

### Roxane Griff Wins Major Monte Race, Ready For Prix d'Amerique

The 93rd edition of the Prix D'Amerique Trot, which was inaugurated by France as a thank-you to the United States for its intervention in World War I, takes place Sunday at the Vincennes Racetrack. Post time for the race will be approximately 9:30 a.m. Check harnessracing.com for updates on video and results.

The Prix d'Amerique is raced at a distance of 2,700 meters, or about 1.67 miles. Eighteen horses—all horses and mares, since geldings are not invited—are scheduled to start on Sunday for a total purse of one million euro (approximately \$1.3 million).

The race lost one of its stars when the 7-year-old French trotter Texas Charm, who many considered to be the favorite, broke a cannon bone. Texas Charm had won the Prix de Bourgogne in the stakes-record mile-rate time of 1:52.3 with driver Julien Dubois. He is the 21-year-old son of Jean Philippe Dubois, who drove the 2013 Prix d'Amerique winner Royal Dream and is the owner of Texas Charm.

The Prix de Belgique, the final pre-test for the Prix d'Amerique, went to the Swedish-bred and Norwegian-trained Yarra Boko, driven by Pierre Vercauteren. Yarra Boko missed last year's Prix d'Amerique due to a suspensory injury. The Prix Tenor de Baune—a race for 6 year olds and up—went to Up And Quick and driver Jean Michel Bazire, earning that trotter a spot in the Prix d'Amerique field.

In my opinion, Roxane Griff has been "a sulky trotter" and not "a saddle trotter," but the differences to race in sulky or under saddle for some trotters is not so important. Some of the top trotters who are racing in the Prix d'Amerique also started in the richest and most important monté race, the Prix de Cornulier on Jan. 12 at Hippodrome Paris-Vincennes.

Roxane Griff proved her talents under saddle when she won the Prix de Cornulier and earned 315,000 euro, which made her the third mare ever in France to earn more than two million euro.

At the start of the 17-horse Prix de Cornulier, Roxane Griff was placed up front in a group of trotters, with jockey Eric Raffin saving ground and energy by racing along the rail.

The speed in the front was hard with a 1:55 mile rate for the first mile of the 2,700 meters, with Ulysse (LoveYou-Loctudy by Extreme Dream) as the early leader. He was challenged by the previous Cornulier-winner, Singalo (Goetmals Wood-Ingala), but their battle was too tough and they tired. After a breathtaking challenge on the backstretch into last turn, the favorite, Tiego d'Etang (Chaillot-Harolene) swept the field and took the lead on the homestretch.

Raffin had moved Roxane Griff off the rail going into last turn to have perfect striking position. She still had strong speed left and won decidedly in a rate of 1:56.2.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

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**Zeron returns to Woodbine—pg. 5**

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The team around Roxane Griff was very happy, especially Raffin.

"She's a fantastic mare, who is even better when in the sulky, but she proved herself as perhaps the best in the world in 'combination' sulky and saddle," said Raffin. "I had great confidence in her and when we turned for home, I understood that we should a great chance to reach Tiego d'Etang to win. I'm really happy as Cornulier is the major race for monté."

Raffin is a most talented and successful jockey and driver with major wins in both disciplines. It was his second Cornulier victory as he also previously won with Joyau d'Amour (Viking's Way).

Roxane Griff is trained by Sebastien Guarato, who has gained prior international fame with Rapide Label.

Roxane Griff is bred and still owned by Ecurie Griff, a successful French breeder with the name "Griff." —By Lars G. Palm

**PRIX D'AMERIQUE**

*Hippodrome de Vincennes, Paris, France; Sunday, Jan. 26  
€1 million (about \$1.3 million); Post Time: 9:30 a.m. (EST) approx.*

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of dam)	Driver
1—UHLAN DU VAL (8h, Islero de Bellouet*-Indiana Beautiful-Beautiful Somolli*)	Cedric Megissier
2—SOLEIL DU FOSSE (8h, Jag de Bellouet*-Fortune du Fosse-Neric Barbes)	Thierry Duvaldestin
3—RIODE DE FELLIERE (7m, Derby du Gite-Linea de Vandel-Cezio Josselyn*)	Anthony Barrier
4—UP AND QUICK (6h, Buvetier d'Anou*-Fichtre-Quinton du Coral)	Jean-Michele Bazire
5—VANIKA DU RUEL (5m, Jardy*-Jacarandine-Vroum d'Or)	Franck Anne
6—QUINOA DU GERS (10h, Ganymede*-Targa du Chalange-Jorky)	Matthieu Abrivard
7—NESTA EFFE (7h, Naglo-Etna Sec-Viking Kronos)	Roberto Vecchione
8—YARRAH BOKO (9h, Cocktail Jet*-Big Blue Kitten-Pine Chip)	Pierre Vercausse
9—REVE DE BEYLEV (9h, Fortuna Fant*-Heloise Poterie-Toscan Poterie-Florestan*)	Dominick Locqueneux
10—TIEGO D'ETANG (7h, Chaillot-Harolene-Vroum d'Or)	Christian Bigeon
11—MACK GRACE SM (8h, CC's Chuckie T-Armbrro Grace Sm-Armbrro Goal)	Roberto Andregretti
12—THE BEST MADRIK (7h, Cocktail Jet*-Lady Madrik-Biesolo)	Jean-Etienne Dubois
13—ROYAL DREAM (9h, Love You*-Ida Bourbon-Buvetier d'Anou*)	Jean-Philippe Dubois
14—SAVE THE QUICK (8h, Jasmin de Flore-Heureuse Duchesse-Blue Dream*)	Frank Ouvrie
15—ROXANE GRIFF (9m, Tenor de Baune-Julia Mesloise-Sancho Panca)	Eric Raffin
16—TIMOKO (7h, Imokot*-Kiss Me Coulounces-And Arifant)	Jos Verbeeck
17—MAHARAJAH (9h, Viking Kronos*-Chili Khan-Giant Chill)	Orjan Kihlstrom
18—READY CASH (9h, Indy de Vive*-Kidea*-Extreme Dream)	Franck Nivard

\*Denotes American blood in French-bred horses, as noted below:  
 Islero De Bellouet (Viking's Way, by Mickey Viking)  
 Beautiful Somolli (Speedy Somolli)  
 Jag De Bellouet (Viking's Way, by Mickey Viking)  
 Cezio Josselyn (Armbrro Goal)  
 Buvetier d'Anou (by Royal Prestige-Nesmile)  
 Jardy (Cygnus d'Odyssee, by Workaholic)  
 Ganymede (Buvetier d'Anou, by Royal Prestige)  
 Cocktail Jet (Quouky Williams-Armbrro Glamour-Speedy Crown)  
 Fortuna Font (grandson of Quick Song, by Victory Song)  
 Florestan (Star's Pride-Roquepine)  
 Love You (by Cocktail Jet, out of granddaughter of Speedy Somolli)  
 Blue Dream (Pershing, by Nevele Pride-Flying Cloud)  
 Imokot (Viking's Way, by Mickey Viking, by Bonefish)  
 Viking Kronos (American Winner-Conch)  
 Indy de Vive (Viking's Way, by Mickey Viking)  
 Kidea (second dam is Doceanide du Lilas, by Workaholic)

**WEEKEND FEATURED RACES**

**Friday, January 24**

All times listed are local.

- 8:45p Wdb5 **Blizzard Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:50p YR6 **F&M Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:30p YR8 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:05p Wdb9 **Blizzard Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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

**Saturday, January 25**

- 10:25p Wdb10 **Conditioned Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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



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|---|--|
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| <p><b>Lynne Myers</b><br/> <a href="mailto:lmeyers@harnessracing.com">lmeyers@harnessracing.com</a><br/>                 Advertising Manager</p>            | <p><b>Suzu Hall</b><br/> <a href="mailto:shall@harnessracing.com">shall@harnessracing.com</a><br/>                 Production &amp; Design</p>                           |
| <p><b>Gordon Waterstone</b><br/> <a href="mailto:gwaterstone@harnessracing.com">gwaterstone@harnessracing.com</a><br/>                 Associate Editor</p> | <p><b>Stephanie Condron-Hall</b><br/> <a href="mailto:scondronhall@harnessracing.com">scondronhall@harnessracing.com</a><br/>                 Editorial Art Director</p> |
| <p><b>Jay Hochstetler</b><br/> <a href="mailto:jayhoch4@gmail.com">jayhoch4@gmail.com</a><br/>                 Intern</p>                                   | <p><b>Vanessa Flannery</b><br/> <a href="mailto:vflannery@harnessracing.com">vflannery@harnessracing.com</a><br/>                 Accounting &amp; Circulation</p>       |
| <p><b>Suzanne Starbuck</b><br/> <a href="mailto:sstarbuck@harnessracing.com">sstarbuck@harnessracing.com</a><br/>                 Production Manager</p>    | <p>For mail sent via U.S. Postal Service, either P.O. Box 8480, Lexington, KY 40533, or 1910 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503. (859) 276-4026</p>         |

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## Boyd: "Sad Day" As Standardbreds Lose Out In Michigan

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association (MHHA) president Brett Boyd told harnessracing.com Wednesday morning that he was "stunned" by the Michigan Gaming Control Board's (MGCB) executive order issued Tuesday that allows Thoroughbred racing to return to Hazel Park Raceway and Northville Downs in 2014 as well as limit the number of Standardbred race dates at each track to just 10.

"Yes, I'm stunned," said Boyd, who met with MHHA attorneys as well as the board of directors on Wednesday. "Obviously it's a dark day in Michigan racing, but as an association we are not giving up and will continue to look

**"Obviously it's a dark day in Michigan racing, but as an association we are not giving up and will continue to look for opportunities to preserve our business."**

— MHHA president Brett Boyd

for opportunities to preserve our business. It's a sad day, but when one door closes we have to try and open another one."

The situation began when there was a breakdown in legislative negotiations between the racetracks and the MHHA over distribution

of the state's simulcast money that goes into the purse fund.

After submitting original date applications for all harness meets in 2014, Hazel Park and Northville Downs filed amendments that included both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds, with the former receiving the majority of dates. Although the MGCB then denied Northville's amended application and did not rule on Hazel Park's, the order given on Tuesday gave both tracks the go-ahead for Thoroughbred racing.

With the executive order, Northville Downs will race 10 days of harness racing in March and April, with Hazel Park racing 10 days of harness racing in late March and early April. The MGCB already approved 11 days of Standardbred racing at Sports Creek in November and December.

Thoroughbred racing will return for a 32-date meet to Hazel Park—a five-eighths mile racetrack which hosted the runners from 1949-84—on Sunday, June 29, with a "Grand Reintroduction" card on Friday, July 4. Hazel Park will then race 7 p.m. programs every Friday and Saturday night through Oct. 11. Northville Downs—a half-mile oval—will open its 16-date Thoroughbred meet on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 18. Post time is tentatively slated for 1 p.m. every Friday and Saturday through Nov. 16.

The MHBPA will repay track conversion costs at both tracks of up to \$300,000 each. As a half-mile track that never hosted Thoroughbred racing, Northville Downs will have to undergo some track and facilities conversion. Northville Downs' John Carlo told harnessracing.com earlier that those plans include the demolition of a backstretch garage that will allow the building of a chute for the start of races.

Michigan Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (MHBPA) president George Kutlenios told harnessrac-

ing.com Wednesday morning that the MHBPA will sign a five-year contract agreement with Hazel Park and Northville. The contract includes the stipulation that every owner/trainer pay a \$400 entry fee per horse. He also noted Mt. Pleasant Meadows will race a 16-date meet this year and then close permanently since the new contract will call for more Thoroughbred dates in the future, which would likely eliminate all Standardbred racing.

"I beg them to justify or prove to us how their actions were in the best interests of the industry," said Boyd. "We raced almost 10 months of the year last year and now you consolidate because of the track's wishes to race Thoroughbreds and pay entry fees? The original order was issued on Nov. 1 and here we are 82 days later and they yank the carpet out from underneath us and take 10 months of racing and consolidate it down to two. How in the world is that in the best interesting of racing and the industry?"

Boyd said the MHHA board of directors was looking at other options to race more dates in 2014. He also noted the MHHA filed an appeal first thing Wednesday morning with the MGCB and also asked the state's attorney general's office to issue a ruling on the legality of the Thoroughbred horsemen paying entry fees as part of the agreement with Hazel Park and Northville. The MHHA also reportedly offered Northville Downs \$100,000 in non-simulcast purse pool funds if they would agree to race their original 26-day schedule, which was turned down. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

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## Early & Late Closing Events 2014

### Event #1 The Walter Russell Mem. Pace

For 3 & 4 yo Pacers C & G (Pa. Owned or Sired)

Nw's of \$25,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014.

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Tuesday, March 4th, 2014	\$15,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Tuesday, March 11th, 2014	\$15,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Leg	Tuesday, March 18th, 2014	\$15,000
Final	Friday, March 28th, 2014	\$20,000 added

### Event #2 The Donna Dunn Mem. Pace

For 3 & 4 yo Pacers F & M (Pa. Owned or Sired)

Nw's of \$25,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014.

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Friday, March 7th, 2014	\$15,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Friday, March 14th, 2014	\$15,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Leg	Friday, March 21st, 2014	\$15,000
Final	Friday, March 28th, 2014	\$20,000 added

### Event #3 The Ken Weaver Mem. Trot

For 3 & 4 yo Trotters C & G (Pa. Owned or Sired)

Nw's of \$25,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014.

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Monday, March 3rd, 2014	\$15,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Monday, March 10th, 2014	\$15,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Leg	Monday, March 17th, 2014	\$15,000
Final	Friday, March 28th, 2014	\$20,000 added

### Event #4 The Mary Wohlmuth Mem. Trot

For 3 & 4 yo Trotters F & M (Pa. Owned or Sired)

Nw's of \$25,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014.

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Wednesday, March 5th, 2014	\$15,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Wednesday, March 12th, 2014	\$15,000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Leg	Wednesday, March 19th, 2014	\$15,000
Final	Friday, March 28th, 2014	\$20,000 added

**Nominations close for all Events: February 15th, 2014.**

**Nomination fees for all events: \$250.00 U.S. funds**

### Event #5 The Visible Gold Pace

For 3 yo Pacers C & G (Pa. Sired)

Nw's 3 ext pm races life or \$30,000 life up to and including February 1st, 2014. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2014 NE)

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Tuesday, April 8th, 2014	\$17,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Tuesday, April 15th, 2014	\$17,500
Final	Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014	\$25,000 added

### Event #6 The Do Me Honor Pace

For 3 yo Pacers Fillies (Pa. Sired)

Nw's 3 ext pm races life or \$30,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2014 NE)

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Friday, April 11th, 2014	\$17,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Friday, April 18th, 2014	\$17,500
Final	Friday, April 25th, 2014	\$25,000 added

### Event #7 The Unefoisdansmavie Trot

For 3 yo Trotters Fillies (Pa. Sired)

Nw's 3 ext pm races life or \$30,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2014 NE)

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Wednesday, April 9th, 2014	\$17,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Wednesday, April 16th, 2014	\$17,500
Final	Wednesday, April 23rd, 2014	\$25,000 added

### Event #8 The TSM Photo Buzzer Trot

For 3 yo Trotters C & G (Pa. Sired)

Nw's 3 ext pm races life or \$30,000 life up to and including February 1, 2014. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2014 NE)

1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Monday, April 7th, 2014	\$17,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	Monday, April 14th, 2014	\$17,500
Final	Monday, April 21st, 2014	\$25,000 added

**Nominations close for all Events: February 15th, 2014.**

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## With Big M On Hiatus, Zeron Returns To Woodbine

With the Meadowlands closed for live racing until Feb. 6 because of the upcoming Super Bowl at adjacent MetLife Stadium, driver Scott Zeron is taking the opportunity to return to his former home on the Woodbine Entertainment Group circuit.

One of the leading drivers at Woodbine/Mohawk, Zeron moved his base of operations to the East Coast last November, competing regularly at the Meadowlands and on a limited basis at Yonkers. Zeron, 24, has 19 wins in 197 starts at the Meadowlands since the track opened last November to rank him in a tie for sixth in the standings.



Joseph Kyle Photo

**“I’m actually surprised how quickly it’s picked up at the Meadowlands.”**

– Scott Zeron

Zeron couldn’t have found a better time for his return to Woodbine this weekend as several drivers will be in Jamaica attending the wedding of James MacDonald to Jenna MacDonell, the daughter of driver Paul MacDonell. Other drivers who will be attending the wedding and will be MIA are Jody Jamieson, Billy

Davis Jr., Mike Saftic and Anthony MacDonald, the brother of the groom-to-be.

As a result of the missing drivers, Zeron is listed to drive in all 12 races on Friday and all 12 races on Saturday.

“I’m excited to go back home as it will be pretty cool to see my family,” Zeron told Weekend Preview. “It’ll be great to see the guys at Woodbine, since I haven’t seen any of them.”

Zeron, voted the 2012 Rising Star of the Year by members of the U.S. Harness Writers Association, has more than 2,200 career victories and \$29.85 million in purse earnings. He got off to a slow start at the Big M but things quickly began to accelerate when the calendar turned to 2014.

“I’m actually surprised how quickly it’s picked up at the Meadowlands,” said Zeron. “I’m only doing two days a week at Yonkers and dedicating to the Meadowlands, which has been great. I’m driving in every race so it’s good. There are six guys who are Hall of Famers and they are in every race, and then there are a few other guys, and that’s why it’s been a good spot for me. Plus, with Timmy (Tetrick) out (recovering from hip surgery), that’s helped.” — *By Gordon Waterstone*

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## Former Prix d’Amerique Winner Queen L Dies At 27

Queen L, the 1993 Prix d’Amerique winner who is pictured winning at Solvalla Racetrack in Sweden, died in December at the age of 27. Stig Johansson was the regular driver of Queen L, whose stellar 1993 season saw her take her career mark of 1:57.2f with earnings of \$2.7 million. Queen L was a daughter of Crowntron, who was a son of Speedy Crown.



## McNair Hoping To “Zip” Through The Blizzard

Two \$15,000 divisions of the second round of the Blizzard Series for 3 –and 4-year-old fillies and mares pacers are on tap Friday night at Woodbine Racetrack. Eleven will line up behind the gate in the first division (Race 5) with 10 scheduled to start in the second division (Race 9). The Blizzard final is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31.

Starting from post 9 in the second split is Zip Car, who returned off a six-month layoff with a second-place finish in an opening-round division of the Blizzard Series on Jan. 17. Despite having just one win in 14 career starts, the time off needed to recover from a third parcel slab fracture in her left hock, and just a second-place finish in a qualifier at Western Fair, Zip Car was sent off the 8-5 favorite with Doug McNair driving.

Leaving from post 6, Zip Car was parked through an opening quarter of :26.3. She then led nearly the rest of the distance, getting caught in the final strides by An Angel Shes Not, who scored by a half-length in 1:56.3.

The two will meet up again on Friday as An Angel Shes Not will start from post 5 in the same division. An Angel Shes Not is listed at 6-1 on the morning line, with Zip Car at 7-1. The 2-1 favorite from post 2 is Lyonsaura, who won her Blizzard opener in 1:54.1 for driver Randy Waples.

“Last week she was in where it looked like she could win, but I got stung hard to the quarter and she just got beat late,” said McNair of Zip Car. “She has great gate speed and I hope I don’t get stung too hard with her again this week. She’s better than what she looked like last week; I just hope I didn’t kink her.”

A 4-year-old daughter of Royal Mattjesty, Zip Car was a \$1,000 yearling purchase by trainer Heather Toll and her fiancée, Mark Beaven, from breeder Winbak Farm. She is out of the Cambest mare Winbak Celebration, a half sister to the \$348,575-winning Not A Prude and a full sister to Glen B, a winner of \$163,625.

“Well that’s a bit of a funny story,” Toll told WEG’s Greg Gangle about the purchase. “She went into the sales ring a few years ago at Flamboro (2011 Canadian Yearling Sale) and couldn’t get a bid. Finally, the auctioneer said ‘Who wants this filly for \$1,000?’ so I put my hand up and we ended up getting her. She was on the smaller side and had a boggy hock, but we took a chance.”

As for McNair, he is a finalist along with Sylvain Filion for the O’Brien Award as Canada’s 2013 Driver of the Year. He will learn his fate at the awards dinner on Feb. 8 in Prince Edward Island.

McNair, who turned 24 on Dec. 29, won 297 races last year with \$5.5 million in purse earnings. He was selected as Canada’s representative for the Nov. 30 Prix des Rencontres Internationales du Trotteur Francais at Hippodrome de Vincennes in Paris, but when his horse was scratched he found himself without a mount.

“Nobody can ever say they traveled farther and got less,” laughed McNair, who said the only consolation to the trip was that he was able to go sightseeing throughout France. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

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## Harrah's Philadelphia's Race License Suspended

Harnessracing.com has learned that the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission, at a meeting held Thursday morning in Hershey, has suspended Harrah's Philadelphia's race license. The racetrack in Chester, Pa., which opened in 2006, was scheduled to open for live racing on March 14.

"The Harness Racing Commission has suspended race dates for 2014 for Harrah's Philadelphia until Harrah's Philadelphia complies with the Harness Racing Commission's requests," said Samantha Krepps, the press secretary for the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture.

Krepps declined to elaborate on exactly what the commission's requests were, and added that more information will be made available at a later date.

## Miami Valley Receives Conditional Race License

At the monthly meeting of the Ohio State Racing Commission on Thursday, a resolution authorizing live racing dates for 2014 at Miami Valley Gaming and Racing was granted conditional approval. Racing begins there on Feb. 7.

The resolution (2014-1) contains nine conditions. Eight relate to commission concerns the racetrack has addressed or is in the process of fixing.

Two relate to pari-mutuel wagering: Miami Valley must have a minimum of five stationary mutuel clerks, five walk-around mutuel clerks and 13 self-service machines in the grandstand during live racing programs. In an area designated as the simulcast room, the racetrack is required to have one walk-around clerk and 12 self-service machines.

Other conditions included a deadline of Feb. 5 to complete the installation of a toteboard to display wagering information, camera towers and a secure fence around the paddock. Miami Valley must also complete other upgrades to the paddock and replace a fence separating the racing surface and the grandstand apron.

Each of two racetracks already operating VLTs, Thistledown and Scioto Downs, announced at the meeting that agreements with horsemen on the percentage of terminal revenue that will accrue to horsemen has been reached. Neither agreement has been signed by parties to it. No revenue percentage was announced.

Ohio law mandates the distribution of between nine and 11 percent of VLT proceeds to horsemen. Two racetracks that opened VLTs in December, Miami Valley and Northfield Park, now have six months from each opening date to reach similar agreements with horsemen.

Both breeds benefit from the disbursement of casino funds paid to the commission and it approved the disbursement of \$2.06 million received during the period between

October and December. Each has received in excess of \$2.19 million from the total amount paid in taxes (\$11.52 million) to the commission. (OSRC)

## Richard Stillings Elected To Ohio Hall Of Fame

Richard "Dick" Stillings, who has driven 5,751 career winners with more than \$41.7 million in purse earnings, is the newest member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame. He was elected by a vote of the Ohio chapter of the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Stillings was inducted into the Harness Racing Living Hall of Fame in 2013.

Stillings, a native of Mount Vernon, Ohio, drove or trained some of the best Grand Circuit horses in the 1980s—Barberry Spur p,3,T1:50.2 (\$1,634,017), Jaguar Spur p,4,T1:49.2 (\$1,806,473), Kentucky Spur p,3,1:52 (\$1,341,340), Pegasus Spur 1:54 (\$1,296,683), Esquire Spur 1:56f (\$336,250) and Gunslinger Spur 1:58f (\$317,562).

Stillings began his career as a groom for Hall of Fame trainer Dick Buxton. After a three-year stint in the U. S. Army, he took jobs with Jimmy Cruise Sr. and Howard Beissinger.

In 1968, Stillings moved to The Meadows in western Pennsylvania and soon established himself as a top trainer-driver. Stillings and his brother Charles "Buddy" soon joined up with owner Roy Davis and formed a tremendous partnership, sending out a string of successful horses, all with the "Spur" surname to honor the Tottenham Hotspur soccer club.

Team "Spur" teamed up to win back-to-back Little Brown Jug titles in 1986 and 1987 with Barberry Spur and Jaguar Spur. They captured a pair of Breeders Crown finals with Esquire Spur (3CT in 1989) and Kentucky Spur (2CP in 1988).

Stillings, 69, remains an active trainer/driver. In 2013, he sat behind 1,215 starters and collected 108 wins.

Stillings will be honored at the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association banquet in Columbus on Sunday, Jan. 26. (Ohio USHWA)

## U.S. Delegation Heads To France For Historic Agreement

U.S. Trotting Association directors Joe Faraldo, who is also president and CEO of the Standardbred Owners of New York and former chairman of the board of the USTA, and Alex Dadoyan, the current executive director of SOA of NY and a USTA executive committee member, along with Yonkers Raceway president Tim Rooney Sr. and his son, USTA director Tim Rooney Jr., the track's general counsel, will lead a delegation of U.S. industry representatives to Paris, France this week to negotiate the final details of a breeding, wagering and simulcasting agreement between the USTA and French racing officials.

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Also in the U.S. delegation will be USTA directors and SOA Board members Mike Kimelman Jr., who serves as president of Blue Chip Farms, and Ray Schnittker, as well as longtime former USTA director Peter Venaglia, a vice president for the SOA of NY.

During the trip, in addition to the breeding agreement, the two sides will work toward establishing a calendar of simulcasting of and wagering on Yonkers' races in France and French races into the U.S. by the end of 2014.

"This is a historic, monumental agreement," said Faraldo, who will sign the agreement on behalf of the USTA. "It is the predicate for international simulcasting into Europe and a move forward to more global simulcasting of U.S. harness racing."

On behalf of the French delegation, Dominique de Bellaigue, who is president of both Cheval Francais and the Trotteur Francais Stud Book Committee, will sign the contract on Saturday, Jan. 25. (*HRC*)

## Emeritus Maximus Tops Mixed Sale At \$248,000

Hip 183 Emeritus Maximus, who was purchased for \$248,000, was the sales topper Monday at the Meadowlands January Select Mixed Sale presented by Tattersalls.

Kevin McDermott bought the 4-year-old male pacer for brothers John and Tom Cancelliere.

"He's Roman, so I had to get him," John Cancelliere said, laughing. "We're from the same peninsula."

Emeritus Maximus was among three horses to sell for more than \$200,000. Five-year-old male trotter Appomattox sold for \$240,000 to Finland's Reima Kuisla, with trainer Liisa Vatanen signing the ticket, and 4-year-old male pacer Wake Up Peter went for \$210,000 to trainer Ray Remmen.

A total of 17 horses sold for at least \$80,000.

"We talked to a bunch of people and we kind of liked him, so we went for him," Cancelliere said. "He's got to race against some of the best horses out there; it's as tough as it's going to get. You've got some killers floating around out there (in the older pacer division) and he's still a babe in the woods. But you always have high hopes."

Wake Up Peter earned \$307,091 despite going winless in 19 starts. No 3-year-old pacer in history has ever earned as much money while failing to win a race.

"We liked the other horse better, Emeritus Maximus, but we couldn't get him," Remmen said. "We took a shot at this one. He fits some late closers here at the Meadowlands; maybe we can get a little money back. I think he'll make a solid racehorse."

"He doesn't really match up with the good ones, we know that. But he's solid. He raced against those good ones all year and he never really got his heart broken. A lot of horses would have called it off and said they were tired of chasing those horses, but he didn't. He kept chasing them."

Appomattox, who won seven of 45 lifetime races and \$407,858 out of the stable of Frank Antonacci, was the top-selling trotter. He is a son of Yankee Glide out of the mare Courtney Hall. Appomattox's mother is a full sister to millionaire Cameron Hall.

"He's just a gorgeous, good-looking, all-around nice horse," Vatanen said. "He's going to stay here for now and eventually he'll probably be going overseas. He's very well bred, he's beautiful, and he stands good. There's nothing bad to say about him."

## Palone, Wrenn Jr., Noble At Miami Valley Opener

Hall of Famer Dave Palone, the winningest driver in the storied history of North American harness racing and the reigning HarnessTracks of America Driver of the Year, has accepted an invitation to compete on the inaugural three racing programs at the brand new Miami Valley Raceway in southeast Ohio. He will join Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Dan Noble, also recent national dash champions, and a host of other talented reinsmen during the gala Grand Opening Weekend Feb. 7-9.

The three most recent national dash champions will sign autographs for patrons at the new Miami Valley Raceway from 5-6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday nights, Feb. 8-9. Beginning Feb. 7, racing will be conducted every Wednesday through Sunday night until May 4. Post time is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. (*Miami Valley*)

## Moni Maker, Nadia Lobell Set For Hoosier Park

The Red Mile and Hoosier Park are proud to present the 2014 edition of the Moni Maker for 3-year-old filly trotters and the Nadia Lobell for 3-year-old filly pacers. The 2014 edition of the prestigious stakes will be held on Friday, Oct. 31, at Hoosier Park.

Both stakes have an estimated purse of \$175,000. The nine qualified highest 2014 money earners entered will qualify for the race with the remaining entrants receiving a full refund of all payments. With only the top nine qualified money earners allowed to start, all horses will be on the gate.

This will be the first time for the stakes to be raced at Hoosier Park after the Nadia Lobell and the Moni Maker were held at the Meadowlands in 2013.

Both stakes saw the stars of the sport compete last season in thrilling performances. The Moni Maker was the final 2013 performance for the undefeated Bee A Magician as she capped off her phenomenal season. With a purse of \$253,000, the Moni Maker exceeded the estimated purse of \$175,000. In the Nadia Lobell, the fastest pacing filly of all time, Shebestingin, captured her 12th victory over top fillies like Charisma Hanover and UF Dragon Queen for the \$167,000 purse.

The Red Mile will handle all payments starting in March for both stakes. (*The Red Mile*)



**RACE LINES**

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through Jan. 21, 2014 (week difference Jan. 15-21).

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

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Bettor's Edge (5pg)	3	2	1	0	\$38,250
Nova Artist (7ph)	3	2	0	1	33,600
Lorrie Please (7pm)	2	2	0	0	30,000
Hypnotic Blue Chip (8ph)	3	1	1	1	26,100
Jeremy's Successor (10pg)	3	2	1	0	23,125
World Cup (5th)	3	2	0	0	23,000
Sunshine Superman (7pg)	3	1	1	0	22,825
Money Twitch A (9pg)	2	2	0	0	21,000
Texican N (6pg)	3	1	0	1	21,000
Zooming (6tg)	2	1	0	1	20,460
Economy Terror (5pm)	2	1	0	1	20,460
Awsome Valley (5tg)	3	1	2	0	20,000
Escape The News (5pg)	3	0	2	1	19,350
Marquise De Sarah (4pm)	2	1	1	0	19,250
Ideal In Vegas (5pm)	2	1	0	0	19,140
Lumberjack Willie (7pg)	2	1	0	0	19,140

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	245	50-30-40	.327	\$472,021 (\$152,126)
Ron Pierce	191	22-36-35	.281	328,642 (100,733)
Yannick Gingras	99	28-17-8	.405	275,627 (107,205)
Brian Sears	108	24-19-16	.369	252,340 (65,450)
Jason Bartlett	97	19-14-14	.324	240,860 (111,950)
Dave Palone	135	33-20-19	.374	236,601 (68,784)
Mike Wilder	144	30-22-17	.333	231,494 (65,077)
George Brennan	113	15-18-16	.268	225,600 (80,055)
Matt Kakaley	123	14-15-25	.249	205,665 (75,435)
Allan Davis	146	18-21-12	.231	192,752 (64,721)
Aaron Merriman	205	26-29-24	.244	189,089 (61,344)
Ross Wolfenden	127	21-20-16	.295	187,290 (44,785)
Tony Hall	134	19-22-19	.280	182,580 (72,112)
David Miller	98	15-14-13	.277	178,874 (59,852)
John Campbell	87	12-13-8	.252	172,615 (57,380)

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	164	44-24-22	.394	\$489,533 (\$164,820)
Rene Allard	61	19-4-13	.419	122,447 (31,025)
Carmen Auciello	62	12-8-2	.276	115,167 (79,021)
Dylan Davis	42	12-5-4	.384	101,385 (39,300)
P.J. Fraley	51	8-6-5	.255	98,455 (35,380)
Randy Bendis	51	8-10-8	.318	98,127 (26,467)
Nick Surick	47	15-8-6	.456	96,660 (57,738)
Josh Green	19	9-5-1	.637	83,795 (48,170)
Melvin Givens	55	7-8-10	.269	76,567 (30,300)
Douglas Lewis	20	6-6-1	.483	73,145 (12,625)
Peter Tritton	25	6-2-5	.351	71,760 (21,775)
David Duspiva	35	4-8-0	.241	69,530 (32,635)
Trish Foulk	33	12-2-6	.458	66,155 (24,965)
Heidi Rohr	29	6-4-5	.341	65,297 (33,692)
Richard Moreau	59	7-7-7	.224	64,300 (32,124)

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	359	68	76	\$618,600
Winbak Farm	305	48	53	368,587
Brittany Farms	103	23	25	263,647
Perretti Farms	109	20	23	179,666
White Birch Farm	47	12	16	123,740
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	78	7	8	116,726
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	66	11	11	110,898
Arlene & Jules Siegel	53	9	10	108,296
Walnut Hall Limited	66	8	11	98,690
Seelster Farms Inc.	52	14	16	95,991
Frederick Hertrich III	50	12	17	80,477
Tara Hills Stud Ltd	33	6	8	70,422
Val D'Or Farms	10	2	3	70,223
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	37	8	10	68,186
Midland Acres Inc.	33	8	9	65,994

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for Jan. 15-21 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

**Drivers**

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Corey Callahan.....	76	16-11-9
Yannick Gingras.....	37	13-3-2
Luke Plano.....	29	12-2-4
Bruce Aldrich Jr.....	49	10-9-5
Dave Palone.....	34	10-4-6
Aaron Merriman.....	73	9-12-10
Eric Abbatiello.....	47	9-6-8
Jason Bartlett.....	45	9-5-9
Tyler Smith.....	54	9-9-8
Aaron Byron.....	33	8-7-3
Billy Dobson.....	37	8-4-9
Elliott Deaton.....	25	8-1-1
Jim DeVaux.....	36	8-5-4
Peter Wrenn.....	34	8-6-4
Guy Gagnon.....	10	7-0-0
Jim Marohn Jr.....	43	7-7-7
Keith Kash Jr.....	36	7-3-5
Kurt Sugg.....	33	7-3-2
Matt Kakaley.....	42	7-5-7
Ron Pierce.....	70	7-12-10
Steve Smith.....	45	7-8-4
Tony Hall.....	40	7-6-8

**Trainers**

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke.....	16
Nick Surick.....	11
Carmen Auciello.....	7
Charles Stewart.....	6
J.D. Perrin.....	6
Josh Green.....	6
Mike Watson.....	6
Bob Johnson.....	5
Colin Johnson.....	5
Trish Foulk.....	5
Vincent Fusco Jr.....	5
Crist Hershberger.....	4
Dylan Davis.....	4
Rene Allard.....	4
Robert Lounsbury.....	4