Annihilation Set To Make Career Debut

Trainer Kelvin Harrison will unveil a first-time starter on Saturday night at the Meadowlands in Annihilation, a 3-year-old gelded son of Bettor’s Delight. Harrison said he had high hopes last year for Annihilation, but soreness forced him to scrap plans and delay his debut until now.

“He was my best colt last year and he sored up with some bone disease, so I just gave him some time,” said Harrison, who shares ownership of the $40,000 yearling purchase with Richard Polilucci. “I gave him six months off and brought him back quietly.”

Annihilation will start from post 2 in Race 3, a $10,000 conditioned pace for non-winners of two pari-mutuel races or $20,000 lifetime. Brett Miller will drive.

Annihilation comes into the race off one qualifying effort, that being a third-place finish on Feb. 9 at the Meadowlands. With Ron Cushing driving, Annihilation closed from seventh at the half to finish third, beaten three lengths and race-timed in 1:55. Rallying from 8 ¼ lengths back at the half, Annihilation posted an unofficial back half of :56.2 to narrow the gap.

Harrison said he hoped to get a second qualifier for Annihilation, but because he would have been forced to race against older horses, he decided to put the gelding on the pari-mutuel trail.

“If I had another opportunity to qualify him with his own age group I would, but I don’t,” said Harrison. “So he’s better off going into non-winners of two. He qualified nice.”

Annihilation is a full brother to Sir Cary’s Z Tam, who took a mark of 1:50.2 and earned $440,927 for trainer Pat Lachance. He is also a half brother to Northern Soiree 1:52.1 ($160,629).

“He’s got a little pedigree to him,” said Harrison. “He’s a Bettor’s Delight, who are pretty much underachievers training and pretty much overachievers racing. He doesn’t put a lot of vigor into his training; last year he did when he was a colt, but this year he has been very, very relaxed.”

Harrison’s faith in Annihilation is evident in the fact that he sent the Feb. 15 payments in on many stakes.

“What’s inside . . .

Hoosier principals stake MVG favorite — pg. 2
Harness racing represented at Olympics — pg. 4
Carl Becker reflects on career — pg. 5
Prix de France results — pg. 7
Hannelore Hanover to be bred with ET — pg. 7
Breeding Banter — pg. 8
EHV-1 update — pg. 9

“Yeah, I staked him up pretty good,” Harrison concluded. “I made those Feb. 15 payments and in two or three weeks he will tell me more. But he’s been pretty impressive training down. I like his chances.” — By Gordon Waterstone
**Hoosier Park Principals Have Horse In Action At MVG**

Despite having a few scratches every card due to the EHV-1 outbreak and quarantine of barns, there are plenty of healthy horses filling the cards at Miami Valley Gaming. The track has a 12-race card on Friday night that includes two divisions of the Elite Survivor claiming series and several overnights for pacing mares.

Among the pacing overnights is a $15,000 conditioned event for mares that raced for a claiming price of $20,000 or less in their previous start. The 5-2 second choice in the seven-horse Race 5 field is Melanie's Sharkette, a mare trained by Michigan native Joe Putnam.

With the collapse of the Michigan harness racing industry, Putnam moved to Indiana and serves as a director of the Indiana Standardbred Association. He shares ownership of Melanie's Sharkette with Hoosier Park principals Rod Ratcliff and Jim Brown (and his wife, Deborah). The group's horses race under the banner of the Shining MPRB Stable.

“The MPRB stands for McKenzie, which is Deborah's maiden name, plus P for Putnam, R for Ratcliff and B for Brown,” explained Putnam.

The ownership stable was started 2 ½ years ago, “to get some horses and have some fun,” said Putnam. “We've had 10 to 12 horses altogether and have five currently racing.”

Because Ratcliff and Brown have ownership and/or management positions at Hoosier Park, the Shining MPRB horses must race outside the state of Indiana.

Shining MPRB Stable acquired Melanie's Sharkette by claiming her on Jan. 23 for about $18,000 out of one of Miami Valley’s Claim To Fame Series.

“We had watched her and looked her over and thought she would fit,” said Putnam. “We’ve had pretty good luck with fillies and mares and we wanted a mid to upper-level horse.”

Although a stakes-placed filly at age two, Melanie's Sharkette took her lifetime mark of 1:51.1f last year at age five at Pocono Downs while racing for trainer Gilbert Garcia-Herrera. She has $194,731 in career earnings and thus far in 2018 has one win and a second in four starts. She finished second on Feb. 9 at Miami Valley, beaten by Twin B Honour, who she faces again this week, with Twin B Honour starting from post 1 and Melanie from post 6.

“She should be competitive in this group again,” said Putnam of Friday night's race.

Melanie's Sharkette is one of 40 horses in Putnam's stable, which includes 17 two year olds. A few of the 2 year olds are owned by the Shining MPRB Stable.

“When we initially put this together, we combined race-horses with young horses so we could fund the operation,” shared Putnam. “We’ve done OK with the racehorses but we haven’t really hit it big with a young horse yet.”— By Kathy Parker
Next Level Breeding

Why breed to an Indiana stallion?

$33 million+ earned by Indiana-sired horses in 2017 across the country.

$23 million+ earned by Indiana-sired horses in 2017 that raced at Hoosier Park.

The top 5 Indiana Stallions in 2017:
Swan For All
Rockin Image
Always A Virgin
Jailhouse Jesse
Shadyshark Hanover

Beckhams Z Tam
New stallion standing in 2018
2017 Breeders Crown Champion
Standing: Indy Lane Stables

INIANASTANDARDBRED BREED DEVELOPMENT
IN.gov/hrc/sb.htm
Harness Racing Represented In Olympics Hockey

The U.S. men’s hockey team got off to a slow start in the Olympics on Wednesday, losing in overtime to Slovenia 3-2. Cheering on Team USA competing in South Korea is Canadian horseman Brad Maxwell, whose 26-year-old son, Brandon, is a goalie helping to bring home the gold medal. The first round won’t be easy for Team USA as their group also includes Slovakia and Russia.

Born in Orlando, Fla., Brandon went to high school in Ann Arbor, Mich., and was a sixth-round draft pick by the Colorado Avalanche in 2009. He declined that offer and instead played in the Ontario Hockey League for three years and for the University of Guelph for one year.

In 2013, Brandon signed a contract playing in Sweden. He still plays in Europe, primarily in the Czech Republic. According to a recent story in the Orlando Sentinel, Brandon is 14-22-0 this year with the Czech team Mlada Boleslav BK, with a 2.42 goals-against average and a .920 saves percentage. One of three goalies on Team USA, he did not play in the opening-round loss against Slovenia.

“All he wanted to do was play hockey,” Brad told the Sentinel. “Go to school and play hockey. That was his whole life.”

This isn’t the first time a person involved with harness racing has played on an Olympic ice hockey team. NHL star and Swedish trotting horse owner Peter Forsberg played for his home country in four Olympics, winning gold medals in 1994 and 2006. Among Forsberg’s better-known horses were Adrian Chip, who finished second in the 2007 Hambletonian and World Trotting Derby and was third in the Yonkers Trot, and Tsar D’Inverne, who was second in the 2004 Maple Leaf Trot.

Also, twin brothers Daniel and Henrik Sedin were two-time Olympians for Sweden, also playing on the 2006 gold-medal winning team. The Sedins owned 2013 Elitlopp champ Nahar.—By Gordon Waterstone

ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS IN MAINE, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, IOWA, WISCONSIN AND ALBERTA

Legislative changes in California have made offspring by stallions in Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Alberta, Canada eligible to the revamped California Standardbred Sires Stakes program (for pacers only).

To be eligible for the 2018 breeding season, stallions must be nominated to the California Sires Stakes program by the extended date of April 1, 2018.

Inquiries to: California Sires Stakes 916-919-7469 csssc@chhaonline.com

Nomination forms can also be obtained at: chhaonline.com
Carl Becker Reflects On Hall Of Fame Career

Carl Becker was barely a teenager when he provided play-by-play for a summer softball league in Altamont, Ill., but at that moment he knew he wanted a career behind a microphone. Becker’s election to harness racing’s Communicators Hall of Fame is the result of his ambitions fulfilled, although not exactly as he imagined during those early days.

“I thought I was the next Cardinals baseball broadcaster; I had no doubt in my mind that’s what I was going to be,” Becker said with a laugh as he recalled his start. “Things took a little turn. It worked out the best for all of us, including the Cardinals fans probably.”

Becker, who has spent more than five decades calling horseraces, will be honored at the Dan Patch Awards banquet in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 25, with his official enshrinement in the Communicators Hall of Fame coming July 1 at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

“It’s a tremendous honor when you think about the people that are in the Hall and the ones that are going in,” Becker said. “It’s something I didn’t expect and I really appreciate it.”

Becker’s introduction to harness racing came at the Effingham County Fair in Altamont.

“I would watch the horseraces and I loved them,” Becker said. “When I got to high school, my buddies and I would pick a number and play for a penny or a nickel. I couldn’t get away from it. I liked the excitement of it. I had a favorite horse named Trigger Colleen. When he raced at Altamont I was on edge the night before and couldn’t wait to see what happened the next day. It just kind of grew from there.”

His path to the racetrack announcer’s booth was gradual, but his career picked up steam quickly once he headed that direction. Becker graduated from the University of Illinois, where he majored in agricultural education and minored in animal science, and spent five years as a teacher. He was 27 when he began calling races regularly at the fairs and soon found himself on some of the sport’s biggest stages.

“The announcing part, I thought I could do that,” Becker said. “It all just fell into place. I just thoroughly enjoy watching horses race. We would have some very competitive races at the county fairs.

“I did the Illinois State Fair, and that was a dream come true. Back then, the Grand Circuit went from Springfield to Indianapolis to Du Quoin, and The Red Mile was a few weeks later. I did the Illinois State Fair, and I did Indiana, and Du Quoin and The Red Mile. It was a six-week period and it was exciting. I saw all the great drivers, all the great horses. It just was a real trip.”

Two of Becker’s many memorable days occurred in 1980. The first was Billy Haughton winning the final Hambletonian Stakes at Du Quoin with Burgomeister, a horse owned by his late son Peter, who had died in a car accident earlier that year. The second was Niatross’ 1:49.1 world record time trial at The Red Mile, which marked the first time a horse broke the 1:50 barrier.

“Two of the greatest moments in harness racing I was fortunate to be part of. The Haughton win with Burgomeister and the Niatross time trial, to this day I haven’t seen anything like it.”

–Carl Becker

Becker took a little turn. It worked out the best for all of us, including the Cardinals fans probably. “I was very blessed,” Becker said. “Two of the greatest moments in harness racing I was fortunate to be part of. The Haughton win with Burgomeister, there were a lot of tears flowing. It was a very emotional time. “The Niatross time trial, to this day I haven’t seen anything like it. The emotion was unbelievable. When he hit the wire the crowd erupted. People were rushing onto the track wanting to touch the horse. (Trainer/driver) Clint Galbraith was so generous and so good; he spent a lot extra time on the track making sure people did get to touch Niatross.”

Other top races for Becker included Workaholic’s win in the first Breeders Crown in 1984, the world-record 1:51.2 dead heat between Jaguar Spur and Laag in 1987, and Trim The Tree’s world-record 1:53.3 mile in the rain in 1982. All three were at The Red Mile.

Becker’s career in harness racing has also involved owning and breeding horses as well as serving as a pedigree reader for numerous auctions. The 80 year old remains active as a pedigree reader and still calls races at the fairs.

“I do seven or eight fairs a year now,” Becker said. “I do as many as they ask me to do. It’s fun. My son Kurt does a few fairs when he’s home. Between us we do most of the fairs in the area.”

Becker’s enthusiasm for harness racing has been a key to his success.

“You have to be excited about what you’re doing,” Becker said. “If you’re not excited, it’s hard to call races. For two minutes, you have to put something into it. I believe it’s always come naturally because I’ve always felt that way. I’ve always been excited.”

To finding everything and anything in harness racing! www.harnessracing.com/guide

From accountants to veterinarians and everything in between, the online Harness Racing Guide is the industry’s #1 source for business listings, with names, addresses, phone numbers and email. Bookmark it today!
New York Pacers

**ARTISCAPE** - $4,000
p, 2; 1:50.4f, 3; 1:48.2f ($1,777,768)
Artiscape-Delilah Account-O The Road Again
- Sire of 2017 NYSS Final Winner, **Jersey Jim**, p, 2, 1:54.1h -'17 ($177,488)
- Sire of 8 Millionaires

**BOLT THE DUEER** - $4,000
p, 2; 1:51; 3; 1:47.4f ($1,828,995)
Ponder-Wonderbolt-Artiscape
- Winner of Adios in World Record 1:47.4
- Oldest crop now yearlings

**HESTON BLUE CHIP** - $5,000
p, 2; 1:50.4f; 3; 1:48f ($1,777,768)
American Ideal-Shot Togo Bluechip-Cam's Card Shark
- Winner of Breeders Crown Final against **Sweet Lou & Thinking Out Loud**
- First crop yearlings averaged $39,667 at 2017 Lexington. First crop now 2

**ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN** - $5,500
p, 2; 1:50.2; 3; 1:47.3 ($2,748,818)
Rocknroll Hanover-Artiscope Artisan-Artiscope
- Harness Hall of Fame Inductee
- Sire of **Blazin Bwitches**, p, 3; 1:48.4 -'17 ($540,424)

Delaware Pacers

**ARTZINA** - $2,000
p, 2; 1:51.1f; 3; 1:51.1f ($781,184)
Artiscope-Kouzina-No Nukes
- Sire of **Use Your Noodle**, p, 1:50.11 -'17 ($232,260)
- Sire of **Quick Art**, p, 1:50.1s ($193,426)

**BADLANDS HANOVER** - $4,000
p, 2; 1:50 ($754,772)
Western Hanover-Behave Hanover-Tyler B
- Sire of 4 Millionaires on 2 Continents
- Offspring have earned $68,470,510

**DELMARVALOUS** - $3,000
p, 2; 1:52.3f; 3; 1:48.2 ($399,123)
Badlands Hanover-Prymesmyte Scootle-Scoot Herb
- Adios & Oliver Wendell Holmes Winner
- Sire of **He’s Marvalous**, p, 1:50.4f -'17 ($175,387)

**DREAM AWAY** - $2,500
p, 2; 1:52.2; 3; 1:50 ($1,342,071)
Artiscope-Some Kinda Dream-Forrest Skipper
- Sire of **Monochromatic**, p, 1:50.4f ($869,906)
- Sire of 12 who have earned $500,000+

**RODDY’S BAGS AGAIN** - $2,500
p, 2; 1:54.3; 3; 1:50.2f; 4:48 ($705,175)
Dragon Again-Get The Bags-No Nukes
- Sire of **Purrfect Bags**, p, 3; 1:51.2h ($623,987)
- Sire of **Hot Roddy**, p, 1:52.1h ($445,403)

**RUSTLER HANOVER** - $2,000
p, 2; 1:52.3s; 3; 1:51.5 ($791,638)
Western Hanover-Rich N Elegant-Direct Scooter
- Sire of **Keystone Horatio**, p, 1:48.4s ($1,536,204)
- Sire of 8 who have earned $500,000+

**VEEZA** - $1,500
p, 3; 1:52.4; 1:51.2s Western Hanover-Margie’s Melody-Bret Hanover
- Sire of **Next Success**, p, 1:51.2f -'17 ($303,445)
- Sire of **Magic Card**, p, 1:52f ($143,812)

Delaware Trotters

**CR COMMANDO** - $2,500
2; 1:53.2t ($378,602)
Royal Troubadour-Airborne Gt Spellcaster
- Sire of **Med Vac**, 1:52.2 ($810,117)
- Sire of **Juanita**, 1:56.2f ($412,366)

**CROWN PRINCE GAR** - $1,500
2; 2:01h; 3; 1:57.4; 1:57.1f ($229,569)
Garland Lobell-Crown Julia-Crystal’s Crown
- Sire of **All Shoes On Deck**, 1:54.4f ($268,793)
- Sire of **Odessa**, 1:55.3f -'17 ($176,753)

**GIANT HIT** - $2,500
2; 1:58; 3; 1:54.2 ($646,650)
Spardy Crown-Classic Casette-Florida Prado
- Sire of **Iroquoinangiver**, 3; 1:57.1e ($525,922)
- Sire of **Lost Lady One**, 1:54.2s ($492,161)

**GLIDEMASTER** - $4,000
2; 1:55.3s; 3; 1:51.1 ($1,988,847)
Yankee Gilde-Cressida Hanover-Mt Lavac
- Triple Crown Winner & Horse of the Year
- Sire of **Maven**, 1:51.4h ($1,997,809)

**MUTINEER** - $3,000
2; 1:56.4; 3; 1:54.4 ($548,717)
Muscles Yankee-Bathonia-Florida Prado
- Sire of **Fuel Cell**, 1:54.2f ($306,453)
- Sire of **Frenchmen**, 1:54.4f ($219,112)

**POLITICAL BRIEFING** - $2,000
2; 1:58; 3; 1:56.2 ($312,743)
Donerale-Scnt Of A Woman-Worthy Bowl
- Sire of **Windshield**, 3; 1:56.2f ($327,200)
- Sire of **Spoonful**, 3, Q2:00 -'17 ($248,474)

For more information on Winbak Farm stallions, including pedigrees, pictures, hypothetical matings & race videos, please visit www.winbakfarm.com.

Dedicated to Putting You in the Winner’s Circle!
Garrett Bell, Winbak Farm General Manager
155 Yearling Row, Chesapeake City, MD 21915 / (410) 885.3059 / stallions@winbakfarm.com
www.winbakfarm.com / 1 /
Propulsion Third In Prix de France; Belina Josselyn Wins For Bazire

The American-bred Propulsion tried to win one of the big three “Prix” races in Paris last Sunday, Feb. 11, but couldn’t get the job done. Bred by Rikki Caldwell of Cane Run Farm and Mitchel Skolnick’s Bluestone Farm, Propulsion finished third in the Prix de France, which was contested at a distance of 1.3 miles, and with a mobile starting gate.

The race was won by the 7-year-old mare Belina Josselyn, with Bold Eagle finishing second. Propulsion was about one-half length back in third.

Belina Josselyn is trained and driven by Jean-Michel Bazire, who drove Moni Maker to victory in the 1999 Prix d’Amerique.

Bazire and Belina Josselyn were shuffled back from post three as Timone EK and then Bold Eagle took the lead. Bazire found racing room in the stretch and his mare flew home to edge Bold Eagle on the wire. The time of the race was a mile rate clocking of 1:53, which set a race record.

It was the 18th career win for Belina Josselyn, who has now earned more than 1.4 million euros (about $1.7 million). She is a daughter of Love You, also the sire of 2017 American stakes winner International Moni. Love You is a son of Coktail Jet, whose dam is the Super Bowl daughter Armbraco Glamour. Love You’s dam, Guilty Of Love, is out of a daughter of Speedy Somolli. Belina Josselyn’s dam, Lezira Josselyn, is a daughter of the Speedy Crown son Workaholic.—By Kathy Parker

Hannelore Hanover To Race, And Be Bred To Southwind Frank

The 6-year-old world champion trotting mare Hannelore Hanover will not only return to the racetrack in 2018, but she will do so as a mother-in-waiting.

Mark Weaver, who shares ownership of the mare, said Hannelore Hanover, the Older Trotting Mare of the Year in 2016 and 2017 and one of the favorites to be named Trotter of the Year and Horse of the Year at the Dan Patch Awards dinner in Orlando on Sunday, Feb. 25, will be bred this spring to the world champion trotter Southwind Frank, who stands at Diamond Creek Farm of Pennsylvania. The embryo will then be transferred to a recipient mare to carry to term.

“’This is something we’ve thought about doing, and we talked to some people we respect, like Adam Bowden (at Diamond Creek Farm) who has done it with a couple horses, Ray Schnittker, and other experts, and they all said they would 100 percent do it,” explained Weaver. “’We can race her coming off potentially a Horse of the Year season or we can breed her, or we can be a little bit greedy and do both. We would love to have a baby from him and her.”

Weaver, who also shares ownership of Southwind Frank, said he also consulted with Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky at Hanover Shoe Farms and Dr. Pete Sheerin at Nandi Farms. He said the embryo will be transferred to a recipient mare at Nandi Farms.

“It’s a tough thing to do as we have a 6-year-old mare who has the potential to make $1 million, and she can also have a baby,” said Weaver. “’We believe that Southwind Frank as a sire is in a good spot in Pennsylvania. We’re supporting Southwind Frank and getting a baby from Hannelore. Everything together we just thought it made sense.”

Hannelore Hanover won 10 of 17 races in 2017, including her 1:49.2 effort in the Allerage Farms Open Trot at The Red Mile, the fastest mile ever by a female trotter. Her other victories included the Breeders Crown, Maple Leaf Trot and Armbraco Flight. Owned by Weaver Bruscemi LLC, Burke Racing Stable, Frank Baldachino and J&T Silva Stables, Hannelore Hanover’s $1 million in earnings last year brought her career total to $2,473,814.

Hannelore Hanover is not the first racing mare who will be bred while still in training. Blazin Britches, the 2017 Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, is currently in training and also under lights, so she will go into a heat cycle and can be bred. Bruce Trogdon, whose Emerald Highlands Farm bred and owns Blazin Britches, also bred his top mare Color’s A Virgin while she was in training, but she did not return to her previous racing form.—By Gordon Waterstone

“We’re supporting Southwind Frank and getting a baby from Hannelore. Everything together we just thought it made sense.”—Mark Weaver
The Good And The Bad Of Foaling Season

The second Wednesday of February has historically been the unofficial opening of breeding season. This year’s calendar appropriately put the opening on Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day. Some farms, among them Diamond Creek, got the jump on the breeding season last week. Many farms started the routine of bringing their stallions into the breeding shed this week, although Hanover Shoe Farms, the sport’s leading money-winning breeder, is waiting until Monday, Feb. 19.

A few mares are following, although it seems that more and more breeders/farm managers prefer for the babies to be born when the weather is milder so they can get out in a paddock sooner rather than later.

The $2.4 million pacing mare Put On A Show was due to foal around March 7, when the famous Bluegrass ground would be soft, and sunshine and a warm breeze would be a reasonable expectation of the month. But for some reason Put On A Show went into labor early and delivered a filly way too early. The filly was five weeks premature, and despite the best efforts of the central Kentucky’s esteemed veterinary community, she couldn’t be saved.

Owners Richard Young and Joanne Young board Put On A Show at Hunterton Farm in Paris, Ky.

“Three weeks is normally the borderline for a premature foal making it,” said Hunterton’s Steve Stewart. “The first day the premature foal usually shows improvement; the second day can be a turning point, and this foal’s organs were just not mature enough. Thankfully, the mare foaled normally and she’s fine.”

Stewart did have some happy news to report. His son, Taylor, traveled to Paris to visit his parents while they were there for the Prix d’Amerique and while there he proposed to his girlfriend, Casey, at the Eiffel Tower. Taylor is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco.

Here is more good news. The $3.5 million winner Anndrovette foaled a filly by Always B Miki on Feb. 13. The filly is the first for Anndrovette, who was purchased by Crawford Farms in October 2016. Since Anndrovette is out of a mare by Big Towner, and Always B Miki’s second dams on both his sire and maternal lines are by Big Towner, the foal carries a 4x4x3 cross to Big Towner.

Some of the first foals by Betting Line have been born at Hanover Shoe Farms. Allamerican Cool, the dam of All Speed Hanover p,3, 1:49.4 and last year’s Jugette champion Caviart Ally, gave birth to a filly as did Australia Hanover, a Somebeachsomewhere half sister to $1.2 million winner Dynamic Youth.

In breeding news from Sweden, 2015 Hambletonian Oaks champion Wild Honey has been retired from racing and will be bred to Propulsion. Propulsion is a son of Muscle Hill and Wild Honey is by Cantab Hall, which has been a magical cross. The Muscle Hill-Cantab Hall blood has produced Southwind Frank, Ariana G and her sister All The Time, and Manchego, the 2017 Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year.

Propulsion finished third in last weekend’s Prix de France and will continue to race this year and also breed, which is common in European trotting. Among the other mares in his book is the Cantab Hall-sired Delicious, who was in phenomenal form in the fall of 2015, when she set three world records at three different distances. Her one-mile world record for mares on a five-eighths mile track is 1:50.2.

Wild Honey, Propulsion and Delicious are all owned by Bengt Agerup’s Stall Zet.—By Kathy Parker
Update On EHV-1: Rules For Pocono, Rosecroft

As of Thursday morning, Feb. 15, several barns are still under quarantine restrictions at The Meadows due to an outbreak of EHV-1, although horses in barns that have been quarantined for 14 days are now permitted to jog on the track at designated hours.

The outbreak was first detected on Jan. 22, and since the virus usually runs its course in 21 days, the track held eight qualifiers on Thursday morning for horses who have not been under a quarantine. If no new EHV-1 cases are detected, The Meadows might be able to resume live racing, although the number of races and cards per week could be affected if the barn area remains in a lockdown. The Meadows’ backstretch is one of the largest remaining in harness racing, with approximately 600 horses on the grounds.

In Ohio, the entire Warren County Fairgrounds (the old Lebanon Raceway) backstretch is under quarantine, but healthy horses are permitted on the track to jog. In addition, Miami Valley Raceway and Northfield Park are not accepting entries on any horse that has raced or stabled at the western Pennsylvania track since Jan. 10, and a negative laboratory result from a nasal swab test is required.

One more effect of the EHV-1 outbreak is a change in the races offered at Miami Valley. Race secretary Gregg Keidel is not writing conventional claiming races until the EHV-1 threat is over. Instead, he is writing classes for horses that made their last start at a certain level.

With The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono set to begin its 2018 racing season March 17, that track has announced that it will require proof of vaccination along with a health certificate until further notice. The EHV-1 vaccination must be dated after Jan. 1, 2018 and not less than 10 days prior to entering the track. The vaccination is considered to be about 30 percent effective, but as is the case with this year’s flu epidemic, some protection is considered better than none.

In addition, a health certificate must be issued by a veterinarian within 48 hours of entering the grounds at Pocono, showing the horse does not exhibit any clinical symptoms of the virus and was a normal body temperature at the time of examination.

Those planning to race and/or stable at Pocono are advised to check back regularly for any updates. Questions may be directed to the Pocono race office (570.831.2228) or stall superintendent (570.831.2125).

Rosecroft Raceway, which kicks off its 2018 season Feb. 18, has also announced it will not accept the following horses until further notice:

- Horses that made their last start at The Meadows or any track in Ohio since Jan. 10;
- You must submit a recent negative lab report on a nasal swab and provide a signed health certificate issued within 48 hours prior to the horse’s first start at Rosecroft Raceway for:
  - Horses that started at The Meadows or in Ohio Jan. 1-9
  - All horses who have stabled at The Meadows, any training facility in Pa. or Ohio since Jan. 1
  - Horses stabled at the same location as a horse that raced at The Meadows or Ohio since Jan. 10.

The EHV-1 outbreak is also continuing in Thoroughbred racing. On Feb. 14, the Kentucky Office of State Veterinarian has confirmed a diagnosis of EHV-1 at The Thoroughbred Center, a training center in Lexington. Five (5) horses were positive on nasal swab only and one was positive on both blood and nasal swab. Turfway Park in northern Kentucky had an EHV-1 case earlier this month but as of Feb. 14 had no new cases.—By Kathy Parker

Big $100K Payoff Possible At Meadowlands

A big wave was created last Saturday (Feb. 10) at the Meadowlands when the Early 20-Cent Jackpot Super High Five resulted in a payoff of over $15,000.

This Friday, or whenever the Late JSH5 is finally hit, the payoff will pack a tsunami-like punch, as the next time there is a “jackpot” winner, that lucky patron will walk away with an extraordinary payoff of over $100,000.

Meadowlands die-hards will certainly stick it out to the 13th and final race Friday night, as the carryover for the bet that requires one to select the first five finishers in the official order of finish—and be the only one to do so—now stands at $101,270. Last Saturday’s pool took in over $20,000 in “new” money, so one can surmise that a similar amount would be pumped into the pool this Friday as well.

“Now that the carryover is over $100,000,” said Jason Settlemoir, the track’s chief operating officer and general manager, “it creates more interest in our signal. When you have a Pick-4 pool that is pushing $100,000 followed by a Jackpot High Five pool that is over $100,000, we believe these pools are large enough to bring new night-time players into the system. We are also confident that they will now start wading into the other Meadowlands pools.” (Meadowlands)
Dan Patch Awards dinner to be streamed live
And the winner of the E. Roland Harriman Award as the 2017 Horse of the Year is ………. At approximately 10 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, emcees Roger Huston and Jason Settlemoir will fill in the blank at the annual U.S. Harness Writers Association’s Dan Patch Awards banquet at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fla.  

Dan Patch Awards silent auction items
The Dan Patch Awards Dinner is rapidly approaching and along with it, the annual silent auction held in conjunction with the evening’s festivities on Feb. 25 at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando. Once again the Harness Horse Youth Foundation and USHWA’s industry outreach will benefit from the sales. 

McNair hopes to build off 2017 campaign
Doug McNair does not remember the exact moment he knew driving racehorses is what he wanted to do for a living, but he knows it came early. Probably around the time he was 6 or 7 years old and his father, trainer Gregg McNair, would let Doug hop into the race bike following a training mile and bring the horse back to the barn. 

Sylvester looking forward to 2018 with “Blondie”
Chuck Sylvester believes he’s got a nice trotter returning from last season in 3-year-old filly Hey Blondie. He’s hoping to discover additional nice ones among the six 2-year-olds joining Hey Blondie in his winter stable at Spring Garden Ranch in Florida. That group includes $240,000 yearling purchase Girl With A Past. 

Host tracks set for Canada’s Driving Champ.
Standardbred Canada is pleased to announce the host tracks and dates for the 2018 Regional Driving Championships and National Driving Championship which will ultimately determine Canada’s representative to the 2019 World Driving Championship. 

Uncle Peter breeding to benefit scholarships
The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, in conjunction with Green Acquisition Corporation, announces the donation of a breeding to the stallion Uncle Peter, to benefit the MSOA’s Collegiate Scholarship program. 

Wallin ready for sophomore season
With a full year of racing and learning under his belt, 25-year-old Lucas Wallin is looking forward to his second season training his own stable. And while Wallin is interested in seeing how his young horses develop through the remainder of this winter with an eye toward summer success, he is happy to have a seasoned veteran to watch right now.

AGCO drops 90-day horse suspension rule
The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is pleased to release a Summary Report of the work delivered by the Equine Drug Program Working Group over the last seven months. 

Miami Valley Legends late-closers due Feb. 17
The nomination deadline is rapidly approaching for the first three out of nine total annual “Lebanon Legends” late closers to be raced at Miami Valley Raceway, primarily in March and early April. Entry forms must be submitted to the race office or postmarked by Saturday, Feb. 17. All three series are for non-winners of four pari-mutuel races or $40,000 lifetime as of the entry deadline date. 

NJ mare registration deadline is Feb. 28
Owners of mares in foal that are based in New Jersey are reminded that the deadline to register a mare for the 2018 foaling season to the Standardbred Development Fund is Feb. 28. The registration fee is $100 and the mare registration forms are available on the New Jersey Sire Stakes website—www.newjerseysirestakes.com. 

CHHA 2018-19 scholarship application available
The Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association (CHHA) wants to see our harness racing youth succeed. To help the students CHHA plans to award two scholarships in 2018: 1. $1,000 John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship. 2. $TBD Rambling Willie Scholarship.
Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 13, 2018 (week difference Feb. 7-13).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NF Happenstance (8tm)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sell A Bit N (8pm)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killer Martini (6pg)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melady’s Monet (9tg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’tcallmefrancis (5pg)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totally Kissed (7pg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orilla Joe (8pg)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motu Moonbeam N (6pm)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divas Image (5pm)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R Gauwitz Hanover (9pg)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostinterestingman (5tg)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Mavin (9tg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All About Madi (5pm)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thijsjesabookin (6pg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabeth (7pm)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victory Hill Farm Inc.</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$176,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>219,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>225,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>319,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Farms LLC</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>368,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perretti Farms</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>380,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>392,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Noble</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Marohn Jr.</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Ater</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>11-14-10</td>
<td>.280</td>
<td>177,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Blumenfeld</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>10-10-8</td>
<td>.194</td>
<td>166,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>40-28-40</td>
<td>.302</td>
<td>662,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bongiorno</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>20-9-8</td>
<td>.446</td>
<td>202,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Di Domenico</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>33-27-13</td>
<td>.321</td>
<td>441,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>34-31-20</td>
<td>.357</td>
<td>357,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Surick</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>51-41-25</td>
<td>.382</td>
<td>343,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>18-15-12</td>
<td>.281</td>
<td>277,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Annunziata</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>22-12-14</td>
<td>.271</td>
<td>263,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Adamczyk</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>14-11-3</td>
<td>.358</td>
<td>220,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Brewer</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>15-19-17</td>
<td>.248</td>
<td>218,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>16-14-18</td>
<td>.197</td>
<td>215,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Harris</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>16-10-10</td>
<td>.341</td>
<td>200,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Ater</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>11-14-10</td>
<td>.280</td>
<td>177,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Blumenfeld</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>10-10-8</td>
<td>.194</td>
<td>166,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>40-28-40</td>
<td>.302</td>
<td>662,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 7-13 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>21-10-8</td>
<td>$1,363,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trace Tetrick</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>19-5-8</td>
<td>219,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stratton</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11-7-6</td>
<td>225,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>10-9-6</td>
<td>319,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Abbatelli</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10-7-2</td>
<td>380,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Miller</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9-6-4</td>
<td>400,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Grismore</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9-8-8</td>
<td>416,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Shepherd</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9-6-7</td>
<td>437,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Napolitano</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8-4-5</td>
<td>469,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Noble</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>8-5-12</td>
<td>486,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Ingraham</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8-4-3</td>
<td>500,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8-9-4</td>
<td>525,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Marohn Jr.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8-12-9</td>
<td>538,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Roy</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8-5-6</td>
<td>554,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Coulter</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8-3-5</td>
<td>570,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Smith</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8-7-3</td>
<td>586,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>7-7-6</td>
<td>602,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Merriman</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7-7-6</td>
<td>628,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jody Jamieson</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>7-5-6</td>
<td>649,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayne Kauffman</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7-8-3</td>
<td>665,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawn Gray</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7-4-6</td>
<td>681,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Morgan</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>7-6-6</td>
<td>702,228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trainers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10-9-8</td>
<td>72,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Surick</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7-5-6</td>
<td>74,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>77,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Stewart</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>79,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Fusco Jr.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7-5-6</td>
<td>81,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Shepherd</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>83,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>85,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Annunziata</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>87,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Wilfong</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>89,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Ater</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>92,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Clouser Jr.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>94,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Rice</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>96,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Roberts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>98,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Di Domenico</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>100,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Crissman</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>103,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler George</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>105,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Givens</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-6-7</td>
<td>107,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>