

Pacers Square Off In Aquarius Final

After trading victories in the opening two rounds of the Aquarius Series for 4-year-old pacers at the Meadowlands, Escape The News and Warrawee Needy arguably will battle between themselves for the title as champion in Saturday's \$57,000 final.

The two pacers have for the most part raced one-two around the track in the preliminaries, with the Mark MacDonald-driven Warrawee Needy scoring by 1 3/4 lengths in round one and Escape The News and driver Yannick Gingras a neck better in round two. So, who gets the best of the other in the decisive round three?

"It will depend on what Mark wants to do. If he wants to play hardball, I think we will finish fifth and sixth!"

— Yannick Gingras

"There's no doubt as to what my strategy is going to be," answered Gingras when asked if it

was a given he'd be leaving from the six hole with Escape The News, with Warrawee Needy starting from post one.

"What am I going to do? Sit sixth in a six-horse field with slow fractions?" added Gingras. "I'm not going to win from there. I have to take a shot out of there and see what Mark does."

Gingras has had back-to-back two-hole trips with Escape The News in the Aquarius legs, chasing Warrawee Needy the first week and then being able to urge his charge to the photo-finish win the second week after edging in front at the wire.

"Ideally, I'd like to sit the two hole behind him again, but maybe Mark's horse will be a little bit more relaxed and he'll go behind me," said Gingras. "It will depend on what Mark wants to do. If he wants to play hardball, I think we will finish fifth and sixth. There are other good horses in there too and if we go at it, it is just going to help them."

So how did MacDonald reply when informed of Gingras's comments?

"That's OK, he's going to drive his own race to win," MacDonald said with a laugh. "If 'Needy' is nice and quiet, (Gin-

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gras) can go right on ahead. That's fine as I don't mind getting away even third. But if he's pulling me out of there—he's a lot stronger than I am.

"With the rail I should be able to settle him with no problem, and as long as nothing stupid happens and we go nice fractions, hopefully he'll get another win under his belt."

MacDonald said he believes Warrawee Needy's aggressiveness last time out led to his second-place finish, especially after setting wicked front-end fractions to the three-quarters.

"My game plan last week definitely wasn't to go a half in :53.4 and then 1:21.1 either," said MacDonald. "Yannick was aggressive inside me last week and active with the whip,

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\$57,000 AQUARIUS SERIES FINAL

Meadowlands Racetrack, Sat., March 16, Race 1, Post Time: 7:15 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Warrawee Needy	M. MacDonald/M. Ford	6-5
2—Mr. Dennis	A. Miller/N. Surick	8-1
3—In Commando	R. Pierce/N. Drennan	15-1
4—Yo Cheyenne Rocky	D. Miller/R. Siegelman	20-1
5—Bakin On The Beach	J. Campbell/M. Harder	5-1
6—Escape The News	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	7-5

which got my horse stirred up. When he gets stirred up, he drives you.

"Warrawee Needy is not an easy horse to drive. Sometimes he drives you; you don't drive him. He's a great big horse and not easy to drive."

MacDonald envisions the perfect scenario for an Aquarius final win for Warrawee Needy. "I'd like to settle him early, race him right, and have him pace the fastest at the end. Having the rail and not trying to wrestle him in behind other horses leaving, it should be a lot easier.

"In a perfect world, there's no sense killing everybody early. In that perfect world, I'd have his last quarter be the fastest and win." — *By Gordon Waterstone*



Michael Lisa/Lisa Photo

Quick Deal Trying To Prove He's The Real Deal

Quick Deal, who jogged to a three-length victory in 1:52.1 in the second leg of the Horse & Groom Series, is the 7-5 betting choice to win the \$50,000 final on Saturday night at the Meadowlands. There are six other horses in the race, but you could say that Quick Deal also has a seventh foe—his own mind.

Yannick Gingras, who has been regularly driving Quick Deal for trainer Ron Burke, explained that Quick Deal is high strung behind the starting gate, which can take him out of a race before it gets underway.

"He's calm the whole post parade, but the minute he sees the gate he just goes nuts. You have to time it right; you can't get too close to the gate. That's what happened two starts back. There was a different starter that night at the Meadowlands and the guy was trying to be nice when he saw I was far back. He was trying to wait for me and that's the last thing I wanted as I was far back on purpose.

"When he gets into the race he's two-fingered," Gingras added. "As soon as the gate opens, anybody can drive him."

When Quick Deal keeps his act together, Gingras believes he is one of the fastest trotters around.

"He's the fastest trotter I've ever driven," proclaimed the driver, who has driven plenty of fast, stakes-winning 3-year-old trotters and the sub-1:50 pacers Foiled Again and A Rocknroll Dance. "His manners behind the gate are not that great, and he's not the smartest horse, but as far as pure

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, March 15

All times listed are local.

7:54p	M3	A-1/FFA Trot	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
9:11p	M7	F&M A-1/FFA Pace	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR8	F&M Open Pace	Trackmaster PPs

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

Saturday, March 16

7:15p	M1	Aquarius Pace final	Trackmaster PPs
7:34p	M2	Horse & Groom Trot final	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Open Pace	Trackmaster PPs
9:40p	Wdb8	Preferred Pace	Trackmaster PPs

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speed, he's definitely the fastest trotter I've ever driven. There is no doubt in my mind that this horse, with the right set-up, will win in 1:50 and change.

"The first time I qualified him was at Chester (on Dec. 1, 2012) and Ronnie told me had just got him and didn't know much about him," continued Gingras. "For some reason I assumed he was a maiden. There was a horse in the front in the qualifier going big fractions and I was having a hard time holding mine. At the half my horse saw daylight and just took off and he qualified in 1:54.2 (he won by 19 1/2

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\$50,000 HORSE & GROOM SERIES FINAL

Meadowlands Racetrack, Sat., March 16, Race 2, Post Time: 7:34 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Harbor Point	R. Pierce/R. Maxwell	20-1
2—No Less Than Magic	P. Lachance/R. Norman	15-1
3—DW's NY Yank	D. Miller/R. Burke	4-1
4—Quick Deal	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	7-5
5—Modern Family	T. Tetrick/D. Bier	9-5
6—Volare De Vie	J. Meitinis/H. Lundell	8-1
7—Not Afraid	C. Callahan/J. Takter	20-1

lengths). I said, 'Holy crap.' Thinking he was a maiden, I thought he was going to win a lot of races in a row. But he had been an open trotter at Saratoga so he was far from a maiden.

"I knew he was the fastest trotter ever for me probably when I sat the two hole four starts back (Feb. 1 at the Meadowlands) behind David Miller. Going into the last turn in about three steps he was up by five lengths and then coasted in 1:53. He just did that so very, very easy."

A 5-year-old gelded son of Revenue out of the SJ's Photo mare Photo Magic, Quick Deal has only been in the Burke Stable since last November. Prior to that time Paul Kelley trained the horse and also owned a piece of him.

"Wally Hennessey drove this horse for me at Saratoga and while Wally didn't say he was the fastest horse he's ever driven—after all, he's driven some good ones, namely Moni Maker—he told me it wouldn't shock him if this horse trotted in 1:53 and a piece at Saratoga in the summertime," said Kelley.

Kelley only had Quick Deal for 11 months, buying him for \$50,000 at the 2012 Tattersalls January Mixed Sale. He took on partners Rossie L. Smith and Our Horse Cents Stables (Eugene Kurzrok, Stephen Springer, Richard Taylor) and when he sold his entire interest, the horse was sent to Burke to race at the Meadowlands.

Kelley said his only trouble with Quick Deal was the horse's anxiety behind the gate.

"This horse is kind of a rollercoaster ride," he surmised. "He has a lot of anxiety going to the car. He's almost got to be going at full speed to get away."

While Quick Deal hasn't been able to overcome his anxiety at the start in every race, he has still managed to put together a very respectable career slate. He's finished on-the-board in slightly more than half of his 53 starts and has \$180,043 in career earnings.

Quick Deal will be starting from post four in the Horse & Groom final, which wasn't Gingras's preferred spot.

"It's not the best spot," said Gingras. "To be honest, I'd rather have the eight hole, or whatever the outside was. From that spot, I'll leave and let him go. If somebody happens to come, he can let somebody go; that way he's fine and it's not an issue that way.

"When he gets into the race he's two-fingered. As soon as the gate opens, anybody can drive him." — *By Kathy Parker*

Taylor Looks To Hit Home Run With DW's NY Yank

When owner Howard Taylor heard about a trotter with some ability but lackadaisical attitude on the racetrack, he thought the horse would be a perfect addition to trainer Ron Burke's stable.

"Ronnie always says if you have a horse that can't go, he can get him to try!"

—Howard Taylor

Taylor got the horse. Burke got him to go.

DW's NY Yank has won five times and finished on the board in all seven of his races since joining the Burke stable in December. He starts

Saturday's \$50,000 Horse & Groom series final at Meadowlands Racetrack from post three with driver David Miller.

A 4-year-old trotter, DW's NY Yank won his first-round division of the Horse & Groom by 2 1/4 lengths over Volare De Vie in 1:54.1 and finished third behind Quick Deal and Modern Family in last week's second leg.

"Ronnie always says if you have a horse that can't go, he can get him to try," Taylor said. "This was his kind of horse. He's gotten him to go and he seems to be getting better and better every week. But he's far exceeded what I expected. You've got to get lucky sometimes."

DW's NY Yank is a son of stallion Dilbert Hanover out of the mare Nicky Mantle. At ages 2 and 3, he won a total three of 31 starts and earned \$58,798 while competing on the New York circuit, first for breeder/owner Don LaPage and then for a group including trainer Tracy Brainard.

So far this season, DW's NY Yank has banked \$42,160.

"They told me you could train (DW's NY Yank) as fast as any horse, but when you put him in a race he just wouldn't go," Taylor said. "They said he had ability, he just wouldn't try."

"I didn't think he would be this good this quickly, if at all. I didn't enter him in the (Horse & Groom) until a day or two before entries for the series closed. I figured what the heck; I'll take a shot."

Taylor said Quick Deal, another horse from the Burke stable, and Daryl Bier's Modern Family were the trotters to beat in the Horse & Groom final. Quick Deal has won three of six races this year, going off stride in all three of his losses, while Modern Family has won four of five races this season.

"We're going to have to get lucky," said Taylor, who expects DW's NY Yank to race at Yonkers following the Horse & Groom final. "But that's why you race them." (HRC)



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BREEDING *Banter*

During the breeding season, HarnessRacing Weekend Preview will check in with breeders to learn about life on the farm at this time of the year.

The annual meeting of the United States Trotting Association (USTA) includes the association's Registration Committee, which deals with the matters of breeding and registering horses. This is a very important committee since keeping the Standardbred breed registry is a part of the USTA's mandate. In

past years it has dealt with such game-changing policies as permitting registration of foals conceived by artificial insemination, and then via transported semen, and most recently, allowing embryos transferred from one mare to a "recipient" mare.

Illinois breeder Dr. Ken Walker has been a member of the Registration Committee for many years and serves as its chairman. Since I was unable to attend this year's Registration Committee meeting, I phoned Dr. Walker to get a recap.

While working on his farm Thursday morning, Dr. Walker told me the meeting was one of the most routine in his tenure as chairman. There was the perfunctory review of the rule change proposals and a petition for registration of a foal from an unregistered mare, and the latest data on registrations.

The Registration Committee, however, did not overlook one significant trend that was contained in the registration reports: the continuing decline in the Standardbred foal crop.

"That was discussed, although there wasn't anything we could do about it at that specific meeting," Dr. Walker told me. "We discussed that racing secretaries need to be approached about writing more races for young horses, especially 2 year olds, and that too much purse money is currently going to claimers. The consensus was that this is part of the problem in selling yearlings."

Following the meeting, breeders and Registration Committee members Mike Kimelman (Blue Chip Farms) and Frank Antonacci (Lindy Farms) continued the discussion about the declining foal crop.

"Something has to be done," said Kimelman, "and usually you have to incentivize people to make change. If nothing changes, it will go the way it's going and significantly fewer horses will be bred."

Kimelman said he and Antonacci talked about trying to find an additional revenue streams for purses for races for young horses.

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Race Replay Links	NO	YES
Result Chart Links	NO	YES

"The Classic Series was created by taking money out of the yearling sales to create an opportunity for older horses, and I think that worked," said Kimelman. "I think today you can say that the overnight purses for older horses are healthier than purses for 2 and 3 year olds."

Kimelman said he and Antonacci brainstormed about new revenue streams, not simply shifting dollars from overnights to stakes for younger horses. "Could we come up with a fee on claiming races or claiming horses and put that toward purses for 2 and 3 year olds? Could there be electronic entries that would have a fee attached? We've got to solve this problem ourselves," said Kimelman.

The USTA reported that of the 17,178 mares bred in North America in 2010, 9,916 foals were born, a decline of 6.3 percent from the 2010 foal crop. Since 2006, the number of foals born in the U.S. and Canada has dropped 30.4 percent. —By Kathy Parker

This Weekend's Guaranteed Pools

There are 12 guaranteed pools offered this weekend as part of the U.S. Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering Program. Included in the group are the late Pick 4s on Friday and Saturday night at the Meadowlands, which carry guarantees of \$50,000 and \$75,000, respectively.

To see the entire list of the weekend's guaranteed pools, please click [here](#). From that page, you can receive free program pages by clicking "[Free Program Pages](#)."



Open Letter to all Owners and Trainers Racing in NY, NJ & PA

As you know, the first twenty-nine days of the 2013 meet at the Meadowlands have been an overwhelming success. The public has adapted to the classification system, along with the competitive style of racing full fields, etc. as our handle is up approximately 33%. Last year we only had two days excluding the Hambletonian and Meadowlands Pace where the handle exceeded \$3 Million dollars. This year we already exceeded \$3 Million dollars on thirteen occasions.

We are building a brand new grandstand as anyone who has visited the track can see. I assure you it will be a first class facility and a place that you will be proud to come to with your family or other guests. That is the good news.

The bad news is that because all of our income is derived from wagering and horseracing we need to continue to generate handles of over \$3 Million dollars every Friday and Saturday. In order to do that we require full fields and since we are only racing two days beginning next week essentially we need 250 horses each weekend to fill both cards. Last weekend we had twenty-five fewer horses racing over the weekend and as a result our handle declined by \$508,000.

As we all know with Chester opening last week and Pocono opening in another week, in order for those two tracks to fill their cards they would probably need to have a minimum of an extra 1,000 horses assuming both tracks race four days a week as scheduled and thirteen or fourteen races per night which seems to be their plan.

Since both these tracks, as well as Yonkers, derive the majority of their purse money from casino gambling they often have purses equal or better than ours and most people think it is easier to win at those tracks as long as you do not draw too many eight or nine holes. I understand all that but the Meadowlands cannot survive without having full fields and competitive races. The last two months have shown that the product is extremely popular with the people who wager on standardbred racing. In fact, on a typical Saturday night 40% of all the money bet at US tracks is wagered on our product.

To be blunt, I need the industry to step up and support the Meadowlands which may not be the best business decision for everyone in the short term but, in my opinion, the industry needs a healthy Meadowlands and we deserve the support of the industry.

The other option would be for us to drastically reduce the stakes program which I think would help increase our overnight purses but would have a very negative impact on the industry because our stakes program is vital to support the breeding industry. It also serves to attract new customers by showcasing our best horses and creating the kind of excitement we see for our major races. This will be especially true when we move into the new building. Currently we use 25% of our purse money to fund the stakes program approximately \$4,200,000 while our competitors are typically using 10-12%.

To be honest, I am not sure there are enough horses for all of the race days that are scheduled at Chester, Pocono, Yonkers, Dover and the Meadowlands. It would seem at some point it should be addressed as the number of mares bred and yearlings born each year continues to decline significantly. Common sense would tell you that this has to have an impact and that race days have to start to come down. The bottom line is we cannot survive without full fields as we get killed when we have six or seven horse races no matter what the quality is. We struggled to fill the card with short fields the last two weekends and Pocono is not open yet.

One possibility would be to work with Pocono and Chester and try to come up with a schedule that would allow all of us to have full fields and quality racing. One suggestion was to lower the purses in December, January and February when there is an oversupply of horses and increase the purses when the Pennsylvania tracks reopen. Another option that we might consider is a loyalty program whereby we create a formula that allows preference to those horsemen who support us in the spring and summer when we are racing the fall and winter meet.

I would rather see the industry support us on a voluntary basis as I think it is in everyone's best interest that we continue to provide the type of product we have been providing for the last two and a half months. Hopefully I can count on your support. - *Jeff Gural*



Ohio Commission: Track Needs More Seating

Penn National Gaming presented its plans for the new Hollywood Dayton Raceway, which is the Raceway Park license relocated on the north side of Dayton, at a meeting of the Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) on Tuesday morning. But Penn National's representatives were told they need to return for another meeting with the commission on Wednesday, March 20.

"I have concerns about seating capacity; I find what you have presented as inadequate," said commission chairman Robert Schmitz. "Come back with revised plans to expand seating for live racing, so people can watch live racing. I'm not interested in barstools."

Penn National's plan for the facility includes a five-eighths mile track, 120 stalls for ship-in purposes only, and seating for 770 fans, with a capacity of up to 1,000. Total capacity for the building would be 3,500. The racino will be located on 125 acres on the site of an abandoned Delphi Automotive plant near Wagner Ford and Needmore roads in Dayton.

Other commissioners also stated the same concerns as Schmitz about seating for the new Hollywood Dayton Raceway.

"To build a racetrack and have only a couple hundred able to watch a race, that's stunning to me," said commissioner Mark Munroe.

Penn National also presented its plans for the relocation of Beulah Park in Columbus to Austintown, near Youngstown, at the commission meeting, which was attended by nearly 100 people. Penn National's plans for the Thoroughbred facility calls for 400-plus stalls.

The Wednesday, March 20, meeting will also include a review by the commission of the Miami Valley track plans in south Dayton, which is the relocation of Lebanon Raceway. —By Gordon Waterstone/harnessracing.com

Miami Valley To Put \$3 Million Into Fairgrounds

Miami Valley Gaming, a joint venture of Delaware North Companies Gaming & Entertainment and Churchill Downs Incorporated, recently announced a \$3 million commitment to Warren County's efforts to revitalize the Warren County Fairgrounds.

The donation will include a \$1 million contribution in 2013 to the County to support redevelopment of the current Lebanon Raceway at the Warren County Fairgrounds. Miami Valley Gaming will provide an additional \$500,000 per year for the next four years.

"Miami Valley Gaming is proud to support the County's efforts to redevelop the raceway that is such an important part of the Warren County Fairgrounds. These facilities, only seven miles away from our new raceway, will do so much to reinforce the regional strengths of horse racing as the in-

dustry resurges in Ohio," said Jim Simms, president and general manager of Miami Valley Gaming.

Miami Valley Gaming, located at exit 29 off I-75, will include a five-eighths-mile harness racing track and a 186,000 square foot gaming facility on the 120 acre site. In addition to the \$50 million video lottery terminal license fee, Miami Valley Gaming will invest up to \$175 million in the new facility, including the cost of VLTs.

Preliminary work is underway at the site of the new gaming and racing complex. It is expected to open during the first quarter of 2014. *(Miami Valley)*

Nat Ray Trot Renamed John Cashman Jr. Memorial

The New Meadowlands has announced that the Nat Ray Free For All Trot will be known as the John Cashman Jr. Memorial beginning with the 2013 race on Hambletonian Day, Aug. 3.

First raced in 1981, this important event counts among its winners many of trotting's greatest champions. Moni Maker won the Nat Ray a remarkable three times, Lucky Jim set his 1:50.1 world record in this race and who can forget Victory Tilly's exciting international victory in the 2002 edition.

Cashman's influence is found in many facets of harness racing. In a distinguished career that included several high profile positions, one of the most important was his role in the launching of the Breeders Crown championships.

The race that shall bear his name will remind us of his passion for racing and many contributions to the sport. *(Meadowlands)*

If Horse Off 21 Days, Meadowlands Adding Info

The Meadowlands Racetrack program will now include enhanced information on horses showing no race lines for three weeks or more.

In the comment section for each race, those horses with 21 days or more away from racing will have some explanation regarding the inactivity and remarks on their level of preparedness for the upcoming race, provided by the trainer. Much like an NFL "Team Report" that indicates why a player missed practice or a game, this report will provide bettors with a little more information that they would not normally find in the past performances.

For simulcast bettors, the layoff report will be posted as a TV graphic on the track's nightly broadcast. Additionally, the layoff report will be posted on The Meadowlands Twitter Account and Facebook page.

These comments will be recorded by the Meadowlands Race Office and offered without edit or opinion by Meadowlands officials. *(Meadowlands)*

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Coleman Fined, Suspended 60 Days

Trainer Casie Coleman has received a two-month suspension and fines totaling \$16,000 after three of her horses produced positive post-race tests last month at Woodbine Racetrack.

Wintering with her stable in Florida, Coleman was informed that Hilarious Halo, Mc Dynamite and Run On Luck tested positive for flumethasone, a corticosteroid that is commonly used and sold as Flucort in topical or liquid form.

Coleman's suspension started effective March 5 and runs through to May 3.

After being placed on probation for a positive test to pacer Reibercrombie in 2012, Coleman received a \$10,000 fine for breach of probation and a \$2,000 fine for each of the Class IV positives. (*Standardbred Canada*)

New Food, Beverage Vendor For New Meadowlands

Ark Restaurants Corp., a company traded on the NASDAQ, announced on Tuesday, March 12, that it had entered into a long-term agreement with New Meadowlands Racetrack LLC to provide food and beverage services for the new racing facilities being constructed at the Meadowlands Racetrack.

Ark's agreement extends to any future development at the race track site. In conjunction with this agreement, Ark will make an equity investment in New Meadowlands Racetrack LLC.

Equine Tax Parity Act Introduced

On March 6, Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) introduced the Equine Tax Parity Act (H.R. 998), which would make horses eligible for capital gains treatment after 12 months, rather than 24, similar to other business assets.

Under the current federal tax code, gains from sales by individuals of property used in a trade or business, including horses, qualify for long-term capital gains and are subject to the maximum capital gains tax rate of 15 percent for taxpayers earning less than \$450,000 or 20 percent for those earning more. Since the individual tax rate can go as high as 39.6 percent, the lower rate is a real advantage.

"Horses held for breeding, racing, showing or draft purposes qualify for the capital gains rates only if they are held for 24 months. All other business assets (except cattle) qualify if held for 12 months," said American Horse Council president Jay Hickey. "We believe this is unfair to the horse industry and there is no reason why we should not be treated the same as all other businesses."

The Equine Tax Parity Act would end this discriminatory treatment of horses under the tax code and allow horse owners to enjoy the reduced rate upon sale after holding a

horse for 12 months. For most owners and breeders shortening the capital gains holding period to 12 should be a benefit. Reducing the holding period by half would give many horse owners and breeders more flexibility to sell and market their horses. It would mean that every sale of a horse which is held for at least 12 months will qualify as a capital gain or loss unless that horse is held primarily for sale.

Slots Agreement Reached At Flamboro, Georgian; Racing To End At Kawartha

Great Canadian Gaming Corporation (GCGC) announced Saturday, March 9, that it has entered into letters of intent with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for the continuation of slot operations at each of the company's Georgian Downs and Flamboro Downs racetrack facilities.

The letters of intent set out the general intentions and business arrangements for the respective properties and proposed lease agreements with the OLG. The terms of definitive lease agreements are subject to approval by the Ontario Ministry of Finance. These lease arrangements will replace the current site holder agreements that will expire on March 31, 2013.

While the GCGC has had discussions with the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Transition Panel, it has not formalized transitional funding for continued racing operations at either Georgian Downs or Flamboro Downs. GCGC believes that securing lease agreements with the OLG will assist in further discussions with the Panel regarding transition funding for horse racing.

On the other hand, the sounds of harness racing at Kawartha Downs will echo through the track for the last time March 30.

Track owner Harvey (Skip) Ambrose could not secure an agreement on transitional funding from the provincial government to keep the track open, which will end 40 years of horse racing at the Fraserville facility.

"Horse racing will end," he said. "We at Kawartha Downs are unable to meet those terms. At this point, there is no transition funding that can be secured."

In December, Kawartha Downs agreed to terms with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming on a lease agreement to have the Slots at Kawartha Downs continue to operate after March 31, only without revenue sharing, until the province selects a private operator who will run gaming facilities in the eastern Ontario area including Peterborough, Kingston and Belleville.

Also, the Ontario government has reached three-year "transition-funding" agreements with Grand River Raceway, The Raceway at the Western Fair District, Clinton Raceway and Hanover Raceway.

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The banner features a blue background with a yellow and orange circular graphic on the left. The text "harnessracing.com HEADLINES" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

At a recent press conference, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne reiterated that she wants to see the Ontario horse-racing industry integrated into the OLG's gaming modernization plan.

Jamieson Opts Out As Canada's WDC Rep

Jody Jamieson, who was scheduled to defend Canada's title at the World Driving Championship (WDC) by virtue of his victory in the 2011 event, has announced that he will not be able to compete in the 2013 WDC, which takes place in France. Jamieson advised Standardbred Canada officials of his decision last week.

"This was a really difficult decision. Representing your country in a world competition is an absolutely amazing experience," said Jamieson. "However, the dates are the worst possible dates for this event because they coincide with one of the richest weeks in Canadian harness racing, which includes the North America Cup.

"I'm hopeful that I'll have a drive in the Cup and some of the other stakes, and I feel that my first responsibility is to the owners and trainers who have supported me and provided me with great horses to drive over the years."

The 20-heat World Driving Championship Tour will open in Reims, France, on Sunday, June 9, where the first five races will be contested. The series later comes to a close with a single heat on Saturday, June 15, at Vincennes-Paris, home of the famed Prix d'Amerique.

Following Jamieson's withdrawal, Standardbred Canada extended invitations to Canada's 2012 Driver of the Year, Sylvain Fillion, and the runner-up, Scott Zeron, who both graciously declined for the same reason as Jamieson.

Standardbred Canada will be implementing a process to identify a driver to represent Canada in France. (SC)

Canada's O'Reilly Heading To Denmark

Kevin O'Reilly, a regular conditioner on the Woodbine Entertainment Circuit (WEG), announced that he will be leaving Canada with his family at the end of April.

O'Reilly, who has trained winners of over \$5 million in purse earnings, will soon call the country of Denmark home.

"It was a decision that my wife, Tine, and I made basically because of family," O'Reilly said. "It's something that has been in the process over the past two years. We don't have any family here in Canada and once our two children were born, the idea came about and it was either New Zealand, where I'm from, or Denmark, where Tine is from."

O'Reilly first came to North America in 1995 to work for fellow New Zealander Chris Ryder in New Jersey. O'Reilly spent two years with Ryder before venturing to Italy, where he met Tine, a licensed veterinarian.

O'Reilly then returned to the Ryder stable in New Jersey in 1999 and 2000 before moving to Canada permanently.

The 45 year old admits that the future of racing in Ontario had an impact on his family's decision.

"I wouldn't say that it was the sole affect on us leaving. We did it for the kids because we want them to be around family, but I would say the future of racing in Ontario probably quickened our decision," said O'Reilly.

Currently a resident of Campbellville, Ont., O'Reilly's top campaigner over the years was Snazzy Millie, who banked over \$1.1 million.

And what will O'Reilly miss most of all about his adopted country?

"Canadian winters," laughed O'Reilly, tongue planted firmly in cheek. "The weather is the one thing I think I'll be able to get over quite quickly." (WEG)

Campbell To Speak At USTA Driving School

John Campbell will speak to the students at the 2013 USTA Driving School, to be held May 29-June 2 at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

"I am so pleased that John will be able to join us as an instructor this year. I've tried many times to get him but his racing schedule has not allowed it," said school head Chip Hastings. "There is no one better than John and I know that it will be a great thrill for the students to hear him speak on the topic of 'Driving Strategy.'" (USTA)

Define The World Injured, Retired From Racing

The free-for-all trotter Define The World 6, 1:51.4, a winner of \$1,654,115, has been retired after suffering a torn tendon in his right front leg.

"He will be going into the paddock with Goodtimes (a Hall of Famer who won well over \$2 million in his career). Not bad having two horses who won nearly \$4 million between them," said John Bax, who trained Define The World, in an interview with The Harness Edge.

"To have given him the year off and then expect him to come back to race at the level he has been at was not something (owner) Al Libfeld wanted to do," added Bax. "He did the right thing for the horse."

A homebred son of Duke Of York, another successful trotter raced by Libfeld and Bax, Define The World won 39 races in his career and \$61,000 this season before the injury. Twice the horse represented Canada in the Elitlopp and listed the Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final among his accomplishments.

Define The World, an 8-year-old gelding, had won three of five starts and \$61,265 this season before sustaining the injury.

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through March 12, 2013 (week difference March 6-12).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Golden Receiver (8pg)	5	5	0	0	\$121,750
Versado (6pg)	9	4	1	0	89,830
Sparky Mark (6ph)	6	3	3	0	79,740
Rusty's All In (7ph)	10	3	3	1	74,750
Holdingallthecards (4pg)	7	6	0	0	74,700
Greystone Ladylike (4pm)	9	3	4	1	72,077
Casimir Jitterbug (6pg)	5	3	2	0	69,195
Oil Magnet (9pg)	5	5	0	0	68,550
Warrawee Koine (7pm)	7	3	3	0	66,250
Do Me Honor (5pm)	8	5	2	1	64,950
Escape The News (4pg)	6	4	2	0	64,375
Stolen Car (5ph)	7	2	3	0	64,050
Mr Dennis (4pg)	9	2	2	3	61,590
Define The World (8tg)	5	3	1	0	61,265
Cool Rock (5pg)	9	5	0	2	59,265

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	766	157-123-99	.337	\$1,506,750 (\$143,564)
Brian Sears	411	110-69-57	.407	1,376,465 (146,365)
George Brennan	440	71-81-53	.304	1,127,195 (156,995)
Matt Kakaley	391	77-45-61	.313	1,123,950 (131,280)
Ron Pierce	529	82-84-71	.288	1,021,118 (98,845)
Tim Tetrick	470	81-59-60	.285	925,139 (92,820)
Dave Palone	458	125-76-46	.399	923,705 (113,467)
Yannick Gingras	333	68-52-39	.330	852,506 (97,760)
Jason Bartlett	394	46-52-48	.231	813,462 (66,965)
Scott Zeron	331	66-39-39	.304	812,081 (75,290)
Jody Jamieson	385	77-57-43	.319	800,764 (92,418)
Eric Carlson	559	55-66-59	.199	730,285 (57,680)
Ross Wolfenden	602	74-78-78	.238	727,186 (68,359)
Aaron Merriman	630	97-91-86	.280	702,140 (89,848)
David Miller	320	54-46-38	.288	694,389 (95,390)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	557	160-79-62	.403	\$1,814,612 (\$227,187)
Rene Allard	327	83-47-28	.362	654,567 (103,925)
Richard Moreau	315	61-53-50	.340	609,926 (59,520)
Michael Hall	199	47-40-26	.391	515,984 (56,145)
Mark Ford	258	21-32-26	.184	415,035 (62,080)
Josh Green	168	41-23-23	.366	395,645 (20,745)
Tony O'Sullivan	120	21-26-9	.320	385,589 (42,271)
P.J. Fraley	148	21-22-23	.276	373,062 (33,320)
Dylan Davis	154	33-23-21	.343	312,622 (29,810)
Mark Harder	100	18-10-16	.289	310,792 (23,775)
Carmen Auciello	188	23-26-14	.224	298,022 (28,690)
Joe Hundertpfund Jr.	146	39-24-19	.402	293,346 (24,925)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	143	25-25-22	.323	262,821 (19,204)
Casie Coleman	76	20-14-5	.387	261,183 (-21,730)
Randy Bendis	145	26-25-19	.319	254,053 (34,152)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	531	207	325	\$2,770,741
Winbak Farm	509	190	277	2,166,695
Brittany Farms	154	67	117	1,027,489
Perretti Farms	162	61	97	751,827
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	137	51	80	725,702
Perfect World Enterprises	102	41	57	521,733
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	86	34	55	490,234
Walnut Hall Limited	115	42	62	464,756
White Birch Farm	81	32	52	438,839
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	68	27	43	408,797
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	84	32	53	393,980
Arlene & Jules Siegel	86	32	50	385,138
Frederick Hertrich III	84	35	58	383,009
Fox Valley Standardbreds	93	32	41	382,898
Seelster Farms Inc.	95	36	59	382,277

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for March 6-12 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	65	16-4-11
Dave Palone	53	16-9-2
Corey Callahan	84	15-18-10
Trevor Henry	43	15-11-4
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	50	13-10-6
Tony Hall	58	13-9-4
Billy Dobson	40	11-11-1
David Miller	44	11-6-3
George Brennan	48	11-10-5
Brett Miller	57	10-3-11
Brian Sears	43	10-4-12
Ron Pierce	58	10-4-10
Tyler Smith	44	10-10-7
Aaron Merriman	73	9-15-12
Jim Morrill Jr.	34	9-7-4
Joe Bongiorno	33	9-3-3
Sam Widger	50	9-7-5
Tim Tetrick	60	9-6-9
Tony Morgan	34	9-5-6
Yannick Gingras	43	9-5-7

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	21
Rene Allard	13
Conor Flynn	8
Michael Hall	6
Angie Affrunti	5
Colin Johnson	5
Erv Miller	5
Gary Messenger	5
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	5
Harla Loney	5
Mark Ford	5
Nichole Gagnon	5
Richard Moreau	5
Tim Crissman	5
Vincent Fusco Jr.	5
Benjamin Wallace	4
Benoit Baillargeon	4
Dane Snyder	4
Gerry Sarama	4
Kevin McDermott	4
Paul Kennedy	4
Peter Pellegrino	4