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Sunday, December 30, 2018

Emotions building as Foiled Again just days from final farewell

On a stop in Ontario before Christmas, Mickey Burke, Jr. said the end of the Foiled Again Farewell Tour has been a poignant experience.

by Dave Briggs



Claus Andersen

Foiled Again and Mickey Burke, Jr. warming up at The Raceway at The Western Fair District in 2017. Foiled Again raced 11 times at the London, ON track and made a Farewell Tour stop there just before Christmas.

In a stall adjacent to the track and underneath The Carousel Room, one hell of a ride is slowing to a stop as one man and one horse entertain a small group of fans wishing to touch, get a close-up look at, or take a photo with one of the most remarkable horses to ever pull a sulky.

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Hip 107 **BETTOR'S UP**
O'Brien Award Winner at 3



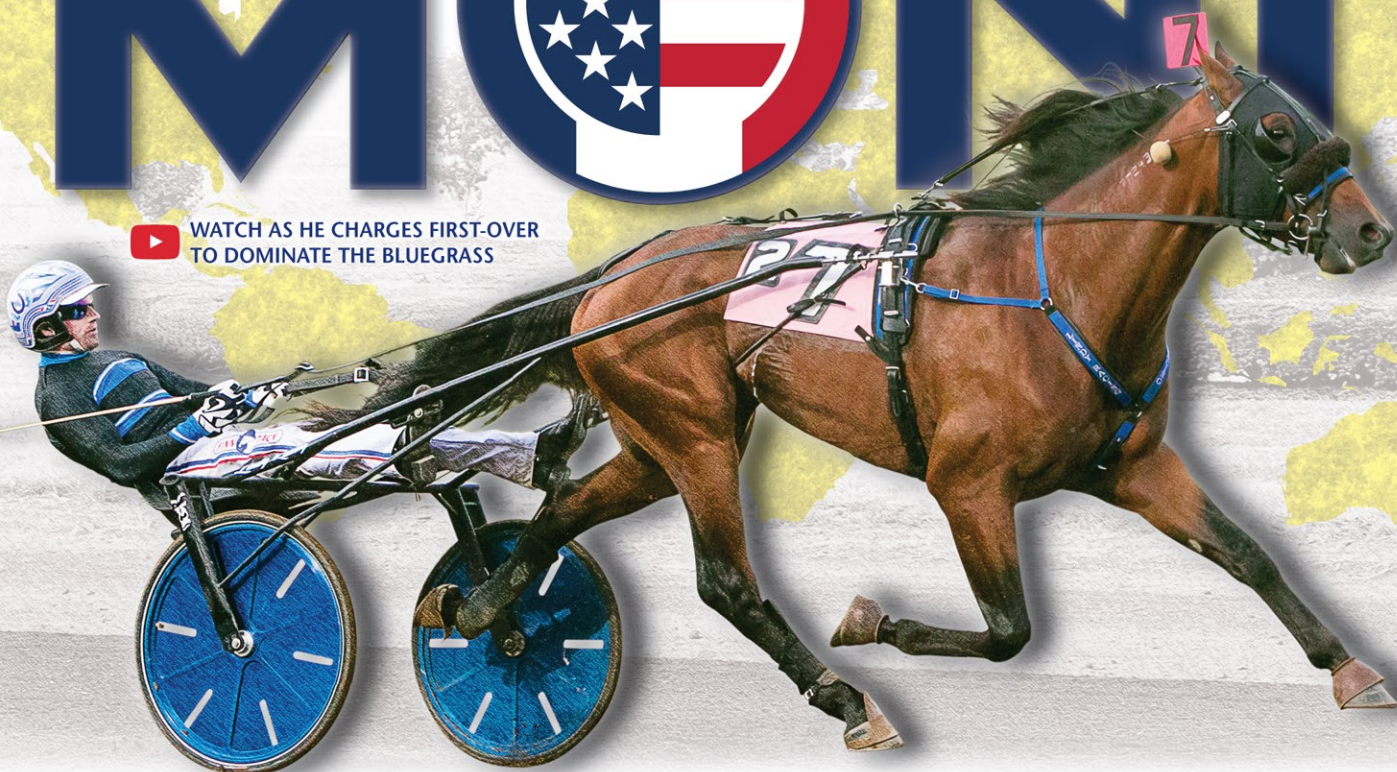
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The Raceway at The Western Fair District in London, ON is the third last of 18 stops on the Foiled Again Farewell Tour and its namesake is eying the first group of a string of admirers that night with ears rarely up and a slight bemusement on his face — like a celebrity that both needs and has grown weary of granting selfies with the public.

His best traveling pal seems to be enjoying the attention more, not ready, just yet, for it all to end.

For the better part of 10 years, Mickey Burke, Jr. — brother of the horse's trainer and part-owner, Ron Burke — has been on the road with Foiled Again perhaps more than anyone, and with just 10 days left to go, the emotions are beginning to bubble up in the man.

"Somebody said something to me about shedding a tear and I said, 'I guarantee the next two weeks will be tough,'" Mickey said, his eyes becoming damp and his voice thick just talking about it.

It is four days before Christmas, one night before the 14-year-old horse — a senior among youngsters — will storm to a stirring victory at Woodbine Mohawk Park in his last Canadian start and 10 days before he will go to the gate a final time Monday night (Dec. 31) in a New Year's Eve race at his home track, The Meadows. Just a few hours later, at the stroke of midnight on his 15th birthday, Foiled Again will be forced into retirement from pari-mutuel racing by rule.

"We've had him 10 years. I've traveled a lot with him. I've been here with him many times," Mickey said of the site of 11 starts, including two victories (2011, 2012) in six appearances in The Raceway's premier stakes event, the Molson Pace (now called the Camluck Classic).

In 13 years of racing, Foiled Again has earned more racing than any standardbred in history (\$7,634,938) and has won an incredible 109 races in 330 starts.

Canada was the site of Foiled Again's richest win — a 1:48.3 victory by a neck in 2012 in the \$794,870 Canadian Pacing Derby at Mohawk Racetrack — but Mickey said his favorite of Foiled Again's victories is either the Breeders Crown open pace triumph in 2013 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in the slop or the TVG at the Meadowlands later that same year.

"Probably the Breeders Crown just because for a nine-year-old to do it, on that track, in that mess, in that mud, against those horses he beat and held off... probably that will always be the biggest win for him over the years. At

nine, they are not supposed to still be doing that stuff," Mickey said.

Mickey has been hearing a lot of the fans' favorite memories on the farewell tour that started in August and has hit 11 states and provinces. Along the road, Foiled Again has almost warmed up to his faithful.

"I will say this, he does take to people a lot better," Mickey said, laughing. "He was never a bad horse, but he was just kind of standoffish. Like in Delaware (Ohio), if I took a picture, I took 1,000 pictures. It was three hours of a continuous line-up coming up and if you walk up and touch him, you can pet him.

"I don't know if he appreciates it, but he understands it. I think he gets that it's his duty somehow and that's what he's supposed to be doing."

As for getting Foiled Again's ears up for photos, Mickey said it can be tricky.

"I sometimes can get them up, but sometimes I can't. If I chirp to him, that means to go, so then he puts his ears back because it's time to go," Burke said, laughing.

Mickey said the gelding is pure racehorse, which is the reason the connections raced him to the end and went to so



much trouble and expense to showcase Foiled Again to the fans – a move that earned the horse the Proximity/Stam Bergstein Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

“If you’ve never met the horse, worked with the horse, then you don’t understand what we’re doing, why we’re doing it and who he is,” Mickey said. “He is a racehorse. First and foremost in his life, he’s a racehorse and he loves what he does.”

As for what comes next for Foiled Again, Mickey said some plans are in the works beyond the racetrack.

“We could race in matinees and amateur races, too, but I think we’ve gotten to the point that we’ve done enough with him,” Mickey said.

As for talk about retiring Foiled Again to the Kentucky Horse Park, Mickey said that will have to wait – if it ever happens.

“When you give him to the Kentucky Horse Park, you give them all control, so there’s a few things we want to do with him yet next year. We’re going to see what he’ll do, what he likes. He’s going to tell us a little bit about what he wants to

do,” Mickey said. “If you turn him out in the field, in about two hours he’s standing back at the gate. He’s had about enough, so it’s going to be an adjustment for him and for us figuring out what to do.

“We have one of our girls in Florida, who is going to put a saddle on him and see how he takes it. If nothing else, maybe he’ll be in a few of the standardbred horse shows.”

Next summer, Foiled Again will be in the care of Mickey’s parents at their Pittsburgh area farm. But, before all that happens, Foiled Again will get a break.

“We’ve put him through a lot this year... we’ve traveled pretty heavily... but I can tell you that the first thing that’s going to happen is that on the fifth of January, he and I are getting in the truck and he’s going to Florida,” Mickey said, laughing. “He’s going down and he’s going to spend the winter with my dad and we’ll let him play down there and see how he feels about everything. He can tell us what he wants to do and how he wants it to go.

“He’s always told us how he wants to race, so we’ll let him tell us how he wants to live his life.”

As for the horse’s final start on Monday night, Mickey said being surrounded by the entire Burke Brigade and Foiled Again’s hometown fans at The Meadows will make it one of the easiest stops on the tour, “until they pull the shoes. Then that might get a little tough.”



Claus Andersen

Foiled Again and trainer Ron Burke at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in October after leading the post parade for the Breeders Crown.

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Foiled Again draws post eight in Monday's career finale at The Meadows

by Evan Pattak / The Meadows

If Foiled Again, the richest standardbred ever, is to cap his extraordinary career with a win in his final race, he'll have to do it from post 8. That's where he's drawn in Monday's \$13,000 pace at The Meadows Racetrack & Casino, styled as "Foiled Again's Last Call" that will bring down the curtain on the career of the gallant gelding who's amassed more than \$7.6 million earnings but faces mandatory retirement Jan. 1 when he turns 15.

For this historic New Year's Eve event, The Meadows and the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) have planned a memorable program. During a special winner's circle retirement ceremony, Foiled Again's shoes will be pulled for the final time. Fans will enjoy a video featuring Foiled Again's career highlights, and the horse's key connections — caretaker Tessie Irey; trainer Ron Burke; driver Yannick Gingras; owners Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci LLC and JJK Stables — will share their favorite Foiled Again memories.

In addition, fans will receive Foiled Again-themed shot glasses, Terrible Towels, posters, coffee mugs and hats (while supplies last), and the MSOA will raffle off two Foiled Again Breyers. Fans will be given party hats and noisemakers and invited to celebrate the new year in the casino.

On the racing side, the program includes the championship legs of six Holiday Claiming Series while the track's Horses of the Year will receive their awards as part of the "Night of Champions."

First post is 5:30 p.m. The card and retirement ceremonies will be available via Meadows Live!

Many may have expected The Meadows to write a cakewalk that would allow Foiled Again to waltz to a fan-pleasing win, but the "Last Call" came up tough. Foiled Again's seven rivals have a collective 33 wins this year and 191 lifetime.

"It's basically a semi-open pace," Burke said. "I'll train him pretty tight, but he'll have to be pretty aggressive to win from there. He's a great horse who tends to rise to the occasion, so we'll ask him to do it one more time."

His home base of The Meadows is the last stop in Foiled Again's wildly successful "Farewell Tour," which has seen him win 11 races at tracks across the continent and raise his career victory total to 109. Perhaps more importantly, the



USTA

Foiled Again will make his final career start Monday night at The Meadows in a \$13,000 pace called Foiled Again's Last Call.

tour created special events for tracks and gave fans one more chance to see and admire the old boy.

"I thought it would be a fun thing and good for the game," Burke said. "But I never thought it would turn out as well as it did. It exceeded every expectation I had by far."

He indicated Foiled Again would be turned out after the race but still would play a valuable role in retirement.

"We'll give him horses to hang out within the field so he can teach nervous horses to relax. That will be really useful."

In addition, Foiled Again will be available to serve, through public appearances, as a roving ambassador for harness racing.

"That's why we didn't give up control of him," Burke said. "He's open to doing things, and he definitely enjoys it."

HRU TOP 10

The 10 most read Harness
Racing update stories
of 2018

www.harnessracingupdate.com

The 10 most read stories of 2018

Happy New Year! All of us at Harness Racing Update (HRU) send our deep thanks to our advertisers, readers and contributors for the support in 2018.

In the three years since the new management took over HRU in January of 2016, the number of people that subscribe to HRU has increased by more than 1,600 (27.5 per cent). This despite an industry that is in decline in most facets. That growth continued over 2018, with an increase in subscribers of 8.4 per cent compared to 2017.

We continue to post steady growth in other areas, as well. In 2018, we launched our popular broadcast division ([available here](#)) with 2-year-olds in Training and sales coverage. Also, the number of people that like our Facebook page ([available here](#)) has organically grown (not paid) by more than 1,200 (up more than 23 per cent) in 2018 alone.

As for top stories, in 2016 we listed our Top 5 stories by the number of shares they received ([full story here](#)).

For 2017, our production guru Brian Fuller did one better and calculated the five most read HRU stories of the year using stats gathered from online statistics ([full story here](#)).

This year, we upped the list to our 10 most read HRU stories. They are, as follows:

10. **Mark Weaver: No foiling this farewell**
by Dave Briggs – Sept. 7
9. **Caretaker shortage in Ontario**
by Sandra Snyder – Jan. 19
8. **Alaska journeys from Amish buggy to the track**
by James Platz – Nov. 11
7. **Heroic rescuers help narrowly avert complete devastation in First Line barn fire**
by Dave Briggs – Dec. 23
6. **New \$1 million race to debut at Red Mile in 2019**
by Dave Briggs – Aug. 29
5. **Inside the Mind of Jimmy Takter**
by Dave Briggs – Nov. 24
4. **Buzzworthy: Twitter blows up over horse that won't leave the track at Pompano**
by Garnet Barnsdale – Dec. 14
3. **Owners the focus of tough new WEG and Big M rule**
by Dave Briggs – Jan. 7
2. **Meadowlands issues statement on banning Brian Sears**
by Dave Briggs – July 6
1. **Legendary standardbred racehorse and stallion Somebeachsomewhere euthanized**
by Dave Briggs – Jan. 14

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It's up to us to promote racing

by Dean A. Hoffman

"Hoffman, the problem with racing today is that the people who own racetracks hate horse racing."

That statement was made to me several years ago by my longtime friend Jay Farrar, who has spent his life in harness racing.

Jay was voicing his concern that so many tracks were owned by gaming companies that held their noses and agreed to conduct horse racing to get licensed as gaming operators. His statement wasn't all that incisive when he made it, but it cut to the chase of the problem that horse racing faces in the current environment.

If track owners hate horse racing, who will promote our beloved sport? Look in the mirror. It's up to us.

If harness racing needs a New Year's Resolution for 2019, it's that everyone involved should make an effort to promote the business in some way.

First, let me add that I don't think all tracks have abandoned promotion of racing. Certainly I have nothing but high praise for Hoosier Park and I've heard the same from many people. The job Hoosier did in playing host to the Breeders Crowns in 2017 under very adverse circumstances got universal kudos. Jeff Gural and his staff at the Meadowlands have certainly promoted harness racing and maintained a high standard of integrity. Other tracks have also made a commitment.

Still, racing is almost an afterthought at some tracks. Tracks which once had publicity and marketing personnel now must rely on the kindness of strangers from the racino staff to get any promotional efforts.

Perhaps seven years ago or so, I moderated a panel on promoting racing at a conference hosted by Standardbred Canada in Windsor, ON. One of the obvious questions that

arose was, "Who pays for racing promotion?"

The obvious answer is "the tracks" but several people quickly pointed out that the racing's business model had flipped in the racino era. Track ownership was focused on promoting the most profitable part of the business – gaming operations – and not on horse racing. Many people felt that the funds allocated to purses should be invested in promoting of racing.

A lively debate ensued, shall we say. One person argued that it was not proper to use money intended for purses for promotion. He angrily emphasized that each dollar used for promotion instead of purse money is a dollar "stolen" from owners, trainers, drivers, grooms, etc.

So who promotes racing today?

Racing. It's up to the folks in racing. We hold our destiny in our hands.

Some organizations in racing are already doing this. I realize that resources are limited but so much can be done.

What about handicapping tips for newcomers at the track? These could easily be implemented by a horsemen's group. I think every handicapping seminar for fans has paid dividends at the pari-mutuel windows. They should be done regularly, not sporadically.

I just returned from several days in Vegas and the casinos are always anxious to teach newbies how to play blackjack or roulette. Casinos want you to understand the games because they know they'll reap the rewards. Ditto for horse racing.

I've always believed that horse racing programs are a major turn-off to first-time fans. No newbie can possibly decipher all those numbers and symbols the first time they come to a track. But local horsemen could easily find someone to educate new customers on reading a program.

(Efforts to provide new customers with simplified programs are laudable.)

Some tracks still have decent stable areas; some don't. I always thought that backstretch tours were wonderful way to educate people about what happens behind the scenes in harness racing.

(I once interviewed some racing customers who knew absolutely nothing about what horses did between races. Training, vet care, shoeing, nutrition – these were things they never simply considered. They told me they thought the

horses just were pulled in from a field an hour before they raced. Seriously.)

If a track doesn't have a presentable stable area, perhaps there is a training center nearby. Tours of the training center could be offered free to fans. It might require renting a bus or a couple vans, but it would be a good investment for local horsemen to promote the product.

Ditto for breeding farms. I've found few things more enchanting in my life than the sight of mare and foals romping in fields of green grass. Stallions can be showcased, too. This might seem removed from actual racing and the betting windows, but I think these are great way to build true harness racing fans.

Depending on time available and locations, it would be possible to offer fans a combo tour of a training center and

breeding farm. In this way, we can build a foundation of customers who see harness racing as far more than just random horses going in circles.

(Again, I know such things have been done in the past, but they should be done regularly to reach as many people as possible.)

The ideas are endless. But it requires a commitment.

Remember, when tracks have no interest in promoting racing, it's up the people and organizations within racing.

Here's to a great year for harness racing in 2019.

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Pair of Fred Grant colts most impressive, so far, at Sunshine Meadows

by Ron Gurfein

First of all, I must apologize for giving breeding credit to the wrong party. Last week I said that the breeder of Force And Fury was Marvin Katz it was actually White Birch farm. That said, it was about 25 degrees warmer Saturday morning this week than last week. The turnout was not that improved due to the holiday season. The Antonacci family made their first appearance of the year and Gerry Glantz returned to his familiar Saturday morning spot after missing a few weeks due to minor surgery. Nancy Johansson made a surprise visit, but for the most part there were the usual suspects.

Thanks to Murray Brown no one on the deck this morning went away hungry. Murray asked me to pick the best colt or filly right now, but I felt it was way too early to start making predictions, especially considering much of the power of the Lindy group are still in Connecticut and I have never seen them on the track. That group includes a beautiful Western Ideal filly from the Art Museum and a colt by Father Patrick out of the great mare Passionate Glide among many others.

The most impressive set I saw this morning was a pair of colts from the Fred Grant barn. **Powerplay Goal** a Muscle Mass out of Finesse Hanover (his name was Flammable Hanover) and **Oxford Hall** an EL Titan from On With The Show finished noses apart with a stylish last eighth of a mile. The EL Titan interestingly was an RNA for Alan Leavitt for \$140,000 and partially syndicated to a group of familiar faces including Bill Donovan, John Fodera, Steve Wienick, Jeff Gural, Donald Latore, Joe Sbrocco, Daniel Plouffe and last, but certainly not least, my friend Trish Truesdale. Good luck at those decision-making meetings.

Another nice pairing from the Grant Stable was **Test Match** and **Mouse Circus**, the former a filly by Andover Hall—Widdershins, the latter a filly by Sebastian K—Product Placement.

My good friend Nick Salvi made an on track appearance with the good Trixton colt I mentioned last week out of Zeta Jones, called **Amos Hart** from Paul Kelley's outfit. He is a man amongst boys (Amos, not Nick).

I really liked a beautiful filly, **Gracie Lane**, from the Casie Coleman stable. Her husband, Mark Herlihy, was doing the

driving on this great-gaited lass. He informed me that the Bettors Delight—Electric Fool offspring was selected and purchased by Crawford Farm and then given to them to train.

The Alagna Barn was in full swing again this morning with a plethora of fabulous youngsters. **Honorat Hanover**, the \$400,000 Captaintreacherous from Hana Hanover certainly looked the part this morning. He was in a set with **Betterthanthebeach** a Somebeachsomewhere out of My Little Delight, another very interesting colt.

On the filly side, Tony's barn had some very nice prospects. I was particularly enamoured with **Rose Run Vanessa**, a slick gaited He's Watching filly from Mrs American Pie and **Lady Lou** a Sweet Lou out of Bolt of Thunder.

Captain Kirk, Captaintreacherous—Aria Hanover still remains the King in the Alagna barn he has such an amazing presence on the track. I loved Captain Ahab this time last year and think that Captain Kirk could well be this years version.

Karmas Delight, a filly by Captaintreacherous from the great mare Darlins Delight, dam of the million-dollar winning Darlinonthebeach looked like a smaller version of her sister. **Esai Hanover** and **Surf The Web** were another nice pair of colts from Tony's barn — the former by Artspeak—Easy Go Go and the latter Captaintreacherous—Donna Lee.

From Lindy Farm I spotted a talented trio of colts, **Unnamed** Ready Cash—Highscore Kemp, **Hi West** (Cantab Hall—Define Royalty) and **Pastor Lindy** a Father Patrick out of Lindy Crazy Dolly.

Many of the colts and fillies have been better than three minutes in the next few weeks I will start bringing my watch to work.

Thanks for all the kind words. The first edition of the Good the Bad and The Ugly was mostly successful. I would say I had 5 per cent bad remarks — most of which were complaining about the absence of one horse or another. I only had so much space and I felt what I covered was my opinion of the story. I'm sorry if I offended anyone by omitting their horse, but if I copied and pasted the results of the harness writers' selections no one would have read it. Have a wonderful New Year.

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USHWA honors to Melander, Balazsi, Lady Ashlee Ann and Southwind Serena

by U.S. Harness Writers Association

Marcus Melander, “to the manor born” in terms of personal harness racing pedigree, went out in 2018 and made great accomplishments with a small but talented collection of trotters, including the two dominant 2-year-old colts, in the process earning the Rising Star Award in voting conducted by the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA).

Also honored by USHWA were Order By Stable (Stefan Balazsi) as Breeder of the Year, and two broodmares, trotter Southwind Serena and pacer Lady Ashlee Ann, as their gait’s respective Broodmare of the Year.

Marcus Melander came from a rich trotting heritage in his native Sweden, with perhaps the best-known of his family being his uncle Stefan Melander, the Hambletonian, Prix d’Amerique, and International Trot winner, and also noted for his photography as “Foto Tarzan.” Upon coming to the United States, Marcus worked for Jimmy Takter, as fine an addition to a resume as one could want, and then went out on his own.

The year 2018 was the current peak of what is likely to be many more high points in Marcus’s career. His 1-2 punch in the baby trotting colt ranks were Gimpanzee, the undefeated New York Sire Stakes champion who then won his Breeders Crown and divisional honors, and Green Manalishi S, second in the Crown and like his stablemate a winner of over \$500,000 in his freshman campaign. (Other members in Melander’s 2019 sophomore arsenal may be Demon On The Hill, who showed great potential, mostly in Pennsylvania, and Greenshoe, a \$330,000 yearling who showed promise in a brief freshman campaign.)

It’s not often that anybody wins a \$1 million race, especially a 26-year-old sending a horse out for the first time, but that’s just what Melander did, getting expatriate Cruzado Dela Noche from uncle Stefan before the International Trot and then beating a group of the world’s elite trotters. In another big FFA win, Crazy Wow, also recently added to the barn, turned in a 31-1 upset in the Maple Leaf Trot Final.

Named as Breeder of the Year was the **Order By Stable of Stefan Balazsi**, which started in Sweden but now is one of the emerging major players on the North American breeding scene. The breeding operation produced only 30 starters “on this side” during 2018, but still ranked 12th in terms of money won, with Order By’s offspring earning \$2.4 million in



Claus Andersen

Trainer Marcus Melander has been named USHWA’s Rising Star for 2018.

Canada and the U.S.

The Hambletonian-winning, million-dollar earning sophomore filly Atlanta, her division’s champion, certainly was the cream of the crop of Order By’s produce in 2018. Not too far behind, though, was Gimpanzee, mentioned above in connection with trainer Marcus Melander, who also was a divisional champion and accounted for almost \$600,000 in earnings himself.

The winning broodmares shared producing a 3-year-old colt who when at his best delivered blistering speed that left most of his generation behind. **Lady Ashlee Ann**, a daughter of Camtastic owned by Winbak Farms for more than 20 years, was the dam of pacer Courtly Choice, a son of Art Major who sped to a 1:47.1 record, emerged victorious in the Empire Breeders Classic Final, Meadowlands Pace and a thrilling

Little Brown Jug, and earned over \$900,000. Lady Ashlee Ann was declared a “walkover winner” by USHWA’s Breeders / Broodmares Committee, so outstanding did they see the merit of her and her son.

On the trotting side, **Southwind Serena**, a Varenne mare owned by Steve Stewart, Black Creek Farm, and Andrea Lea Racing Stables Inc., was recognized because of the exploits of trotter Tactical Landing. This Muscle Hill colt, a full brother to the mercurial distaff Mission Brief, had been in the spotlight since his sale for \$800,000 as a yearling, second-highest price ever, and for the better part of the next two years looked like a questionable investment. But trainer Jimmy Takter exhibited tremendous developmental patience, and entering the Hambletonian with five races lifetime and \$14,000 on his card, the colt showed he “belonged” by winning his elimination and finishing third in the final. This was the igniting of a late-season surge than saw him take a mark of 1:50.2 at Lexington, sweep his Breeders Crown races, and then defeat older horses handily in the TVG Championship – while winning nearly \$800,000 after the first Saturday in August.

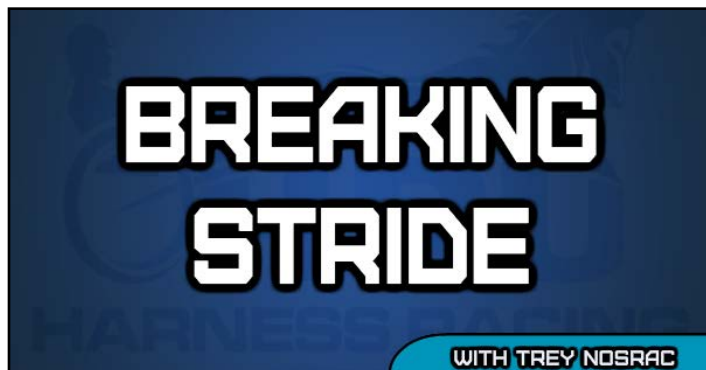
Marcus Melander, Order By Stable, Lady Ashlee Ann, Southwind Serena and their connections will be honored at USHWA’s annual Dan Patch Awards Banquet, celebrating the best and brightest of harness racing in the past year. The banquet honoring the champions of 2018 will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando FL, the climax of a weekend that also finds USHWA holding its annual national meetings.

Tickets for the Dan Patch Awards Banquet are \$175, with a filet mignon dinner featured; “post times” on February 24 are cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets, and other Banquet-related information, can be obtained through Dinner Planning Committee Chair Judy Davis-Wilson, at zoe8874@aol.com or 302 359 3630.

Hotel reservations for those attending can be made through USHWA’s website, www.ushwa.org; a link to the hotel’s computer is on the front page of the website.

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Another New Year

The Real Life Ventures and Adventures of Trey and Batman

by Trey Nosrac

We were rolling down interstate 77N, heading towards his sister’s mansion. My windshield wipers pushed away afternoon sleet with muffled thumps. My new horse partner would usher in the New Year with relatives and friends. I would pick him up at noon, January 2, 2019, and return him to his family farm.

He asked, “Do you make resolutions?”

“Not since 2014. That was the year I resolved to never make another New Year’s resolution. Unlike eating more vegetables or promising never to play air guitar while driving a motorized vehicle, the 2014 resolution stuck.”

“Very clever, set the bar low.”

“Yeah, for 15 years I always made resolutions, among them



was NOT to get involved in harness racing again. I love the damn sport, but it’s way too expensive for a person of my wherewithal. You know what happened, never missed a week at the betting window, always raised my hand for a yearling in the fall. I mean, who needs the guilt of an unfilled promise given on a stupid holiday.”

He gave me an approving nod and said, “I take it you are not a big fan of this holiday.”

“You take it correctly. In public or in private, dating, married, single, married, single again – I never recall a New Year’s Eve that ended well. Hell, for about a decade I do not recall several New Year’s weeks, especially the time I woke up on January 2nd under a bench at a train station in Buffalo.”

He smiled, “New Year’s CAN be a drag, sort of forced.”

I flicked on my blinker to change lanes, “One of the few



good parts of New Year's is the plan where all racehorses have their birthday on the first day of January, that was a shrewd move by somebody. Remembering dates is not one of my strong points."

He asked, "Speaking of dates, do you have one after you drop me off?"

"Just with a dozen chicken wings, a few beers, and Netflix. I'm screening a double feature of Nick Hornby movies, *High Fidelity* and *A Long Way Down*."

"Don't think I've seen those."

"Last three years, I always watch *A Long Way Down* instead of watching the ball drop. Overall, I give the movie a B minus, but it has a New Year's Eve theme. Four complete strangers accidentally meet on the roof of a building nicknamed Toppers on the last day of the year. They all show up with the mission of committing suicide."

"Sounds heartwarming."

"For a movie loaded with dialogue, centered around depression, suicide, infidelity, anxiety, and regret, it's not as dark as it sounds."

"How does it end?"

"I can't tell you THAT. Trey has artistic integrity and couldn't possibly live knowing I ruined your potential viewing."

He said, "I'll give you a hundred dollars if you tell me how many of the four go through with jumping."

"None, their plans get ruined when they meet and start talking. They decide to come down from the roof alive and to hook up in the spring to see where things stand."

He said, "I'll put that on my list of movies I will never see."

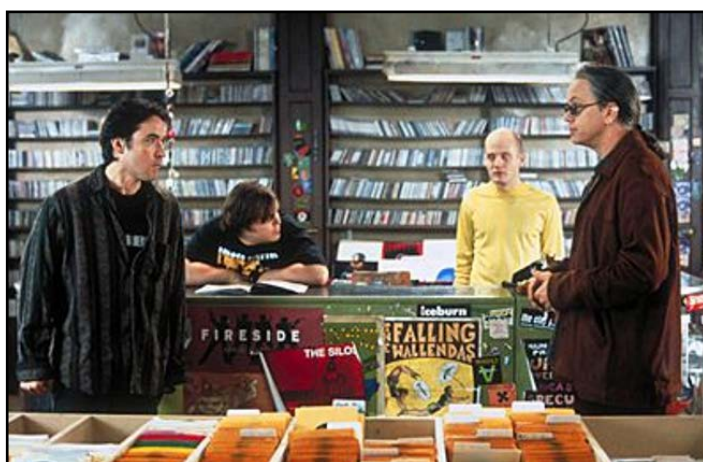
I shrugged. "I see this movie as a metaphor for my harness racing Jones. January is the pits, I don't watch races, the stakes horses are jogging in blizzards, and the bills pile up like dirty snowbanks – the whole scene is depressing."

He winced and said, "Stay away from Toppers."

"Nah, the tallest building in my town is McDonald's. The people in the movie are just like some of the people in racing, after the hype from the yearling sales, the wintertime blues set in. We kill time until we sort of spring to life in the spring. It's like we need to recharge our batteries, make sure we can believe again."

He gave a little nod, "Interesting, very deep."

I smiled, "Of course when racing season revs up, and your horse isn't what you dreamed it would be, some of us look at



our checkbooks and feel like booking a room at Toppers - or we begin to make resolutions to bail on horseracing. Instead, we pick up the yearling catalogs in the fall; it's sort of a circle of life thing."

"What about the other New Year's movie, what was the name?"

"*High Fidelity* ([trailer here](#)), a classic - John Cusack and Jack Black are members of a group of oddballs who are stuck in the past. They endlessly talk about old records, songs, groups, singers, record labels, and throughout the movie they are constantly making lists like – your top ten songs that have a horse in the lyrics.*

The characters in *Hi Fidelity* have carved out this quirky niche in life. They are dreamers who are out of step, but somehow, they portray people we would want to know. The vinyl record store where they work is a place we want to be."

We pulled into his sister's driveway. He put his hand on the lever to open his door, "I might watch that movie, and your description sounds like it could be about your racing pals."

I just shrugged.

As he stepped out of my car, he stuck his head in before closing the door and said, "Happy New Year Trey, let's have fun with the horses in 2019. Oh, and stay away from Buffalo."

- 1 - **Wild Horses** (Rolling Stones)
- 2 - **A Horse With No Name** (America)
- 3 - **Whos Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses** (U2)
- 4 - **Beer For My Horses** (Willie Nelson/Toby Keith)
- 5 - **Wild Horses** (Garth Brooks)
- 6 - **Let The Big Horse Run** (John Stewart)
- 7 - **Celestial Horses** (Bruce Cockburn)
- 8 - **Iron Horse** (Hank Williams Jr.)
- 9 - **Ballad of a Runaway Horse** (Emmylou Harris)
- 10 - **The Horse** (Booker T and MG's)

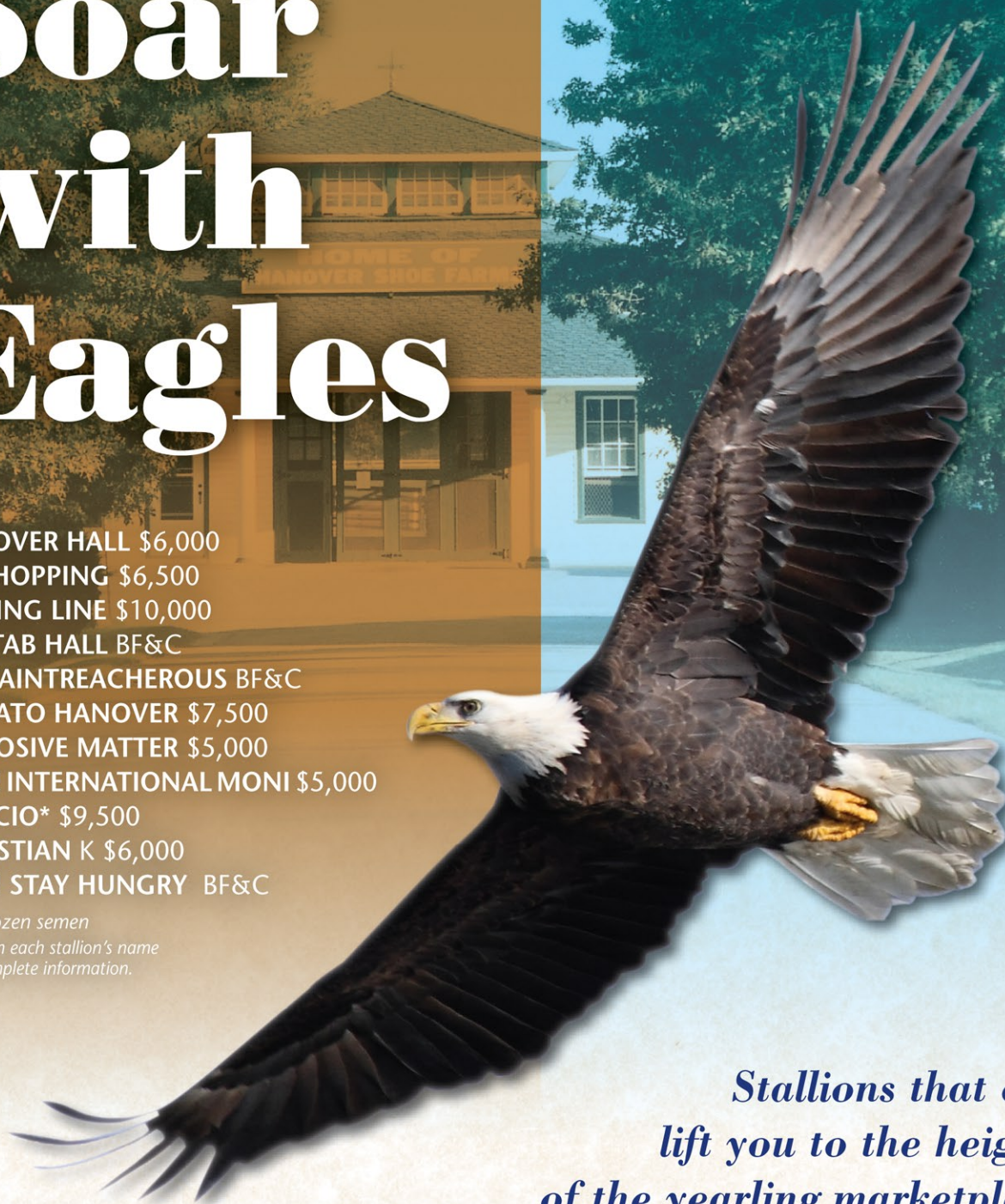
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Most remembered moments of 2018

by Bob Heyden

8. Eight Dan Patch division winners won by over 100 votes – with only 130 ballots mailed out.

7. Anniversary plus! David Miller won the 2018 Meadowlands Pace for the first time (Courtly Choice). It comes 23 years to the day of his first ever Meadowlands Pace drive (1995 Cinder Lane Sam was fifth). It also came 23 years to the day he got married to Misty.

6. "Is that any way to treat your father on the way out the door?" Nancy Johansson earns divisional titles with Kissin In The Sand and Captain Crunch. Her father, Jimmy Takter, had one divisional title winner – Ariana G.

5. Scotty's "Roaring Twenties." Scott Zeron twice won the Hambletonian while in his 20s (Marion Marauder when he was 27 and Atlanta at age 29) in a race almost nobody appears in before age 30. Harry Harvey (29 in 1953 when Helicopter won) had the long-standing record, then Tommy Haughton did it one better 29 years later with Speed Bowl at age 25 in 1982.

4. "Mrs Inside-Mrs Outside." Youaremycandygirl and Kissin In The Sand's 2018 rivalry on the track ended with the divisional hardware going the way of the latter despite the fact that she kept drawing outside her main rival.

3. "AA" Club – Atlanta and Ariana G. There were two million-dollar events in 2018 and these two ladies appeared in and got money in both. Atlanta beating the boys in the Hambletonian and Ariana G getting a fourth place check versus the boys in the \$1 million International at Yonkers. Both races were rich in history through the years of ladies winning it, but that has not been the trend in several decades.

2. \$200 million milestones reached twice in the same calendar year. Ron Burke doing it first at age 48 on Hambletonian Day to far outdistance any others trainers' career earnings, and he capped the season with his sixth

straight \$21 million season. Tim Tetrick vaulted past \$200 million in the Breeders Crown before his 37th birthday (11/22/81), a feat so remarkable it was exactly twice what John Campbell did in the 1991 Breeders Crown, when at age 36, he topped \$100 million for the sport's very first time (while driving Ambro Keepsake).

1. FOILED AGAIN. His tour, his souvenirs, his aura, his bio, whatever you name. Anything attached to this incredible performer is worthy of attention in his 14th, and last, year on the track. He has lifted the bar to a level that is going to take a long time to touch, if ever, earning \$7.6 million and racing at the level he did for so many consecutive years.

Honorable mention to McWicked doing what he did at age 7 – banking over \$1.5 million and likely nailing down Horse of the Year honors, which has never before done by a pacer of that age.

Remarkable Sears first

Brian Sears likely has a first coming when the HOY is announced. McWicked will likely be the driver's fourth HOY title, but the first time any of those four will have been off the board in any race during that award-winning year. McWicked was twice off the board this year with a 13-3-2 record in 19 starts. In 2005, Rocknroll Hanover was 12-4-2 in 18 starts. In 2009, Muscle Hill was a perfect 12-for-12 and in 2013, Bee A Magician was a perfect 17-for-17.

Inactive leader

You have to go back to the 1940s to find the last time the all-time leading money-winning driver in the sport was inactive for a full calendar year. John Campbell (\$299 million) retired in 2017 and didn't drive in 2018. It is the first full year he's missed.

McWicked tops Nihilator's mark

Okay, it's trivia, but it's still a good one.

McWicked, if he's announced as HOY, will become the first to have a pair of \$1.4 million seasons to his credit at the time of the announcement (\$1.473 million in 2014 at age 3 and this year at \$1.575 million). Previously, the closest anyone came to this was Nihilator in 1985, when his \$1.8 million season came on the heels of a freshman season of \$1.3 million plus.

Amazing mare

Shartin N's season was amazing. Consider:

- She's the first Down Under horse to post a 7-figure season here.

- She's the first pacing mare to have a million-dollar season.
- Her 19 wins are seven more than any other divisional winner this year.
- Her 19 wins are more than 49 of the prior 71 Horses of the Year have had.
- She raced in, and won, in all 11 months she raced in (she did not compete in December).

Pioneers together

JoAnn Looney and Jim King, Jr. were both born in Delaware, both competed at the Meadowlands in year one (1976). JoAnn is the first female to drive, and the first female driver to win at the Big M (Jan. 31, 1977, Beau Yankee (\$49.80)) She also won with Frosty Penn in 1:56.3. In the 1970s, JoAnn's Meadowlands record was: 73 8-5-6 10.9 per cent winning percentage

King's Meadowlands record was: 840 94-77-73 11.2 per cent winning percentage

Miller-Sears sharing the work

Both Brian Sears and David Miller drove the leading money-winning pacer last year and this year — Downbytheseaside and McWicked.

2019 anniversaries coming up

30th anniversary of the Dead Heat Hambletonian at the Meadowlands — Park Avenue Joe and Probe.

40th anniversary of Niatross stepping onto the racetrack for the first time.

50th anniversary of Nevele Pride winning his third straight HOY title (not matched since).

70th anniversary of Good Time winning his first of two HOY titles, so far the only horse to win it twice but not consecutively.

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A large banner image featuring the silhouette of a person wearing a riding helmet and sitting on a horse. They are positioned against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect.

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Amy Hollar - Miss Congeniality

by Victoria M. Howard

The popular, hard working, wild and crazy woman named Amy Hollar is one of the most liked women in the business and, for that, deserves harness racing's Miss Congeniality Award.

Hollar's story began at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH. Kenneth Harvey (Hollar's grandfather) owned a stagecoach and operated a family business where he gave pony rides. Harvey's daughter (Hollar's mom), learned how to drive a team of horses and began touring the Ohio fairs giving children rides. Toting along her three daughters, Amy, Jennifer and Stacy, the girls slept in the pony trailer at night, learned how to count change at the ticket booth, and stay atop a saddleless stubborn pony as they rode through the woods.

While at the fairs, Hollar's granddad got involved in harness racing.

"He was just amazing with a horse. He was very patient and quiet — traits I did not inherit," Hollar said. "Granddad eventually ended up having a nice training and driving stable of his own, as did my mom, Melanie Williams. He also stood a few studs and had a broodmare band at the family farm."

Hollar is married to trainer Calvin Hollar. She met Calvin while she was attending Kent State. "I would drive to Toledo to paddock for my mom and met Calvin there. He talked me into transferring to the University of Toledo and, like a love struck fool, I did. My husband would be nothing without me. Everyone knows that, but him," Hollar said, laughing.

"We have always worked together and I doubt he'll read this so I will say I am very proud of him, for unlike myself, he was not born into the business. He started working for Michigan trainer Ron Bateson as a teenager and worked for several trainers throughout the years before going out on his own. After we married, we built our own stable while trying to raise kids and ride the ups and downs. When our children were still at home we had 20 to 25 head, but now that the free labor is gone, we feel every ache and pain, so we cut back to 10 to 12 horses.

"I've been in arguments with my husband about what I can and can't do. I tell him, 'I can do ANYTHING,' but there are some things you can help me with to make it easier. So, are you with me or without me? Because either way, I'm gonna get it done.

"I'm in the barn every day. I used to stay away on Sundays, but these days I look forward to a couple hours by myself, doing some cleaning, listening to NPR on Sirius and hope nobody talks to me. As far as women in the business today, I think it's amazing the changes that have taken place. I know what a struggle it was for my mother and Ohio horsewomen like Barb Lewis and Debbie Rucker to gain respect.

"Women like Casie Coleman, Linda Toscano, Paula Wellwood, and Nancy Johansson are ushering in newfound respect, and rightfully so. My ma, Melanie is my 'idol' in the business. Her stubbornness in continuing to race horses seemed foolish at times, but if you're going to be a fool, you better at least be a happy one! But it wasn't always easy. There were times when she had to wait tables, deliver mail and make sure the house was quiet so my equally awesome Pa could sleep for his third shift at the factory, but overall I don't think she'd change a thing."

Hollar has also been the Ohio rep for harness racing since 1992.

"My job is trying to help horsemen with whatever issue they may have or else I make a good excuse as to why I can't and hope it is good enough that they don't end up hating me," Hollar said.

As far as getting more people interested in the business Hollar said, "It needs to start with each and every one of us not looking around for someone else to do it. I love giving backstretch tours and answering questions. We need to make the business not so intimidating. Show people the great care we give our horses and introduce them to the grandstand. Gambling is our bread and butter so we need to get new fans before we, the older generation dies out."

Getting back to the Miss Congeniality Award...

"Oh, I could introduce you to a few who may beg to differ," Hollar said. "I often get accused of 'riding around on my sister Jennifer's significant other's (renowned trainer Brian Brown's) coattails' and I don't disagree one bit. I will argue that I do try to pick up the restaurant check as often as possible, but otherwise I'm totally loving the new places and people I've gotten to meet following the Brian Brown Stable around the Grand Circuit. I never dreamed I'd be able to hob nob with 'the east coast elite' and come to find out most of them are just like us Buckeyes back in Ohio. Go figure!"

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Before 2018 comes to an end, here's a few more Buzzworthy items

by Garnet Barnsdale

For my end of the year column, I thought I would chime in on some of the events and participants that caused a buzz in 2018, but for some reason didn't make it into one of my Buzzworthy columns.

But first, I would be remiss if I didn't mention an appearance by 'ole St Nick himself on the track at Cal Expo Friday night. This wasn't just your run-of-the-mill cameo appearance. Santa Claus not only raced in a pari-mutuel dash, he wasn't far from winning with even-money favorite Twomickeytrip in race 4. Santa and Twomickeytrip couldn't hold off charging second choice Beckys Dreamboat down the lane. Perhaps the jolly old fellow indulged a bit too much in Christmas dinner this year. Seriously though, kudos to driver Gerald Longo and Cal-Expo management for adding a bit of excitement to the Friday night card.

If there was one racehorse that caused a year-long buzz everywhere he went in 2018, it is the great – many say greatest – 14-year-old warrior Foiled Again. As I prepared to write this column, it made sense to print off Foiled Again's lifetime past performances for reference. As the pages kept printing and printing, (finally stopping at 11 8 1/2 x 11 pages), I realized more than ever how spectacular his career was, especially to race this long at a reasonably high level after going so many tough trips while amassing the biggest bankroll of any standardbred in history – \$7.675 million.

The entire year was an appreciation tour as the great bay son of Dragon Again out of the Artsplace mare In A Safe Place made starts at 18 different tracks across North America, much to the delight of his adoring fans who came out to catch a glimpse of their harness hero and get selfies



with the 109-time winner.

It was truly a grand sporting gesture by the connections and Foiled Again's record of 11-5-3 from 27 starts and \$78,540 in earnings showed that the old boy still had some go and certainly had every right to be still out there on the track strutting his stuff.

North of the border, there were several reasons to celebrate a banner season for Canadian connections, highlighted by Atlanta making history winning the Hambletonian as a filly, which is a feat rarely even attempted anymore. Three sophomore pacing colts also made their marks with Stay Hungry winning two-thirds of the pacing Triple Crown, Courtly Choice winning the Meadowlands Pace and Little Brown Jug in what was one of the best performances of the year, and Jimmy Freight sweeping the Ontario Sires Stakes, taking a division of the Somebeachsomewhere Stakes and racing successfully all over North America while earning more than \$834,000 (Cdn.)

Canadian drivers Doug McNair, Louis Phillipe-Roy and Bob McClure showed they can drive with and beat the best anywhere with their exploits north and south of the border.

Harness racing moved permanently from Woodbine Racetrack to the rebranded Mohawk Park, a move which had both supporters and detractors, but so far, other than the odd bout of fog, racing at Mohawk Park has gone well and wagering has been good. There will be plenty of excitement next fall with the Breeders Crown returning to Mohawk Park.

Presenting this column has been a lot of fun for me this year and I tried to make the material informative and entertaining. I wish you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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Merriman becomes single season record holder at Northfield Park

On Thursday (Dec. 27), Aaron Merriman became the winningest single-season driver in the history of Northfield Park when he scored his 707th victory of the year while guiding Gwally (David Russo) to victory.

The previous record holder was Walter Case Jr., who had 706 victories in 2001. Merriman has been the leading driver at Northfield Park six times, and he is on track to take the title again in 2018.

"I wasn't aware of the number until a few days ago," said Merriman. "It's been a magical year that I don't feel I can repeat. Thank you to Northfield Park for allowing me to call this home."

Merriman put Gwally (\$3.00) on the lead and never took his foot off of the gas pedal. He made the lead early and only had to deal with a slight challenge from Mesmerized who tired late in the stretch.

It has been a spectacular season for Merriman who as of Thursday night has 1,127 victories in 2018 and \$10,413,731 in the bank. Merriman was able to accomplish this feat in just under 5,000 drives this season. Merriman scored his 10,000th career win in March and this week was named the Driver of the Year by the United States Harness Writers' Association.

— Michael Carter for Northfield Park

SC Media Excellence finalists announced

Standardbred Canada is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2018 Media Excellence Awards, which are sponsored by Ontario Racing for the third consecutive year.

The Media Excellence Awards program is aimed at honoring those who have, through one piece of exceptional work, covered Canadian harness racing in a manner that is

extraordinary and of broad national appeal. 2018 marks the 11th year for this program.

The Outstanding Photography category finalists are Kyle Burton's Gold Cup & Saucer photo and Clive Cohen's racing silhouette shot.

Burton, a resident of Truro, NS, won this category in 2017. He captured this shot of Somewhere Fancy and driver Simon Allard, under the spotlight during the post parade for the rescheduled Gold Cup and Saucer at Red Shores Racetrack & Casino at Charlottetown Driving Park on Aug. 19, 2018. It was originally published in Harness Racing Update on Aug. 24, 2018

Clive Cohen's silhouette photo of horses was published on the Woodbine Facebook and Instagram pages on March 23, 2018. It was a shot of the first race field heading into the first turn at Woodbine on a clear but chilly night. Cohen is a three-time winner of the Media Excellence Award for photography. (2013, 2014, and 2016)

The finalists in the Outstanding Written Work category are: *It Was A Very Good Year*, written by Ric Chapman and *A Racing Heart Retires*, written by Lara Vronick.

It Was A Very Good Year, a Trot feature, was first published on October 31, 2018 on standardbredcanada.ca. Chapman, a resident of Oakville, Ont., tells the story of Little Brown Jug and Meadowlands Pace winner, Courtly Choice, and his journey from birth to the winner's circle.

A Racing Heart Retires was written by Lara Vronick, a communications professional based in the Ottawa area. In December 2017, she took a trip to the paddock at Rideau Carleton Raceway, and spoke with horseman Darcy Clancy about his 14-year-old standardbred Thundering Bay.

In the Outstanding Broadcast category, the video feature on the Gord & Illa Rumpel Stakes, produced by Horse Racing Alberta (HRA) and The Canadian Pacing Derby Facebook broadcast, produced by Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG), are the finalists.

The HRA video set the stage for a classic battle in the Rumpel Stakes and tells the story of the field of 3-year-old pacing fillies and the people behind them. The video was posted on HRA's website and social media platforms on Aug. 2, 2018. Horse Racing Alberta won this Media Excellence category in 2008 and 2009.

WEG's Canadian Pacing Derby 30-minute special broadcast aired on Facebook on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018, in high definition and featured live race coverage. WEG is a seven-time winner of the award, with their most recent accolades in 2017.

The six finalists were the top two point earners in their respective categories.

Standardbred Canada would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to everyone who submitted entries for the Media Awards and to all the judges.

Judges in the Outstanding Written Work category included Jessie Christie, Manager of Communications for Equestrian Canada, Michelle Staples, author, horse safety specialist, and an instructor at Equine Guelph; and Bernard Tobin, field editor for realagriculture.com, a North American agriculture news website, past contributor to both TROT and The Canadian Sportsman, and a co-host for the 'Hooked On Harness' podcast.

The judges for the Broadcast category were veteran broadcaster Al Craig, sports information officer at Mohawk College and past colour commentator for the Hamilton Bulldogs; Brad Diamond, of Bradford Productions, producer of numerous award-winning programs, including 'Motoring,' a weekly national half-hour magazine-style television program on TSN (The Sports Network); and Toronto sportscaster Claude Feig.

The submissions for the Outstanding Photography category were scored by Skip Dickstein, a past Eclipse Award winner and staff photographer at the Albany Times Union; Brandon Hall, executive assistant with the Ontario Equine Federation; and Barbara Sheridan, an award-winning freelance writer and photographer, instructor at Equine Guelph, and former associate editor of Horse Care Magazine.

Past winners of the Media Excellence Awards [available here](#).

The winners will be announced at the O'Brien Awards Gala on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 at the Hilton Mississauga / Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga, ON.

— *Standardbred Canada*

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Western Fair Raceway must be saved

I have said it so many times that Western Fair Raceway is such an important racing hub that this week's news that they are fighting for their lives now with Gateway Casino's decision to relocate is alarming ([full story here](#)).

I believe this is still the remnants of the past Liberal government and their corruption that almost destroyed Ontario racing. The government wants their cut of the gambling dollar, but don't want to manage it so they put it up for tender supposedly with all these attached conditions to protect racing and the public. First let's get this out of the way, the government only cares about the money so there was no restrictions. It was which gaming company was going to pay the most.

So now, just because of the change of government to the Ford Conservatives, there should be no talk about who is to blame. It should be how quickly can the Ford government jump in to make sure racing and gaming stays at Western Fair.

— *Bob Adams / London, ON*

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RACE RESULTS

HRU Race Results Criteria

The following race results are contained in **Harness Racing Update: U.S. and Canadian races with a purse of 15K and over, plus stakes races 10K and over.**



DAYTON report

Friday's Results:

9, Dtn, \$18,500, Trot, OPEN HANDICAP N/W \$8000 LAST 4 ASSIGNED PP'S 1-2, 26.4, 56.3, 1:24.4, 1:55.1, FT

1-Monopoly Blue Chip (g, 6, Donato Hanover--Winning Jonlin, by Muscles Yankee) \$9,250, \$95,000 2013 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 98-13-10-16, \$170,913
O-Shayne C May. B-Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc & Raymond W Schnittker. T-Jeff Olsen. D-Kayne Kauffman.

A LEXINGTON SUCCESS STORY. THIS WINNER WAS SOLD AT THE LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE.

2-All About Cowboys (g, 5, Swan For All--Heather Doreen, by Sorcerer Hanover) \$4,625, \$4,700 2014 ILL-CL, Lifetime Record: 83-13-19-15, \$149,352
O-Green Acres LLC & Mike J Klimas. B-Kenneth L Chupp. T-Ken Rucker. D-Jeremy Smith.

3-Pridecrest (g, 6, Angus Hall--Spilled Milk, by Wesgate Crown) \$2,220, Lifetime Record: 124-31-23-17, \$270,964
O-Christopher J Schick. B-Langcrest Farm, CA. T-Ross Leonard. D-Michael Oosting.

Replay - Calls: 4H, 3, 2, 1, NS - Finish Order: Pine Dream, Primed N Powerful, Churita, In My Dreams, Shawnee Valley, Mshindi

11, Dtn, \$18,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES OPEN, 27.0, 56.0, 1:23.3, 1:52.3, FT

1-Zoe Ellasen (m, 4, Santanna Blue Chip--Spring Delight, by Bettor's Delight) \$9,000, \$9,500 2015 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 63-18-4-13, \$313,235
O-Ronald E Steck & Scott Tyler George. B-William D Walters & Joseph Patrick Mclead. T-Tyler George. D-Aaron Merriman.

2-Endeavors Fantasy (m, 5, Keystone Endeavor--Needlepan, by The Panderosa) \$4,500, Lifetime Record: 112-17-21-16, \$270,660
O-Samuel R Samples. B-Samuel R Samples. T-Charles Stewart. D-Trace Tetrack.

3-Gone Girl (m, 4, Dragon Again--Village Mirage, by Western Hanover) \$2,160, \$9,000 2015 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 54-11-6-5, \$98,014
O-Debra I & Mark D Gillenwater. B-Rolark Stables, CA. T-Mark Gillenwater. D-Jeremy Smith.

Replay - Calls: 4H, 4, 1, 2, 5Q - Finish Order: Rosemary Rose, A Little Starstruck, Princess Oshie, Endeavors Star, Allbeastnobeauty

Saturday's Results:

11, Dtn, \$15,000, Pace, HORSES & GELDINGS CLAIMING \$30,000 W/ALLOWANCES, 26.3, 54.2, 1:22.2, 1:51.2, FT

1-Evergreen Elite (g, 6, Duneside Perch--Fancy Muffler, by Cole Muffler) \$7,500, \$9,000 2013 ILL-CL, Lifetime Record: 65-19-13-6, \$161,906
O-The Panhellenic Stb Corp. B-Fair Meadow Farm. T-Ken Rucker. D-Kyle Ater.

2-Indiana Cam (g, 6, Majestic Blue--One Fine Cam, by Camluck) \$3,750, \$5,500 2013 BHS, Lifetime Record: 123-29-11-15, \$196,563
O-Grant A Wilfong. B-Blue Ridge Standard Farm. T-Charles Stewart. D-Todd Warren.

3-A True Rock Star (g, 5, Rockin Image--Bikini Star, by Jenna's Beach Boy) \$1,800, \$18,000 2014 IN-PREM, Lifetime Record: 124-20-14-13, \$145,852
O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC. B-Victory Hill Farm Inc. T-Ron Burke. D-Josh Sutton.

Replay - Calls: 5, 3T, 2, 1, NK - Finish Order: Winning Is Sweet, Shagnwiththedragon, Southern Flight, Primo Giovanni, Winna Winna, Prejudice, Get Around Town



Have a great photo you would like to share?

editor@harnessracingupdate.com



RACE RESULTS

12, Dtn, \$18,500, Pace, HORSES & GELDINGS OPEN HANDICAP POST POSITIONS 8 & 9 ASSIGNED, 26.4, 55.2, 1:23.0, 1:51.2, FT

1-My Hero Ron (g, 6, Well Said--Erma La Em, by Cam's Card Shark) \$10,175, \$80,000 2013 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 121-24-28-22, \$779,028
O-Brian Witt & Cory A Atley. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Danny Dubeansky. D-Tyler Smith.



ANOTHER WINNER BRED BY HANOVER SHOE FARMS!

A LEXINGTON SUCCESS STORY.
THIS WINNER WAS SOLD AT THE LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE.

2-Night Pro (h, 8, Pro Bono Best--Midnight Jewel, by Keystone Raider) \$4,625, \$14,000 2011 HOOSIER, Lifetime Record: 135-59-36-9, \$942,872
O-Dale J Decker. B-Linda L Marckel. T-Dale Decker. D-Dale Decker.

3-Sadiq Hanover (g, 4, Bettor's Delight--Society's Child, by I Am A Fool) \$2,220, \$17,000 2015 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 62-10-9-11, \$72,429
O-Parent Racing Stable LLC. B-Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. T-Doug Hinklin. D-Todd Warren.

[Replay](#) - Calls: 9, 5Q, 4, 3, NK - Finish Order: Play The Field, Hot Rod Dylan, Mykindachip, Vinovio, Granite, Lucky Mctrucky

MEADOWLANDS report

Friday's Results:

7, M, \$20,000, Pace, Fillies & Mares Preferred Handicap, 26.3, 55.1, 1:23.3, 1:51.0, SY

1-Darlinonthebeach (m, 5, Somebeachsomewhere--Darlin's Delight, by Bettor's Delight) \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 54-20-12-7, \$1,068,648
O-White Birch Farm. B-White Birch Farm. T-R. Nifty Norman. D-David Miller.



ANOTHER WINNER FROM WHITE BIRCH FARM,
2012 & 2013 BREEDER OF THE YEAR



2-Jewel Lehigh A (m, 7, Cammibest--Ultimate Jewels, by Ultimate Falcon) \$5,000, Lifetime Record: 127-24-31-18, \$321,589
O-Michael Goldberg Racingllc. B-Burwood Stud, AS. T-Andrew Harris. D-Dexter Dunn.

3-Brazuca (m, 4, Bettor's Delight--Knock Three Times, by Western Ideal) \$2,400, \$65,000 2015 SHS-HBG, Lifetime Record: 37-12-8-4, \$235,488
O-John Cancelliere. B-Fair Winds Farm Inc. T-Thomas Cancelliere. D-Yannick Gingras.

[Replay](#) - Calls: 9Q, 6, 1H, HD, 1T - Finish Order: Delightfulmemphsn, Kay's Delight, Fancy Creek Jolene, Stylish Beachwhere, Kak's Shark Attack, Frost Damage Blues

8, M, \$16,000, Trot, N/W \$15,000 (Mares \$20,000) in Last 5 Starts AE: N/W \$50,000 in 2018 AE: N/W \$125,000 Lifetime or 3 Year Olds, 28.0, 55.4, 1:23.4, 1:52.3, SY

1-Winning Shadow (g, 3, Credit Winner--Sheena's Shadow, by Yankee Glide) \$8,000, \$145,000 2016 LEX-SEL, Lifetime Record: 20-9-1-1, \$163,827
O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver Brussemi LLC & Silva, Purnel & Libby. B-James G Wilhite Jr. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras.

A LEXINGTON SUCCESS STORY.
THIS WINNER WAS SOLD AT THE LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE.

2-Pappy Go Go (g, 4, Tad The Stud--Paging Willy, by Pegasus Spur) \$4,000, \$4,000 2015 NSPE, Lifetime Record: 52-25-4-6, \$112,730
O-Michael Goldberg Racingllc. B-William E Andrew, CA. T-Andrew Harris. D-Vincent Ginsburg.

3-Sylvesteramericait (g, 7, Varenne--Armbo Voice, by Garland Lobell) \$1,920, Lifetime Record: 82-12-15-8, \$246,142
O-Jeremiah J Riordan, SD. B-Guida Italia Srl, IT. T-Robert Baggitt Jr. D-Anthony Napolitano.

[Replay](#) - Calls: 1H, 3H, 2Q, 3, 3H - Finish Order: Tober, Rubber Duck, Torkil, Majestic Presence, Tony Soprano, Rock Of Cashel, Osvaldo Blue Chip

Saturday's Results: Meadowlands had not made any of the results from last night final via USTA at publication time

NORTHFIELD report

Saturday's Results:

14, Nfld, \$19,000, Pace, FILLIES & MARES OPEN HANDICAP (DRAW POST POSITION 1-6 & 9; PP'S 7 & 8 ASSIGNED), 27.0, 56.2, 1:24.2, 1:54.1, FT

1-My Tweed Heart (m, 5, Manhardt--Tweedle D, by Towner's Big Guy) \$9,500, \$2,500 2014 OH-SEL, Lifetime Record: 84-25-10-8, \$503,216
O-Winners Circle Stable LLC & Phil Harris. B-Spring Haven Farm & Stacie A Mc Daniel. T-Virgil Morgan Jr. D-Keith Kash Jr.

2-Tiger's Sue (m, 5, A Stud Named Sue--Lady Tiger, by Tinselator) \$4,750, Lifetime Record: 133-28-26-23, \$226,459
O-Frank Multari & George D Merton Jr. B-William J Webb. T-Sam Schillaci. D-Ronnie Wrenn Jr..

RACE RESULTS

3-Mcdazzle (m, 4, Art Official--Dream Mcqueen, by McArdle) \$2,280, Lifetime Record: 73-16-18-15, \$181,766

O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Weaver BrusceMI LLC. B-Mark L Marroletti. T-Ron Burke. D-Aaron Merriman.

Replay - Calls: 1H, 1T, 1Q, 1H, HD - Finish Order: Johns Baby Girl, Libby's Idea, Onyourmarknatava, Godiva Seelster, Dangerous Woman, Cocktail Time

THE MEADOWS *report*

Friday's Results:

8, Mea, \$20,000, Trot, **F&M PREFERRED HANDICAP** P.P.1 ASSIGNED; 2-3 DRAWN; 4-7 DRAWN, 28.1, 58.4, 1:26.4, 1:57.0, GD

1-Lass A Rope (f, 3, Encore Encore--American Lassie, by American Mike) \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 29-11-4-2, \$163,614

O-Robert J Key. B-Robert J Key. T-Rich Gillock. D-Aaron Merriman.

2-Glidinthrparadise (m, 5, Yankee Glide--Chowda, by SJ's Caviar) \$5,000, Lifetime Record: 80-20-14-14, \$257,543

O-Brookside Stables. B-Dunn Stable. T-Edward Zubkoff Jr. D-Brian Zendt.

3-Dirty Secret (m, 6, Justice Hall--Classic Flight, by Chip Chip Hooray) \$2,400, \$5,000 2013 IN-PREM, Lifetime Record: 139-36-18-12, \$246,780

O-Peter J Kibler & Kenneth J Owczarczak & Courtney R Mcneight. B-Midland Acres Inc. T-David Mcneight Jr. D-David Mcneight III.

Replay - Calls: 3H, 3, 1, 1, NK - Finish Order: Ready Any Time, Expose Yourself, My Cherry Pie, Barn Bella

