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Legion Of Boom Looks To Tackle Count B

The Seattle Seahawks' secondary, nicknamed the Legion Of Boom, could not come through with a victory in the Super Bowl last Sunday, but the McNair family hopes that their horse, Legion Of Boom, will fare better Friday night at Woodbine. Legion Of Boom is in the first \$17,000 division of the first leg of The Count B Series for 3-year-old colt pacers, starting from post 2 in Race 1.

The Artistic Fella gelding is out of Beryl Seelster, a \$130,000-winning filly at two and three in Canada. Legion Of Boom is owned by Doug McNair and Aaron Waxman's Equus Standardbreds Inc. and was an \$11,000 purchase at the 2013 Forest City Yearling Sale.

"He'd make mistakes during the mile and still be able to keep up with the others."

— Gregg McNair
on Legion Of Boom

Trainer Gregg McNair, currently winter training in Florida with 25 two year olds, has seen plenty of growth in Legion Of Boom, who did not

make any starts as a freshman.

"He was always a fast horse and grew a lot," said McNair. "He was also the first one gelded though."

Despite the speed that Legion Of Boom possessed through his first-year training, McNair was forced to wait on his gelding to improve physically and mentally.

"He'd make mistakes during the mile and still be able to keep up with the others. He would make you so mad because he had so much speed," McNair added. "He had physical issues so he had to have four months off, but he's been good since then."

With one qualifier under his belt, Legion Of Boom finished third in his pari-mutuel debut on Jan. 19 at Woodbine. Back in seven days later, Legion Of Boom scored as the 1-2 favorite a 3 ¾-length victory in 1:56.3, including a speedy :56.2 last half for a frigid Ontario night. Driver and owner Doug McNair was proud of the effort for that night.

"Its real cold up there at Woodbine so that was a pretty good mile for a maiden," McNair said.

Legion Of Boom



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The win was particularly notable for McNair who was also able to celebrate his first triumph at Woodbine as an owner as well.

"It was a pretty good feeling. It's only the second yearling I ever bought," McNair said about his win as an owner. "Two months ago I would not have thought he would have won that race."

The younger McNair acknowledged the improvement of his horse since the summer of last year. "He (Legion Of Boom) didn't really want to train last year. He was such a different horse in December compared to August," he said. — By Jay Hochstetler

Burke Brings Two To Sonsam Series

Trainer Ron Burke has just a pair of starters in the opening round of the Sonsam Series on Saturday night at the Meadowlands, in part because of the new rules at the Big M that prohibit a trainer from having more than two entries in a series final. Burke will start What I Believe from post 10 in the first \$17,500 division, with Major Uptrend starting from post 8 in the second split. Yannick Gingras will drive both recent acquisitions into the Burke barn.

"This is really all I've got," explained Burke. "I didn't go out and look for these kinds of horses because in the back of mind I knew there could be a problem. So I didn't even look for those kinds of horses this year."

What I Believe was purchased late last November by Burke Racing Stable and Weaver BrusceMI LLC after competing in Canada. The 4-year-old gelded son of Dragon Again won both his Escort Series preliminaries last month at the Meadowlands before finishing seventh in the \$56,000 final on Jan. 24. With Gingras in France driving Maven that weekend, Ron Pierce got the call and the trip didn't work out as he was trapped in looking for racing room.

"I leave it up to Yannick and...it's going to be on the aggressive side, not on the cautious side."

— Ron Burke on driving What I Believe

What I Believe's preferred style of racing is to go to the front and say, "Catch me if you can." On Dec. 20 at the Big M, What I Believe opened up a three-length lead in midstretch before holding on by a neck, but then the following week after drawing clear by six at the same stretch call, he

failed to hold on and finished second by a head.

"I'm sure with Yannick it will hanging on and hoping," Burke said with a laugh when asked about race strategy from the outside post. "I leave it up to Yannick and if it goes any way, it's going to be on the aggressive side, not on the cautious side."

Major Uptrend, a 4-year-old gelded son of Somebeach-somewhere, was purchased by Howard Taylor after the pacer rallied from eighth at the top of the stretch with a final quarter of :25.3 to win in 1:51.3 on Dec. 27 at the Meadowlands. In his first start for Burke in the opening round of the Escort Series, Major Uptrend was driven more aggressively by Gingras, taking the lead at the half and drawing clear to win by 3 1/4 lengths in a career-best 1:50.3.

Major Uptrend then made a couple of breaks in his second-round split, crossing the wire second but moved back to last by the stewards because of the miscues. With Callahan driving in the Escort final, Major Uptrend finished second by a half-length after closing from seventh at the top of the stretch.

"I think he will put him toward the front this time," Burke said of Gingras's Sonsam strategy. "I think you will see Yannick marching toward the lead. If he gets parked he gets parked. I don't think Yannick will worry about it.

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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, February 6

All times listed are local.

| | | | | |
|-------|------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 7:25p | Wdb1 | The Count B | Pace div. | Trackmaster PPs |
| 8:05p | Wdb3 | The Count B | Pace div. | Trackmaster PPs |
| 8:50p | YR 6 | F&M Open | Pace | Trackmaster PPs |
| 9:24p | M7 | Dash ForThe C Notes | Trot | Trackmaster PPs |

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

Saturday, February 7

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 8:50p | YR6 | Open | Trot | Trackmaster PPs |
| 9:02p | M6 | Dash ForThe C Notes | Pace | Trackmaster PPs |
| 9:24p | M7 | Sonsam | Pace div. | Trackmaster PPs |
| 9:30p | YR8 | Open | Pace | Trackmaster PPs |
| 10:50p | M11 | Sonsam | Pace div. | Trackmaster PPs |

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"I think the horse has three lungs. In my opinion, just set him out in the middle of the racetrack and let him do his work. As long as he's even close at the top of the lane, he's pretty hard to hold off. And this is who he is. You have to drive him the way he wants to be driven." — *By Gordon Waterstone*



Early & Late Closing Events 2015

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, 2015.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 2 nd Leg | Tuesday, March 10th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 3 rd Leg | Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| Final | Friday, March 27th, 2015 | \$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, 2015.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Friday, March 6th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 2 nd Leg | Friday, March 13th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 3 rd Leg | Friday, March 20th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| Final | Friday, March 27th, 2015 | \$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, 2015.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Monday, March 2nd, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 2 nd Leg | Monday, March 9th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 3 rd Leg | Monday, March 16th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| Final | Friday, March 27th, 2015 | \$20,000 added |

Event #4 The Mary Wohlmutth 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, 2015.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Wednesday, March 4th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 2 nd Leg | Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| 3 rd Leg | Wednesday, March 18th, 2015 | \$15,000 |
| Final | Friday, March 27th, 2015 | \$20,000 added |

Nominations close for all Events: February 15th, 2015.

Nomination fees for all events: \$300.00 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, 2015. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2015 NE)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Tuesday, April 7th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| 2 nd Leg | Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| Final | Tuesday, April 21st, 2015 | \$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, 2015. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2015 NE)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Friday, April 10th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| 2 nd Leg | Friday, April 17th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| Final | Friday, April 24th, 2015 | \$25,000 added |

Event #7 The Daylon Miracle 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, 2015. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2015 NE)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| 2 nd Leg | Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| Final | Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015 | \$25,000 added |

Event #8 The Tamarind 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, 2015. (Winners over \$50,000 life as of February 1, 2015 NE)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st Leg | Monday, April 6th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| 2 nd Leg | Monday, April 13th, 2015 | \$17,500 |
| Final | Monday, April 20th, 2015 | \$25,000 added |

Nominations close for all Events: February 15th, 2015.

Nomination fees for all events: \$300.00 U.S. funds

Conditions Available Upon Request

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| EVENT NO. | NAME OF ENTRY | COLOR & SEX | AGE | SIRE & DAM | OWNER & ADDRESS |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|-----|------------|-----------------|
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Entered By: _____

Phone No: _____

Trained By: _____

Icommandmyspirit Commands Respect in Yonkers Open

While trainer Chris Ryder is on top of a snowy mountain in Colorado this week, his trainee, Icommandmyspirit, looks to reach the apex of the mares pacing division at Yonkers Friday night in Race 6, the \$35,000 Open Pace for fillies and mares. Icommandmyspirit will start from post 7 with Eric Carlson driving.



New Image Media Photo

“She’s small but hardly ever beaten on the front end.”

– Chris Ryder on Icommandmyspirit

Icommandmyspirit has made all three of her 2015 starts at the Meadowlands, earning a check each time. She has earnings of \$17,100 on the year, including a \$12,500 payday for a 1:51.1 victory on Jan 16.

Icommandmyspirit is coming off a strong last start where she finished third in a race Somwherovrainbow charged to a 1:50.4 victory. Ryder’s mare was eight lengths behind at the half, but used a last quarter of :27.2 to rally for third.

After Icommandmyspirit’s race did not fill at the Meadowlands last weekend, Ryder decided to send his

5-year-old Dragon Again mare to Yonkers.

“She wasn’t able to get raced last weekend, and it’s been a pretty tough group at the Meadowlands,” Ryder said earlier this week by cell phone from Colorado. “She’s done OK at Yonkers in the past and is handy around the half.”

Icommandmyspirit, a homebred of Cheryl Costello, has made just six career starts at Yonkers. Her Yonkers efforts include a second-place finish in the \$44,000 Open Pace for fillies and mares last July where she lost by a head in 1:52.4.

As a sophomore in trainer Ross Croghan’s barn, Icommandmyspirit earned \$108,402, with her seven wins including multiple victories in the Pennsylvania Stallion Series. Ryder took control of Icommandmyspirit after her 3-year-old season, and she quickly scored her lifetime mark of 1:50 at the Meadowlands last March.

The daughter of Dragon Again is out of Artists Flower, an offspring of the \$460,095-winning Cam’s Card Shark mare Roses For Sammie. Icommandmyspirit is the only offspring of Artists Flower to race thus far although only one other foal is of racing age. Her third foal, a Badlands Hanover filly, is now two.

Ryder is quick to praise his consistent mare.

“She’s just a nice mare. She’s a feisty little thing,” Ryder added. “She’s small but hardly ever beaten on the front end. She’s really game whenever she gets to the front.”

While Ryder currently may be thousands of miles away from his New Jersey stable, he’s quite confident in the preparation of Icommandmyspirit for this weekend.

“My staff has been doing a tremendous job. She’s in good hands,” said Ryder. — By Jay Hochstetler



Nominations Close February 17, 2015



| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Pepsi North America Cup – Pace | \$1,000,000 G |
| Canadian Trotting Classic | \$685,000 E |
| Fan Hanover – Pace | \$455,000 E |
| Elegantimage – Trot | \$410,000 E |
| Goodtimes – Trot | \$270,000 E |
| Somebeachsomewhere – Pace | \$225,000 E |
| Casual Breeze – Trot | \$150,000 E |
| Battle Of Waterloo – Pace | \$175,000 E |
| Battle Of The Belles – Pace | \$110,000 E |
| Confederation Cup - Pace | \$200,000 A |

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|-------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------|--------|----------|
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Gingras Is Super With Super Bowl Pick

Yannick Gingras, the unanimous choice by the U.S. Harness Writers Association as the 2014 Driver of the Year, has shown he knows his way around the racetrack, and now he's shown he knows how to handicap football.

Nineteen horsemen and race officials provided their picks for Super Bowl XLIX for last week's Weekend Preview, and Gingras was one of 12 who correctly predicted the New England Patriots would beat the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's big game. But the 35 year old—who grew up watching the Canadian Football League in his native Quebec—did everyone one better: He hit the final score of 28-24 right on the head.

"I got lucky," Gingras simply wrote in a text message shortly after the game ended Sunday night.

Driver Steve Smith, whose trotter Bell A Chick—named for Patriots coach Bill Belichick and the subject of a feature story in last week's Weekend Preview—finished fifth Friday night at the Meadowlands, gets props too for his pick of Patriots 27, Seahawks 24.

Congratulations for their Patriots pick also go to (in alphabetical order): Stacy Cahill; Corey Callahan; George Ducharme; Paul Kelley; Sam McKee; Nick Salvi; Jason Setlemoir; Chuck Sylvester; Dave Weaver; and Darin Zoccali.



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Oh yes....Dave Briggs and Tom Kelley also had the correct score of 28-24—but with the Seahawks winning. And if the Seahawks had just given Marshawn Lynch the ball to run in for a touchdown in the closing seconds and not inexplicably thrown that pass....Seahawks' backer Emily Gaskin would have had it nailed at 31-28.

Better luck next year!

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2. Return application with a check for 10% of amount bid (Canadian bidders may submit bids on Canadian stallions in Canadian funds). If bidding on more than one stallion, please use separate application or plain paper and write separate checks for each bid. **All bids are confidential.**
3. **Bids must be postmarked by Saturday, February 14th, 2015.**
4. Make check(s) payable and send to The Harness Racing Museum, 240 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924. Call Joanne Young at 845-294-6330 with questions.
5. Bidders will be notified by February 20.
6. If you are not the winning bidder, your deposit will be returned to you or you may donate it to the Museum. The successful bidder will owe the Harness Racing Museum the remaining 90% of stud fee at the time the mare foals. If no live foal results, a veterinarian's certificate is required. Your deposit will be returned, or it may be donated to the Museum. Mares not presented for breeding will forfeit deposit.
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| Manhardt | MI | 1,500 |
| If I Can Dream | NJ | 5,000 |
| <i>Conway Court</i> | NY | 1,000 |
| Heston Blue Chip | NY | 4,500 |
| Lislea | NY | 500 |
| <i>Lucky Chucky</i> | NY | 6,000 |
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| <i>Cash Hall</i> | OH | 3,000 |
| Charlie Barley | OH | 1,500 |
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| Tuffofthetoughest | PA | 2,000 |
| <i>Winning Mister</i> | PA | 6,000 |
| <i>Trotters in italics</i> | | |



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Signature _____ Date _____, 2015

Maven Draws Post 1 For Prix de France

Maven has post 1 for Sunday's Grand Prix de France at the Vincennes racetrack in Paris. The 6-year-old mare will be driven by Johnny Takter, the older brother of trainer Jimmy Takter.

Thirteen trotters will compete in the 1 5/16-miles (2,100 meters) Grand Prix de France, including Up And Quick, who captured the Prix d'Amerique at Vincennes on Jan. 25. In that race, Maven and driver Yannick Gingras, away slowly from the "volt start," were making a move around the final turn when the trotter made a break. That race followed a seventh and 11th in her two previous attempts in recent weeks in France.

Here is the field for the Grand Prix de France, which carries a purse of 400,000 euro (approximately \$457,000 U.S.):

1. Maven (Johnny Takter)
2. Up And Quick (Jean Michel Bazire)
3. Timoko (Bjorn Goop)
4. Texas Charm (Julien Dubois)
5. Vanika du Ruel (Franck Anne)
6. Uhla du Val (Cedric Megissier)
7. Noras Bean (Stefan Soderqvist)
8. Napoleon Bar (Pierre Verduyze)
9. Tiego d'Etang (Charles Bigeon)
10. Severino (Damien Bonne)
11. Linda di Casei (Alessandro Gocciadoro)
12. Solvato (Orjan Kihlstrom)
13. Kadett CD (Domonik Locqueneux)



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Teague Hopes To Wiggle It Jiggleit In Sonsam

Wiggle It Jiggleit has been just a little bit impressive in winning his only two career starts—beating his foes by a total of 18 1/4 lengths—but George Teague Jr. needs to see a little bit more from the 3-year-old pacer.

"The horse is going to have to do more than that for me to be super impressed," Teague said with a laugh. "But he seems like a real nice horse. He's got a great set of lungs, a high rate of speed and he's a really, really intelligent horse. He's got all the qualities, he just has to stay sound, and get lucky."

Teague, who owns and trains Wiggle It Jiggleit, will get a better look at the gelding in Saturday's first round of the Sonsam Series at the Meadowlands. Wiggle It Jiggleit, who was limited to one start last season because of soreness, faces a field of 4 and 5 year olds in the event.

He will start from post 6 with Montrell Teague handling the driving. Escort Series champion Company Man is also in the field, starting from post 7.

"It's going to be a little bit of a tall order to race against those horses, but I'm hoping it gives me an idea what I'm staking for," said Teague, whose longtime assistant Clyde Francis is listed as trainer. "I think he's worthy of staking. He dealt with a little bit of colt soreness (last year) so I couldn't get a good gauge whether he was a top-tier colt or just a horse. So I'm starting him up a little early to try to get an idea."

Wiggle It Jiggleit is a son of Mr. Wiggles out of the mare Mozzi Hanover. Teague owns both horses and raced both horses during their careers on the track. Mr. Wiggles won the 2009 Hoosier Cup and finished second in the Breeders Crown and Adios.

Last year, Wiggle It Jiggleit won two qualifiers—by a total of 27 1/4 lengths—before capturing his debut by six lengths in 1:51.2 on Aug. 31 at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. After sitting out the remainder of the campaign, the horse returned on Jan. 25 with a 1:52 victory at Dover Downs.

"His first race was a very impressive race, I will say that," Teague said. "He came first-over at Pocono and never dropped the bit. The other night was virtually the same. I knew I was heading to the Meadowlands so I wanted to tighten him up a little bit. He won and did it like he's supposed to."

Teague could have continued to race Wiggle It Jiggleit last year, but didn't want to push it.

"I didn't want to take any chances and end up hurting him for this year," he said. "It worked out good. I was able to put him away earlier, get him sounder, and get him back together early this year to see what I've got. He seems as good as some of the better horses I've trained in the past." (HRC)

"It's going to be a little bit of a tall order to race against those horses..."

— George Teague Jr.



NEW VOCATIONS

Racehorse Adoption Program

17th Annual Stallion Auction to Benefit New Vocations

Conducted through OnGait.com February 9th - 13th in an "Open Ended Format"

(Additional stallions may be added. View updated list at NewVocations.org)

DELAWARE

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| Rustler Hanover | Winbak Farms | 2,500 |
| Veeza | Winbak Farms | 1,500 |

ILLINOIS

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Corner Blitz | Jim Kezios | 1,500 |
| Yankee Skyscraper | Walker Standardbreds | 3,500 |

INDIANA

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Airzoom Lindy | Airzoom Lindy LLC | 2,000 |
| Always A Virgin | Boni/Skolnick&JHolloway | 4,000 |
| Aracache Hanover | Switala/Martin & Ivy Lane | 2,500 |
| Big Stick Lindy | Pond Acres/Black Creek Fm | 3,000 |
| Fred and Ginger | Howard Taylor | 3,000 |
| Hypnotic Blue Chip | Fran Azur | 2,500 |
| Jereme's Jet | John Leahy/Ivy Lane Farm | 3,000 |
| Mr Cantab | Mr Cantab Syndicate | 3,000 |
| Net Ten Eom | Maple Lane Farm | 2,500 |
| Prime Time Caviar | Daniel Graber (live cover) | 500 |
| Sand Shooter | Bill Sanders/Jerry Silva | 2,500 |
| Tellitlikeitis | Lothloerian | 3,000 |

MARYLAND

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------|
| Charlie DeVie | Fox Den Farm | 1,500 |
| Four Starz Robro | Kelly Rogers | 1,000 |
| Rusty's For Real | Fox Den Farm | 1,000 |
| Sand Vic | Winbak Farms | 2,500 |
| The Fraternity Pan | Kelly Rogers | 1,000 |

MICHIGAN

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------|
| Colies | Snow Ridge Farm | 1,500 |
| Manhardt | Snow Ridge Farm | 1,500 |

NEW YORK

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Conway Hall | Walnut Hall Ltd | 7,500 |
| Crazed | Blue Chip Farms | 5,000 |
| Deweycheatumnhowe | Walnut Hall Ltd | 6,000 |

OHIO

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Amigo Hall | Blair Burgess | 2,500 |
| Believeinbruiser | Cool Winds/Gerald Mijol | 2,000 |
| Big Bad John | Winchester Baye Acres, Inc | 5,000 |
| Cash Hall | Walnut Hall Ltd | 3,000 |
| Charley Barley | Lisa Ezzo | 1,500 |
| Cheyenne Rei | Bonley Farm/Reiis Gang | 2,000 |
| Deep Chip | Kathy Ratcliff/Autumn Ln | 2,500 |
| Feelin Friskie | Midland Acres | 2,500 |
| Dragon Again | Ed Mullinax | 5,000 |
| Gheeis House | Rubenstein & Bonley Fms | 2,000 |
| Hard Rock N Roll | Bonley Farm | 2,000 |
| Home Stretch | Deo Volente Farm LLC | 1,500 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Jailhouse Jesse | Al Libfeld | 2,500 |
| Jurgen Hanover | NR Holdings, inc | 2,500 |
| Mister Big | Muscara Racing Trust | 2,500 |
| Panspacificflight | Jacob Miller/Schwartz Fm | 2,500 |
| Powerful Toy | Jeff Stacy/OSU-ATI | 1,500 |
| Rockin Amadeus | Cool Winds/Susan Grange | 3,500 |
| Running Book | Curran Racing, Inc | 2,000 |
| Shark Gesture | Norman Smiley | 3,000 |
| Stormin Normand | Christina Takter | 3,000 |
| Three Olives | Jeff Stacy/OSU-ATI | 1,500 |
| Triumphant Caviar | Triumphant Caviar Syn | 3,000 |
| Upfront Hannahsboy | Ed Mullinax | 1,500 |
| Valley Victor | Walter Fister & VVictor syn | 1,500 |
| Western Vintage | P.Soderberg/Marvin Katz | 3,500 |
| We Will See | S.Depinto/E.Smith/J.Silva | 4,500 |
| Wishing Stone | Mike Gulotta | 4,500 |
| Winning Fireworks | Daniel & Wayne Schlabach | 2,000 |
| Woodstock | Sugar Valley Farm | 2,000 |
| World of Rocknroll | DMcDuffee/DeoVolenteFm | 2,250 |
| Yankee Cruiser | Burke Racing Stable LLC | 4,500 |

PENNSYLVANIA

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| A Rocknroll Dance | Diamond Creek Farm | 6,000 |
| Delmarvelous | John Celii/Three Jis Stable | 3,500 |
| Keystone Savage | A.Merriman&J.Brenneman | 1,000 |
| Ponder | John D Fielding | 4,000 |
| Slickest Hanover | Joel Brenneman | 1,000 |
| Touchdown Town | Joel Brenneman | 1,000 |
| Tuffofthetoughest | Delaware Valley College | 2,000 |
| Western Ideal | Hanover Shoe Farms | 7,500 |

ONTARIO

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Badlands Hanover | Hanover Shoe Farms | 3,500 |
| Big Jim | Seelster Farms | 4,000 |
| Holiday Road | Seelster&DeoVolenteFarms | 3,500 |
| Windsong Espoir | Walnut Hall Ltd | 3,500 |

How To Bid: Bid online at www.ongait.com February 9th through 2:00 p.m. Friday February 13th or five minutes after the last bid comes in. (Open ended auction! Contact ongait@aol.com for details and also about the texting notification service) Minimum raise is \$100. Winning bidders owe a refundable 10%, minimum \$100 deposit. Balance is due with a live foal. **(Please do not bid for mares over 20 yrs old, ones that have been barren two + consecutive years, ones due to foal after May 21, or those that are already booked.)** FMI or an updated list, call (937) 947-4020 or email dot@horseadoption.com www.NewVocations.org

STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

Handicapping The O'Brien Awards

Saturday night, the O'Brien Awards honoring the best in Canadian harness racing from the past year will be handed out in Toronto. For those not attending the O'Brien dinner, the award presentations will be streamed live on www.standardbredcanada.ca beginning at approximately 9:15 p.m. (ET).

The trick to handicapping the winners of the O'Brien Awards is understanding that they are uniquely Canadian.

Voters select the horse or person that made the greatest contribution to Canadian racing. What that means is subjective, but what it doesn't mean is the winners will necessarily be the people or horses that had the best season.

Canadian-bred horses, especially those campaigned by Canadians, have an edge over U.S. horses in the O'Briens and, by the criteria, rightly so.

That, more than money and wins and losses, is what influences my picks for the winners of this year's O'Briens:

2FP—JK She'salady vs. Sports Chic

Winner: JK She'salady

Yes, JK She'salady lacks Canadian content, but the U.S. Horse of the Year was simply too good in Canada to be denied, despite the fact Sports Chic is Ontario-sired and has Canadian connections.

2CP—Artspeak vs. Go Daddy Go

Winner: Go Daddy Go

I think Go Daddy Go will pull off the upset. Artspeak did win the two biggest races in his division in Canada and does have Canadian ownership in Marvin Katz, but Go Daddy Go has greater Canadian appeal as an Ontario-sired Bob McIntosh homebred that won the Battle of Waterloo.

3FP—Lady Shadow vs. Major Dancer

Winner: Lady Shadow

Really tough one. Both fillies had similar seasons statistically, but Gregg McNair trainee Lady Shadow is Ontario-sired and has the faster mark of the two.

3CP—JK Endofanera vs. McWicked

Winner: McWicked

Though JK Endofanera won the Pepsi North America Cup, McWicked had the better season overall. That JK Endofanera has no Canadian connections and McWicked is owned by Canadian Ed James will be a factor.

OMP—American In Paris vs. Anndrovette

Winner: American In Paris

Anndrovette is the better horse and did win the Roses Are Red at Mohawk, but American In Paris was a fixture on the WEG circuit and has Canadian connections.

OHP—Modern Legend vs. State Treasurer

Winner: Modern Legend

The 66-1 upset in the Canadian Pacing Derby for breeder-owner-trainer and former GM executive Dave Drew was one of the best stories of the year and will be the difference-maker between two talented older pacers.

2FT—Danielle Hall vs. Stubborn Belle

Winner: Danielle Hall

Another tough one between two talented Ontario-sired fillies campaigned by respected Ontario trainers.

2CT—Don't Rush vs. Habitat

Winner: Habitat

The Ron Burke-trained U.S. invader Habitat had the better year winning the William Wellwood at Mohawk, but Don't Rush is an Ontario-sired colt trained by Canadian Dustin Jones. Hmmm.

3FT—Riveting Rosie vs. White Becomes Her

Winner: Riveting Rosie

The John Bax trainee was simply the better horse.

3CT—Harper Blue Chip vs. Trixton

Winner: Harper Blue Chip

Another case where the uniquely Canadian horse should win out. Super Final winner Harper Blue Chip was another of the great stories of the year with his fractional ownership group and trainer Mark Steacy.

OMT—Bee A Magician vs. Classic Martine

Winner: Bee A Magician

Classic Martine probably had the better season overall and was better in Canada, but 2013 North American Horse of the Year Bee A Magician is an Ontario-sired sweetheart and two of her three owners are Canadian. Her Breeders Crown win helps.

OHT—Intimidate vs. Slip Into Glide

Winner: Intimidate

Really shouldn't be close.

Horse of the Year

Winner: JK She'salady

I'm tempted to go with McWicked here due to his Canadian connections, but he didn't win a race of note in Canada. She was perfect.

Driver—Chris Christoforou vs. Trevor Henry

Winner: Chris Christoforou

Racing loves a comeback story.

Trainer—Richard Moreau vs. Jimmy Takter

Winner: Richard Moreau

Though Takter had the better year in Canada, don't be surprised if Moreau pulls off the upset because he's based in Canada and has more wins.



Dave Briggs was the editor of The Canadian Sportsman for 18 years and is an award-winning journalist. His column appears in HarnessRacing Weekend Preview in part through the advertising support of Hanover Shoe Farms and Woodbine Entertainment Group. Any opinions expressed in this column are his own and not necessarily those of the Horseman Publishing Company and its publications or its advertisers.



1996 Horse of Year Continentalvictory dies

Two-time divisional champion and 1996 Horse of the Year Continentalvictory has died at the age of 22. The daughter of Valley Victory-Intercontinental won 19 of 29 career starts, including the 1996 Hambletonian, with \$1,611,170 in earnings. According to reports, Adam Bowden, co-owner of Diamond Creek Farm which purchased Continentalvictory in 2008, said ongoing health issues led to the mare being euthanized. Bred by Brittany Farms, Continentalvictory was trained by Ron Gurfein and driven primarily by Mike Lachance. At two she won 10 of 17 starts, including a 1:55.3 effort in the Breeders Crown final at Garden State Park, missing the world record by just two-fifths of a second.

Continentalvictory won nine of 12 starts at three, including the World Trotting Derby, Yonkers Trot, American National and New Jersey Sires Stakes final. She captured the Hambletonian in straight heats, posting a world-record 1:52.1 win in the first heat. Combined with her second-heat score in 1:52.4, the combined time of 3:45 still stands as a world record for two heats by a 3-year-old filly trotter.

To see the video of the decisive second heat of the 1996 Hambletonian won by Continentalvictory, please click [here](#).

With the Hambletonian and Yonkers Trot in the win column in 1996, Continentalvictory had a chance for Triple Crown glory if she captured the Kentucky Futurity at The Red Mile. Despite a bothersome ankle that was later diagnosed as a suspensory injury that ended her racing career, trainer Gurfein dropped her name in the box hoping she could recover in time for the race. When that didn't happen, Continentalvictory was scratched. Still, she is the last filly to win either the Hambletonian or Yonkers Trot.

"She was like family to me," Gurfein told harnessracing.com. "To me she was the greatest trotting filly that ever lived. You see a lot of fast times now and you see a lot of amazing performances, with the new bikes and no hubrail. Times aren't the same in this era as they were then. She won all her races in a wooden bike with conventional wheels, and most of the tracks had hubrails.

"Ask people who have lived through these decades, and most will say that her Hambletonian was the most exciting Hambletonian there ever was. The best colt (Lindy Lane) and the best filly from the top of the stretch to the finish in a head-to-head duel, it was pretty special."

Continentalvictory's generation included stars Moni Maker and Act Of Grace. Still, she was an overwhelming choice of the U.S. Harness Writers Association as 2-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year in 1995 and then again in 1996 she easily re-

peated as 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year. Continentalvictory won Horse of the Year honors over Pacer of the Year Jenna's Beach Boy in a vote of 144-36.

Continentalvictory's success on the track did not continue as a broodmare. From 10 foals, her best was Gastine, who took a mark of 1:56.4 and had earnings of \$119,176. Continentalvictory's last foal is a Credit Winner yearling filly.

Hall Of Famers Coon, Guida & Jones Die

Three members of harness racing's Hall of Fame died over the past week. Charles "Chuck" Coon and Lou Guida, both inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008, died on Friday, Jan. 30, and the following day, the 2010 inductee Hal Jones died.

Coon, harness racing's premier innovator in racetrack design, construction, maintenance and starting gates, was 86. He adopted such cutting-edge design features as super-elevated curves, which addressed both equine safety and competitive racing at a time when the focus was solely on speed.

To read Mr. Coon's obituary, click [here](#).

Guida died at the age of 82. He owned all or part of 21 harness horses that each won \$1 million. Included among those great horses was Niatross, Mack Lobell, Peace Corps, Chairmanoftheboard and Pershing Square. Guida's eventual syndication of Niatross for the colt's breeding career changed racing forever.

To read Mr. Guida's obituary, click [here](#).

Jones, who owned and operated Cameo Hills Farm in New York with his son, Steve, was 90. Jones helped launch Pickwick Farms in Ohio, and later went on to work at the major breeding farms Blue Chip Farms, Hanover Shoe Farms and Lana Lobell Farm of New Jersey.

To read Mr. Jones's entire obituary, click [here](#).

Silva, Kurzrok Purchase NYSS Champ Crazy Wow

Owner Jerry Silva told harnessracing.com Monday morning, Feb. 2, that in partnership with Gene Kurzrok, he and his wife Theresa, as J & T Silva Stables, have purchased the 2014 New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) champion trotter Crazy Wow. Silva said Crazy Wow will be trained by Ron Burke.

A son of Crazed out of the \$415,630-winning mare No Pain No Gain, Crazy Wow was a \$10,000 yearling purchase by Joseph Hess. Trained last year as a 2 year old by Dan O'Mara, Crazy Wow won five of 11 starts with \$232,928 in earnings. He took his mark of 1:54 while capturing a NYSS division at Vernon Downs. Crazy Wow captured the \$225,000 NYSS final at Yonkers, and capped off his freshman campaign with a win in the \$65,900 Madison County at Hoosier Park.

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 3, 2015 (week difference Jan. 28-Feb. 3).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

| | Sts. | W | P | S | Earnings |
|--------------------------|------|---|---|---|----------|
| Not Afraid (6tg) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | \$50,650 |
| Take It Back Terry (6pg) | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 43,750 |
| Set Me Up (6pm) | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 42,000 |
| Jl Cruze (4tg) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 41,250 |
| Doctor Butch (5ph) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 41,075 |
| Count Me In (6tg) | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 39,700 |
| Marquise De Sarah (5pm) | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 38,844 |
| Company Man (4pg) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 38,130 |
| Donttellruss (4pm) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 35,055 |
| Spirit Of Desire (5pm) | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 35,000 |
| Carolsideal (6pm) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 34,500 |
| Believe This Bob (7pg) | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 34,500 |
| Witch Dali (4pm) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 33,860 |
| Michael's Power (6pg) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 31,940 |
| Northern Victory (6tg) | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 31,757 |

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

| | Sts. | W-P-S | UDR | Earnings (wk. diff) |
|----------------|------|----------|------|-----------------------|
| Corey Callahan | 343 | 70-54-50 | .340 | \$639,692 (\$134,305) |
| Ron Pierce | 271 | 54-42-39 | .333 | 495,090 (98,271) |
| George Brennan | 157 | 29-25-19 | .314 | 428,650 (91,750) |
| Jason Bartlett | 177 | 22-47-25 | .319 | 425,335 (66,295) |
| Aaron Merriman | 381 | 74-60-47 | .323 | 409,519 (88,903) |
| Tim Tetrick | 159 | 34-22-19 | .331 | 404,961 (47,070) |
| Daniel Dube | 141 | 31-15-22 | .331 | 381,360 (69,080) |
| Dave Palone | 170 | 45-24-21 | .384 | 346,402 (79,252) |
| Jim MacDonald | 194 | 29-33-17 | .273 | 323,526 (67,988) |
| David Miller | 159 | 25-21-19 | .270 | 310,900 (60,512) |
| Trevor Henry | 185 | 31-28-23 | .293 | 302,353 (57,801) |
| Mike Wilder | 183 | 34-34-25 | .335 | 301,507 (69,399) |
| Sylvain Filion | 141 | 22-26-16 | .296 | 300,362 (41,295) |
| Brian Sears | 106 | 21-17-12 | .325 | 289,615 (87,005) |
| Eric Carlson | 144 | 14-19-18 | .212 | 270,315 (59,080) |

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

| | Sts. | W-P-S | UTR | Earnings (wk. diff) |
|--------------------|------|----------|------|-----------------------|
| Ron Burke | 215 | 52-37-23 | .373 | \$670,794 (\$160,263) |
| Virgil Morgan Jr. | 137 | 36-16-19 | .374 | 269,435 (77,040) |
| Richard Moreau | 132 | 24-23-14 | .314 | 268,554 (45,585) |
| Carmen Auciello | 156 | 15-22-15 | .207 | 254,704 (47,198) |
| Joe Cirusuola | 46 | 14-8-8 | .459 | 144,240 (28,990) |
| Wayne Givens | 69 | 13-13-9 | .337 | 141,893 (20,255) |
| Linda Toscano | 36 | 9-9-4 | .426 | 140,129 (6,400) |
| Jose Godinez | 56 | 10-9-6 | .304 | 134,336 (32,260) |
| Mark Ford | 116 | 8-11-14 | .162 | 133,862 (22,455) |
| Eric Ell | 39 | 12-8-3 | .447 | 128,620 (12,350) |
| Dylan Davis | 64 | 15-7-5 | .321 | 128,425 (32,065) |
| Jeffrey Bamond Jr. | 52 | 6-10-9 | .280 | 123,700 (32,340) |
| Nick Surick | 85 | 16-9-11 | .290 | 120,120 (26,380) |
| Tony O'Sullivan | 38 | 9-4-3 | .322 | 118,283 (23,997) |
| Julie Miller | 32 | 8-5-2 | .358 | 117,113 (18,650) |

Leading Breeders

| Breeder | Starters | Winners | Wins | Earnings |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|------|-------------|
| Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. | 450 | 113 | 142 | \$1,126,617 |
| Winbak Farm | 372 | 104 | 129 | 829,997 |
| Brittany Farms | 114 | 34 | 49 | 357,852 |
| Perretti Farms | 142 | 29 | 39 | 321,780 |
| Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. | 83 | 27 | 33 | 254,259 |
| White Birch Farm | 56 | 23 | 28 | 221,055 |
| Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par | 103 | 20 | 26 | 210,761 |
| Walnut Hall Limited | 54 | 18 | 26 | 171,199 |
| Al Libfeld | 36 | 13 | 17 | 160,476 |
| Frederick Hertrich III | 60 | 16 | 17 | 159,869 |
| Robert J. Key | 58 | 17 | 20 | 151,158 |
| VAE LLC | 40 | 13 | 16 | 150,787 |
| Fair Winds Farm Inc. | 36 | 15 | 16 | 149,364 |
| Seelster Farms Inc. | 72 | 19 | 25 | 148,062 |
| Jules & Arlene Siegel | 50 | 10 | 13 | 146,325 |

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Jan. 28-Feb. 3 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

| Drivers | Starts | W-P-S |
|-------------------|--------|----------|
| Corey Callahan | 74 | 19-7-12 |
| Ronnie Wrenn Jr. | 62 | 15-8-11 |
| Alfred Carroll | 40 | 14-6-2 |
| Aaron Merriman | 87 | 13-21-11 |
| Ron Pierce | 54 | 12-10-7 |
| Josh Sutton | 50 | 11-10-5 |
| Steve Smith | 45 | 11-4-4 |
| Dave Palone | 43 | 10-6-5 |
| Robert Shepherd | 39 | 10-8-6 |
| Billy Dobson | 35 | 9-10-7 |
| Dan Noble | 51 | 9-7-6 |
| James MacDonald | 31 | 9-9-0 |
| Bruce Aldrich Jr. | 31 | 8-2-4 |
| Jim Marohn Jr. | 45 | 8-6-5 |
| Kevin Cummings | 33 | 8-2-9 |
| Mike Wilder | 47 | 8-6-4 |
| Tony Hall | 45 | 8-9-7 |
| Yannick Gingras | 30 | 8-6-1 |
| Allan Davis | 49 | 7-6-3 |
| Billy Davis Jr. | 35 | 7-7-1 |
| Jeremy Smith | 39 | 7-6-6 |
| Jim Pantaleano | 30 | 7-3-4 |
| Michael Oosting | 29 | 7-4-5 |

Trainers

| Trainers | Wins |
|---------------------|------|
| Ron Burke | 13 |
| Virgil Morgan Jr. | 11 |
| Richard Moreau | 7 |
| Gary Messenger | 6 |
| Jessica Millner | 5 |
| Patrick Shepherd | 5 |
| Randy Bendis | 5 |
| Amber Buter | 4 |
| Deborah Swartz | 4 |
| Dylan Davis | 4 |
| James Wilkinson Jr. | 4 |
| Jeff Brewer | 4 |
| Melissa Beckwith | 4 |
| Neal Russo | 4 |
| Nick Surick | 4 |

2015 FEBRUARY



| sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday | thursday | friday | saturday |
|---|---|--|------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | 2 Groundhog Day General Brock Trot (Wdb) | 3 | 4 The Horseman | 5 Charles Singer Trot (M) Miss Vera Bars Pace (Wdb) | 6 Burning Point Pace (M) Ontario Girls Pace (Wdb) The Count B Pace (Wdb) Northville Downs opens | 7 Ontario Boys Pace (Wdb) Sonsam Pace (M) O'Brien Awards dinner at Mississauga, Ont. |
| 8 | 9 General Brock Trot (Wdb) Blooded Horse Winter Speed Sale at Delaware, Ohio | 10 Blooded Horse Winter Speed Sale at Delaware, Ohio | 11 | 12 Charles Singer Trot (M) Miss Vera Bars Pace (Wdb) | 13 Burning Point Pace (M) Ontario Girls Pace (Wdb) The Count B Pace (Wdb) | 14 Valentine's Day Ontario Boys Pace (Wdb) Sonsam Pace (M) |
| 15 | 16 Presidents' Day General Brock Trot final (Wdb) | 17 | 18 The Horseman | 19 Ash Wednesday | 20 Miss Vera Bars Pace final (Wdb) The Count B Pace final (Wdb) | 21 Buddy Gilmour Pace (M) Burning Point Pace final (M) Charles Singer Pace final (M) Ontario Boys Pace final (Wdb) Sonsam Pace final (M) |
| 22 USHWA Dan Patch Awards dinner at Orlando, Fla. | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Buddy Gilmour Pace (M) |



2015 STAKES INFO

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