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Is It Fate For Detroit Rapper To Win Singer Final?

In 2002 the native Detroiter Eminem made history when he became the first rapper to win an Academy Award with his song Lose Yourself, the lead single from his autobiographical movie 8 Mile. On Saturday night at the Meadowlands, the 4-year-old gelding trotter Detroit Rapper will try for an upset victory in the \$49,000 Charles Singer Memorial final.



The Singer final, along with the finals of the Sonsam and Burning Point series and the opening leg of the Buddy Gilmour Series, will all be raced on Saturday after a one-week delay when the Meadowlands pulled the plug on last Saturday's card due to a snowstorm.

Detroit Rapper's trainer, Rob Harmon, is based at Mark Ford's training center in Middletown, N.Y., about an hour's drive to the Meadowlands. Harmon said the trip home last Saturday night for himself, assistant Gia-

"He's not one you can race every week, so that extra week off did him good after going hard two weeks in a row."

— Rob Harmon on Detroit Rapper

camo Francisci, and Detroit Rapper following the early cancellation—after one race was held—took 2 ½ hours.

Harmon said he was glad for the cancellation, and the extra week to prepare Detroit Rapper for the Singer.

"He has some issues, so it helped me out," said Harmon. "He's got some stomach issues and I was happy. He's also not one you can race every week, so that extra week off did him good after going hard two weeks in a row."

Jim Marohn Jr. will drive Detroit Rapper from the outside post 7, taking on a field that includes first-leg winners Walk The Walk and JL Cruze and second-leg victor Opulent

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2015 PRIX D'ETE

4 year old pacers
Purse : C\$200,000

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Nominations close on
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Detroit Rapper

\$49,000 Charles Singer Memorial Trot Series Final

Meadowlands, Saturday, Feb. 28, Race 2, Post Time: 7:38 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—JL Cruze (Crazed)	J. Campbell/E. Ell	6-5	J. Morrisson & Glengate Farms/HB (\$30,000)
2—Opulent Yankee* (Muscles Yankee)	A. Miller/J. Miller	8-5	Little E LLC/HB (\$4,000)
3—Two Hip Dip (Glidemaster)	B. Miller/N. Salenetri	10-1	Kentuckiana Farms & J. Jahre Jr./Lex (\$16,000)
4—Blocking The Way* (Yankee Glide)	Y. Gingras/J. Miller	8-5	Little E LLC/Lex (\$65,000)
5—Propulsion* (Muscle Hill)	S. Zeron/T. Alagna	8-5	R. Caldwell & Bluestone Farms/Lex (\$250,000)
6—Walk The Walk (Muscle Hill)	D. Miller/C. Ryder	3-1	Diamond Creek Fm, Exquisite Fms, M. Hartman/HB (\$20,000)
7—Detroit Rapper (Jailhouse Jesse)	J. Marohn Jr./R. Harmon	15-1	A. Libfeld & M. Katz/Ind. (\$25,000)

* coupled in waging

Yankee, part of a three-part wagering entry with Blocking The Way and Propulsion.

"There are some really good horses in there," admitted Harmon. "If it's a fast pace I think he'll be right there the way he's been racing. He can follow all day long, and he's competitive right now."

As for Detroit Rapper, he posted a second and a third in the two Singer preliminaries. A son of Jailhouse Jesse, Detroit Rapper is out of the Yankee Glide mare Showpiece, a half sister to top-class performers Mister Goal and Miss Goal. Harmon's Harmon Racing Stable privately purchased Detroit Rapper last November. In eight subsequent starts, Detroit Rapper has three wins, including a career-best 1:54.2 effort on Dec. 19 at the Meadowlands, with \$31,475 in earnings.

Harmon will also send out the 3-year-old gelding pacer Affluenza in the delayed Gilmour opener, with Brett Miller driving from post 5 in the first of two \$17,500 splits. After a 10-start freshman season solely at Harrah's Philadelphia and Dover Downs, Affluenza will be making not only his first start for Harmon but also his Big M debut after being purchased for \$10,000 at the Tattersalls January Mixed Sale by Laurie Patistas.

"I think I got a pretty good deal on him. I bought him for (Patistas) and they told me to go up to \$20,000 on him, and I got him for \$10,000," said Harmon. "It worked out good. He has a little issue with his front left foot but we're overcoming that. He's not bad. For the price, he's well worth that money."

Harmon also said he was glad to get the extra week with Affluenza, who finished second in his lone qualifier this year on Jan. 15 at the Meadowlands.

"It's big-time getting this extra week," said Harmon. "I was kind of rushing to get him qualified, and he qualified OK, but he was still short. Even though he got home good he was running in on the end, and (Marohn) just felt like he was getting tired, although he was still tried. The extra week has definitely helped him."

Affluenza is a half brother to Western Influence, Western Cruise, Card Dealer and Golden Time, all winners of more than \$250,000. Affluenza's dam, Affluence, is a half sister to the 2002 Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year Art Major.

Harmon said Affluenza is also eligible to the Walter Russell Memorial Pacing Series that gets underway March 3 at The Meadows. With the Gilmour Series backed up a week and the second leg on March 7 and final on March 14, Harmon said a decision will have to be made on where to head. —By Gordon Waterstone



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, February 27

All times listed are local.

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

Saturday, February 28

7:38p M2 **Singer Mem. Trot 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](#)
 9:10p YR7 **Open Trot** [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](#)



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HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

Kathy Parker

kparker@harnessracing.com
 Editor/ General Manager

Lynne Myers

lmeyers@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

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Beautide, Rattray Set To Defend In Inter Dominion

Beautide, the winner of the 2014 Inter Dominion, is set to defend his title on Sunday (Sydney time) at the Tabcorp Park Menangle track, located about 35 miles from Sydney. The 3,009-meter race—1.869 miles—will feature a field of 14, with 10 horses starting on the wings of the mobile gate and four in the second tier.

This year's Inter Dominion, worth \$750,000 (Australian, or about \$590,000 U.S.), is the highlight of a stakes-packed program that includes the grand finale of the World Driving Championship. Although New Zealand's Dexter Dunn

Rattray should be known to North American harness fans as he has worked and driven here, assisting in the Noel Daley Stable.

locked up a victory in the championship in action on Thursday night at the Penrith track, American Tim Tetrick and Canadian Jody Jamieson are both in the hunt for second-place honors, which will be determined when they square

off in the first race at Menangle on Sunday. Tetrick will be driving Blue Pointer, a horse trained by James Rattray.

As for the Inter Dominion and Beautide, if the defending champ earns another victory, he will join an elite club. Only five pacers have recorded back-to-back victories in the Inter Dominion, starting with Hondo Grattan (1973-'74), Gamalite (1983-'84), Our Sir Vancelot (1997-'98-'99), Blacks A Fake (2006-'07-'08-'10) and ImThemightyquinn (2011-'12-'13). Captain Sandy is also a dual winner but recorded victories in 1950 and again in 1953.

Beautide, a son of Bettor's Delight, is trained and driven by Rattray, who should be known to North American harness fans as he has worked and driven here, assisting in the Noel Daley Stable. Last year they won the Inter Dominion by setting a world record for the 3,100-meter distance (about 1.8 miles), turning in a mile rate time of 1:55 5/10ths while pulling away from his foes.

The invincibility Beautide showed in the 2014 Inter Dominion was missing a month ago when he suffered a bad defeat on Jan. 31 in the Victoria Cup at the Melton track, finishing eighth in the race won by Christen Me NZ, who was driven by young New Zealand driving ace Dunn. Before that, though, last November he also finished second to Christen Me NZ in the Miracle Mile at Menangle, losing by a head in 1:49.1.

But two weeks ago Beautide won his qualifying heat for this year's Inter Dominion and flashed the form that won him the race last year. With that performance, and his post 5 position for the start of this year's ID, he's seen as a strong favorite to win again.

"Beautide is very good," said Rattray. "His run in the (ID qualifying) heat was great, but it was even better the way he went about it."

Continues on page 4 >>>>

WOODBINE
ENTERTAINMENT

**Nominations Close
March 16, 2015**

MOHAWK WOODBINE

Metro - Pace	\$665,000 E
Canadian Pacing Derby	\$635,000 E
Maple Leaf - Trot	\$600,000 E
She's A Great Lady - Pace	\$480,000 E
William Wellwood Mem. - Trot	\$390,000 E
Peaceful Way - Trot	\$385,000 E
Roses Are Red - Pace	\$330,000 E
Milton - Pace	\$285,000 E
Armbro Flight - Trot	\$265,000 E
Nassagaweya - Pace	\$225,000 E
Eternal Camnation - Pace	\$150,000 E
Dream Of Glory - Trot	\$75,000 E
Balanced Image - Trot	\$70,000 E
Kin - Pace	\$65,000 E
The Diplomat Series - Pace	\$50,000 A
Princess Series - Pace	\$50,000 A
Don Mills Series - Trot	\$40,000 A
Youthful Series - Pace	\$30,000 A
Blossom Series - Pace	\$30,000 A
City Of London Series - Pace & Trot	\$30,000 A
Tie Silk Series - Trot	\$25,000 A
Celia's Counsel Series - Trot	\$25,000 A

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Christen Me NZ is missing from the Inter Dominion field, although he is the current Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit season. For A Reason, second in the point standings, is in the ID field and has a perfect opportunity to make a late challenge for the Grand Circuit title. For A Reason starts from post 11 in the Inter Dominion, the first trailer.

“Our toughest competition would be For a Reason, Terror To Love and Lennytheshark,” offered Rattray, who noted that his horse “loves” the Menangle track.

On the other hand, Terror To Love, who starts from post nine, is winless in nine starts at Menangle.

Per Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW), the provincial governing body, all horses in the Inter Dominion, including the two also eligibles, will report for detention/retention at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. Last year retention began on Thursday, three days before the race instead of the two implemented for this year’s edition.

“HRNSW is always reviewing our policies and our current intelligence suggests having the horses arrive on Friday is the best practice on this occasion for both integrity and animal welfare purposes,” said HRNSW CEO John Dumesny said.

“There are 48 surveillance cameras in the barn as well as security guards present at all times so connections of each horse can be assured that all horses will be closely monitored throughout the period.” — By Kathy Parker

TAB.COM.AU INTER DOMINION GRAND FINAL

Tabcorp Park Menangle (7/8 mile oval); Purse: \$750,000 (Aus.) Sun., March 1; Post Time: 3:42 p.m. (11:42 p.m. EST Sat., Feb. 28); Distance: 3,009 meters (1.869 miles)

No.—HORSE
(Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of dam) Trainer/Driver

1—LENNYTHESHARK
(5h, Four Starzz Shark-Botswana-Albert Albert) D. Aiken/Chris Alford

2—BLAZIN N CULLEN NZ
(5g, Christian Cullen-Rye Hanover-Western Hanover) John McCarthy

3—FLAMING FLUTTER NZ
(5h, Bettor's Delight-Twice As Hot NZ-In The Pocket) G. Webster/Greg Sugars

4—ULTIMATE ART
(5h, Modern Art-Salix-By Xample) Michael Formosa

5—BEAUTIDE
(7g, Bettor's Delight-Gorse Bush-Ticket To Heaven) James Rattray

6—IM CORZIN TERROR NZ
(7g, Western Terror-Corzanello-Totally Ruthless) A. Grieve/Gavin Lang

7—MONIFIETH NZ
(8g, Christian Cullen-Glentara-Village Jasper) J. McCarthy/Todd McCarthy

8—MAJESTIC MACH
(5g, Mach Three-Midnight Lace-Fake Left) Grant Dixon

9—TERROR TO LOVE NZ
(7h, Western Terror-Love To Live-Live Or Die) G. Court/Blake Fitzpatrick

10—DAVID HERCULES
(8g, Artesian-Like A Dame-Golden Greek) D. Thompson/Morgan Woodley

11—FOR A REASON
(8h, Art Major-Left For Me-Fake Left) B. McCarthy/Luke McCarthy

12—EASY ON THE EYE NZ
(6g, Christian Cullen-Van Ished-Holmes Hanover) S. Tritton/Lauren Panella

13—AVONNOVA
(8g, Art Major-Mini Slick-Maple Lanes Strike) I. Gurney/Shane Graham

14—TEO ENTEO
(6g, Armbr Operative-The Milky Way-French Chef) Darren Hancock

AE1-FRANCO LEDGER NZ
(7g, Falcon Seelster-Lets Scoot Franco-Live Or Die) Geoff Webster

AE2-WARTIME SWEETHEART NZ
(7g, Courage Under Fire-Soky's Sweetheart-Soky's Atom) D. Aiken/Nathan Jack

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Lifetime Horse Statistics	NO	YES
Claims & Trainer Change Details	NO	YES
Auction Sales Data	NO	YES
Yearling Prices & Stud Fees	NO	YES
Race Replay Links	NO	YES
Result Chart Links	NO	YES





TIOGA DOWNS 2015 LATE CLOSING EVENTS

(TO CLOSE APRIL 1, 2015)

For 3-5 Year Olds - Separated by Sex & Gait

Event # 1
Morrisville College Sale Trot
Colts & Geldings

Non Winners of 5 Pari-Mutuel races and/or \$60,000
Lifetime through and including March 31, 2015.
W/O \$100,000 Lifetime NE

Leg #1	Friday, June 5	\$12,500G
Leg #2	Friday, June 12	\$12,500G
Final	Sunday, June 21	\$40,000E

Event # 2
Nichol's True Value Pace
Colt & Geldings

Non Winners of 5 Pari-Mutuel races and/or \$60,000
Lifetime through and including March 31, 2015.
W/O \$100,000 Lifetime NE

Leg #1	Sunday, June 14	\$12,500G
Leg #2	Sunday, June 21	\$12,500G
Final	Sunday, June 28	\$40,000E

Event # 3
Williams Auto Trot
Fillies & Mares

Non Winners of 5 Pari-Mutuel races and/or \$60,000
Lifetime through and including March 31, 2015.
W/O \$100,000 Lifetime NE

Leg #1	Saturday, June 6	\$12,500G
Leg #2	Saturday, June 13	\$12,500G
Final	Sunday, June 21	\$40,000E

Event # 4
M&J Oil & Lube Pace
Fillies & Mares

Non Winners of 5 Pari-Mutuel races and/or \$60,000
Lifetime through and including March 31, 2015.
W/O \$100,000 Lifetime NE

Leg #1	Saturday, June 13	\$12,500G
Leg #2	Saturday, June 20	\$12,500G
Final	Sunday, June 28	\$40,000E

Nomination Fee \$400
No Starting Fee

Conditions are available upon request. Pari-Mutuel wins for a purse of less than \$2,000 not considered.

EVENT	HORSE	AGE	GAIT	SEX	SIRE	DAM	AMOUNT
TOTAL							

All owners, trainers and drivers of nominated horses must be approved to race or entry may be denied.

Nominator: _____ Trainer: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

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STRETCH CALL



BY DAVE BRIGGS

Joe Thomson: Social Media Doesn't Target The Right Demographic

Joe Thomson doesn't have a problem with people that want to tweet or use other social media platforms to promote harness racing, so long as we appreciate we're targeting the wrong people to invest in the game.



"People my age... don't use Twitter and they don't do Facebook. They don't like any of that stuff because it's just too much trouble."

— Joe Thomson

given things to read," Thomson said.

Don't call Thomson a fuddy duddy or a Luddite. His experience as the founder and president of Pacer Financial tells him the best way to grow harness racing is to target an older demographic that has the most discretionary income.

"My business really goes into the retirement planning business. Something like 80 percent of the wealth in America belongs to people over 50 years of age," he said. "There are 78 million people just in the baby boomers."

Thomson points out that with the average life expectancy of 80 years for men and 82 for women, retirees are living longer and looking for something to fill their time. "It is a great prospect group," he said, pointing out just how expensive it is to own horses.

"If I had a guy working for me that's going after 35 year olds, he's nuts. They've got no money. It's not the person's fault. Usually they have kids, they have a mortgage, they have all those things. They have to save for retirement. They just don't have the extra discretionary income," Thomson

The 70-year-old owner of Winbak Farm, and the lone 2015 inductee into Harness Racing's Hall of Fame, thinks we should put more energy into attracting baby boomers to the sport than exploiting social media.

"Everybody is constantly saying, 'You need to go after the young ones. You need to do all this Twitter and stuff.' They have no money and they can use Twitter, but people my age, it's proven by the meetings I go to, that they don't use Twitter and they don't do Facebook. They don't like any of that stuff because it's just too much trouble. They like to talk to people and they like to be

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said. "You identify your target group. You figure out what they did and then you need to get them in the business."

Thomson said it's a great time to invest. "We're racing for more money today than ever before and we've got fewer horses than ever before," he said, emphasizing the greater possibility of a return on investment.

"You know the top 10 trainers in the country took in over \$70 million this year. The top 10. Ronnie Burke did \$28 million, but even if you take him and Jimmy Takter out, that's still a lot of money," Thomson said. "I don't know what the stats were from last year, but the year before it was like \$475 million or \$480 million in purses. That's a terrific business."

That doesn't mean social media shouldn't be exploited to find the next generation of customers by attracting them to the sport first as fans and bettors. But with horse ownership down and breeders struggling, it is critical that the sport immediately find big investors if it is going to stay afloat long enough for the Twitter generation to accumulate enough wealth to invest where the sport needs it most.



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.



Dunn Wraps Up WDC Title; Tetrick, Jamieson Battle For Second

The World Driving Championship headed to Penrith, Australia, on Thursday night (Feb. 26) for three heats. Penrith is a suburb and a major center in the metropolitan area of Sydney. Penrith is located 60 kilometers west of Sydney on the banks of the Nepean River. The Penrith track is 804 meters in circumference.

New Zealand's Dexter Dunn took a 39 point lead into the night over his nearest rival, USA's Tim Tetrick. Dunn had a second-place finish on the night, which gave him enough points—183—to secure the championship. A battle still is expected for second place, with the last race in the World Driving Championship race 1 on the special Inter Dominion program at the Menangle track near Sydney on Sunday.

Four drivers are still in contention for second place: Tony Le Beller (140), Tim Tetrick (137), Mika Forss (135) and Jody Jamieson (131).

As for the competition at Penrith, Canada's Jamieson dominated the evening's proceedings, winning two heats, but it was his patience that was rewarded in heat 17. Driving the favorite, Strawberry Courage, from post one, he got buried on the marker pegs. Showing a lot of skill to get away from the inside, Jamieson charged home over the top to beat Emerging Art and Finland's Mika Forss. Just Pit Boss and Dexter Dunn finished third with Diesel Shannon and Denmark's Knud Monster fourth.

Knud Monster captured his second win of the championship when he brought Midnight Lights with a well timed run to win heat 18, but when Dunn held onto second placing driving Lombo Final Touch, it all but sealed the championship for New Zealand. France's Tony Le Beller weaved through to get third with Flying Crusa while Billion Smiles and Mika Forss finished fourth.

Jamieson made it a double when Katsidis charged home late to score a narrow victory in heat 19. Katsidis raced behind the leader for most of the race but when Marquez started to tire, Jamieson was able to extricate away from the marker pegs and build race winning momentum. Marshal Dale and Le Beller were second. Norway's Vidar Hop was third driving Tralee Bromac and Satu for France's Pierre Ver-cruyse grabbed fourth. (*Harness Racing New South Wales*)

Dave Magee To Retire, Become Steward In Indiana

After 40-plus years of climbing into the bike, driver Dave Magee has decided to call it quits in order to pursue a new career as a steward at Hoosier Park in Anderson, Ind.

The 61-year-old resident of Big Rock, Ill., has been the Chicago circuit's most successful and respected reinsman throughout the last four decades, winning 11,868 races and amassing more than \$101 million in purse earnings

throughout his career. Those numbers earned Magee a spot in the Harness Racing Hall of Fame back in 2001.

"When I started out racing on the Wisconsin fair circuit with my family I didn't even know those types of numbers even existed," said Magee. "I started out at the bottom and just learned about the business every step of the way thanks to my family and friends in the business. Everything I have from all of this is honestly just an unexpected reward."

Always a Midwestern boy at heart, Magee tried his hand on the East coast early in his career but quickly decided to return to his roots.

"Probably 30 years ago or so I figured I would give the tracks out East a shot because that seemed to be where all the big money and all the great horses were at," explained Magee. "After just a couple of weeks there I just didn't feel at home out there. That's when I realized I wanted to get back my roots here and I've been at it ever since."

Taking down driving titles at Balmoral Park, Maywood Park, Hawthorne and the former Sportsman's Park and Quad City Downs throughout the years, the "King" of the Illinois circuit was still able to make a name for himself on the national scene. He guided the great Anniecrombie to a 1988 Breeders Crown championship and also captured the 1984 Canadian Pacing Championship with Mr. Dalrae, a horse Magee would also guide to victory in the U.S. Pacing Championship.

Other top horses who Magee sat behind for major stakes victories included Odds Against, Keystone Raider, Continentalvictory, Staying Together and Color Me Best.

In typical Magee fashion, it is a nondescript Illinois bred who ranks at the top of his list among his favorite horses.

"My favorite horse and maybe the biggest thrill of my career was driving MiT Model to victory in the Filly Orange & Blue in 1982. She was born right in our backyard and she didn't have very much natural ability," he explained. "But she made up for all that with a huge heart and she wound up winning that race in just her second lifetime start. I never expected her to do that heading into that race."

Magee also put himself in the spotlight on a global level when he captured the 1995 World Driving Championship, knocking off fellow competitors from Canada, Australia, France, Sweden, Italy and Germany, among others. He also led the country in wins in 1994, piloting 630 horses to victory that season.

One stat that Magee is particularly proud of shows just how consistent and durable he has been throughout the years. Heading into the 2015 season Magee had posted an amazing 36 straight years with more than \$1 million in purse earnings and 38 straight seasons with 100 wins or more.

"I guess that shows I've been here a lot," he chuckled. "Really it's been tougher on my wife Kathy and our kids than it has been on me. I've sacrificed going to events, parties, weddings and that type of thing on weekends but I always

Continues on page 8 >>>



felt that I had an obligation to be at the track driving for the people that wanted me to drive their horses. As a family we didn't get to go on a lot of vacations but we've made the best of it by turning weeks like at the State Fair in Springfield into family trips. They've all been so understanding about things like that and I cannot thank them enough."

Magee will be honored in a winner's circle ceremony after Saturday's fifth race at Balmoral Park. (*Balmoral Park*)

Three New Standardbred Judges In Indiana

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) has hired three new judges to officiate its Standardbred racing program. Michael (Mike) Hall joins the IHRC team as presiding judge. He will be joined by Kevin Gumm and David Magee as associate judges.

Hall, relocating from Delaware, brings with him 25 years of officiating experience to Hoosier Park's judges stand. He began his career in 1990 as an associate judge at Northfield Park, moving into a presiding judge role for the Ohio Racing Commission. He brings years of experience to this position, from officiating at tracks such as Yonkers Raceway, Pompano Park, and most recently at Harrah's Philadelphia Race-track for the Pennsylvania Racing Commission. He has also been featured in Hoof Beats' Ask the Judge column on several occasions. Hall replaces Tim Schmitz, who has served as Indiana's presiding judge with distinction since 1996.

Gumm, originally from Illinois, has served as an associate judge since 2008. He has worked at several racetracks in the Midwest, including Colonial Downs, Running Aces, Maywood, Balmoral Park and most recently Hollywood Dayton and Miami Valley Raceway in Ohio.

Magee rounds out the IHRC judges team, making the transition from race bike to judges' stand. Bringing with him years of driving experience, the Hall of Fame inductee has accumulated 11,868 driving wins and over \$101 million in purse earnings.

"Indiana has been fortunate to have many high caliber individuals work in our judges' stand over the years, including Tim Schmitz, who has held the presiding judge position since 1996. We are thankful to Tim for his years for service to Indiana. I couldn't be more pleased with our new team and welcome them all to Indiana," stated Joe Gorajec, executive director of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission.

Indiana's 2015 Standardbred race meet runs 160 days from March 27 through Nov. 14 at Hoosier Park Racing and Casino. (*IHRC*)

New Goshen Yearling Sale Set For Sept. 13

The inaugural Goshen Yearling Sale has been established and is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13. The new venue has already attracted consignments from Blue Chip Farms, Cameo Hills, Crawford Farms and Winbak Farms.

The annual harness horse auction will be held at the Mark Ford Training Center in Middletown, N.Y., and is scheduled for the afternoon immediately following the New York Sires Stakes Night of Champions at Yonkers Raceway.

The commission structure will also be advantageous for breeders as horses selling for \$50,000 or more pay just three percent. Sale prices from \$25,000 to \$49,900 are charged just four percent, with the base commission set at \$500 or five percent. The entry fee is just \$350, making this an attractive choice for New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania eligible colts and fillies. Entries close May 15.

For additional consignment information please contact Chris Tully at (845) 807-7538, or email tullytrot@yahoo.com.

Up, Up And Dube!

Dan Dube is feeling good. As a result, the 45-year-old driver is doing good as well.

Two years removed from back surgery to correct a sciatic nerve issue, Dube is the leading driver this season at Yonkers Raceway and entered Thursday needing only two wins to reach 8,000 for his career.

Dube has won 65 races this year, with 64 coming at Yonkers, where he leads the raceway's defending driving champ, Jason Bartlett, by 22 victories. He is winning at a 24.5 percent clip at the Hilltop and is the only Yonkers regular with a win rate of better than 16 percent.

He has won \$771,770 in purses this year, trailing only Corey Callahan for the most in North America.

"You have great drivers at Yonkers, but right now I'm just on a good run," Dube said. "I'm driving for some hot barns and driving good horses helps a lot.

"So far this year everything I do seems to be right. Sometimes you can do nothing right, but this year everything is going the right way. That's fun."

Dube said his success was "a little bit of both" feeling better physically and getting horse power. The Quebec native decided to have back surgery in January 2013 after winning 206 races the previous year. It was his second-lowest win total in more than two decades. He missed six weeks of action because of the surgery.

"Back pain affects everything," Dube said. "It's tough to be focused. You're not comfortable. You can't sit right on the bike because you're in pain. It bothered me for a while, but I was scared of surgery because you never know what can happen. But I'm glad I did it. I'm glad it all went away."

Dube received the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association in 1997 and three years later was the regular driver of Horse of the Year Gallo Blue Chip. He also drove 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven.

He added about his aversion to interviews, with a laugh, "I try to run away. Even in French, I'm no good. I'm not a big talker. I like to keep quiet. That's just the way I am." (*HRC*)

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 24, 2015 (week difference Feb. 11-24).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Not Afraid (6tg)	6	4	1	0	\$91,150
Artistic Fusion (4pm)	6	5	1	0	58,360
JL Cruze (4tg)	6	4	2	0	52,500
Take It Back Terry (6pg)	6	1	4	0	52,500
Carolsideal (6pm)	4	4	0	0	52,000
Marquise De Sarah (5pm)	5	4	0	0	50,844
Nickle Bag (5pg)	6	2	3	0	49,470
Icommandmyspirit (5pm)	6	3	0	1	47,600
Bags For All (4tm)	7	4	3	0	47,345
Palm Patrol (6pm)	6	0	5	0	46,550
Lindy's Tru Grit (5th)	5	2	2	0	43,125
Dabestleaderever (8pg)	8	5	1	1	42,945
Opulent Yankee (4tg)	6	3	3	0	42,875
Bourbon Bay (4tg)	6	4	0	0	42,870
Believe This Bob (7pg)	7	2	2	0	42,830

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	551	127-88-86	.371	\$1,065,654 (\$287,721)
Daniel Dube	269	65-35-34	.356	771,770 (264,875)
Ron Pierce	412	85-62-52	.332	743,395 (120,380)
Aaron Merriman	606	132-86-82	.342	712,167 (187,314)
Jason Bartlett	300	42-69-42	.314	693,487 (135,945)
George Brennan	293	41-37-40	.256	618,882 (109,270)
Brian Sears	233	35-42-29	.292	568,375 (196,035)
Dave Palone	292	71-39-37	.360	563,187 (159,083)
Mike Wilder	301	56-54-40	.330	522,044 (142,828)
Eric Carlson	270	27-35-37	.218	488,370 (147,300)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	458	122-74-54	.395	486,784 (159,679)
Brett Miller	246	38-46-22	.288	478,081 (142,263)
Matt Kakaley	296	33-25-32	.194	476,755 (168,365)
Sylvain Fillon	212	38-35-26	.312	474,567 (107,141)
Jim MacDonald	275	38-46-30	.267	472,328 (97,304)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	352	88-62-43	.389	\$1,098,554 (\$248,147)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	231	61-25-35	.375	432,879 (108,820)
Richard Moreau	200	40-31-28	.333	426,145 (88,211)
Carmen Auciello	248	21-33-27	.195	382,419 (85,023)
Dylan Davis	103	29-17-10	.406	240,250 (67,710)
Mark Ford	187	17-15-22	.175	235,969 (67,390)
Joe Cirusuola	69	16-19-10	.433	222,608 (57,696)
Jeffrey Bamond Jr.	90	12-16-17	.295	209,285 (35,030)
Wayne Givens	110	18-21-13	.309	207,588 (38,950)
Scott Di Domenico	105	19-11-16	.290	206,862 (66,340)
Julie Miller	57	11-13-4	.343	200,734 (64,621)
Eric Ell	58	21-13-4	.510	200,315 (40,570)
Rob Harmon	103	21-15-14	.330	197,771 (50,770)
Jose Godinez	81	13-13-11	.295	192,851 (33,270)
Nick Surick	135	25-15-14	.281	185,055 (41,090)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	479	178	237	\$1,863,988
Winbak Farm	406	149	196	1,364,005
Perretti Farms	156	53	80	598,110
Brittany Farms	131	54	78	589,519
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	87	43	56	414,683
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	114	30	43	356,156
White Birch Farm	58	27	36	325,077
Arlene & Jules Siegel	57	19	26	282,048
Seelster Farms Inc.	77	28	44	279,787
Frederick Hertrich III	63	25	34	263,866
Robert J. Key	66	25	34	256,254
Walnut Hall Limited	56	23	36	235,771
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	49	22	32	232,753
Fair Winds Farm Inc.	40	18	22	231,149
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	61	26	39	229,806

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 11-24 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	125	43-23-15
Corey Callahan	136	41-22-25
Aaron Merriman	138	35-16-25
Daniel Dube	90	24-14-7
Josh Sutton	97	24-12-18
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	61	21-9-6
Steve Wiseman	53	21-6-9
Dan Noble	104	20-15-10
Chris Page	120	19-10-7
Alfred Carroll	71	18-11-12
Dave Palone	78	17-13-11
Ron Pierce	71	17-8-3
Jim Marohn Jr.	98	16-15-8
Kevin Cummings	55	16-8-10
Jim Marshall III	79	15-2-9
Steve Smith	88	15-16-17
Mike Wilder	73	14-12-8
Trace Tetrick	87	14-8-10
Brett Miller	64	13-13-5
Matt Kakaley	91	13-10-14

Trainers

	Wins
Ron Burke	20
Virgil Morgan Jr.	17
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	11
Gene Vallandingham	9
Dylan Davis	8
George Anthrop	8
John Urbanski	8
Rene Allard	8
Richard Moreau	8
Brett Wilfong	7
Chris Short	7
David Menary	7
Nelson Willis	7
Rob Harmon	7
Robert Lounsbury	7
Scott Di Domenico	7
Steve Wiseman	7
Vincent Fusco Jr.	7

MARCH 2015



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 Saratoga Harness opens	2	3	4 Horseman	5	6 Horseplayer Interactive Pace (Wdb)	7 Buddy Gilmour Pace (M) WEGZ Pace (Wdb)
8 Daylight Savings Time begins	9 Lifetime Dream Trot (Wdb) Petticoat Pace (YR)	10 Sagamore Pace (YR)	11	12	13 Horseplayer Interactive (Wdb) Shiaway St. Pat Trot (M)	14 Buddy Gilmour Pace final (M) Clyde Hirt Pace (M) WEGZ Pace (Wdb) USTA meeting begins in Columbus, Ohio
15	16 Lifetime Dream Trot (Wdb) Petticoat Pace (YR)	17 St. Patrick's Day Sagamore Pace (YR)	18 Horseman	19	20 First day of Spring Blue Chip Matchmaker Pace (YR) Shiaway St. Pat Trot (M) Harrah's Philadelphia opens	21 Bobby Weiss 3CP (PcD) Clyde Hirt Pace (M) Horseplayer Interactive final (Wdb) Levy Memorial Pace (YR) WEGZ Pace final (Wdb) Mohegan Sun at Pocono opens
22	23 DSBF 3FT (DD) Lifetime Dream Trot final (Wdb) Petticoat Pace (YR)	24 Bobby Weiss 3&4 FM Pace (PcD) Bobby Weiss 3&4 HG Trot (PcD) DSBF 3CT (DD) Sagamore Pace (YR)	25 Bobby Weiss 3&4 FM Trot (PcD) DSBF 3FP (DD)	26 DSBF 3CP (DD)	27 Blue Chip Matchmaker Pace (YR) Hoosier Park opens	28 Bobby Weiss 3&4 HG Pace (PcD) Clyde Hirt Pace final (M) Levy Memorial Pace (YR) Shiaway St. Pat Trot final (M) Youthful 3CP (Wdb) Scarborough Downs opens
29 Palm Sunday	30 Blossom 3FP (Wdb) DSBF 3FT (DD) Petticoat Pace final (YR)	31 Bobby Weiss 3&4 FM Pace (PcD) Bobby Weiss 3&4 HG Trot (PcD) DSBF 3CT (DD) Sagamore Pace final (YR)	1 April Fool's Day	2	3 Good Friday	4 Passover

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*

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