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Harness Racing

WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018

Inside
Weekly
harnessracing.com
News Digest

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NF Happenstance Delivers Foal, And Still Delivers On Track

For the 8-year-old mare trotter NF Happenstance, there is no place like home. Especially if that home is in the barn of Carol and Jack Parker Jr., the wife-and-husband, driving-and training team based at the Dovington Training Center in Felton, Del.

It's been a whirlwind past few years for NF Happenstance, who was purchased by the Parkers on behalf of North Carolina owner James Moore III in early 2014 for \$10,000, and then sold four months later to the late William Weaver III after a successful streak of races. After

a dry spell on the track the following year, Weaver retired NF Happenstance and bred her to Sebastian K, but following Weaver's death in 2016, the mare was sold in foal at the mixed sale in Harrisburg.

That's when the Parkers and Moore stepped in, re-buying the trotter who earned them more

"We didn't know whether she wanted to get back in the game, but obviously she has."

—Carol Parker

than \$180,000 in 2014, with the intent to bring her back to the races after delivering her foal. And after NF Happenstance became a mother on Feb. 12, 2017, to a filly eventually named Pure Happenstance, she re-entered training, and the ranks of racehorse.

NF Happenstance hardly missed a beat. This year she has been nearly perfect, winning three top-class events at Dover Downs in January before shipping to Yonkers, where she won again in the \$50,000 Open on Jan. 28 before finishing second last time out in the \$40,000 Open to Rubber Duck.

NF Happenstance will have a chance to reverse that outcome this Saturday night at Yonkers when she starts from the assigned post 6 in the 7-horse \$40,000 Open. Assigned the outside post is Rubber Duck, who will be driven by Joe Bongiorno for his sister, trainer Jenn Bongiorno.

This will be NF Happenstance's 87th career start and 32nd for the Parkers. With Jack Parker driving, NF Happenstance has 14 wins, six seconds and seven thirds.

"If she had two legs, Jack and I would have a problem," Carol said with a laugh. "He loves this mare. They just go really, really, really well together. She obviously is very happy with Jack, and a Godsend for us."

Carol said she and Jack were surprised to see NF Happenstance's name in the Harrisburg catalog as part of the Weaver dispersal.

CANCELED

WINTER
SPEED SALE

DELAWARE, OHIO CO. FAIRGROUNDS

Due to EHV (Equine Herpes Virus) issues, the Blooded Horse Sales Company will not be allowed on the Delaware Co. Fairgrounds to conduct the February 12, 2018 sale.

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WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

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Prix de France this Sunday in Paris—pg. 6

Howard Beissinger dies at 94—pg. 8

Marohn looks to build on success—pg. 9

Breeding Banter—pg. 10

"They ran her through the sale and sometimes life is like that, it throws you a bone," she remembered. "When we saw her in the sale it was a no-brainer to get her back.

"Luckily she was in foal to Sebastian K and not Muscle Hill because I probably wouldn't have been able to afford her," she added with a laugh. "I was surprised because Mr. Weaver had shares in Muscle Hill, but he didn't do that."

On behalf of Moore, the Parkers purchased the in-foal NF Happenstance for \$42,000. The mare's yearling filly is currently at Chris Coyle's Olive Branch Farm in North Carolina.

Continues on page 2 >>>



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"The intention of buying (NF Happenstance) back was to bring her back to the races. Jack said he didn't think she was done and could do more. Jack thought she was coming back to her old self. She's a lot stronger, and since the time she had the baby she's bulked up. We didn't know whether she wanted to get back in the game, but obviously she has."

The Parker's small stable also includes Royal Becca J, who won three Open Paces at Dover Downs in January. Overall this year, the stable has six wins and two seconds in eight starts, with \$84,125 in purse earnings. It's the best month for the Parkers since the late 1990s when the barn won the \$240,000 Classic Trot Series final in 1997 at Sportsman's Park with Foolish Times and the \$170,356 Banks final in 1998 at Pocono Downs with Fire Everybody.

"Jack is now 62 and he's never had a month like he had in January his whole life," said Carol. "He can't believe this is happening, between her and Royal Becca J, who we purchased at Frank Chick's Sale at Harrington for \$12,000. He's been nothing to sneeze at."

Carol said NF Happenstance's success has led to a few stakes nominations this year.

"The Breeders Crown is a given," she said. "She's made the money. A chance like this doesn't come along every day." — By Gordon Waterstone

FREE Program Pages

THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, February 9


8:10p YR5 **F&M Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
[Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

Saturday, February 10

8:30p YR6 **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
8:45p M7 **Preferred Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
8:50p YR7 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
[Click here to download all Saturday PPs](#)

Sunday, February 11

8:32p PPK5 **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
[Click here to download all Sunday PPs](#)


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HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

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2018



WOODBINE
MOHAWK PARK

ALL NOMINATIONS CLOSE FEBRUARY 15TH

PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP XXXV

Three-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 16, 2018.**
\$1,000,000 Guaranteed Final Purse.

ARM BRO FLIGHT

Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 16, 2018.**
Purse \$255,000 E Final (\$175,000 A).

CANADIAN PACING DERBY

Three-year-olds and older open pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 1, 2018.**
Purse \$615,000 E Final (\$350,000 A).

CANADIAN TROTting CLASSIC

Three-year-old open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 15, 2018.**
Purse \$685,000 E (\$400,000 A).

CASUAL BREEZE

Three-year-old filly trot.
Raced on **Friday, August 24, 2018.**
Purse \$160,000 E (\$60,000 A).

ELEGANT IMAGE

Three-year-old filly trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 15, 2018.**
Purse \$385,000 E (\$225,000 A).

ETERNAL GAMNATION

Two-year-old filly pace.
Raced on **Saturday, August 25, 2018.**
Purse \$195,000 E (\$60,000A).

FAN HANOVER

Three-year-old filly pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 16, 2018.**
Purse \$440,000 E (\$275,000 A).

GOODTIMES

Three-year-old open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 16, 2018.**
Purse \$250,000 E (\$125,000 A).

MAPLE LEAF TROT

Three-year-olds and older open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 1, 2018.**
Purse \$600,000 E Final (\$350,000 A).

METRO PACE

Two-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 22, 2018.**
Purse \$815,000 E Final (\$300,000 A).

MILTON

Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 22, 2018.**
Purse \$225,000 E Final (\$150,000 A).

NASSAGAWEYA

Two-year-old open pace.
Raced on **Saturday, August 25, 2018.**
Purse \$225,000 E (\$60,000 A).

PEACEFUL WAY

Two-year-old filly trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 15, 2018.**
Purse \$375,000 E Final (\$175,000 A).

ROSES ARE RED

Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, June 16, 2018.**
Purse \$365,000 E Final (\$225,000 A).

SHES A GREAT LADY PACE

Two-year-old filly pace.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 22, 2018.**
Purse \$500,000 E Final (\$250,000 A).

SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE

Three-year-old open pace.
Raced on **Saturday, June 2, 2018.**
Purse \$140,000 E (\$60,000 A).

WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL

Two-year-old open trot.
Final raced on **Saturday, September 15, 2018.**
Purse \$400,000 E Final (\$175,000 A).

BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Ontario Sired Two-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Monday, August 6, 2018.**
Purse \$180,000 E Final (\$90,000 A).

BATTLE OF THE BELLES

Ontario Sired Two-year-old filly pace.
Final raced on **Monday, August 6, 2018.**
Purse \$120,000 E Final (\$60,000 A).

CONFEDERATION CUP XL

Four-year-old open pace.
Final raced on **Sunday, May 20, 2018.**
Purse \$175,000 E (\$150,000 A).

BALANCED IMAGE

Ontario Sired Two-year-old trotting fillies & colts in 2018.
Final raced on **Saturday, August 25, 2018.**
Purse \$50,000 E (\$20,000 A).

DREAM OF GLORY

Ontario Sired Three-year-old trotting fillies & colts in 2018, non-winners of \$75,000 (fillies \$100,000) in 2017.
Final raced on **Saturday, August 4, 2018.**
Purse \$60,000 E (\$40,000 A).

KIN PAGE

Ontario Sired Three-year-old pacing fillies in 2018, non-winners of \$50,000 in 2017.
Final raced on **Sunday, July 8, 2018.**
Purse \$60,000 E (\$40,000 A).

REMINDER: SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE

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Hug The Wind Impresses In U.S. Debut

After a stellar career racing Down Under, the New Zealand-bred 7-year-old pacer Hug The Wind N is now in the barn of trainer Ross Croghan after being purchased by Eric Cherry's Let It Ride Stables and Dana Parham last November.

A son of Bettor's Delight, Hug The Wind will be making his third start in the U.S. since arriving stateside on Saturday night at the Meadowlands. With Andy Miller driving, Hug The Wind will start from post 1 in the \$20,000

Preferred Pace.

"He's not the best one I ever bought from down there... but I think he will be a competitive, overnight open horse."

—Ross Croghan

Croghan also has another newcomer in his barn in Waikiki Beach A, a 6-year-old son of Somebeachsome-where he bought on behalf of Let It Ride Stables after a \$708,000-winning career Down Under. Waikiki Beach made his U.S. debut on Jan.

28 at Pompano Park, capturing the Open Pace in 1:51.4. Waikiki Beach is back in at Pompano on Sunday, starting from the outside post 8 in the \$11,000 Open with Scott Zeron driving.

As for Hug The Wind, he was a \$68,000 yearling purchase in 2013. Making 47 starts Down Under, Hug The Wind's 10 wins helped buoy his \$330,000 in earnings. He finished second in the prestigious Auckland Cup, and also had runner-up honors in other major races including the Harness Jewels, Sires Stakes final and Sales Series, according to the New Zealand Herald. Those efforts led to the newspaper terming Hug The Wind as "a serious group one bridesmaid during his career." Hug The Wind's prior trainers include notable names such as brothers Mark and Barry Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen.

Croghan was traveling in New Zealand when he bought Hug The Wind on behalf of Cherry and Parham after watching the pacer finish second in a race on Nov. 14. He said no equipment changes were needed to race in the U.S.

"I don't make any changes," said Croghan. "I buy them off professional trainers who know what they are doing."

In his first appearance for his new connections, Hug The Wind finished fifth in a Jan. 19 qualifier at the Big M. In his pari-mutuel debut on Jan. 27 in a \$12,000 conditioned pace, Hug The Wind rallied from fifth at the half to score a 1:50.2 victory. That led to a bump in class to the Preferred on Feb. 3, with Hug The Wind finishing third by a half-length in a blanket finish that saw the top-five finishers within a length of each other.

"He's a good quality horse," said Croghan. "He's not the best one I ever bought from down there—the best one is Waikiki Beach—but I think he will be a competitive, overnight open horse."

WP Picks: Patriots 21, Eagles 16 Super Bowl Score: Eagles 41, Patriots 33

Thirty-seven picks for this year's Super Bowl LII were provided in last week's HarnessRacing Weekend Preview and props go to the 16 who correctly selected the Philadelphia Eagles, who upset the New England Patriots with a final score of 41-33.

It's unsure whether or not any of those lucky 16 also went with Pink singing the national anthem in under two minutes, or heads on the opening coin toss, or that Danny Amendola would catch more passes than goals in the Knights/Capitals NHL game, but they cashed in big with the Eagles' victory.

Unlike last year, when Jeff Gural and Jason Bartlett gave the perfect score, this time around nobody hit it on the head. The nod for the closest prediction goes to current U.S. Harness Writers Association president and Batavia Downs' Tim Bojarski, who had the Eagles winning 35-24. Why does Bojarski win the photo? He was the closest to the Eagles actual scoring of 41 points. Runner-up honors go to driver George Napolitano Jr., who had the Eagles pegged at a score of 34-27.

In an emailed response regarding his top handicapper honor, the self-professed Patriots hater Bojarski wrote: "This might have been the easiest pick ever in going with the Eagles. I'm surprised so many others actually picked against them."

Owner Howard Taylor, a longtime Eagles season ticket holder, went to the game in Minneapolis with his daughters, and it was no surprise as to who he picked to win, although he thought there would be a bit more defense with a score of 27-10. Taylor was growing his "playoff beard" until the Eagles lost this year, so the scruff is gone already, much to the delight of his wife and children.

Owner Mark Weaver raised a lot of eyebrows on social media because of his pick of the Patriots winning 50-0. Off the record he had noted he was making the wild prediction because he was going to wager heavily on the Eagles and wanted to use some reverse psychology and not jinx himself. Drinks on Mark!!

Still, Croghan said he is contemplating nominating Hug The Wind to the George Morton Levy Memorial Series that gets underway next month at Yonkers. Payments are due March 1 so Croghan has three weeks to decide.

"I don't think he's fast enough to be at the top level. He's just a really nice horse who probably falls a second shy of stakes-quality horses," he said. "But the Levy is possible, yes." —By Gordon Waterstone



EARLY CLOSING EVENTS



MEADOWLANDS

EVENTS CLOSE FEB 15, 2018

Winner of Cutler Memorial will receive an invitation to the 2018 Elitlopp

2YO

\$800,000 KINDERGARTEN CLASSIC PACE & TROT
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\$400,000 GOVERNOR'S CUP
\$400,000 VALLEY VICTORY
\$400,000 THREE DIAMONDS
\$400,000 GOLDSMITH MAID
\$350,000 JIM DOHERTY MEMORIAL 2YO FILLY TROT
\$350,000 PETER HAUGHTON MEMORIAL 2YO COLT TROT

3YO

\$650,000 MEADOWLANDS PACE
\$320,000 STANLEY DANCER MEMORIAL COLT TROT
\$250,000 DEL MILLER MEMORIAL FILLY TROT
\$165,000 MISTLETOE SHALEE FILLY PACE

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\$300,000 JOHN CASHMAN MEMORIAL FFA TROT*
\$200,000 LADY LIBERTY FFA MARE PACE*
\$225,000 SAM McKEE MEMORIAL FFA PACE*
\$200,000 GOLDEN GIRLS FFA MARE PACE*
\$200,000 ARTHUR CUTLER MEMORIAL FFA TROT*
\$175,000 DR. JOHN R. STEELE FFA MARE TROT*
\$100,000 MISS VERSATILITY FFA MARE TROTTERING SERIES*

**denotes leg of TVG championship series*

Calendar listing all Meadowlands stakes dates available at playmeadowlands.com/horsemen



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OLDER HORSES

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\$175,000 JOIE DE VIE (formerly Muscle Hill) FFA MARE TROT*
\$175,000 CRAWFORD FARMS FFA TROT*
\$175,000 ROLL WITH JOE FFA PACE*

All four FFA Stakes will be raced at Tioga Downs in 2018

Calendar listing all Tioga & Vernon stakes dates available at tiogadowns.com/horsemen

All purses not listed as guaranteed (g) are estimates.

Propulsion, Bold Eagle Head Prix de France Field

The Prix de France will be contested Sunday at the Vincennes track in Paris, and it is generally known as an easier race for sprinter horses to win for two reasons: the distance is shorter (1.3 miles vs. 1.67 miles) and the start.

The Prix d'Amerique uses a unique start, where the horses are gathered in a chute area to the inside of the track and then a countdown begins, with drivers turning their steeds for the main track when the clock reads "0." There were five recalls before the Prix d'Amerique was started, and each time a start was attempted, Bold Eagle and Propulsion were wheeled onto the track and asked for quick acceleration to secure good position.

So it seems that an American-style start, with a mobile starting gate, will be a definite advantage for Propulsion and Bold Eagle since both will start in the first tier.

With a field of 15, the Prix de France includes many of the Prix d'Amerique starters. The only

newcomers to this elite gathering are Traders, Anna Mix, Val Royal, Call Me Keeper, Uza Josselyn and Vivid Wise AS. Missing from the field is Prix d'Amerique winner Readly Express, who trainer Timo Nurmos said needed some time off after racing barefoot at Vincennes in all of his starts there this winter.

Traders is considered the most interesting newcomer. Like defending Prix de France champion Bold Eagle and recent Prix d'Amerique winner Readly Express, the 6-year-old stallion goes into the Prix de France following a win under saddle on Feb. 4 at Vincennes. Traders won the Group 1 Prix de l'Île de France over 1 5/16 miles in a mile rate time of 1:53.2. That clocking was just one fraction of a second off the race record. And in January, Traders won the world's richest under saddle race, the Prix de Cornulier.

Traders is also accomplished in the sulky. As a 4 year old he defeated Bold Eagle and set a 1:53.4 world record at 2,100 meters at Vincennes.

Gerard Formi/Photo



Traders (inside) will start from post 1 in the Prix de France. The stallion's maternal family includes the great Classical Way, the winner of the 1981 Prix de France.

PRIX DE FRANCE

*Hippodrome de Vincennes, Paris, France;
Sunday, Feb. 11; Race 4; Distance: 2,100 meters;
Purse: €400,000 (approx. \$490,000)*

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam)	Driver/Trainer
1—TRADERS (6h, Ready Cash-Graziella)	Y. Lebourgeois/Ph. Allaire
2—ANNA MIX (6h, Ludo de Castelle-Ires)	P. Vercruyssel/F. Leblanc
3—BELINA JOSSELYN (7m, Love You-Lezia Josselyn)	J.M. Bazire
4—PROPULSION (7h, Muscle Hill-Danae)	O. Kihlstrom/D. Reden
5—TIMONE EK (6h, Mr. Vic-Gemona)	E. Bellei/Ph. Billard
6—WILD HONEY (6m, Cantab Hall-U Wanna Linda)	B. Goop/D. Reden
7—BILLIE DE MONTFORT (7m, Jasmine de Flore-Quismy de Montfort)	D. Thomain/S. Guarato
8—BOLD EAGLE (Ready Cash-Reethi Rah Jet)	F. Nivard/S. Guarato
9—BOOSTER WINNER (7h, Love You-Quille Viretaute)	J.-P. Monclin/S. Guarato
10—VAL ROYAL (9h, Capriccio-Quarda du Rib)	C. Begeon/J.-M. Bazire
11—CALL ME KEEPER (8h, Pine Chip-Eliza Keeper)	D. Reden
12—BRIAC DARK (7h, Prince Gede-Queen des Charmes)	M. Abrivard/T. Duvaldestin
13—UZA JOSSELYN (7m, Love You-Teza Josselyn)	A. Abrivard/R. Aebischer
14—VIVID WISE AS (4h, Yankee Glide-Temple Blue Chip)	E. Raffin/S. Guarato
15—RINGOSTARR TREB (8h, Classic Photo-Farsalo Egral)	G. Gelormini/J. Riordan

A look at Traders' extended pedigree makes him an interesting horse for American trotting fans. His dam, Graziella, is a daughter of Working Mom, who is a daughter of Baltic Speed-Queen Of Gainesway. Queen Of Gainesway is a Bonefish-sired daughter of the great champion Classical Way, who won the 1981 edition of the Prix de France for John Simpson Jr. Her Prix de France victory was her last career start. — By Kathy Parker



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Grand Circuit Events

#1) Kentucky Futurity #126

Foals of 2015 to Race in 2018

#2) Tattersalls Pace 2018

Foals of 2015 to Race in 2018

PAYMENT DUE FOR EVENTS #1 & #2:

	OPEN	FILLY
February 15.....	\$1,000	\$500
March 15	\$1,500	\$750

#3) Bluegrass Series #43

Foals of 2015 to Race in 2018

PAYMENT DUE FOR EVENT #3:

February 15	\$550
March 15.....	\$750
April 15.....	\$850

***Supplemental Payment due February 15.....\$5,000**

*Ineligible Three Year Olds may be made eligible to the Three Year Old events in 2018 by making the Three-Year-Old Supplemental Nomination fee on February 15 of \$5,000 plus the March 15 and April 15 payments

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Hall of Famer Howard Beissinger Dies At 94

Horseman Howard F. Beissinger, 94, a member of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame for 44 years, died Feb. 6, in Hamilton, Ohio. Born on May 23, 1923 on the family farm near Hamilton, Mr. Beissinger died only a few miles from where he'd been born.

He won the Hambletonian, America's greatest trotting classic, three

times, earning the nickname "Hambo Howard." He enjoyed international fame, and raced across the United States and Canada as well as at tracks in Russia, Germany, Sweden, Italy, and elsewhere.

He was also a member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame and the Butler County (Ohio) Sports Hall of Fame.

He was known for his tough, no-nonsense approach to his profession. His unflinching attention to detail in matters such as proper shoeing won him the admiration of many of his fellow horsemen.

He is best known as the trainer and driver of the great trotter and stallion Speedy Crown. Speedy Crown was foaled in early 1968 and raised on the Beissinger family farm in Hamilton. In 1971 Speedy Crown won the Hambletonian in straight heats and went on to a breeding career that would make him legendary in the world of trotting.

Two years earlier, Mr. Beissinger had won his first Hambletonian with Lindy's Pride, a colt that overcame faulty hooves to show his speed and competitive spirit. Mr. Beissinger drove him to victory in the trotting Triple Crown—Yonkers Trot, Hambletonian, and Kentucky Futurity—in 1969.

His third Hambletonian victory came in 1978 behind the meteoric Speedy Somolli, a son of Speedy Crown that Mr. Beissinger always said was the fastest trotter he'd ever driven.

Mr. Beissinger learned the horse business from his father, who farmed and raced a few horses in the summer. After World War II, when Howard told his mother that he planned to make horse racing his profession, she greeted the news with tears. Her son achieved success quickly, however, becoming one of the leading drivers on the tough Chicago racing circuit. His abilities and his work

ethic drew notice and he began to attract the support of prominent owners.

In 1955, he married the former Ann Wingers. They were divorced in 1999.

In the mid-1960s, Mr. Beissinger earned the confidence and patronage of the Antonacci family of New York, a partnership that lasted for decades. For the Antonaccis and partners, Mr. Beissinger developed and raced countless stakes winners. His peers in the training fraternity admired his mastery of all aspects of horsemanship.

For decades, Mr. Beissinger campaigned a stable that competed with success in the sport's largest stake races. In 1984, Mr. Beissinger entered four trotters in the Hambletonian, but decided to find other drivers for all four horses so that he didn't show favoritism to certain owners.

In 1987, he drove Defiant One to victory in the Breeders Crown in Toronto, Ont., at age 64, and he is still the oldest driver ever to win a prestigious Breeders Crown event.

For a half-century, he was also involved in rodeo and traveled across North America to visit rodeos and connect with his cowboy friends. His daughter Vana was extremely successful as a barrel racer in rodeo.

Mr. Beissinger produced rodeos throughout the Midwest in partnership with Don Hight, a South Dakota cowboy he greatly admired. Mr. Beissinger was well known in the rodeo world to the cowboys and cowgirls, as well as stock contractors and officials.

In many ways, Mr. Beissinger personified the Cowboy Way: he was strong, independent, and resilient. He was up every day before dawn to start work, and his associates marveled at his energy and work ethic.

Mr. Beissinger was fearless in pursuing his passion for adventure. When he became interested in rodeo, he took up steer wrestling, an event in which the cowboy jumps from a running horse onto the back of a running steer and wrestles it to the ground. This event is often called "bulldogging" and it's most appealing to young men who feel invincible, but Mr. Beissinger began steer wrestling when he was in his 40s. He earned the nickname "Bulldog Beissinger."

On his 80th birthday, he went para-sailing off the coast of Florida. A decade later on his 90th birthday, he went hang-gliding at 3,000 feet near Lookout Mountain, Ga.

He is survived by daughter Jane Freeman (Dave) of Naples, Fla.; daughter Gloria Beissinger (Joseph Rickard) of Naples, Fla.; son Orrin (Minna) of Randolph, N.J.; daughter Vana Beissinger; and two grandchildren Julia Ganzi and Markus Beissinger.

A memorial service will be held at the Webb-Noonan-Kidd Funeral Home in Hamilton, Ohio on March 10.—By Dean Hoffman



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Marohn Looks To Build On 2017 Success

When Jim Marohn Jr. was a teenager, he worked on the backstretch at the Meadowlands and got to observe some of the sport's top stables in action. These days, the 35-year-old Marohn is still working at the Big M, but is part of the action as one of the racetrack's top drivers.

No one won more races at the Meadowlands in 2017 than Marohn, who had 109. He did not win the track's driving

"I got to drive for a lot of good barns last year, and I think that's what I was most satisfied about."

—Jim Marohn Jr.

title—captured by Brett Miller—because the meet ran from October 2016 to August 2017, but his 93 victories during that span resulted in a career-best third-place finish in the standings.

Since the conclusion of last year's meet in August, Marohn has won 46 races at the Meadowlands, which leads all drivers at the track. He has won

races at a 19-percent clip, which trails only Corey Callahan and Yannick Gingras among regulars.

"That's where I grew up; I started working on horses right on that backstretch," Marohn said. "I got to absorb a lot of different methods and work for a lot of good stables that were there. That was and is the mecca of harness racing. It's very satisfying to go there and race at a high level."

Marohn's success in 2017 was not limited to the Meadowlands. He won a career-best 496 races overall and finished No. 10 among all drivers in North America. His \$5.04 million in purses also were a lifetime best.

"I've never set any specific goals or numbers that I want to reach," Marohn said. "I just take the opportunities as they come.

"I got to drive for a lot of good barns last year, and I think that's what I was most satisfied about. Not really the wins or the earnings, but the bigger barns, not only giving me a chance, but sticking with me. That's big. I appreciate that."

In addition to his strong year at the Meadowlands, Marohn finished third in the driver standings at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, where he notched career victory number 4,000 in November, and had the fourth-most wins in 2017 at Freehold Raceway.



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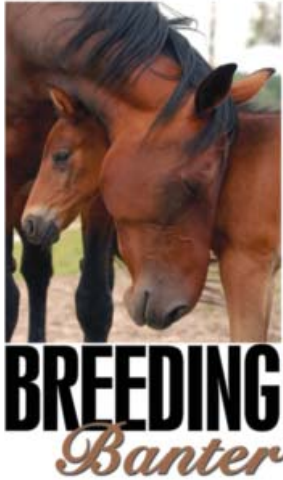
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He enjoyed most of his stakes success in sires stakes races, but also picked up a handful of wins on the Grand Circuit. He is hoping for more opportunities in the future.

"If I could do a little work on the Grand Circuit it would be satisfying," Marohn said. "If I could follow some young horses around and be competitive, that would be great. I've had some opportunities with horses here and there, but nothing extremely serious. I've never driven for a barn that had a group of those horses that I could go and race. I would love it. It's always been a goal.

"But I'm going to do the same thing I did last year. I like the hustle. I try to be somewhere as much as I can. I take the opportunities where I can." (Ken Weingartner/USTA)





EHV-1 And Breeding Farms

There are now horses confirmed EHV-1 positive in the racing populations at The Meadows and in Ohio. Barns are still under quarantine at The Meadows and on Wednesday (Feb. 7) the Warren County Fairgrounds (the old Lebanon Raceway), which is a training facility, was locked down after EHV-1 positives.

In addition, last weekend the Delaware County Fairgrounds

advised the Blooded Horse Sale Company that it could not conduct its annual February sale because of concerns that horses being shipped there for the sale could bring EHV-1 into the horse community. The sales company has no idea when it will be able to hold another sale.

Horses are required to have a negative test result for EHV-1 to race at Miami Valley Gaming and at Northfield Park, and last week many horses were scratched at both tracks because of either quarantines or positive tests.

So what does the EHV-1 outbreak in the Pennsylvania and Ohio harness racing communities mean to breeding farms in those states? With breeding season getting underway, do breeding farms need to be concerned?

John "Tad" Egloff, a veterinarian and the owner of Vieux Carre' Farms in Pennsylvania, said it has been many years since he has heard of a breeding farm seeing a high number of abortions in mares due to an outbreak of EHV-1.

"EHV-1 is out there all the time with horses," said Dr. Egloff. "If you went through and tested every horse at every racetrack, no doubt you would have a large number that tested positive. Because there are so many carriers, some horses have latent immunity. With horses, it's a little like kids needing to build up their immunity."

Dr. Egloff is a strong believer in frequent vaccination of broodmares for EHV-1.

"I vaccinate the mares at our farm every other month. They recommend broodmares be vaccinated the fifth, seventh and ninth month of pregnancy, but I do it more often," said Dr. Egloff. "From my standpoint, that's not too much money to spend. But it can be like the present flu vaccine. Sometimes if the bug is really good, the vaccine is not as effective."

Dr. Egloff said another reason for his aggressive approach to vaccination is that a breeding farm population can be naïve, meaning they haven't had much exposure to EHV-1, and as a result are more susceptible to illness. — *By Kathy Parker*

Why EHV-1 Now?

EHV-1 is as common in large populations of horses as the common cold virus in elementary schools. The most serious cases of the virus are when it morphs into EHM (equine herpesvirus-1 myeloencephalopathy). On the other hand, most cases of EHV-1 are moderate and result in simple respiratory infections. Despite advances in testing, it is still impossible to know for sure which horses will develop the neurological version of the virus.

There has been year-round racing for decades with no EHV-1 outbreaks, so why are there outbreaks now?

One veterinarian who is a biosecurity expert explains that just like now is flu season for people, this is the time of year when EHV-1 can flourish. The virus loves damp dark environments, like stalls in barns. And because the virus is common in horses, many horses will always test positive, although they may not show clinical signs. Without a neurologic case in the horse population, there would likely not be a reason to begin testing large numbers of horses for the virus, and therefore outbreaks of the respiratory form of the virus can go undetected.

GUIDELINES FOR VACCINATION IN BREEDING HORSES

(from the American Association of Equine Practitioners website <https://aaep.org/guidelines/vaccination-guidelines/risk-based-vaccination-guidelines/equine-herpesvirus-rhinopneumonitis>)

Pregnant mares: Vaccinate during the fifth, seventh, and ninth months of gestation using an inactivated EHV-1 vaccine licensed for prevention of abortion. Many veterinarians also recommend a dose during the third month of gestation and some recommend a dose at the time of breeding.

Vaccination of mares with an inactivated EHV-1/EHV-4 vaccine 4 to 6 weeks before foaling is commonly practiced to enhance concentrations of colostral immunoglobulins for transfer to the foal. Maternal antibody passively transferred to foals from vaccinated mares may decrease the incidence of respiratory disease in foals, but infection is common in these foals and may result in clinical disease and establishment of the carrier state.

Barren mares at breeding facilities: Vaccinate before the start of the breeding season and thereafter based on risk of exposure.

Stallions and teasers: Vaccinate before the start of the breeding season and thereafter based on risk of exposure.

Foals: Administer a primary series of 3 doses of inactivated EHV-1/EHV-4 vaccine or modified-live EHV-1 vaccine, beginning at 4 to 6 months of age and with a 4 to 6 week interval between the first and second doses. Administer the third dose at 10 to 12 months of age. Immunity following vaccination appears to be short-lived and it is recommended that foals and young horses be revaccinated at 6-month intervals.



harnessracing.com HEADLINES

Woodbine update on Integrity Initiative

Woodbine Entertainment Thursday provided a new update regarding the recently announced Standardbred Racing Integrity and Accountability Initiative (SRIAI). [more](#)

O'Brien Award voting results released

Standardbred Canada has released the breakdown of the voting for the 2017 O'Brien Awards. The ceremony took place Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Hilton Mississauga/ Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga, Ont. [more](#)

Chase to begin accepting ADW transactions

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) today announced that JPMorgan Chase & Co., the largest bank in the United States and the largest credit card issuer in the U.S. with more than 80 million active credit card-holder accounts, has begun approving credit card deposit transactions with U.S. licensed and regulated advance deposit wagering companies (ADWs). [more](#)

A conversation with Julie Miller

Julie Miller enjoyed a memorable 2017. The year began with her induction into the Iowa Harness Racing Hall of Fame, where she joined her father, Owen Julius, and continued through the season with a string of stakes wins and notable Grand Circuit performances. [more](#)

Kentucky fairs fuel owner's passion

Stanley Wildharber might not have been born to race at the Kentucky fairs, but it seems close to the case. Wildharber grew up two blocks from the Ballard County Fairgrounds in La Center and at an early age was riding his bicycle there to be around the horses. [more](#)

Meadowlands stakes nominations due Feb. 15

Nominations for the Meadowlands' slate of Grand Circuit stakes/early closers will close on Feb. 15, 2018. [more](#)

HHYF elects new trustees

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF) trustees recently elected four new individuals to its 15-member working board. Jennifer Connor, Suzanne D'Ambrose, John Reames, and Gabe Wand along with reelected incumbents Nicola Abrams, Tony Alagna, and Emily Gaskin will each dedicate their efforts to educating today's youth about harness racing by actively working on various HHYF projects. [more](#)

Lindiliana, dam of Lindy Lane, dies

Lindiliana, the dam of Dan Patch Award-winner Lindy Lane, died Wednesday morning (Feb. 7) at her lifelong home of Lindy Farms, farm manager John Belskie said. She was 30. [more](#)

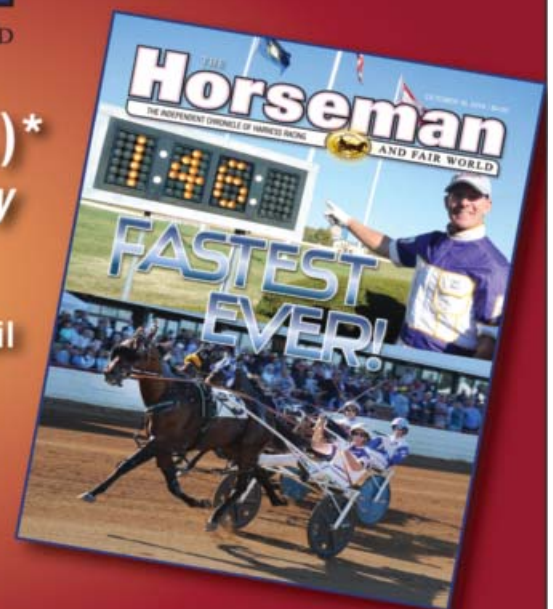
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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 6, 2018 (week difference Jan. 31-Feb. 6).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
NF Happenstance (8tm)	5	4	1	0	\$54,500
Melady's Monet (9tg)	4	1	1	1	46,300
Totally Kissed (7pg)	3	3	0	0	46,250
Orillia Joe (8pg)	4	3	0	0	45,000
Don'tcallmefrancis (5pg)	5	4	1	0	44,250
R Gauwitz Hanover (9pg)	5	3	0	1	39,060
Divas Image (5pm)	3	3	0	0	37,500
Money Maven (9tg)	4	1	1	0	37,500
JK Pridenjoy (4ph)	5	4	0	0	35,967
Mcspidey (4pg)	4	3	1	0	35,000
Moneycounts De Vie (5tg)	5	1	2	1	35,000
Sell A Bit N (8pm)	3	1	1	1	34,800
Will Take Charge (5tg)	3	2	1	0	34,425
Circle The Page (4pm)	4	4	0	0	33,719
Get Around Town (8pg)	4	2	1	0	33,450

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jordan Stratton	221	43-30-33	.320	\$612,193 (\$128,775)
Matt Kakaley	218	34-40-30	.304	578,665 (109,285)
Trace Tetrack	254	65-32-27	.361	576,258 (93,685)
Jason Bartlett	231	32-37-36	.279	570,573 (138,165)
Aaron Merriman	347	81-58-44	.369	544,832 (94,816)
George Brennan	194	31-29-23	.282	494,670 (113,340)
Corey Callahan	254	42-47-32	.310	442,410 (83,144)
Chris Page	220	40-18-25	.265	411,181 (40,215)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	298	63-50-45	.355	401,430 (92,228)
Tony Morgan	185	44-28-23	.363	375,763 (70,717)
Tim Tetrack	171	37-28-28	.362	361,232 (105,253)
Jim Marohn Jr.	234	39-31-26	.277	359,855 (62,363)
Daniel Dube	183	20-16-28	.209	353,730 (72,625)
Kayne Kauffman	226	31-28-28	.247	353,490 (63,090)
Yannick Gingras	162	26-25-13	.273	352,944 (103,790)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	216	39-37-24	.313	\$482,160 (\$84,830)
Scott Di Domenico	135	29-24-11	.341	373,452 (84,905)
Richard Moreau	130	29-25-16	.371	298,397 (70,568)
Nick Surick	174	43-32-21	.390	295,186 (67,204)
Rene Allard	91	16-11-10	.280	237,348 (51,975)
Al Annunziata	105	18-10-11	.259	214,458 (40,208)
William Adamczyk	51	14-10-2	.397	204,223 (45,188)
Jeff Brewer	103	13-17-13	.260	195,956 (14,805)
Jennifer Bongiorno	52	20-8-6	.509	189,591 (67,362)
Andrew Harris	57	14-7-8	.361	161,272 (67,828)
Kayne Kauffman	63	15-6-10	.344	158,740 (17,825)
Rob Harmon	62	11-9-10	.312	145,805 (20,220)
Dylan Davis	67	11-14-13	.345	144,597 (33,820)
Carmen Auciello	120	9-9-15	.158	143,269 (33,041)
Paul Blumenfeld	76	10-8-5	.212	140,885 (14,550)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	369	98	121	\$1,162,664
Winbak Farm	358	96	127	1,030,510
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	70	28	40	332,581
Perretti Farms	78	25	31	310,574
Brittany Farms LLC	92	19	24	281,278
Seelster Farms Inc.	82	25	32	257,762
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	50	16	19	197,301
Spring Haven Farm	43	12	17	187,452
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	61	16	23	183,858
Bulletproof Enterprises	64	13	16	183,386
White Birch Farm	53	14	18	176,491
Steve Stewart	56	15	20	175,853
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	62	17	20	174,661
Victory Hill Farm Inc.	44	17	21	157,926
Fox Valley Standardbreds	50	14	20	157,655

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Jan. 31-Feb. 6 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Driver	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr	51	20-8-5
Robert Shepherd	50	14-7-5
Aaron Merriman	56	13-7-10
Bob McClure	57	13-7-5
Dan Noble	47	13-6-7
Joe Bongiorno	48	13-5-7
Tim Tetrack	49	10-8-7
Tony Morgan	36	10-6-6
Yannick Gingras	50	10-7-4
Greg Grismore	47	9-8-9
Alfred Carroll	35	8-6-1
Jason Bartlett	49	8-10-7
Jordan Stratton	48	8-8-7
Scott Coulter	38	8-7-3
Trace Tetrack	38	8-9-5
Corey Callahan	37	7-7-3
Doug McNair	20	7-2-3
Eric Abbatiello	40	7-7-7
George Brennan	42	7-7-4
Jack Harris	34	7-4-3
Jim Marohn Jr.	43	7-6-4
Sam Widger	29	7-3-6
Trevor Henry	35	7-4-1

Trainers

Trainer	Wins
Ron Burke	10
Jennifer Bongiorno	7
Nick Surick	7
Vincent Fusco Jr.	7
Richard Moreau	6
Scott Di Domenico	6
Andrew Harris	5
Gerard Demers	4
James Clouser Jr.	4
Jessica Roegner	4
Max Walton	4
Rene Allard	4
Rick Dane Jr	4
William Adamczyk	4