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Monday, October 7, 2019

Greenshoe furthers his legacy

The leading sophomore trotting colt zipped to the lead in the final turn to handily win the 127th Kentucky Futurity.

by Ray Cotolo, for Red Mile / additional quotes by Dave Briggs



Dave Landry

Greenshoe (Brian Sears) won the \$450,000 Kentucky Futurity on Sunday at Red Mile in 1:51.1.

Kentucky



In today's HRU

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Division leader Greenshoe kept his crown intact as he patiently pushed for the front and faced little challenge when cruising to a 1:51.1 mile over a track listed as “good” in the 127th Kentucky Futurity – going as a \$450,000 single heat sponsored by Hunterton Farms, Stoner Manor Inc. and Menhammer Stuteri Ab – on Sunday (Oct. 6) at Lexington, KY’s Red Mile.

Stablemate Green Manalishi S swept to the top from post 8 while Gimpanzee raced first over to a :27.3 first quarter and supplied cover to fellow Marcus Melander trainee Greenshoe. Gimpanzee slid to the lead up the backstretch while Greenshoe, the 1-9 favorite, crept closer to the top through a :55.1 half with Pilot Discretion on cover second over.

Greenshoe hit his best strides heading to the final turn,

rushing past Gimpanzee to lead the field past three-quarters in 1:24. Through the stretch the millionaire son of Father Patrick—Designed To Be veered wide but kept to task while pursued down the center of the course by Don’t Let’em, who took second. Gimpanzee held third from Soul Strong closing from the back of the pack for fourth.

“I was really happy with the way things were working out; I wasn’t getting any road trouble,” said winning driver Brian Sears. “I was able to be patient with him and ease him up to the front. Then when I thought it was time to use him up a little bit he was there for me and was pretty much in hand. I was really happy with the way he scored down so I was getting a good feeling going behind the gate. He’s got speed that really no other horse I can think of can go with.”



Dave Landry

Trainer Marcus Melander (far left), driver Brian Sears with Greenshoe in the winner's circle.



Dave Landry

Brian Sears, Marcus Melander and Anders Strom in the flower chair.

Earning \$1,241,273 for owners Courant Inc., Hans Backe, Lars Granqvist and Morten Langli, Greenshoe – bred by Al Libfeld and Marvin Katz – won his 12th race from 16 starts.

“He is definitely a horse that does not come every year, that’s for sure,” Melander said. “But Greenshoe, he’s so freaking fast that he’s in his own division.”

The trainer, who also sent out Futurity finalists Gimpanzee and Green Manalishi S said the tremendous trio has quickly grown his stable in the United States.

“My name is out there. We’ve got a lot of owners, but we can only have 60 horses in the barn so you have to say no to a lot of people. It’s very hard, but I have to do that. It’s tough to do, but it’s not like I can have any more horses than I have. I’m very happy with the whole season for all of them.”

Health willing, all three Melander colts will go to the

Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park next. After that, if Greenshoe is strong and healthy, the trainer said he might attempt the TVG before retiring to stud at Hanover Shoe Farms.

“We will go for the Breeders Crown first, then we’ll see,” Melander said. “If he feels strong and in form, we might leave him for the TVG, but we’ll take Breeders Crown first. They’ve had a long season. They started out and (Greenshoe) went :50 in May, so he had a long season. We’ll see how Breeders Crown goes first.”

As for winning the Kentucky Futurity, Melander said, “It’s one of those races that you just love to win. We won the Yonkers Trot earlier in the year (with Gimpanzee) and then this race, so two Triple Crown races. We had a great season and we won a lot of big races, so it’s amazing to win this one, too.”

Greenshoe’s part-owner Anders Strom of Courant Inc. said he first came to Kentucky in 2007.

“I started my business as a horse owner for real in 2005 and set myself a target to have the world’s best horse in 15 years and we are up by a photo finish now. Not to say the least to do it with this team of trainer, groom, driver, my co-owners which also will include Hanover Shoe Farms where he will find his new home next season.”

Greenshoe paid \$2.20 to win.

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photo by Nigel Soult

Hanover Bred CAVIART ALLY

p,5, 1:48 (\$1,585,716)

Bettors Delight-Allamerican Cool by No Nukes

Winner of the \$87,000 Allerage
Farms Mare Pace in 1:48.3,
October 6 at The Red Mile.

Owned by: Caviart Farms

Trained by: Brett Pelling

Driven by: Andrew McCarthy

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Dave Landry

Manchego (Dexter Dunn) became the fastest female trotter in history with this 1:49 world record in the Allerage mare trot.

Manchego sets fastest female trotting mile in history, wins Allerage in 1:49

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

Driver Dexter Dunn refused to seat Manchego in the pocket and circled the Nancy Johansson trainee to the front, speeding around Lexington, KY's Red Mile on Sunday (Oct. 6) to take the \$69,500 What The Hill Allerage Farms Mare Trot – sponsored by the What The Hill Syndicate and Hickory Lane Horse Farm – in a 1:49 mile, eclipsing the all-age world record for trotting females.

Hannelore Hanover hustled for the front moving to the first turn before Manchego moved to command past a :26.3 opening quarter. Manchego maintained her speed to a :53.3 half as Plunge Blue Chip floated first over from third moving to the final turn. Passing three-quarters in 1:21, Plunge Blue Chip ducked behind Manchego and tipped back outside straightening for the finish but gave chase in second as stablemate Ice Attraction finished farther behind in third.

“Looks like it’s time to put away the summer suit and get the wet gear on,” Dunn said after the race as overcast skies in Lexington began to turn to drizzle following an evening of

showers. “[I have to give] absolute credit to the track staff. I was actually out this morning having a cup of coffee at the bottom turn [and saw them] scraping the track and it was pretty bad. The condition they got it in right now is a credit to them.

“She had been racing great all year [and in] tough company but she’s just a great mare and a pleasure to sit behind. I was trying to slow it down as much as I could going to the half and it still popped up fast. I heard Ake get on my back around the turn before we straightened up but [Manchego] was never letting a horse pass her today; she was swelled up.”

Besting the previous world record for trotting mares of 1:49.1 set earlier this year by Atlanta at the Meadowlands, Manchego – a 4-year-old mare by Muscle Hill – won over a fast track before rains downgraded the surface to “good”. Black Horse Racing owns the Brittany Farms LLC-bred mare who has collected 24 victories from 39 starts and earned \$1,847,980. She paid \$4.00 to win.





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LEXINGTON
Selected Yearling Sale





Dave Landry

Bettors Wish (Dexter Dunn) winning his Tattersalls division in 1:48.4.

Bettor's Wish barrels to victory in Tattersalls

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile / additional quotes by Dave Briggs

Chris Ryder trainee Bettor's Wish ground first over into the final turn and withstood a late rush from pocket-popper Captain Crunch to take the second of two divisions of the \$540,000 Crawford Farms Tattersalls Pace – sponsored by Michelle and Albert Crawford – on Sunday (Oct. 6) at Red Mile.

"He's just got so much heart, the biggest fight comes out of him," Ryder said. "He's an easy horse to keep and I'm just blessed. He just keeps producing and we've got one race to go. So, I better not let him down."

Captain Crunch led the field to a :26.3 first quarter but settled for the pocket moving up the backstretch as American Mercury brushed from third to the lead past a :55 half. Bettor's Wish, racing fifth, followed that move but raced

uncovered upon the lead change into the final turn. The son of Bettor's Delight pressed forward through three-quarters in 1:21.3 and put away American Mercury straightening for the finish. Captain Crunch vacated pocket and rallied inside of Bettor's Wish late but only gave chase from second. Air Force Hanover took third.

"I was concerned about Captain Crunch," Ryder said. "He was second last week but he raced well. He made us go, so it was a little anxious, absolutely. But we held on. There's really not much to say. [Bettor's Wish] was a nice 2-year-old and he's just improved. The time off from two to three – he's just a faster animal."

Co-owned by Chris Ryder with Bella Racing, Fair Island Farm and Bettors Wish Partners, Bettor's Wish won his 16th race from 27 starts, earning \$1,561,000. Dexter Dunn, who became the leading driver of the Grand Circuit meeting, piloted the \$2.60 winner.



Dave Landry

Dancin Lou (Dunn) won his Tattersalls division in 1:49.4.

Art Zubrod of Fair Island Farm said he wasn't concerned about the poor track conditions after a day of rain.

"He's a good horse and I knew this wouldn't bother him, just because he's a lightweight, little horse and he's going to get over the ground easy. We'll keep our fingers crossed that he can keep it going for a little while," Zubrod said.

Asked if Bettors Wish is the best horse in a competitive sophomore pacing colts division, Zubrod didn't hesitate: "I think right now he is, yeah," he said.

Ryder was a little more hesitant, but ultimately agreed with Zubrod about Bettors Wish being the division leader.

"I'm going to say so. It's not the type of statement that I like to make, but if you're asking me... yeah," Ryder said with a grin.

Zubrod said the joy of owning a piece of Bettors Wish isn't the money, "and it's not the people cheering. I've always enjoyed good horses and even if we didn't own a piece of him I'd love this horse just because of what he's accomplished from being a blue-collar horse, I guess that's what you'd call it, a \$20,000 horse. It's just been fun."

Dancin Lou lunged inside of 1-9 favorite Southwind Ozzi late in the stretch to take the other division of the Crawford Farms Tattersalls Pace.

Driver Dexter Dunn dashed Dancin Lou to the lead while U S Captain settled for the pocket moving to a :27 first quarter. Southwind Ozzi, sitting third, soon tipped wide and brushed to the top entering the backside, leading the field past the



Dave Landry

Dexter Dunn had a big Futurity Day, winning three stakes races, including both divisions of the Tattersalls.

half in :54.3.

Can't Beach That flushed first over from fourth moving into the final turn, tracked by Shake That House, but stalled past three-quarters in 1:23. Southwind Ozzi clung to command as he floated off the pegs through the stretch. Dancin Lou darted through the late opening and slid past the Little Brown Jug winner to stop the clock in 1:49.4. Shake That House kicked off cover for third.

"This is a dream come true I just can't believe it," said winning trainer Tahnee Camilleri, an Australian native in her first year training stateside ([full story here](#)). "I'm in shock – I'm shaking. You normally don't find me tongue tied but, oh my God. I'm just thankful [my owners] decided to give an Aussie girl chasing the American dream a shot.

"He really likes the big track and I think he likes the clay surface. He stays like a mother in law so the big track suits him."

Bred by Anvil & Lace Farm and owned by David Kryway and 1362313 Ontario Ltd., Dancin Lou won his 10th race from 26 starts, earning \$265,859. The Sweet Lou colt, who is bound for the Breeders Crown, paid \$20.40 to win.



Dave Landry

Beautiful Sin (Ake Svanstedt) won the Kentucky Filly Futurity in 1:50.1.

Beautiful Sin wins 54th Kentucky Filly Futurity

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

In her second start for trainer Ake Svanstedt Beautiful Sin pounced from a pocket trip to win the 54th Kentucky Filly Futurity – a \$267,000 single dash sponsored by the Father Patrick Syndicate and Diamond Creek Farm – on Sunday (Oct. 6) at Lexington, KY’s Red Mile.

When Dovescry, sent the 3-5 favorite, left for the lead from the center of the gate while Svanstedt tucked Beautiful Sin onto the pacesetter’s helmet heading to a :27.1 opening quarter. Golden Tricks, stablemate to Beautiful Sin,



Dave Landry

Two years ago, Beautiful Sin topped the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale with a bid of \$480,000.



Dave Landry

S R F Stables' Lennart Agren (left) and Ake Svanstedt give Beautiful Sin a drink from the Kentucky Filly Futurity trophy.

progressed uncovered from sixth up the backstretch and flushed cover from Millies Possesion moving to a :55.2 half.

Millies Possesion stalled circling the final turn as When Dovescry accelerated to three-quarters in 1:22.2 and retreated into the stretch. Beautiful Sin angled from the pocket while When Dovescry drifted and tired, leaving a gap for The Ice Dutchess to shoot through. The Ice Dutchess gave late pursuit to new leader Beautiful Sin into the final eighth but settled for second. When Dovescry held third.

“It’s a total surprise compared to my thinking two months ago; I’m really shocked by this,” said Lennart Agren, who owns Beautiful Sin through S R F Stable. “I thought I had to [switch trainers] before the four-year-old season. [Ake Svanstedt] said she was nice but he had some issues to fix. She was a really nice filly two years ago in the sales ring.”

Topping the 2017 Lexington Yearling Sale, Beautiful Sin – bred by Jeff Gural and Moon Goddess LLC – sold for \$480,000. The sophomore daughter of Muscle Hill has five victories from 14 starts and has earned \$372,867. She paid \$9.00 to win.

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Dave Landry

Caviart Ally (Andrew McCarthy) defeated Shartin N in 1:48.3 in the \$87,000 Allerage Farms mare pace on Sunday at Red Mile.

Caviart Ally defeats Shartin N in Allerage

by Ray Cotolo for Red Mile

A season-long bout of runner-up finishes to division leader Shartin N ended on Sunday (Oct. 6) at Lexington, KY's Red Mile as Caviart Ally upended the star pacing mare with a 1:48.3 mile in the \$87,000 Fear The Dragon Allerage Farms Mare Pace — sponsored by the Fear The Dragon Syndicate and Midland Acres.

Shartin N, sent the 1-9 favorite, pushed for the front to lead the field of six through a :27.2 first quarter with Kissin In The Sand sitting second and Caviart Ally third and raced uncontested on the front to a :54.3 half.

Driver Andrew McCarthy moved Caviart Ally first over entering the final turn and blitzed Shartin N heading to three-quarters in 1:22. Shartin N drifted from the cones entering the stretch and tried to fend off Caviart Ally but the five-year-old Bettor's Delight mare overpowered the 2018 Dan Patch winner into the final eighth and drew away to victory. Kissin In The Sand chased the pair in third.



Dave Landry

Owners Buck and Judy Chaffee of Caviart Farms (left) with Caviart Ally in the winner's circle.

"We've been waiting for her to beat Shartin," said Judy Chaffee, co-owner of Caviart Ally. "Finally, it happened."

"We tried [to beat Shartin] all different ways," said winning trainer Brett Pelling after the race. "We tried to seat her in behind us, we've tried the two hole and today—this mare's really, really good when the weather's cooled off. Everything about her — she's right on her game right now."

Winning her 23rd race from 69 starts, Caviart Ally — bred by Hanover Shoe Farms — has earned \$1,585,716 for owner Caviart Farms.

"My biggest battle right now is to talk Judy and co. into racing her next year," Pelling also said, jokingly, "so we can do it all over again. It's been a great thrill; she's a great mare. She's just one of those horses you love to have in your barn."

Buck Chaffee, co-owner of Caviart Farms, commented on bringing Caviart Ally back as a 6-year-old, saying, "Things are possible, who knows what will happen. But for her to come and finally beat Shartin—they've raced super all year, and just two fabulous mares."

Caviart Ally will race next in the Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

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Red Mile 2019

A photo feature of Grand Circuit racing at Lexington, KY's famed Red Mile.

photos by Dave Landry



The Stable of Memories.



Tony Alagna.



Dave Brower fixing Chris Page's hair.



Morning training at Red Mile.



Andy Miller.



Nancy Johansson and Marvin Katz.

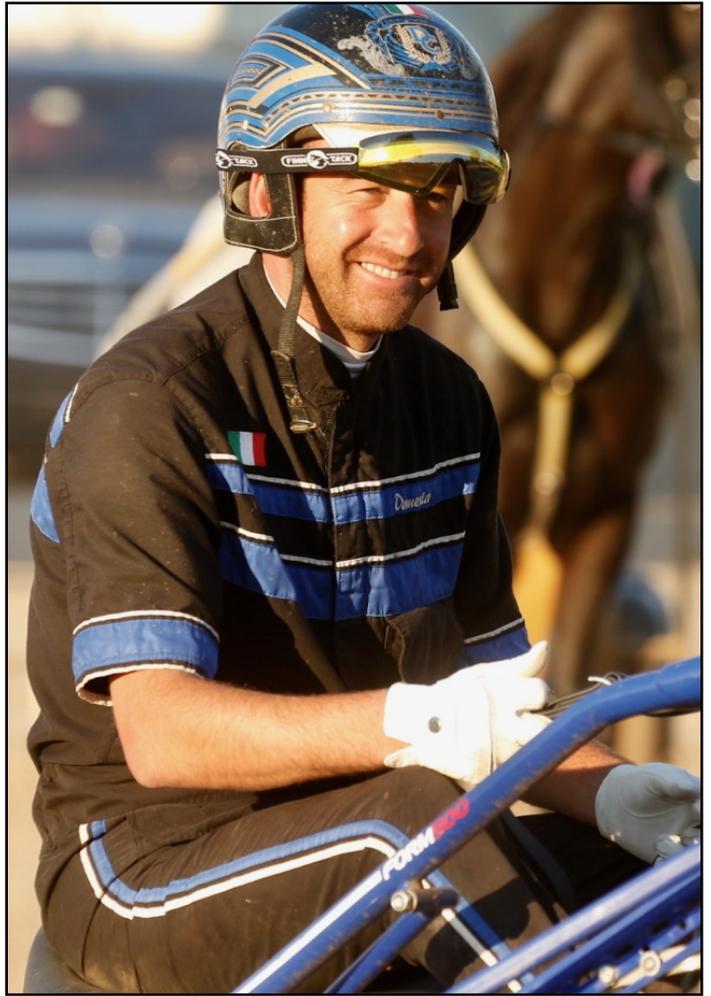


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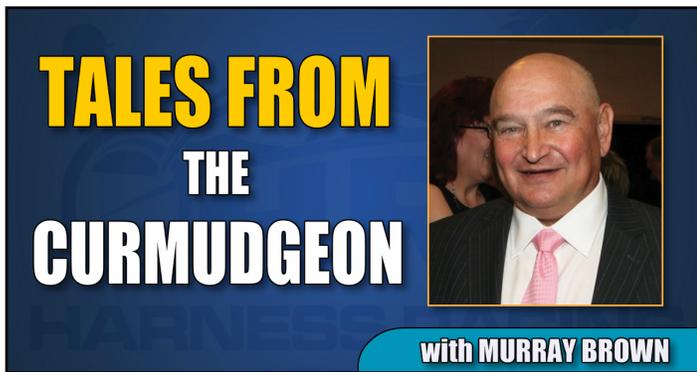
Jim Campbell and Tony Alagna.



Tim Tetrick.



Mark Harder.



It's not only the big breeders who ring bells

by Murray Brown

Proof that you do not have to be a big breeder to sell high priced yearlings was very much in evidence in Lexington.

The name of the game is **quality**, not quantity. That is and will always be the case.

The three highest-priced yearlings sold in Kentucky were sold by breeders whose emphasis is on the former and not the latter.

Hip No 44 – Maverick became the first million-dollar yearling and the highest priced yearling ever sold bringing \$1.1 million for a group of Tony Alagna's owners led by all around good guy Brad Grant.

The colt was sold by the Katz-Libfield partnership who aren't big on numbers but very high on quality. The same connections also sold **Hip No.65** Really Fast to clients of Nancy Johansson for \$700,000.

Hip No 105 – Damien became only the second million dollar yearling, bringing exactly that amount. The colt was bred, raised and consigned by quality boutique breeder Cane Run Farm. The trotter was bought by Sweden's Brixton Medical AB.

Hip No. 114 – Some Terror, became the highest priced pacing yearling ever sold, bringing \$800,000, with Nancy Johansson signing the ticket. The colt was owned by Ed Gold, Howard Taylor and Chuck Pompey.

I would be remiss in not mentioning Harry Rutherford selling the highest priced yearling in Thursday's session, **Hip No 432** Up and Ready to the Libfeld-Katz partnership. Harry and Joey (Diane Ingham) are two of the nicest people in the game.

Congratulations to them.

Best wishes to all the successful buyers and to all of the

bidders and consignors who made this sale the most successful in the history of our sport.

Does size matter?

People who buy horses are certainly entitled to their own opinions. After all, they are spending their own money and they should buy what pleases them.

However I've found that there is, in my opinion, far too much prejudice against a yearling who may be on the small side.

Providing they check all, or most, of the important boxes, I believe that there can tremendous value to be found in buying medium to smallish sized horses that buyers with big bankrolls do not pay much attention to.

There are some buyers who won't even look at a yearling that is not large.

If so, they would have missed the boat on horses such as Western Hanover, Albatross, Bettors Delight, Ayres, He's Watching, Gimpanzee, Bettors Wish and numerous others.

Incidentally, I wouldn't describe the dams of both Lyons Sentinel (Tutu Hanover) and Papi Rob Hanover (Panera Hanover) as being runts, but they are both somewhat south of medium sized.

Mohawk Million

I am very excited by the prospect of the WEG million-dollar race for 2-year-old trotters that organizers are hoping to hold at Mohawk next year ([full story here](#)).

People have been speculating as to whether it will fill.

Based on the amount of money being spent on trotters just in Lexington, I find it hard to imagine that it will not.

Just off the top of my head I can come up with half a dozen just from Lexington's opening day who will almost certainly buy a spot, maybe two.

There is still the rest of the sale and of course a strong Harrisburg catalog coming up.

My guess is that they will likely be oversubscribed for the nine slots, with the remaining position to be won free by the winner of the Wellwood Memorial.

The beauty of this innovative move by WEG management is not only the opportunity to race for a million dollars, but perhaps more importantly, the added opportunity for 2-year-old trotters to race for significant stakes money in Ontario over a several week period before the race without having to ship anywhere else to do so.

As are most innovative moves in this business, this initiative has been met with some opposition from the knockers' bench.

If ever there was a win-win situation, this is, or is very close to it. Not one penny will come out of the horsemen's purse account. We will have one of the sport's greatest events at its most innovative venue. I have no doubt that the race will be promoted vigorously.

What is there to lose?

The only ones with a chance to lose some money will be the ones who buy the slots.

But, they are all big boys and girls and certainly know the monetary risks associated with racing horses.

If they don't, then perhaps they shouldn't be in the business.

Noel Daley returns

It was great to see trainer Noel Daley back in the US of A.

He told me that his Australian venture was excellent, but was too slow moving for someone who was used to excitement of racing here in North America.

He is in the midst of reestablishing a public stable here.

I remarked that he was following in the footsteps of his former boss Brett Pelling who after taking a hiatus from North American racing decided to return to the States and do what he does best.

Noel said that it took Brett 10 years to make that decision. His was much quicker.

Brett Pelling

Speaking of Brett Pelling. I had occasion to speak with him and congratulate him on the success of Papi Rob Hanover who was one of my favorite yearlings at Hanover last year.

I have never heard him speak so well of a horse – any horse.

He said that of all the great horses he has trained, there is only one other that he thought so much of.

I didn't ask him who that other horse was and Brett didn't volunteer. If I were guessing, I would say that it was likely either Rocknroll Hanover or The Panderosa.

He went on to say that his game plan from the very beginning was to bring Papi Rob along slowly, aiming

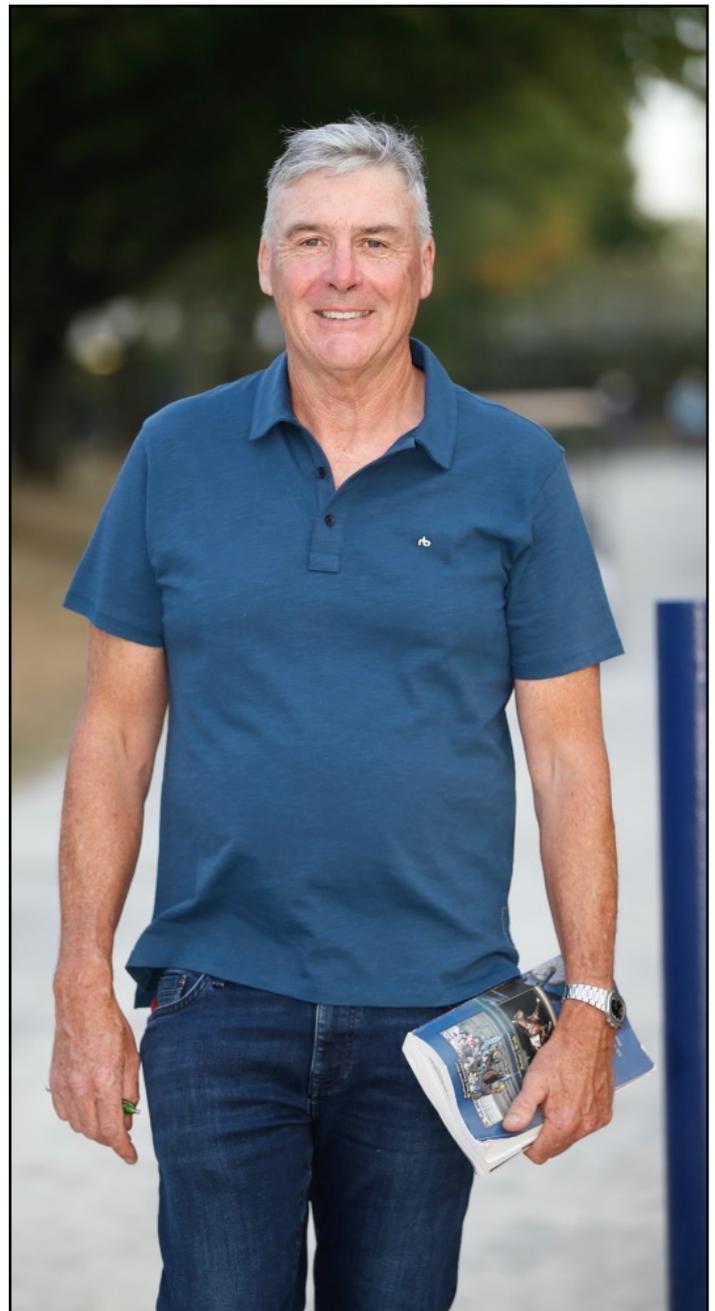
primarily for the classics races next year at three.

He is already a very good 2-year-old, but he believes he has a very good chance of developing into a truly great 3-year-old.

Have a question for The Curmudgeon?

Reach him by email at: hofmurray@aol.com.

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Dave Landry

Brett Pelling.



New Image Media

Mayhem Hanover (Doug McNair) won the Ontario Sires Stakes Grassroots Championship for 2-year-old pacing colts in 1:51.1.

After tardy arrival, McNair steers trio of Ontario Sires Stakes Grassroots champions

by Sandra Snyder / OSS publicity

Driver Doug McNair almost missed Saturday night's Grassroots Championships at Woodbine Mohawk Park, but when the Guelph, ON resident finally arrived he went straight to the winner's circle, a trip he would make two more times before the \$600,000 championships were over.

"Oh it was a great night, I mean it started off bad, I missed my first drive, and I thought she was one of my best shots, that pacing filly of Rob Fellows' (Mach My Kiss)," said McNair, whose arrival was delayed due to the late finish of the afternoon program at Lexington, KY's Red Mile where he had two stakes drives. "I thought, 'This is going to be the start of a bad night,' but everything just clicked, everything worked out and it usually doesn't work out like that."

After missing the drive aboard 2-year-old pacing filly Semi-Final winner Mach My Kiss, who finished 10th for driver Jonathan Drury, McNair's first assignment was with 2-year-old pacing colt **Mayhem Hanover**. Lining up at Post 1

the pair got away second, tucked in behind fan favorite and division point leader Quick Tour as he rang up fractions of :26.3, :56.3, and 1:24.1. My Land pressed the pace through the middle of the mile, but there was room for Mayhem Hanover to slide out of the pocket in the stretch and the colt kicked home in :26.3 to get a neck in front of Quick Tour for the 1:51.1 victory. Bettorbuckleup closed hard to be third, almost four lengths behind the leaders.

"Off that trip, he might've surprised some people tonight, but he didn't really surprise me," said McNair. "He's a real fast, high-speed colt, and he just got such a good trip tonight, it kind of worked a bit better for him."

The driver's father, Gregg McNair, trains Mayhem Hanover for Scott Horner and Clay Harland Horner of Toronto, ON. The championship victory gives the Sportswriter colt a freshman record of four wins and two seconds in nine starts for earnings of \$79,405.

McNair's next drive was aboard 3-year-old pacing filly Kylie Seelster and the Big Jim daughter closed like a rocket to finish second behind heavy favorites **So Much More** and driver Louis-Philippe Roy, who cruised home one and three-quarter length winners in 1:51.1 for trainer Don Beatson, his son Ken Beatson and grandson Cole England. Kylie Seelster's stablemates in the Gregg McNair barn, Sports Flix and Swift Ally, finished third and fourth, respectively.

In the seventh \$75,000 division final, McNair was in the race bike of 3-year-old trotting filly Semi-Final winner



Rebellious Lady. The pair started from Post 4 and watched from third as Halo Its Me and Petro Hall battled to a :26.4 quarter and then Petro Hall opened up a four length gap on the field before the :55.2 half. The gap started to shrink on the way to the 1:24.3 three-quarters and when McNair tipped Rebellious Lady to the outside coming off the final turn the Angus Hall daughter reeled in Petro Hall and then fought hard to hold off Lefkada and claim the head victory in 1:55.1. Warrawee Ultra also closed well to be third.

“The last turn they were going a real good clip up front and she kind of felt half-relaxed, but she trotted real hard through the stretch and it was a good win,” said McNair. “It was good to win for Duane Marfisi the trainer, like I said on the TV there, I think it was my second-ever race and he put me down to drive one, so it was great to get a Final win for him.

“She surprised me. I thought I had a shot at Louis (Roy, Petro Hall) when she went by because his horse was likely a little tired, but I didn’t think she’d fight off Scotty’s (Wray, Lefkada). But I’m pretty sure he was three-wide for a lot of the last turn, so that makes a big difference.”

Duane Marfisi trains Rebellious Lady and leases her through his Green And Gold Inc. from Hugh Fitzpatrick, who also calls Guelph home.

McNair completed the Grassroots Championship hat trick in the last division, sending fan favorite **Fast N First** to the lead early from Post 10. Fast N First took over control from Dreamfair Moxy heading by the :26 quarter and was comfortably in control at the :54.4 half. By the 1:23.4 three-quarters Carlisimo was applying pressure and turning for home Carsons Shadow had stepped around Carlisimo and looked ready to score the upset, but Fast N First dug in and kept a nose in front for the 1:51.1 victory. Dreamfair Moxy was promoted from fourth to third when Sportsline was judged to have caused interference in the stretch and placed from third to ninth.

“I kind of really just wanted to float with him and see what happened, because I think he’s just as good off the pace as he is on the lead. And I mean once Bob (McClure, Dreamfair Moxy) made the front at the eighth-pole I figured he’d want to follow me, and he did the rest from there.

“He scared me for a second but that was kind of my fault, I kind of had him right to sleep you know, worried about Bob on my back, I wasn’t worried about anybody else. If I would’ve just kind of let him rattle I think he’d have won a lot easier. He impressed me tonight. That’s the best he’s raced for me. Nice little horse. That was a good night.”

Blake MacIntosh trains Bettors Delight colt Fast N First for his co-owners Ridgeway Racing of Ridgeway and Steve Heimbecker of Conestogo, ON. The win caps off a stakes season that saw the colt win two regular season Grassroots divisions and last week’s Semi-Final, along with his Little Brown Jug elimination. In 20 starts Fast N First has logged 10 wins, four seconds and two thirds for earnings of \$306,409.

MacIntosh was also victorious in the 2-year-old pacing filly division with **Queso Relleno**, who hit the wire two and three-quarter lengths ahead of So Delightful and Kat in a personal best 1:52.2. MacIntosh shares ownership of the Betterthancheddar filly with Sue Vernon Smith, Hutt Racing Stable and The Flanagan Sisters of Dublin, Ireland. Jody Jamieson piloted Queso Relleno to the win, his second appearance in the winner’s circle after playing the role of proud father earlier in the evening while his daughter Hailey Jamieson sang the national anthem.

The 2-year-old trotting filly championship went to **Scorched Romance**, who controlled the tempo on the way to a one length victory in 1:57.2. Sylvain Filion drove the Kadabra daughter to the win for New Jersey-based trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman and owners Melvin Hartman, Herb Liverman and David McDuffee.

Two-year-old trotting colt point leader **Lovedbythemasses** wrapped up his Grassroots campaign with a division title, sailing home four lengths ahead of his peers in an impressive 1:55.4. Mike Saftic drove Lovedbythemasses to the victory for trainer Ed Peconi, Jr. and his co-owners Nicholas Peconi and Wade Peconi, who also bred the son of Muscle Mass.

Division point leader **Gold Edition** took the 3-year-old trotting colt final with a big 1:53.4 effort for driver Phil Hudon, trainer Blair Burgess and owners Stirling Fisher and Karin Olsson Burgess of. Southwind Frost finished one and one-half lengths back in second and Royale Elite rounded out the top three.

Race 1 – Scorched Romance

Race 2 – Lovedbythemasses

Race 3 – Queso Relleno

Race 5 – Mayhem Hanover

Race 6 – Gold Edition

Race 8 – So Much More

Race 9 – Rebellious Lady

Race 10 – Fast N First



Track record by great Cokstile

by Thomas Hedlund

Norwegian bred, now Italian owned Cokstile (Quite Easy) was in the right mood when \$301,500 Gran Premio Delle Nazioni was held at La Maura in Milan, Italy on Sunday afternoon.

Alessandro Gocciadoro was once again in the pole position in a big race in Italy. Five trotters came from Gocciadoro's stable and Vitruvio (Adrian Chip) was, along with Vivid Wise As, the two biggest hopes from his barn. Vitruvio was served a trip behind leader Cokstile and at the top of the stretch, he started his attack in the hunt for the trophy, but Cokstile, paired with Antonio di Nardo and trained by Gennaro Casillo,

sprinted home in impressive style when he got challenged.

The mile rate was 1:54.3 over 1.4 miles, which is a new track record in Milan.

Vitruvio finished second and Vivid Wise As (Yankee Glide) third.

Empire in Denmark

The \$100,000 Kriteriet for 3-year-olds in Denmark was on the race card in Copenhagen on Sunday afternoon and first choice Empire (Västerbo Prestige), trained by Tomas Malmqvist, consolidated his position as the king of the crop born 2016 in Denmark.

Ken Ecce drove Empire and the duo hit an early lead before they were challenged, whereupon Ecce let Encore Cloc take over the lead. With 1.900 meters to go, Empire was in front again and from that position, the rest of the race became a soft trip towards the prestigious win.

The mile rate over 1.55 miles was 1:59.1.

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