A Budding Star In Teague’s Barn

Although George Teague Jr. has had his share of stars over his career, it’s likely he hasn’t been as excited over a horse such as Wiggle It Jiggleit since his 2004 Horse of the Year Rainbow Blue.

A late-blooming 3-year-old son of former Teague trainee Mr. Wiggles, Wiggle It Jiggleit brings a perfect five-for-five career record into Saturday night’s $58,000 final of the William “Buddy” Gilmour Series at the Meadowlands, a resume that led track oddsmaker Darin Zoccali to install the gelding as the 1-5 morning-line favorite. Teague’s son Montrell drives Wiggle It Jiggleit and the pair will start from post 4 in the eight-horse Gilmour final.

“You do things to try and reinvent yourself, and hopefully it works. I have only 20 horses now and believe me, I’m way happier.”

— George Teague Jr.

“Jiggleit looks like Mr. Wiggles a lot and goes like him,” said Teague, who owns Wiggle It Jiggleit but has listed assistant Clyde Francis as the trainer for the stable. “Mr. Wiggles had a great heart. Every time he raced he gave you 100 percent. He wasn’t as talented as this horse here as I think he was a little bit underrated. He finished second in a couple big races but he raced a lot of races where the big horses raced. He made almost $1.2 million, so he was a good horse.”

After admittedly a few down years, Teague said having a horse as talented as Wiggle It Jiggleit has been like finding the fountain of youth.

“It’s been a little bit of fun again,” he said. “It’s like anything else. You get sour on the business and start to hate it and not like it anymore. You do things to try and reinvent yourself, and hopefully it works. I have only 20 horses now and believe me, I’m way happier. I only have a few partners and that I like.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Tetrick Back In Action After WDC

After nearly a month away from the races in the U.S. in order to participate in the World Driving Championship (WDC) that concluded March 1 in Australia, Tim Tetrick returned to the sulky on Monday, March 9, at Yonkers Raceway. Tetrick made the most of his one drive on the card as he directed the 1-9 favorite Witch Dali to an easy victory in an opening-round division of the Petticoat Series.

Tetrick may have returned with a bronze medal after finishing third in the WDC, but he said the experience was worth its weight in gold. Tetrick had three wins and two seconds in the 20-race competition that took place at five racetracks Down Under, and he also became quick friends with several of his peers, including WDC champ Dexter Dunn from New Zealand and Chris Alford from Australia.

“I didn’t bring home the championship but I represented the U.S. the best I could,” Tetrick told Weekend Preview. “It was a great adventure and I had a great time. I was glad I got to wear the home colors. I did the best I could and make everybody as proud as I could.

“I met some great people. I made really close friends with Dexter and Chris Alford and their families. And Tony (Le Beller) from France. The guys were really cool.”

Tetrick actually won the first WDC race at Tabcorp Park Menangle and had the lead at the conclusion of the opening day of action. He said he was thrilled to still be able to finish third in his first-ever WDC appearance.

“I won the first race and then I had some real suspect horses,” he said. “I was really happy to hang around the best I did and finishing third.”

Tetrick said he didn’t really take advantage of the “push-out rule” used Down Under, where drivers can push their way out when in tight quarters.

“The guys were real good about it,” he said. “If you had to use it, it would be something you’d have to get used to. I tried to put mine in a spot where it didn’t make a difference. I could see where it could help if you were locked in on the wood. But some of those tracks were so tight it was hard to move anybody.”

The World Trotting Conference is held in conjunction with the WDC, and Tetrick’s wife, Ashley, made a presentation on behalf of the horse adoption agency New Vocations. Tetrick, joined by Canadian rep Jody Jamieson, also displayed extreme generosity toward Alford, whose daughter Katie was diagnosed four years ago with neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder that causes tumors to form on nerve tissue.

An auction conducted on behalf of the Children’s Tumor Foundation was held at a dinner in Sydney, and Tetrick purchased a green and gold Australian shirt that he, Jamieson and Dunn had signed, for $2,000. Tetrick immediately donated the shirt back to be auctioned again and Jamieson and his father, Carl, had a spirited bidding war that led to another $2,000 price.

“I bought it and gave it back because I wanted to get more money for it, and then Jody stepped right back up and did exactly what I did,” said Tetrick.

Tetrick returned from Down Under on Wednesday, March 4, but because of a five-day suspension imposed by the Meadowlands’ stewards from a Jan. 16 incident, he remained on the sidelines through March 8. Tetrick also drove at Yonkers on Tuesday afternoon and then on Wednesday at Dover Downs. He was scheduled to drive at Dover again on Thursday and then return to the Meadowlands on Friday, March 13. When Tetrick last drove at the Big M on Feb. 7 he held a one-win lead (34-33) over Yannick Gingras in the dash standings. Tetrick now finds himself 18 wins behind Gingras, who leads the driving colony with 52 victories.

Tetrick said one thing he found amusing from his Down Under journey was the recognition he received.

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JL Cruze Aims For Third Series Title

With wins already in the Super Bowl and Charles Singer Memorial, JL Cruze begins his quest for a third straight winter series win Friday night in the opening round of the Shiaway St. Pat, honoring the 1981 Hambletonian champion, at the Meadowlands.

Thirteen trotters were entered for Friday’s first round. JL Cruze is the 6-5 morning line favorite in the second of two divisions, which will go as the 12th race on the 13-race card. The 13th race features a $161,277 carryover in the Jackpot Super High 5.

JL Cruze was purchased for $37,000 at last fall’s Harrisburg mixed sale by Mid-Atlantic-based trainer Eric Ell for owners Kenneth Wood, Bill Dittmar Jr., and Stephen Iaquinta. In the 10 starts with Ell, JL Cruze has earned $87,760 with seven wins and two runner-up finishes.

“Originally, we just wanted a horse to race up through his conditions in Delaware, but he has been a blessing in disguise,” explained Ell. “He just does it so easily and it looks like he’s the one to beat again heading into this series.”

The 55-year-old Ell has trained more than 1,100 winners with more than $14 million in earnings during his career. Always humble and gracious, Ell admits he has had many solid racehorses during his career. He describes his biggest win as the 2011 Maxie Lee at Harrah’s Philadelphia with Anders Bluestone, who would go on to earn more than $1 million.

“(JL Cruze) just might be one of the best we’ve had;” admitted Ell. “If he keeps improving like he has, you never know.”

Hall of Famer John Campbell will take his usual seat behind JL Cruze on Friday.

Ell will also be represented in the Shiaway St. Pat with another exciting prospect; Razor Ramone brings a five-race winning streak into the first division and will be driven Friday for the first time by Hall of Famer David Miller. Ell purchased the son of Kadabra out of Canada last September. Like JL Cruze, he’s owned by Iaquinta and Dittmar.

“He can trot a lot, but not quite like JL Cruze yet,” said Ell. “He’s good on a five-eighths mile track, but I’m not sure if the big track at the Meadowlands will help. He’s a stocky built, ‘Mighty Mouse’ type of horse. His qualifier last week was a good tighter and we’re looking forward to seeing how he races on Friday.”
EARLY CLOSING EVENTS FOR 2015

**EMPIRE BREEDERS CLASSIC**
Raced at Tioga Downs

**#1) THREE YEAR OLD COLT PACE**
$12,500E Eliminations: Sunday, Aug 16
$250,000E Final: Sunday, Aug 23
(2014 Purse $255,525)

**#2) THREE YEAR OLD FILLY PACE**
$12,500E Eliminations: Sunday, Aug 16
$250,000E Final: Sunday, Aug 23
(2014 Purse $244,875)

Raced at Vernon Downs

**#3) THREE YEAR OLD COLT TROT**
$12,500E Eliminations: Sunday, June 14
$250,000E Final: Sunday, June 21
(2014 Purse $215,125)

**#4) THREE YEAR OLD FILLY TROT**
$12,500E Eliminations: Sunday, June 14
$250,000E Final: Sunday, June 21
(2014 Purse $217,725)

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**
MARCH 15 $1,000
SUPPLEMENTAL $6,000
ENTRY FEE $2,500

**#5) TWO YEAR OLD PAYMENTS FOR FOALS OF 2013**
(This payment must be made for nominees to be eligible as three year olds in 2016)
MARCH 15, 2015 $350
IN-U/EU-OF-FEE $1,000
A list of eligible 2YO’s and Sires for 2016 is available at Tioga Downs’ website.

**KINDERGARTEN TROTTERS CLASSIC**
OPEN EVENT FOR TWO YEAR OLD TROTTERS

**#11) COLTS & #12) FILLIES**
Five $10,000G Legs and a $175,000E Final with $75,000E Consolations
(Horses must start in a minimum of two legs of the series to be eligible for the finals)

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- **Friday, July 24** The Meadowlands
- **Sunday, August 30** Tioga Downs
- **Thursday, September 10** The Red Mile
- **Thursday, September 17** The Red Mile
- **Friday, October 23** Vernon Downs

**FINALS & CONSOLATIONS**
Saturday, October 31 Vernon Downs
Actual Purse for 2014 Finals: Colts $240,000 Fillies $251,000
(2014 Purse $122,500)

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**
March 15 $600 April 15 $600
ENTRY FEE OF $250 FOR EACH LEG IN WHICH THE NOMINEE RACES/NO FEE FOR FINAL

**OPEN EVENTS FOR OLDER HORSES & MARES**
Raced at Vernon Downs

**#6) THE CRAWFORD FARMS (Open Trot)**
Sponsored by: Crawford Farms
Friday, August 21 Purse $175,000E
(2014 Purse $236,000)

**#7) MUSCLE HILL (Mare Trot)**
Sponsored by: The Muscle Hill Syndicate
Friday, August 21 $175,000E
(2014 Purse $178,000)

Raced at Vernon Downs

**#8) ARTISCAPE (Mare Poo)**
Sponsored by: The Artiscape Syndicate
Friday, August 21 $175,000E
(2014 Purse $178,000)

**#9) ROLL WITH JOE (Open Poo)**
Sponsored by: Blue Chip Farms
Sunday, August 23 $175,000E
(2014 Purse $160,000)

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**
March 15 $2,000
April 15 $2,000
Entry Fee $2,000

**#10) MISS VERSATILITY***
Sponsored by: Allerage Farms & The LBJ Society
Monday, May 18 Mohawk Racetrack $40,000E
Friday, July 3 Mohawk Racetrack $40,000E
Saturday, July 18 The Meadowlands $40,000E
Monday, September 7 Tioga Downs $40,000E
Thurs, September 24 Little Brown Jug Final $120,000E
(2014 Purse $121,500)

*Connections of those mares participating in the Miss Versatility Final will receive a hospitality package from the Little Brown Jug

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**
March 15 $1,500
April 15 $1,500
Entry Fee (Payable only once) $2,000

Conditions, nomination forms, racing applications, track rules & policies, and lists of eligible horses are available at, The Tioga & Vernon Downs websites.
A nomination to these events is an agreement to all conditions.

Race Office (607) 699-7688 * Fax (607) 699-3901

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**EVENT**
**HORSE**
**C/F**
**SIRE**
**DAM**
**AMOUNT**

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**TOTAL**

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Nominator: ____________________________ Trainer: ____________________________
Address: ______________________________ ______________________________
Phone: _______________________________ Email ______________________________

Checks Made Payable to Tioga Downs
Send to: Racing Office c/o Tioga Downs, LLC. 2384 West River Road, Nichols, NY 13812
We’ve rounded up some of the best plays of the weekend, given to us by various racetrack handicappers. Each handicapper’s entire race card of selections can be found in the track’s race program and/or on the in-house simulcast TV show. Here are the best picks:

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

MAYWOOD PARK, Tom Kelley
Race 12—(2) FOX VALLEY CUPID looks like he is in a “now or never” type of spot for the speedball as he meets a group that’s struggling to find its form. He’s drawn inside where he should put his blazing gate speed to good use.

MEADOWLANDS, Darin Zoccali
Race 4—(6) ENDURO HANOVER was shuffled back and locked in with trot. Had he gotten a cleaner trip and found room sooner, he probably would have won last time. Marohn will have options as this horse can leave or rally. Key player.

THE MEADOWS, Roger Huston
Race 2—(8) WOODY HANOVER was a winner in first outing from post 7 in 1:57.1 with a two-second allowance. Second lifetime start for the 3-year-old Well Said gelding. Should jog against this field.

MIAMI VALLEY, Pacey “The Wiz” Mindlin
Race 7—(2) LUNA HANOVER, can a five claimer now on a five-race win streak make it six in a row in an eight to 10 claimer?

SARATOGA, Mike Sardella
Race 2—(5) FILOMENA was plenty good enough to win when running into a monster mile, avenges here.

WOODBINE, Chad Rozema
Race 2—(5) TAROT took 14 starts to earn his first career win but it only took one more to earn his next after scoring another open-length tally last time. Waples should be able to have him up close without much of a tussle from others, putting him in a position to strike front around the final turn.

YONKERS RACEWAY, Frank Drucker
Race 4—(4) AUTOMATIC SLIMS thrice a bridesmaid in succession, including last out when placed in for tag. If he races back to that effort, he can beat these.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

BALMORAL PARK, Tom Kelley
Race 3—(5) CONTROL TOWER is a good-looking 3 year old who was very sharp in his victory here last week. Given that was his first start back after a two-month layoff he has every right in the world to be even better tonight.

MAYWOOD PARK, Tom Kelley
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MEADOWLANDS, Darin Zoccali
Race 4—(4) MY NAME IS SAM makes his first start off the layoff. Catches a good spot off a big final quarter in his qualifier.

MIAMI VALLEY, Pacey “The Wiz” Mindlin
Race 10—(2) NEAT, a 4-year-old Art Major gelding, is in good form and will be tough here.

POMPANO PARK, John Berry
Race 5—(5) My BUDDY MASON showed very sharp backside pace (:28.2) in last on an “off” track. In a very amiable spot here.

YONKERS RACEWAY, Frank Drucker
Race 2—(5) ALBERTO CONTADOR N drilled lesser this past Monday. Guess here is he bravened himself up enough that he can bump and win again.
Growing Horse Shortage Problem Threatens To Derail Sport

Jason Settlemoir compares the horse shortage problem to a runaway train headed straight for us. The CEO and general manager of Meadowlands Racing and Entertainment has the numbers to prove it.

“From 2003, there were 25,220 mares bred,” Settlemoir said. “In 2013, 13,083 mares were bred. That’s down 48 percent.”

Given that horse population has a direct tie to the economic underpinnings of the sport, those numbers are particularly worrisome. Field size is critical to driving the handle that provides the industry’s most important revenue stream. Though many tracks now also benefit from slots, that money can be legislated away. Just look at Ontario.

The take from pari-mutuel handle is one of the few sources of revenue that horse racing can claim as its own. Yet, driving handle becomes particularly difficult when there are not enough horses to fill races.

“It’s math. It’s simple, basic math that we’re seeing. I think (director of racing operations) Darin (Zoccali) did an analysis that showed that this (horse shortage) crisis would be in full mode in 2017 and ’18. But I think we’re starting to see the beginning of it. Look at our field sizes, which are dwindling.”

Settlemoir said from the start of the Meadowlands’ current meet in November 2014 through the end of February, the average field size has been 8.8 starters, compared to 9.2 over that same period last year. There have been at least nine betting interests 78.3 percent of the time this year, down from 85.3 percent a year ago.

“There’s the daunting number though: There’s been 49 races this year with seven-horse fields or less, compared to only 22 in 2014,” he said.

The Meadowlands’ problem will only worsen when Moheggan Sun at Pocono Downs opens March 21 and Harrah’s Philadelphia opens March 27.

“I realize it’s been a harsh winter and some of these people are behind and more horses will start coming back...But even if the horses are a little behind because of the winter, is it really going to make up the difference when you have Philadelphia and Pocono each racing four or five days a week? Let’s say they race four days a week, which is eight days times 12 races, which is 96 races times, let’s just say, eight horses (per race). Where are you going to find another 800 horses?”

The problem is particularly acute at the Meadowlands, which does not have slots revenue, but remains the sport’s critically-important flagship track because of its rare ability to attract big bettors and produce sizeable handle.

The Meadowlands isn’t alone in having trouble finding horses. Scott McKelvie, the race secretary for the Woodbine Entertainment Group, said the track is just getting enough entries to fill races and he expects a bigger crunch to come this summer. Ian Fleming, the race secretary for the other six Standardbred Alliance tracks in Ontario, said he’s also struggling to fill races at Flamboro Downs and the Raceway at The Western Fair District this winter.

“We barely have enough horses to get by for a variety of reasons. We certainly don’t have any extra (horses), that’s for sure.”

“We barely have enough horses to get by for a variety of reasons,” Fleming said. “We certainly don’t have any extra (horses), that’s for sure.”

It all comes back to fewer horses being produced. It’s a population problem that won’t be solved overnight. There’s a critical shortage of horses owners, and breeders have long struggled to turn a profit in an era when those owners have increasingly turned to proven overnight horses rather than yearlings. A declining market for yearlings means breeders have chosen to produce fewer horses.

“We’ve got to find people that want to buy a dream, because that’s what the Hambletonian is, that’s what the Meadowlands Pace is, that’s what the Little Brown Jug is. Those are dreams. We have to find a way to get owners involved in this sport again that want to buy yearlings and buy that dream,” Settlemoir said.

Settlemoir also advocates putting higher purses on overnights designed to attract young horses, as is the case in Thoroughbred racing.

“Let’s say you have a 2-year-old filly trotter you bought at the sale for $30,000. So, you buy the horse at the sale for $30,000 and her first start in non-winners of one is for a $20,000 purse. If she wins, you’ve got $10,000 of yours back right there and then non-winners of two is going for $30,000. I think we did it a little bit backwards,” said Settlemoir.

In turn, that makes it one of the sport’s most pressing problems.

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.
Shebestingin Retired; Brittany Acquires Interest

Shebestingin, whose 1:47 victory in a $122,500 Glen Garney Memorial division in 2013 at The Red Mile is the fastest mile ever by a female pacer, has been retired by her connections. Trainer Joe Holloway confirmed to harnessracing.com Tuesday afternoon that the 5-year-old mare is now headed to the breeding shed following the second of two second-place finishes in as many attempts this year on Friday, March 6, at the Meadowlands.

“She just didn’t come back so we are going to retire her,” Holloway said. “I would have loved to race her but she shouldn’t have been where she was the other night. She got a great trip…and it was obvious. We’re not looking to race her just to race her. Good horses deserve the chance to go out with glory. I don’t want to take anything away from them.”

Shebestingin finished a late-closing second in her 2015 debut on Feb. 6 at the Meadowlands, and then on March 6 driver David Miller moved her three wide at the three-quarters after being parked with cover from the nine hole, but she again settled for second.

Shebestingin retires with 18 wins in 36 starts and $759,522 in earnings for owners Val D’Or Farms, L & L DeVisser LLC and Ted Gewertz. Her biggest year came as a 3-year-old in 2013 when her 12 victories included not only her world and Ted Gewertz. Her biggest year came as a 3-year-old in 2013 when her 12 victories included not only her world-

$250,700 Empire Breeders Classic. She was runner-up in voting for the 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year behind I Luv The Nitelife.

Brittany Farms has purchased the interest in the mare owned by L & L DeVisser and Ted Gewertz. Val d’Or Farms retains its ownership position in the mare.

Shebestingin is by Bettor’s Delight and is out of the Abercrombie mare Armbro Tussle. She will be bred to Captain Treacherous this spring.

“This gives Brittany the fastest 3-year-old filly of all time and the former fastest 2-year-old filly of all time in American Jewel,” said Brittany manager Art Zubrod in making the announcement. “Lee DeVisser told me he was thrilled that Shebestingin is going to Brittany because she will be given the best opportunity as a broodmare. Also, we’ve been partners with Val d’Or Farms for more than 20 years, so this is a great partnership.”

Surgery To Sideline Hall Of Famer Ron Pierce

Hall of Fame driver Ron Pierce told harnessracing.com Monday afternoon (March 9) that he will have neck and back surgery in the coming days and he expects to be out of action for at least five weeks while recovering.

The 58-year-old Pierce, who has 9,569 career wins and is second on the all-time earnings list with $215.3 million, will have the surgery at the Laser Spine Institute in Wayne, Pa. Pierce said he has already been advised by doctors that he may need more surgery in the future.

“I’m not sure how long I’ll be off, it depends. I’m hoping for five or six weeks. I want to be back when the babies come out. But I’ll have to give my body time to heal up,” Pierce said by cell phone while in the waiting room awaiting tests. “They will do my back on Wednesday and then my neck on Monday, and then they’ll have to do my back again, although I’m not sure how much after the first surgery. And then my neck again.

“I’m not sure how long I’ll be off, it depends. I’m hoping for five or six weeks. I want to be back when the babies come out. But I’ll have to give my body time to heal up.”

Pierce, who drove in more than 3,000 races in each of the past two years, has 102 wins in 503 starts thus far in 2015. He currently ranks ninth in the Meadowlands’ dash standings with 18 victories, while he is second at Dover Downs with 84 wins.

Pierce, who was inducted into harness racing’s Hall of Fame in 2005, said his discomfort has been ongoing for many years, likely dating back to a race accident in the 1980s.

“I hurt my back in the 1980s and it’s been screwed up ever since,” said Pierce. “Then I got run over at Dover a couple years ago. I guess my back got broken at one time or an-

Continues on page 8 ››››
Casino. The 160-day meet will begin Friday, March 27 offering live racing through Saturday, November 14, with a daily post time of 5:15 p.m. (EDT).

Hoosier Park will allow horsemen to ship-in to use the racetrack for training beginning Thursday, March 12. The track and paddock area will be open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. for ship-in training and track usage by horsemen during this time will be allowed weather permitting.

The first round of qualifiers at Hoosier Park is slated for Saturday, March 14, and again on Wednesday, March 18, with an estimated start time of 10 a.m. Hoosier Park will also offer qualifiers on Saturday, March 21, to allow horsemen another opportunity to qualify their horses prior to the start of the meet. The entry box will close for these qualifiers one day prior at 10 a.m.

A special evening qualifier is slated for Wednesday, March 25 beginning at 5:15 p.m. and will serve as a "dress rehearsal" for live racing. Qualifiers will continue to be conducted on a Wednesday and Saturday schedule throughout the remainder of the meet.

All horses entering the grounds must have valid paperwork and all personnel must be licensed by Tuesday, March 24 by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission before entering the grounds. No one will be permitted to take a horse onto the Hoosier Park racetrack without being licensed by the IHRC at any time. The IHRC licensing office at Hoosier Park will open on Tuesday, March 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for anyone who needs to obtain a license.

Yonkers To Increase Purses By 20 Percent

Yonkers Raceway has announced a 20 percent, across-the-board purse increase, effective with the race week beginning Sunday, March 15.

In addition, to show its appreciation for those horsemen who’ve overstuffed the box for the “French” trots, those races, which already went for larger purses, are also bumped another 20 percent.

In terms of numbers, the non-“French trot” purses, which ranged from $9,000 to $35,000, now go from $11,000 to $42,000. The “French” races went from a range of $13,000/$46,000 to $15,600/$55,200.

NHL’s Sedin Brothers

Able To Jog Their Horses

Brothers Daniel and Henrik Sedin, who are star players for the Vancouver Canucks of the National Hockey League, also own Standardbreds. When the Canucks were in Florida in January the brothers took advantage of a day off to head to the Sunshine Meadows Training Center where they have a pair of 2 year olds in training with fellow Swede Robert Bergh.

The Sedins, who owned the 2013 Elitlopp winner Nahar, purchased the trotters Songndance Hanover and Curious De Vie last fall at the Lexington Select Yearling Sale for $105,000 and $160,000, respectively. The brothers were able to jog both their horses while on their visit to Bergh’s barn.

Brad Ziemer, a reporter for the Vancouver Sun, recently talked to the Sedin brother about their harness horses and what their hopes are for the future. To read the entire story, please click here.

Check Me Out Has First Foal,
A Filly By Credit Winner

Check Me Out 2, 1:53.2f; 3, 1:51.2 ($1,903,795) had her first foal, a filly by Credit Winner, on Sunday, March 8. Owned by Steve Jones and Ray Schnittker, the daughter of Donato Hanover-Illusion Bi (by Toss Out) will now be bred to either Muscle Hill or Trixton.

As a 2-year-old Check Me Out won the Merrie Annabelle, Champlain, Reynolds, Tompkins-Geers, Bluegrass, International Stallion Stakes, Breeders Crown and Matron, and was the richest 2-year-old colt or filly of 2011. She returned at 3 in 2012 and set a world record winning the Del Miller. She also won the Eleganteimage, Hudson Filly, Hambletonian Oaks elimination, Zweig Filly and Pennsylvania Sires Stakes final and retired as the richest and fastest trotting filly in history.

Check Me Out was a 2011 and 2012 Dan Patch Award winner.

Hoosier Park Ready To Open For Training

Hoosier Park Racing & Casino is set to open the racetrack for training as final preparations are underway for the 22nd season of live harness racing at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino. The 160-day meet will begin Friday, March 27 offering live racing through Saturday, November 14, with a daily post time of 5:15 p.m. (EDT).

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Check Me Out was a 2011 and 2012 Dan Patch Award winner.
Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.</td>
<td>514</td>
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<td>Perretti Farms</td>
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<td>Britanny Farms</td>
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<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
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<td>White Birch Farm</td>
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<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
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<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
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<td>Robert J. Key</td>
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<td>Bulletproof Enterprises</td>
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<td>Walnut Hall Limited</td>
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<td>Fox Valley Standardbreds</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>44</td>
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</table>

Leaders Of The Week

- **Drivers**
  - Corey Callahan .................................................. 61
  - Dave Palone ..................................................... 39
  - Kevin Cummings .................................................. 39
  - Aaron Merriman .................................................. 62
  - Bruce Aldrich Jr. ................................................ 50
  - Ronnie Wrenn Jr. .................................................. 49
  - Josh Sutton ........................................................ 60
  - George Brennan ................................................... 57
  - Billy Dobson ..................................................... 34
  - Jason Merriman ................................................... 39
  - Jim Marohn Jr. ..................................................... 40
  - Michael Oosting ................................................... 34
  - Billy Davis Jr. .................................................... 35
  - Jeff Nisonger ..................................................... 26
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  - Robert Shepherd ................................................... 29
  - Ron Pierce .......................................................... 28
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  - Corey Callahan .................................................. 15-12-5
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  - Aaron Merriman .................................................. 12-10-12
  - Bruce Aldrich Jr. ................................................ 12-9-5
  - Ronnie Wrenn Jr. .................................................. 12-10-11
  - Josh Sutton ...................................................... 11-8-6
  - George Brennan ................................................... 10-8-7
  - Billy Dobson ..................................................... 9-7-6
  - Jason Merriman ................................................... 9-7-4
  - Jim Marohn Jr. ..................................................... 9-3-3
  - Michael Oosting ................................................... 9-3-8
  - Billy Davis Jr. .................................................... 8-5-7
  - Jeff Nisonger ..................................................... 8-2-2
  - Sylvin Filion ...................................................... 8-2-5
  - Jason Bartlett ................................................... 7-5-5
  - Randy Tharps ...................................................... 7-3-4
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  - Ron Pierce .......................................................... 7-2-5
  - Tyler Butler ....................................................... 7-2-4

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  - Ron Burke .......................................................... 14
  - Rene Allard ........................................................ 7
  - Richard Moreau .................................................... 7
  - Jose Godinez ....................................................... 6
  - Chris Short ....................................................... 5
  - John Mungillo ..................................................... 5
  - Kimberly Asher .................................................... 5
  - Doug Lewis ........................................................ 4
  - Isaac Waxman ....................................................... 4
  - J.D. Perrin .......................................................... 4
  - Jeff Brewer ....................................................... 4
  - Jeff Nisonger ..................................................... 4
  - Jennifer Sabot .................................................... 4
  - Melissa Beckwith .................................................. 4
  - Perry Smith ......................................................... 4
  - Vincent Fusco Jr. .................................................. 4