Wiggle It Jiggleit To Miss More Time

While owner George Teague Jr. had hoped the return to racing for his 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit from an extended absence was imminent, he told Weekend Preview on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 2, that the now 6-year-old pacer will continue to remain on the sidelines for an undetermined period of time.

Wiggle It Jiggleit has not raced since Oct. 28, 2016, after finishing second to Always B Miki in the Breeders Crown final at the Meadowlands. Recurring back issues kept Wiggle It Jiggleit in the barn of trainer Clyde Francis for all of 2017, but Teague said in early December he thought the gelding was just a few weeks away from qualifying.

Teague had hoped to qualify Wiggle It Jiggleit for the first time last week or this week, with two more qualifiers following. “It’s the same story it’s been for the past 14 months, and he’s not going to qualify until he’s 100 percent. And he’s still not 100 percent,” said Teague. “I wanted to test the water with three qualifiers and see if everything was how they seemed to be. I didn’t want to make the stakes payments without a chance of him racing.”

Teague had at first penciled in Wiggle It Jiggleit to return to the track sometime late in 2017 for the Breeders Crown at Hoosier Park, but by the fall he had announced a delay for the Indiana-sired pacer until early 2018.

With his absence from racing, Wiggle It Jiggleit is stalled at $3,907,557 in career earnings. Teague admitted he was looking forward to his star pacer returning and not only reaching the $4-million mark, but adding substantially to that number.

“I was so excited because it seemed he was sound, but now we’ll just keep pressing on,” said Teague, who is now on his way to the Dominican Republic for a vacation. “He needs more time. I don’t want the horse to diminish his reputation, and I feel that definitely won’t be a problem with him. But he still has the aches and issues and will not return quite yet.

“It is discouraging? Yes. Is it disappointing? Yes.” — By Gordon Waterstone

The 2018 Breeders Book STALLION STATION

Is Now Available Online!
Jerseylicious Racing Friday, But Has Date With Fear The Dragon

Jerseylicious is one of eight mares competing for a $23,000 purse in Race 10 at Miami Valley on Friday night. Jerseylicious, an 8-year-old daughter of Western Ideal, has the credentials to be a broodmare, and she’ll get her chance this spring.

Jerseylicious is owned by Bruce Trogdon’s Emerald Highlands Farm. Trogdon bought Jerseylicious for $30,000 at the 2016 Harrisburg mixed sale, with his interest in the mare solely as an addition to his broodmare band. But since Jerseylicious had been trained down, it seemed OK to give her a few races before she wrapped up her racing career.

Well, a few races turned into a 24-race campaign in 2017. Jerseylicious won nine races, finished on the board in 18 of her starts, lowered her lifetime mark to 1:49.3f when she set a track record at Hollywood Dayton, and banked $113,565, bringing her carrier money-winnings to $780,165.

Jerseylicious raced last winter and spring and then was turned out in early May so she could be bred to JK Endofanera, who stands at stud in Indiana. When she didn’t get in foal, Trogdon put her back in training and she returned to racing in late August.

Trogdon said he’ll keep Jerseylicious in training with Tim Lane and give her a few starts at Miami Valley this winter, providing she is competitive, before retiring her from racing. She is 8-1 on the morning line for the Friday Miami Valley race and will start from post 8.

“We almost quit with her a few weeks ago,” he shared. “She has some issues, but she got by it.”

Trogdon said at one point last fall he thought Jerseylicious was so good that he considered supplementing her to the Breeders Crown.

“I think she could have won the Breeders Crown, but the supplement didn’t really make sense,” he added.

Trogdon said he is sure Jerseylicious will be retired from racing this year, even if she enjoys a bit more success at Miami Valley.

“Last year we raced her through early May because they had that $100,000 race at Miami Valley. I raced her too long to breed her; I think that’s why she didn’t get in foal,” continued Trogdon. “It took her about a month to relax. We got one follicle and she ovulated once, but she didn’t get in foal so she went back to racing. But this year I’ll retire her from racing, and we’ll quit with her earlier.”

Jerseylicious is being bred to Fear The Dragon, who is standing his first season at Midland Acres in Ohio. Trogdon bred and raced Fear The Dragon, winning the North America Cup, Hempt Memorial and Adios with the colt. He has retained half of the shares in the Dragon Again stallion.

“The syndicate agreement was written up so that I can control things,” he said, and plans to give Fear The Dragon plenty of support.

“I have about 24 mares I plan to breed to him,” said Trogdon. “We announced his book was full and closed and since that time we’ve received quite a few calls, so I may switch a couple of my mares to other stallions so we can free up some breedings.”

Trogdon has 48 broodmares, which is up a bit over the usual number. He has nine booked to Indiana sires because “I love the program there.”

Among his mares being bred are 2017 Dan Patch 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year Blazin Britches and the Indiana stakes winner Rockin Serena. Both will be bred and their embryos transferred so they can continue racing.

Trogdon has a 260-acre farm in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, not far from Delaware, but he’s also looking for a farm in Kentucky to give his foals dual eligibility. The Kentucky Sires Stakes program allows eligibility for foals by sires standing outside the state if the mares reside in Kentucky for 180 consecutive days in the year of conception.”We had found a farm, but he deal collapsed right before Christmas, so we’re still looking,” he said.— By Kathy Parker
ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS & BREEDERS

Nominate Your Stallion by January 15 to Make Foals Eligible to Our Sport’s Most Prestigious Program

BREEDERS CROWN NO. 35 FOR FOALS OF 2019

TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE – $6,000,000

STALLION NOMINATION FEE: Due and payable January 15, 2018, in the amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2018 breeding season ($500 U.S. funds minimum) plus an additional surcharge as indicated below – provided, however, that for first-year stallions placed in commercial service (which would not include test breedings) after January 15, the nomination must be paid within 60 days after the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any first-year stallion nomination fee be accepted after December 31, 2018. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to determine the stallion nomination fee of those stallions whose 2018 service is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This payment covers 2019 matings (foals of 2019).

In addition to the 2018 service fee, the amount of the stallion nomination fee must include a surcharge as follows:

a) For stallions that stand for a fee from US$3,000 to $5,999 (or $5,856 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2018 service fee must be paid;
b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US$6,000 to $9,999 (or $7,712 CAD to $12,853 CAD), an additional amount equal to 75% of 2018 service fee must be paid;
c) For stallions that stand for a fee of US$10,000 ($12,854 CAD), or more, an additional amount equal to 200% of 2018 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a fee less than US$3,000 or $5,856 CAD, no surcharge is necessary for nomination.

Note: For the purpose of determining the surcharge in other than U.S. funds, the December 1, 2017 exchange rate is used, a rate of $1.285 CAD per U.S.$.

Stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after January 15, 2018, but on or before December 31, 2018, will be accepted upon payment of an additional penalty amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge). Likewise, stallion nominations for first-year stallions that are postmarked after the above sixty-day deadline, but on or before December 31, 2018, will be accepted upon payment of an additional amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge).

Any payment on a stallion that does not commercially conceive a foal or breed a mare by any means during the entire 2018 breeding season may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by December 31, 2018. Moreover, if a nominated stallion does not breed more than twenty (20) mares in 2018 or produce more than fifteen (15) registered foals in 2019, up to 50% of the stallion nomination fee may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for adjustment by December 31, 2018 (mares bred) or by December 31, 2019 (registered foals). No stallion nomination fee will be reduced to less than $500.00 U.S. funds.

Any payment on a North American stallion that has been nominated by January 15, 2018, and is subsequently exported prior to February 15, 2018 and that does not commercially breed a mare in North America by any means during the entire 2018 breeding season, may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by December 31, 2018. With the exception of supplemental nominations or declarations as provided in the conditions, foals of 2019 by a stallion for which the above nomination fee has been refunded will be ineligible to the Breeders Crown unless an additional amount equal to the amount of the refund is paid.

Except as provided above, stallion nomination fees shall not be refunded.

Stallion payments may be made in the local currency of the nation in which the stallion stands, or in equivalent U.S. funds ($500 U.S. funds minimum).

Conditions for nominating yearlings will be published in the U.S.T.A. Stakes & Futurities Nomination Book. Specific conditions for the races for which these foals are eligible will be published in the U.S.T.A. Stakes Guide in the year of the races. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to add to, amend or delete the conditions of all or any part of the Breeders Crown program, without liability.

In 2018, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and open Breeders Crown events will be conducted under the conditions of Breeders Crown 2018. All of these races are closed with sustaining payments due in 2018, with the exception of supplemental nominations.

For more information contact: The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown at (609) 371-2211 or www.hambletonian.com

BREEDERS CROWN STALLION NO. 35 NOMINATION BLANK

Name of Stallion ____________________

Sire ____________________ Age/Foal of: ____________________ 2018 Service Fee ____________________

Dam ____________________

Sire of Dam ____________________

Farm: ____________________ State/Province ____________________

Owner(s) ____________________

Check [✓] for the following conditions:
[ ] In-production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2018) [ ] With penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2018)
[ ] First-season stallion (within 60 days of 1st cover) [ ] First-season with penalty (additional 50% after 60 days) The Stallion

Nomination Fee is the amount of the 2018 Service Fee plus the above surcharge for fees $3,000 US ($3,856 CAD) or over

2018 Service Fee ____________________ + Surcharge ( %) ______ = Nomination Fee enclosed: ____________________

Make Checks Payable to______________________________

and Mail to: ____________________

THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY, INC.
Cranbury Gates Office Park
109 South Main Street, Suite 18
Cranbury NJ 08512-3174

Nominator ____________________

Address ____________________ City, State, Zip ____________________

Phone ____________________ Fax: ____________________

e-mail ____________________
14YO Weskey Gets 60th Win In Final Career Shot

Ontario-based horseman Tyler Borth had one goal in mind as the clock ticked down on 2017: Get one last win with his 14-year-old trotter Weskey, who was set to be retired when he turned 15 on Jan. 1.

Sitting on 59 career wins in his 291-start career, Weskey had two chances to get number 60 over the weekend that closed out 2017, both at Western Fair in London, Ont.

With Borth in the sulky, Weskey finished second, beaten less than a length, in the $9,600 final of the Alliance Claiming Series on Friday, Dec. 29. But in frigid conditions two nights later on New Year’s Eve, Weskey came through with a victory in the $4,800 Auld Lang Syne Trot, leading gate to wire in 2:03.4 as the 4-5 betting favorite.

With the win in his 293rd and final career start, Weskey, a son of Wescogate Crown out of the Super Pleasure mare Key To Pleasure, inched past the $300,000 mark in career earnings. With a resume of 293-60-59-37, Weskey finished his racing career with $301,325 in earnings for Borth and his father, Bill.

Except for one start in 2014 at Buffalo Raceway, Weskey made all of his starts in Canada. He took his career mark of 1:56.4 in 2015 at age 12 at Georgian Downs.

“He made all that money the hard way. He never won anything in stakes races.” — Tyler Borth

Bred by Zorgwijk Stables, Weskey has been owned by the Borths virtually his entire lifetime. Only for short periods when Weskey was sold privately and claimed twice did the Borths not own the trotter, although they eventually reacquired him.

Although Weskey did not start until age 4, he really never missed a beat, starting at least 23 times every year until 2016, when an injury limited him to just 15 appearances.

Weskey was claimed away for $6,500 at Clinton Raceway on May 24, 2015, but the Borths claimed him back six months later on Nov. 25. But before Weskey could make his racing return for the stable, he came up lame. Borth said he contemplated retiring the trotter.

“When I claimed him back, I had him in to go and about four days after his knee blew up and he had an infection,” remembered Borth. “He couldn’t get comfortable unless he laid flat out.

“He eventually got sounder. I turned him out awhile and then slowly started jogging him, and then he came back around. I couldn’t believe it.”

Borth said his father named Weskey, which is a combination of his parent’s names. Borth said while the trotter had no real nickname, he frequently referred to him by something other than Weskey.

“No nickname but I call him lots of things when he gets grouchy,” laughed the 26-year-old Borth, who trains a small stable in partnership with his father on their farm outside Ingersoll.

Borth added Weskey will enjoy his retirement on that farm.— By Gordon Waterstone
WHAT THE HILL
2,1:54.4; 3,1:51.4-'17 ($1,263,864) • Muscle Hill-K T Cha Cha-Angus Hall

2017’s Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year

The most accomplished son of Muscle Hill - to stand in Ohio!

At 2...winner of the Peter Haughton Memorial and New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship.

At 3...winner of the Breeders Crown (elim & Final), Canadian Trotting Classic (in stakes record time of 1:51.4), Kentucky Futurity (elim), and the TVG Series Championship (defeating aged trotters in 1:51.4).

Standing his first season in 2018, WHAT THE HILL is being syndicated and shares are selling quickly. Please contact Hickory Lane Farm if interested in shares as his book is filling quickly!

2018 Fee $7,000
Nuncio To Stand Stud In Sweden; Racing May Continue

Nuncio, the 2014 Kentucky Futurity winner and 2016 Elitlopp champion, will not be standing at stud in the U.S. in 2018. Stefan Melander had considered retiring his horse to stud duty at Hanover Shoe Farms and had been discussing the possibility with Hanover chairman Russell Williams, who also bred Nuncio. Then on Dec. 30 Melander told the Swedish trotting press that he had sold an interest in Nuncio to Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg, who owns Menhammar Stud farm outside of Stockholm, and Nuncio will be breeding mares there this year.

Nuncio’s stud fee has been set at 80,000 Swedish krona, or about $9,700.

As of Jan. 4, Melander had not ruled out continuing to race Nuncio if he can have him in top form for the Jan. 28 Prix d’Amerique. Nuncio’s last race was Dec. 13 at the Solvalla track in Stockholm, when he finished second to the 9-year-olds Food Money (Andover Hall-Windylane Hanover).

Nuncio is a 7-year-old son of Andover Hall-Nicole Isabella. He was test bred in Sweden last fall. If he is retired from racing, his career earnings will stand at $3.8 million. Melander purchased Nuncio as a yearling for just $7,000. Nuncio was trained by Jim Oscarsson as a 2 year old and when Oscarsson returned home to Sweden, Melander entrusted the horse to Jimmy Takter.

Propulsion Wins A Big Prep For Prix d’Amerique

The U.S.-bred Propulsion, driven by Örjan Kihlström and trained by Daniel Redén, was an easy winner of the third qualifying race for the Prix d’Amerique, the Prix de Bourgogne, held Dec. 31 at the Vincennes track in Paris.

The race had an American-style start with a gate, but a large field of 17. Propulsion started on the gate and was initially settled by Kihlström, but then he took the lead early and Propulsion was in control the rest of the race. The mile rate time for the 2,700 meters (about 1.3 miles) was 1:53.2.

Defending Prix d’Amerique champion Bold Eagle, driven by Franck Nivard, finished second, about one length back. Third went to Briac Dark, driven by Matthieu Abrivard.

Propulsion, who is by Muscle Hill and out of 2007 Hambletonian Oaks winner Danae, was bred by Fredericka V. Caldwell of Cane Run Farm and Bluestone Farms. He was trained by Tony Alagna until he was sold for $210,000 in the 2015 Tattersalls January Mixed Sale, with Bengt Agerup purchasing the horse. Agerup races horses in North America under the banner of Brixton Medical and in Europe as Stall Zet.

The Prix d’Amerique, with a purse of 1 million euros (about $1.2 million U.S.), will be held Jan. 28. The final qualifying race for the Prix d’Amerique is the Jan. Prix de Belgique on Jan. 14. Through the Dec. 31 prep, the following horses have qualified for the race: Billie de Montfort, Bird Parker, Bold Eagle, Briac Dark, Charly du Noyer, Doria Desbois, Propulsion, Ringostarr Treb, Readly Express and Valko Jenilat.
MCARDLE
Ohio’s leading money-winning sire of 2017 3YO pacers!

Including:

SCOTCH MCEWAN
p,3,1:53.1f-'17 ($328,398)

MCTHRILLER
p,3,1:51.2f-'17 ($207,997)

BARNABAS
p,3,1:51.2f-'17 ($183,336)

JAYE’S LADY
p,3,1:52h-'17 ($161,006)

For Commercial Breeders:

2017 yearlings by MCARDLE were overwhelmingly well-received at the fall sales, bringing up to $300,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale! He also led all pacing sires in yearling average at the Ohio Selected Jug Sale with $35,076.

2018 Fee $6,000
Multiple foal discounts available.

Standing at
Hickory Lane Farm
14346 Township Road 205
Findlay, Ohio 45840
Phone (419) 422-3004, Fax (419) 425-2999
Email ashley@hickorylanefarm.com
Banner Year For Bowden, Pure Country

Over the past three years, no female pacer can match the accomplishments of Pure Country. In fact, few in the history of harness racing can produce better resumes when it comes to accumulating awards.

Pure Country became the first female pacer to receive a Dan Patch Award at ages 2, 3, and 4 when she was named the sport’s best older pacing mare in December. Only two pacers have ever won more Dan Patch trophies, Androvette and Eternal Camnation, with four each.

“It’s quite an accomplishment,” said Adam Bowden, whose Diamond Creek Racing owns Pure Country and whose Diamond Creek Farm bred the mare. “It takes a special horse to be the best at two when they’re early developers and then continue to be the best at three and four when everybody else catches up.

“I’m just happy to be part of it.”

Pure Country was a perfect 10-for-10 at age two and joined JK She’salady (2014), See You At Peeler’s (2010) and My Little Dragon (2005) as the only 2-year-old fillies to win a Dan Patch Award with an undefeated season. Pure Country and See You At Peeler’s won again at age three.

For her career, the Jimmy Takter-trained Pure Country has won 25 of 47 races and earned $2.23 million, which puts her in the top 10 leaders in the point standings will return on Tuesday, Jan. 7, and Monday, Jan. 8, matinee programs. After two days, the 10 leaders in the point standings will return on Tuesday, Jan. 9, to vie for $25,000 in prize money and the championship trophy.

The other drivers vying for the crown, in alphabetical order, will be Simon Allard, Kyle Ater, Pat Berry, Jason Brewer, Marc Campbell, John Cummings Jr., Billy Davis Jr., John DeLong, Kayne Kauffman, James MacDonald, Jim Marino, Marcus Miller, Drew Monti, Louis Phillippe Roy, Jeremy Smith and Tyler Smith.

Each driver will get four drives on both the Sunday, Jan. 7, and Monday, Jan. 8, matinee programs. After two days, the 10 leaders in the point standings will return on Tuesday, Jan. 9, to vie for $25,000 in prize money and the championship trophy.

Post time for each of the three consecutive matinees is 2:05 p.m. (Hollywood Dayton)

McNair Set To Defend Drivers Championship

Many of the continent’s most talented drivers will descend on Miami Valley Raceway in southwest Ohio from Jan. 7-9 to determine the winner of the second annual North America Drivers Championship. Doug McNair, one of six Canadians entered in the 2018 contest, will return to defend his title.

Eight of the contestants have recorded over 5,000 driving wins in their careers with another four each with more than 4,000 victories. In total, the drivers scheduled to compete have amassed approximately 110,000 career wins with almost 9,000 of those coming in 2017. Peter Wrenn tops the list in lifetime triumphs with 9,938, slightly ahead of the reigning national dash champion Aaron Merriman with 9,815. Others with over 4,000 are Brett Miller (7,632), Trevor Henry (6,388), Mike Ousting (6,298), Sam Widger (5,922), Corey Callahan (5,544), Randy Tharps (5,269), Dan Noble (4,906), Trace Tetrick (4,347), Josh Sutton (4,253), and Chris Page (4,059).

The other drivers vying for the crown, in alphabetical order, will be Simon Allard, Kyle Ater, Pat Berry, Jason Brewer, Marc Campbell, John Cummings Jr., Billy Davis Jr., John DeLong, Kayne Kauffman, James MacDonald, Jim Marino, Marcus Miller, Drew Monti, Louis Phillippe Roy, Jeremy Smith and Tyler Smith.

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Post time for each of the three consecutive matinees is 2:05 p.m. (Hollywood Dayton)
The fastest 3-year-old in Breeders Crown history, Racing Hill retired with credentials of a true champion!

At 2, Racing Hill established a freshman record of 1:51.2, en route to winning the Bluegrass Stakes, the International Stallion Stakes and a Breeder’s Crown elimination.

At 3, Racing Hill was the second leading money winner of all aged horses ($1,594,366) to Wiggle It Jiggleit. His clocking of 1:48 in the 3-Year-Old Pacing Colt Championship was the fastest in Breeders Crown history (surpassing the great Somebeachsomewhere’s mark of 1:48.3). Racing Hill also recorded triumphs in the $500,000 Hempt Final at Pocono, the $500,000 Messenger Stakes at Yonkers, & the $400,000 Adios Pace at The Meadows. As well, he was a fast-closing, photo finish second in The Meadowlands Pace and a strong second in the $1 million North America Cup.

Racing Hill serviced a full book of mares in 2017!

2018 Stud Fee: $6,000
~Multiple Foal Discounts Available~
Tony Morgan Wins 16,000th Race

It didn’t take Tony Morgan long on Wednesday, Jan. 3, to become only the second driver in North American harness history to drive 16,000 winners in a career.

The 59-year-old Morgan drove Pippy Longstocking to victory in 1:56.1 to win the first race on the Dover Downs card. Then he guided Killean Finale home in 1:56.1 in the second race for the memorable 16,000th.

Morgan, who trails only Dave Palone in career wins among North American drivers, was born in Ohio, rose to prominence in Chicago, and now calls the Delaware circuit home. The son of driver/trainer Eddie Morgan Jr., himself a winner of 4,724 races, Morgan got his first win one month shy of turning 15 in 1973.

In 1995, Morgan led all drivers in North America in wins and captured the title again in 1996, 1997, 2006 and 2008. From 1995 through 2009, he was never out of the top 10 and racked up 10,695 wins during that span.

Morgan was Harness Tracks of America’s Driver of the Year in 1996, 1997, 2002 and 2006. He is one of only four drivers to win more than 1,000 races in a year, totaling 1,004 in 2006.

Horses driven by Morgan have earned nearly $128 million in purses, which puts Morgan 13th on the sport’s all-time list.

Morgan has previously discussed enjoying “the daily grind” of racing and keeping active and competitive.

“I’m a day-to-day guy; I’m not a long-term goal-setter,” Morgan said. “I just try to have a good day every day and turn the page if I have a bad day. I’m still working and I still enjoy the work. If I didn’t enjoy it I doubt I would be very successful at it. You have to be pretty dedicated.”

Even though he doesn’t make a point of chasing numbers, Morgan has said it is rewarding to reach these milestones.

“I’ve been really fortunate,” Morgan said. “I’ve had some really good people in the business support me over the years and give me good horses to race. It’s not hard to do good when you get to that point.

“Other people are a lot more conscious of (the milestones) than I am, but it’s nice when you hit them. And it’s always nice to be recognized by your peers. When people you’re around all the time and have raced with your whole life recognize you as doing something good, it means a lot.”

(Dover Downs/Ken Weingartner)

Jan. 8 Deadline For Caretaker Of Year Nominations

Nominations for the 2017 Caretaker of the Year must be received and/or postmarked by Monday, Jan. 8, and sent to U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) president Tim Bojarski at a159star@gmail.com or mailed to Tim Bojarski, 7523 Maple Road, Akron, N.Y. 14001.

Any caretaker working for any stable in North America is eligible.

The award, in its third year of sponsorship by Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park (HRRNP) in conjunction with USHWA, recognizes the unsung heroes of the sport—the caretakers who maintain the health and welfare of the horses on a daily basis.

Initially titled Groom of the Year Award when first presented in 1982, the honor was instituted as a result of a suggestion made by Delvin Miller at the annual Harness Tracks of America meeting when he received HTA’s Stanley F. Bergstein Messenger Award. Previously sponsored annually by HTA and Hanover Shoe farms, the tradition lapsed in 2014 but was re-established in 2015 by HRRNP and USHWA.

The HRRNP Caretaker of the Year will receive a cash prize of $500, a trophy, and transportation costs to the USHWA Dan Patch Awards banquet in Orlando, Fla., on Sunday evening, Feb. 25, where he or she will be recognized. The winner will also enjoy a two-night stay at Rosen Shingle Creek, host hotel for the USHWA activities, as well as two complimentary dinner tickets.

“It is so important that we recognize the people who are hands-on everyday with all our great horses because they are the ones the animals most closely relate to and are responsible for the care that keeps them sound and competitive week to week” said Bojarski. “I along with all the members of USHWA could not be more proud to co-sponsor this award and take the time to appreciate and thank not only the winner, but all the nominees as well.”

Any caretaker working for any stable in North America is eligible. All that is need to nominate is a letter or email, 200 words minimum, from an individual or group detailing the skills and special qualities of the caretaker. (USHWA)
Harness Racing’s Biggest Night of the Year!

The 2018 Dan Patch Awards & Night of Champions

Sunday, February 25, 2018
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort
Orlando, Florida

Honoring the 2017 Dan Patch Champions
E. Roland Harriman Horse of the Year, Trotter & Pacer of the Year
U.S. Harness Writers Association Awards
Hall of Fame & Communicator Inductees
Hervey & Smallsreed Winners

Night of Champions

For tickets contact
Judy Davis-Wilson at Zoe8874@aol.com

For Sponsorship information contact
Shawn Wiles at swiles@empreresorts.com

To place an ad in the Dan Patch Awards Journal contact
Kim Rinker at Trotrink@aol.com
Hollywood Dayton reports huge gains in wagering
Hollywood Dayton Raceway is pleased to report a whopping 52 percent increase in total all-source wagering on its recently-concluded 2017 live meet. Because there were 76 days in the track’s fourth annual meet, six more than in 2016, the average daily increase was 42 percent in a year-over-year comparison. more

Hawthorne Race Course set for harness Friday
Baby it’s cold outside, as the song goes. Nothing could be any truer than those lyrics here in Chicago but the harness racing action will be heating things up starting on Friday (Jan. 5) at Hawthorne Race Course. more

“Meadowlands Harness Live” debuts Friday
Thanks to the Meadowlands and SportsNet NewYork (SNY) live harness racing will come right into fans’ living rooms Friday night, Jan. 5, from the sport's top track. more

Woodbine resumes live racing on Jan. 6
Following a brief break, live Standardbred racing resumes Saturday evening, Jan. 6, at Woodbine Racetrack for the first card of 2018. A new post time of 7:10 p.m. will be in effect when racing resumes on Saturday. more

Meadowlands adds new spring late-closers
The Meadowlands is introducing a slate of late closers for the 2018 racing season. All are written with two legs and a final. more

President’s Awards to Burkett, Settlemoir
Positive commentary and industrious promotion of harness racing are the best ways to gain new owners, fans and gamblers as well as retain the ones already engaged in order to keep this industry viable for the next generation. And there is no one that does these things more effectively on a daily basis than T.J. Burkett and Jason Settlemoir. As a result, they will each be presented an USHWA President’s Award for their contributions to the sport at the 2018 Dan Patch Awards banquet that will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Fla. on Sunday, Feb. 25. more

Triple dead heat for show at Northfield Park
The money was spread around at Northfield Park Tuesday night when a triple dead heat for show (third place) in the second race made for three trifecta and six superfecta payoffs. more

US harness handle declines by 4.39% in 2017
Total wagering on harness racing at US racetracks in 2017 was $1,383,189,222, a 4.39 percent decrease, which was down $63,579,485, from the $1,446,768,707 bet in 2016. more

Michele Kopiec promoted to USTA manager
Michele Kopiec, who has worked at the US Trotting Association since 1999, has been promoted to Racetrack Operations and Licensing Manager for the organization. more
### 2018 MEADOWLANDS SPRING LATE CLOSING SERIES


**Event 50 – Pace – Horse & Geldings**  
"WHATA BARON"  
N/W of 6 Extended P.M. Races or N/W of $125,000 in 2017  
Leg 1: Saturday, April 7.................. $ 15,000  
Leg 2: Saturday, April 14................ $ 17,500  
Final: Saturday, April 21.............. $ 50,000e  
($ 40,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500

**Event 51 – Pace – Fillies & Mares**  
"BURNING POINT"  
N/W of 6 Extended P.M. Races or N/W of $125,000 in 2017  
Leg 1: Saturday, April 7.................. $ 15,000  
Leg 2: Saturday, April 14................ $ 17,500  
Final: Saturday, April 21.............. $ 50,000e  
($ 40,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500

**Event 52 – Trot**  
"SHIAWAY ST PAT"  
N/W of 6 (F&M 8) Extended P.M. or N/W of $125,000 (F&M $150,000) in 2017  
Leg 1: Friday, April 6.................... $ 15,000  
Leg 2: Friday, April 13................... $ 17,500  
Final: Friday, April 20................... $ 50,000e  
($ 40,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500


**Event 53 – Pace – 3YO Colts & Geldings**  
"ESCORT"  
N/W of 2 Extended P.M. Races Lifetime or $25,000 Lifetime W/O $75,000 Lifetime Ineligible  
(State Bred Wins for $10,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)  
Leg 1: Saturday, May 12............... $ 12,500  
Leg 2: Saturday, May 19............... $ 12,500  
Final: Saturday, May 26.............. $ 45,000e  
($ 30,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500

**Event 54 – Pace – 3YO Fillies**  
"RAINBOW BLUE"  
N/W of 2 Extended P.M. Races Lifetime or $25,000 Lifetime W/O $75,000 Lifetime Ineligible  
(State Bred Wins for $10,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)  
Leg 1: Saturday, May 12............... $ 12,500  
Leg 2: Saturday, May 19............... $ 12,500  
Final: Saturday, May 26.............. $ 45,000e  
($ 30,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500

**Event 55 – Trot – 3YO Colts & Geldings**  
"MUSCLE HILL"  
N/W of 2 Extended P.M. Races Lifetime or $25,000 Lifetime W/O $75,000 Lifetime Ineligible  
(State Bred Wins for $10,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)  
Leg 1: Friday, May 11................ $ 12,500  
Leg 2: Friday, May 18................ $ 12,500  
Final: Saturday, May 26.............. $ 45,000e  
($ 30,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500

**Event 56 – Trot – 3YO Fillies**  
"BROADWAY SCHOOBER"  
N/W of 2 Extended P.M. Races Lifetime or $25,000 Lifetime W/O $75,000 Lifetime Ineligible  
(State Bred Wins for $10,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)  
Leg 1: Friday, May 11................ $ 12,500  
Leg 2: Friday, May 18................ $ 12,500  
Final: Saturday, May 26.............. $ 45,000e  
($ 30,000a)  
Nominating Fee $500

<table>
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<th>Event #</th>
<th>Name of Horse</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Gait</th>
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Entered by: ________________________  Trainer: ________________________
Phone: ____________________________  Email: __________________________

One check (US funds) payable to and mail to Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment  
Send to: Attn: Racing Office, Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment, 1 Racetrack Drive, East Rutherford, NJ 07073
<table>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **Meadowlands Select Mixed Sale** at E. Rutherford, N.J.
- **Prix d'Amerique**
- **Snowshoe 3&4YO H&G Pace** (Wdb)
- **Blizzard 3&4YO F&M Pace** (Wdb)
- **Groundhog Day**
- **O'Brien Awards** in Mississauga, Ont.
- **Click for Feb 15 Stakes Payment Information**