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# Harness Racing

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016

Inside  
Weekly  
[harnessracing.com](http://harnessracing.com)  
News Digest

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### 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

**"The animal is the common denominator.... This is a resilient business with resilient people, something you see in very, very few businesses!"**

—Bill O'Donnell

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 >>>*

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Photo from Mario Glynn's Facebook post



A destroyed Barn 1 at Classy Lane on Jan. 5.

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 grounds. "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 pay scale 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 Lagace 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



## THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

### Friday, January 8

All times listed are local.

7:30p	Wdb2	<b>Snowshoe Pace</b> div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:10p	Wdb3	<b>Snowshoe Pace</b> div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:41p	M7	<b>Open 2Trot</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:10p	Wdb6	<b>Snowshoe Pace</b> div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:23p	M9	<b>Open Trot</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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

### Saturday, January 9

6:56p	M2	<b>Open Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
7:50p	Wdb2	<b>Preferred Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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\$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 Brussemi, 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*

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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 \$8,018 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\$.*

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](http://www.hambletonian.org)

### BREEDERS CROWN STALLION NO. 33 NOMINATION BLANK

Name of Stallion \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Foal of: \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 Service Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Sire \_\_\_\_\_ Dam \_\_\_\_\_ Sire of Dam \_\_\_\_\_

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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 may not be in the same league with Wiggle It Jiggleit, but his trainer, Robbie Siegelman, thinks he still hasn't seen the best of his horse in competition.

Shane Adam, a now 4-year-old gelded son of Western Ideal, made just two starts as



Photo from Mario Glynn's Facebook post

**"I actually thought I would never recover from it. When it happened, I saw the best side of the horse business."**

*—Robbie Siegelman*

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 Gaitway 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*



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## 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 11 behind the gate.

"We're going to try and go with 11 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

The conversion to the Standardbred race surface at Hawthorne Race Course included the removal of 11,000 tons of sand.



Four Footed Photo

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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bm 5 *Shadow Play – Alias Seelster – Intrepid Seelster*

**Hip 136 BLUSH HANOVER** p,3,1:52 (\$220,591)

bm, 5 *Art Major – Brissonite Hanover – Dragon Hanover*

**Hip 134 ARMATRADING** 2,1:57.4, 3,1:55.4-'15 (\$183,349)

brm 4 *Groton Hall – Silver Thatch – Dream Vacation*

**Hip 139 GIANNA'S DELIGHT** p,2,1:56.1f, 4,1:50.4f (\$220,265)

brm 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 newsroom 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 for them. I want to make a point speaking first-hand that they want what is best for the sport of harness racing and that is the driving force in everything that they do. They are the biggest allies the sport of harness racing has."

Settlemoir hired Zoccali at Tioga Downs and the Meadowlands' CEO/general manager wished his colleague the best.

"Jeff and I wish Darin well in his new endeavors in his new career path and life," said Settlemoir. "Darin has been with us for several years dating back to Tioga Downs when I gave him his first opportunity in track announcing. I am proud to have watched him grow up in the sport and we wish him nothing but the best."

Zoccali also said he wants to thank all the race fans for their support, as well as that from his soon-to-be former co-workers.

"I also want to thank the fans and horseplayers for supporting the Meadowlands during the transition to the new facility," he said. "Without them, none of what the team at the Mead-

owlands has accomplished would have been possible. I am happy to say I was a part of that team and I will look back on my years at The Meadowlands proudly. I will 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 \$1.5 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:

	2015	2014	%Change
<b>Total Wagered</b>	\$1,512,300,328	\$1,497,004,583	+1.02%
<b>Per Race avg.</b>	\$37,789	\$39,306	-3.86%
<b>Purses</b>	\$423,599,755	\$408,135,386	+3.79%
<b>Race Days</b>	3,748	3,695	+1.43%

Please note: Includes U.S. and Canadian common and separate pool wagers on races contested in the U.S. Data source: UnitedTote. (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.



Vicki Wright Photo



## 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 Fort 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, WIJ'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 Psilvuheartbreaker, 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.

**RACE LINES**

**2015 Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through December 31, 2015.

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

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Wiggle It Jiggle It (3pg)	26	22	3	0	\$2,181,995
Pinkman (3tg)	17	11	3	1	1,892,865
Wakizashi Hanover (3pg)	20	11	4	2	1,153,700
Wild Honey (3tf)	16	7	7	0	1,149,532
Crazy Wow (3tc)	17	9	3	1	1,027,612
Mission Brief (3tf)	14	10	3	0	1,008,517
The Bank (3tc)	18	5	8	0	998,652
Bee A Magician (5tm)	18	10	5	0	980,845
Artspeak (3pc)	17	6	5	1	883,684
State Treasurer (6ph)	19	9	1	5	865,807
Freaky Feet Pete (3pc)	17	15	2	0	853,774
Timoko (8th)	9	2	1	2	800,876
Southwind Frank (2tc)	12	11	0	0	786,419
Creatine (5th)	12	3	2	2	772,852
Papagayo E (5th)	10	4	2	2	751,230

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings
Yannick Gingras	2,109	438-353-287	.346	\$13,595,898
David Miller	2,568	384-367-369	.277	12,362,991
Tim Tetrick	2,525	465-363-330	.308	11,998,634
Jason Bartlett	2,653	514-468-364	.337	9,837,631
Corey Callahan	3,433	636-501-489	.314	9,810,675
Brian Sears	1,975	376-314-281	.326	9,359,645
George Napolitano Jr.	3,145	832-559-382	.404	8,567,733
George Brennan	2,467	399-325-309	.277	7,634,454
Brett Miller	2,353	278-323-312	.239	7,437,588
Aaron Merriman	4,204	873-665-586	.342	7,407,906
Daniel Dube	2,396	355-313-277	.259	7,394,260
Scott Zeron	2,223	300-292-278	.250	7,088,922
Matt Kakaley	2,483	272-322-321	.225	6,907,815
Dave Palone	2,025	498-309-244	.371	5,515,143
James Morrill Jr.	1,163	264-242-159	.388	5,416,321

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings
Ron Burke	4,814	984-771-685	.341	\$24,938,561
Jimmy Takter	783	183-147-104	.382	12,945,377
Rene Allard	1,676	433-275-219	.393	6,177,017
Tony Alagna	671	141-101-85	.336	4,657,800
Jeff Bamond Jr.	848	137-134-137	.303	4,643,621
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	1,788	334-290-218	.318	4,378,254
Julie Miller	747	122-135-105	.311	3,722,911
Ake Svanstedt	522	102-72-54	.307	3,503,475
Brian Brown	591	143-91-84	.375	3,430,241
Virgil Morgan Jr.	1,389	313-191-176	.344	3,302,450
Erv Miller	1,066	176-137-163	.287	3,058,635
Steve Elliott	438	90-63-60	.331	2,865,856
Richard Moreau	1,286	271-194-164	.337	2,827,523
Tony O'Sullivan	703	105-96-93	.269	2,621,717
Christopher Oakes	562	149-113-63	.414	2,503,433

**2015 Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	1,067	744	2,462	\$30,158,582
Winbak Farm	1,012	678	2,302	19,009,472
Brittany Farms	288	207	794	12,051,354
Perretti Farms	300	208	758	7,762,681
White Birch Farm	155	117	374	5,949,605
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	137	90	276	5,861,767
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	246	165	552	5,350,298
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	200	141	464	5,243,220
Steve Stewart	141	99	296	4,507,334
Frederick Hertrich III	156	120	361	4,388,333
Seelster Farms Inc.	188	123	465	3,999,415
Bulletproof Enterprises	162	118	443	3,843,792
Fair Winds Farm Inc.	96	75	271	3,781,351
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	135	102	391	3,466,063
Al Libfeld	88	63	190	3,336,433

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for Dec. 16-31 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Aaron Merriman	160	40-31-17
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	139	40-23-27
Josh Sutton	97	22-19-13
Tyler Smith	112	22-19-13
Alfred Carroll	118	20-12-22
Jim DeVaux	75	19-17-11
Bob McClure	100	18-18-14
Corey Callahan	92	17-12-7
Jim Taggart Jr.	72	17-6-12
Larry Stalbaum	75	17-19-9
Kevin Wallis	62	16-11-8
Chris Page	111	15-24-11
Jeremy Smith	111	15-22-19
Scott Coulter	80	15-9-10
Dan Noble	96	14-8-14
Jason Merriman	142	14-16-14
Jim Pantaleano	54	14-6-5
Wally Hennessey	59	13-9-8
Dave Palone	53	12-9-6
James MacDonald	66	12-10-5
Jim Marohn Jr.	64	12-5-12
Tony Hall	51	12-8-5

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	12
Robert Lounsbury	11
C. Brian Loney	8
Luke Plano	8
Virgil Morgan Jr.	8
Clair Umholtz	7
Gerard Demers	7
Carmen Auciello	6
Eric Billings	6
Jessica Millner	6
Patrick Shepherd	6
Richard Moreau	6
Sam Schillaci	6
Steve Wiseman	6
Steven Ray	6
Victor Puddy	6