Industry Rallies To Support Classy Lane Fire Victims

A fire late Monday night, Jan. 4, at Classy Lane Training Center in Puslinch, Ont., not far from Mohawk Racetrack, completely destroyed Barn 1 and killed 39 Standardbreds, one Thoroughbred and three miniature horses. The barn housed horses trained by Ben Wallace, Roger Mayotte, Chantal Mitchell, Kris DiCenzo, Floyd Amos and Dan Lagace.

The fire started at approximately 11 p.m. and resulted in five area fire departments being called to fight the blaze at the training center which opened in 2003. As of press time, no cause of the fire has been determined.

Wallace told Weekend Preview on Wednesday morning that he lost 16 horses in the blaze as well as all of his equipment and a truck. Among his horses killed was Penji Hanover, a winner of $186,382 who finished seventh in last year’s Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace, and Apprentice Hanover, a winner of $983,118 who won his last start on Dec. 19 in the Preferred Pace at Woodbine and had just won a qualifier earlier on Monday, also at Woodbine.

Wallace was at Classy Lane on Wednesday morning waiting for crews to sift through the rubble and remove the carcasses of the dead horses. Wallace said he is grateful for the outpouring of support.

“I have had unbelievable support from people telling me that if I was looking for horses there are horses out there to train,” said Wallace. “I will be training horses, that’s for sure. I’m not concerned about that now as it is getting things started again in some sort of process.”

Continues on page 2

To Donate To The Fund Set Up By COSA
Make check payable to:
Classy Lane Barn Fire
Central Ontario Standardbred Association
P.O. Box 297
Campbellville, Ont. L0P 1B0

“Industry Rallies To Support Classy Lane Fire Victims”

Photo from Mario Glynn’s Facebook post

“What’s Inside . . .

Siegelman has hopes for Shane Adam—pg. 4
Racing returns to Hawthorne—pg. 6
Zoccali resigns from Meadowlands—pg. 8
Total US harness handle up in 2015—pg. 8
First foal of 2016—pg. 8
Wallace said his stable now consists of two newly-turned 2 year olds that were not at Classy Lane.

“I was lucky that I bought two colts on my own account at the Forest City Sale and I sent them to a friend of mine to get broke,” said Wallace, who owned the Thoroughbred killed in the fire but also has two others who were off the ground. “I’ve been too busy to go and pick them up so fortunately they weren’t here.”

Wallace said he has the full support of Brad Grant, who owned several horses in his barn, including Apprentice Hanover.

“It was pretty tough, but he’s a quality guy and he understands and is more than willing to regroup a little bit and take another run at something,” said Wallace. “We’ll see how that all unfolds.”

Wallace said he is already working with Central Ontario Standardbred Association (COSA) president Bill O’Donnell on the disbursement of monies received from various groups, including a gofundme.com page that as of press time raised more than $100,000.

“I’ll make sure that for my help that there is no hiccup at all in their payroll, until we get started again,” said Wallace. “COSA has also been really upfront as far as helping out in that regard. Bill (O’Donnell) has assured us that those that need help will get taken care of.”

This is the third major barn fire in the past 25 years in Ontario. A 1992 fire at Mohawk Racetrack killed 69 Standardbreds, and a 2002 fire at Woodbine saw 31 Thoroughbreds lose their lives.

O’Donnell said the overwhelming response from the horse community doesn’t surprise him.

“I’ve seen this happen time after time after time. We may not be the best of friends 364 days a year, but that one day that you need help from your peers, they are there,” said O’Donnell. “The animal is the common denominator, but nonetheless, this is just what we do. I raced horses my whole life and at the end of the night we’d all sit down and have a beer and work on our differences. This is a resilient business with resilient people, something you see in very, very few businesses.”

Pledges at gofundme.com include several for $1,000 or more, including $5,000 from nearby Ideal Training Center and $1,000 from the connections of Burnett Blue Chip, the dam of Southwind Billy, who died in the fire as part of the Lagahe Stable.

Woodbine announced it would remember the horses killed in a video tribute Thursday night, while horsemen at Miami Valley and Northfield Park will wear red and white ribbons on Saturday. The U.S. Trotting Association announced it will make a $5,000 contribution to the fund established by COSA. Also, an Ontario Thoroughbred farm, Park Stud, has announced it will be auctioning off breedings to three of its stallions to benefit the fire victims.

The Meadowlands is holding a fundraiser this weekend and track owner Jeff Gural has personally contributed

$10,000. While many horsemen have pledged a percentage of purse earnings from this weekend’s racing, some of the more well-known names include Ron Burke, Mark Weaver and Mike Bruscemi, Tony O’Sullivan, Julie and Andy Miller, Nick Surick, Jeff Bamond Jr. and Yannick Gingras. Adriano Sorella, Tony Alagna and Crawford Farms teamed up and are contributing harnesses and jog carts.

“We would like to pass on our sincere condolences to the trainers, owners, grooms and everyone involved,” said Sorella. “And we cannot forget these great animals. They do so much for us and risk it all, and at a time like this one can only sit back and say ‘thank you.’” — By Gordon Waterstone
ATTENTION
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& BREEDERS

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

BREEDERS CROWN NO. 33 — FOR FOALS OF 2017

TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE — $6,000,000

STALLION NOMINATION FEE: Due and payable January 15, 2016, in the
amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2016 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 80 days after
the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any first-year stallion nomination
fee be accepted after December 31, 2016. The Hambletonian Society reserves the
right to determine the stallion nomination fee of those stallions whose 2016 service
is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This
payment covers 2016 matings (foals of 2017).

In addition to the 2016 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 $4,010 CAD
   (Canadian Dollars) to $8,016 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2016
   service fee must be paid;

b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US$6,000 to $9,999 (or $8,019 CAD
to $13,364 CAD), an additional amount equal to 75% of 2016 service fee must be
   paid;

c) For stallions that stand for a fee of US$10,000 ($13,369 CAD), or more, an
   additional amount equal to 200% of 2016 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a service fee of less than US$3,000 (or $4,010 CAD),
no additional surcharge is necessary for nomination.

Note: For the purpose of determining the surcharge in other than U.S. funds,
the December 1, 2015 exchange rate is used; a rate of $1.336 CAD per US$. If
stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after
January 15, 2016, but on or before December 31, 2016, 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, 2016, 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 2016 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, 2016.

Moreover, if a nominated stallion does not breed more than twenty (20) mares in
2016 or produce more than fifteen (15) registered foals in 2017, 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, 2016. 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, 2016, and is subsequently exported prior to February 15, 2016 and
that does not commercially breed a mare in North America by any means during
the entire 2016 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, 2016. With the exception of supplemental
nominations or declarations as provided in the conditions, foals of 2017 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 2016, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and open Breeders Crown events will be
conducted under the conditions of Breeders Crown 2016. All of these races are
closed with sustaining payments due in 2016, with the exception of supplemental
nominations.

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

**Breeders Crown Stallion No. 33 Nomination Blank**

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<th>Name of Stallion</th>
<th>Age/Foal of:</th>
<th>2016 Service Fee</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Dam</td>
<td>Sire of Dam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm:</td>
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<td>State/Province</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner(s):</td>
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Please check [✓]:
- [ ] In-production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2016)
- [ ] First-season stallion (within 60 days of 1st cover)
- [ ] With penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2016)
- [ ] First-season with penalty (additional 50% after 60 days)

The Stallion Nomination Fee is the amount of the 2016 Service Fee plus the above surcharge for fees $3,000 US ($4,010 CAD) or over

2016 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
Siegelman Still Hoping For More From Shane Adam, And Recalls His Own Loss In 2000 Barn Fire

In addition to the veterans, program pages for races in January and February almost always reveal a few horses who might be poised for greater things than their past performance lines show. Their owners have knowledge, information that doesn’t appear on the horse’s lines, which cause them to be hopeful.

The most notable example of a young horse without much experience starting early in the year and going on to bigger and better things is Wiggle It Jiggleit, who made his first start in 2015 on Jan. 25 at Dover Downs. He happened to be the betting favorite in the Dover race and won by a whopping 12 ¼ lengths, but even that performance didn’t foreshadow his Horse of the Year season.

Shane Adam, a now 4-year-old gelded son of Western Ideal, made just two starts as a 2 year old but then raced 21 times last year at age three. “He’s shown us a lot of potential; that’s why we waited on him,” said Siegelman of the homebred owned by Barry Rubenstein Farms LLC.

Although Siegelman likes Shane Adam, he knew the best fit for the horse last year was non-winners, not stakes. The 2015 season resulted in a couple of wins and $29,515 in earnings. Then on Dec. 19 at the Meadowlands, despite starting from post 9, Shane Adam turned in a strong fourth-place finish.

“I think in his last start he came his middle half in :54.3 and paced home in :27.3, so I was happy with that,” said Siegelman.

But Shane Adam has drawn post 10 for his start at the Meadowlands Saturday night (Race 4).

“I was very disappointed when I saw he had the 10 hole. Scott Zeron (who drove the horse in the prior start) likes my horse, but no one likes a horse from the 10 hole.”

In addition to racing Shane Adam, Siegelman has Cheyenne Jeffrey and Cheyenne Seeber in to go at Yonkers on Friday. He had hoped to race his open pacing mare Cheyenne Robin p,3, 1:51.3, who won three straight at the Meadowlands before she was nosed out on the wire on Dec. 26.

“She didn’t get in at the Meadowlands this week; they couldn’t fill her race,” said Siegelman. “She’s turned into a real serious horse. Now that she’s four, it will be tough to find her races. If she stays healthy, she’ll be a real factor.”

Siegelman shared his updates on his horses while taking a short beach vacation in Aruba. It was there that he learned about the barn fire at Classy Lane Farm in Ontario. It brought back memories of Thanksgiving 2000, when he lost a dozen horses in a barn fire at Gateway Farm. A total of 20 were killed in that blaze, which investigators said was caused by a portable electric water heater that was left in a plastic water bucket, with the bucket melting and the hot coil falling against a wood board framing a stall.

“I actually thought I would never recover from it. I didn’t think I would get through it emotionally,” Siegelman recalled. “When it happened, I saw the best side of the horse business. We were fortunate our yearlings were in another barn. As life went on, I found a way to go on as long as my family is healthy and fine.

“It just takes time to get through it,” Siegelman added. “It’s one of the reasons why I do volunteer work (therapeutic riding for kids and working with the military veterans with horses).” — By Kathy Parker
The Road to Riches

Four of the top five 2015 money winning drivers in North America are Meadowlands regulars. We congratulate them on their remarkable season.
Harness Racing Returns To Hawthorne

Hawthorne Race Course opens its 2016 Standardbred meet on Friday night, the first time since 2008 the 125-year-old racetrack will have harness horses on the one-mile oval in Stickney, Ill., about eight miles from downtown Chicago.

Hawthorne’s opening day, 10-race card kicks off at 7:20 p.m. (CST), with the featured event scheduled as Race 9, a $10,000 winners-over trot.

Hawthorne will race Friday, Saturday and Sunday on its opening weekend, then shift to a Wednesday-Sunday schedule through Feb. 6.

Hawthorne was awarded all 128 Standardbred dates in the state for 2016 after the Illinois Racing Board denied meet licenses to Balmoral Park and Maywood Park, both of which declared bankruptcy late in 2014 after a court ruling calling for them to pay a $78.1 million judgement to the state’s riverboat casinos.

Hawthorne’s racing secretary is Pete Hanley, who serves in the same capacity at Rosecroft Raceway. With regular track announcer Peter Galassi recovering from recent stem cell replacement, Mike Bozich will fill in.

Tom Kelley, longtime publicist at Balmoral and Maywood Park, has moved to Hawthorne as its director of harness operations and assistant race secretary. Kelley will also serve as association steward. Kelley told The Horseman that there are the maximum 500 horses on the grounds at Hawthorne, and that all nearby farms are filled to capacity.

Kelley said 197 horses were entered for Friday’s opening-night card. All races have 10 starters, with the last race going with 1 1/4 behind the gate.

“We’re going to try and go with 1 1/4 on the final race each night because that’s our Jackpot Hi-5 and we’d like to create some interest,” explained Kelley, noting that all exotic wagers will have 20-cent minimums.

“I have to thank all the horsemen for supporting the product to start the meet,” said Kelley. “It has given everybody quite a bit of optimism.”

The transition from the recent Thoroughbred meet, which ended on Jan. 2, required the removal of 11,000 tons of sand that comprised the dirt track surface. The sand, as well as the hubrail, will be back in place for a March 7-April 30 Thoroughbred meet, and then removed again for a harness meet that will run from May 6-Sept. 25.

Opened for Thoroughbred racing in 1891, Hawthorne hosted its first harness meet in 1970. On-track attendance that year (pre-simulcasting) was 11,686, with an average handle of $1,009,777. The pacer Robert E Adios earned speed-badge honors for the meet with a 1:59.2 victory.

When Yonkers Raceway in New York was closed in 2004 in preparation for its new slots parlor, the Yonkers Trot was contested at Hawthorne. The race—scheduled that year on Sept. 29 as the second leg of trotting’s Triple Crown—was won by Hambletonian champ Windsong’s Legacy, who went on to win the Kentucky Futurity 10 days later and the first Triple Crown champion trotter since Super Bowl in 1972.

Ken Rucker and Joe Anderson, familiar faces on the Chicago circuit until recently moving to the East Coast, will be returning for the Hawthorne meet. Trainers Ron Burke and Rene Allard, respectively one-two in the national dash standings in 2015, have also sent small stables to compete at Hawthorne’s initial meet.

Allard sends out Smoother Ride, the 5-2 morning-line favorite in the opening-night feature. The 6-year-old son of Yankee Glide earned $50,890 of his career $341,782 in earnings in 2015. Allard’s brother, Simon, will be in the sulky from post 8 with Smoother Ride, who won two starts back at Harrah’s Philadelphia while on Lasix for the first time. Smoother Ride broke before the first quarter as a result of interference last time out but recovered to finish fourth as the betting favorite.—By Gordon Waterstone

2008 Hawthorne Leaders

DRIVER
Brent Holland—70 Wins
Mike Oosting—$583,156

TRAINER
Erv Miller—29 Wins
Paul Stafford—$337,718

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January Meadowlands Mixed Sale
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Monday, January 18, 2016  Sales Begins at 11:00 AM

“Magnificent Mares”
featuring the best young pacing mare in this sale!

Hip 150 SOUTHWIND ROULETTE  p,2,1:51.4f ($519,465)
  bm 4  Somebeachsomewhere-Southwind Rio-Artsplace
  The stakes winner of over $500,000 competing with the best of her division with the pedigree and performance
to be an exceptional racing or breeding prospect by every measure.

Hip 133 ALIBI SEELSTER  p,2,1:53.3, 4,1:51.2-‘15 ($239,373)
  bm 5  Shadow Play – Alias Seelster – Intrepid Seelster

Hip 134 ARMATRADING  2,1:57.4, 3,1:55.4-‘15 ($183,349)
  bm 4  Groton Hall – Silver Thatch – Dream Vacation

Hip 136 BLUSH HANOVER  p,3,1:52 ($220,591)
  bm, 5  Art Major – Brissonte Hanover – Dragon Hanover

Hip 139 GIANNA’S DELIGHT  p,2,1:56.1f, 4,1:50.4f ($220,265)
  bm 6  Bettor’s Delight – Sherry – Keystone Raider

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Darin Zoccali Resigns From Meadowlands

Darin Zoccali, who has worked at the Meadowlands since 2006 and as its director of racing operations since 2012, told harnessracing.com Wednesday afternoon that he has resigned his position and will be leaving the New Jersey racetrack upon the conclusion of the race card on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Zoccali’s responsibilities at the Meadowlands included all racing-related decisions, including the racing calendar, stakes schedule, and managing the purse account. He was also the track oddsmaker and seen nightly on the TVG network as part of its broadcast team. He also oversaw operations at the track’s off-track wagering facility Winners Bayonne.

Zoccali said family obligations were first and foremost in his decision, and that he will soon be announcing a new career path, which includes remaining in racing in some capacity.

“Saturday will be my last day at the Meadowlands. I will be moving on to pursue another opportunity in my career that will also allow me to spend more time with my family, which, given that I have two small children, is very important to me. That is the largest motivating factor in this decision,” said Zoccali, whose wife Amanda is a special education teacher in New York City.

Zoccali graduated St. John’s University with a degree in legal studies and worked as a U.S. Trotting Association web newsmroom correspondent while in college. He then began announcing the races at Tioga Downs and Oceans Downs. He also worked for Harness Racing Update and was a contributor to the Down The Stretch radio show on Sirius XM. He began working at the Meadowlands 10 years ago.

“I have worked at the Meadowlands in some capacity since 2006 and have done so with un-surpassing pride,” said Zoccali. “It certainly has been a privilege to be the director of racing operations these past few years. I have had a long relationship with Jeff Gural and Jason Settlemoir going back to my days at Tioga Downs and working for them has been nothing short of remarkable. I wish them nothing but the best going forward and I will certainly miss working with my friends and mentors, notably, Jason Settlemoir, Sam McKee, Bob Heyden and Ken Warkentin, who have all played a major part in my career. I also want to thank Dave Brower, a good friend and my predecessor as oddsmaker at the Meadowlands. His advice and mentorship has been cherished. Simply put, they are all the best at what they do and I am proud to call them friends and mentors. My passion for the sport is unwavering and I certainly will not be a stranger to the Meadowlands, or the sport of harness racing.” — By Gordon Waterstone

Total Harness Handle In U.S. Up In 2015

The total wagering on harness racing at U.S. tracks in 2015 surpassed $1 billion, a 1.02 percent increase compared to 2014 according to statistics announced by the U.S. Trotting Association on Wednesday.

During the past year, the $1,512,300,328 wagered on pari-mutuel harness racing nationwide was $15,295,745 more than the 2014 total of $1,497,004,583.

In addition, there was an increase of $15,464,369 (3.79 percent) in total purses awarded nationally with $423,599,755 distributed in 2015 versus $408,135,386 in 2014.

Race days grew year-over-year from 3,695 in 2014 to 3,748 in 2015, an increase of 53 days (1.43 percent).

The only decline in harness racing’s economic indicators across the U.S. was a 3.86 percent drop in average wagering per race from $39,306 in 2014 to $37,789 in 2015, a difference of $1,517 per race.

Following are the comparative economic indicators for U.S. harness racing from 2015 and 2014.

Economic indicators on U.S. harness races:

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<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>%Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Wagered</td>
<td>$1,512,300,328</td>
<td>$1,497,004,583</td>
<td>+1.02%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Race avg.</td>
<td>$37,789</td>
<td>$39,306</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purses</td>
<td>$423,599,755</td>
<td>$408,135,386</td>
<td>+3.79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race Days</td>
<td>3,748</td>
<td>3,695</td>
<td>+1.43%</td>
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Please note: Includes U.S. and Canadian common and separate pool wagers on races contested in the U.S. Data source: United Tote. (USTA)

Early Arrival

Spicy Wings posed with her colt by Muscle Hill at Birch Creek Farm in Cream Ridge, N.J. Owned by Doc’s Farm (Eric Cherry and Janice and Mark Gold), the colt is the fourth foal of Spicy Wings 3, 1:54.3f ($570,720), a daughter of Andover Hall out of Angel Fire Hanover.
No Meadowlands For David Miller Until April

Although David Miller enters 2016 less than $683,000 from becoming just the third driver in history to reach the $200-million mark in career earnings, don’t look for the Hall of Famer to reach the milestone any time soon. That’s because Miller and his wife, Misty, will be spending the winter in Florida and not returning north until April, which means he will be out of action at the Meadowlands until that time.

“I won’t be back there until April,” Miller told harnessracing.com. “I don’t do Yonkers and I don’t do Dover, and the Meadowlands is only racing two nights a week.”

Miller, who was recently voted the 2015 Driver of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA), is coming off a year in which he won 384 races and a career-high $12,362,591 in purse earnings, second only to Yannick Gingras. Miller won 29 races in 2015 with a purse of $100,000 or higher, including a record five Breeders Crown finals in late October at Woodbine.

Miller has now posted 17 consecutive top-10 finishes in money earnings. Only John Campbell and Ron Pierce have higher career earnings than Miller. He also ranks sixth on the all-time wins list with 11,633 victories.

Miller won’t be completely absent from the sulky this winter. While Miller will be helping his wife train two of their own horses at Southern Oaks, he said he will be making the trip down to Pompano Park to drive Arthur Blue Chip in a late-closing series. Miller said he has no plans on picking up extra drives those nights he will be at Pompano.

Spending the winter in Florida, Miller will also be in closer proximity to Ft. Lauderdale, where he will accept his Driver of the Year trophy at USHWA’s annual Dan Patch Awards banquet on Sunday night, March 6.

Hannah Miller Named U.S. Rep For World Cup

The World Cup, considered the Super Bowl of amateur racing, will take place in Budapest, Hungary, in September and Hannah Miller has been designated to represent the United States in that prestigious event. The World Cup will pit 12 countries from three continents in an international amateur driving competition.

Miller was named the 2015 Amateur Driver of the Year by the U. S. Harness Writers Association and she has been chosen to drive for the North American Amateur Drivers Association (NAADA) against her mostly male counterparts in a series of races to determine the champion amateur driver of the world.

“Hannah was selected because of her talent as a driver, her fearless competitive nature, her UDR numbers and lastly because she was the only first ballot unanimous selection as National Amateur Driver of the Year,” said Joe Faraldo, president and founder of NAADA. “Her selection, by the North American Amateur Drivers Association, which considered other candidates, ended eventually as a walkover.” (John Manzi)

Fans’ Choice Awards To Bellino, WIJI’s Jug Win

Throughout the month of December, 19 nominees in two categories vied against each other for the Railbird Recognition Awards, the fan-voted accolade sponsored by the U. S. Harness Writers Association and the U. S. Trotting Association.

Ten individuals squared off for “Horseperson of the Year” and nine events battled for “Racing Moment of the Year” and when the pools closed on New Year’s Eve, the fans of harness racing chose Joe Bellino and Wiggle It Jiggleit’s Little Brown Jug win as the categorical winners.

Bellino has been very successful in harness racing, but he remembers where he came from and respects everyone who works in the industry. Having campaigned such notable horses as Psiluvheartbreaker, Rock N Roll Heaven and Pet Rock, he knows what it’s like to win the big race. But he also remembers that there are many people involved at all levels of this sport and goes out of his way to help them when he can.

Bellino’s benevolence is one of the worst kept secrets in the business. Although he reaches out to those in need and tries to help at every turn, he never looks for any thanks or praise for his actions. But the many people that he has helped both in and out of harness racing will be the first ones to let you know what an unselfish individual he is.

Clearly people in the grandstand and on the backstretch know of his good deeds and that is why he garnered 77 percent of the total vote for Horseperson of the Year. This is the largest margin of victory for either category in the eight-year history of the Railbird Recognition voting.

Anyone who saw the final heat of the 2015 Little Brown Jug will more than likely tell you that it was “THE” greatest horse race they ever witnessed. The race was an indelible memory that everyone who attended live in Delaware, Ohio and watched remotely around the world has and those fans relived it while voting to make Wiggle It Jiggleit’s Little Brown Jug win the Racing Moment of the Year for 2015.

Bellino and Team Teague will be presented their Railbird Recognition trophies during the Dan Patch Awards Banquet, to be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Sunday, March 6.
### 2015 Harness Racing Leaders

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

<table>
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<th>Horses</th>
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<th>W</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>Wiggle It Jiggleit (3pg)</td>
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<td>Bee A Magician (5tm)</td>
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#### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
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<td>David Miller</td>
<td>2,568</td>
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<td>Tim Tetrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>2,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>3,433</td>
<td>636-501-489</td>
<td>.314</td>
<td>9,810,675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Sears</td>
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<td>George Napolitano Jr.</td>
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<td>George Brennan</td>
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<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
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<td>Daniel Dube</td>
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<td>Scott Zeron</td>
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<td>Matt Kakaley</td>
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<td>Dave Palone</td>
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<td>James Morrill Jr.</td>
<td>1,163</td>
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#### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>Ron Burke</td>
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<td>Jimmy Takter</td>
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<td>Tony Alagna</td>
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<td>Jeff Damond Jr.</td>
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<td>Gilbert Garcia-Herrera</td>
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<td>Julie Miller</td>
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<td>122-135-105</td>
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<td>Ake Svanstedt</td>
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<td>Brian Brown</td>
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<td>143-91-84</td>
<td>.375</td>
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<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
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<td>Erv Miller</td>
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<td>Tony O’Sullivan</td>
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<td>Christopher Oakes</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>149-113-63</td>
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### 2015 Leading Breeders

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<td>678</td>
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<td>Brittany Farms</td>
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<td>Perretti Farms</td>
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<td>208</td>
<td>758</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>155</td>
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<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
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<td>276</td>
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<td>Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par</td>
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<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
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<td>Steve Stewart</td>
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<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
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<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
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<td>Bulletproof Enterprises</td>
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<td>Fair Winds Farm Inc.</td>
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<td>Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.</td>
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<td>Al Libfeld</td>
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<td>63</td>
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### Leaders Of The Week

#### Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victor Puddy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Ray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Wiseman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Schillaci</td>
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<td>Eric Billings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
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<td>Luke Plano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Umholtz</td>
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<td>Gerard Demers</td>
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