Valedictory Champ Company Man
Ready For Escort Series

Like the kindergartner who goes to the wrong classroom his very first day at school, Company Man didn’t show up where he was supposed to after being purchased for $10,000 as a weanling at the 2011 Harrisburg mixed sale by Dan Mitchell and Steve Tokos.

Mitchell said Company Man was supposed to be sent to Ohio following the purchase, but instead the colt ended up in New York. Everything eventually got straightened out, but then the sudden death of Tokos led to Company Man being consigned to the 2012 Lexington Select Yearling Sale, where Mitchell had the final bid of $15,000.

“Steve went to Harrisburg to buy a racehorse, but he called me and asked if I would go halves on a weanling,” remembered Mitchell, who is a partner in 11 Texas Roadhouse restaurants in his home state of Michigan. “Somehow he got put on the wrong truck, and instead of going to Ohio he got sent to Saratoga. So we had to put the little guy on another truck. After Steve passed away I put him in the Lexington sale, and made one bid on him for $15,000 and got him.”

“His late start was by design. He was immature,” said trainer Al Tomlinson, who had the horse in his barn but has now turned the horse over to owner Mitchell, who is a licensed trainer. “He made his first start at Sports Creek, but as Brad (driver Brad Kramer) said, he was ‘too much ball for the alley.’ He was second that night but nonetheless he raced like we were teaching him something.”

Company Man broke his maiden in his second start of 2014, scoring in 1:55.2 at Hoosier Park. He followed that up with a 1:54.3 victory over a “sloppy” track at Scioto Downs. But it was a second-place finish the following week at Mohawk that began to attract attention. Company Man finished second that night, race-timed in 1:50.4.

Mitchell said he received offers to sell, but the deal

“Don’t be shut out...Entries will close around January 12 or when full!”

February 9 & 10

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WHAT’S INSIDE . . .

Owner Bamond now trainer Bamond — pg. 4
Maven stays on path to Prix d’Amerique — pg. 6
Millionaire Golden Receiver retired — pg. 8
breaker every time was when he told the prospective buyers that the son of American Ideal had not been paid into the New York Sires Stakes.

“The phone started ringing off the hook. But as soon as they heard he wasn’t eligible…” said Mitchell with a pause.

With James MacDonald driving in the Valedictory Series, Company Man scored a career-best 1:52.2 victory in his opening-round division, closing from eighth at the half to win by two lengths at odds of 18-1. He was even farther back in the second round, but rallied to finish third. Driven more aggressively in the final, Company Man took the lead at the half and then held on by a neck at odds of 2-1, lowering his career mark to 1:51.3 while bringing his earnings in 19 career starts to $59,154.

“He was getting rammy for a while so we’ve been trying to duck him and keep him relaxed,” explained Tomlinson of the come-from-behind strategy. “In that second leg he went to the rear and disappeared, but he came back and finished third. He had just too much ground to make up.”

Mitchell, a first-generation horseman who received his trainers’ license in the 1970s, said Company Man has also been nominated to the upcoming Sonsam and Clyde Hirt Series at the Meadowlands and Sagamore Hill at Yonkers.

“Allan did a great job with him,” said Mitchell. “We raced him light as a 3 year old and now we’re going to give it a shot.” — By Gordon Waterstone
# 2015 Early Closing Events

**Gural Racing Properties**

**Meadowlands Events Close February 15, 2015**


**New in 2015**

### 2 Year Olds

- **$400,000 Peter Haughton Memorial**
  - Colt Trot
- **$350,000 Merrie Annabelle**
  - Filly Trot

### 3 Year Olds

- **$800,000 Meadowlands Pace**
  - Open Pace
- **$215,000 Mistletoe Shalee**
  - Filly Pace
- **$320,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial**
  - Colt Trot
- **$215,000 Del Miller Memorial**
  - Filly Trot

**Closing March 15, 2015**

**Meadowlands Pace 2016 2YO Sustaining Payment**

### Older Horses

- **$175,000 Arthur Cutler Memorial**
  - FFA Trot*
- **$300,000 John Cashman Memorial**
  - FFA Trot*
- **$475,000 WR Haughton Memorial**
  - FFA Pace*
- **$260,000 US Pacing Championship**
  - FFA Pace*
- **$185,000 Golden Girls**
  - FFA Mare Pace*
- **$180,000 Lady Liberty**
  - FFA Mare Pace*
- **$1,000,000 TVG FFA Championship Final**

*Denotes leg of TVG championship series

**2 Year Old Trotters**

- **$500,000 Kindergarten Trotting Classic**
  - (with increased consolation purse in 2015)

**NY Sired 3 Year Olds**

- **$1,000,000 Empire Breeders Classic**

### Older Horses

- **$175,000 Artiscape**
  - FFA Mare Pace
- **$175,000 Muscle Hill**
  - FFA Mare Trot
- **$175,000 Crawford Farms**
  - FFA Trot
- **$175,000 Roll with Joe**
  - FFA Pace
- **$100,000 Miss Versatility**
  - FFA Mare Trotting Series

Information & nomination forms for these Tioga Downs & Vernon Downs races are available for download at [http://www.tiogadowns.com/racing/horsemen.php](http://www.tiogadowns.com/racing/horsemen.php)

*All purses not listed as guaranteed (G) are estimates
Owner Bamond Now Trainer Bamond

A new era in racing begins this weekend for Jeff Bamond Jr. as he embarks on a training career. Bamond will send out nine horses on Friday and Saturday night at Yonkers Raceway.

Bamond, who turned 30 on Dec. 3, has owned horses for several years as part of Bamond Racing LLC with his father, but after a two-year apprenticeship under P.J. Fraley, he will now assume training duties for the 40-horse stable at White Birch Farm in New Jersey. There are several stars in the barn, including four-time Older Pacing Mare of the YearAndrovette, 2014 Breeders Crown champion Shelliscape, and 2014 George Morton Levy Memorial final winner PH Supercam.

“I’ve been at the farm the past two years,” explained Bamond, who has used his degrees in accounting and finance from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to manage his family’s stable the past five years. “I decided it was time to get my own license and embark on my own career. I thought a new year, a new start, was a good time.”

Bamond’s training career begins in Race 5 on Friday night at Yonkers with the 6-year-old gelding pacer I’m Blue Too, who Bamond Racing LLC claimed on Nov. 15 at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs for $15,000. After finishing third his first start for his new connections, I’m Blue Too has won two straight at Yonkers, and he will try for his three-peat for a $20,000 tag in the $13,000 race from post 2 with driver Jason Bartlett.

Bamond said he was looking forward to Friday night and just getting to the track, which has been closed for a short break since Dec. 14.

“Just getting going, that’s what I’m most anxious about. That couple-week break when nothing was going on was tough to sit on,” he said. “I’m looking forward to the whole experience of going to the track, warming up my horses, and really getting more hands-on and seeing the other side. I’ve seen the

“I decided it was time to get my own license and embark on my own career. I thought a new year, a new start, was a good time.”
– Jeff Bamond Jr.
Three Top Trotting Stallions
for three top racing programs!

WINNING MISTER
2,1:56.1; 3,1:54.3; 1:51.3 ($1,108,874)
Angus Hall-Winning Missbrenda-American Winner

ENCORE ENCORE
2,1:55.3; 3,1:53.3f ($418,337)
Broadway Hall-Key’s La Nina-BJ’s Mac

BREAK THE BANK K
2,1:55.3f; 3,1:51.3 ($1,104,630)
Revenue-American Misty-American Winner

A millionaire son of Angus Hall, he is also the fastest son of his sire standing at stud. A multiple stakes winner at 2 and 3, he raced against the best Open trotters at 4, 5 & 6 and defeated the likes of Arch Madness and Mister Herbie. He retired to stud with 38 career victories, including 11 under 1:55 and 11 in 1:53 or faster. He established track records at every Pennsylvania track and six track records in all, and is the current track record-holder at Pocono (1:52.1) and Dover (1:53.2).

His dam Winning Missbrenda 3,1:57.4 ($117,659) has also produced another millionaire performer in Win Missy B 3,1:52 ($1,597,036), 2-heat World Champion (1:52-1:52.1).

Winning Mister’s oldest foals are yearlings in 2015.

2015 Fee $6,000
Standing at Lindwood Farm in PENNSYLVANIA
(724) 836-1802

His first small crop raced as 2-year-olds in 2014 and from 7 starters, 3 were sub-1:59 stakes winners: GOLD CORA 2,1:56.3f ’14 (r.t. 1:53.4) ($116,237), SIXTEEN ENCORES 2,1:57.2f ’14 (r.t. 1:54.3) ($51,989) and ALPHA ALPHA 2,1:58.3f ’14 ($42,152).

A multiple stakes winner himself, Encore Encore won multiple stakes at 2, including the Bluegrass and elim of the Wellwood, Peter Haughton Memorial and Valley Victory. An injury at 3 limited his sophomore season to just one start.

2015 Fee $5,000
Standing at Ivy Lane Farm in INDIANA
(574) 536-1600

World Champion and Breeders Crown Champion and multiple stakes winner at both 2 and 3! Break The Bank K defeated Lucky Chucky and Wishing Stone in his World Record 1:52.2f victory in the Breeders Crown at three. One of the fastest and richest trotters standing in Ohio, he is a millionaire son of Revenue and from a Hall of Fame maternal line.

Break The Bank’s oldest foals are 2-year-olds in 2015.

2015 Fee $3,500
Multiple mare discount: $3,000
Standing at Midland Acres in OHIO
(740) 437-7800

Bookings can also be made by contacting Debbie at R.J. Key Stables
(800) 245-3600 or (724) 295-5111 / Fax (800) 847-1672 or (724) 295-0377
email: info@winningkeyfarms.com
Maven Stays On Path To Prix d’Amerique

Making start number two on her European tour as she pre-
pares for the Prix d’Amerique on Sunday, Jan. 25, at the Vin-
cennes racetrack in Paris, France, Maven is part of a field of 11
in this Sunday’s $145,000 Prix Tenor de Baune at Vincennes.
Regular driver Yannick Gingras made the trip to Paris for
the Dec. 27 Prix du Bourgogne, where Maven finished 11th
after encountering road trouble. In search
of a European-based
driver to direct Maven
in the Prix d’Amerique,
trainer Jimmy Takter
quickly enlisted the
services of Franck Ni-
vard once it was an-
nounced that Nivard’s
mount, Ready Cash,
was going to be re-
tired and not entered.

However, when Nivard entered his own Vulcan de Vandel
in Sunday’s Prix Tenor de Baune, Takter had to go to “Plan
B,” and he secured 16-time French champion Jean-Michel
Bazire to drive Maven. Bazire drove Moni Maker to her vic-
tory in the 1999 Prix d’Amerique for Takter. Takter said he ex-
pects Nivard to still drive Maven in the Prix d’Amerique.

The Prix Tenor de Baune, which is named for the great
French trotter who won the 1991 Prix d’Amerique, is re-
stricted to 6-year-old trotters. The race is conducted with
a standing start at a distance of 2,700 meters (1 11/16
miles). The field includes Prix du Bourgogne upset winner
Solvato, a full brother to the 2014 Trotter of the Year
Shake It Cerry.

Although the big prize on Maven’s upcoming schedule is
the Prix d’Amerique, trainer Jimmy Takter said it is likely the
6-year-old mare will remain overseas for the near future.
“She is going to stay all winter, why bring her back?” said
Takter. “It’s expensive to take them over there, so as long as
she does well, she will stay there.”

Takter said Maven’s other races could include the Prix de
France, which was won by Moni Maker in 1999 and by Ready
Cash in 2011 and 2013, as well as some stakes in Italy.
Also on the Sunday card at Vincennes is the Prix de Bel-
gique, another prep for the Prix d’Amerique. Among the
horses to watch are Kadett C.D., a son of Scarlet Knight
trained by Robert Bergh of Adrian Chip fame. The field
also includes Uhlan du Val and Texas Charm, a top Prix
d’Amerique contender who was one of the horses who
broke and caused road trouble for Maven in her last
Paris start.

Here is the field for the Prix Tenor de Baune, in alphabetical
order:

- Chelsea Boko (Chocolatier-Kelsea Boko)
- Claes Boko (Varenne-Salma Boko)
- Maven (Glidemaster-M Stewart)
- Mosaique Face (Classic Photo-Iona L.B.)
- Solvato (Donato Hanover-Solveig)
- Valko Jenilat (Kepler-Perle du Roc)
- Villeroi (Oiseau de Feux-Pocohontas)
- Voltigeur de Myrt (Opus Viervil-Myrtille des Bois)
- Voyage de Reve (Password-Kiocalba)
- Vulcan de Vandel (Jag de Bellouet-Ophelia de Vandel)
ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS & BREEDERS

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

BREEDERS CROWN NO. 32—FOR FOALS OF 2016

TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE—$6,000,000

STALLION NOMINATION FEE: Due and payable January 15, 2015, in the amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2015 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, 2015. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to determine the stallion nomination fee of those stallions whose 2015 service is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This payment covers 2015 matings (foals of 2016).

In addition to the 2015 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 $3,410.50 CAD (Canadian Dollars) to $6,819.87 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2015 service fee must be paid;

b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US$6,000 to $9,999 (or $8,212 CAD to $11,367.21 CAD), an additional amount equal to 75% of 2015 service fee must be paid;

c) For stallions that stand for a fee of over US$9,999 (or $11,808.35 CAD), an additional amount equal to 200% of 2015 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a service fee of less than US$3,000 (or $3,409 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, 2014 exchange rate is used, a rate of $1.1358 CAD per U.S.

Stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after January 15, 2015, but on or before December 31, 2015, 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, 2015, will be accepted upon payment of an additional amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge).

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

BREEDERS CROWN STALLION NO. 32 NOMINATION BLANK

Name of Stallion ___________________________ Age/foreign of: __________ 2015 Service Fee ____________

Sire: ______________________________________ Dam: ________________ Sire of Dam: __________________

Farm: ______________________________________ State/Province: ________________

Owner(s) __________________________________

Please check [ ]: [ ] In-production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2015) [ ] With penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2015)
[ ] 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 2015 Service Fee plus the above surcharge for fees over $3,410.50 (CAD)

2015 Service Fee __________________ + Surcharge ( %) = Nomination Fee enclosed: __________

Make Checks Payable to __________________________ Nominator __________________________

and Mail to: __________________________________________________________
THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY, INC. City, State, Zip __________________________
Cranbury Gates Office Park Phone: __________________ Fax: __________________
109 South Main Street, Suite 18 e-mail __________________
Cranbury NJ 08512-3174
$2.2 Million Winner
Golden Receiver Retired

Start number one for Golden Receiver back in 2008 may not have been so good, and neither was start 172 in 2015, but there is just one word to describe those 170 appearances in between—Wow!

The connections of the newly-turned 10-year-old Golden Receiver have announced the retirement of their star gelding pacer, whose career resume shows 63 wins, a career mark of 1:48, and earnings of $2,207,111.

“He was as gutsy a horse as I’ve ever been around. He is just a wonderful, wonderful animal,” co-owner Gene Kurzrok told harnessracing.com Tuesday morning in a phone call announcing Golden Receiver’s retirement. “It was just time.”

Making his career debut on July 12, 2008, at Tioga Downs, Golden Receiver finished ninth by 20½ lengths. In his career finale on Jan. 3, 2015, at the Meadowlands, Golden Receiver finished ninth by 15½ lengths. In between he finished one-two-three in 67.6 percent of his starts, with his wins including his career-best 1:48 win in the $242,500 U.S. Pacing Championship on Aug. 4, 2012, at the Meadowlands. That victory was his second richest, behind only his 1:48.2 score in the $431,400 William Haughton Memorial final two weeks later at the Big M.

Golden Receiver’s other big victories include the Graduate final at the Meadowlands and the Spring Championship final at Woodbine in 2012, the Allerage final in 2013 at The Red Mile, and a pair of Presidential Series finals at the Meadowlands in 2012-13. Twenty-eight of his wins came at the Meadowlands, with 20 scores at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. Eighteen drivers directed Golden Receiver to victories, including Andy Miller (nine times), Brian Sears (eight), Tim Tetrick (seven), Joe Pavia Jr. (seven) and Corey Callahan (five).

After receiving some time off last fall, Golden Receiver returned to the races in late November with a sparkling second-place finish, losing by just a nose in 1:49.4 in the $30,000 top-class race at the Meadowlands. Three subsequent off-the-board outings then led to the decision to retire the son of Village Jove.

“He just couldn’t get around that last turn,” explained Kurzrok. “His right knee was so big, you just wouldn’t believe how he could possibly race. When he was able to go to the front and he dominated, the knee was OK because he stayed away from the rail and he wouldn’t be hitting the knee, but as soon as that stopped happening, we knew it was time.”

Golden Receiver was bred by Nina Simmonds, who owns Windy Hill Farm in Binghamton, N.Y. Simmonds, who trained Golden Receiver in his initial starts, soon sold majority interest to a partnership that included Kurzrok, with the horse eventually landing in the barn of trainer Mark Harder. Harder had Golden Receiver most of his career.

“Mark was most responsible for making him the horse he was,” said Kurzrok, whose partners in the Our Horse Cents Stables are Marcia Gingold, Scott Kurzrok, Stephen Springer and Richard Taylor. “We thank him.”

Golden Receiver finished his racing career while in the barn of Andy and Julie Miller. Kurzrok said the pacer is still at the Miller’s stable at Gaitway Farm in New Jersey, but will soon head to Simmonds’ farm.

“He will spend his golden years now at Nina’s place,” said Kurzrok. “She is going to make him into a trail horse and he will enjoy it. The people at her farm are all looking forward to the golden horse coming back.” —By Gordon Waterstone
Pacing Mare Lotsa Matzah
In Worldly Beauty

Given her pedigree, pacing mare Lotsa Matzah has the potential to be a successful broodmare. But before she gives motherhood a try, trainer Ed Hart is hopeful the lightly raced 4 year old can still be a successful racehorse.

Lotsa Matzah, a full sister to stakes-winners Heston Blue Chip and Sunfire Blue Chip, has won two of 13 career starts as she heads into Friday’s opening round of the Worldly Beauty series at the Meadowlands. One of those victories came at the Big M last week following a six-month layoff.

“She got a little sore in the middle of last summer and we decided to quit with her,” Hart said. “She just needed some time off. We turned her out and she’s seemed to come back pretty good.

“We had pretty high expectations for her. I thought she was an awful nice filly. Between being a little bit sore and a little immature (at ages 2 and 3) it just didn’t work out. But it seems to be coming together now. We’re hoping that she keeps going forward.”

Lotsa Matzah competes in the second of two $15,000 divisions in the first round of the Worldly Beauty series. She starts from post seven with driver Ron Pierce and is part of a 3-1 common-ownership entry with Impatience.

Ron Burke’s Donttellruss, who has won three of 26 lifetime starts and has hit the board 14 times, is the 2-1 morning line favorite in the race.

Lotsa Matzah was purchased for $57,000 under the name Tacumwah Blue Chip in the 2012 Standardbred Horse Sale. A daughter of American Ideal out of the mare Shot Togo Bluechip, her family includes Dan Patch Award winners Heston Blue Chip and Kikikatie as well as millionaire Camluck.

As a 2 year old, Lotsa Matzah was winless in six starts but finished second on three occasions, all in the New York Excelsior Series. Last season she raced six times, winning a maiden race at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in 1:52.4, before being sidelined.

Lotsa Matzah has earned $26,191 for owners Blue Chip Bloodstock, Daniel Zucker, Christine Sallee, and Stephen Demeter.

“She’s really well bred; she’s going to be a good broodmare at some point,” Hart said. “But I’ve always liked this filly. She’s always had a good attitude and showed good speed, she just couldn’t put it all together. She was a little hard on herself and kind of had to find herself.

“This year, she’s come back and seemed to have matured a lot. She’s come along pretty good. She’s got a couple series coming up now, the Worldly Beauty and Burning Point, and we’ll have to see where we go from there.”

Witch Dali, who went 4-for-4 in December after missing a year of action, is the 6-5 favorite in the first division of the Worldly Beauty. (HRC)

“Dewey,” Somebeachsomewhere
New Hall Of Famers

The Living Horse Hall of Fame nominating committee of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame has announced the results of recent balloting to determine the 2015 inductees into the Harness Racing Living Horse Hall of Fame. Annual members (in good standing) voted for the two horses they felt best exemplified greatness. Their choices are racehorses Deweycheatumnhowe and Somebeachsomewhere.

The other nominees were Mr. Muscleman, Real Desire and Fool’s Goal.

Deweycheatumnhowe and Somebeachsomewhere will be inducted on Hall of Fame Day on Sunday, July 5. The ceremonies honoring these extraordinary Standardbred horses will take place during the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame’s Annual Dinner.

Big M/Tioga/Vernon To Pay All Stakes Starters

As the time to select the Grand Circuit engagements for your stakes hopefuls draws near, the Meadowlands presents several exciting new stakes and joins with Tioga and Vernon Downs in ensuring no one goes home empty-handed when racing in the open stakes administered by the three Gural tracks. The 2015 conditions will provide one percent of the total purse be paid to all out-of-the-money horses with the balance then paid out to first through fifth in standard fashion.

The new stakes are to a large degree in response to horsemen’s concerns.

To address the issue of racing 4 year olds against older foes, the Graduate Series has been resurrected, offering $1 million in purses spread over three legs and a $250,000G final for both trotters and pacers. The series kicks off with a $50,000 (est.) leg at Tioga on Memorial Day, May 25, then shifts to the Meadowlands for leg two at $75,000 (est.) and leg three at $100,000 in June. The $250,000G finals will also be raced at the Meadowlands with the pace on Friday, July 3, and the trot on Saturday, July 11.

Also being added for 2015 is a TVG Championship final for pacing and trotting mares with a $200,000G purse. The format will mirror that of the successful TVG finals, with points accumulated over a series of top races for the mares at various tracks over the season.

Continues on page 10 ››››
WEG Tracks Show Wagering Increase

Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) on Thursday announced that wagering on Woodbine's 2014 Standardbred racing season was up sharply over 2013.

Mohawk and Woodbine Racetracks hosted a total of 208 race dates in 2014, registering an all-sources betting total of $309,767,299, a 6.05 percent increase over the 2013 figure of $292,088,583 from 195 cards.

The Meadowlands has also agreed to host the $1.5 million Freshman Fall Final Four (payments for those will be handled by the Hambletonian Society) when reopening in November of 2015 and offer the inaugural edition of two new races for 3-year-old fillies to support them. The “Continentalvictory” and “Tarport Hap” named for two of the greatest mares ever, will offer a purse of $175,000 (est.) on Nov. 21.

New for older trotting mares in 2015 will be the $175,000 “Fresh Yankee” remembering the rags to riches queen of a few generations ago. This one will be raced on Hambletonian Day, Aug. 8.

The new wrinkle for the upcoming season is the change in the purse for the final of the Kindergarten Trotting Classics. In 2015 the money in the pool for those finals shall be divided with 75 percent directed to the final and 25 percent to a consolation. This should, off the 2014 numbers, result in a final of approximately $175,000 with a consolation in the $75,000 neighborhood, giving a better earning opportunity to those not quite making the big dance. (Meadowlands)

**Ohio Fairs Championship**

**At Hollywood Dayton**

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway are proud to announce the first annual Ohio Fairs Championship to be held Oct. 1 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway.

“We think this is a great opportunity to give the top fair horses exposure at the pari-mutuel level by offering these finals,” said Mark Loewe, vice president of racing operations for Dayton Raceway. “In past years, many quality horses have come up through the ranks of the fair circuit and as we move forward we expect that trend to continue.”

The Ohio Fairs Championship will feature some of the top 2-and 3-year-old Ohio-bred pacers and trotters that have competed in Ohio Fairs Fund Stakes throughout the summer. The top nine point-earning horses per division entered will compete for an estimated $100,000 in purses, $12,500 per division.

Horses need to be nominated to be eligible through the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association by March 15, 2015. The nomination fee will be $100.00 and starting fee of $100.00 will be required for starting in the Ohio Fairs Championship. (OHHA)

Yoder, Sebastian K Win Fan’s Choice Awards

Fan voting for the Railbird Recognition Awards concluded this past New Year’s Eve and each categorical winner was realized in different ways; one in a photo and one by a landslide.

Verlin Yoder, who drove Natural Herbie to an upset victory in the International Trot at Yonkers, was voted as the Horseperson of the Year for 2015. That decision came with the closest margin ever in the five-year history of this award: one vote.

On the other end of the spectrum, Sebastian K was the landslide winner of Racing Moment of the Year for setting the new world record trotting mark of 1:49 at Pocono Downs on June 28, 2014. He took 34 percent of the ballots, which more than doubled his nearest competitor for support.

Yoder is a 42-year-old horseman from Indiana who has posted very respectable numbers during his training and driving career, but not quite near the top reinsman on the Grand Circuit. However, that didn’t dissuade him from taking on the big boys and carrying out one of the best David and Goliath stories in racing this year.

After a stellar spring and early summer campaign at Hoosier Park, Natural Herbie was entered in the Vincennes Stake on Hambletonian day in August. Yoder sent “Herbie” to the front and after getting parked to the quarter, was never headed the rest of the way.

Natural Herbie was entered in the $250,000 International Trot at Yonkers against a field that many felt was far his superior. But in the end the consensus was wrong and the pride of the Kokomo steered his charge to victory over the likes of Sebastian K, Commander Crowe and Bee A Magician to score an incredible win and complete what could only be described as a Cinderella season.

Sebastian K shipped in from Europe early in 2014 and immediately caught the eye of the racing faithful when he won three consecutive starts in 1:50 and change at the Meadowlands. But it was the fourth start at Pocono Downs that will forever be remembered.

That night in the $100,000 Sun Invitational, driver Aka Svanstedt sent Sebastian K off the wings of the gate and...
straight into the record books. After easily getting the lead and pulling away to a seven-length romp, Sebastian K put the exclamation mark on that race by tripping the timer in 1:49 to set the new standard that all trotters will be measured against for the foreseeable future.

Sebastian K went on to win eight races in 2014 and earned $663,853 in purses in North America. But he will always be remembered for the overpowering way he made history.

The Railbird Recognition Awards are a joint venture between the United States Harness Writers Association and the United States Trotting Association and is the only fan voted award in the industry.

Yoder and the connections of Sebastian K will receive their awards, along with the Dan Patch Horse of the Year and additional human award trophies, on Sunday, Feb. 22, in Orlando, Fla. (USHWA)

HFW’s Waterstone Named USHWAn Of The Year

Gordon Waterstone, associate editor of The Horseman And Fair World magazine, former president of the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA), and two-time winner of a John Hervey Award for excellence in harness journalism, has been selected for recognition by the media organization as its 2014 “Alan Prince USHWA Member of the Year.”

Waterstone, a Michigander and proud product of Michigan State University, started his harness racing career at Detroit’s Hazel Park in 1979, and spent the better part of two decades working at that track and metro Detroit’s Northville Downs, mostly as publicity director. In 1998 he had the opportunity to join the Proximity Award-winning Horseman And Fair World, with his time working in Kentucky quickly approaching the amount he posted in his native state. During the Lexington Grand Circuit meet, his “Backstretch With Gordon” column is a must-read for the latest stories behind the star horses and horsemen, where to eat after the races, and the price of gasoline in the area.

Waterstone was a member of the officers of USHWA for six years, highlighted by his two years as president (2004-06), during which he made permanent the design of the Dan Patch Awards trophies which mark excellence in the harness sport. As a past president, he has served on the Board of Directors since the end of his presidential term. He has been president of the Kentucky Chapter since its start-of-the-century renaissance, and has added secretarial duties to his portmanteau the last few years.

But Waterstone earned his USHWAn of the Year award largely through his continuing efforts to serve the Writers Association on a national level, including giving constructive criticism, at times frequent, to keep the operation running at its finest. He is currently head of the Tabled Items Committee, and has served on the Site Location Committee, the Dinner Committee, the Breeder/Broodmare Committee, and the Hall of Fame Screening Committee.

Waterstone’s Hervey Writing Awards came in two different categories, Features (1999) and News/Commentary (2008), making him one of only a few journalists to win a national award in more than one category. He was awarded the Allen J. Finkelson Golden Pen Award by the Harness Publicists Association in 1995 (an organization of which he was president in 1999), and the Clyde Hirt Media Award by Harness Horsemen International in 2002.

Waterstone’s award, along with the Dan Patch Horse of the Year and additional human award trophies, will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015 in Orlando, Fla.

Giberson Family Wins HHYF Service To Youth Award

For the first time ever, the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) has selected an entire family—the Gibersons of Spalding, Ill.—as the recipient of its 2014 Service to Youth Award, the organization’s highest honor. The Service to Youth Award is given to individuals, farms, or organizations who exemplify outstanding effort in facilitating youth participation in harness racing. Recipients show exceptional assistance (either financially or educationally as a catalyst) to existing HHYF programs or in their own successful efforts.

Not only have the Gibersons prepped HHYF Trottingbred Sweet Karen for her summer campaigns for the past three years, they have opened their barn to the public regularly to introduce people to the sport, utilizing Karen as a primary ambassador. They have also hosted an annual picnic for students from Riverton Elementary School, which their children attend. This past summer their daughter Madeline organized a fundraising concession stand to honor their departed pacer Fax Valley Camo at this year’s Illinois State Fair races. The event raised more than $2,000 for HHYF.

“We try to do business right,” explains Amy Giberson. “And part of that means giving back to the sport and reaching out to our youth. But it’s a two-way street. Our own kids have learned so much working with Karen. “We’ve never received an honor like this. We really didn’t do anything other than what we always do to help kids get involved with the sport. It’s so rewarding...and this award is so surprising,” Giberson said.

HHYF president Marlys Pinske commented, “HHYF is deeply indebted to all of our benefactors and we are especially proud of the entire Giberson family. We welcome other families to follow their lead to assist with our important mission.”

The Gibersons—Nick, Amy and their children Madeline (8) and Ethan (6)—will receive the award at the USTA District 5 Awards Banquet at the Artisan Building of the Illinois State Fairgrounds, on Saturday, Jan. 17. (HHYF)
**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through January 7, 2015 (week difference Jan. 1-7).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jules &amp; Arlene Siegel</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

#### Sts. W-P-S UTR Earnings (wk. diff.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UTR</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>15-13-11</td>
<td>.375</td>
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<td>9-6-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Smith</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>13-4-9</td>
<td>.331</td>
<td>68,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor Kirby</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7-8-5</td>
<td>.279</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Wilder</td>
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<td>8-7-7</td>
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<td>7-8-9</td>
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<td>9-6-2</td>
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<td>4-8-3</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

#### Sts. W-P-S UTR Earnings (wk. diff.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trainer</th>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UTR</th>
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<td>Ron Burke</td>
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<td>Victor Kirby</td>
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<td>2-3-0</td>
<td>.611</td>
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### Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Jan. 1-7 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

#### Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>17-7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Pierce</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>17-7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>15-13-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kayne Kauffman</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>7-8-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Smith</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>7-4-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Aldrich Jr.</td>
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<td>Alfred Carroll</td>
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<td>Casey Leonard</td>
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<td>Steve Wiseman</td>
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<td>Allan Davis</td>
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<td>Robert Smolin</td>
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<td>Victor Kirby</td>
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#### Trainers

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<tr>
<td>Randy Cassavaugh</td>
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<td>Eric Ell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gord McDonnell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Asher</td>
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<td>Michael Dowdall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Tritton</td>
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<td>Robert Lounsbury</td>
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