

Somwherovrainbow Prepping For Matchmaker With Big M Start

The racing action this weekend includes a couple of previews for the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series, which gets underway at Yonkers Raceway next Friday night, with the male companion, the George Morton Levy Memorial Series, kicking off a week from Saturday.

The Blue Chip Matchmaker attracted 39 pacing mares, led by the 2013 Pacing Mare of the Year Anndrovette and last season's Matchmaker victress, Feeling You. The Matchmaker, commencing Friday, March 21st, also consists of five prelim rounds, with each race going for \$40,000. The final will carry an estimated purse of \$287,000.

The first of the Matchmaker previews is Race 6 at Yonkers on Friday when every single mare in the eight-horse Open Handicap is eligible to the race. The field includes defending Matchmaker champ Feeling You, who is making her first start of the season after winner a qualifier in 1:57.1 at Yonkers. The second preview is Race 11 at the Meadowlands Friday night, a B-1/A-2 handicap that includes Matchmaker eligibles Carols Desire, Somwherovrainbow, Money On My Wheel and Rock N Load.

Somwherovrainbow, the 2012 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace champion, will be making her first start as a 4 year old. Developed and raced at ages two and three mostly by co-breeder George Teague Jr., Joe Holloway is now conditioning the blue-blooded daughter of Somebeachsomewhere and Rainbow Blue. Holloway began training Somwherovrainbow after Diamond Creek Racing bought out Teague and K&R Racing, partnering with Ted Gewertz on the horse.

Somwherovrainbow has qualified twice this season, both times at the Meadowlands, and won both races with strong efforts.

Continues on page 2 >>>

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\$33,000 F&M OPEN HANDICAP PACE

Yonkers Raceway, Friday, March 14, Race 6, Post Time: 8:50 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Fashion Mystery	E. Carlson/G. Garcia-Herrera	15-1
2—Swinging Beauty	G. Brennan/R. Burke	8-1
3—Royal Cee Cee N	B. Sears/M. Harder	8-5
4—Ramalama	M. Kakaley/D. Duspiva	3-1
5—Krispy Apple	J. Bartlett/P.J. Fraley	6-1
6—Cocoa Beach	R. Pierce/B. Robertson	4-1
7—Feeling You	T. Buter/A. Buter	8-1
8—Ideal In Vegas	J. Stratton/A. Mannino	6-1

\$22,500 F&M B-1/A-2 HANDICAP PACE

Meadowlands, Friday, March 14, Race 11, Post Time: 10:35 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Spirit Of Desire	A. McCarthy/T. Lancaster	6-1
2—Pan Luis Obispo	S. Zeron/C. Ryder	8-1
3—Carol's Desire	C. Callahan/R. Banca	8-1
4—Palm Patrol	J. Drury/C. Auciello	12-1
5—Continual Velocity	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	3-1
6—Somwherovrainbow	T. Tetrick/J. Holloway	5-2
7—Monkey On My Wheel	D. Miller/A. Harris	2-1
8—Road N Load	J. Marohn Jr./D. Gill	15-1

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"She's really good right now," said Holloway after a morning of training. "Obviously, she's made \$800,000 so she's a good horse. But she's put on some weight from last year and in her last qualifier I asked Brian (Sears) to sit in and let her move forward and that worked out real well. It's not like you can take her back with two fingers, but she wasn't as grabby. I'm interested in finding out if she has the sheer high speed that her dam had. I don't think we've seen that from her yet."

Somwhorvarainbow won the second of her qualifiers on Feb 28 by 2 3/4 lengths in 1:53.3, beating Anndrovette. But Anndrovette is older and known for being tough as nails, and racing in the Matchmaker on the Yonkers half-mile oval takes stamina and luck.

"We've just got to see how the other mares show up," said Holloway. "I don't know how many divisions there will be now that they have the starting fee (\$800 per race in the Matchmaker). But if you're lucky enough to get to the final, there will be a deep field."

Holloway could have had a second Matchmaker starter, but decided instead to delay the return of Shebestingin, who set a 1:47 world record for 3 year olds last fall at The Red Mile.

"She'll qualify in two weeks," said Holloway of "Stingin," a 4-year-old daughter of Bettor's Delight owned by Gewertz, Val d'Or and L&L Devisser. "I wasn't sure about feeding her a regular diet of a half-mile track for the series, which is over five weeks. But both mares will be eligible to everything from that point on." — By Kathy Parker

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, March 14

All times listed are local.

7:35p M2 **Horse & Groom** 1st leg [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:50p YR6 **Open Hcp F&M** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

10:55p M12 **Horse & Groom** 1st leg [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Saturday, March 15

7:15p M1 **Clyde Hirt Pace** 1st leg [Trackmaster PPs](#)

7:35p M2 **A-2/A-1/FFA** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

7:45p Wdb2 **Preferred** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

7:55p M3 **Clyde Hirt Pace** 1st leg [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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STRETCH CALL



BY DAVE BRIGGS

Televising Harness Racing: What We Can Learn From Canada

Jeff Gural's goal to get some of the sport's biggest harness racing events on television is a worthy, necessary project, but a lot can be learned from the Woodbine Entertainment Group's (WEG) experience broadcasting horse racing in Canada.

Gural correctly points out U.S. harness tracks that have slot parlors have blundered by failing to invest a portion of gaming revenue into getting the sport on regular television. One of WEG's first initiatives when Ontario's Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) began in 2000 was to invest heavily in its broadcasting department. Doug Flaherty, WEG's senior director of broadcasting, estimates the company has spent \$10 million on its television department in that time, including an initial investment of some \$5 million to make crucial upgrades.

The results of WEG's 14-year television effort have been mixed, however, even with a weekly presence on Canada's "The Score" for much of that time for both Standardbred and Thoroughbred racing, with content WEG produced itself.

It's important to note that, despite being a national cable sports channel, The Score didn't draw the ratings of its larger, more established competitors, TSN and Sportsnet. You might argue that's similar to what could happen in the U.S. If harness racing lands on the CBS Sports Network that must grapple for viewers with more established sports channels such as ESPN and Fox Sports, plus a slew of others.

Jamie Martin, WEG's senior vice-president of racing, said he agrees with Gural that the sport needs to have its major events on television, but he notes that the landscape has changed a great deal in the last decade.

"We want more people to see our product, we want to be on mainstream television, but it's not like it was years ago," Martin said. "Some of our major fall Thoroughbred events drew ratings of like 20,000 people. One day we had more people here (at the track)... The other thing is, because there are so many channels, people have to seek it out and maybe they would have done so anyway on one of our other platforms, or even just watching the (web)stream."

In 2013, due to cut-backs caused by the end of SARP, plus a change of ownership at The Score—a channel previously owned by Standardbred owner John Levy—the Pepsi North America Cup was the only WEG harness racing event broadcast nationwide, not counting the WEG-owned

wagering and simulcast platform HorsePlayer Interactive (HPI). The NA Cup drew ratings of between 30,000 and 40,000 people, Martin said, primarily because core customers came to Mohawk or watched and wagered on the event through HPI.

Those ratings numbers are tough to extrapolate to a U.S. population 10 times larger, of course, especially with a more crowded American television landscape. But it does indicate that gone are the days when simply being on television drives interest and business. Now television seems to be a necessary evil based on a mindset that if you're not on television, you don't exist at all.

That doesn't mean televising harness racing's biggest events aren't worth the effort or the expense. But judging from the Canadian example, one shouldn't expect miracles from simply being on television, particularly in a 1,000-channel universe that now must compete with the Internet and mobile devices for attention.



What Do You Think?

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

Just click this box or email your comments directly to editorial@harnessracing.com and we will publish your letter to the editor.



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.



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Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$20,000 Guaranteed

3 The Icon Series
\$4,000 Claiming Pace

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Tues. (4/1)	1st Leg	\$4,000 (Per Division)
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Wed. (4/16)	3rd Leg	\$4,000
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5 The Diva Series
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Purse

Thurs. (4/3)	1st Leg	\$4,000 (Per Division)
Thurs. (4/10)	2nd Leg	\$4,000
Thurs. (4/17)	3rd Leg	\$4,000
Fri. (4/25)	Final	\$15,000 Guaranteed

6 The Prima Donna Series
F & M \$8,000 Claiming Pace

Purse

Thurs. (4/3)	1st Leg	\$6,500 (Per Division)
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Event	Name of Entry	Sex	Age	Sire	Dam	Owner	Nom. Fee
Total							

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Address of Nominator _____ Phone _____

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BREEDING *Banter*

Even though it is just a few days from the official middle of March and the breeding season has technically been underway for a month, many breeders are still making decisions about matings for their mares.

The most recent edition of *The Horseman And Fair World* had advertisements for 13 different stallions that still had room in their 2014 books: Kadabra, Shark Gesture, Lionhunter, Real Desire, Dontyouforgetit, Net Ten Eom, Power Play,

McArdle, Panspacificflight, Full Count, Winning Fireworks, Fred And Ginger and Dr. McDreamy. They are young sires without foals of racing age and established sires, such as Kadabra, sire of 2013 Horse of the Year Bee A Magician.

Real Desire stands at stud at Midland Acres of Indiana but is managed by Brittany Stallion Management of Kentucky, which falls under the direction of Brittany Farms manager Art Zubrod. Zubrod said while there is room in Real Desire's book, he's on pace to breed more than 100 mares this season. Last year Real Desire was bred to 108 mares.

"Real Desire is actually booking better than I expected at this point in the season because he still doesn't have a crop racing in Indiana," noted Zubrod.

Brittany also manages American Ideal and Artiscape, who both stand at stud in New York, and Vintage Master, who stands in Ontario.

"American Ideal booked up right away, and that didn't surprise me," said Zubrod. "Artiscape is a little better this year. Vintage Master's bookings are still a little bit disappointing. I think Ontario breeders are obviously still gun shy."

The number of mares bred in Ontario dropped to 1,716 from a high of more than 3,000 in prior years.

Breeders are not shy in Ohio these days as the state is on target to breed 2,000 mares again this year. The pacing sires Pet Rock and Dragon Again and the trotting sire Dejarmbro have full books, but plenty of choices remain for breeders.

Last year the pacing sire McArdle was bred to 175 mares, the most ever in his 10 seasons at stud. This year competition from other studs may curtail his visits to the breeding shed.

"It will be way off the number for last year," said Brad Wallace of Hickory Lane Farm, where McArdle stands at stud, when asked about the sire's book for 2014. "Based on

what we've got so far, I think he'll be at 75 to 80 mares. The people breeding to him this year should get rewarded at the sales when they sell their yearlings because with all the foals from his first year in Ohio, he should be able to have a big presence on the track."

Hickory Lane also stands the trotting sire Dejarmbro, whose book was full and closed earlier this year. Dejarmbro's first foals have been born and Wallace said he was thrilled with what he's seen.

"They're just a very well conformed bunch, especially in the back end," he explained. "They have good size too, but I'm just really tickled with their conformation."

Hickory Lane also stands the trotting sire Trainforthefuture, who Wallace said gets a small book of mares but always has a following because of his winners on the track. The farm's veteran pacing sire Stand Forever, now 22, is not breeding this year and is ailing.

"I think our old boy might be close to the end," said Wallace. "He's always been my favorite here. He's having trouble walking on his right hind, and we're trying some new treatments, but we're going to be lucky if he survives."

Stand Forever, a son of Dragon's Lair and the Niatross mare Nijet, had bred for 16 consecutive seasons. Among his top offspring was the 2008 and 2009 stakes winner Standupnkissme p,2, 1:50.3 (\$312,109). — *By Kathy Parker*

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Another Take On Awards Dinners

By Jesse Richardson

The following was published for an online blog on The Chronicle of The Horse (https://www.chronofhorse.com/article/awards-season).

Richardson married into the horse world in 2009. His wife, Diane, rides and trains sport horses with Dev Branham in Tomball, Texas. Diane is the daughter of Judy-Davis Wilson, who was recently honored at the U.S. Harness Writers Awards dinner held at Dover Downs.

Horse shows have a season and at the end, there is a banquet to celebrate and confer year-end awards. These are formal affairs, and since the food is pretty good, the ranks of horse husbands in attendance swells considerably.

They are not wrong. Banquets are by law preceded by wine and cheese cocktail parties, which always feature some kind of bacon-wrapped hors d'oeuvres and Heineken by the bottle, and this is where you will find us. Leaning over the bar, holding up two fingers, gathering drinks and bacon wrapped skewers for the missus, but

only if she finds me before I finish mine.

Sometimes you finish both bacons in the beer line, and start drinking in the bacon line, and by the time you find the missus, all you can report is "they ran out." This is expected of course, and it gives the ladies more time to wrap up discussions about what bit works best in which situations.

Awards banquets are dress up, so plan accordingly. Trying on your suit is a good way to measure yourself against last year, girth-wise. Always remember before you leave the house to bring clothes with a little "give." It doesn't have to be elastic, but it helps. I chose a tuxedo with a cummerbund—there's no reason to reinvent the wheel.

I went to two very different banquets this year. One was an hour from the house. I was invited and picking up an award my wife's horse had won—a big fat trophy and a ribbon the length of your arm. That one looked like a prom, a college formal perhaps, and as I walked in it briefly crossed my mind I wouldn't know where to go for a last-minute corsage if I needed one. Picture ballroom gowns and high heels that would require permits in some jurisdictions. My tuxedo was the right call, and a rented limo would have been just over the top—just. So, next time.

The other was 1,500 miles away, I was not invited, not receiving anything, traveling under a pseudonym and going to great trouble to arrive undetected by the organizer of the event.

We were going because my mother-in-law was receiving the award. At this event, tuxedos and elegant black formals

are built in part with memorable years on memorable horses, punctuated by banquets awards.

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abounded, and I saw two white stretch Hummer limos in the parking lot. Think Academy Awards, where everybody was a benefactor and no one would take credit for anything.

"I had a great year, but I would be nothing but for my grandfather, and it is my groom who deserves all the credit. That's it—thanks Grampy. Thanks Renaldo. Congratulations to the other winners and their grooms."

So they had some differences, these banquets, and some similarities, even beyond the bacon treats and Heineken I mentioned earlier. Like everything in the horse world, there is an abbreviation to make sense of it all. You have your GHHJA (Greater Houston Hunter Jumper Association) awards ceremony and your USHWA (United States Harness Writing Association) banquet and all you've got to do is figure out what the letters stand for.

I'll tell you a secret I've learned—the "HJ" always means "hunter/jumper" and "HR" always means "harness racing." You would think the "H" would stand for "horse," right? That's what I thought too, but remember, the horse is implied.

There are some minor rules differences between hunter/jumper competition and harness racing, mainly around the relative position of the rider, horse, and fences, but it gets pretty technical, so I'd better just refer you to the internet. Everything in the horse world is so specialized,

Continues on page 7 >>>>

you almost never see crossover riders or horses, and the only banquet attendees in common this year were myself and my wife.

Some of the awards themselves even have names. They are named after famous horse people or famous horses. They are called perpetual trophies—with sculptures or engraved bowls—and you get to keep them a year until they are given to the next year's recipient. On the other hand, all the other awards, they just give them to you. They are yours to keep. Perpetually. Does that sound backwards?

Anyway, I'm not complaining, it's a darn nice trophy and I'm happy to have it in the dining room for the year and read through the nameplates of horses who won in in previous years, all famous now in my house.

One of the awards banquets itself had a name—the Dan Patch Awards. So I ask my wife at the end who is Dan Patch, thinking he must be either a rider or a paddock named after a rider, or a really good paddock. Dan. Patch. These are your clues.

It turns out Dan Patch was a really famous harness racing horse, like a hundred years ago. Everybody in the room knew that, except yours truly. How famous do you have to be to get a whole sport's award ceremony named after you? Now THAT's an achievement award!

It is something I have come to realize. Longevity in the horse world is measured in generations. And I suppose those legacies are built in part with memorable years on memorable horses, punctuated by banquets awards.

Congratulations Dev Branham for winning the Sandy Harger Sportsmanship Award—it means something when your peers vote for you. We are proud to call you our trainer.

Congratulations Judy Davis-Wilson for winning USHWA of the Year. You missed no detail of the banquet, except your daughter and son-in-law sneaking into town to adjoining seats at your table. We got you good.

I hope someday to see perpetual trophy awards for some of the shadow participants in the sport. The ring steward trophy could be a clipboard and a microphone. The groom trophy could be a muck bucket and a fork. And maybe just

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maybe there could be a horse husband trophy, a grooming bucket and a martingale and a riding whip.

Or two Heinions and two empty bacon wrap skewers in one hand, two fingers held high, "two more please". It could happen.

For my part, I have been practicing for that day. Always be on time with the grooming bucket. Wear a tux when you attend banquets. Hold the trophy high, and thank the folks who helped along the way. "I want to thank Malloy for being a good horse, and thank Dev for telling him which way to go, and thank my wife for doing the same for me."

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Meadowlands Announces Purse Increase, Reward Program

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ), together with Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment, announced that beginning on Nov. 14, 2014, a system will be implemented for taking entries that will reward those trainers who raced their horses predominantly at the Meadowlands during the period of March 28, 2014, through Aug. 2, 2014. Over that same period of time the Meadowlands is pleased to offer horsemen an increase in purses at the B-class and free-for-all level.

"I have asked our horsemen several times to support us over the last two years. I am elated to be able to offer this purse increase along with this rewards program so that the horsemen who continue to race at the Meadowlands will be able to get their horses raced every week in the winter months, which is the period of time our entry box is in its highest demand," said Jeff Gural, chairman of the Meadowlands. "The horsemen that continue to support us deserve the opportunity to race for purses on the highest level. I hope this increase goes a long way in accomplishing that. It is their support, in allowing us to card full programs with full fields, that makes this possible."

"We tried to implement this program this past winter," said Tom Luchento, president of the SBOANJ, "but trainers felt that they were not given advance notice of the policy and now their horses were not getting raced. So, we agreed to suspend the program until the following meet. Now, we are able to announce this program along with an important purse increase. Not only will our horsemen who support the Meadowlands be able to get their horses raced each week in the winter, but they will get to race for more money along the way. This is a win-win for the horsemen. The horsemen should acknowledge this as notice that if they want to get their horses raced each week in the winter, they should continue to race at the Meadowlands the rest of this season. Not only are they being given advanced notice, but they are receiving a purse increase as well."

Beginning Friday, March 28, 2014, the B-2 Class will receive an increase from \$14,000 to \$16,000, while the B-1 Class will receive an increase from \$16,000 to \$20,000. In addition, the free-for-all will carry a purse of \$35,000 if nine or more starters enter. It will remain at \$30,000 if eight or fewer starters enter. The increase encompasses both pacers and trotters, horses and geldings, or mares.

Over the course of this four-month period, records will be kept by both the race office and the SBOANJ to determine which trainers are racing the majority of their horses at the Meadowlands. Those qualifying for the rewards program will receive preference when entering their horses, beginning in November of this year.

There will be two criteria for a trainer to qualify for the rewards program.

- 1) Any trainer with a minimum of 20 total starts from March 28, 2014 through August 2, 2014, whose horses raced at the Meadowlands more than all other tracks combined over that period of time will qualify for the program.
- 2) Any trainer with more than 60 starts at the Meadowlands from March 28, 2014 through August 2, 2014 will qualify for the program.

Waiver Clause:

Any trainer with fewer than 20 starts over the same period of time at all other tracks combined may ask for a waiver to be included in the rewards program.

Exception:

The rewards program only pertains to overnight races. All stakes, early closer and late closer events are excluded from the program.

Speaking to the purse increase, Director of Racing Operations Darin Zoccali explained why the B-Class was chosen for the increase.

"We have seen some gains in certain areas that contribute to our purses," said Zoccali. "Some of the B-1 level races that have been contested at the Meadowlands this year have looked more like A-1 events. Those races deserve a bit more separation from the C-Level, and we believe this increase accomplishes that. This increase puts our overnight purses on par with the slot-enriched programs in Pennsylvania. To be able to accomplish that is a testament to the support we have been shown by the horsemen, allowing us to card full-fields all winter."

This increase actually marks the fourth purse increase since Gural took over operations at the Meadowlands and the second for the B-class horses. Thus far, the Meadowlands has made the following increases since 2012, regarding purses:

- NW1 \$10,000** (Previously \$9,000)
- NW2 \$12,500** (Previously \$9,500)
- NW3 \$15,000** (Previously \$12,500)
- C-2 \$9,000** (Previously \$8,000)
- C-1 \$11,000** (Previously \$10,000)
- B-2 \$16,000** (Previously \$12,000, then \$14,000)
- B-1 \$20,000** (Previously \$14,000, then \$16,000)
- FFA \$35,000** if 9 or more starters (Previously \$30,000)

"We are close to having raised purses across the board since taking over operations," said Gural. "It is interesting that it seems to have gone a bit unnoticed that we have implemented these increases over the past two years. I strongly believe our purse structure is competitive with any

Continues on page 9 >>>



track in harness racing and hope the horsemen respond and continue to enter their horses.”

These increases will be in effect from March 28 through Aug. 2. (*Meadowlands & SBOANJ*)

Auciello On Woodbine Show

Carmen Auciello, who ranks second with 19 wins as a conditioner this season on the WEG Circuit, will be the guest on Woodbine Racing Live's pre-game show this Saturday, March 15, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Auciello celebrated a career year last season with 120 victories and over \$2 million in earnings. Auciello will send out a combined eight starters on Saturdays program. Auciello join WEG's Jeff Bratt and offer his thoughts on his starters and much more. First race post time is slated for 7:25 p.m. (WEG)

Ontario Breeders Sue Lottery & Gaming

A group of more than 30 Standardbred horse breeders are seeking \$65 million in damages from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation according to a notice of action filed Monday at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Guelph.

The breeders are seeking damages for losses incurred when the lottery corporation cancelled the Slots at Racetracks Program “without prior notice, consultation, or any offer of compensation to the Plaintiffs,” the notice of action alleges.

Ontario's horse breeders were particularly hard hit by the cancellation of the slots program that led to a decline in purses and race dates of more than 30 percent across the province and caused the value of Ontario-produced horses to plummet by 50 percent or more.

Breeders were left out of a subsequent announcement of a five-year, \$400 million government investment in horse racing that begins April 1. Despite that funding announcement, the value of Ontario-produced Standardbred horses has yet to recover.

The breeders allege they were unfairly harmed because producing a horse to sell at market requires farms to make investment decisions as much as five years in advance. The Slots at Racetracks Program had run successfully for more than 12 years and long-term slots contracts were in effect with the horse racing industry when the lottery corporation announced in March of 2012 that it was exercising a one-year out clause in the contracts bringing an end to the program in March of 2013.

The breeders are seeking \$60 million in damages “for negligence, negligent and/or intentional misrepresentation, breach of contract and unjust enrichment” and a further \$5 million in “punitive, aggravated and exemplary damages or as otherwise determined by this Honourable Court.” — *By Dave Briggs*

NY: Clenbuterol OK Up To 96 Hours

The New York Gaming Commission, which now regulates horse racing in the state, on Wednesday approved a rule allowing Standardbred horses to be administered clenbuterol up to 96 hours (approximately four days) before a race. There had been a push to make rules on clenbuterol the same for both Standardbred racing and Thoroughbred racing—no administration 14 days before a race—but Standardbred interests made a two-hour presentation to the Gaming Commission to show the rules for the breeds should be considered separately.

“I'm hoping that other jurisdictions which are considering the same rules for both breeds on this will take a look at this,” said Joe Faraldo, president of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York. “The science is what got this done. We flew in Dr. Tom Tobin, Dr. Kenneth McKeever from Rutgers, and others testified.”

Dr. McKeever, who has conducted extensive research on the effects of clenbuterol in racehorses, and the others testified at a public hearing held on Jan. 21. The hearing can be viewed by going to the following website (<http://gaming.ny.gov/horseracing/>) and clicking on the words “Media Player” or “Real Player” under the heading “Public Hearing on Equine Drug Rules.”

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTTC) and Racing Commissioners International have been pushing for a 14-day rule on clenbuterol in part because of the belief of some that clenbuterol acts as a muscle-building agent by “repartitioning.”

Cal Expo Trainer Suspended After Horse Dies

Debbie Arrington, a former correspondent for *The Horseman And Fair World* magazine and staff writer for the *Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.), has reported that the the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) is investigating the death of Nutmegs Davey, a 5-year-old pacer who succumbed Sunday at Cal Expo, less than 24 hours after winning a Saturday night race. The horse's remains were apparently taken from the track to a local farm without notifying authorities.

California racing rules require that any horse that dies at a California racetrack for any reason must be transported to UC Davis' California Animal Health and Food Safety lab for a necropsy. The California Horse Racing Board declined to comment.

Ormin A. Carrera, who bought Nutmegs Davey on Jan. 25, and trainer Dario M. Solares have been banned from Cal Expo indefinitely. Pending the investigation, they also face suspension of their racing licenses or possible criminal charges.

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"I've never heard of an incident of a horse being removed (in this way) in the 20-some years I've been involved in racing," said Chris Schick, general manager of the Cal Expo meet for operator Watch & Wager LLC.

After hearing of the horse's death, Watch & Wager officials and the CHRB tracked down Nutmegs Davey's body. "We transported the horse to UCD," Schick said. "(The case) is now in the CHRB's hands."

Nutmegs Davey, a 5-year-old son of Jenna's Beach Boy, was raced in stakes as a 2 year old by trainer Brian Brown. He was raced in a \$3,000 claimer before he died.

Read more here:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/03/12/6232228/dead-horse-raises-flags-at-cal.html#storylink=cpy>

Voice Of Vernon Retiring After 50 Years

Vernon Downs has named Michael Chamberlain its lead racecaller as legendary announcer Jim Moran will retire after a half century in the broadcast box.

Announcer emeritus Moran, a member of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame's Communicators' Corner, will call his final race at Vernon Downs to kick off the Opening Night program on Friday, April 11. The evening, capping a 50-year legacy of Moran's describing the races at Vernon, will be a celebration of what Moran brought to the Central New York track, with a poster giveaway, tributes, and a meet-and-greet throughout the card.

Moran's successor, Michael Chamberlain, is a 43-year-old New Jersey native who has established himself well as a sports broadcaster—in horse racing and otherwise—since earning a degree in broadcasting from Arizona State University in 1994. After a stint as the color commentator for the IHL Phoenix Roadrunners, Chamberlain served as the track announcer at Sam Houston Race Park for 12 years before assuming a similar role at Turf Paradise in Phoenix in 2009. He has also called races at Lincoln Race Course in Nebraska and Fair Meadows in Oklahoma.

"I am incredibly excited to be coming to Vernon Downs," said Chamberlain, who will assume the microphone in early May after Turf Paradise concludes its season. "Succeeding a legend like Jim Moran will be difficult, but it will be an honor for me to follow in his footsteps."

"Coming to Vernon will bring me back to my eastern roots," continued Chamberlain. "As a Northern New Jersey native, I have always enjoyed harness racing and look forward to being part of it from now on."

With Chamberlain maintaining his winter base in the Valley of the Sun and returning to Turf Paradise for its fall opening, Tioga racecaller James Witherite and Vernon director of racing Scott Warren will describe the beginning and end of the Vernon meet in his stead. (*Vernon Downs*)

Burke Stable Has 10 Of 47 Levy Eligibles

In a sure sign that spring is (theoretically) approaching, Yonkers Raceway has announced the eligibles for its premier free-for-all events, the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series and the Blue Chip Matchmaker. There are 16 millionaires between the two series.

Leading the list of 47 Levy lads is twice-a-champion Foiled Again. The now-10-year-old gelding looks to add to his \$6 million retirement account when the series gets underway Saturday night, March 22. As is custom, the Levy offers five, \$50,000 per-race preliminary rounds, leading to a \$200,000 (added) final, set for Saturday, April 26. Those 47 nominees—10 of which, including Foiled Again, are trained by Ron Burke—and their requisite \$5,000 entry fee add another \$235,000 to the final.

New this season is a \$1,000 per horse per leg starting fee, with that entire collection plate also going to the final.

Companion event for the Levy, the Blue Chip Matchmaker, attracted 39 pacing mares.

<http://www.empirecitycasino.com/uploadedFiles/2014georgemortonlevyserieseligibles.pdf>

<http://www.empirecitycasino.com/uploadedFiles/2014bluechipmatchmakerserieseligibles.pdf>
(*Yonkers Raceway*)

Ken Middleton Sr. Dies

Longtime racing official Ken Middleton Sr. passed away Thursday, March 6, at Peterborough Regional Health Centre. He was 67.

The resident of Bobcaygeon, Ont., who began his career in the racing industry as a teenager in the mailroom at the Ontario Jockey Club, held a number of racing-related positions. He was the Toronto Sun's handicapper for racing from the Ontario Jockey Club before moving on to be the racing secretary at Kawartha Downs.

He later became the racing secretary and general manager at Elmira Raceway and was a driving force behind the introduction of full-card simulcast wagering and the creation of the ever-popular Industry Day. He also worked as the racing secretary and general manager at Hanover Raceway before spending more than the last decade as the author of the Horseplayers' Journal for the Standardbred program at Woodbine and Mohawk Racetrack.

Middleton, who was born in Toronto, Ont., is survived by his dear wife Judy (Lacey) Middleton; sons Keith (Tania) and Ken Jr. (Stacey) of Cambridge, Ont.; and was the loving poppy of grandchildren Justin and Kendal. He was predeceased by his father (Ernie Sr.), mother (Eleanor), brother (Ernie Jr.) and sister (Jackie).

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harnessracing.com HEADLINES

New Florida Hall of Famers

The Florida Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) held its annual awards banquet on Friday, March 7, during which both human and equine stalwarts received their 2013 Hall of Fame awards.

Chapter members Lucien Fontaine and communicator Steve Wolf, along with veteran driver/trainer Mark O'Mara, were inducted into the Hall of Fame. On the equine side Florida's leading pacing stallion Six Of Diamonds, open trotter Tweedle Dum and the pacer I'd Like To Win received accolades for their career performances.

The well attended annual event had nearly 200 guests and also served as the presentation venue for the FSBOA Crystal Awards to its top 2013 stakes and overnight leaders, Breeder of the Year (Kim and Jay Sears) and Florida Amateur Driver of the Year (John Campagnuola).

After starting his career with Keith Waples and later Clint Hodgins in the U.S., Fontaine trained Bye Bye Byrd and Elaine Rodney before earning his stripes with an initial victory at Roosevelt Raceway in 1961 behind long-shot Carmita Hanover. That start earned Fontaine the reputation as a leading catch-driver on the metro N.Y. circuit and he also raced at Pompano Park during its initial season in 1964. At age 28 Fontaine became the youngest driver to reach \$1 million in purse earnings and he also led efforts to have racetracks deduct

driver/trainer purse percentages directly from the purse account for each race. In 1986 "Loosh" directed Forrest Skipper to an undefeated 15 race season (and named Horse of the Year).

Mark O'Mara's driving career began at age 15 with a win behind Son Of Waygale at the Troy, Ohio, matinee. Developed by his stall active training father, Frank, Mark successfully campaigned on the Grand Circuit during which he led 1986 Two-Year-Old Pacer of the Year Jate Lobell. Jate was undefeated in 15 starts that year and the pair returned at age three to earn the Three-Year-Old Pacer of the Year title before retiring with career earnings of \$2.2 million. O'Mara also directed Breeders Crown winning trotters Firm Tribute and Lassie's Goal.

CRYSTAL AWARD WINNERS

- Two-Year-Old Pacing Filly - Sandalonia
- Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt - Tough Issue
- Two-Year-Old Trotting Filly - Markie
- Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt - Showing Off
- Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly - Tashia
- Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt - Hillybilly
- Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly - Tyree's Treasure
- Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt - Railee Kwik
- Older Pacing Mare - Diamond Amber
- Older Pacing Horse - Diamond Cowboy
- Older Trotting Mare - Briell T
- Older Trotting Horse - Lugar

(By Tom Hicks, for Florida chapter USHWA)

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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through March 11, 2014 (week difference Feb. 26-March 11).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Dw's Ny Yank (5tg)	6	5	0	1	\$84,600
Addison Bay (7pm)	8	5	1	0	67,310
Dancin Yankee (6ph)	6	5	1	0	67,250
Hldontghttoyurdrms (5tg)	5	4	0	0	63,845
Apprentice Hanover (4ph)	4	4	0	0	61,540
A J Corbelli (7pg)	6	5	0	0	58,400
Time To Quit (4tg)	6	5	0	1	58,384
Perfect Alliance (4tm)	5	5	0	0	55,350
Automatic Slims (8ph)	8	7	1	0	55,000
All Stienam (5pg)	7	4	1	0	53,550
Lorrie Please (7pm)	8	2	2	1	52,860
Money Twitch A (9pg)	8	4	1	0	52,495
Kg Dragonator (4pg)	8	4	3	1	49,917
Tober (6tg)	6	4	1	0	49,280
Yagonnakissmeornot (5pm)	6	3	2	0	48,750

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Pierce	623	109-125-95	.337	\$1,313,302 (\$269,824)
Corey Callahan	689	138-99-88	.323	1,300,222 (195,662)
Brian Sears	427	97-70-54	.360	1,006,040 (245,445)
Jason Bartlett	429	74-59-56	.292	876,970 (226,905)
George Brennan	461	61-58-51	.239	813,830 (168,675)
Dave Palone	449	106-73-60	.371	813,219 (177,964)
Aaron Merriman	757	117-112-109	.285	805,796 (227,993)
Matt Kakaley	411	50-56-71	.255	758,305 (203,530)
Mike Wilder	437	84-70-63	.329	734,662 (152,695)
Yannick Gingras	273	67-37-28	.355	698,275 (152,251)
Brett Miller	463	72-65-55	.273	657,776 (177,493)
Ross Wolfenden	444	64-68-57	.272	632,136 (124,056)
Jody Jamieson	283	56-33-40	.310	581,122 (197,640)
Eric Carlson	331	30-47-25	.195	530,155 (110,520)
Jordan Stratton	357	34-36-45	.193	517,065 (88,030)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	547	124-81-76	.355	\$1,466,846 (\$315,056)
Rene Allard	197	54-26-31	.400	455,152 (137,980)
Carmen Auciello	233	27-33-18	.220	379,561 (108,438)
Corey Johnson	131	26-29-15	.360	368,014 (60,903)
P.J. Fraley	171	23-30-21	.273	356,915 (94,675)
Josh Green	109	37-22-6	.470	356,897 (55,047)
Richard Moreau	209	38-28-24	.295	314,450 (56,741)
Dylan Davis	143	38-19-18	.382	312,050 (48,970)
Randy Bendis	149	20-27-20	.280	254,958 (52,936)
Victor Puddy	217	36-33-33	.301	238,091 (45,717)
Julie Miller	81	17-16-12	.369	238,075 (120,730)
Nick Surick	159	26-31-18	.310	236,516 (47,940)
Scott Di Domenico	144	15-23-23	.246	233,905 (71,836)
Darran Cassar	87	15-7-20	.294	222,530 (82,270)
Heidi Rohr	123	21-15-18	.287	218,068 (52,889)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	503	189	288	\$2,220,430
Winbak Farm	437	146	213	1,507,797
Brittany Farms	136	63	91	860,632
Perretti Farms	164	63	101	696,582
White Birch Farm	70	33	57	483,708
Arlene & Jules Siegel	79	31	48	439,719
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	120	31	38	406,635
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	87	30	42	375,767
Seelster Farms Inc.	71	32	49	331,716
Walnut Hall Limited	87	26	37	316,126
Perfect World Enterprises	68	28	44	270,756
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	61	22	34	265,365
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	49	19	29	260,267
Frederick Hertrich III	71	27	43	258,073
Steve Stewart	57	26	45	255,677

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 26-March 11 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Driver	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	170	44-27-15
Aaron Merriman	171	30-33-21
Brian Sears	108	25-15-10
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	101	24-15-11
Brett Miller	104	23-10-12
Ron Pierce	135	23-28-24
Jim Morrill Jr.	43	22-9-4
Jody Jamieson	89	22-8-11
Dave Palone	103	20-15-16
Eric Abbatiello	83	20-18-10
James MacDonald	86	19-12-5
Jason Bartlett	101	18-15-13
Josh Sutton	124	18-14-20
Trevor Henry	78	18-16-10
Corey Callahan	123	17-21-8
Mike Wilder	97	17-16-14
Tyler Smith	110	17-13-12
Joe Bongiorno	106	16-9-10
Luke Plano	51	16-10-8
Ross Wolfenden	100	16-12-7
George Brennan	102	15-7-10

Trainers

Trainer	Wins
Ron Burke	26
Kevin Efimetz	16
Virgil Morgan Jr.	16
Rene Allard	13
Julie Miller	10
Peter Pellegrino	10
Robert Lounsbury	9
Carmen Auciello	8
J.D. Perrin	8
Jeff Brewer	8
David McNeight Jr.	7
Dylan Davis	7
P.J. Fraley	7
Victor Puddy	7