Hertrich

**ST. NEVIS SOLD FOR
\$57,000 AT THE 2020 TIMONIUM
YEARLING SALE.**

JOIN US NOVEMBER 8-12 IN HARRISBURG!



Standardbred Horse Sales Company

(717) 637-8931
fax: (717) 637-6766
theblackbook.com

when Chuck got in touch with me and asked me to send him some plastic shoes that I had some luck with. That would be like Babe Ruth asking you how to hit a baseball. I count myself fortunate to be a member of Chuck's close circle. He is a good friend who has always treated me well."

How about drivers?

"There are so many great ones out there, maybe more than ever. They are deserving of praise, but in my opinion too much is thrown their way and not enough to the true heroes, the horses. The races are won by the horses, not the drivers. I do value the feedback that some of the drivers can give me regarding the horses and their soundness while racing."

How has the COVID-19 epidemic affected you?

"I guess not too much different than most. It certainly has been an inconvenience, but we've been able to live with it. All of my family except me has had it. Thankfully, no one has had it to the extent that they had to be hospitalized. I've been accused of being the devil who transmitted it to all of them."

What about the future for Brett Bittle?

"I try to look only one year ahead. It's hard to believe, but yearling time is here. With so many top and promising stallions out there, one would think that it would be easier to pick some reasonably priced good horses. However, it seems to me that it has become more difficult, especially with trotters. It seems that most of the powerful stables focus on the same horses. At the very top, yearlings tend to be very expensive. But there are bargains to be found. All it takes is some hard work and perhaps more importantly some good luck. Darlene Hanover was the only trotting filly in my stable and I was fortunate enough to win the Doherty Memorial with her."

The name Charles Ernest Keller is a very esteemed one in harness racing. There is of course your grandad, your uncle and your cousin Chaz. Reading the obituary of Charlie, I see that Chaz's son and grandson are respectively Charles E Keller the fifth and sixth.

"Here's hoping that the great legacy of the Kellers and the great sport in which they have been involved will continue for many generations to come."

Have a question or comment for The Curmudgeon?
Reach him by email at: hofmurray@aol.com.

Share This Story



www.harnessracingupdate.com



CONGRATS

DAZZLING REIGN

3, 1:54.1f-'21 (\$125,749)

Father Patrick - Broadway Chuckles

\$125,000 Delmonica Hanover consolation winner
for 3yo f's in 1:55.1f, yesterday at
The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by **James Crawford**

Trained by **Claude Huckabone**

Driven by **Todd McCarthy**

Bred by **Red Well Stables LLC.**



THE ART OF BREEDING



with ALAN LEAVITT

The essential yearling video

by Alan Leavitt

The yearling video is an essential marketing tool. The difference between a good video, one that whets the appetite of prospective buyers, and a poor video, one that is a turnoff to the viewers, can be tens of thousands of dollars in the final sales price.

Everything starts with the yearling him or herself. They should shine, which is achieved through good grooming, frequent baths, and proper nutrition. Their feed should be high in fat content, and there are several commercial feed supplements that will produce a shiny, lustrous hair coat. While traditionalists may still insist that a horse should properly be groomed only by hand, the use of equine vacuum cleaners can achieve the same good effect. That presupposes that, in addition to using the vacuum cleaner, in everyday grooming, you also follow it up with the use of a stiff, or dandy brush, and a curry comb. Plus, finishing it off with a hot towel is an old trick but still a good one.

How one handles a yearling's mane is a personal choice. For me, a pulled mane looks far the best. Mane pulling is somewhat of a learned art, but all it requires is a mane comb and a good eye. The proper length is the length of a dollar bill. Most horses, yearlings included, will stand quietly while their mane is pulled. For the few that fidget, a blanket clip on their nose will keep them standing quietly.

A quick word or two about yearling halters. The halter should have a brass name plate on the left side of the halter with the yearling's name, and under it, the sire and dam. Ours also have the farm logo, which is a way to get a little free farm advertising.

The halter itself should be good leather with a glossy finish. There should be only buckles, no snaps, and it should have an English chin. An English chin is non-adjustable, and it looks much neater than a conventional chin, which involves more buckles, etc.

Although both trotters and pacers are videoed, both of them are shown on the trot. From this kid's experience with two great horsemen in Curly Smart and Howard Beissinger, I shoe all our yearlings, trotters and pacers, with 5/8's half rounds in front. These are steel shoes, not aluminum. They are barefoot behind.

We are lucky to have a master blacksmith in Dave Lopez. He automatically keeps a high angle in front, say 50 degrees, and a

THE SALE OF CHAMPIONS CONGRATULATES



ADARE CASTLE

2, 1:55.3s-'21 (\$152,100)
Muscle Mass - Pacific Edge by
Andover Hall

\$101,400 OSS Gold Leg winner for
2yo'tf's in a life best of 1:55.3s,
August 20 at Mohawk Park.

Owned by: Mark Etsell, Robert Newton,
Graham Hopkins, Peter Porter

Trained by: Mark Etsell

Driven by: James MacDonald

Bred by: Edward Lohmeyer

**ADARE CASTLE SOLD FOR
\$10,000 AT THE 2020 TIMONIUM
YEARLING SALE.**

JOIN US NOVEMBER 8-12 IN HARRISBURG!



Standardbred Horse Sales Company

(717) 637-8931
fax: (717) 637-6766
theblackbook.com

low angle, with 46 or 47 degrees, behind. Those numbers apply to every yearling, regardless of gait.

For the video itself, we always put a bright white rubber bell boot on in front. The best kind are made by Davis, and they fasten with velcro, as opposed to the earlier version that had to be pulled on. As anyone who ever struggled with pull on bell boots knows, you had to soak them in water for at least 30 minutes to give yourself a fighting chance in the tug of war to get them on.

The use of white boots is essential, and it is a profound mystery as to why so few people use them. For one thing, they give far more definition to the yearling's action with his front feet. For another, the weight of the boots will help keep the yearling on the trot. As every good horseman knows, weight in front will keep a horse on the trot. And that's what you want them to be doing in their video.

There are a goodly number of outfits that video yearlings. We use Hammond Communications. At my insistence, they use three cameras, one at each end of the video paddock, and one in the middle. In theory, if a yearling were to make two good passes on the trot, we'd have him going each way from the side, and both front and rear views. In real life, things very seldom go so smoothly. Which applies to most human activity, not just yearling videos.

The surface of the strip you use for your video is all important. What you want is a fast track, i.e. a hard track. I'm deeply envious every time I see a Hanover video, because they obviously have an excellent, fast surface. Plus a great design, which results in the best videos in the business. Our videos, by necessity, are done on a grass surface, and it frequently is far softer, or slower, than it should be.

As to music, for me it is a distraction, and adds nothing of value. That's heresy to a lot of people, but, as we say in the big city, Tough Turtles.

The same thought process applies to showing a yearling in slow motion. That adds absolutely nothing I want to see, and I'm sure I'm not alone there. There's an increasing tendency to treat yearling videos as high art. As someone whose ex-wife was a successful film maker, as well as an Andover classmate of Les Blank, whose documentaries were internationally acclaimed, I'm afraid I know the difference between a true art film and a yearling video.

No yearling video has anything in common with the Atomic Café, Les Blank's wonderful, prize winning film, so why pretend there is? And as for showing a yearling in slow motion, my memory goes back to the great saddle horse trainer, Earl Teater, and the way he handled Wing Commander, the greatest five-gaited horse who ever lived.

Whenever Earl was on the road with Wing Commander, he always exercised him early in the morning, hooked to a jog cart. And he was always flying on the trot, no slo-mo jogging for his great champion.

A fellow trainer once asked Earl why he never went slow with Wing Commander. His answer, in his characteristic rasp was: "I don't want him to find out he can go slow."

That's exactly how I feel about our yearling videos.

Share This Story



www.harnessracingupdate.com



CONGRATS

ST NEVIS

p,2, 1:51.4f-'21 (\$59,306)
Always B Miki - St Kitts

\$80,872 PASS division winner for 2yop's,
August 20 at The Meadows in a
career best of p,2, 1:51.4f.

Owned by **Patricia Stable,**
Cool Cat Racing Inc., David Mc Duffee

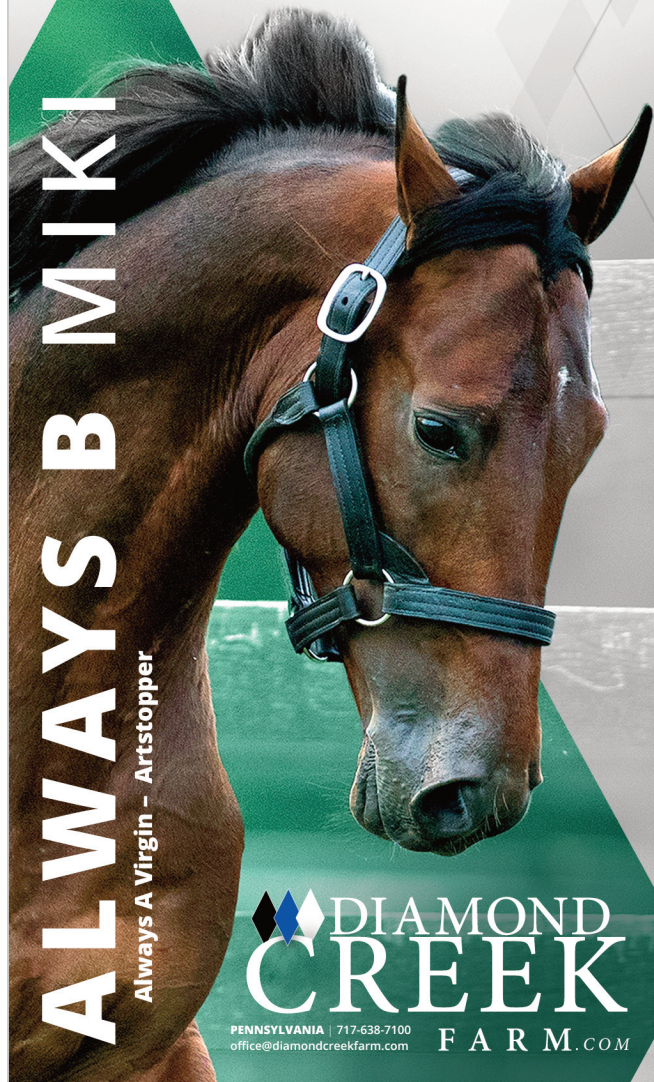
Trained by **Nifty Norman**

Driven by **Dexter Dunn**

Bred by **Fred Hertrich**

ALWAYS B MIKI

Always A Virgin - Artstopper



**DIAMOND
CREEK**

PENNSYLVANIA | 717-638-7100
office@diamondcreekfarm.com

FARM.COM

EUROPEAN REPORT



with **THOMAS HEDLUND**

Total dominance by Nordström in E3 finals

by Thomas Hedlund

Two divisions of the \$225,000 E3 for 3-year-olds were held at Gävle racetrack on Saturday (Aug. 21) afternoon and trainer and driver Per Nordström dominated.

Nordström is experiencing his best year ever as a trainer and was the title defender in the division for colts and geldings since his **Felix Orlando** (Orlando Vici) claimed the title in E3 over 1.3 miles in early July.

The son of Orlando Vici did not have his best day in the eliminations two weeks ago and finished fourth, but with only two eliminations, where the top six horses qualified for the final, Nordström had a shot for a pretty good post when the draw was made. Felix Orlando started from number 6 behind the gate.

Felix Orlando was in better shape this day, so Nordström sent his horse to the front after the first turn and could then control the race as he wanted. Heavy favorite Francesco Zet found a second over trip, but seemed tired already in the last turn and dropped down in the field, while leader Felix Orlando sprinted in fresh style over the stretch.



ALN

Per Nordström and Felix Orlando after winning the \$225,000 E3 for 3-year-olds at Gävle racetrack on Saturday.

CONGRATS NASHVILLE ELGENNA

p,3, 1:50.2f-'21 (\$111,200)
Always B Miki - Anndrovette

\$125,000 James Lynch Memorial consolation
winner for 3yopf's in a life best of 1:50.2f,
yesterday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Owned by **Crawford Farms Racing**

Trained by **Tony Alagna**

Driven by **Andrew McCarthy**

Bred by **Crawford Farms LLC.**

ALWAYS B MIKI

Always A Virgin - Artstopper

**DIAMOND
CREEK**

PENNSYLVANIA | 717-638-7100
office@diamondcreekfarm.com

FARM.COM

Felix Orlando won in 1:55.1. Francesco Zet found new power over the stretch and finished second ahead of pocket runner Dowhatyoudowell.

This wasn't the end of success for Nordström in E3. In the fillies' division, he sat behind the first choice **Islay Mist Sisu** (Beer Summit) and from post 2 the duo easily came to the front at an early stage of the race. Örjan Kihlström sent Jerry Riordan trained Ain't Misbehavin to position first over with a kilometer to go and at mid home stretch it seemed like Riordan's trotter would disarm the leader. But Ain't Misbehavin lost her gait and made a break shortly ahead of the wire and leader Islay Mist Sisu held on when Breeze tried a serious challenge three wide the last 100 meters.

With a head's advantage, Nordström became the big name of the day in Gävle and three out of four finals in E3 have been collected by his horses 2021. In addition, his Önas Prince has dominated the stakes so far among the 4-year-olds. Nordström's 2021 results are remarkable. From 83 starts, he has 25 wins and \$1,029,374 in earnings.

Islay Mist Sisu won in 1:56, Breeze finished second and Global Celebrity third.

"It's amazing when everything works this well with the horses that I start with as yearlings and then train them all the way until this day. The team is on its way towards the best year ever and it's going to be hard to beat this season," said Nordström.

[Felix Orlando replay.](#)

[Islay Mist Sisu replay.](#)

Trixton son winner in Paris

Vincennes in Paris offered some high staked races on Saturday (Aug. 21) afternoon and in the \$116,850 Prix Pierre Plazen for 3-year-old colts, Philippe Allaire trained **Callmethebreeze** (Trixton) sprinted to safe win over 1.6 miles.

Italian-bred Callmethebreeze, driven by Andrea Guzzinati, got a cover trip and attacked three wide in the last turn before the extra gear was put in over the home stretch. Leader Impressionist was captured shortly ahead of the finish line and Callmethebreeze came home in a mile rate of 1:58.1 over 1.6 miles.

The 3-year-old fillies battled in \$116,850 Prix Guy Deloison over 1.6 miles and Franck Nivard seemed optimistic in the bike behind Francois Pierre Bossuet trained **Idylle Speed** (Carat Williams). Nivard was eager to reach the front position and three quarters into the race, the duo was in the lead. Idylle Speed defender herself strongly over the stretch as Ivensong challenged and the leader held on and won in mile rate of 1:59.1.

Gelati Cut (Coktail Jet), who finished fourth in Elitloppet in May, was back on the track in Paris and took a safe win from the lead for driver Gabriele Gelormini in \$116,850 Prix Jockey. Gelati Cut came home in a mile rate 1:56.3 over 1.6 miles.

Share This Story



www.harnessracingupdate.com



RETIRE RETRAIN REHOME

*If you have a horse that
you care about that is 15YO
or under, and is sound and
you want placed in a
good home please call ...*

**Purple Haze Standardbred
Adoption Program
518-669-2715**



Smooth Lou brings special win for Shepherd brothers in 62nd Gold Cup and Saucer

by Melissa Keith

Only nine pacers go behind the Red Shores Charlottetown starting gate each year for the Guardian Gold Cup and Saucer. This year, that meant adding a third elimination (Gold Cup Trial) to decide among the talented group of 18 horses and geldings entered. It was a decade ago (2011) that three Gold Cup Trials were last required.

Two Aug. 14 Trials determined most of the Gold Cup and Saucer field, in eliminations won by defending 2020 champion Time to Dance (1:52.3h, in line to Marc Campbell) and Ideal Perception (1:51.1h, for Gilles Barrieau). Last Monday (Aug. 16), 2018 Gold Cup and Saucer winner Somewhere Fancy (driver Marc Campbell) captured the fastest Trial (1:50.4h), just shy of the 1:50.1h track record set in the 2016 Cup final by Ys Lotus. And this year, time matters more than usual.

There's never been a sub-1:50 mile at the Charlottetown Driving Park; they remain a relative rarity over half-mile tracks, with Somebeachsomewhere's 1:49.2h at Flamboro Downs and This Is The Plan's 1:49.1h at Hippodrome 3R the only examples among Canadian track records. As an incentive, a sponsor ponied up to encourage Gold Cup and Saucer finalists to "Smash the Track Record for \$5,000": the winning owner would receive the cash prize from Warren Ellis and family of Summerside Chrysler Dodge, if their horse won in 1:50 or faster.

The nine finalists had the collective speed to do it, yet none had set a previous sub-1:50 personal best on a half. The conditions

were right: Daisy River (Jason Hughes) edged out male and female track record holders Freddie and Cheeky Little Minx to rewrite the overall track record in the 1:56.1h Colonel Dan Trot.

Marc Campbell was presented with the 2021 Francis McIsaac Memorial Trophy, earning 163 points over Old Home Week. It is awarded annually and named in honour of the late horseman who took the title ten times in his career. Unfortunately, Campbell's trainee Time to Dance drew post #8 for the Gold Cup and Saucer, making the prospects of a repeat statistically unlikely.

Under the spotlight, before a smaller but still sizable crowd, the field went postward after midnight.

Five horses left aggressively, but it was rail horse Somewhere Fancy who rocketed to the lead for Dave Dowling. #2 Legion Seelster (Richard Simard) followed in the pocket; a first-over #5 Smooth Lou was quickly rolled back into fifth along the pylons by Robert Shepherd, launching again as Vance Cameron called the "Boom! Just like that!": :27.1 opening quarter. Shepherd's horse gained steadily to the :56.1 half, towing second-over #7 Ideal Perception (Gilles Barrieau) into the hunt, as #1 Somewhere Fancy maintained control up front. By the 1:24.1 three-quarters, Smooth Lou was drawing clear, opening up by over five lengths at the wire. Ideal Perception was the place finisher, ahead of #6 Legion Seelster. The winner returned \$10.50 as second choice among bettors. Favourite Somewhere Fancy finished fifth, behind #3 Racemup.

The 1:51.1h winning time didn't break any records, but didn't need to. It ended a long wait for trainer Patrick Shepherd. He told HRU, "It's a little bit different this year. We spent a lot of money and talked to a lot of places (to find the right horse)... It's just a dream come true."

He praised Smooth Lou (p, 5, 1:48.4s; \$137,381 before tonight's start) and the connections who helped him land his first Gold Cup champion: "Ron [Burke] and Mark Weaver, if it wasn't for



Harness Racing Update on Instagram

@HARNESSRACINGUPDATE





Gail MacDonald

Smooth Lou (Robert Shepherd) winning the 62nd Guardian Gold Cup and Saucer in 1:51.1 just after midnight Saturday (Aug. 21) at Red Shores Charlottetown.

them, I wouldn't be here right now. They put this horse together for me and sent a list [of potential horses for the big race]. Things just really came together really good. Mark Weaver said to me he always wanted a Sweet Lou to win the Gold Cup."

Five-year-old gelding Smooth Lou (Sweet Lou—Smooth Silver) was bred by Brittany Farms LLC. This was his seventh win of 2021. He's owned by Triple S Equine with Robert and Ronald Woodburn, ON.

Smooth Lou will now enjoy a brief vacation: "We're just going to give him a little bit of a break now and see how he comes back, and just go from there, one step at a time," said his trainer.

Patrick choked up describing what the race meant to his family, and how winning with his brother Robert in the sulky was the icing on the cake. "Well, that means the most to me. It's been a while since my brother pulled a line over one of my horse's backs, so it's great that we're back together. It's been a good couple of weeks."

How long has Patrick wanted to win this race?

"I'm 29. I think I might have been walking when I was 2 or 3, so since then," he said.

Robert Shepherd expressed post-race concerns that he may not

have made the front with Smooth Lou, but both stayed cool and collected in the patient overland trip.

"A little bit," he chuckled on the walk to the winner's circle. "Somewhere Fancy's a nice horse."

The significance of the win can't be overstated for Island-born-and-raised horsemen like the Shepherds. "We grew up in it, and we're away [competing in Ontario], but we come home every year for this race," Robert said.

The fact that Smooth Lou had been Hoosier Park-based until late July was no worry for his driver:

"Patrick said he trained him over a half, and Ron Burke said he was great over any size track. He's a great-gaited, big horse."

And now he is the 2021 Gold Cup and Saucer champion, for a grateful PEI family.

Total handle for the 13-race card was \$313,482.

Share This Story

www.harnessracingupdate.com





What's in a name? Not enough in our case - Part 3

by Trey Nosrac

[Part 1 is here](#) | [Part 2 is here](#)

Devious Threads was on my shortlist of possible names for a foal born this spring. Although the name seemed evocative, it does not have a purpose. Each new horse name should be a subtle approach to fish, or phish, in new pools. Our horse names should be flares that might catch the eyes and ears of people who do not know a trotter from a tulip.

It would be helpful if the new ears and eyes were attached to people with deep pockets. It would be beneficial if the new person had a track record of adventurous pursuits.

Finding a target is the first step of a purposeful name. If you think deeply, you can conjure up a list of prospective people who have assets and are inquisitive. These may be people you have never met or will never meet, sort of a Kevin Bacon effect with degrees of connectivity.

My list of people that fit this bill includes a money management mogul, an owner of a very prosperous construction business now operated by his son, another person who invented and marketed a phone app, a housing developer, a performer, and a politician.

If I think further and do a little research, some clever names spring to mind for each of these human targets that might spark an entrance to our game. Let me pluck one out of the pile to demonstrate what I mean.

Ralf is a friend of my friend, Joe.

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Ralf, and I probably never will meet Ralf because he resides on the Isle of Mallorca (I will save you a Google search, Mallorca is an island off the coast of Spain). Joe has visited his pal and reports that it is a lovely place.

A shared passion, music of the '50s and '60s, cemented a friendship between Joe and Ralf. Ralf is the leader of the Crystalairs, a European Doo-wop group that he started 34 years ago when he was 18. In addition to his musical chops, Joe has

mentioned that Ralf is an entrepreneur, inventor of an app, and is a fun, fine, talented fellow.

Ralf is the one with the guitar and without hair in these videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVsBZlsQXOo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6phCenmH4w>

Now, what does this have to do with our sport?

Probably nothing. However, I am considering using the name of Ralf's group on my list of potential names for my next foal. **Crystalairs** would make an excellent name, certainly an improvement over the horse names you find in a typical racing program such as **White Star**, **Buttons And Bows** and **Sitting Pretty**. The difference is that my use of the name Crystalairs has the potential to find new participants. Of course, the possibility is remote, but I saw a t-shirt yesterday with the slogan "Anything is possible with the right attitude, a sledgehammer, and some duct tape."

Should I register a baby horse as **Crystalairs**, I will tell Joe.

Joe will undoubtedly tell Ralf.

Ralf, who probably knows very little about harness horse racing, will smile and get a kick out of the mini-tribute from America.

That will probably be the end of the story. If so, nothing is lost. No expense, no hassle. The horse will race under the name and never know the difference. A few fans curious about the unusual name may search their phones and get a little entertainment from a video clip of a performance.

But...

Maybe Ralf posts the story about a horse named after his group on a website.

Maybe Ralf writes a song about the horse and performs it at a show.

Maybe Ralf emails me and wants to see what the sport is about and asks to see photos or race clips.

Maybe Ralf shares the information about the horse with another Crystalair

Maybe a person in his circle of friends or fans asks about the horse.

Maybe...

The point is: who knows where strange rivers flow? We know where the name **Sitting Pretty** will flow.

Using purposeful names will not revolutionize or revitalize our sport, and the concept may seem silly. But why not assign horse names with a subtle, clever, targeted, purposeful mission instead of choosing a name that will lead to a dead end.

Little things sometimes make big things happen.



HRU Upcoming Stakes

Sunday, August 22

Purse	Race	Track	Age, Sex, Gait	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
\$75,000	Earl Rowe Memorial	Georgian Downs	INVITATIONAL TROT	7	6 p.m.
\$100,000	Four-year-old Invitational	Georgian Downs	INVITATIONAL PACE	9	6 p.m.
\$99,000	Ontario Sires Stakes - Gold	Rideau Carleton	3YOFP	3, 9	6:30 p.m.
\$21,450	Ontario Sires Stakes - Grassroots	Rideau Carleton	3YOFP	5, 7, 11, 13	6:30 p.m.
\$7,100	Prospect Series	Rideau Carleton	3YOFP	1	6:30 p.m.
\$77,760	Pennsylvania Sires Stakes	The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono	2YOCT	5, 10	5 p.m.
\$20,000	Pennsylvania Stallion Series	The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono	2YOCT	7, 8	5 p.m.
\$51,000	Indiana Sires Stakes	Harrah's Hoosier Park	3YOCP	11, 14	6:30 p.m.
\$40,000	Ohio Sires Stakes	Northfield Park	2YOFT	1, 3, 9	6 p.m.
\$50,000	Ohio Sires Stakes	Northfield Park	2YOFP	2, 6	6 p.m.
\$50,000	Shirley McClellan Breeders' Stakes final	Century Downs	3YOFP	7	2:15 p.m.
\$50,000	Moore's Mile Breeders' Stakes final	Century Downs	3YOFP	9	2:15 p.m.
\$53,100	New York Sires Stakes	Tioga Downs	2YOFP	3, 5	1 p.m.
\$15,000	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior A	Tioga Downs	2YOFP	2, 6	1 p.m.
\$6,600	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior B	Tioga Downs	2YOFP	4, 7	1 p.m.
\$14,375	Minnesota Sired	Running Aces	3YOFT	4	6:05 p.m.
\$17,500	Steve Wiseman Memorial	Running Aces	TROT	7	6:05 p.m.
\$40,000	KY Championship - Non-Betting	Red Mile	3YOCP	1 - Non-Betting	12:45 p.m.
\$40,000	Kentucky Championship	Red Mile	3YOFP	1	1 p.m.
\$20,000	Kentucky Commonwealth	Red Mile	3YOCP	2, 4	1 p.m.
\$20,000	Kentucky Commonwealth	Red Mile	3YOFP	6	1 p.m.
\$7,100	Prospect Series	Leamington Raceway	3YOCT	5	1 p.m.



Harness Racing Update on Twitter

@HARNESSUPDATE




Monday, August 23

Purse	Race	Track	Age, Sex, Gait	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
\$155,600	Ontario Sires Stakes - Gold	Woodbine Mohawk Park	3YOCT	6	7 p.m.
\$46,166	New York Sires Stakes	Saratoga	2YOCT	8, 10, 12	Noon
\$15,000	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior A	Saratoga	2YOCT	9, 11	Noon
\$6,500	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior B	Saratoga	2YOCT	13, 14	Noon
\$20,000	Kentucky Commonwealth	Red Mile	2YOFT	2, 7, 11	1 p.m.
\$20,000	Kentucky Commonwealth	Red Mile	2YOCT	3, 5, 9	1 p.m.
\$40,000	Kentucky Championship	Red Mile	2YOCT	6	1 p.m.
\$40,000	Kentucky Championship	Red Mile	2YOFT	10	1 p.m.

HRU Upcoming Stakes

Tuesday, August 24

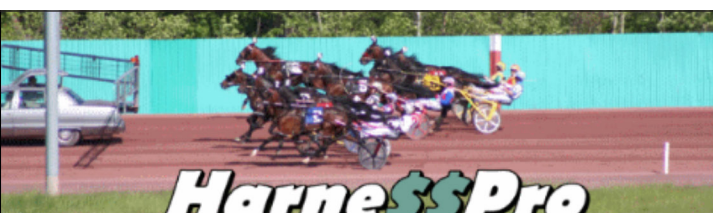
Purse	Race	Track	Age, Sex, Gait	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
\$46,166	New York Sires Stakes	Yonkers	2YOCP	3	6:30 p.m.
\$47,066	New York Sires Stakes	Yonkers	2YOCP	1, 2	7:15 p.m.
\$15,000	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior A	Yonkers	2YOCP	2	6:30 p.m.
\$15,000	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior A	Yonkers	2YOCP	3	7:15 p.m.
\$6,600	New York Sires Stakes - Excelsior B	Yonkers	2YOCP	1	6:30 p.m.
\$21,800	Ontario Sires Stakes - Grassroots	Woodbine Mohawk Park	3YOCT	1, 5, 9	7 p.m.
\$40,000	Kentucky Championship	Red Mile	2YOFP	1	1 p.m.
\$20,000	Kentucky Commonwealth	Red Mile	2YOFP	2, 5	1 p.m.
\$20,000	Kentucky Commonwealth	Red Mile	2YOCP	6	1 p.m.
\$40,000	Kentucky Championship	Red Mile	2YOCP	7	1 p.m.



**STANDARD BRED
TRANSITION ALLIANCE**

Inspect
Accredit
Grant

[CLICK HERE](#)
Support Aftercare Today!



Harne\$\$Pro

TM
TRACKMASTER
An EQUIBASE Company

ALL IN ONE HANDICAPPING TOOL
NO SOFTWARE TO INSTALL
PDF RACE PROGRAMS INCLUDED

TRACKMASTER.COM/HARNESS

Wednesday, August 25

Purse	Race	Track	Age, Sex, Gait	Race #(s)	1st Race Post
\$100,600	Ontario Sires Stakes - Gold	Grand River Raceway	3YOFT	5, 8	6:30 p.m.
\$44,500	Indiana Sires Stakes	Harrah's Hoosier Park	2YOCT	2, 7, 10	6:30 p.m.
\$66,000	Indiana Sires Stakes	Harrah's Hoosier Park	2YOFT	9, 12	6:30 p.m.



Harness Racing Update on Twitter

[@HARNESSUPDATE](#)





Harness Racing Update on Facebook

/HARNESSRACINGUPDATE



HRU NEWS



News in harness
racing, notes and
announcements

www.harnessracingupdate.com

Help us celebrate the life of Ron Gurfein

A celebration of the life and career of Ron Gurfein is scheduled for Oct. 9 at the Red Mile and you can help remember The Guru by providing a short tribute or remembrance that may be published in that day's race program.

We are anticipating a large response, so please keep your tribute to a short 1-3 sentences and email it to art@britfarms.com.

Art Zubrod

Mickey and Sylvia Burke to the Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame

Leading owners Mickey and Sylvia Burke have been selected as the 36th Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame honorees by the Delaware County Fair.



Chris Tully

Mickey and Sylvia Burke and Foiled Again at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame. Mickey and Sylvia are this year's Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame honorees.

The Burkes are the principals of Burke Racing Stable who have owned a pair of Little Brown Jugs champs: Filibuster Hanover (2017) and Limelight Beach (2014) and four Jugette winners: Warrawee Ubeaut (2019), Sassa Hanover (2015), Darena Hanover (2012) and Western Graduate (2007).

Mickey started driving harness horses as a hobbyist in 1956, campaigning around the fair circuits of Ohio and Pennsylvania, all while operating a successful car dealership in Western Pennsylvania for several decades.

After selling the dealership in 1981, Mickey and his wife Sylvia started 'full-time' in the harness racing business. Between 1991 and 2008, Mickey was credited with 3,167 training wins and \$35.5 million in earnings.

Mickey and Sylvia have five children, three of which are active daily in the sport. In 2009, Mickey turned his training operation over to his son, Ron, and Mickey, Jr. and Michelle oversee the operations of their Washington, PA

Coming into this year, Burke Racing Stable have entered 23 horses in the Little Brown Jug, winning \$1.2 million in purses. Their success isn't limited to the 3-year-old colt classic. They have also won 10 heats of the Jugette, an Old Oaken Bucket, three Standardbred's and seventeen Ohio Breeders Championship events.

"We are extremely excited to welcome the Burkes onto the Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame," said Chip Thomson, chair of the Wall of Fame Committee. "They have been strong supporters of our events and we wish them continued success."

The Burke's will be presented the Wall of Fame plaque during the 2021 Little Brown Jug week (Sept. 19-23).

Jay Wolf / Little Brown Jug publicity

Captain Cowgirl wraps up PASS finals slot, equals stake record

Captain Cowgirl needed a big race in Friday's (Aug. 20) Pennsylvania Sires Stake (PASS) at The Meadows to guarantee her spot in the \$250,000 championship. She got it and more, drawing off to match the stake record of 1:51.

The \$161,744 event for freshman filly pacers, known as The Meadow Cheer, was contested over two divisions, with St Nevis taking the other split. The Meadows will play host to all four PASS \$250,000 finals for 2-year-olds on Friday, Sept. 3.

Captain Cowgirl quarter-poled to the top for Tim Tetrack and simply was much the best from there, defeating Somesweetsomewhere by three lengths, with Hood Party third. Her time matched the stake record established by Bettor's Up in 2016. (Tetrack was also aboard for that one.)

"She's as good as any 2-year-old filly right now," said Jim

King, Jr., who trains the daughter of Captaintreacherous—Rideintothesunset for Jo Ann Looney-King and Kenneth Frieder. “That’s a tall order, I know, but she’s a pretty good girl, she’s taken to her work well, and she recovers very well.”

King said Captain Cowgirl, who vaulted over \$100,000 in earnings, will take it easy until the PASS final.

“I’ll just pat her on the head and talk nice to her until then,” he said.

St Nevis had done everything this season except win, but regular reinsman Dexter Dunn indicated that not all the blame lies with her.

“You have to forgive that break last start,” Dunn said. “I was pushing her a little bit hard into the first turn. But her last quarters always have been good.”

In the Meadow Cheer, a late burst by the daughter of Always B Miki—St. Kitts carried her a nose past Hit Me Up in 1:51.4. JK I Feel Fine completed the ticket. Nifty Norman trains the winner for Patricia Stables, Cool Cat Racing and David McDuffie,

Shipnstrol Hanover, **Lyons Serenity** and **Galleria Hanover** each took a \$20,000 division in Friday’s Pennsylvania Stallion Series.

Shipnstrol Hanover provided the card’s tote board pyrotechnics when, after being shuffled to fifth, she blazed home wide to pull off the 25-1 upset for David Miller, trainer Norman and owners Pinske Stables, David Hoese, Lawrence Mears and Bridgette Jablonsky.

“I raced her last week, never moved her, just kind of went up the rail, and she was loaded,” Miller said of the daughter of Captaintreacherous—Social Scene. “So she didn’t surprise me. Her last line is kind of deceiving. The last few starts she’s put it together.”

Live racing at The Meadows resumes Wednesday when the program features a \$35,000 guarantee on the final-race Super Hi-5 offered in association with the USTA Strategic Wagering Initiative. Wednesday’s card also offers a \$5,000 guarantee on the Early Pick 4 (race 2) and an \$815.77 carryover in the Pick 5 (race 8). First post is 12:45 p.m.

Evan Pattak for The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

Just another night on the town for Duly Resolved

Duly Resolved has won all four races he has entered, but trainer John Bax still gets nervous every time the 2-year-old trotting gelding steps onto the racetrack.

“I’m pretty nervous watching him race. I don’t know how much is there, so far it’s been enough, but I don’t know,” said Bax. “I don’t even know if he knows what he’s doing out there. He looks like he’s just out for a stroll.”

The gelding strolled around Woodbine Mohawk Park in 1:56.3 to record his third Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold Series victory, and his fourth straight win, on Thursday (Aug. 19). Paul MacDonell engineered the victory, leaving smartly from Post 8 with the favorite and controlling the tempo through fractions of :28.2, :58.4 and 1:28.3. Duly Resolved cruised home a one and one-quarter length winner under minimal urging. Killer Whipr Snipr and Star Power Hanover closed well to be second and third. (**replay here: [Duly Resolved](#)**)

The race was delayed while Flight Song visited the Woodbine Mohawk Park blacksmith to have a shoe replaced after the post parade, but the extra time out on the racetrack did not faze Duly Resolved.

“He’s pretty relaxed out there, isn’t he. He’s just out there, it’s just a night out for him,” said Bax. “His sister (Bright Eyes M) wasn’t that easy when you were out there, but he handled it pretty well.”

Bax trained the gelding’s Kadabra half-sister Bright Eyes M to earnings of \$318,637 in her career, almost all of it earned in her three-year-old season. Bax offered up \$30,000 for Duly Resolved at last fall’s Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and the son of Resolve and former Gold Series winner Motown Muscle has already earned \$127,933.

Bax Stables of Campbellville, Don Allensen of Wyoming, Gaelic Stable of Sharon, ON, and David Hudson of Dallas, TX share ownership on Duly Resolved and most of the partners were on hand for his fourth victory.

“All the grandkids were here tonight and even the guy that’s farthest away, David Hudson, he’s in Dallas, so he didn’t come, but his brother represented him, so everybody was represented,” said Bax. “We’re just enjoying the ride.”

In the second \$69,733 Gold division, **Safe Conduct** made his Ontario Sires Stakes debut from Post 4 and after sitting fifth for much of the race he sprinted home in :27.3 to claim a neck victory over favorite Twin B Archie and pacesetter Esplosione. The colt stopped the teletimer at 1:55.1 in just his second lifetime start. (**replay here: [Safe Conduct](#)**)

“He was a nice colt training down. Camilla was confident in his ability from the beginning,” said driver Chris Christoforou. “He raced great tonight. I’m very happy for his owners, my father and his long-time partner Irving Storfer.”

The Campbellville resident crafted the victory for his wife, trainer Camilla Christoforou, his father Charalambos Christoforou of Campbellville and Storfer’s Banjo Farms of Toronto. The elder Christoforou and Banjo Farms also bred the son of Archangel and their former race mare Safe Keeping.

Red Overbach added a Gold Series blanket to his collection in the last \$69,734 division. Starting from Post 7 with Guelph resident Jody Jamieson in the race bike, Red Overbach left well and was in command just after the :29.1 quarter. Unchallenged through a :59 half and 1:28.1 three-quarters, the Royalty For Life son trotted under the wire in a personal best 1:56.3. Luca Hanover finished one and one-quarter lengths back in second

and fan favorite Lexus Ranger completed the top three. ([replay here: Red Overbach](#))

“My parents went to the East coast for three weeks and left the horses in the capable hands of Anthony Haughan and Meg Crone,” said Jamieson. “He trotted brilliantly tonight and won in a life’s mark.”

Cambridge resident Crone harnessed Red Overbach, who was a winner in Grassroots action on July 15, for his Gold Series debut on behalf of Carl Jamieson of Puslinch, Thomas Kyron of Toronto and breeder Dr. Robert Boyce of London, ON.

All three of Thursday’s winners are eligible to the 2-year-old trotting colt open stakes that get under way at Woodbine Mohawk Park next week. The Champlain Stakes go postward Thursday, Aug. 26, eliminations for the William Wellwood Memorial Trot are one week later, on Sept. 2, and the final is Saturday, Sept. 11. The trio will return to Gold Series action on Sept. 18 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Complete results from Thursday evening’s program are available [here](#) and replays can be viewed on Woodbine Mohawk Park’s YouTube [channel](#).

Sandra Snyder / OSS publicity

Cruisin Pearl, Somethingbeautiful capture ISS divisions at Harrah’s Hoosier Park

Three-year-old pacing fillies were the featured attraction at Harrah’s Hoosier Park Racing & Casino on Friday, August 20 as they squared off in the fifth round of Indiana Sires Stakes action. Two \$48,500 divisions were featured on the evening’s 14-race card.

In the first division, **Cruisin Pearl** cruised to a 1:51 two length score with Sam Widger in the bike. The victory was the first stakes score for Cruisin Pearl and also a new lifetime best.

Leaving from post four, Cruisin Pearl was unhurried from the gate and settled along the rail in sixth. Always A Miracle and Ricky Macomber Jr. and GD Western Joyce with Robert Taylor were taking turns on the front through first half fractions of :26 and :54.3. By the time the field reached the three-quarters in 1:22.4, Widger had Cruisin Pearl well placed and ready to strike from second-over.

Utilizing a :27.4 closing kick, Cruisin Pearl surged past her rivals late in the lane to get the victory. Shelly Rockwell and James Yoder grinded out a second place finish while Uncut Gem and Joey Putnam also rallied well late for third. Sent off as the public’s second choice, Cruisin Pearl returned \$6.20 at the betting windows.

Trained by Henry Graber Jr., the daughter of Always A Virgin—Cruisin Pearl scored her fifth win from 11 starts this season. Owned by Eleven Star Stables, Cruisin Pearl pushed her lifetime purse earnings to \$84,285 with the win.

In the second division of the stakes action, **Somethingbeautiful** looked every bit the part of a 2-5 favorite as she used similar tactics to coast to a 1:50.4 victory. Driven by LeWayne Miller for trainer Dylan Davis, Somethingbeautiful moved first-over and was able to track down her rivals late in the lane to get the win by nearly two lengths. The 1:50.4 clocking was a new lifetime best for the filly. Like It Like That and Darrell Wright staged a big rally late in the lane to get up for second while Gd Rockin Kay and Michael Oosting rounded out the trifecta. As the heavy betting favorite, Somethingbeautiful returned \$2.80 to her backers at the betting windows.

Owned by H. Taylor, E. Gold, A. Basen, and R. Lombardo, Somethingbeautiful recorded her 11th lifetime win from 19 outings. The daughter of Always A Virgin—Summer N Sand has now amassed \$418,605 in lifetime purse earnings.

Emily Ratcliff / Harrah’s Hoosier Park

Valentina Blu, Joviality S capture NYSS divisions at Yonkers

The 2-year-old trotting fillies of the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) set trekked to Yonkers Raceway on Thursday night (Aug. 19) for two \$70,300 divisions, and it would be **Valentina Blu** and **Joviality S**, both exiting the Jim Doherty Memorial at the Meadowlands, who were victorious.

Gertrude (Andy Miller) led her five rivals through fractions of 29, 59.3, and 1:29.3 in the first split, but Valentina Blu (Andrew McCarthy) went first-over out of third and moved up into second at three-quarters. Gertrude was able to keep the top spot around the far turn and into the lane, but Valentina Blu hit top stride late in the mile and got up in time to win by a head in 1:58.1. Seven On The Rocks (John Stark Jr.) was the third-place finisher.

Valentina Blu, a daughter of Chapter Seven, is trained by Tony Alagna for owner Crawford Farms Racing. She broke her maiden in her fifth chance, and she has now earned \$70,291. Bred by Spring Haven Farm and Doug Millard Holdings USA, Valentina Blu is out of the Muscle Hill mare Corazon Blue Chip, making her a full sister to former Dan Patch Award winner Fourth Dimension (1:52.4, \$409,195). Racing as part of an Alagna-trained/Crawford Farms Racing-owned entry that was sent off at 1-2, Valentina Blu paid \$3.10 to win and was atop an \$8.40 exacta and a \$55.50 trifecta.

In the other flight, Joviality S (Brian Sears) sped straight to the lead from post six and posted panels of 30.2, 1:00.1, and 1:29.4. Pocket-sitter Little Pink Lies (Ake Svanstedt) was the only filly

able to hang with Joviality S, and Svanstedt angled her to the outside to take a chance at the pace-setter in the lane. Little Pink Lies did make some headway, but it wasn't enough, as Joviality S responded when shown the whip by Sears to hold sway by a length in 1:58.1. Gettinmystepsin (Miller) overcame an early break to come in third.

Another Chapter Seven filly, Joviality S is trained by Marcus Melander for owner Courant Inc. Bred by Courant's breeding operation, AM Bloodstock Inc., Joviality S, who has a record of 3-1-0 from five starts and \$99,423 banked, is the first foal out of the Muscle Hill mare Pasithea Face S (\$579,565, 1:50 4/5). Civility S was the 1-9 favorite and returned \$2.30 to win. The exacta kicked back \$5.50 and the trifecta was worth \$10.20.

Adjure Hanover, a daughter of Chapter Seven—Anonyme Hanover driven by Andy Miller for trainer Julie Miller, won the faster of two \$15,000 Excelsior "A" Series races, stopping the clock in 2:00.4. Andy also co-owns the Hanover Shoe Farms-bred with partners Michael Anderson and Lou Willinger. The other Excelsior "A" Series test went to **Rheia Rose**, an E L Titan—She's Nutz filly bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., in 2:01.4 for driver Tyler Buter, co-owner/trainer Erv Miller, and co-owners Joe Faraldo, George Golemes, and Chris Wittstruck.

One \$6,600 Excelsior "B" Series event also took place, and it went to **Hallway Babe**, a daughter of Conway Hall—Barn Babe, in 2:05.1 for trainer-driver Tom Corelli and owner Theologos Moutafis. Hallway Babe was bred by Steve and Nancy Pratt.

New York Sire Stakes action at Yonkers Raceway continues on Tuesday (Aug. 24), as 2-year-old colt and gelding pacers meet in the first two dashes on the 12-race program. Post time is 7:15 p.m.

Yonkers Raceway

Swingforthe fences strikes in ISS action at Hoosier Park

One \$95,000 division of Indiana Sires Stakes for 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings was the featured event on the evening's 14-race card at Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino on Thursday (Aug. 19). **Swingforthe fences** was able to pull the slight 6-1 upset to score in 1:54.3 for trainer Melanie Wrenn and driver Peter Wrenn. The victory was one of three wins on the program for the husband-wife combo.

Leaving from post seven in the talented field of 10, Wrenn sent Swingforthe fences away from the gate to get early position but Brandon Bates had Illini Earl on a mission to the front through the opening quarter in :28. Unable to find a suitable spot along the rail, Swingforthe fences pressed on to the lead and reached command just before the half in :56.3. Swingforthe fences yielded the lead to Predator and Prey and was content with

a pocket trip. Predator and Prey continued to call the shots through the three-quarters in 1:26 but the field was winding up to strike behind him.

Just as Predator and Prey was beginning to tire on the front, Swingforthe fences was ready to strike from the pocket. Finding late racing room up the inside, Swingforthe fences trotted strongly to the wire to get the win by nearly two lengths over Predator and Prey. Illini Earl and Brandon Bates rounded out the trifecta. Sent off as the public's third choice, Swingforthe fences returned \$15.20 to his backers at the betting windows. Brookview Bolt and Sam Widger were sent off as the heavy betting favorite but finished fifth after a rough beginning from post 10.

It was the fourth win of the season for the son of Swan For All—Sunday Yankee who also sent his earnings for the season over the \$100,000 mark. Swingforthe fences is owned by David McDuffee and L&L Devisser LLC.

Emily Ratcliff / Harrah's Hoosier Park

King James Express and Natameri take NYSS races at Vernon

Vernon Downs played host to two divisions of the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) for 3-year-old pacing colts & geldings on Friday (Aug. 20).

King James Express (Jason Bartlett) captured the \$55,000 first division.

Stop Staring (Mark MacDonald) took the early lead. Major Bean (Matt Kakaley) took control just before hitting the first quarter in :27. He used a :28.2 second quarter to lead to the half in :55.2. King James Express (\$4.90) made his heading to the final turn going first-over from fourth. Major Bean held a short lead to three-quarters in 1:23.1.

As they made the turn for home King James Express battled for and took the lead but had to brace for the late charge of second place finisher Stop Staring. King James Express held on to win in a lifetime best of 1:50.4. Bottle Rocket (Michael Whelan) took home third place money.

King James Express is a gelding by Art Major. He is owned by Deena Frost, Dean Lockhart, Wayne Carlton, and trainer Mark Harder. It was his third win in 2021. He now has seven career victories.

Natameri (Matt Kakaley) won the \$56,000 second division.

Mullinax (Mark MacDonald) was first to the quarter in :26.1. Natameri (\$4.00) came first-up at the top of the backstretch and took the lead to the half in :54.3. Town Gossip (Billy Dobson) made his move charging first-over as they went around the final turn. Natameri reached three-quarters first in 1:23.0.

As they reached the stretch Town Gossip went all out but

Natameri had plenty in the tank and won in a lifetime best of 1:50.0. Town Gossip had to settle for second. Southwind Petyr (Jason Bartlett finished third.

Natameri is a colt by American Ideal. He is owned by the Purple Haze Stables and trained by Jessica Okusko. It was his fifth win this season and seventh career victory.

Vernon Downs leading driver, Leon Bailey drove four winners on the card giving him 80 for the season.

John Horne for Vernon Downs

Sophomore fillies shine in Ohio Sires Stakes

A quartet of \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes (OHSS) for sophomore fillies was contested Friday night (Aug. 20) at Scioto Downs. The four-round series ended as two divisions each of pacing and trotting distaffs in leg four contests vied for a starting berth in the \$300,000 Championships, set for Sept. 5 at Northfield Park.

Securing a spot for herself was first division winner **Dragons Lucky Lady**, a daughter of Dragon Again conditioned by Eddie Foulk for the L&L Stables and William Hartt. Driven by Tyler Smith, Dragons Lucky Lady left the gate from post eight as the 4-1 choice and prevailed in the final yards in 1:52.2 over 54-1 longshot She Knows It All (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.), with 1-5 favorite Summer Touch (Chris Page) finishing third.

Dragons Lucky Lady was bred by Vernon mast and now has \$118,272 in career earnings from 13 wins, seven seconds and two thirds in 24 lifetime starts.

Smothastenesewisky picked up her second victory in OHSS competition by capturing the second pacing division in 1:52 for driver Brett Miller. The 1-9 favorite is trained and owned by Brian Haynes of Washington Court House, OH, and had previous captured leg two in 1:52. Bred by Robert Mondillo and Donald Robinson, Smothastenesewisky upped her career earnings to \$185,731 with this triumph, the 14th of her career in 20 starts. Leave Her Wild was second at 7-1 for Mike Wilder with 29-1 Screamin Demon third for Danny Noble.

Summer Touch, who captured the first three legs in 1:53.1, 1:52.3 and 1:51.2, stands atop the standings with 166 points, with Smothastenesewisky second with 112 points, followed by Dragons Lucky Lady with 108 points in third. The remaining fillies who qualified for the OHSS championship are: Leave Her Wild (79 points); She Knows It All (66 points); Lady Arthur (52 points); Babs Jansen (40 points); and Rainy Day Chic (38 points).

In the trotting divisions it was **Katie's Lucky Day** notching the first contest in 1:55.1 with driver Trevor Smith at the helm for Black Magic Racing. The daughter of Uncle Peter picked up her eighth win of the season and 14th career victory, pushing her lifetime earnings to \$222,669. Katie's Lucky Day, the 1-9 favorite, bested 6-1 rival Designer Specs (Ryan Stahl), with 29-1 Boujee

Girl (Brett Miller) third.

Celebrate With Me (Chris Page) overtook the leading 2-5 favorite Herculisa (Brett Miller) yards before the wire to capture the second OHSS trotting event in 1:54, with 6-1 Swizzle Hanover (Mike Wilder) third. The coal black daughter by Full Count was the 5-2 choice and picked up her sixth career win and third of the season for trainer Ron Burke and owners Burke Racing, Bfj Stable, Weaver Brussemi and Knox Services. She now has \$279,132 in career earnings.

The final standings in the 3-year-old filly trotting division are as follows: Celebrate With Me (154 points); Katie's Lucky Day (141 points); Herculisa (137 points); Designer Specs (40 points); Swizzle Hanover (36 points); Osma (32 points); Merry Ann (28 points); and Boujee Girl (13 points).

Kimberly Rinker / OSDF administrator

Trotting fillies impress, McNair's dominate in Friday's OSS action

Woodbine Mohawk Park fans were treated to an Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) smorgasbord on Friday (Aug. 20) with a pair of \$100,000-plus Gold Series divisions for the 2-year-old trotting fillies and three \$23,850 Grassroots divisions for the 3-year-old pacing colts.

Dabra Day kicked things off in the first \$101,400 Gold Series split with a front end effort that saw her sail through fractions of :27.2, :57.1, 1:25.4 and on to a half-length victory in a 1:55.2 personal best. Resolving was a hard-closing second and pocket-sitting favorite Elegant Mermaid was third. **(replay here: Dabra Day)**

"We're very excited about her," said trainer Meg Crone. "She has tons of talent, just very, very quirky. My husband (Anthony Haughan), he absolutely loves her, but he is the most patient person in the world. I don't know if she'd have come this far if someone else had her, because she's very trying. He deserves all the credit with her. I wouldn't even say she's a handful, I can't even describe her."

Louis-Philippe Roy of Guelph piloted the Kadabra daughter to her second lifetime win for Cambridge, ON resident Crone and owners W.J. Donovan of Monument Beach, MA and Purnel And Libby LLC of Delray Beach, FL. Dabra Day was victorious in the first leg of the Pure Ivory Series on July 22 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, but she also has a pair of breaks on her card through five starts.

"Her gait is flawless," said Crone. "She actually only wears the trotting hobbles just because she'll see something and it will just throw her off, but she's a great gaited filly and she wants to please you, she's just quirky."

In the second \$102,200 Gold division, **Adare Castle** extended

her flawless record to three with an impressive off-the-pace effort for driver James MacDonald of Guelph. Fourth at the three-quarter marker, the fan favorite laid down a :27.1 final fraction to grab the 1:55.3 victory, digging in hard at the wire to hold off a fast-closing Mischevious Rose by a head. Needa Little Magic was six lengths back in third. ([replay here: Adare Castle](#))

"She got away a little farther back than I would have liked, and James said that himself, he said, 'We didn't get her in the right position,' but she's just such a gutsy thing and just keeps going forward," said trainer Mark Etsell. "He said, 'I thought Bobby (McClure with Mischevious Rose) was going to go right by me, and I asked again and she dug in and went'. She's just a good horse."

Rockwood resident Etsell shares ownership of Adare Castle with Robert Newton of Walkerton, Graham Hopkins of Chesley and Peter Porter of Port Dover, ON. The partners were relieved to see the Muscle Mass daughter race well after missing a few days last week due to a bout of abdominal discomfort.

"It was weird, the day we were going to school her I said, 'That filly doesn't look right', and took her temperature and she had a bit of a temperature," said Etsell, who then called his veterinarian out to examine Adare Castle. "She was a little colicky and it wasn't like a major, major thing, but there was something bugging her in her stomach so we had to do the normal colic stuff and then she had a couple of days off."

"I trained her on the Friday and she was a little blah, but she can be that way. She kind of fools you. She knows the difference between racing and training," added Etsell. "She jogs every day with loose lines, and she putts around there like a 14-year-old, but when you bring her to the track here tonight, her ears are up and she grabs a hold of the bit, like, 'Okay I know what it is, it's race time.' And that's only three starts in, so I'm pretty tickled."

Father and son team Gregg and Doug McNair were also tickled with the performance of their 3-year-old pacing geldings, who swept all three Grassroots divisions.

Jimmy Connor B kicked things off in the first pacing colt division, taking command heading by the half and keeping the pedal down on the way to a one length victory in a personal best 1:50.1. No Plan Intended and Twin B Fighter were second and third behind the fan favorite. ([replay here: Jimmy Connor B](#))

"Jimmy, he was good tonight, real good," said trainer Gregg McNair, who shares ownership of the Big Jim gelding with Grand Slam Stable of Walkerton, ON. "I think we're getting a little used to him and he's got better. At the start there he was even hard to warm up and he's not hard to warm up now, and he's been pretty good to race the last few starts. Keep your fingers crossed, but he's been pretty good."

The win was Jimmy Connor B's second in Grassroots action and his fourth of the sophomore campaign.

In the second division Doug McNair fired **Stonebridge Rex** away from Post 6 and the fan favorite reeled off fractions of :26, :54.4 and 1:22.3 on his way to a personal best 1:49.3, three lengths

ahead of Century Hannibal. Saltwater Savage was two more lengths back in third. ([replay here: Stonebridge Rex](#))

"He was one of the better colts last year in the Grassroots," said the trainer. "He was really good tonight. He beat a pretty nice bunch of horses, a couple of the better ones maybe had poor positions and stuff, but he sure raced good."

A two-time Grassroots winner at two, Stonebridge Rex had been winless before Friday's effort. Guelph resident Gregg McNair co-owns the Control The Moment son with breeder Angie Stiller of Arva and Gary Colter of Mississauga, ON.

Team McNair completed the Grassroots trifecta with **Bettor Sun**, who took command before the half and motored around the Woodbine Mohawk Park oval to a 1:49.4 victory. Cantstoplying and Armor Seelster finished one and three-quarter lengths back in second and third. ([replay here: Bettor Sun](#))

"You could tell by the way the betting board was they thought he was in where he could do, but he raced good," said McNair of the fan favorite. "I don't think he was pacing quite as good as he has been the last couple starts up here before he went to Cleveland, but he raced good. I hope that he'll be a little bit braver off of that mile there tonight."

The win was the first in sophomore Ontario Sires Stakes action for Bettor Sun. The Sunshine Beach gelding's last start came in the Aug. 14 Carl Millstein Memorial at Northfield Park, where he finished fifth. Gregg McNair shares ownership of Bettor Sun with Willow Oak Ranch of Rogersville, TN.

Complete results from Friday evening's program are available [here](#) and replays can be viewed on Woodbine Mohawk Park's YouTube [channel](#).

Sandra Snyder / OSS publicity

Mikey Camden dominates Gold Cup and Saucer consolation

Mikey Camden led at every call and drew off in the James (Roach) MacGregor Gold Cup and Saucer consolation Friday evening (Aug. 20) at Red Shores Racetrack and Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park.

The \$20,000 consolation saw Mikey Camden blast to the lead and waltz through splits of :27, :55.2, 1:23.2 and 1:52. Pocket sitter Buggy Maguire (Driven by Austin Sorrie) finished second while third went to Avatar J (Gilles Barrieau). Corey Johnson trains the pacer for owners Debbie Element of Village Green and Raymond Huschka of Great Britain.

It was the first PEI win for trainer Johnson, who is based out of Ontario and came East for the week.

"In PEI you see exactly how much harness racing means to everyone," Johnson said after the win. "This reminds me why I

get up every day to train horses. I love this horse, he's a great horse. It's the best feeling in the world."

The evening also saw **Tobins Brownie** continue her winning ways in a \$18,420 Lady Slipper Gold Division for 3-year-old pacing fillies with a 1:56 score for trainer-driver Dowling.

Plain Jane won the other Gold split in 1:56.2 for trainer/driver Marc Campbell who had three driving wins on the night.

Total wager was \$154,659.

For more information go to Redshores.ca.

Nicholas Oakes for Red Shores

Tioga welcomes NYSS 2-year-old pacing fillies today

Tioga Downs welcomes two divisions of the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) for 2-year-old pacing fillies today (Aug. 22).

Patsville (Mark MacDonald) is the 2-1 morning line favorite in the \$53,100 first division. John Butenschoen trains the filly by Huntsville—Major Master. She has four wins in six lifetime starts.

The Eddie Dennis trained Joyride Hanover (Dexter Dunn) is the second choice. The filly by American Ideal—JK Higher Power has two wins including a NYSS win at Monticello.

Just Devine (Yannick Gingras) looks to be the one to beat in the \$53,100 second division. Ron Burke trains the filly by Huntsville—Divine Caroline. She has three NYSS wins reaching the winner's circle at Saratoga, Yonkers, and Monticello.

The R. Nifty Norman trained Gotthegreenlight (Dexter Dunn) looks to be her toughest competition. The filly by American Ideal—Bet On Luck has four wins in five starts including a NYSS victory at Yonkers.

The 13-race card starts at 1 p.m.

For more information go to www.tiogadowns.com.

John Horne for Tioga Downs

Entry details for Zweig and Empire Breeders Classic

Vernon and Tioga Downs will host over \$1 million worth of major stakes next weekend with the \$600,000e Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial Grand Circuit stake for 3-year-old trotters being raced at Vernon on Saturday (Aug. 28) and the \$500,000e Empire Breeders Classic (EBC) for NY Sired 3-year-old pacers at Tioga on Sunday (Aug. 29).

A New York Sires Stake for 2-year-old filly trotters is also on the Vernon Saturday card with the Zweig.

Details on these stakes are as follows;

The draw for the Zweig will be on Monday (Aug. 23) with a box close on 9 a.m. The Vernon draw is done remotely and electronic entry is encouraged. Phone entries may be placed at (302) 222-1222 between 8 and 9 a.m. on draw day only.

The Vernon condition sheet is posted on the web.

The Zweig and Zweig filly stakes are raced in the multiple tier format, the top nine 2021 money winners eligible for the main events with consolations for those with lesser earnings. Conditions for the Zweig are [here](#).

The EBC draw will be done on Thursday (Aug. 26) with a box close of 9 a.m.. Electronic entry is preferred and the Race Office number is (607) 699-7688. The Tioga [condition sheet](#) will be available on Monday.

The EBC will be raced as a single dash with up to ten entries, should more than 10 declare the stake will be raced in divisions with the purse and entry fee equally split. EBC conditions [here](#).

There will be no detention requirements for either stake.

Those horsemen requiring dinner reservations or hotel accommodations at either track should contact Racing Operations Manager Brett Risi at (315) 985-8717. The sooner the better for rooms at each hotel.

Nick Salvi for Vernon Downs

Pacing sophomores return for round two of Kentucky Championship

The Red Mile will again play host to pacing sophomores for stakes competition, with their second-round divisions of the Kentucky Championship Series set to go this afternoon (Aug. 22).

Colts and geldings compete in a non-betting event for their lone \$40,000 dash. First-preliminary winner Goldie's Legacy draws the outermost post in the three-horse affair following his 1:49.1 victory during the make-up card last Wednesday (Aug. 11). Andrew McCarthy picks up the drive on the Jeff Cullipher trainee as he faces Komodo Beach, in rein to Todd McCarthy following a runner-up effort in round one; and Toronto, the Always B Miki colt out of champion mare See You At Peelers who will have Tyler Smith in the bike for trainer Robert Cleary after finishing fourth in the first round.

Fillies kick off the betting card with a six-horse competition for their single \$40,000 division. So Irresistible enters as the 2-1 morning-line favorite off a third-place finish in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes division behind Mikala and last year's Dan Patch 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year Fire Start Hanover. Andrew

McCarthy drives the Always B Miki filly from post 3 as she makes her first start for trainer Noel Daley. Classicist, runner-up in the first round, lures Luke Hanners to drive for trainer Tahnee Camilleri as she starts as the 5-2 second choice from post 6.

The non-betting race goes before the pari-mutuel card at 12:45 p.m. (EDT). The 10-race card following also includes three \$20,000 divisions of the Kentucky Commonwealth Series, two for the colts and geldings and one for the fillies. First-race post time for the betting program is 1 p.m. (EDT).

Ray Cotolo for The Red Mile

Harness racing fans to get added bonus at 2021 Shenandoah County Fair

Fans that attend harness racing at the Shenandoah County Fair this year will have something extra special in store besides four days of pacing and trotting action from Sept. 1-4.

Six attendees over the four days will win a unique chance to "Own a Horse for a Day". The lucky winners will return on Saturday Sept. 18 — opening weekend of the Shenandoah Downs pari-mutuel meet — and actually own a horse in a \$4,000 race.

Those six, joined by two winners from a local radio station contest, will each draw one of eight horses in the "Own a Horse" race field. Each winner will get to spend time in the paddock with their horse, trainer and driver before the race, enjoy lunch on the VIP trackside viewing deck, and keep the purse money their horse earns in that race.

The "owner" of the horse that finishes first will win \$2,000! Owners of horses that finish second through fifth will receive 25 per cent, 12 per cent, 8 per cent and 5 per cent of the purse, per the regular owner distribution formula. Finishers of the sixth thru eighth place finishers will receive \$100, in addition of course to a memorable time.

Fans can register by coming to the Shenandoah County Fair harness races in Woodstock any day — or all days — between Wednesday, Sept. 1 and Saturday, Sept. 4 and filling out an entry. Post time each day is noon. One winner be drawn at random after the sixth race each day and as a weekend bonus, two names will be drawn on both Friday and Saturday.

Two more "Own a Horse" opportunities will be available during the Shenandoah Downs meet. Fans can register during the race cards on Sept. 18 and Oct. 2 for a chance to own a horse the following Saturday — Sept. 25 and Oct. 9 — with respective \$4,000 purses. The promotion is sponsored by the Virginia Harness Horse Association (VHHA).

Fans attending the Fair are encouraged to stop by the track's promotional booth in the exhibit building to register to win a



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

Foal Spotlight

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

HRU
HARNESS RACING
UPDATE

Shenandoah Downs VIP Experience. Two winners will return to the races on Friday Sept. 24 and enjoy a harness enthusiast's dream package. They will each get dinner, a \$20 betting voucher, a ride in the starter's car, a race named in their honor complete with a winner's circle presentation and souvenir picture, plus they will each announce a harness race that day and compete in a double seater sulky race. Two additional winners will be selected at the Sept. 18 race card.

Both the County Fair and Shenandoah Downs races take place at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds in Woodstock, VA, located at Exit 283 off I-81 halfway between Harrisonburg and Winchester. Complete promotional details are at www.shenandoahdowns.com.

Darrell Wood

MGM Northfield Park seeks track vet

MGM Northfield Park is seeking multiple qualified candidates for the position of track veterinarian on a full or part time basis.

Interested parties are advised to contact director of racing operations Dave Bianconi via phone at 330.467.4101, ext. 2207, or via email at dbianconi@mgmnorthfieldpark.com for details.

MGM Northfield Park