

Showdown Looming In Horse & Groom

Although 17 trotters were divided into a pair of divisions of the opening round of the Horse & Groom Series last weekend at the Meadowlands, just nine will line up behind the gate in a single \$18,000 contest on Friday night.

Something is going to have to give as multiple-race win streaks are on the line for both DW's NY Yank and Modern Family, who posted identical 1:54.1 clockings in winning their respective divisions of the first leg of the Horse & Groom. Modern Family remained perfect in five starts in 2013, while DW's NY Yank's effort brought his win streak to four.

Modern Family's trainer, Daryl Bier, believes the 4-year-old son of Cantab Hall has the edge over the Ron Burke-trained DW's NY Yank, as well as that colt's stablemate, Quick Ideal, who made a break as the betting favorite behind Modern Family last time out. Tim Tetrick will drive Modern Family from post two as the 5-2 morning-line favorite.

"I would be disappointed if he didn't win this week."

— Daryl Bier on Modern Family

"I like Burke's horses, but my horse has really impressed me," said Bier, who purchased Modern Family in partnership with Charles Dombeck and Richard Poillucci at January's Tattersalls Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands for \$110,000. "The 1:53.1 mile at Dover (on Feb. 20) was one of the best trotting miles I've ever seen at Dover. Timmy never even spoke to him last week. I think he is a good (1):52 trotter. I would be disappointed if he didn't win this week."

Burke credits owner Howard Taylor for spotting DW's NY Yank and privately purchasing the 4-year-old son of Dilbert Hanover last December. Taylor made the buy despite the trotter tailing off toward the end of the year after having success early. After finishing second in his first start this year in Burke's barn, DW's NY Yank has been unbeatable, lowering his mark each time before his career-best effort last time out in the Horse & Groom opener.



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"I think even they (the former owners) thought he needed a change, and that was the biggest thing," said Burke. "This horse is 100 percent Howard. He bought the horse and asked if I'd give him a try. We qualified him and said he was pretty good, and then every time he seems to get better and better.

"I think everybody is surprised as good as he's racing right now. Every time he races I become more of a believer."

David Miller will drive DW's NY Yank from post one as the 4-1 third choice, while Yannick Gingras will drive Quick Ideal from post eight as the 3-1 second choice.

"(Quick Ideal) is the better of the two, but he makes mistakes," said Burke. "He has to time the gate perfectly and the starter waited on him thinking he was too far back (last week), and the horse got mad. Yannick said he is the fastest trotter he's ever sat behind." — By Gordon Waterstone

Will Short Aquarius Field Aid Bakin On The Beach?

The second leg of the Aquarius Series will be contested Saturday night at the Meadowlands with only five pacers returning from the first leg.

Starting from the outside post five, the Mark Harder-trained Bakin On The Beach will look to avenge his third-place finish in the first leg of the series. The 4-year-old son of McArdle hopes to cross the \$200,000 lifetime earnings barrier with a

“I should have gelded him early, that was the big thing.”

– Mark Harder

victory in the \$35,000 contest.

To beat the likes of Warrawee Needy and Escape The News, Harder’s colt will need to continue his furious last-quarter sprints that he has shown in 2013. In five of his last six starts, Bakin

On The Beach has closed in :27 or faster, including a wicked :26.2 split in the first leg of the Aquarius last time out.

In that race, driver John Campbell left from post nine with the 17-1 longshot and settled in third at the quarter. After being shuffled back to seventh in the final turn, Bakin On The Beach rallied late to finish third by two lengths behind the winning Warrawee Needy and runner-up Escape The News.

Harder and Bruce Soulsby purchased Bakin On The Beach as a yearling for \$25,000. Bakin On The Beach did not have a stellar 2-year-old campaign but he turned it around as a 3 year old last year as he earned more than \$145,000 while taking a mark of 1:49.3f in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

“I should have gelded him early, that was the big thing,” Harder answered when asked the reason behind Bakin On The Beach’s different tale of two seasons. “In his first start as a 2 year old he tried to pull up and do other silly things. (After gelding) he was a completely different horse.

“He’s been in some big races and done some silly things and had bad luck, but he’s not a bad horse.”

Although Bakin On The Beach comes into Saturday’s race winless in eight starts this year, he has been further than two lengths back at the finish just once. Harder said while Bakin On The Beach has shown closing speed his last three starts after starting from outside posts, don’t think having a small field will definitely work to his favor.

“Sometimes it’s difficult as you don’t know what kind of fractions they will go with such a small amount of horses,” he said. “That’ll be John’s job. He has some gate speed and he can also tough it out a little bit.”

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, March 8

All times listed are local.

8:50p YR6 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:51p M6 **Horse & Groom Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:30p YR8 **F&M Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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

Saturday, March 9

7:34p M2 **Aquarius Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

7:44p Wdb2 **Preferred Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:50p YR6 **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Tom Tanner Photo

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Czernyson Has An All-Star Cast For 2013

As the calendar turns to March, many horsemen are deep into the preparation of their crop of 2 year olds. Trainer Jonas Czernyson has a large roster of youth at the Sunshine Meadows training facility in Florida with high hopes for the 2013 stakes season.

Most notably, Czernyson is training the sale topper of the Lexington Sale, the \$360,000 purchase Deep Dish. The first crop from Muscle Hill crossed with the superstar mare Pizza Dolce brings lofty expectations for Czernyson's colt.

"He is out of a small mare, but he definitely has a big horse gait and is very tough," he said.

Another trotting colt in the barn with famous pedigree is Special Envoy (Yankee Glide-Peaceful Way). "He is a very nice colt. He's not that big, but he wakes up every morning just happy to go to work," Czernyson said.

While Czernyson is renowned for his prowess with trotters, he does have two well-bred pacing fillies in the stable. InThe Pink (Dragon Again-Bold Pink) and Look Close (Art Official-Observe Me) were purchased for \$50,000 and \$60,000, respectively, by W. J. Donovan for Czernyson to train.

"When you start with pacers, you should start with the best," said Czernyson. "They are coming along quite nicely. They have been growing. David Miller stopped by and said they are both on the right track."

Maven, the star of the stable last year, is returning for her 4-year-old campaign under Czernyson with heavy expectations for the ultra-fast Breeders Crown champion.

"I have not gone any training miles with her, but she is coming back very good, doing all the right things," he said. "I really like how she filled out over the winter."

Czernyson also sees a few of his 2-year-old crop who have great talent with less prolific breeding. Czernyson is extremely fond of Marzipan (Chocolatier-Muscelini) and Mountain Dewey (Deweycheatumnhowe-Kidman Hall). Czernyson also has a European-bred filly, Steffi, by the great trotter Varenne.

"She was born and raised in Sweden. So far, she has done everything I have asked of her. I was afraid she might get behind because of her size, but I am thrilled with how she caught up," he noted. — *By Jay Hochstetler*



Nominations Close March 15, 2013



Pepsi North America Cup – Pace	\$1,000,000 G Final
Canadian Trotting Classic	\$700,000 E Final
Metro Pace	\$700,000 E Final
Canadian Pacing Derby	\$600,000 E Final
Maple Leaf Trot	\$550,000 E Final
She's A Great Lady – Pace	\$430,000 E Final
Fan Hanover – Pace	\$400,000 E Final
William Wellwood Memorial – Trot	\$385,000 E Final
Elegantimage – Trot	\$380,000 E Final
Peaceful Way – Trot	\$365,000 E Final
Roses Are Red – Pace	\$340,000 E Final
Milton – Pace	\$275,000 E Final
Armbro Flight – Trot	\$265,000 E Final
Goodtimes – Trot	\$250,000 E Final
Nassagaweya – Pace	\$250,000 E
Eternal Camnation – Pace	\$200,000 E
Somebeachsomewhere – Pace	\$150,000 E
Casual Breeze – Trot	\$150,000 E

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Grand Circuit Expanded To All Open Stakes

At the USTA full board meeting at Harness Congress VI Sunday afternoon, March 3, Grand Circuit president John Campbell announced that all open stakes raced in North America not previously considered as Grand Circuit (GC) would now carry that designation beginning with the 2013 season.

Many of the most valuable and sought after stakes not previously on the Grand Circuit roster will now join the "Circuit" and be included in the brand. Several racetracks that had not previously been member tracks and a few that had lapsed have agreed to join and consider their non-state restricted stakes as GC races. Those tracks include Yonkers Raceway, Northfield Park, Saratoga Harness, Hazel Park and Red Shores Racetrack and Casino (home of the Gold Cup & Saucer). Dover Downs and Harrah's Philadelphia will return after a brief absence. All tracks that race open stakes now considered as Grand Circuit races either are currently or have agreed to be member tracks.

"Many of the sport's top races had not previously been considered as Grand Circuit events. Now, with that distinction we hope to help create better awareness of our top races and provide the tracks with a more promotable product," Campbell stated.

"I recently read an account of Dan Patch's career and many of the stakes he won held the Grand Circuit designation at tracks now long gone. It added to the excitement of those races. We hope to help recreate some of the enthusiasm of those times in our modern product."

The historic Delvin Miller Grand Circuit medallion will be presented to the winners, along with a prize of considerable value yet to be determined made possible by the generosity of award sponsor Hanover Shoe Farms. (*Grand Circuit*)

Hambo Day Adds Common-Pool Wagering From France

The Hambletonian Society president and CEO Tom Charters has told harnessracing.com that a tentative agreement has been reached with PMU, the agency that regulates pari-mutuel wagering in France, to have eight trotting races on this year's Hambletonian day card Aug. 3 at the Meadowlands simulcast with common-pool wagering.

Charters and Meadowlands simulcast director Sam McKee recently met in Paris with French officials to discuss the possibility of common-pool wagering, which Charters estimates

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could reach \$500,000 in each of the eight races. None of the pacing races on the card will be part of the agreement.

"This could still get knocked off track but it would be a remarkable achievement," Charters said. "The French will have a race card in the afternoon and then have a second card at night (there is a six-hour time difference from New Jersey to France) where the eight races from the Meadowlands will go in between those races, and that's the important thing."

Illinois Committee Approves Expanded Gaming Bill

An expanded gaming bill has passed by a vote of 10-4 in the Illinois Senate Executive Committee that would approve slot machines at racetracks, five new casinos and slot machines at Chicago airports. Gov. Pat Quinn recently vetoed a bill that would have allowed expanded gaming, saying it was excessive and did not have ethical standards.

While the bill would allow slots at racetracks, it would not allow the machines at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Instead, the bill stipulates that the fairgrounds would receive \$5 million annually from the expanded gaming revenue.

The bill also provides for electronic gaming on the internet. The five casinos would be built in Chicago, Rockford, Danville, Lake County and somewhere in the south Chicago suburbs.

Devan, Hempt Named To Museum Executive Committee

The Board of Trustees of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, located in Goshen, N.Y., met Friday, March 1, during the Harness Racing Congress in Ft. Lauderdale to discuss filling executive committee vacancies left by the passing of John A. Cashman Jr. and Paul E. Spears.

The Board unanimously supported the Executive Committee's recommendation to appoint Lawrence S. DeVan as first vice president and assistant treasurer, and Max J. Hempt as second vice president. The appointments will be ratified formally at the Annual Meeting of trustees in July 2013.

PA Racetrack Slots Revenue Declines

The Pennsylvania Equine Coalition reported Tuesday that slots revenues at Pennsylvania's six racetrack casinos—also known as Category 1 casinos—took significant hits for the month of February, dropping by 14.3 percent compared to the same period in 2012. That decrease resulted in a corresponding drop of \$3.47 million in funding to the Race Horse Development Fund, which supports live horse racing and breeding in Pennsylvania.

The cumulative decline to the racing fund is \$11.16 million or 6.1 percent for the first eight months of the fiscal year—July 2012 through February 2013. The data was compiled by the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition based on figures compiled by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

"Revenues to the Race Horse Development Fund are down significantly due in large part to increased competition from the gaming industry in neighboring states," said Pete Peterson, spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition. "The revenue drops have already forced three Pennsylvania racetracks to implement across the board purse cuts. Unfortunately, the competition is not going away, so we expect these declines to continue. Looking at revenues over the past few months, it appears the declines are only growing worse."

Coleman Suspended Pending Hearing

Casie Coleman, recently honored as Canada's 2012 Trainer of the Year, the record fifth time she has been recognized with the O'Brien Award, has been suspended indefinitely by the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). A hearing has reportedly been scheduled for Monday, March 11.

The suspension was issued on Monday and it scheduled to begin on Tuesday. Coleman, who is winter training at South Florida Trotting Center, is currently racing her horses at Woodbine and Yonkers Raceway (she has only three starts this year at the Meadowlands). Coleman has a 36-6-6-3 slate this year at Woodbine and she is currently fifth in the dash standings at Yonkers with a record of 34-12-8-2 (a UTR of .503).

Coleman received positive tests for the Class IV drug Flumethasone—a corticosteroid for topical use—on horses Mick Dynamite, Hilarious Halo and Run On Luck. Coleman told Standardbred Canada that she does not know how the horses tested positive as it is not listed on veterinary records, which she has given to the ORC.

Coleman, whose stable earned a record \$6.85 million last year, is the trainer of Michael's Power, voted the 2012 Horse of the Year in Canada. She also is the conditioner of Betterthancheddar, who won the 2012 O'Brien as Older Pacer of the Year.

Luchento Elected HHI President

Harness Horsemen International (HHI) has elected Tom Luchent as president, Kim Hankins as first vice president and Tony Somone as second vice president.

Luchento is the president of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey, and takes over the HHI helm from Gene Oldford, who had served as HHI President for the past five years.

Hankins serves as the executive director for the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, while Somone represents the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association as that group's executive director.

Sal DiMario, Delaware Standardbred Owners Association executive director, was elected HHI Secretary, while Mike Izzo, CFO of the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association, and was named treasurer for 2013. Directors at Large include: Jerry Knappenberger, executive director for the Ohio

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Harness Horsemen's Association; Gabe Prewitt, executive secretary of the Kentucky Harness Horsemen's Association; and Dr. Timothy Powers, president of the Maine Harness Horsemen's Association.

No Timetable For Return Of San Pail

San Pail, a three-time winner of the Maple Leaf Trot and Canada's Horse of the Year in 2011, hasn't posted a pari-mutuel start since last April, but is travelling smoothly along the road to recovery.

Trained by Rod Hughes for Hughes Stable Inc. and breeder Glenn Van Camp, San Pail, a winner of over \$3 million, is recovering from a suspensory injury to his left hind ankle.

"'Pail' suffered a very small tear in his suspensory branch which caused the injury and so far, touch wood, everything appears to be one-hundred percent," Hughes said. "He's up to five miles a day jogging and we hit a nice day one day last week, so I turned him and went a mile around (2):40. I didn't carry a watch with me, but he did that very comfortable and came out of it well."

Hughes admits that when San Pail returns to the race track is up to the 9-year-old gelding.

"He'll let me know when he's ready and there is no timetable for his return," said Hughes. "I'd like to be ready for the Maple Leaf Trot, but if were not, were not. We'll surface when he says were ready to go. It could be earlier and it could be later. It's all up to 'Pail,' not me."

Hughes has a pair of expectations leading up to the coming months.

"Number one is to get him back to the races, healthy and sound, and prove that we can come back and race," said Hughes. "Number two is to make it to the Maple Leaf Trot, whether we win it or not, but to make it there. The rest is gravy."

In 2012 San Pail raced just four times with a 2-2-0 record and \$98,750 in seasonal earnings.

The son of San Pellegrino has posted 51 career victories from 111 starts for regular pilot Randy Waples. (WEG)

St. Louis Jr.'s License Revoked For 2 Years

Michigan-based horseman Marc St. Louis Jr. has had his occupational license revoked and deemed ineligible for licensing until February 2015 by the Michigan Gaming Control Board for violation of probation stemming from an earlier incident in which he was suspended one year following the death of a horse and then attempting to "conceal, tamper and destroy evidence...by improperly burning and burying the dead horse."

St. Louis was originally suspended for one year in August 2009 for "conduct detrimental to the best interest of horse racing" when he "under oath, made false and misleading statements regarding the death of the horse Alex E Mel," also admitting to the death, burning and burial of the horse. In a ruling dated Feb. 19, 2011, St. Louis was placed on probation, which included the stipulation that he only drive horses and not train.

Sources have told harnessracing.com that St. Louis was recently discovered training horses at Shiawassee Farm in Michigan. As a result, on Feb. 4 he had his license revoked by the Gaming Control Board, which then deemed him ineligible to be licensed until Feb. 15, 2015.

St. Louis, 24, who won the dash and earnings title at the last-ever meet at Windsor Raceway in 2012, also ranked among the leading drivers at the Michigan racetracks. He ranked 24th in North American with 381 victories, with purse earnings of \$1,155,906.



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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through March 5, 2013 (week difference Feb. 27-March 5).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Golden Receiver (8pg)	5	5	0	0	\$121,750
Versado (6pg)	8	4	0	0	83,580
Holdingallthecards (4pg)	7	6	0	0	74,700
Oil Magnet (9pg)	5	5	0	0	68,550
Rusty's All In (7ph)	9	3	2	1	67,250
Greystone Ladylike (4pm)	8	3	3	1	66,257
Warrawee Koine (7pm)	6	3	3	0	66,250
Stolen Car (5ph)	6	2	3	0	64,050
Sparky Mark (6ph)	5	2	3	0	63,250
Define The World (8tg)	5	3	1	0	61,265
Casimir Jitterbug (6pg)	4	3	1	0	60,950
Mr Dennis (4pg)	8	2	2	2	60,090
Do Me Honor (5pm)	7	5	1	1	59,950
Cool Rock (5pg)	9	5	0	2	59,265
Monochromatic (8pm)	8	4	2	0	58,650

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	682	142-105-89	.337	\$1,363,186 (\$176,135)
Brian Sears	368	100-65-45	.411	1,230,100 (158,285)
Matt Kakaley	353	69-38-58	.310	992,670 (126,125)
George Brennan	392	60-71-48	.295	970,200 (154,730)
Ron Pierce	471	72-80-61	.290	922,273 (114,354)
Tim Tetrick	410	72-53-51	.289	832,319 (64,156)
Dave Palone	405	109-67-44	.397	810,238 (69,892)
Yannick Gingras	290	59-47-32	.330	754,746 (73,170)
Jason Bartlett	356	43-45-44	.232	746,497 (102,923)
Scott Zeron	297	60-37-37	.313	736,791 (42,390)
Jody Jamieson	333	70-51-34	.329	708,346 (51,248)
Eric Carlson	506	52-62-47	.202	672,605 (58,950)
Ross Wolfenden	544	68-67-76	.240	658,827 (78,881)
Aaron Merriman	557	88-76-74	.278	612,292 (58,349)
Billy Davis Jr.	500	64-69-60	.245	609,935 (47,777)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	493	139-72-52	.398	\$1,587,425 (\$144,996)
Rene Allard	285	70-41-22	.351	550,642 (72,069)
Richard Moreau	285	54-46-46	.333	550,406 (72,802)
Michael Hall	179	41-37-24	.389	459,839 (60,240)
Josh Green	157	39-22-21	.371	374,900 (34,525)
Mark Ford	225	16-31-23	.182	352,955 (76,050)
Tony O'Sullivan	105	19-21-7	.314	343,318 (34,890)
P.J. Fraley	133	20-19-22	.285	339,742 (46,160)
Mark Harder	91	16-8-14	.276	287,017 (8,251)
Casie Coleman	76	22-15-5	.421	282,913 (31,220)
Dylan Davis	135	31-17-18	.344	282,812 (11,800)
Carmen Auciello	167	21-24-10	.226	269,332 (39,988)
Joe Hundertpfund Jr.	128	36-21-19	.422	268,421 (29,828)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	126	22-25-19	.335	243,617 (10,682)
Eric Ell	75	18-13-16	.407	242,254 (35,950)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	502	180	277	\$2,381,416
Winbak Farm	483	173	248	1,926,660
Brittany Farms	148	62	101	895,701
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	127	46	72	649,307
Perretti Farms	152	52	82	641,457
Perfect World Enterprises	99	37	51	461,592
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	85	32	49	442,198
Walnut Hall Limited	108	35	52	410,322
White Birch Farm	81	29	47	392,843
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	67	24	36	351,348
Jules & Arlene Siegel	80	29	44	346,215
Fox Valley Standardbreds	92	29	37	340,890
Frederick Hertrich III	79	35	52	338,171
Steve Stewart	54	28	43	328,349
Seelster Farms Inc.	91	33	51	322,640

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 27-March 5 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers Starts W-P-S

Corey Callahan	77	16-15-8
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	47	15-9-4
Trevor Henry	31	15-4-3
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	56	14-11-11
Brian Sears	52	13-8-6
Jason Brewer	26	13-3-2
Chris Page	55	12-7-9
Jim Morrill Jr.	25	12-1-4
Josh Sutton	48	12-7-8
Tyler Smith	54	12-10-7
Casey Leonard	52	11-9-7
George Brennan	53	11-12-4
Ron Pierce	54	11-7-9
Dave Palone	31	10-3-2
Jim Marohn Jr.	32	10-2-5
Matt Kakaley	49	9-5-11
Sam Widger	50	9-6-6
Tim Tetrick	32	9-4-2
George Dennis	57	7-5-6
Ross Wolfenden	52	7-8-6
Steve Wiseman	34	7-9-4
Sylvain Filion	38	7-10-3
Wally Hennessey	27	7-4-7

Trainers Wins

Ron Burke	13
Richard Moreau	9
Rene Allard	8
Amber Buter	6
Daniel Gill	6
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	6
Frank Petrelli	5
Gerry Sarama	5
Terry Leonard	5
Aaron Hamilton	4
Angie Affrunti	4
Jeff Brewer	4
Vincent Fusco Jr.	4
Will Johnson	4