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### Miller Hoping Up-And-Down Week Ends With Dinner At The Met Win

It's been a week of mixed emotions for trainer Erv Miller. On Saturday, Feb. 22, he and his wife, Heidi, along with 200 invited guests, watched as their son Marcus married Sara Balagna in ceremonies at Southern Oaks Training Center in Florida. On Tuesday night, Feb. 26, Miller received the bad news that longtime partner Bert Hochsprung's wife, Kim, died at the age of 49 from cancer.

While Miller heads to Illinois to attend the funeral on Saturday morning, he will have four horses racing over the weekend at Yonkers and the Meadowlands, including the Miller/Hochsprung-owned Dinner At The Met in the second

**"I'm not big on racing babies that are just getting started on the front end a lot. So the next start we took him back."**

— Erv Miller

round of the Buddy Gilmour Series at the Big M. With first-leg winners National Debt and Capital Account sitting the week out, National Debut has been installed the 4-5 morning-line favorite in Saturday night's lone \$20,000 division.

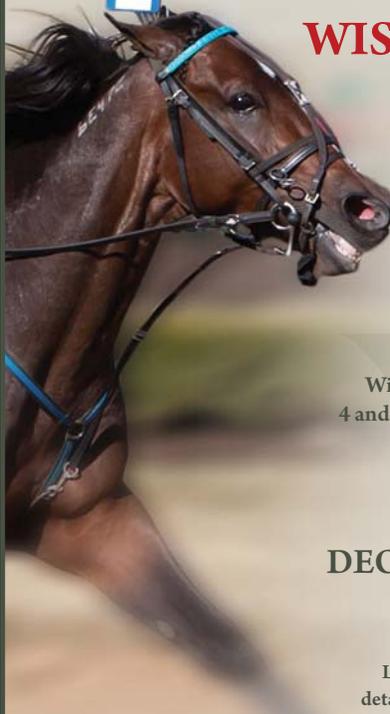
Dinner At The Met is making just his fifth career start. After opening his career with three straight victories in overnights at the Meadowlands with Marcus driving, the 3-year-old gelded son of Metropolitan finished second to National Debt in one of two divisions of the opening round of the Gilmour Series last Saturday night.

Although Marcus had driven Dinner At The Met the first three starts, because of the wedding that also included the attendance of Erv's brother, driver Andy Miller, Yannick Gingras got the drive. With Marcus on his honeymoon in Belize, Andy will be in the sulky on Saturday night, leaving from post 6 in the nine-horse field in Race 11. Marcus will be back in the sulky for the Gilmour final on March 8.

Dinner At The Met is out of the Sportsmaster mare Grabbersome, who Miller and Hochsprung claimed for \$12,000 at Hawthorne Race Course on Aug. 12, 2004. The pair had the mare in the barn for seven starts—with two wins—before she suffered a career-ending injury in November that led to her broodmare career.

"He is very tall and was very immature last year so we just gave him time," Miller explained of Dinner At The Met going unraced at two. "I turned him out in March and left him out for quite a while. I had him ready to go in late October and early November, but I told my partner he could still use a little more time and if we gave him a little more time I thought he'd come back real good.

"I gave him another three weeks or month of short rest and when I brought him in he was ready. He was just a very



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tall horse and it took him that long to get his legs underneath him."

Although Dinner At The Met won his pari-mutuel debut on Jan. 11 at the Big M, leading gate to wire in 1:55 wasn't exactly what the trainer envisioned. That led to a come-from-behind 1:54.4 effort in his second victory on Feb. 6.

"The first race didn't go the way I wanted it to go," Miller said. "Marcus left, but another horse who was a longshot left with him, and he said if he let him go he'd get in a bad spot. So he didn't let him go and put him in a hole, and it ended up working out.

"I'm not big on racing babies that are just getting started on the front end a lot. So the next start we took him back. And the next start I let him do what he wanted and he won on the front end (in a career-best 1:54.3)." — By Gordon Waterstone

## Silva Buys One-Third Interest In National Debt

Alberta-based trainer Kelly Hoerdtd told harnessracing.com Thursday afternoon that he and his partners, Blair and Erna Corbeil, have sold one-third interest in the 3-year-old colt pacer National Debt to Jerry and Theresa Silva's J&T Silva Stables for an undisclosed sum.

A son of Allamerican Native, National Debt was four-for-four last year while competing in Western Canada, including setting a freshman track record of 1:53.3 at Alberta Downs. Hoerdtd sent National Debt to New Jersey-based trainer Ron Coyne Jr. for the William "Buddy" Gilmour Series that got underway at the Meadowlands on Feb. 22.

"We're absolutely delighted to have Jerry included in our group," said Hoerdtd. "The best thing for us is that we have the opportunity to keep the horse where he is with Ron Coyne at Magical Acres Training Center.

"I really appreciate all the calls and all the offers that were made for the horse. I really appreciate the interest that fellow horsemen had in the horse."

Making his seasonal debut, National Debt won his Gilmour division in 1:50.3, and Hoerdtd said before driver Tim Tetrick could even bring the now five-for-five colt back to the winner's circle his phone was ringing from prospective buyers.

Jerry Silva told harnessracing.com he didn't even jump into the mix until Wednesday.

"The sale was all done Wednesday in 24 hours," said Silva. "I saw the race (Gilmour) because I had a horse in that race, and National Debt was very impressive. I looked at his races in Canada and I spoke with Tim Tetrick, and he was very impressed with him. What's interesting is that he's by Allamerican Native, and I owned part of him when he raced many years ago.

"There was a competing offer and they decided they would rather have me as a partner, so we made the deal. It was not a cheap price, it was not a humongous price, it was a fair price."

Hoerdtd said he expected offers when he sent National Debt to the East Coast, especially if the colt kept winning.

"If a horse looks good enough you're going to get offers, especially down East," said Hoerdtd. "It was a great shiny mile and he looked great doing it. We had a lot of great and positive feedback from our driver. But that's just one race and we're talking about a big season ahead of him. You're always hopeful when you start a 3 year old, and we're not going to get too delusional until the time comes when the bigger races come up. Hopefully, we'll still have a nice horse at that time, knock on wood, healthy and sound."

National Debt was a \$17,000 yearling purchase at the 2012 Harrisburg Sale. He is a half brother to Grin For Money, who has career earnings of \$441,651 and is still racing in Ontario. His dam, Our Inheritance, is a half sister to multiple Ontario Sires Stakes winner Cedar Shake.

National Debt is sitting out this weekend's second round of the Gilmour Series, but he will return for the final on Satur-

## WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

### Friday, February 28

All times listed are local.

7:34p	M2	<b>B2/A1/A2/FFA</b> Pace	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:50p	YR6	<b>F&amp;M Open</b> Pace	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:51p	M6	<b>F&amp;M A2/FFA</b> Pace	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:30p	YR8	<b>Open Trot</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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

### Saturday, March 1

7:34p	M2	<b>A2/A1/FFA</b> Pace	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
7:45p	Wdb2	<b>Preferred</b> Pace	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:50p	YR6	<b>Open</b> Pace	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
10:27p	M11	<b>Gilmour Pace</b> 2nd leg	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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day, March 8. Although he is not fully stakes, his engagements include the Meadowlands Pace and North America Cup, as well as the Breeders Crown in which he was supplemented for \$10,000.

"I don't know where the future is going to take him and how he is going to be in the future, but the one thing I can tell you, is that with the experience I've had with him is that for sure he's the best horse I've ever sat behind," concluded Hoerdtd, who was just awarded Canada's 2013 O'Brien Award for Horsemanship. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

# STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

## A Guide To Improvement

Which is better, the element of surprise or knowing what you're in for in advance? That's at the core of a debate about how best to stage the Dan Patch Awards.

Last Saturday, directors of the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA)—the group that puts on the event in conjunction with the United States Trotting Association (USTA)—were fairly evenly split on the future direction of an awards gala.

For the most part, the awards that honor the best in harness racing from the past year are a pleasant affair with much room for improvement. As it stands, the banquet is way too long, with far too many awards. Even people winning awards will tell you that.

That's not picking on the organizers of this or

any past year's Dan Patch Awards. Staging awards banquets is a difficult task at the best of times, especially when organizers are torn over whether it's better to make it a more compelling evening or strive to get as much of that elusive mainstream media coverage for our sport as possible.

The good news is I believe it's possible to accomplish both suspense and media coverage with a little more planning and by borrowing the best ideas from Canada's O'Brien Awards. The O'Briens aren't perfect, but they are the gold standard for this industry. The banquet is shorter and much more fun mainly because Standardbred Canada announces two finalists in almost every category and unveils the winners the night of the banquet. For more than a decade, my group always had a table-wide bet for who could select the most O'Brien winners in advance, which kept things interesting.

Normally, most of the Dan Patch Awards are announced in advance. This year, when USHWA left the winners of some of the horse categories to be announced on the night itself, critics predicted the sport would lose much-

needed mainstream media coverage because the winners would be announced too late in the evening to make most newspaper deadlines. Some believe the way to garner the most mainstream press is to announce all the winners as early as possible on the slowest possible sports day in December, shortly after the voting closes. Of course, the downside is the banquet, two months later, is an overly long snoozefest devoid of any suspense that gets very little mainstream coverage.

Here's how you can fix it:

1. Shortly after votes are tallied in December, two finalists for the trainer, driver, owner and breeder of the year, plus all the horse categories except pacer, trotter and overall horse of the year are announced live on a USTA web-stream that, later, could be edited and packaged for use by mainstream media.
2. Pick the slowest sports day possible in February for your banquet date.
3. At noon on the day of the banquet, issue a press release to the mainstream media with all the winners, complete with an embargo on its release until 9 p.m. that night.
4. To ensure the last award—traditionally Horse of the Year—is announced by 9 p.m., organizers are going to have to stick to a strict schedule that includes: (a) having cocktail hour from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.; (b) having dinner on the tables by 6 p.m. sharp (eating first always makes for happier attendees); (c) starting the awards presentations promptly at 7 p.m.; (d) cutting half of the awards (Herveys, Good Guy, Unsung Hero, etc.) out of the main event. Instead, give out those awards in advance at the end of USHWA's annual meeting that afternoon and present a quick list or announce those winners at the start of the main Dan Patch Awards; (e) put a time limit on speeches.

Sure, the mainstream media could blab early, but that's unlikely. Even if word does get out early, so what? It's not a travesty and it's still news. And, yes, some finalists are going to have to accept coming to a banquet and not winning an award, but Standardbred Canada has managed to navigate that problem relatively well over the years.

The advantages are many, including: the potential for increased ticket and program ad sales for USHWA's biggest fundraiser, more cooperative media partners because the industry worked with them, and a shorter, more entertaining evening that gives attendees the choice of whether to get home earlier or get to the after party sooner.



*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.*



### What Do You Think?

Do you have something to say about Dave Briggs' column? Or about anything else going on in harness racing?

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## Australasia's Great Inter Dominion This Weekend In Sydney

The \$750,000 Inter Dominion, the greatest harness racing in the Southern Hemisphere, will be contested Sunday, March 2, at the Tabcorp Park Menangle racetrack about an hour's drive from Sydney.

This will be the third Inter Dominion held at Tabcorp Park Menangle, which was the first oval larger than five-eighths mile in Australia. Blacks A Fake, who with more than \$4 million in career earnings is Australia's version of Foiled Again, won the inaugural ID at Menangle in 2010, which also happened to be his fourth triumph in the great classic. He is the only four-time winner of Australasia's premier harness race.

With 14 horses and a distance of almost 2 1/2 miles, the Inter Dominion tests horses in a way no other race does, and as the richest race in Australasia, the field is deep in talent. This year's field includes the \$1.9 million winner Terror To Love, the 1:49.4 record performer For A Reason, and Beautide, who won the Miracle Mile Pace at Menangle last November. TAB fixed odds have Beautide the favorite (\$3.60) with Im Victorious second (\$4.60) and the streaking Smolda the third favorite at \$5. TAB, the Australian betting company, has also put a \$200,000 guarantee on the First 4 pool on the Inter Dominion

Some expect a speed duel between Keayang Cullen and Mach Beauty, and Smolda is also being discussed as a horse who could be moving.

"We'll probably just see what happens but I wouldn't be fussy getting into any speed duels early," trainer-driver Mark Purdon told local media. "He's one horse that can make his own luck so if he settles back I'm not hesitant to make a move on his own at some stage."

The draw for post positions for the Inter Dominion was held at The Star casino in downtown Sydney, and one of the biggest talking points after the draw was the favorable start-

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ing points for known speedsters, among them Mach Beauty and Keayang Cullen. The connections of Livingontheinterest also promised their horse would be a factor early.

"At the end of the day we will be looking to lead with Mach Beauty; barrier six is the perfect draw for him," said trainer Shane Tritton. "I can't think of too many races where he hasn't led; he didn't lead in the Miracle Mile but the mo-

*Continues on page 6 >>>*

### \$750,000 INTER DOMINION

**Tabcorp Park Menangle (seven-eighths mile oval); Sunday, March 2**  
**Post Time: approx. 11:40 p.m. (EST), March 1; Distance: 3,009 meters**  
**(2.423 miles) with mobile start; 10 horses on the gate, 4 trailers**

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of dam)	Driver
<b>1—IM VICTORIOUS NZ</b> (6g, Washington VC-See Me Run-Soky's Atom)	Gary Hall Jr.
<b>2—LIVINGONTHEINTEREST NZ</b> (7g, Dream Away-Party Baby-In The Pocket)	Clinton Hall
<b>3—SEEL N PRINT NZ</b> (7g, Falcon Seelster-Fine Print-Go For Grins)	Todd McCarthy
<b>4—KEEYANG CULLEN</b> (7g, Christian Cullen-Inasafelace NZ-Safely Kept)	Glen Craven
<b>5—FOREVER GOLD</b> (7m, Famous Forever-Making Gold-Bookmaker)	Darren Weeks
<b>6—MACH BEAUTY</b> (6g, Mach Three-Falcon Black Beauty-Falcon Seelster)	Lauren Panella

<b>7—WARTIME SWEETHEART NZ</b> (7g, Courage Under Fire-Soky's Sweetheart-Soky's Atom)	David Aiken
<b>8—SMOLDA</b> (5g, Courage Under Fire*-Under The Mattress-Safely Kept)	Mark Purdon
<b>9—CARIBBEAN BLASTER</b> (7h, Bettor's Delight-Kalypso-Safely Kept)	Kate Gath
<b>10—THE GOLD ACE NZ</b> (7h, Bettor's Delight-Hills Of Gold-In The Pocket)	John McCarthy
<b>11—RESTREPO</b> (6h, Art Major-Shes Innocent-DM Dilinger)	Gavin Lang
<b>12—BEAUTIDE</b> (7g, Bettor's Delight-Gorse Bush-Ticket To Heaven)	James Rattray
<b>13—FOR A REASON</b> (8h, Art Major-Left For Me-Fake Left)	Luke McCarthy
<b>14—TERROR TO LOVE NZ</b> (7h, Western Terror-Love To Live-Live Or Die)	Ricky May



Left Photography

Blacks A Fake winning the first Inter Dominion held at Tabcorp Park Menangle in suburban Sydney.

bile barrier may have run a bit quicker that night. The harder they go the more he likes it."

Glen Craven will drive Keayang Cullen and noted that he would be "trying to get across to the fence, that's the first plan, and then I will have a couple of options up my sleeve. Im Victorious from gate one will be looking to use his good alley and we will be going as hard as we can to cross him but ideally we will be leading or leader's back at worst."

Michael Brennan trains the leading Western Australian chance Im Victorious and while Livingontheinterest led in their Inter Dominion elimination heat, he said he was confident his pacer can hold his position, starting from post one.

"I think we will be able to hold Livingontheinterest early, especially drawn alongside him but what happens after that is in the hands of our driver Gary Hall Jr.; he has driven in plenty of these finals before and knows what it takes to win them," said Brennan.

Inter Dominion contenders went their last training preps on Thursday during the Breakfast With The Stars program at the Menangle track, where they also entered the retention barn until race day. American track designer Daniel Coon, who designed and was on hand for the construction of the Menangle track, flew in from Kentucky to oversee the preparation of the track surface for Sunday's race.—By Kathy Parker

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## Harrah's Philadelphia Expected To Open In Late March

At its monthly meeting held in Harrisburg on Thursday (Feb. 27), the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission reinstated the 2014 race dates for Harrah's Philadelphia. On Jan. 23 the commission suspended Harrah's Philadelphia's race dates for 2014 due to the track's failure to provide the commission with information regarding how it would address issues with the track's racing surface.

Harrah's Philadelphia's dates call for a March 14 opening, but because of the harsh winter weather, work on the track is expected to delay the opening for 10-14 days. Ted Malloy, who has done work at The Meadows but now primarily serves as a consultant for Thoroughbred tracks, is reportedly going to oversee the work to get the Harrah's Philadelphia track ready for the opening.

There was no mention at the commission meeting of the lawsuit brought by the family of Anthony Coletta, who was injured in an accident at the track last December.

In other action at the meeting, it was announced that Roy Wilt, the longtime chairman of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission, had resigned from the commission due to personal reasons. Ed Rogers, a longtime commission member and Standardbred owner and breeder, served as acting chairman at the meeting. — *harnessracing.com*

## Bee A Magician Named 2013 Horse Of The Year

It was the perfect ending to a perfect season for Bee A Magician. The female trotter on Sunday night was named 2013 Horse of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association at the Dan Patch Awards banquet at Dover Downs. Bee A Magician, who was unbeaten in 17 races last season at age 3 and earned a divisional record \$1.54 million, bested pacers Foiled Again and Captaintreacherous for the honor.

Bee A Magician became the first 3-year-old filly trotter to receive the Horse of the Year Award since Continental victory in 1996. She received 94 votes, followed by Foiled Again with 19 and Captaintreacherous with 16, who got the nod for Pacer of the Year.

In addition, Bee A Magician was named Trotter of the Year by a 120-vote margin over both Market Share and Royalty For Life, who received three votes apiece. Although Foiled Again received more support for Horse of the Year, Captaintreacherous got the nod for Pacer of the Year, 68-57. Captaintreacherous, who won 13 of 16 races and \$2.05 million last season as a 3-year-old, became the first horse to win back-to-back Pacer of the Year honors since Jenna's Beach Boy in 1995-96.

Winners of divisional honors also were recognized at the banquet: Father Patrick (2-year-old male trotter), Shake It

Cerry (2-year-old female trotter), He's Watching (2-year-old male pacer), Precocious Beauty (2-year-old female pacer), Royalty For Life (3-year-old male trotter), Bee A Magician (3-year-old female trotter), Captaintreacherous (3-year-old male pacer), I Luv The Nitelife (3-year-old female pacer), Market Share (older male trotter), Maven (older female trotter), Foiled Again (older male pacer) and Anndrovette (older female pacer).

Bee A Magician, Father Patrick and Maven were unanimous picks for divisional titles. (*HRC*)

## Massachusetts Commission Says OK To Plainridge

The Boston Globe reported Thursday (Feb. 27) that the Massachusetts Gambling Commission has given conditional approval to a proposal to site the state's new slot machine parlor at Plainridge Race Course in Plainville.

The five-member panel voted 3-2 on Thursday to approve the proposal by Penn National Gaming, subject to a number of administrative conditions. Penn National must get back to the commission by 9:30 a.m. Friday to indicate that it accepts the conditions. If it does, the commission will take a final vote to approve the proposal.

Last year Penn National bought Plainridge and announced plans to bid for a slot machine license. It was awarded the license over Cordish Cos., which had proposed a facility in Leominster. Before Penn National stepped in, Plainridge Racecourse's chances of a slots license seemed remote because of allegations against Plainridge CEO Gary Pionkowski involving the track's finances. Penn National secured an option to buy the 89-acre racetrack property at Interstate 495 and Route 1, about five miles south of Gillette Stadium, home of the New England Patriots.

## Meadowlands Pace Nominations Double; Other Stakes Up Too

The first round of payments are in for the major Grand Circuit stakes to be raced in 2014 at the Meadowlands and the big news is the dramatic increase in the number of horses nominated to the \$750,000 (est.) Meadowlands Pace. A total of 58 three-year-old colt pacers were named to the race, nearly double the 2013 figure of 30, and the list includes the most accomplished freshmen from last season and a few upstarts among the nominees.

The eligibles include the recently named 2013 Dan Patch Award winning 2-year-old colt pacer He's Watching, Breeders Crown winner Luck Be Withyou, Metro hero Boom-boom Ballykeel and Governor's Cup champ JK Endofanera. Both colts that won divisions of the Buddy Gilmour series on Saturday, Capital Account and National Debt, have been paid in as well.

*Continues on page 8 >>>>*



Several tweaks in the payment formula resulted in greater participation by nominators. The most noticeable change was the reduction in the nomination fee from \$1,000 to \$500. Another is the inclusion of a tiered entry fee replacing a flat fee of \$6,000 to enter the elimination round to \$2,500 to start in the elimination race and then \$5,000 to continue on into the final.

Other changes are being implemented going forward which include for the first time a 2-year-old payment of \$400 due March 15 on foals of 2012 which will result in a reduction of \$2,000 in the sustaining payments for the 2015 Pace. The goal is to maintain and eventually increase the purse of the race while at the same time reducing the burden on the nominators.

By mere association, the Mistletoe Shalee filly companion stake leaped nearly 40 percent from 29 to 41.

Across the board on the stakes menu results were mixed. Substantial increases were realized in the Peter Haughton Memorial and Merrie Annabelle, and a few more trotters were nominated to the Cashman Memorial and the TVG Trotting Championship. Those names include Horse of the Year Bee A Magician and world record holder Maven. The older pacing mare stakes were up a bit as well.

The Del Miller for sophomore filly trotters took the biggest hit, down a third, and several of the stakes for open older pacers also declined appreciably while the quality of the nominees held up nicely. (*Meadowlands*)

### **Cam's Card Shark Retired From Stud Duty**

The pacing stallion Cam's Card Shark, 23 years old, has been retired from active stallion duty. After joint consultation, Jim Simpson, president of Hanover Shoe Farms, and majority owner Jeff Snyder made the decision to retire the stallion from stud duty at Hanover.

"The horse has been good to everybody associated with him from the day he was foaled," Simpson said. "He has now reached the stage in life where it is both difficult and dangerous for him and those around him to mount the phantom mare or even to be collected using a live mare."

As a 2 year old he was lightly campaigned under the guidance of trainer Mickey McGivern. His wins at two included the Lou Babic Memorial and two New Jersey Sires Stakes. At age three, he was transferred to the Bill Robinson Stable. He was voted the 1994 Horse of the Year. In addition, he garnered both O'Brien and Nova awards for Horse of the Year. His wins at three include the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace, the Art Rooney Pace, the Adios, Messenger, New Jersey Classic, North America Cup and Miller Memorial.

He was syndicated at the end of 1994 and retired with career earnings of \$2,498,204. He entered the stallion ranks at Hanover's New Jersey Farm in 1995.

His stallion accomplishments are many and varied. He has sired 10 millionaires including five who have earned in excess of \$2 million. He is credited with three Little Brown Jug winners and two winners of the Meadowlands Pace. His most renowned performers have been Shark Gesture, Bettors Delight, Four Starzzz Shark, Royalflush Hanover, Holborn Hanover, Roll With Joe, Village Jolt and Million Dollar Cam.

Snyder said that Cams Card Shark will live out his remaining days, "which I hope will be many," at Hanover Shoe Farms. (*Hanover Shoe Farms*)

### **Callahan Heading To Australia To Drive**

In an exciting announcement for the Pryde's EasiFeed Great Southern Star, it has been revealed that star United States reinsman Corey Callahan will be in Australia for the International extravaganza on March 22.

In just its second year, the \$400,000 (Aus.) Pryde's EasiFeed Great Southern Star trotting series at Tabcorp Park Melton has attracted some massive names and it continues with Callahan adding his name to the list of visitors for the richest square-gaiting event in the Southern Hemisphere.

Callahan will be involved during the week of the Great Southern Star and will compete in the Drivers Invitational on the all-trot night. Callahan arrives in Australia on March 18. (*Harness Racing Victoria*)

### **Hoosier Park Barn Opening Delayed To March 15**

Due to prolonged winter weather in the area, Hoosier Park Racing & Casino will postpone the opening of the barn area for the 2014 live racing season until March 15. Originally scheduled to open March 8, the additional week will allow the Hoosier Park team to better prepare the backside and facilities for the upcoming season.

Pending the current weather conditions, the track will open for training on March 17 with the first qualifying day on March 19. Qualifiers will follow a Wednesday and Saturday schedule throughout the remainder of the meet; with an estimated start time of 10 a.m.

### **Golden Receiver Helping Train Golden Retrievers**

Golden Receiver is a gift that keeps on giving, and the pacer's charitable contributions now include the Hairy Angel Foundation. The Hairy Angel Foundation, a charity based in Sedona, Arizona and Dallas, Texas, provides Service Golden Retrievers to special needs children. The dog raising and training is done by volunteers and professionals before they provide an assistance to and a magical bond with the

*Continues on page 9 >>>>*

The logo features a blue and orange gradient bar with a white circle on the left. The text "harnessracing.com" is in orange and "HEADLINES" is in white.

autistic and challenged. Its website is <http://www.hairyangelfoundation.org/>.

"The Golden One" has brought life-changing fortune to his breeder and co-owner Nina Simmonds, and she continues to give back and pass on the good karma she's been blessed with through her charity work.

Golden Receiver has 59 wins in 147 career starts and has earned \$2,107,636 for Simmonds of Binghamton, NY, and Our Horse Cents Stable of Clifton Park, NY. He will go for career win number 60 from post 6 [program number five] in Saturday's \$30,000 feature at the Meadowlands, carded as race two on a 13-race program.

Simmonds continues to support Equitarian Initiative, a group that unites veterinarians, blacksmiths and animal caregivers who go on missions in Costa Rica and Mexico. Simmonds has also assisted New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, which retrains racehorses and gives them a new life.

"This year I was looking for some sort of little guy charity, and I've known the director (of The Hairy Angel Foundation), Fran Elliott, since the early '80s," said Simmonds. "We met in New Jersey and she's been my best friend. She fell in love with my dog, a Golden Retriever, and saw the potential. The breed loves children. Fran moved out to Sedona and started breeding and raising them for autistic children. She's been in business for 18 years and placed over 100 dogs all over the country. We're trying to fill the backlog of requests.

"They'll take the puppies when they're eight weeks old, and train them to become service dogs in public places," she continued. "It's just a miracle when you see these kids who have never smiled or spoken get one of these dogs. Then, they're suddenly smiling and chattering. It changes their lives. Their parents can't believe the transformation made by this animal that is totally devoted to them. I went along when we placed a dog last week, and it was such a moving experience. We introduced the puppy to this boy, and his mother has called everyday in tears thanking us."

Simmonds admits to being a nervous wreck whenever Golden Receiver is in training.

"All his races are the same to me," she noted. "It doesn't matter what the purse is. I want him to look good, and of course, I want him to win. I'm just so proud he's still out there plugging away at his age.

"He's always had a big knee and he can't go on a half mile track. I'm glad the Meadowlands has a bank on the turns so he can clear that knee," said Simmonds. "He does wear these big felt boots and the tough guy just keeps on going. He has zip in vet bills. He's so happy because he's with the same trainer, Mark Harder and groom, Billy Mandrell. He knows exactly what's expected of him." (*Meadowlands*)

## Meadows Horsemen Helping Humane Society

At The Meadows on Friday night, Feb. 28, the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) will host a special event to benefit the Washington Area Humane Society (WAHS). The last time the groups worked together, it was the beginning of a journey that has taken a horse and a young girl to places no one could have imagined.

The MSOA will donate its commission from all money wagered on the designated race on Friday. The Meadows Racing will also donate its commission, doubling the benefit for the WAHS.

Racing fans are encouraged to join in by not only wagering on the race, but also by bringing an item from the WAHS "Wish List," which includes dry cat food, clay cat litter, Purina One dry and canned dog food, dog treats and more. Fans donating an item from the "Wish List" will receive a \$2 betting voucher, courtesy of the MSOA and The Meadows.

The MSOA and Meadows horsemen are quite familiar with the work of the Washington Area Humane Society. Five years ago, the groups got together when nearly two dozen horses were found in extremely poor health on a nearby farm. (*MSOA*)

## WHHC Online Qualifiers Rescheduled

This weekend's USTA online qualifying contests at Maywood Park on Friday, Feb. 28, and Balmoral Park on Saturday, March 1, as well as last week's qualifier at Buffalo Raceway, which was postponed when racing was canceled due to weather, have been rescheduled.

Buffalo Raceway's free, online WHHC qualifier is now scheduled for Friday, March 7, with first post time at 6:40 p.m. (EST). The Illinois tracks have been rescheduled for the following weekend with Maywood Park on Friday, March 14, and Balmoral Park on Saturday, March 15. First post for those contests will be 8:10 p.m. (EST).

All contestants that registered for each of these three contests on their originally scheduled dates at <http://www.horsetourneys.com/> will still be entered on the new dates.

New contestants can enter each contest and get free TrackMaster Platinum Plus past performances approximately 48 hours before each contest at <http://www.horsetourneys.com/>.

These will be the final three dates in the USTA's 10-contest free, online series of qualifiers for the 2014 World Harness Handicapping Championship at The Meadowlands on April 19. (*HRC*)

**RACE LINES**

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through Feb. 25, 2014 (week difference Feb. 19-25).

**Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses**

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Dw's Ny Yank (5tg)	4	4	0	0	\$64,500
Hldontghttoyurdrms (5tg)	5	4	0	0	63,845
Dancin Yankee (6ph)	5	5	0	0	59,000
All Stienam (5pg)	5	4	1	0	52,125
Automatic Slims (8ph)	7	6	1	0	48,250
Apprentice Hanover (4ph)	3	3	0	0	46,240
Domethatagain (5ph)	4	3	0	0	46,100
Texican N (6pg)	8	1	3	1	45,900
Addison Bay (7pm)	6	3	1	0	45,710
Time To Quit (4tg)	4	4	0	0	44,500
Lorrie Please (7pm)	6	2	1	1	43,860
Zooming (6tg)	6	1	2	2	43,560
Ramalama (5pm)	6	1	3	0	42,900
A J Corbelli (7pg)	5	4	0	0	41,900
Kg Dragonator (4pg)	7	3	3	1	40,917

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	566	121-78-80	.337	\$1,104,560 ( <b>\$147,899</b> )
Ron Pierce	488	86-97-71	.335	1,043,478 ( <b>166,084</b> )
Brian Sears	319	72-55-44	.367	760,595 ( <b>157,550</b> )
Jason Bartlett	328	56-44-43	.289	650,065 ( <b>74,895</b> )
George Brennan	359	46-51-41	.245	645,155 ( <b>83,510</b> )
Dave Palone	346	86-58-44	.384	635,255 ( <b>93,810</b> )
Mike Wilder	340	67-54-49	.333	581,967 ( <b>100,208</b> )
Aaron Merriman	586	87-79-88	.273	577,803 ( <b>97,145</b> )
Matt Kakaley	324	36-44-57	.245	554,775 ( <b>72,685</b> )
Yannick Gingras	203	55-32-17	.386	546,024 ( <b>78,110</b> )
Ross Wolfenden	344	48-56-50	.278	508,080 ( <b>61,157</b> )
Brett Miller	359	49-55-43	.262	480,283 ( <b>77,378</b> )
Jordan Stratton	283	28-30-35	.199	429,035 ( <b>75,485</b> )
Scott Zeron	254	29-38-38	.247	423,226 ( <b>62,422</b> )
Eric Carlson	256	26-31-19	.194	419,635 ( <b>70,450</b> )

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	416	98-68-52	.368	\$1,151,790 ( <b>\$135,937</b> )
Rene Allard	147	41-18-24	.401	317,172 ( <b>70,350</b> )
Corey Johnson	99	23-23-11	.398	307,111 ( <b>44,401</b> )
Josh Green	82	31-18-5	.520	301,850 ( <b>22,995</b> )
Carmen Auciello	183	19-20-14	.190	271,123 ( <b>35,790</b> )
Dylan Davis	119	31-15-14	.370	263,080 ( <b>28,425</b> )
P.J. Fraley	134	16-24-14	.254	262,240 ( <b>40,715</b> )
Richard Moreau	170	32-22-18	.295	257,709 ( <b>39,006</b> )
Randy Bendis	111	18-18-15	.297	202,022 ( <b>26,157</b> )
Victor Puddy	169	28-29-25	.310	192,374 ( <b>16,237</b> )
Nick Surick	120	21-23-13	.318	188,576 ( <b>28,735</b> )
Wayne Givens	124	14-22-20	.265	174,397 ( <b>15,735</b> )
Mark Ford	133	11-13-9	.160	174,385 ( <b>35,015</b> )
David Duspiva	87	12-14-7	.254	168,657 ( <b>12,272</b> )
Joe Hundertpfund Jr.	98	19-21-19	.378	165,850 ( <b>24,051</b> )

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	446	154	218	\$1,697,928
Winbak Farm	384	128	173	1,170,602
Brittany Farms	128	49	67	650,677
Perretti Farms	151	53	79	534,771
White Birch Farm	63	25	42	377,034
Arlene & Jules Siegel	71	27	36	316,021
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	109	23	30	311,814
Seelster Farms Inc.	66	28	42	280,107
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	82	24	28	279,491
Walnut Hall Limited	84	23	33	255,852
Perfect World Enterprises	62	23	34	210,601
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	45	17	24	201,101
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	59	18	27	199,344
Frederick Hertrich III	67	21	32	186,731
Steve Stewart	51	20	30	185,337

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for Feb. 18-25 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Corey Callahan	92	20-13-11
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	84	18-16-7
Aaron Merriman	99	17-8-15
Brian Sears	65	17-19-7
Dave Palone	52	13-13-3
Mike Wilder	52	13-6-10
Ron Pierce	69	12-14-9
Trevor Henry	36	12-5-5
Chris Page	66	11-10-7
Jason Thompson	48	11-3-2
Trace Tetrick	68	11-6-9
Jody Jamieson	37	10-6-2
Joe Bongiorno	59	10-6-5
Tyler Smith	55	10-7-7
Yannick Gingras	35	10-3-2
Josh Sutton	61	9-9-12
Brett Miller	59	8-11-6
George Brennan	64	8-10-10
Jason Bartlett	64	8-10-8
Simon Allard	20	8-0-4
Tim Tetrick	48	8-10-4
Tony Morgan	44	8-6-5

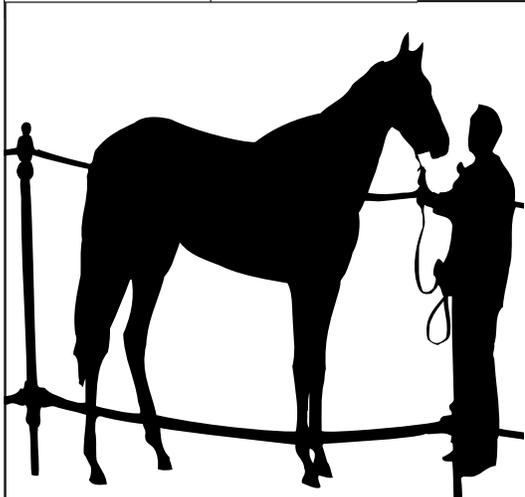
Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	14
Rene Allard	7
Peter Pellegrino	6
Richard Moreau	6
Tim Crissman	6
Brad Irvine	5
Gene Vallandingham	5
Tyler Stillings	5
Virgil Morgan Jr.	5
Dylan Davis	4
Gary Messenger	4
George Anthrop	4
Gretchen Smith	4
Josh Green	4
Sherif Cunmulaj	4
Tyler Nostadt	4

# MARCH 2014



sunday      monday      tuesday      wednesday      thursday      friday      saturday

						1
2	3 HHI meets in Deerfield Beach, Fla.	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6 Survivor Clm.-1st leg (M)	7 Northville Downs opens	8 Gilmour 3CP final (M) Singer Trot final (M)
9 Daylight Savings Time begins	10 Petticoat F&M Pace-1st leg (YR)	11 Sagamore Pace-1st leg (YR)	12	13	14 Harrah's Philadelphia opens Horse & Groom Trot-1st leg (M) Survivor Clm.-2nd leg (M)	15 Hirt Mem. Pace-1st leg (M)
16	17 St. Patrick's Day Petticoat Mares Pace-2nd leg (YR)	18 Sagamore Pace-2nd leg (YR)	19	20 First day of Spring	21 Horse & Groom Trot-2nd leg (M) Matchmaker Pace-1st leg (YR)	22 Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs opens Hirt Mem. Pace-2nd leg (M) Levy Mem. Pace-1st leg (YR) Survivor Clm. Final (M) Weiss 3CP-1st leg (PcD)
23 Weiss 3CT-1st leg (PcD)	24 DSBF 3FP (DD) Petticoat Mares Pace-3rd leg (YR)	25 DSBF 3FT (DD) Sagamore Pace-3rd leg (YR) Weiss 3FP-1st leg (PcD)	26 DSBF 3CT (DD) Weiss 3FT-1st leg (PcD)	27 DSBF 3CP (DD)	28 Hoosier Park opens Blossom 3FP-1st leg (Wdb) Matchmaker Pace-2nd leg (YR)	29 Scarborough Downs opens Hirt Mem. Pace final (M) Horse & Groom Trot final (M) Levy Mem. Pace-2nd leg (YR) Weiss 3CP-2nd leg (PcD)
30 Weiss 3CT-2nd leg (PcD)	31 DSBF 3FP (DD) Petticoat Mares Pace final (YR) Youthful 3CP-1st leg (Wdb)	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Blooded Horse Sale now offers TWO Black Type Yearling options for 2014!</h2>				



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Or

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**You've got plenty of time to decide which option is best for you.**

Short entry deadlines & reasonable fees make the decision easier.

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October 1 deadline for November 17 session

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