

Visit us at
www.harnessracing.com
for the latest
harness racing news!

Harness Racing

WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

Inside
Weekly
harnessracing.com
News Digest

©2015 HORSEMAN PUBLISHING CO., LEXINGTON, KY USA • FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CALL (859) 276-4026

Argentina Pacer Brings 18-For-18 Record To Meadowlands

Finals of the Charles Singer Memorial, Sonsam and Burning Point series are on tap Saturday night at the Meadowlands, but the first race on the 13-race program is drawing attention too. Starting from post 1 in the \$11,500 conditioned event is Chucaro Acero BC, a 4-year-old son of Shadow Play who is undefeated in 18 career starts—in Argentina.

“We wanted to race him to see what happens...I don’t think he’s a free-for-aller, but he’s a nice horse.”

—Andy Miller on Chucaro Acero BC

Chucaro Acero BC was four-for-four at two, and then last year won all 14 starts. However, his unblemished record resulted in earnings of just \$976 at two and \$20,676 at three. And with all of his races being non-betting contests, Chucaro Acero BC fit the race conditions of non-winners of

two pari-mutuel races or \$22,500 lifetime.

“The biggest purse he won was about \$13,000,” said driver Andy Miller, whose wife, Julie, is the trainer. “It’s a little different racing there. He’s 18-for-18, but it was on something like a fair circuit here.”

Chucaro Acero BC is owned by Argentinian Nahuel Agosti in partnership with Blue Chip Bloodstock, which bred the pacer. So how did the Millers get Chucaro Acero BC?

“Blue Chip sold the mare in foal to the guy in Argentina,” Miller explained. “They raised the foal in Argentina and he did what he could do there. Blue Chip got back in on him and wanted to bring him back and race him here.”

Chucaro Acero BC’s dam is Animals Can Sing, who is a half-sister to the \$425,187 winner Lisfinny, the \$396,009 winner Four Starzzzz It, and the \$224,841 winner Lisselton.

Miller said Chucaro Acero BC has been in their barn at Gaitway Farm in New Jersey for about two months. He said it’s obvious the pacer is having a hard time adjusting to the winter conditions.

“This weather isn’t helping him much,” he said. “I like the horse; I just don’t think he’s acclimated yet. He’s had some blood-work issues because of the weather. I don’t think he likes this cold weather. Hopefully when the weather breaks he will be OK.”

Miller admits he doesn’t know what to expect from Chucaro Acero BC in his U.S. debut on Saturday.

“We wanted to race him to see what happens, but he’s not where we want him to be,” he said. “He’s a nice horse and hopefully he’ll get there. I don’t think he’s a free-for-aller, but he’s a nice horse.”

2015 PRIX D'ÉTE
4 year old pacers
Purse : C\$200,000
Sunday, August 23, 2015
Hippodrome 3R
Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada
Nominations close on
March 15, 2015
www.quebecjockeyclub.com

WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

Burke has high hopes—pg. 3

Tetrick ready for driving championship—pg. 4

Breeding Banter—pg. 5

Completing the early Daily Double on Saturday night is the \$49,000 Singer Memorial final, with Team Miller sending out Opulent Yankee and Blocking The Way, who are coupled in the wagering as part of a three-pronged entry with Propulsion. Opulent Yankee and Propulsion are both owned in part by Jeff Gural's Little E LLC.

Opulent Yankee won his two Super Bowl Series preliminaries last month at the Meadowlands before finishing second in the \$50,000 final to JL Cruze. After again settling for second behind JL Cruze in the opening round of the Singer, Opulent Yankee was able to turn the tables in leg two.

“Opulent Yankee has been very consistent,” said Miller. “JL Cruze is in there and he’ll be the one to beat, but we

Continues on page 2 >>>

beat him last week and hopefully we can do it again this week."

BlockingTheWay has finished seventh and fifth in the Singer preliminaries.

"He's OK. Maybe a notch below the others, but hopefully he can get some good money," Miller said of BlockingTheWay.

Race 6 on the card is the \$59,000 Sonsam final, with Major Uptrend looking to complete the sweep after capturing both his preliminaries, including a lifetime best-equaling 1:50.3 score in round two. Major Uptrend will start from post 3 with Yannick Gingras driving for trainer Ron Burke. Major Uptrend finished second to Company Man in last month's Escort final, and Company Man—who has a pair of fifths in the opening two legs—will start from post 2 in the Sonsam final.

Another top contender is Rockeyed Optimist, who was second by a nose to Major Uptrend in the first leg and then romped to an easy 1:50.3 score in the second. Brett Miller drives from post 6 for trainer Steve Elliott.

The \$50,600 Burning Point completes the finals trifecta, scheduled as Race 11. Brett Miller has directed the Wayne Givens-trained Empress Deo to 14-1 and 5-1 upsets in the first two legs of the series which has had compact fields. Empress Deo will start from post 5 in the six-horse Burning Point finale. — *By Gordon Waterstone*



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, February 20

All times listed are local.

- 8:50p YR6 **F&M Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 9:02p M6 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 9:05p Wdb6 **The Count B Pace final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- [Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

Saturday, February 21

- 7:38p M2 **Singer Memorial Trot final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:05p Wdb3 **Ontario Girls Pace final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:41p M5 **Gilmour Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:50p YR6 **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:02p M6 **Sonsam Pace final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:25p Wdb7 **Ontario Boys Pace final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:50p M11 **Burning Point Pace final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 11:10p M12 **Gilmour 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!

Sire of 4 sub-1:50 pacers including Mel Mara p,3,1:49.1 (\$457,924)

LIS MARA



p,4,1:47.3 (\$2,141,661)
Cambest-Lisheen

**WORLD CHAMPION,
BREEDERS CROWN
CHAMPION AND
THE FASTEST & RICHEST
SON OF CAMBEST
RETURNS HOME TO
DEO VOLENTE**

**LIS MARA AND DEO VOLENTE
LEADING THE RENAISSANCE
FOR NEW JERSEY BREEDING
2015 FEE: PRIVATE TREATY**



DEO VOLENTE
FARMS

www.deovolentefarms.com
908.782.4848 • Fax 908.782.4870

Burke Has High Hopes For Appomattox, Medusa

Included among trainer Ron Burke's plethora of starters over the weekend are recent additions Appomattox and Medusa, who are both scheduled to start Friday night at the Meadowlands.

Appomattox won his first start at the Meadowlands upon entering Burke's barn last December and has one win in five attempts in 2015. After a pair of sixths and one third at the Big M in January, Burke brought Appomattox back to his Pennsylvania-based stable for a pair of starts at his home track of The Meadows. Appomattox won his first start and

"I think he is going to be a better horse than he's shown. I still think there is more."

— Ron Burke
on Appomattox

then finished fourth after a tough overland journey.

"I brought him back just to see him," said Burke. "I was very happy with his first start (at The Meadows) but wasn't as happy with the second start, although he did get roughed up."

So why bring Appomattox back

to the Meadowlands, where he will start from post 5 in the \$30,000 Open Trot, against many of the horses he chased earlier this year?

"The Meadowlands needed the horse, so when he came back here and was good, I sent him back," explained Burke. "We really haven't got everything out of him. I think he is going to be a better horse than he's shown. I still think there is more."

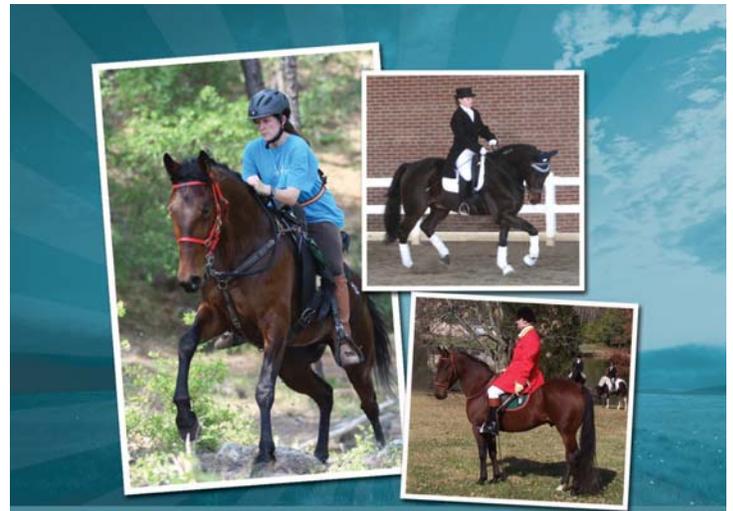
Yannick Gingras will drive Appomattox—who is 4-1 on the morning line—from post 5. Owned by Reima Kuisla Stable of Finland, the 6-year-old son of Yankee Glide was purchased for \$240,000 at the 2014 Tattersalls January Mixed Sale. A 10-time winner in 62 career starts, Appomattox has a career mark of 1:52.2 and earnings of \$457,838.

Medusa was a \$37,000 purchase at last November's mixed sale at Harrisburg. The 4-year-old daughter of Bettor's Delight has eight wins in 18 career starts, with \$124,898 in earnings. Listed as the 5-2 morning-line choice in Race 11, a \$20,000 conditioned event, Medusa will also be driven by Gingras.

This will be the Meadowlands debut for Medusa, who qualified three times for Burke at The Meadows (three open-lengths wins in 1:57.4, 1:58.2 and 1:53.1, respectively) before capturing an \$18,000 race at The Meadows on Feb. 6. Burke then sent Medusa to Yonkers Raceway, where she made an early break and finished eighth on Feb. 13.

"I wanted to make sure she was tight," Burke explained of the trio of qualifiers. "I hate to start 4 year olds where she was going to have to start without being tight. So I gave her multiple qualifiers."

Burke said his purpose of sending Medusa to Yonkers was to prepare her for the upcoming Blue Chip Matchmaker Se-



Raised to Race, Recycled to Ride



NEW VOCATIONS
Racehorse Adoption Program
Accepting racehorses from tracks across the eastern United States
(937) 947-4020 dot@horseadoption.com
www.horseadoption.com a 501 (c) 3 public charity

HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

Kathy Parker

kparker@harnessracing.com
Editor/ General Manager

Lynne Myers

lm Myers@harnessracing.com
Advertising Manager

Gordon Waterstone

gwaterstone@harnessracing.com
Associate Editor

Jay Hochstetler

jayhoch4@gmail.com
Intern

Suzanne Starbuck

sstarbuck@harnessracing.com
Production Manager

Heather Kemper

hkemper@harnessracing.com
Assistant Production Manager

Suzy Hall

shall@harnessracing.com
Production & Design

Stephanie Condron-Hall

scondronhall@harnessracing.com
Editorial Art Director

Vanessa Flannery

vflannery@harnessracing.com
Accounting & Circulation

For mail sent via U.S. Postal Service, either P.O. Box 8480, Lexington, KY 40533, or 1910 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503. (859) 276-4026

© Copyright Horseman Publishing Company.

A product of Horseman Publishing Company, publishers of the website www.harnessracing.com and The Horseman And Fair World magazine. This newspaper may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior written permission.

To sign up for the Weekend Preview please visit www.harnessracing.com/members_sign_up.php

ries, which gets underway on March 20. He said he wasn't overly concerned about Medusa's miscue.

"I probably had her hobbles out too long for Yonkers," admitted Burke, whose Burke Racing Stable shares ownership with Weaver Bruscelli LLC and Phil Collura. "I have two sets of hobbles for my horses: one for Yonkers and one for everywhere else. She made a break but then she looked great. So I'll put on a little heavier hobble and a little tighter, and she'll be fine." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Tetrick Ready For World Driving Championship

Tim Tetrick has long been one of North America's top harness racing drivers. Now he is ready to take on the world.

Tetrick will represent the U.S. in the World Driving Championship in Australia. The competition, which brings together 10 drivers from around the world for a 20-race series at six different tracks, begins Saturday at Tabcorp Park Menangle in New South Wales.

The 33-year-old Tetrick, a four-time U.S. Driver of the Year who has led North America in purses seven of the last eight years, is making his first appearance in the World Driving Championship.

"It's a great honor to be able to represent the United States and hopefully I can win it and make America proud," Tetrick said. "I love competing at a very high level and this

"It's a great honor to be able to represent the United States and hopefully I can win it and make America proud!"

—Tim Tetrick

is on the international scene. I'm just going to go into it and try to have a good time and enjoy myself and do what I love to do, which is race horses."

The World Driving Championship, introduced in 1970, is

now conducted every two years. France's Pierre Vercreysson won the 2013 edition, held in his home country, and will defend his title in Australia. Also part of this year's field is Canada's Jody Jamieson, a two-time WDC champion.

Past U.S. champs are Joe Marsh Jr. (1974), Ron Pierce (1989) and Dave Magee (1995).

"Timmy, good luck over there," Pierce said in a video message to Tetrick. "I hope you get on the right horses and put it on them boys. You know you're better than them.

"You're driving for all of us, so we're all rooting for you."

Drivers already have received their post positions for the World Driving Championship's 20 races and will drive whichever horse randomly draws the matching starting spot. Tetrick will drive the post 10 horse in the opening heat. All drivers will start twice from each of the 10 posts.

World Driving Championship

NAME—COUNTRY

Pierre Vercreysson—France (*Defending Champion*)

Jody Jamieson—Canada

Knud Monster—Denmark

Tony le Beller—France

Mika Forss—Finland

Dexter Dunn—New Zealand

Vidar Hop—Norway

Guillermo—Adrover Spain

Tim Tetrick—United States

Chris Alford—Australia

Peter McMullen—Australia (*traveling Reserve*)

"Hopefully they give me the best horses," Tetrick said with a laugh. "I'm going to study it the best I can, work with what horses they give me to drive, and hopefully I don't embarrass myself too badly. There are a lot of different (driving) styles. We're all kind of in the same boat, but hopefully I get some good luck with the draws."

Learning to compete against various driving styles will be among Tetrick's most difficult challenges.

"It was a completely different style of racing than what I was used to," said David Miller, who represented the U.S. in 1999 and finished fifth. "It took me a while (to adjust). We raced at five or six different racetracks and they were action packed.

"I think (Tim) could probably watch tapes of races, maybe study the horses. I would just tell him to have fun. Go over there, go all out, and try to win the whole thing. He's a great driver, but you've got to get the horses and you've got to have luck."

Andy Miller, who represented the U.S. in 2005 and 2007, with a best finish of fourth, said having a good time is important.

"The camaraderie and meeting new people are great memories," Miller said. "I would tell him to have a great time and meet everybody you can and take everything in that you can. It's something you don't get to do very often, so enjoy it. If you're having fun, the wins will come and you'll do better." (*HRC*)

Growing Our Future!



Tom Tanner Photo

Harness Horse Youth Foundation

Our Mission: To provide young people information and experiences with harness horses



Harness Horse Youth Foundation
16575 Carey Road, Westfield, IN 46074
Phone: (317) 867-5877, Fax: (317) 867-5896
www.hhyf.org



BREEDING *Banter*

Sometimes you get lucky and a horse will not only be good for you on the track, but also in the breeding shed. That's the case with the 16-year-old LaTapatia. The daughter of Cumin was just average on the track, taking a mark of 1:58f as a 6 year old and earning \$53,565, but she has produced the winners of almost \$900,000. When you are breeding to race and have a little fun, that's not a bad return.

Bernard "Bernie" White and Anthony Statuto's Kristie Leigh Farm own LaTapatia

and most of her foals. Last summer, on July 25 at Yonkers Raceway, they enjoyed a night every owner would love to have: two of LaTapatia's foals won on the card while another finished fourth in the Open Handicap Trot.

White, who is presently in a rehabilitation center to recuperate from his seventh back surgery, said it was by chance that he ended up owning LaTapatia.

"I sell bonds and I was down in South Jersey, and I was at a farm and when I came back home I found out they (Crevani Farm) were selling all of the bloodstock," recalled White. "Long story short, Jaime Martin, who was at one time the manager at Pine Hollow Farm and was at Crevani, asked me to go partners with him and we brought another partner in (Kristie Leigh) and bought the dam of LaTapatia."

White describes LaTapatia as an "honest race mare," and when she injured a knee and required a six-month layoff, they decided to breed the mare. Her first mating was to Giant Hit, but White wanted to give the mare a bigger chance by breeding her to Credit Winner."

White and Statuto bought out Martin. LaTapatia's first foal by Credit Winner, born in 2008, was Tober, who won in 1:54.4f at three and lowered his record to 1:53.2f at four. A gelding, he now sports career earnings of \$539,297. The mare had a foal right after Tober that the partners named Gaelic And Garlic. Also by Credit Winner, he has a mark of 1:54f, plus 17 wins and earnings of \$310,300.

LaTapatia missed having a foal in 2010, but was back in 2011 and 2012 with Bertaux (a filly by Conway Hall) and BJ Anthony

LaTapatia is in foal to Chapter Seven but didn't get in foal until June, thus she will have a late foal.



HarnessPro

- All in one handicapping tool
- No software to install
- PDF race programs included

trackmaster.com/harness

TrackMaster HarnessPro
The Ultimate Harness Racing Program For The Serious Player



TRACKMASTER
An EQUIBASE Company

(by Credit Winner). Those two have yet to produce results on par with Tober or Gaelic And Garlic, but it's still early.

"Bertaux is by Conway Hall because we tried to go back to Credit Winner but couldn't get in that year. When she was in training Eddie (Hart) tells me she is going to be better than the others, but she cracked a bone," White recalled. "We brought her back and she won two of her four starts and then had a problem with a knee. So we kept her and I've got her at home and she'll be bred to Credit Winner this year."

At one time White, who lives on a small farm in Pine Bush, N.Y., and serves on the board of nearby Historic Track, owned 10-12 broodmares, but today he has just two—LaTapatia and Bertaux. He sold his interest in Tober but still shares ownership of Gaelic And Garlic, the 3-year-old Credit Winner gelding BJ Anthony, and the yearling Tobernette, a filly by Credit Winner.

LaTapatia is in foal to Chapter Seven but didn't get in foal until June, thus she will have a late foal.

"LaTapatia doesn't like to get in foal early when she's got a foal at her side, so we won't be breeding her this year," added White. — By Kathy Parker



Visit us online
harnessracing.com

The logo features a blue horizontal bar with a white circle on the left containing an orange sphere. To the right of the bar, the text "harnessracing.com HEADLINES" is written in orange, with "HEADLINES" in a larger, bold font.

Dan Patch Awards Dinner Sunday Night

The U.S. Harness Writers Association's annual Dan Patch Awards banquet will be held Sunday night in Orlando, Fla. Capping off the night will be the presentation of the E. Roland Harriman Trophy to the connections of JK She'salady, the first 2-year-old filly pacer to ever be named Horse of the Year.

This year's awards dinner that honors the sports' best humans and equines of 2015 will not be video streamed. The festivities are scheduled to get underway at 6 p.m., with the awards presentation slated to begin at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Purchase Sets Up TVG Merger With HRTV

Betfair, the parent company of TVG, has announced it is purchasing HRTV from The Stronach Group and merging operations of the two horse racing television networks.

TVG will assume the operations of HRTV, and operate the production from the TVG Studio in Los Angeles. TVG is currently available in 36.5 million homes in the U.S., with HRTV available in 19.5 million homes. The operations will merge over the next couple of weeks.

According to a press release issued by Betfair and The Stronach Group, Betfair will make an initial payment of \$25 million, with an estimated total payment of \$47.8 million over seven years. TVG had paid HRTV \$4.3 million in fees to show content that HRTV held exclusive rights. TVG will no longer pay those fees under the purchase agreement.

The agreement does not include XpressBet, the ADW operated by The Stronach Group.

"This is a very exciting step for TVG and HRTV as it enhances our ability to deliver premier horseracing content to our viewers, to show more races and to promote racing in the U.S.," said TVG CEO Kip Levin in a statement. "With our recent investment in our new, state-of-the-art HD studios now complete, we're pleased to expand our coverage of The Stronach Group tracks as part of a unified TV platform. This agreement is part of TVG's commitment to deliver the very best in U.S. racing, to generate incremental wagering on our advanced-deposit wagering platform and, to drive additional advertising and distribution opportunities."

USTA Committee Considers Broadcast Future

The U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) Broadcast Committee met via conference call on Wednesday, Feb. 11, to consider future television and other broadcast options for the harness racing industry.

Formerly known as the Television Committee, the members voted to change the name to the USTA Broadcast Committee to more accurately describe the multiple options that are being considered for both traditional TV as well as new technology platforms for delivering video.

"The Broadcast Committee was presented extensive information on traditional television along with alternative broad-

casting technology options that are available now and growing faster and faster every day," said USTA president Phil Langley. "The committee is considering a long-range plan with an eye to the future, utilizing multiple platforms that can have the ability to sustain its own funding and possibly produce revenue that could be used to market our sport."

In addition, the committee agreed to define its mission more clearly, identify short- and long-term goals, and assign definitive responsibilities to committee members. A subcommittee was created to determine criteria for USTA financial support requests to assist in the funding of television broadcasts.

First up on the agenda was a proposal from USTA director Chris Schick to increase the USTA budget for support to racetracks and the Hambletonian Society for traditional television from \$50,000 to \$150,000 for 2015.

After considerable discussion about the costs of buying time and production as well as viewership numbers for horse racing and other sports on network and cable TV, the committee agreed to submit the proposal for consideration at the annual USTA Board of Directors meeting next month. In 2014, the Meadowlands Pace, Hambletonian and Little Brown Jug were televised by CBS Sports Network.

Information on two online, subscription platforms, the Roberts Communications' Q Racing Live and the WWE Network, were presented and discussed.

Q Racing Live is the American Quarter Horse Association's online programming that delivers every Quarter Horse race in the United States via computer and mobile devices for a monthly fee that is producing revenue for that association. The committee was informed about multiple discussions over the past few months between the USTA and Roberts Communications to develop a similar platform for harness racing with the capability of delivering live racing, a replay archive, and the possibility of adding live programming and video on demand.

Similarly, the WWE Network is a monthly, online subscription service that was created less than a year ago to replace wrestling's expensive cable pay-per-view format. The platform has been a huge success with more than 1 million subscribers signing up in the first 11 months. During that time, the WWE has doubled their broadcast revenues.

The committee was presented with recent marketing research, conducted separately by both the USTA and their social media agency Converseon, that indicated that more than 60 percent of respondents said that they would be willing to pay \$10 per month for a harness racing service similar to Q Racing Live and the WWE Network.

The members of the committee, chaired by Dan Leary from the USTA, are: Ivan Axelrod, Phil Langley and Mike Tanner (USTA), Alex Dadoyan (SOANY), Kevin Decker (The Meadows), Moira Fanning (Hambletonian Society), Sam McKee (Meadowlands), Chris Schick (Cal Expo) and Tom Wright (Little Brown Jug). (USTA)