Raymers Hope Fiftyshadesdarker Is A Best Seller

With Winter Storm Nemo—as dubbed by The Weather Channel—taking aim at the Northeast this weekend, racetracks in its path are on alert for possible cancellations. If the storm misses the Meadowlands the track will be the site of the opening round of the Junior Trendsetter Series on Friday night and the Exit 16W Series on Saturday.

One of the leading contenders in this year’s Junior Trendsetter Series for 3-year-old male pacers is Fiftyshadesdarker, a horse named after the best-selling book Fifty Shades of Grey. “He was named about the same time the book came out and the reason he was named Fiftyshadesdarker is because he's such a sexy horse,” said owner Leigh Raymer, who also shares the training duties of a stable of 26 with her husband of two months, Tyler, at Dovington Training Center in Felton, Del. “He has potential to be a super nice horse—and he looks the part. If you saw him your jaw would drop, he's just that good looking of an animal.”

Originally named Camaro Blue Chip, Fiftyshadesdarker was purchased as a yearling for $15,000 by Albert and Michelle Crawford. The son of Artiscape was sent to the Raymers last summer and after a couple of starts in late fall was purchased by Leigh. “He had been partially trained down and Tyler gave him a break for a bit,” said Leigh Raymer, who married Tyler on the memorable date of 12-12-12 at the Wynn in Las Vegas. “He just needed a little more time. So we took our time with him and it ended up working out better for him and us. He has turned out to be a stellar individual.”

Fiftyshadesdarker broke his maiden in his third career start at Harrah's Philadelphia with Tony Morgan driving the colt to the 1:56 victory. With Morgan remaining in the sulky, he then won his next two starts at Dover Downs, lowering his mark to 1:55.3 and then to 1:54.4

“Tony really taught him how to be a racehorse,” said Leigh. “Every race he drops time likes it’s nothing.”

Fiftyshadesdarker then made a break in his 2013 debut at the Meadowlands, but rebounded nicely with a gutsy, first-over effort that resulted in a third-place finish on Feb. 1 with John Campbell driving.

“John said that with a few tweaks the horse could be one of the best in the series, so we’re hoping he’s correct,” said Leigh. “It’s nice to have a driver’s perspective. You can train them but until you put them in a race, you don’t know they are going to react.”
Barockey Seeks a Six-Peat

Carmen Auciello has a good eye for talent on the racetrack, and his recent claim of Barockey proves it. The 4-year-old daughter of Mach Three has won five races in a row with her only loss of 2013 coming on Jan. 1 at Rideau Carleton.

Auciello claimed Barockey for $10,000 on Jan. 10 at Woodbine and the daughter of Mach Three has rocketed up the class ladder with three wins in as many starts for her new connections. The Canadian-bred mare looks to continue her impressive win streak in the ninth race at Woodbine on Friday night, a $24,000 contest for fillies and mares that are non-winners of four races or $160,000 lifetime.

“I’ve had my eye on her since last summer when she was racing well in Ottawa in the stake races,” explained Auciello, the Ontario-based trainer of a 28-horse stable. “I had just been waiting for her to drop into a claimer. Once I saw her in at Woodbine, I had to have her.”

Owned by Wheelhouse Racing Stable, Barockey has truly come into her own since the start of the new year. After earning $63,732 with a record of 1:55 in 2012 racing in mostly small stakes in Ottawa, Barockey has dropped nearly three seconds off her lifetime mark, which is now 1:52.2, and increased her lifetime winnings to $97,469.

Auciello has nothing but praise for his prized pick-up. “She is just a nice filly really coming into her own. She’s small, but she has a huge heart. She really loves the big track. I didn’t really make any changes to her because she raced outstanding the night I claimed her, and I didn’t want to fix what wasn’t broke,” he said.

Driver Billy Davis Jr. has gunned her to the front in each start under trainer Auciello. Speedy opening quarters appear to be no problem for the gutsy mare as she has held off any foes with equally impressive final sprints in each start for the new ownership.

Auciello is confident Barockey can make 2013 a banner year staying in Ontario.
Plenty of Jr. Trendsetter Chances for Alagna

The Junior Trendsetter Series kicks off Friday night at the Meadowlands. There are three $12,500 divisions of the first leg of the series for 3-year-old male pacers, giving horsemen and fans a chance to see any possible stars looking to burst onto the scene for the 2013 season.

Trainer Tony Alagna has four horses scheduled to go postward in the Junior Trendsetter and he gives his thoughts on the quartet who are set to test their luck in the first leg.

WILCOX (Race 2, PP4)
The Somebeachsomewhere colt was an impressive winner in a conditioned pace at the Meadowlands last week in a lifetime best of 1:53.1 out of post position 10.

“T didn’t get him until the end of his 2-year-old season. He is very tall and was just a little immature last year. He just needed time to come into himself. I think he’s stakes material. It’s hard to tell, but he certainly has the talent.”

HUMILITY (Race 4, PP4)
This well-bred colt showed early promise last year with a win in 1:52.2 at Mohawk. Tim Tetrick looks to start the 2013 season for Humility off with a win in a tough division.

“He’s a brother to Foreign Officer and a very big colt. He took a mark of 1:52.2 last year, but I still thought he had not come into himself. He’s coming off solid qualifiers, and I think he is fit for this race. He will certainly be better with a start under his belt.”

CYCLONE (Race 4, PP9)
The colt owned by Brittany Farms competed with the top dogs in the New Jersey Sires Stakes before having some time off. Driver Ron Pierce has his work cut out for him from the outside post.

“He showed potential last year with his second-place finish to Johnny Rock in the New Jersey Sires Stakes. We gelded him and gave him some time off. He was in the Meadowlands sale, but we were not very happy with his sale price so we brought him back. He drew a tough post, but I think he is starting to round into form.”

JPS MINI ME (Race 11, PP8)
The Illinois invader looked sharp in the early parts of his 2012 season. He is owned by John Carver.

“He qualified really well at the Meadowlands. He’s been the product of poor positioning in qualifiers. There were some cheap fractions and he just had too far to come with traffic in front of him.” —By Jay Hochstetler
## Royal Dream, Ready Cash 
Squaring Off Again In Paris

The second of the great “prix” races during the winter meet at the Vincennes track in Paris, France, takes place Sunday. The 200,000 euro Prix de France, with a start behind a mobile gate, will feature Prix d’Amerique champion Royal Dream as well as Prix d’Amerique runner-up Ready Cash, who also won that race in 2011 and 2012.

The Swedish horse Maharajah, who was the leader in the first half of the Prix d’Amerique but faded badly, was found to be sick after the race, following blood tests, but is healthy and entered in the Prix de France.

From a pedigree perspective, one interesting newcomer to the top tier battle is Le Cannibale, a 7-year-old stallion by Jag de Bellouet, the great French trotter whose nickname was Le Cannibale because he ate up the competition. Prior to the Prix de France, Le Cannibale’s last previous start was the prestigious Prix du Cornulier, a 700,000 euro event for horses racing under saddle, or “monte.” He finished at the back of the field, but has credentials with more than 440,000 euro in career earnings. Fabrice Souloy trans Le Cannibale.

What makes Le Cannibale interesting to American trotting fans is his maternal bloodline. He is out of a mare who is a great-granddaughter of Nan Hanover, the dam of Nan’s Catch. Nan’s Catch is the dam of Prix d’Amerique champion Moni Maker.

The Prix de France is contested over a distance of 2,100 meters, or about 1 1/3 miles.

The strong card at Vincennes on Sunday includes the Prix de Munich, which will feature Nahar (Love You-Mahonny Broline, by Joie de Vie), who is owned by the Seden twins, Daniel and Henrik, professional hockey players for the Vancouver Canucks.—By Kathy Parker

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### PRIX DE FRANCE

**Hippodrome de Vincennes, Paris, France; Sunday, Feb. 9**
**€200,000 (approx. $267,780)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of dam)</th>
<th>Driver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MAHARAJAH (8h, Viking Kronos*-Chili Khan-Giant Chill)</td>
<td>Orjan Kihlstrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>READY CASH (8h, Indy de Vive*-Kidea*-Extreme Dream)</td>
<td>Franck Nivard</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SAVE THE QUICK (7h, Jasmin de Flore-Heureuse Duchesse-Blue Dream*)</td>
<td>Eric Raffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>QUOUMBA DE GUEZ (9m, Urfist des Pres-Vanina de Mareuil-Neron Granchamp)</td>
<td>Jean-Michel Bazire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ROYAL DREAM (8h, Love You*-Ida Bourbon-Buvetier d’Aunou*)</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe Dubois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NORAS BEAN (8h, Super Amie-Easy Bean-Songcan)</td>
<td>Dominik Locqueneux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MAIN WISE AS (7h, Yankee Glide-Desert Flower K-Sierra Kosmos)</td>
<td>Pierre Levesque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>THE BEST MADRIK (6h, Cocktail Jet*-Lady Madrik-Biesolo)</td>
<td>Jean-Etienne Dubois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>TIMOKO (6h, Imokot*-Kiss Me Coulonces-And Arifant*)</td>
<td>Jos. Verbeeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>TRIODE DE FELLIERE (6m, Derby du Gite-Linea de Vandel-Cezio Josselyn*)</td>
<td>Anthony Barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>LE CANNIBALE (7h, Jag de Bellouet-Heart’s Queen-American Winner)</td>
<td>Matthew Abrivard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>TIEGO D’ETANG (6h, Chaillot-Harolene-Vroum d’Or)</td>
<td>Christian Bigeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>RAJA MIRCHI (6h, Viking Kronos*-Dame Lavec-Quito de Talonay)</td>
<td>Lutfi Kolgjini</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Denotes American blood in European-breds, as noted below:  
  - Cocktail Jet (Quokey Williams-Armbro Glamour-Speedy Crown)  
  - Viking Kronos (American Winner-Conch-Bonefish)  
  - Love You (by Cocktail Jet, out of granddaughter of Speedy Somolli)  
  - And Arifant (by Sharif di Iesolo, by Quick Song)  
  - Buvetier d’Aunou (by Royal Prestige-Nesmile)  
  - Blue Dream (Pershing, by Nevele Pride-Flying Cloud)  
  - Imokot (Viking’s Way, by Mickey Viking, a son of Bonefish)  
  - Cezio Josselyn (Armbro Goal)  
  - Indy de Vive (Viking’s Way, by Mickey Viking)  
  - Kidea (second dam is Doceanide du Lilas, by Workaholic)

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*Gerard Forni Photo*
### DELAWARE

- **Rustler Hanover**
  - Winbak Farm
  - $3,500

### ILLINOIS

- **Arizona Jack**
  - Hidden Hope Farm
  - $1,000
- **Band’s Gold Chip**
  - Flacco Family Farm
  - $1,500
- **Corner Blitz**
  - Jim Kezios/Kenny Chupp
  - $1,500
- **High Falls (live cover)**
  - Albert Jeffers
  - $1,500
- **I Can Only Imagine**
  - Ed Miller
  - $1,500
- **Longport**
  - Hidden Hope Farm
  - $1,000
- **New Balance (live cover)**
  - Albert Jeffers
  - $1,500
- **Party At Artsplace (live)**
  - Albert Jeffers
  - $1,500
- **Photo Color**
  - Skyline Standardbreds LLC
  - $1,000
- **Psychic Spirit (live cover)**
  - Ron Phillips/John Carver
  - $1,500
- **Sagebrush**
  - Carl Becker/U of IL
  - $2,000
- **Yankee Skyscraper**
  - Walker Standardbreds
  - $3,500

### INDIANA

- **Abs Beach Boy**
  - Stacy Ruddick
  - $1,000
- **Airzoom Lindy**
  - Ivy Lane Farm/Airzrn Lindy LLC
  - $2,000
- **Always A Virgin**
  - Mitchel Skolnick/Bob Boni
  - $3,500
- **Artist’s View**
  - Bill Rufenact/DM Stallions
  - $2,500
- **Big Stick Lindy**
  - Pond-A-Acres
  - $3,000
- **Celebrity Surfer (live cover)**
  - Mike Bradley
  - $750
- **Cincinnati Kid**
  - Dojea Stables/Ivy Lane
  - $2,000
- **Copeland Comet**
  - Amos Wenderd (live cover)
  - $1,200
- **Dali**
  - Velocity Stallion Mgt
  - $3,000
- **Ganache**
  - Ganache Syndicate
  - $1,500
- **Geartogear**
  - Jeffrey Brooks/Chapel Rdg
  - $2,000
- **Got That Look (live cover)**
  - Dojea Stables
  - $1,000
- **Here Comes Herbie**
  - Black Creek Farm
  - $7,500
- **He’s Gorgeous**
  - Schwartz Boarding Farm
  - $2,500
- **Jailhouse Jesse**
  - Al Libfeld
  - $4,000
- **Jenna’s Beach Boy**
  - L&L.Devisser/JBB Syndicate
  - $2,500
- **JT Arturo (live cover)**
  - Mike Bradley
  - $750
- **Keystone Blitz**
  - Pond-A-Acres
  - $1,500
- **Make My Day (live cover)**
  - Mike Bradley
  - $1,500
- **Mr Cantab**
  - Mr Cantab Syndicate
  - $3,000
- **Palone Ranger**
  - Dojea Stables/Ivy Lane
  - $3,500
- **Panspecificflight**
  - Jake Miller/Schwartz Bdg Farm
  - $3,500
- **Primetime Caviar (live)**
  - Daniel Graber
  - $1,500
- **Pro North (live cover)**
  - Dojea Stables
  - $1,000
- **Proper Respect**
  - Hickory Ridge/LWTomczak
  - $2,000
- **Proud to Swim Home**
  - Shadowgait Farm
  - $1,250
- **Rockin Image**
  - Lothlorien/Victory Hill Farm
  - $3,500
- **Sand Shooter**
  - Bill Sanders/Jerry Silva
  - $2,500
- **Strong Gale**
  - Daniel Graber
  - $1,500
- **Valley Victor**
  - Valley Victor Syn/Ivy Lane
  - $3,500
- **Wearable Art**
  - Kleinhans Racing, Inc
  - $2,500

### NEW YORK

- **Cash Hall**
  - Morrisville College
  - $3,500
- **Conway Hall**
  - Walnut Hall Ltd
  - $7,500
- **Deweycheatumhowe**
  - Walnut Hall Ltd
  - $10,000
- **Mutineer**
  - Winbak Farm
  - $3,000
- **Sand Vic**
  - Trond Smedshammer
  - $3,500

### OHIO

- **Allamerican Captor**
  - Dojea Stables
  - $1,500
- **Amigo Hall**
  - Blair Burgess
  - $2,500
- **Big Bad John**
  - Winchester Baye Acres, Inc
  - $4,000
- **Big Rigs**
  - Ed Mullinax
  - $3,500
- **Believeinbruiser**
  - Cool Winds Farm
  - $2,000
- **B Strike Three**
  - Ben Robards
  - $1,500
- **Charley Barley**
  - J Scott Ezzo
  - $2,500
- **Cheyenne Rei**
  - Bonley Farm
  - $2,000
- **Foreclosure N**
  - Burke Racing LLC
  - $3,000
- **Gunthatwonthewest**
  - Richard Copp
  - $1,500
- **Home Stretch**
  - Hagemeyer Farm/MGRacing
  - $1,500
- **Keystone Nordic**
  - Bonley Farm
  - $2,000
- **Lionhunter**
  - D. Anderson/Dublin Valley
  - $2,500
- **Manhardt**
  - Snow Ridge Farm
  - $2,000
- **May I Say**
  - Hagemeyer Farm
  - $2,000
- **McArdle**
  - Hickory Lane Farm
  - $3,500
- **Memphis Flash**
  - Cool Winds Farm
  - $1,000
- **Powerful Toy**
  - Jeff Stacy & OSU/ATI
  - $1,750
- **Sheffield**
  - NgaireUmholz/UmholtzRcg
  - $1,000
- **Southfork**
  - Marsh Valley Stdbs
  - $1,000
- **Three Olives**
  - Jeff Stacy & OSU/ATI
  - $1,750
- **Tom Cango**
  - Cool Winds Farm
  - $2,500
- **Triumphant Caviar**
  - Jim Gallagher/Chris Beaver
  - $3,000
- **Woodstock**
  - Sugar Valley Farm
  - $2,000
- **World of Rocknroll**
  - D. McDuffee/Hagemeyer Fm
  - $2,250

### PENNSYLVANIA

- **Cam’s Card Shark**
  - Jeff Snyder/Hanover Shoe
  - $5,000
- **Delmarvelous**
  - John Celii/Three J’s Stable
  - $3,500
- **Dragon Again**
  - Ed & Janet Mullinax
  - $6,000
- **Explosive Matter**
  - Adam Victor & Son
  - $6,000
- **Gledemaster**
  - Blair Burgess
  - $4,000
- **Lear Jetta**
  - Nandi Veterinary Associates
  - $4,000
- **Moon Beam**
  - Delaware Valley College
  - $3,000
- **Ponder**
  - John Fielding/Diamond Crk
  - $4,000
- **Shark Gesture**
  - Norman Smiley
  - $4,000
- **Sierra Kosmos**
  - Richard Beinhauer
  - $1,500
- **Tarver Hanover**
  - Delaware Valley College
  - $2,500
- **Western Ideal**
  - Hanover Shoe Farms
  - $7,500
- **Xactly Hanover**
  - Delaware Valley College
  - $2,000

### ONTARIO

- **Artistic Fella**
  - Seelster Farms
  - $4,000
- **Big Jim**
  - Jim Carr
  - $5,000
- **Camluck**
  - R.McIntosh/Seelster Farm
  - $7,500
- **Federal Flex**
  - Seelster Farm
  - $3,500
- **Holiday Road**
  - Deo Volente Farms
  - $3,500
- **Justice Hall**
  - Ecurie Gaeten Bono, Inc
  - $3,500

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**How To Bid:** Bid online at www.ongait.com February 11th through 2:00 p.m. Friday February 15th 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 or more consecutive years, or those that are already booked.) FMI email dot@horseadoption.com www.horseadoption.com
**Yo Cheyenne Rocky Looks For Exit 16W Knockout**

Robbie Siegelman believes Yo Cheyenne Rocky has got better than a puncher’s chance to be a contender in the Exit 16W Series at Meadowlands Racetrack. The Exit 16W, for 4-year-old male pacers, is scheduled to begin Saturday night with three $18,000 divisions.

“He’s a pleasant surprise,” said Siegelman, who trains Yo Cheyenne Rocky for breeder-owner Barry Rubenstein Farms. “He’s looking like he could be the real deal. He’s another lesson in patience; I’m glad Barry waited on him. I’m thinking he’s legit.”

Yo Cheyenne Rocky is a son of Rocknroll Hanover out of the stakes-winning-mare Cheyenne Adrienne. His dam is a half-sister to stakes-winner Up Front Bethann and the family also includes $2 million-earner Camtastic.

Last year, Yo Cheyenne Rocky won two of 27 races, hit the board a total of 11 times, and earned $36,275. But he only made five starts away from half-mile ovals and picked up a win, two seconds and a third.

“He’s showing improvement all the time,” said Siegelman. “Since he began racing at the Meadowlands he’s even started to leave a little. You watch some of his earlier races and it’s almost comical; he had trouble keeping up early.”

Yo Cheyenne Rocky finished second in a conditioned race at the Meadowlands on Jan. 5 and then missed the first round of the Clyde Hirt series because of illness. In the second round, he drew post No. 10 in an 11-horse field and was never able to get into the race.

A week later, Yo Cheyenne Rocky won in conditioned company by 7 3/4 lengths in 1:51.2. Last weekend, he was third in a 1 1/16-mile race from post nine—and he raced with a flat tire after the quarter-mile point.

“You have to be cautiously optimistic in this business, but if you get your hopes too high you’re setting yourself up for disappointment,” Siegelman said. “But after his last start I’m excited about him. I’ve got my fingers crossed. He’s not let us down in his last three or four starts.”

Yo Cheyenne Rocky will start his eight-horse Exit 16W division from post eight with Brandon Simpson in the sulky. (HRC)

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**Super Bowl Props To Carlson, Ehrlich**

Nine of the 17 horsemen and racing officials who offered their prognostications for last Sunday’s Super Bowl XLVII correctly picked the Baltimore Ravens to win, which they did by a score of 34-31. Weekend Preview gives special props to Eric Carlson, who had the Ravens winning 34-27, and Scott Ehrlich, who had the Ravens winning 37-34. Honorable mentions also go to Ron Burke, Corey Callahan, Moira Fanning, Bob Heyden, Gabe Prewitt, Nick Salvi and Darin Zoccali for backing Baltimore.

**Entry Limit Raised To 1,250 For Online Contests**

Due to popular demand and the fact that each of the first six contests of the USTA World Harness Handicapping Championship free, online qualifying series reached the limit of 1,000 contestants, the limit on entries will be increased to 1,250 for the remaining four contests starting with Northfield Park on Friday, Feb. 8, and Pompano Park on Saturday, Feb. 9.

The free entries and race programs are available at http://www.horsetourneys.com/.

“We decided to increase the number of entries because we saw week by week that the contests were filling up more quickly and reaching the 1,000 limit earlier,” explained USTA director of marketing and communications Dan Leary. “This is our first time conducting an online handicapping contest and it’s free, so we want to make it available to everyone who wants to play for a chance to go to the World Harness Handicapping Championship in April.”

The USTA World Harness Handicapping Championship Free, Online Qualifying Series consists of 10 tournaments at 10 different USTA member tracks over five consecutive weekends that will continue through Feb. 16. The winner of each qualifier gains a berth ($1,000 value) into the WHHC final at the Meadowlands.

The last two contests are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 15, on races at Northville Downs, followed on Sat., Feb. 16, on races at Buffalo Raceway. (USTA)
Kentucky Futurity Race-Off Eliminated

The 121st Kentucky Futurity, final leg of trotting’s Triple Crown, will be raced with a revised format on Sunday, Oct. 6, at The Red Mile.

Historically the Futurity has been raced in the “heat” format with a race-off (third heat) sometimes required to determine the winner. This fall, the Futurity will be converted to elimination races and a final on the same afternoon, with the winner of the final being the Futurity champion.

Red Mile director George Segal explained the thinking behind this decision: “Eliminating the possibility of a third race in the same afternoon has been done with the welfare of the horses in mind. The Breeders Crown races come directly after The Red Mile Grand Circuit this year and we recognized the need for an immediate adjustment to the Futurity format.”

There are a few more changes to Red Mile Grand Circuit events this fall. The Allerage Farms Free For All (FFA) open races will return to the elimination and final format to facilitate their inclusion as a leg of the new FFA series at the Meadowlands. The open events will race their eliminations (if necessary) on Sunday, Sept. 29, and return for the finals on Oct. 6. The Allerage Farms mare races will have no eliminations and will be raced on the Oct. 6 card as well. (Red Mile)

Murray, MacDonald Part Ways With WEG

Two long-serving members of the senior management team at Woodbine Entertainment are no longer with Canadian horse racing’s largest operator.

Woodbine CEO Nick Eaves confirmed on Tuesday that WEG has parted ways with Andrew MacDonald, vice president of Strategic Initiatives and Bruce Murray, vice president of Standardbred Racing.

Murray started with the OJC back in 1989 as the assistant publicist before moving on to become director of publicity, senior manager of media & community relations and director of events & promotions before taking the role of vice president of Standardbred racing in 2006.

MacDonald started with the company in 1994. He was WEG’s vice president of marketing & communications before his role as VP of strategic initiatives and also played roles with the company’s marketing, broadcasting and media relations & sponsorship departments. Macdonald was involved with the development of the HorsePlayer Interactive business, as well as the Champions Off-Track Wagering network. (SC)

Moni Market Buys Into “Queen Of Italy”

Moni Market Breeders announced Tuesday that it purchased a stake in the 4-year-old trotting mare Pearl Axe earlier this year. Pearl Axe solidified her position as the top trotting filly in Italy when she was officially named “La Regina” (the Queen) of Italian racing.

She earned her crown by winning the most prestigious races in her class. Her victories included the Italian Derby Oaks, The Marangoni, and the 3-Year-Old Mare Championship (Italy’s version of the Breeders Crown).

Pearl Axe is by the top European stallion LoveYou, whose son Royal Dream just won the Prix d’Amerique. Her stakes-winning dam Griffe du Chef is by Muscles Yankee out of a unique maternal line that incorporates both American and French blood, tracing to Armbo Devona.

Pearl Axe will remain in the stable of her trainer Jerry Riordan to be campaigned in Europe in 2013. Marco Folli of the leading breeding outfit in Italy—Allevamento Folli—an original owner of Pearl Axe, will remain a partner and will join Moni Market Breeders in their transcontinental efforts. (Moni Market Breeders)

Michigan Makes Changes To Whipping Rule

The Michigan Gaming Control Board has just announced revisions to a number of rules and policies affecting Michigan horsemen. Rules and policies impacted by the changes include those involving driving rule violations, the EPM list, phenylbutazone levels, and deceased horse protocols.

Likely to be of most interest to horsemen, especially drivers, are changes to Rule 4265 which governs driving rule violations, complaints, and disciplinary action. Those rule revisions include the requirement that drivers keep both hands in front of their body and below their head during the race; limit whipping to wrist action with minimal elbow and/or shoulder movement; confine use of the whip to an area above and between the sulky shafts; and prohibits drivers from leaning back during the race in any manner which might cause unsafe conditions, alter the position of, or impede the progress of, trailing horses.

While these changes to Rule 4265 take effect on Feb. 1, the MGCB has announced that there will be an enforcement grace period through March 1, except in cases of chronic offenders or where violations cause injury to a horse. (MHHA)

Ackerman, Robitaille Selected For Cal. Hall Of Fame

Douglas J. “Doug” Ackerman, a native of Michigan and third generation horseman, and Robitaille, p, 6, 1:50.4s ($885,290) will be inducted into the California Harness Horseman’s Hall of Fame at the annual meeting of the group this coming March.

Ackerman came to California in the late 1940s, racing at such tracks as Hollywood Park, Santa Anita, Bay Meadows and Los Alamitos and did his winter training at Del Mar Racetrack.

While maintaining a smaller stable and training for such owners as the late, longtime California owner Richard Staley, Ackerman campaigned across the country with such star

Continues on page 8
horses as Chocolatier, 3, 1:53 ($1,324,800); Denali, p, 4, 1:55.1 ($485,795); Noble Hustle, 3, 1:58.1 ($399,620); Ever So Rich, p, 4, 1:54.2f ($573,756); and Crowning Point, 3, 1:54 ($343,662).

Also to be inducted will be the California-bred horse Robitaille. A son of Denali and out of the Flying Bret mare FlyingTip, Robitaille is the winningest California-bred, ever, with 99 wins in of 313 starts. The speedy gelding also recorded the most victories timed in 1:55 or faster in the sport’s history, 81.

The Lifetime Commitment award will be given to the late Alan Kirschenbaum, a longtime horseman, owner and huge supporter of California racing. In the last 30 years, his involvement in harness racing covered many categories, as a groom, owner, breeder, trainer, amateur driver, writer, broadcaster, stallion syndicator and benevolent supporter of horse rescue and charitable causes. (Cal. Harness Racing Hall of Fame)

**Slots Agreement Reached At Grand River**

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation has announced that it has reached a lease agreement in principal with Grand River Agricultural Society for OLG’s slots operations at Grand River Raceway.

OLG has provided the site holder with a Letter of Intent, which sets out the general intentions and business arrangements, subject to approvals, between OLG and the site. OLG previously announced it has reached agreements in principal for its slots operations with 10 other site holders.

The announcement brings the total to 11 of 14 sites.

**USHWA Adds Canadian Chapter**

Throughout most of its 67-year history, the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA), harness racing’s premier organization for communicators, has had members who lived outside of the United States. They supported the goals of USHWA, and benefited from two-way contact with the organization while being in an “At-Large” category that includes membership near no local chapter of the group.

But with the membership totals of one subgroup going over double digits recently, application was made, and approved by USHWA directors, for the first organized Chapter headquartered outside the 50 states—the Canadian Chapter of USHWA.

The 10 charter members of the Canadian Chapter have already selected Dave Briggs and Darryl Kaplan to represent them on USHWA’s board of directors during USHWA’s annual meetings at the upcoming Harness Racing Congress, taking place the weekend of March 1-3 at the Westin Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (USHWA)

**Slots Revenue Continues Strong At Scioto**

Columbus Dispatch on Tuesday, Feb. 5, reported slots numbers at Scioto Downs that are sure to make officials there happy. The newspaper reports the 2,117 video lottery terminals at Scioto Downs made an average of $151 a day in December, while the average daily revenue per each of the 3,015 machines at Hollywood Columbus was $115 in December.

Scioto Downs opened its racino on June 19 while Hollywood Columbus, which is a full-blown casino with table games, opened on Oct. 8. The Dispatch reported the payout rate on the machines at Scioto Downs was 91.8 percent in December while at Hollywood Columbus is was 91.4 percent.

The Dispatch story also noted that Scioto Downs provided customers with $3.2 million in free slots play in December, with that number compiled by the Ohio Casino Control Commission. The number is reportedly about four times as much as Hollywood Columbus gave away.

**PA Slots Revenue Drops 6 Percent In January**

The Pennsylvania Equine Coalition reported Monday, Feb. 4, that funds generated from slot machine gaming to the Race Horse Development Fund decreased by 6.19 percent, or $1.33 million, for the month of January compared to January 2012. The cumulative decline for the first seven months of the fiscal year—June 2012 through January 2013—is $7.69 million, or 4.83 percent.

**Auctioneer Merrill Anderson Dies**

Merrill Orr Anderson, well known as an auctioneer at the Kentucky Standardbred Sales Company’s annual yearling sale, died Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Aurora House Hospice in Weslaco, Texas, after fighting a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 73.

He is survived by a son, James (Jim) Coolley Anderson, and a granddaughter, Margaret (Meg) Cristina Coolley Anderson; and a special friend Nancy Brady. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Lyn.

Services will be held at the Joines-Appleby Funeral Home in Newman, Ill., on Monday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m. Visitation will be Sunday, Feb 10, from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Newman American Legion Post 201 in Newman, Ill., or the Aurora House Foundation, 2646 W. 18th St., Weslaco, Texas 78596

**Advertising Whiz Mike Rashkow Dies**

Michael Rashkow, the mind behind memorable advertising campaigns for Niatross, BG’s Bunny, and other top horses syndicated by Lou Guida, died on Wednesday, Jan. 23, after a battle with cancer. He was 71.

In 1998, Mr. Rashkow sold his advertising agency and for the next four years he and his second wife, Barbara, became full-time RV-ers. They stopped in Lexington, Ky., for the fall Grand Circuit meet several years ago, but otherwise spent their time in the Blue Ridge foothills of North Carolina, where he remained a regular contributor to the Spectroop music website.
### Harness Racing Leaders

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UTR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$106,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>56,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44,959</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>39,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>37,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35,300</td>
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**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

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<th>UTR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td>69-42-34</td>
<td>.361</td>
<td>$818,133 ($181,191)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>40-24-20</td>
<td>.330</td>
<td>298,150 (70,906)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169</td>
<td>25-25-30</td>
<td>.289</td>
<td>287,373 (45,954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>31-15-9</td>
<td>.419</td>
<td>280,431 (46,540)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>24-13-14</td>
<td>.390</td>
<td>207,720 (35,765)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>11-3-6</td>
<td>.312</td>
<td>200,979 (30,260)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>11-12-14</td>
<td>.310</td>
<td>193,332 (63,020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>9-10-6</td>
<td>.259</td>
<td>182,440 (29,590)</td>
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<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>8-15-13</td>
<td>.172</td>
<td>181,035 (21,125)</td>
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<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>16-16-6</td>
<td>.280</td>
<td>163,982 (29,524)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>13-6-2</td>
<td>.425</td>
<td>157,181 (34,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>20-11-12</td>
<td>.418</td>
<td>151,818 (22,600)</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>6-6-5</td>
<td>.314</td>
<td>147,474 (38,600)</td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>18-16-12</td>
<td>.325</td>
<td>144,173 (17,250)</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>12-16-9</td>
<td>.392</td>
<td>137,356 (27,995)</td>
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</table>

### Leaders Of The Week

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UTR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>389</td>
<td>83-59-47</td>
<td>.338</td>
<td>$769,770 ($150,571)</td>
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<tr>
<td>309</td>
<td>46-60-34</td>
<td>.293</td>
<td>634,286 (82,970)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172</td>
<td>47-29-20</td>
<td>.406</td>
<td>595,240 (132,290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>198</td>
<td>34-38-29</td>
<td>.327</td>
<td>551,790 (140,620)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>38-18-28</td>
<td>.319</td>
<td>536,280 (181,100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>47-39-22</td>
<td>.326</td>
<td>519,623 (100,920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>37-27-29</td>
<td>.269</td>
<td>495,263 (79,420)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>239</td>
<td>56-38-30</td>
<td>.364</td>
<td>434,226 (97,362)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>291</td>
<td>46-38-36</td>
<td>.272</td>
<td>412,665 (83,915)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169</td>
<td>27-19-20</td>
<td>.262</td>
<td>391,948 (86,245)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>28-27-16</td>
<td>.295</td>
<td>384,326 (73,561)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>32-16-25</td>
<td>.302</td>
<td>371,149 (44,225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179</td>
<td>19-25-19</td>
<td>.219</td>
<td>366,769 (135,775)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>319</td>
<td>34-35-41</td>
<td>.210</td>
<td>362,993 (46,360)</td>
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<tr>
<td>314</td>
<td>51-44-42</td>
<td>.285</td>
<td>361,141 (77,581)</td>
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**Leading Money-Winning Breeders**

<table>
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<td>494,750</td>
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<tr>
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<td>211,480</td>
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<td>210,092</td>
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<td>181,412</td>
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<td>188,615</td>
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<td>181,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>192,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Drivers

- **Corey Callahan**
  - Starts: 72
  - Wins: 17
  - Earnings: $17,129

- **Matt Kakaley**
  - Starts: 48
  - Wins: 16
  - Earnings: $16,664

- **Dave Palone**
  - Starts: 52
  - Wins: 13
  - Earnings: $7,888

### Trainers

- **Steve Stewart**
  - Starts: 47
  - Wins: 27
  - Earnings: $177,778

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**Compiled by the USTA—through Feb. 5, 2013 (week difference Jan. 30-Feb. 5).**

**Harness Racing Weekend Preview, 9 of 9**

February 8, 2013  
www.harnessracing.com