



Harness Racing

WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015



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Empress Deo Racing Like Royalty

Despite being pinned in fourth at the three-quarters with Empress Deo in last Friday's \$17,500 opening-round division of the Burning Point Series at the Meadowlands, driver Brett Miller was able to find room midway through the stretch with the 14-1 longshot and his deft move five wide off the pylons paid off with a victory.

The second round of the Burning Point Series goes post-ward on Friday night, with seven of the eight first-heat combatants returning in action. Empress Deo will start from post 5 with Miller driving. The morning-line choice is the Ron Burke-trained entry of Southwind Serenity and Donttellruss, who respectively finished fourth and fifth in the Burning

Givens bought Empress Deo for \$12,000 at Harrisburg last fall.

Point opener as the 1-2 favorites.

In last week's Burning Point opener, Miller angled Empress Deo to the outside with about 600 feet left in the homestretch, but he still lacked clearance. The opening came when driver

Tim Tetrick urged Witch Dali—who had been on the outside of Empress Deo for much of the mile—forward just enough to allow Miller to find daylight. Completing a final quarter of :27, Empress Deo rallied to edge the pocket-sitting Somenicebeach by a head in 1:51.4. Witch Dali was a neck behind in third in the photo finish.

"She raced great but there is no doubt I got lucky," said Miller. "It showed how good she was, because it wasn't like I was moving her across the track and I was moving forward. I had to back her out and usually when you back a horse out of a hole it doesn't work out. This shows you how good she was.

"She's really been very good all along, I just haven't been getting her in the right spots. I always thought if I could get a trip with her where I didn't have to move her until late, she could beat the good mares."

Miller's drive last time out impressed trainer Wayne Givens. "That race last week, it was unreal," said Givens. "You don't see them back up and then go five or six wide and still have enough left to win. When he called on her and she had enough left to get by them, I thought it was impressive."

A \$27,000 yearling purchase, Empress Deo is a 4-year-old daughter of Rocknroll Hanover out of the Lady Mattingly mare Little Miss K, whose \$530,089 in earnings was bolstered nicely by her victory in the 2005 She's A Great Lady final at Mohawk Racetrack.

Unraced at two, Empress Deo won five of 12 starts and \$35,480 as a 3 year old. She raced in Ohio-based trainer Chris McGuire's barn her first seven starts, before being sold at the Harrisburg mixed sale in November, with Givens bringing the gavel down at \$12,000. The mare now races

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WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

Gingras set to take Big M dash lead—pg. 2

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Dave Briggs' Stretch Call—pg. 6

under the banner of Legacy Racing of DE Inc., which is comprised of Givens' wife, Vicki.

"I was kind of shocked at the price too," Wayne Givens answered with a laugh when asked about the modest purchase. "A lot of times if you don't look you don't know, so I tried to look at as many of them as I could. And I couldn't find anything wrong with her when I looked at her."

The Delaware-based Givens then brought Empress Deo to Dover Downs, where she won her first four starts in December before her streak was broken when she finished second by a nose. In her five starts thus far in 2015, Empress Deo has two wins, including her career-best effort in the opening leg of the series named for the 2006 Older Pacing Mare of the Year. That victory brought Empress Deo's career earnings to \$62,457 (\$55,727 for Givens).—By Gordon Waterstone

Gingras Set To Overtake Tetrick For Big M Dash Lead

Tim Tetrick is off to Australia for the next three weeks, which means he will lose his current one-win lead in the dash standings at the Meadowlands over the first 17 nights of racing in 2015. Tetrick currently holds the top spot with 34 victories, just ahead of Gingras's 33 wins.

This is the first time since 2011 that Gingras didn't have the lead in the dash standings at this point at the Big M, with his trip to France to drive Maven in the Prix d'Amerique costing him three nights here. Tetrick and Brian Sears shared the lead at this time in 2011 with 40 victories, but then Gingras came through with a monster start in 2012 when he posted 52 victories over the first six weeks.

Only Gingras and David Miller, who is currently third in the dash standings with 28 wins, can boast they have been able to rank in the top five in the Big M dash standings each of the past five years. Tetrick missed the distinction last year only because his season was delayed while recovering from his second hip-replacement surgery.

Making his first-ever appearance in the top five this year is Brett Miller, whose decision to compete on a full-time basis at the Meadowlands has paid off as he sits one spot behind his cousin in fourth with 25 wins.

John Campbell is also off to his best start in several years as he rounds out the top five with 17 wins.

Across the border at Woodbine, Sylvain Filion and Trevor Henry currently share the dash lead with 29 victories. Jody Jamieson held the lead at this point in 2011, with Filion, Scott Zeron and Randy Waples at the top the following three years, respectively. Zeron, who has since moved his base to the Meadowlands, currently ranks tied for eighth in the Big M standings with five victories.

Only Jamieson has been able to rank in the top five at this point every year at Woodbine since 2011. Chris Christoforou, who was Canada's O'Brien Award winner as the 2014 Driver of the Year, currently ranks eighth with 16 victories, the same total that had him third at this time last year.—*By Gordon Waterstone*

Meadowlands Dash Standings

Jan. 1-Feb. 11, 2014

Driver	Starts	Wins	Earnings
1. Yannick Gingras	143	38	\$386,017
2. David Miller	140	24	270,469
3. Corey Callahan	98	18	234,140
4. Andy Miller	133	15	170,570
5. John Campbell	128	14	204,100

Jan. 1-Feb. 11, 2015

Driver	Starts	Wins	Earnings
1. Tim Tetrick	180	34	\$429,516
2. Yannick Gingras	128	33	301,439
3. David Miller	192	28	357,935
4. Brett Miller	182	25	335,818
5. John Campbell	161	17	230,081



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, February 13

All times listed are local.

7:25p	Wdb1	The Count B Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
7:38p	M2	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
7:45p	Wdb2	The Count B Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	F&M Open Pace	Trackmaster PPs
9:02p	M6	Burning Point Pace	Trackmaster PPs

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

Saturday, February 14

7:38p	M2	Sonsam Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Open Pace	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR8	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
10:50p	M11	Sonsam Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs

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



Visit www.trackmaster.com and subscribe to download full cards from your favorite tracks!



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2015 EARLY CLOSING EVENTS

MEADOWLANDS EVENTS CLOSE FEBRUARY 15, 2015



2 YEAR OLDS

\$400,000 PETER HAUGHTON MEMORIAL
COLT TROT

\$350,000 MERRIE ANNABELLE
FILLY TROT

3 YEAR OLDS

\$800,000 MEADOWLANDS PACE
OPEN PACE

\$215,000 MISTLETOE SHALEE
FILLY PACE

\$320,000 STANLEY DANCER MEMORIAL
COLT TROT

\$215,000 DEL MILLER MEMORIAL
FILLY TROT

CLOSING MARCH 15, 2015
MEADOWLANDS PACE 2016 2YO
SUSTAINING PAYMENT

NEW IN 2015

\$1,000,000 GRADUATE SERIES
for 4YO TROTTERS & PACERS
3 legs & \$250,000G Final

TVG FREE FOR ALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
for TROTGING & PACING MARES
200,000G Finals

\$175,000 FRESH YANKEE AGED MARE TROT

\$175,000 CONTINENTALVICTORY 3YO FILLY TROT

\$175,000 TARPOT HAP 3YO FILLY PACE

OLDER HORSES

\$175,000 ARTHUR CUTLER MEMORIAL FFA TROT*

\$300,000 JOHN CASHMAN MEMORIAL FFA TROT*

\$475,000 WR HAUGHTON MEMORIAL FFA PACE*

\$260,000 US PACING CHAMPIONSHIP FFA PACE*

\$185,000 GOLDEN GIRLS FFA MARE PACE*

\$180,000 LADY LIBERTY FFA MARE PACE*

\$1,000,000 TVG FFA CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

*denotes leg of TVG championship series

Information & nomination forms for these Meadowlands races are available for download at <http://meadowlandsracetrack.com/News.aspx?id=12220>

**TIOGA DOWNS &
VERNON DOWNS
EVENTS CLOSE
MARCH 15, 2015**



2 YEAR OLD TROTTERS

**\$500,000 KINDERGARTEN
TROTGING CLASSIC**

(with increased consolation purse in 2015)

NY SIRED 3 YEAR OLDS

**\$1,000,000 EMPIRE
BREEDERS CLASSIC**

OLDER HORSES

\$175,000 ARTISCAPE FFA MARE PACE

\$175,000 MUSCLE HILL FFA MARE TROT

\$175,000 CRAWFORD FARMS FFA TROT

\$175,000 ROLL WITH JOE FFA PACE

\$100,000 MISS VERSATILITY FFA MARE TROTGING SERIES

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

***ALL PURSES NOT LISTED AS GUARANTEED (G) ARE ESTIMATES**



BREEDING

Banter

Foals are being born and stallions are beginning to make trips to the breeding shed. Father Patrick, the 3-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year in 2014, is going to be breeding to service a limited number of mares and remain in training for a 2015 racing campaign. He is based at trainer Jimmy Takter's farm in Allentown, N.J., but will take a short trailer ride down to Walnridge Farm for his breeding sessions.

"We bred him for practice yesterday (Feb. 9) and everything went great," said Wal-

nridge's Dr. Richard Meirs, who has worked with many stallions over the years. "He was a happy boy."

The first offspring by Pet Rock was born at Midland Acres last week. Armbro Wichita (Western Hanover-Bruce's Lady) gave birth to a colt by Pet Rock on Feb. 5. This baby carries a 4x2 cross to Western Hanover. The mare's best offspring to date might be her now 3-year-old colt The Wayfaring Man p,2, 1:52.2.

A look at the Meadowlands program for Saturday night easily prompts a discussion about breeding. There are quite a few young, green horses entered, and Race 4 is loaded with sophomores with little experience.

I'm going to pay attention to the start of Race 4, specifically horses 3 and 4 behind the gate. That's because the two are full brothers, both sons of Rocknroll Hanover-Michelle's Victory: Rock Fame (a 4 year old) and his younger brother Rocknroll Victory. (The race also includes the sophomore Cousin Brucie, the first foal of \$2.3 million winner Southwind Tempo. Cousin Brucie is also by Rocknroll Hanover.)

Both Rock Fame and Rocknroll Victory were bred by Jeff Snyder, who campaigned Rocknroll Hanover and also bred the unraced Michelle's Victory. Snyder raced Rock Fame in partnership with Robert Unice, but last fall sold his interest to Unice.

Ed Hart trained Rock Fame early in his career and also trains Rocknroll Victory and Michelle's Victory's 2 year old, Michael's Victory. When the two horses line up behind the gate, Hart said you won't see carbon copies.

"Rock Fame is a bigger, longer horse. They really don't look alike. They don't even have the same coloring," said Hart.

Hart said Rock Fame was lazy as a young horse while the 3-year-old Rocknroll Victory, who is making his first career start Saturday night, showed more spunk earlier in his development.

"I've always liked Rocknroll Victory more than his older brother, but just when we were about ready for him to race last year he hurt an ankle. He suffered a slight hairline fracture of his pastern, so we had to give him some time," Hart explained. "But both of them are good-gaited horses." — *By Kathy Parker*

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ENTERTAINMENT

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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LATE CLOSING EVENTS

Event 10 – Pace – Fillies & Mares
“ARTISTIC VISION”
 N/W of 4 pari-mutuel races or \$100,00 lifetime

1. Nominating Fee: February 15	\$ 800
2. Friday, April 17	\$ 22,500
3. Friday, April 24	\$ 22,500
4. FINAL: Saturday, May 2.....	\$ 35,000 A
(Est. \$ 75,000 E)	

Event 11 – Pace – Horses & Geldings
“WHATA BARON”
 N/W of 4 pari-mutuel races or \$100,00 lifetime

1. Nominating Fee: February 15	\$ 800
2. Saturday, April 18	\$ 22,500
3. Saturday, April 25	\$ 22,500
4. FINAL: Saturday, May 2.....	\$ 35,000 A
(Est. \$ 75,000 E)	

Event 12 – Trot – 3YO
“GIANT VICTORY”
 N/W of 2 pari-mutuel races (F&M 3) or \$30,000 lifetime
 (F&M \$40,000) W/O \$75,000 lifetime ineligible

1. Nominating Fee: February 15	\$ 800
2. Friday, April 17	\$ 15,000
3. Friday, April 24	\$ 15,000
4. FINAL: Saturday, May 2.....	\$ 35,000 A
(Est. \$ 60,000 E)	

NOMINATIONS CLOSE FEBRUARY 15

ELIGIBILITY UP TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 15, 2015

ONE CHECK (US FUNDS) PAYABLE TO AND MAIL TO:
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Telephone No.: _____ **Fax No.:** _____

Trainer: _____ **Telephone No.:** _____

E-mail: _____

Please provide the following information for each nominated horse:

Event #	Name of Horse <i>(If Changed, Give Original Name Also)</i>	Age	Sex	Gait	Sire	Dam

STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

Are Answers Finally Coming As To Why Ontario Killed Slots?

Three years after the Ontario government first indicated it was cancelling the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP), we may finally be getting some answers as to why the province ended the lucrative partnership thanks to an important court decision made this week in Guelph.

On Monday, as part of the \$65 million lawsuit brought by a large group of Ontario breeders against the province and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming corporation (OLG), Justice Michael Emery ordered the defendants to produce un-redacted internal documents pertaining to the government's decision to cancel SARP. That includes documents from former premier Dalton McGuinty, current premier Kathleen Wynne, former OLG chair Paul Godfrey and former finance minister Dwight Duncan regarding their involvement in cancelling the program and the decision to compensate race-track owners, but not breeders.

It's a huge step toward the truth about why the government suddenly, and with little notice, cancelled its most successful gaming sector, one that was incredibly profitable for all partners and provided more than 60 percent of the province's purses.

That assumes, of course, that the Liberal government didn't delete those documents along with the ones it deleted regarding a controversial decision, made during an election, to move two gas plants under construction in hotly contested electoral ridings (districts). That decision cost taxpayers \$1.1 billion and the destruction of documents is currently under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police.

All this comes as Friday marks three years to the day that Duncan first spelled out SARP's demise in a speech at the Economic Club of Canada. In that speech, Duncan falsely called the program a subsidy and said it was under review. One month later, the OLG officially announced it was exercising an out clause in the SARP contracts with the industry,

a clause that gave the industry just one year's notice that the revenue-sharing program would end.

Breeders clearly took the brunt of the blow when SARP was cancelled. They allege they suffered irreparable harm because a sharp and sudden reduction in purses greatly reduced the value of horses they paid handsomely to produce prior to the surprise announcement the program was being terminated.

Many theories have been floated ever since as to why the cash-strapped government ended SARP rather than simply tweaking its revenue-sharing formula. Getting answers as to what led to such a colossal blunder would certainly be nice, and Ontario breeders are to be commended for having the gravitas to push for those answers and compensation — particularly after three extremely trying years.

Many theories have been floated ever since as to why the cash-strapped government ended SARP.... Ontario breeders are to be commended for having the gravitas to push for those answers and compensation.

It appears the breeders' lawyers are building a strong case against the government. Yet, this most recent ruling may be the strongest and most important one to date.

Justice Emery's ruling noted that in, "a case of this magnitude, the law should favour a generous interpretation of disclosure requirements" and that standardbred breeders "are entitled to proper disclosure.

"This case involves too much money, and too many people whose livelihoods depend on a fair and transparent discovery process."

It all will be cold comfort to anyone among the 9,000 estimated to have lost their jobs in Ontario's sizeable horse racing sector as a direct result of SARP inexplicably being cancelled. That damage is done.

But getting to the truth is of extreme importance to every racing jurisdiction currently, or soon to be, in bed with government over advanced gaming, if only to learn how to avoid Ontario's mistakes.



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.





SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 15TH

Little Brown Jug #70
Open 3 Year Old Pace

Old Oaken Bucket #48
Open 3 Year Old Trot

Jugette #45
Pace for 3 Year Old Fillies

Buckette #48
Trot for 3 Year Old Fillies

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Jugette Sustaining Fee	\$500
Old Oaken Bucket Colt & Gelding Sustaining Fee	\$500
Buckette Sustaining Fee	\$400

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Horse	Sire	Dam	Sex	Gait	Jug	Jugette	Bucket	Buckette

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Purse Distribution Changes At Delaware

Sustaining payments for the sophomore pacing classics Little Brown Jug and Jugette, Old Oaken Bucket (3-year-old open trot) and the Buckette (3-year-old filly trot) are due Feb. 17. These payments are for foals of 2012.

In addition, the racing officials have also elected to pay all purses based on the 50%-25%-12%-8%-5% purse distribution schedule. In previous years the purse distribution has awarded the winner 45%.

The Little Brown Jug and Old Oaken Bucket will be raced Thursday, Sept. 24, and the Jugette and Buckette on Wednesday, Sept. 23. The 2014 Little Brown Jug attracted 16 entries and went for a record purse of \$647,500. The \$298,100 Jugette drew 22 entries. The Old Oaken Bucket and Buckette were contested for \$118,300 and \$89,475, respectively.

The 2015 Delaware Grand Circuit meet will have other notable changes. The meet will return to five days of racing (Sunday, Sept. 20, through Thursday, Sept. 24). Monday's card will have a special 3 p.m. post. Sunday and Tuesday will go postward at 1 p.m. The Jugette and Jug cards will retain their traditional 11 am start times.

For more information or copies of the payment forms, please visit <http://www.littlebrownjug.com/>. Make checks payable and send all entries to: The Delaware County Fair, Tom Wright, P.O. Box 1560, Powell, Ohio 43065. (Delaware County Fair)

Tetrick's Journey For World Title Begins

Tim Tetrick, the U.S. representative in the 2015 World Driving Championship (WDC) that takes place Feb. 21-March 1 in the Australian state of New South Wales, left Wednesday night for his trip Down Under with his wife, Ashley.

The Tetricks first stop is New Zealand, where in preparation for the 20-race WDC that covers six different racetracks, "TT" lined up a drive on Friday night at Alexandra Park. He will drive the Tony Herlihy-trained The Fascinator race, starting from post 6.

The Tetricks will remain in New Zealand for a few days of sightseeing before heading to Australia for the first leg of the WDC on Feb. 21 at the seven-eighths mile Menangle racetrack outside of Sydney. After five stops at the other tracks, the WDC final will be held at Menangle on Sunday, March 1, in conjunction with the Inter Dominion Grand final.

Also making the WDC trip from North America is Canadian representative Jody Jamieson, who won the 2001 WDC in Finland/Sweden and the 2011 WDC in the U.S. Also participating are: Pierre Verduyts (defending champion, France); Knud Monster (Denmark); Tony le Beller (France); Dexter Dunn (New Zealand); Vidar Hop (Norway); Guillermo Adrover (Spain); Mika Forss (Finland); and Chris Alford (Australia). Australia's Peter McMullen has been designated a "reserve" to fill in for any driver who is unable to participate in any race.

Here is the complete schedule for the 2015 World Driving Championship:

- Saturday, Feb. 21 — Menangle (2 races)
- Sunday, Feb. 22 — Newcastle (3 races)
- Monday, Feb. 23 — Goulborn (3 races)
- Tuesday, Feb. 24 — Wagga (4 races)
- Wednesday, Feb. 25 — Bathurst (4 races)
- Thursday, Feb. 26 — Penrith (3 races)
- Sunday, March 1 — Menangle (1 race)

Hoosier Classic Sale Dates Set; No Indiana Premier

Hoosier Classic Sale Company has released the sale dates for the 2015 Hoosier Classic Select Yearling Sale. The auction will be held Oct. 23-24 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

Victory Hill Farm and Black Creek Farm will be joining the 2015 consignor roster. According to auction manager Steve Cross, "We are extremely excited to have Victory Hill and Black Creek on board. Both farms bring a very marketable consignment to the table and we believe buyers will be very enthusiastic about this year's catalog."

The Indiana Premier Sale will not be conducted this year. Randy Manges, who has managed the Indiana Premier Sale, said the decline in the size of the Indiana foal crop, and thus the number of available entries, was the reason it will not be held in 2015.

Continues on page 9 >>>

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Auction Sales Data	NO	YES
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Race Replay Links	NO	YES
Result Chart Links	NO	YES

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Always B Miki To Be Trained By Takter

Jimmy Takter will be training 2014 Tattersalls Pace winner Always B Miki for the upcoming 2015 racing season. Always B Miki was the betting favorite for the 2014 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace when he showed lameness in the post parade and was scratched. He was diagnosed with a P-1 (long pastern) fracture and underwent surgery.

"Dr. Patty Hogan cleared him to go back to the track about a week ago and we were considering several trainers, but when you consider that Jimmy brought American Jewel back after she suffered a P-1 fracture, he seemed like a perfect choice," said Mitchel Skolnick, who shares ownership of the 4-year-old son of Always A Virgin as Bluewood Stable. Joe Hurley's Roll The Dice Stable also owns the colt. Val d'Or Farm sold its interest in the colt last fall.

Bluewood Stable member Bob Boni talked with Takter about taking Always B Miki. "When I asked Jimmy if he had room for a horse, he asked me if it was a good one," shared Boni. "I told Jimmy that he has no particular schedule and we'll make him eligible to the top races. If he's healthy, he'll have a very good year."

Always B Miki has been recovering from the surgery at Skolnick's Bluestone Farm in New Jersey. "He's about a month ahead of schedule. The x-rays are so good that Dr. Hogan thought he was fine to return to the track for jogging on Feb. 1. Originally, she had said to expect him to be ready around March 1. He's feeling so good you can see that he needs to be back," said Skolnick.

Trained by Joe Holloway as a 2 and 3 year old, Always B Miki took a mark of 1:53.1 as a 2 year old and 1:47.4 last year at age 3. He's earned \$926,866, with his 2014 season including two victories during the Grand Circuit stand in Lexington (Tattersalls and Bluegrass) and the Indiana Sires Stakes Super Final and Monument Circle at Hoosier Park. He finished second in the Meadowlands Pace after starting from post 9. — *harnessracing.com*

Melady's Monet "A Blessing"

Melady's Monet is painting a picture of success this winter at the Meadowlands and the 6-year-old trotter's connections hope his artistry continues into the upcoming stakes season.

But no matter what decisions the horse's connections make in the future, they will be secondary to the choices that led to his present.

Melady's Monet, who has won five of six starts since arriving at the Meadowlands in November and is the 4-5 morning line favorite in Friday's open handicap, is a son of Revenue out of the mare Keystone Melady. The mare was owned by Luca and Ester Balenzano when she suffered a career-ending fracture at Pompano Park two days before Christmas 2005.

The injury was severe and veterinarians recommended euthanizing Keystone Melady, but Luca Balenzano wanted to try

to save the mare. Keystone Melady underwent successful surgery and the Balenzanos decided to keep her as a broodmare.

The couple's first two breeding attempts resulted in one horse making it to the races, but little success. The Balenzanos were ready to give up on the idea, but friend Tom Faulhaber suggested breeding the mare to Revenue S. The result was Melady's Monet.

"It was getting to the point where we said we were getting too old for this and maybe we should adopt her out, (but) we thought we'd give it one more shot," Ester Balenzo said. "We were lucky enough to get (Melady's Monet). He is a blessing."

Melady's Monet has won 24 of 88 career races and earned \$420,183 for the Balenzanos' Melady Enterprises LLC. As a 3 year old, then in the stable of trainer Taylor Gower, the trotter won the New Jersey Sire Stakes Green Acres championship at Freehold and in subsequent seasons found success in the open handicaps at Yonkers.

In September, Melady's Monet arrived in the stable of trainer Kevin McDermott. In his first start for McDermott, the gelding finished second to Bee A Magician in a conditioned handicap at Harrah's Philadelphia, kicking off a string of 13 races in which he has finished worse than second only once. He established his career mark of 1:52 in November at the Big M.

The plan is to keep Melady's Monet near McDermott's base in New Jersey, but make the horse eligible to events such as the TVG Free For All Series, John Cashman Jr. Memorial and Crawford Farms Trot.

"I want to keep him at home," Ester said. "I really don't want to ship him. I'm very protective of him. I don't just think of this year; I hope he's another Arch Madness. I want to race him until he's 8, 9, 10. I always tell Kevin, I want to protect this horse."

"I plan on giving him a little time off in the spring. I want him to be fresh for the races that are coming up in the late spring and early summer."

Melady's Monet enters Friday's open handicap off a three-length victory over Take My Picture in 1:55.1 on Jan. 30 at the Meadowlands. It was the horse's first start in 28 days, a layoff necessitated by a quarter crack.

"The owners wanted to give him time and get him right," McDermott said. "He's been a different horse since. The owners deserve all the credit. They love this horse. They did right by saving the mare and they deserve what they got."

"He's just an incredible horse." (HRC)

New Format For Dan Patch

Hoosier Park Racing & Casino is set to begin its 22nd season of live harness racing on Friday, March 27, with several new and important changes to the stakes schedule. One of the most highly anticipated days on the 2015 harness racing calendar will take place on Friday, Aug. 14, as the Dan Patch

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takes center stage once again. Boasting an increased purse for the 2015 edition, the Dan Patch will serve as Indiana's richest harness race but will take on a new format beginning in 2015.

Historically, the Dan Patch has been an invitational race with Hoosier Park's racing secretary, inheriting the responsibility of recruiting the best horses to compete in the event every year. However, when the Dan Patch returns for its 22nd edition in 2015, it will be raced under a new and improved format.

In conjunction with the Hambletonian Society, The Dan Patch will now be raced as an early closer, which requires a nomination and sustaining payment the same year in which the race will be contested. By making the switch and increasing the purse, Hoosier Park is hoping to attract the top pacers in the country that may not have previously considered racing in the Dan Patch.

To begin, a nomination fee of \$500 is due on Feb. 15, 2015 for all horses wishing to compete in the 2015 Dan Patch. After the initial fee, the nominated horses will be eligible to be sustained to the 2015 edition of the race by making a \$2,000 payment on March 15.

The purse for the 2015 Dan Patch is estimated to be \$300,000 with the field being comprised of the top 10 highest lifetime money earners. Once the field is established, an entrance fee of \$2,500 will be required.

For the second consecutive year, the winner of the 2015 Dan Patch Invitational will get an automatic nomination to the 2015 edition of the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby slated for Friday, Oct. 30. All nomination fees will

be waived but in the event the winner of the Dan Patch Invitational has already been nominated to the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby, a refund of all fees will be given upon declaration. (*Hoosier Park*)

Louisville Downs Grandstand Being Razed

The old Louisville Downs in Louisville, Ky., is being razed. Churchill Downs, which has owned the track since 1992, is in the process of tearing down the grandstand which featured a distinctive red and white awning.

After Churchill Downs bought the property in 1992, it was known as Sports Spectrum and Trackage and used as a simulcast wagering outlet and training facility. The track and barns will continue being used as a training facility.

"It was deteriorating so rapidly we needed to go ahead and take it down," Churchill spokesman John Asher told the Louisville Courier-Journal.

The late William H. King ran Louisville Downs during the track's heyday, which included King introducing phone wagering. The track opened for harness racing in 1966 and played host to many of the sport's greats, with the legendary Niatross winning the 1979 Kentucky Pacing Derby.

Send Get-Well Wishes To Doug Miller

Horseman Doug Miller suffered an abdominal aneurysm, underwent surgery and is hospitalized. Get-well wishes can be sent to Miller at Bethesda Hospital East, Douglas Miller—Room 2026 Bed 7; 2815 South Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, Fla. 33435.



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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 10, 2015 (week difference Feb. 4-10).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Not Afraid (6tg)	5	3	1	0	\$68,150
Take It Back Terry (6pg)	6	1	4	0	52,500
Marquise De Sarah (5pm)	5	4	0	0	50,844
JL Cruze (4tg)	5	4	1	0	48,750
Nickle Bag (5pg)	5	2	2	0	42,670
Set Me Up (6pm)	5	2	0	1	42,000
Doctor Butch (5ph)	5	2	1	1	41,075
Sapphire City (7pg)	5	2	0	1	40,950
Count Me In (6tg)	5	3	0	1	39,700
Company Man (4pg)	4	2	1	0	39,005
For The Ladies N (6pm)	4	2	1	1	37,000
Artistic Fusion (4pm)	4	4	0	0	36,920
Donttellruss (4pm)	5	3	1	0	36,455
Papa Ray (6ph)	5	2	1	1	36,125
Witch Dali (4pm)	4	2	1	1	35,960

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	415	86-66-61	.345	\$777,933 (\$138,241)
Ron Pierce	341	68-54-49	.335	623,015 (127,925)
Jason Bartlett	222	32-57-32	.335	557,542 (132,207)
Aaron Merriman	466	96-70-57	.330	524,853 (115,334)
George Brennan	200	34-32-24	.299	509,612 (80,962)
Daniel Dube	179	41-21-27	.345	506,895 (125,535)
Tim Tetrick	190	36-24-27	.307	442,956 (37,995)
Dave Palone	213	53-26-26	.357	404,104 (57,702)
Trevor Henry	221	43-32-26	.314	382,090 (79,737)
Mike Wilder	225	41-40-32	.328	379,216 (77,709)
Jim MacDonald	237	33-38-27	.266	375,024 (51,498)
Brian Sears	148	25-22-21	.299	372,340 (82,725)
Sylvain Filion	167	29-28-21	.309	367,426 (67,064)
David Miller	192	28-26-21	.258	357,935 (47,035)
Eric Carlson	187	17-22-25	.201	341,070 (70,755)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	270	67-47-29	.381	\$850,407 (\$179,613)
Richard Moreau	159	32-26-21	.336	337,934 (69,380)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	175	44-19-27	.363	324,059 (54,624)
Carmen Auciello	185	18-26-17	.206	297,396 (42,692)
Jeffrey Bamond Jr.	68	10-15-11	.324	174,255 (50,555)
Dylan Davis	79	21-10-7	.366	172,540 (44,115)
Wayne Givens	85	15-14-12	.315	168,638 (26,745)
Mark Ford	139	11-11-17	.164	168,579 (34,717)
Joe Cirusuola	54	14-13-9	.449	164,912 (20,672)
Eric Ell	48	16-10-3	.470	159,745 (31,125)
Jose Godinez	67	11-10-8	.287	159,581 (25,245)
Pat Lachance	64	11-8-9	.288	150,434 (35,250)
Linda Toscano	42	10-9-5	.397	148,329 (8,200)
Rob Harmon	73	14-11-11	.326	147,001 (39,250)
Nick Surick	104	21-9-12	.288	143,965 (23,845)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	460	135	173	\$1,394,261
Winbak Farm	383	121	154	1,026,086
Brittany Farms	117	42	61	448,173
Perretti Farms	145	44	57	444,690
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	84	35	42	317,340
White Birch Farm	57	25	31	259,113
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	106	25	33	254,296
Al Libfeld	38	15	21	203,045
Walnut Hall Limited	55	20	31	197,853
Frederick Hertrich III	60	18	22	194,657
Arlene & Jules Siegel	52	14	17	194,591
Robert J. Key	63	20	24	187,305
Seelster Farms Inc.	74	24	31	184,279
VAE LLC	42	15	18	176,668
Midland Acres Inc.	61	24	32	173,490

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 4-10 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	76	25-13-4
Aaron Merriman	85	22-10-10
Corey Callahan	72	16-12-11
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	43	14-4-9
Ron Pierce	70	14-12-10
Jim Marohn Jr.	49	12-11-3
Trevor Henry	36	12-4-3
Josh Sutton	57	11-5-6
Billy Dobson	34	10-9-3
Daniel Dube	38	10-6-5
Jason Bartlett	45	10-10-7
Kevin Cummings	32	10-2-6
Yannick Gingras	35	9-5-3
Dan Noble	55	8-5-5
Dave Palone	43	8-2-5
Eric Abbatiello	36	8-3-2
Kayne Kauffman	50	8-12-10
Victor Kirby	39	8-4-4

Trainers

	Wins
Ron Burke	15
Richard Moreau	8
Virgil Morgan Jr.	8
Dylan Davis	6
Gary Messenger	6
Tracy Brainard	6
Daniel Gill	5
Denise Maier	5
J.D. Perrin	5
Kimberly Asher	5
Neal Russo	5
Nick Surick	5
Tim Hall	5
Alex Giuliani	4
Amber Buter	4
Benjamin Wallace	4
Bob Johnson	4
Eric Ell	4
Jeff Bamond Jr.	4
John Mungillo	4
Kris Hite	4