

### Better Late Than Never For Capital Account

Trainer Jimmy Takter had an arsenal of 2-year-old winners in his barn in 2013, including Breeders Crown victors Father Patrick, Shake It Cerry and Uffizi Hanover, the former two also being voted divisional champions. Takter had a career-high 138 victories in 2013, with number 137 coming from a 2-year-old colt pacer making his career debut on Dec. 21 at the Meadowlands.

**“If you watch the replay, you’ll see I never let him go once.”**

—Yannick Gingras  
on Capital Account

\$12,500 race for non-winners of two races or \$20,000 lifetime with a 1:53.3 victory. Moved from third to the lead at the half by driver Yannick Gingras, Capital Account sealed the deal with a final quarter of :27.3.

Capital Account will get a chance to make it two straight as he is back in the same class on Saturday night at the Meadowlands, drawing post 5 in Race 2. Gingras said he recommended Takter change the horse’s hobble length for start two.

“He was pretty shaky in the first turn and I thought then it was because he was a little green,” said Gingras. “When we straightened out I thought I’d let him go and stretch him out so he’d be better, but he was still pretty shaky finishing. The hobbles were very long, so I don’t think it’s anything major and easily taken care of.”

Nevertheless, Gingras said he was impressed with Capital Account’s effort.

“He won in 1:53.3 and the earplugs were still in,” he said. “If you watch the replay, you’ll see I never let him go once. He had plenty of pace left.”

### Copywriter



Joseph Kyle Photo



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A son of American Ideal, Capital Account is the fourth foal—and first colt—out of the Artsplace mare Copywriter, who won divisions of the Glen Garnsey Memorial, Bluegrass and Simpson at The Red Mile in 2005, and is a half sister to the \$1.2 million winner Image Of Dawn. The mare’s first three foals were all fillies by Western Ideal, with only her first two making the races with little success—a combined zero for 18 in brief careers. Capital Account is owned by breeder Brittany Farms.

“He was sore early in the year so Jimmy waited on him for about three months,” Brittany racing manager Myron Bell explained of the late start for Capital Account. “He showed early he was OK, he was just immature. He could be a sleeper. I’m not going to say he’s a champion, but he’s a nice colt. You have to be patient with them sometimes.”

Bell said Capital Account is eligible to the William “Buddy” Gilmour Series (3-year-old male pacers, non-winners of two races or \$30,000 lifetime as of Dec. 15, 2013) that gets underway on Feb. 22 at the Meadowlands.

“If he’s what we think he could be, we’ll probably stop with him then and wait for the summer,” said Bell. — By Gordon Waterstone

## Plenty Of Horses, But More Race Dates Not Solution

The Meadowlands and Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOA) jointly announced on Dec. 28 that a preference system when taking entries for overnight races at the Meadowlands was being postponed until November 2014.



Hilary Spears Photo

**“The Meadowlands and the SBOA have to balance the purse account for the entire year.”**

— Leo McNamara

just that, a postponement. We will be utilizing a preference system come November 2014 at the Meadowlands.”

The Meadowlands announced that how often you race your horses at the Meadowlands from March 2014 through August 2014 will determine your order of preference for entering horses beginning in November 2014.

In addition, in order to help alleviate some of the strain on the entry box at the present time, the Meadowlands intends to draw for 13 races on Thursday night, as long as the entry box can support that number of races. The entry box for the weekend cards of Jan. 3 and 4 still had roughly 400 entries, and even with 13 races each night, that meant more than 100 horses did not get in to race.

Unfortunately, a snowstorm hitting the Northeast forced the cancellation of racing on Thursday night, Jan. 2, and Friday night’s (Jan. 3) program will also be at the mercy of the weather. The Thursday card is being carried over until next Thursday, Jan. 9, so horses that didn’t get in for the Jan. 2 card could be sidelined for another week.

Leo McNamara, executive administrator for the SBOA, said adding more racing dates is not necessarily good for the purse account, or the bottom line, at the Meadowlands.

“The Meadowlands and the SBOA have to balance the purse account for the entire year, with our purses solely from handle. A good Saturday night at the Meadowlands, taking into account both the handle on the live product and incoming simulcast signals, will produce about \$60,000 for purses, and yet we’re paying out \$240,000,” explained McNamara.

The preference system was created to reward people that support the Meadowlands when the slots tracks open, but in the process appeared to hurt small stables. With Yonkers Raceway closed for 10 days over the holidays, and Saratoga, Pocono and Harrah’s Philadelphia closed until March, the entry box was inundated with horses.

“We need to regroup and give the horsemen advance notice on what is going to be happening,” said SBOA president Tom Luchento of the preference system. “But, this postponement is

## WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

### Friday, January 3

All times listed are local.

8:51p M6 A2/A1/FFA Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:11p M7 F&M A2/A1/FFA Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

[Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

### Saturday, January 4

7:34p M2 Conditioned Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:51p M6 A1/FFA Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

[Click here to download all Saturday PPs](#)



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### HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

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While the Meadowlands handle increased in 2013, another important driver of the purse account is handle on all racing signals in the Meadowlands building, which fell by approximately seven percent last year. “Since we are open for simulcasting more than we race live, it takes a lot to make up for a seven percent decrease,” noted McNamara.

McNamara said the SBOA is pleased with the mostly positive results in 2013. “We’re trending in the right direction,” he said. “Last year we started the meet with an overpayment of purses, and this year we’re starting with an underpayment. We’re not happy racing only 81 days at the Meadowlands, but the reduction in our number of days has allowed us to keep our purses up. That’s working.” — By Kathy Parker

## Meadowlands Handle Up 32% In 2013

On Saturday, Dec. 28, the Meadowlands wrapped up its 2013 racing calendar with another \$3 million night. In addition, the live handle of \$360,212 yielded a 56-percent increase over this same day in 2012. The total handle of \$3,248,413 was a 12-percent increase over that same card and marked the first time the Meadowlands eclipsed \$3 million in the month of December since Dec. 27, 2008.

For the year, total handle wagered on the Meadowlands racing product increased from \$171.9 million in 2012 to \$226.8 million. That is an increase of nearly \$55 million, or 32 percent. While live handle was virtually flat, \$24.5 million versus \$24.6 million in 2012, the Meadowlands raced two less days in 2013 due to weather cancellations.

“To see these kind of numbers in this day and age borders on the remarkable,” said general manager Jason Settlemoir. “A racetrack showing a 32-percent increase in handle without the addition of expanded gaming, or some other factor, is something we can look back on with pride.”

The Meadowlands wasn’t alone in its success. Winners Bayonne, the off-track wagering facility owned and operated by Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment yielded substantial increases as well. Based on a five-month sample in 2012, Winners Bayonne projected to do approximately \$35

million in handle in a full calendar year. But in 2013, Winners Bayonne surpassed \$50 million in handle, 42 percent more than the 2012 one-year projections.

The all new Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment has been widely praised for its beauty and ambiance. Things will only get better in the spring as the Meadowlands opens the expansion of its track apron, known as The Backyard, which will include many new amenities, dining and entertainment that the old paddock park did not have. In addition, the rooftop, known as Victory Terrace, will be opened in April and will certainly be a highly sought after location to not only watch the races, but to enjoy a night out at an outdoor lounge with breathtaking views of the Manhattan skyline. Details and information on the grand opening of both locations will be made public in the coming months. Customers can log onto [www.playmeadowlands.com](http://www.playmeadowlands.com) for previews.

Meadowlands chairman Jeff Gural spoke about how Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment is built with a vision to drive an entire industry in a new direction. “This facility is so much more than a racetrack,” said Gural. “People know what a racetrack is, they know what every racetrack offers. But this is not just a racetrack. This facility was built with the intention of providing something for everyone, including those individuals who never stepped foot in a racetrack before.” (*Meadowlands*)



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**RACE LINES**

**Final Standardbred Poll**

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Bee A Magician (32)	3tf	17-17-0-0	\$1,547,304	344	1
2. Captaintreacherous (2)	3pc	16-13-2-0	2,055,033	284	2
3. Foiled Again (1)	9pg	29-11-6-7	1,404,984	258	6
4. I Luv The Nitelife	3pf	15-13-1-1	1,253,757	253	3
5. Father Patrick	2tc	11-10-1-0	744,057	215	4
6. Market Share	4th	14-6-1-5	1,077,356	138	9
7. Maven	4tm	14-10-2-0	509,220	135	5
8. Shake It Cerry	2tf	11-8-2-0	827,769	96	10
9. Royalty For Life	3tc	14-7-2-0	1,277,130	69	8
10. Pet Rock	4ph	18-6-4-1	972,820	65	7

Others receiving votes: Shebestingin 22, He's Watching 18, Vegas Vacation 12, Spider Blue Chip 9, Anndrovette, Sunshine Beach 3, Sevruga 1.

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through Dec. 31, 2013 (week difference Dec. 19-31).

**Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses**

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Captaintreacherous (3pc)	16	13	2	0	\$2,055,033
Bee A Magician (3tf)	17	17	0	0	1,547,304
Foiled Again (9pg)	29	11	6	7	1,404,984
Royalty For Life (3tc)	14	7	2	0	1,277,130
I Luv The Nitelife (3pf)	15	13	1	1	1,253,757
Spider Blue Chip (3tg)	20	10	3	2	1,088,918
Market Share (4th)	14	6	1	5	1,077,356
Pet Rock (4ph)	18	6	4	1	972,820
Vegas Vacation (3pg)	20	10	4	1	971,632
Sunshine Beach (3pc)	20	8	5	3	909,283

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Tim Tetrick	2,992	582-429-407	.320	\$16,164,822 (\$0)
Yannick Gingras	2,346	537-398-307	.367	14,231,476 (103,320)
Brian Sears	2,228	507-369-324	.368	13,737,691 (0)
David Miller	2,793	388-413-392	.268	12,230,914 (90,917)
Ron Pierce	3,444	537-481-489	.281	11,550,300 (57,005)
Corey Callahan	3,678	619-463-474	.281	9,708,323 (191,135)
George Brennan	2,573	450-440-316	.311	9,134,699 (72,660)
Matt Kakaley	2,883	446-433-421	.287	7,527,717 (100,980)
Jason Bartlett	2,414	362-298-299	.260	7,136,699 (81,180)
Andy Miller	2,632	354-362-337	.254	7,122,058 (60,830)

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	4,494	1,090-733-522	.372	\$22,228,815 (\$152,620)
Jimmy Takter	606	138-90-80	.354	7,819,235 (12,500)
Tony Alagna	812	151-93-100	.291	5,440,763 (26,875)
Rene Allard	1,982	453-294-236	.351	4,666,764 (41,710)
Erv Miller	1,260	243-199-166	.325	4,587,877 (13,700)
P.J. Fraley	946	180-157-134	.330	4,109,987 (58,465)
Linda Toscano	562	111-82-98	.337	4,041,103 (9,750)
Nifty Norman	434	84-68-49	.318	3,763,732 (0)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	1,344	307-199-160	.350	3,698,494 (4,504)
Richard Moreau	1,393	278-216-203	.334	3,509,322 (69,236)

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	1,112	769	2,659	\$29,123,021
Winbak Farm	1,034	678	2,099	18,275,170
Brittany Farms	314	224	845	11,187,641
Perretti Farms	369	238	766	8,698,770
White Birch Farm	154	118	422	8,674,321
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	286	185	631	7,249,074
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	186	143	479	6,776,255
Walnut Hall Limited	202	150	492	4,123,382
Arlene & Jules Siegel	165	117	384	4,054,218
Frederick Hertrich III	167	121	427	3,817,902

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for Dec. 18-31 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

**Drivers Starts W-P-S**

Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	117	38-13-14
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	77	23-15-13
Corey Callahan	103	21-12-9
Trevor Henry	49	17-9-4
Todd Warren	72	16-9-10
Dave Palone	40	15-8-2
Josh Sutton	82	15-12-8
Bruce Ranger	52	14-7-4
Aaron Merriman	102	13-14-16
Casey Leonard	89	13-19-13
John DeLong	80	13-8-14
Keith Kash Jr.	91	13-12-9
Luke Plano	50	13-7-4
Sam Widger	93	13-12-14
David Siegel	36	12-1-6
Doug McNair	40	10-2-1
Billy Davis Jr.	59	9-8-5
Jim DeVaux	78	9-10-14
Jim Taggart Jr.	54	9-7-4
Tony Morgan	43	9-6-2
Yannick Gingras	50	9-8-6

**Trainers Wins**

Ron Burke	15
Keith Kash Jr.	10
Robert Lounsbury	10
Victor Puddy	8
Erin Elliott	7
Richard Moreau	7
Ronald Best	7
Darran Cassar	6
George Anthrop	6
Jim McDonald	6
Ronnie Roberts	6
Bob Johnson	5
Calvin Hollar	5
David McCaffrey	5
Gary Messenger	5
Gene Vallandingham	5
Mark Harris	5
Rene Allard	5
Tim Crissman	5

# JANUARY 2014



sunday      monday      tuesday      wednesday      thursday      friday      saturday

			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 	9 Super Bowl 3&40T (M)	10	11
12	13 Snowshoe 3&40P (Wdb)	14	15	16 Super Bowl 3&40T (M)	17 Blizzard 3&4F&MP (Wdb)	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Snowshoe 3&40P (Wdb) Tattersalls Mixed Sale at E. Rutherford, N.J.	21	22 Super Bowl final (M)	23	24 Blizzard 3&4F&MP (Wdb)	25
26 Prix d'Amerique	27 Snowshoe final (Wdb)	28	29 	30	31 Blizzard final (Wdb)	

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