Rock Fame Looks To Be Rock Star In Gilmour

William “Buddy” Gilmour drove On The Road Again to a victory in the $1.29 million Meadowlands Pace in 1984 and now 30 years later, the track that was the site of that historic win has paid homage to the Hall of Famer with an inaugural pacing series named in his honor. The Buddy Gilmour Series is for 3-year-old male pacers that were non-winners of two pari-mutuel races or $30,000 lifetime as of Dec. 15, 2013.

Virtually all of the attention in the three-week Gilmour Series has been focused on first-leg winners Capital Account and National Debt, including the sale of one-third interest in the latter to Jerry and Theresa Silva’s J&T Silva Stables. Another horse getting a strong look is Dinner At The Met, who capitalized on the absence of both first-round winners in last week’s second leg with a resounding score of his own.

With Capital Account, National Debt and Dinner At The Met drawing posts one, three and four, respectively, in Saturday night’s $60,500 Gilmour final, it appears on paper that each of the trio has a great chance to enhance their resume even further.

Just like death and taxes, one horse is going to draw the outside post in a race and in the Gilmour final that dubious honor has gone to Rock Fame, who will be driven by David Miller from post 9 for trainer Ed Hart and breeder-owner Jeff Snyder. Rock Fame finished seventh to Capital Account in the first round and then was third to Dinner At The Met in round two.

“Hopefully they mix it up and I can get him into the race,” said Miller. “From the nine it will be just too tough to try and get around them and sit up close. I’ve tried that a few...”
times, but I think his best shot is to race him off the pace. The post really hurts him here.

“He’s starting to get a little stronger. He’s had some trouble finishing but he’s shown signs of getting better.”

Hart agrees with his driver.

“He’s been a little inconsistent and I haven’t quite figured him out,” said Hart. “The colt has a lot of talent but each week he is a little bit different. But I was very happy with him last week.”

Rock Fame had just one start late last year and is coming into the Gilmour final with just one lone 1:55.3 victory in a Feb. 15 overnight at the Meadowlands in eight overall starts.

“He was a nice training colt but he was just a little immature,” Hart explained of Rock Fame’s late debut. “We wanted to get him a little experience and then turn him out.”

Hart added Rock Fame is only lightly staked in 2014, but the schedule for the son of Rocknroll Hanover includes the New Jersey Sires Stakes.— By Gordon Waterstone
The Truth About Ontario’s New Reality

This week, the Ontario government sent out a notice to the industry touting the wonders of its new five-year, $400 million investment in horse racing. The release was quickly followed by an open letter from owner, breeder and equine lawyer Bob Burgess that was sharply critical of the plan.

The truth, like most things in life, is likely somewhere in the middle. I believe the new plan isn’t as bad as Burgess suggests or as fantastic as the government would like people to believe.

The notice was what one would expect from a ruling Liberal government that has scant representation in rural Ontario, needs that part of the province to form a majority government (it is in a minority position now), and is expected to go to the polls this spring. Never mind that it was these same Liberals, under different leadership, that cancelled the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) and dealt a severe economic blow to the very rural corners of Ontario now being courted.

That said, ask horse racing interests in New Jersey if they would take a five-year, $400 million investment from the state and bets are they would jump at the chance. It’s all in your perspective.

There will be more than $16.5 million in annual funding for the Ontario Sires Stakes program, keeping it one of the best programs of its kind in the world. The Woodbine Entertainment Group will still offer one of the sport’s best stakes programs....

... was bad public policy. Also, Burgess is correct that Sadinsky wrote that SARP should be maintained and the industry should receive at least the 20 percent cut it had under SARP.

That’s moot now, of course, though useful for sorting through the rhetoric and nailing the government for being disingenuous, incompetent, or both.

The bottom line is this: given a decline in customer demand and overall wagering, Ontario clearly had too many tracks and race dates and needed an overhaul. When the industry was swimming in money it had little motivation to change.

Was there a better way to effect that change? Absolutely. It’s laughable to believe the current spin that the Liberal Party was interested in horse racing’s sustainability when it cancelled SARP. The new plan for horse racing is more about damage control and vote-courting.

Still, the fact remains that a year ago the industry was much worse off. Today, there is an eight-track, province-wide Standardbred Alliance that sounds logical and promising. There will be more than $16.5 million in annual funding for the Ontario Sires Stakes program, keeping it one of the best programs of its kind in the world. The Woodbine Entertainment Group will still offer one of the sport’s best stakes programs and consistently card programs with betting appeal. A decrease in overall race dates to approximately 900 a year, while devastating to the sport’s smallest operations, does put the industry more in line with customer demand. Integrating horse racing with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming corporation—if that ever happens on any tangible level—has great promise for growth.

That doesn’t add up to what the industry was under SARP, but it’s better than it could have been.

The Sadinsky Report does not expressly say SARP...
MARCH 2014 STAKES PAYMENTS
NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEREDMILE.COM

Grand Circuit Events

#4) Kentucky Futurity #123  #5) Tattersalls Pace 2015
Foals of 2012 to Race in 2015  Foals of 2012 to Race in 2015

PAYMENT DUE FOR EVENTS #4 & 5
OPEN  FILLY
March 15 .................................................. $500 ......... $300
a) Supplemental Payment due March 15 ...... $1,000 ......... $500

a) Those horses not nominated to these events by the yearling payment may be made eligible
by making the two-year-old supplemental payment of the fees designated above.

#6) International Stallion Stakes #112  #7) Bluegrass Series #40
Foals of 2012 to Race in 2014  Foals of 2012 to Race in 2014

PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENT #6  PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENT #7
March 15 .................................................. $300  *March 15 .................................................. $350
April 15 ............................................... $400  April 15 ............................................... $450
May 15 ................................................. $500  May 15 ................................................. $550
b) Supplemental Payment due March 15 ...... $1,000  b) Supplemental Payment due March 15 ...... $550

b) Ineligible two year olds may be supplemented these events in 2014 by making the
payment designated above on March 15 plus the April 15 and May 15 payments.

Future Eligibility: *The March 15 payment guarantees eligibility to the Bluegrass Series #40 as a three year old.

The Allerage Farms Series
Early Closing Events For All Divisions Of Older Horses

#8) OPEN PACE - TVG SERIES
$10,000G Elim: Sunday, Sept. 28
$180,000E Final: Sunday, October 5

#9) OPEN TROT* - TVG SERIES
$10,000G Elim: Sunday, Sept. 28
$180,000E Final: Sunday, October 5

#10) OPEN MARE PACE
$85,000E Event: Sunday, October 5

#11) OPEN MARE TROT*
$85,000E Final: Sunday, October 5

PAYMENT SCHEDULE EVENTS #8 & 9
March 15 ............................................... $1,500  March 15 ............................................... $1,000
April 15 ............................................... $2,000  April 15 ............................................... $1,500
Declaration Fee ..................................... $2,500  Declaration Fee ..................................... $1,500

*The Red Mile reserves the right to invite one horse to race in each of the trot finals subject to payment of all fees associated with this series.

To Be Raced At Hoosier Park
Three Year Old Filly Early Closers (Open)

#12) NADIA LOBELL-3YO FILLY PACE
$175,000E Friday, October 31

#13) THE MONI MAKER-3YO FILLY TROT
$175,000E Friday, October 31

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS #12 & 13
March 15 ............................................... $1,500
April 15 ............................................... $2,000
Declaration Fee ..................................... $2,500

COMPLETE CONDITIONS FOR ALL RED MILE STAKES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE USTA STAKES GUIDE
CHECKS (US FUNDS) MADE PAYABLE TO THE RED MILE @ 1200 RED MILE RD – LEXINGTON, KY 40504 (859) 258-7670
Longtime European Correspondent
Lars G. Palm Dies

Lars G. Palm, the European correspondent for The Horseman And Fair World magazine since 1973 and more recently also to harnessracing.com and HarnessRacing Weekend Preview, died at his home in suburban Stockholm Wednesday night (March 5) after attending the evening's races at the Solvalla track. Mr. Palm, who was 69, suffered a heart attack. He would have celebrated his 70th birthday in May, just a week before the Elitlopp, Sweden’s premier trotting race.

Mr. Palm reported on all the top classic races in Europe for The Horseman And Fair World and introduced his North American readers to Europe’s great horses and horsemen, from Ego Boy in 1973, when his first column to the magazine was published, through Viking Kronos and Varenne, and in more recent years Tamla Celeber, who won the Breeders Crown. Among Mr. Palm’s most recent reports for The Horseman And Fair World was a story about Bengt Agerup, whose Brixton Medical is campaigning a number of top American trotters, among them Father Patrick.

In addition to his work for The Horseman And Fair World and its sister publications, Mr. Palm once worked as the director of advertising for the Swedish trotting magazine Trav Ronden. He left Trav Ronden to open his own advertising agency and his clients included Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg’s Menhammar Stuteri.

Mr. Palm also bred and raced horses and enjoyed some success. When he decided to get out of the breeding business he named the last horse he bred Timetosaygoodbye, who went on to become a top winner in Sweden. Mr. Palm never totally divested himself of his horse holdings, however, and last fall bought a yearling at the Lexington Selected Sale.

Mr. Palm is survived by his wife, Saara Palm, and two daughters, Miriam Palm Devlin of Houston, Texas, and Carolina Uurike of Spanga, Sweden.
Winter was still settled over the Bluegrass on Wednesday morning (March 5) when I got Steve Stewart of Hunterton Farm on the phone. A dense fog hung in the atmosphere and in some places merged with the snowfall still covering the ground. I asked Stewart what he was doing on this strangely foggy winter morning and he cheerfully quipped, “Feeding horses!”

Even Bluegrass horse farms have been doing lots of feeding this winter since horses have needed extra calories to keep warm in the cold temperatures.

The 2014 breeding season will be the busiest ever for foaling babies at Hunterton Farm with 140 mares scheduled to foal, and Stewart is happy that most of the mares are due in the spring instead of the winter.

“We’re a few more weeks from the peak of our foaling season, and another couple of weeks before things really pick up for breeding mares,” said Stewart, adding that close to 200 mares will be bred at Hunterton. “We breed later because we don’t want foals born in the winter when the temperatures are so cold.”

The low temperature on Tuesday morning, March 4, was in the single digits in Paris, Ky., where Hunterton Farm is located, and thankfully three mares who were ready to foal waited until later that night, when temperatures had moderated to the 20s. The newborns were a colt by Rock N Roll Heaven out of Cherokee Indian Princess; a filly by Glidemaster out of Pure Vanity; and a colt by Manofmanymissions out of Sole Veronique.

Earlier in the week, actually late Saturday night/Sunday morning, three mares gave birth, among them Impressive Kemp 3, 1:54.3 ($501,074), who delivered a colt by Muscle Hill. Then on Wednesday morning Tessa Hanover, a daughter of Somebeachsomewhere who was unraced due to injury, foaled a colt by American Ideal. That brought the total number of foals born thus far up to about a dozen.

Tessa Hanover and her foal are another partnership by Stewart and Cotton, Julie and Francine Nash. Cotton bought the horse at the Lexington Selected Sale for $22,000, having the winning bid on the filly who was then named Typo Hanover and sold just 10 horses after the Stewart-Nash partners had sold their Somebeachsomewhere-Artistic Vision colt for $450,000. Tessa Hanover is out of Triplet Hanover so she’s a sister to Trim Hanover, the dam of American Jewel.

American Jewel, who was campaigned by Brittany Farms and now resides at the farm at the western edge of central Kentucky’s Bluegrass horse country, gave birth to her first foal on March 2. American Jewel, who is a daughter of American Ideal, delivered a colt by Somebeachsomewhere.

“When the foals start coming, for a breeder, the foaling barn is almost the first trip to the winner’s circle,” said Stewart. “You’re always worried, so when everything goes right, it really is like getting to the winner’s circle.” — By Kathy Parker
77 Nominated To Pepsi North America Cup

An impressive group of 77 sophomore pacers, including rookie standouts He’s Watching, Arthur Blue Chip and Luck Be Withyou, have been nominated to the 31st edition of the Pepsi North America Cup.

One of harness racing’s most prestigious events, the $1 million race is set for Saturday, June 14, at Mohawk Racetrack.

Headlining this year’s group of nominees is the Dan Patch Award winner and undefeated He’s Watching, who set two world records last season along with six track records. The son of American Ideal boasts a 1:50 speed badge along with $291,722 in earnings.

Arthur Blue Chip, who banked $400,120 last season along with an O’Brien Award, was the richest rookie pacing colt of 2013. The son of first-crop sire Shadow Play amassed a 6-2-1 record from 11 starts last season. Luck Be Withyou, the 2013 Breeders Crown champion, is also on the list and one of the early favorites for the race.

The Pepsi North America Cup eliminations are set for Saturday, June 7. Sustaining payments will be due on March 15, April 15 and May 15. (WEG)

Saratoga Springs Council Rejects City Casino

By a unanimous 5-0 vote, the City Council of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., passed a resolution Tuesday evening, March 4, voicing its opposition to the proposed placement of a destination resort casino within its municipal limits.

While several reasons are set forth as forming the basis for rejection of full blown casino gaming in the city, the council particularly expressed its concerns regarding how the construction of a casino pursuant to current state legislation would have a severe adverse impact on the horse racing, and specifically harness racing, as well as breeding industries.

The council recognized that both Saratoga Race Course and the Saratoga Harness Track are nothing short of historic, and that they form the local foundation for industries that are critical to the regional economy, and supply a significant amount of jobs, tax revenue, financial activity and tourism, as well as acres of open space through horse farms.

In expressing opposition to the casino legislation, the Council indicated, “That the horse racing industry, including but not limited to: trainers, breeders, horsemen, and fans are not given adequate protection to ensure that the support of harness racing and the businesses that support it, can continue to operate successfully in our City,...”

The Saratoga resolution mirrors the concerns of the Monticello Harness Horsemen’s Association, who view casino expansion in the Catskills under present state legislation as a death-knell to harness racing in the region, as well as the state. Without any meaningful protection, the sport will simply vanish, along with all of the economic, tax, tourism and green space citizens of New York presently enjoy. (Empire State Harness Horsemen’s Alliance)

Stallion Breedings Still Available Via Museum

The Harness Racing Museum would like to thank all of the donors and bidders for a successful stallion breeding auction.

In addition to the list of stallions that are still available, the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is proud to offer a newly acquired breeding to Guccio as part of our stallion breeding auction. This is a unique opportunity as his book is sure to be full and closed very shortly.

The world champion and million-dollar winning trotter Guccio 4,1:51.1f ($1,021,809) begins stud duty at Victory Hill Farm, one of the leading farms in Indiana. He will stand for a fee of $5,000 for the 2014 breeding season.

Due to several newly received services, as well as some breedings that did not receive appropriate bids, the following is a list of stallions that are still available. TROTTERS are indicated with upper case CAPS.

Delaware—CR COMMANDO, Dream Away
Illinois—Yankee Skyscraper
Indiana—AlthatGltrisgold, GUCCIO, Panspacificflight
Maryland—CHARLIE DE VIE, FOUR STARZ ROBO, GROTON HALL, HOLY GUACAMOLIE, Nuclear Breeze, Totally Western, Up Front Charlie
New York—CONWAY HALL, DEWEYCHEATUMNHOWE, Lislea, LUCKY CHUCKY, Panther Hanover, Riverboat King
Ohio—COLIE’S, Manhardt, NORTHERN KID, Powerful Toy, VALLEY VICTOR, Woodstock
Ontario—ANGUS HALL, Artistic Fella, Badlands Hanover, Classic Card Shark
Pennsylvania—LEAR JETTA, SIERRA KOSMOS, TOM RIDGE, Tuffofthetoughest

Income raised by the stallion auction, nearly $540,000 over the past 15 years, supports the Museum’s General Operating Fund. It helps to ensure quality services, special exhibitions, traveling exhibits, promotional support, and educational programming for children and adults.

For additional information on the auction, to donate breedings, or to receive a complete list of stallions and conditions for bidding, please contact Joanne Young at (845) 294-6330, email to development@harnessmuseum.com or visit http://www.harnessmuseum.com/, where updates will also be posted. Some stallions have more than one breeding available. (Harness Racing Museum)

Continues on page 8
Jason Thompson Hurt In Skiing Accident

Jason Thompson, seventh on the Northfield Park dash-winning list, has not driven since a skiing accident on Sunday, March 2.

“Wyatt (Irvine) and I decided to go skiing. I am not a good skier and the slopes were icy,” explained Thompson. “I should not have been out there with the icy conditions, but went anyway. I was going really fast, hit a hole and the result was not good.”

Thompson broke both his tibia and fibula in his left leg. He is currently in Metro Health Center in Cleveland, Ohio, following a surgical procedure placing screws and plates, which will help to mend his broken bones. Thompson has indicated that he could be sidelined for up to three months.

“In the meantime, I have some ski equipment for sale,” Thompson chuckled. (Northfield Park)

Meadowlands Adds March 20 To Schedule

In an effort to make-up the lost day of Thursday, Feb. 13, which was cancelled due to a snowstorm, the Meadowlands will be adding the live racing date of Thursday, March 20, to its racing calendar.

“With the two-week postponement of the Harrah’s Philadelphia meet, we believed it would be well-received by the horsemen to add this date to the calendar,” said Meadowlands chairman Jeff Gural. “It has been a brutally tough winter with many storms and cancellations aplenty all over the northeast. Compounded with the loss of live racing at the Meadowlands for two weeks due to the Super Bowl, we understand this has been a less-than-ideal winter for trainers to get their horses raced and we are committed to helping that in any way we can.” (Meadowlands)

Settlemoir Named Keynote Speaker In Sweden

After overseeing the $90 million construction project of the New Meadowlands and a meteoric handle increase, Meadowlands CEO/general manager Jason M. Settlemoir has been invited to serve as the keynote speaker at a Swedish Trotting Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, on Monday, March 10.

The Swedish Trotting Association (STA) has enlisted Settlemoir to inspire its membership to follow the lead of the Meadowlands, which has successfully transformed into a first-class, modern racing facility in the face of unprecedented competition from both racetracks and other forms of gambling.

“The New Meadowlands is a model for the modern race-track complete with top-notch customer service, advanced technology, and the premier brand of harness racing in the world. I am honored to be making this trip to share our success story and strengthening our relationship with members of the Swedish harness racing community,” said Settlemoir.

Settlemoir’s presentation will focus on the construction of the new grandstand, customer service, technology, integrity, social media, promotions, and event marketing. (Meadowlands)

Beautide Wins Inter Dominion In Record Time

Beautide, a son of Bettor’s Delight, became the first horse in 15 years to win both the Miracle Mile and the $750,000 (Aus.) Inter Dominion when he captured the Inter Dominion on Sunday, March 2, at the Tabcorp Park Menangle track north of Sydney. Despite three days of rain and early morning showers, the track was fast for the Inter Dominion and Beautide also set a world record for the 3,009 meters (1.86 miles).

Beautide is the first horse to win the Miracle Mile and the Inter Dominion in the same season since Our Sir Vancelot, who won three Inter Dominions from 1997 to 1999 and won the Miracle Mile in 1997.

Also on the Inter Dominion card, Guaranteed, a 4-year-old son of Artsplace who was conceived with frozen semen that remained in Australia after the great sire died, set an Australian mile rate record of 1:50.4 when he won the $200,000 Form 700 Chariots Of Fire.
**The Blooded Horse Sale now offers TWO Black Type Yearling options for 2014!**

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or email jhaws@bloodedhorse.com