

Visit us at
www.harnessracing.com
for the latest
harness racing news!

Harness Racing

WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

Inside
Weekly
harnessracing.com
News Digest

©2018 HORSEMAN PUBLISHING CO., LEXINGTON, KY USA • FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CALL (859) 276-4026

Croghan Has Talented Foursome Ready For Matchmaker, Levy Action

The Blue Chip Matchmaker and George Morton Levy Memorial Series get underway this weekend at Yonkers Raceway and the races should be interesting since there are new faces squaring off in the four divisions for mares and five divisions for males.

Trainer Ross Croghan has four of the new faces at Yonkers: the mares Call Me Queen Be and Twinkle and the males Waikiki Beach A and Hug The Wind N.

The mares will each be making their first start of the season, with both qualifying twice at Pompano Park before shipping north.

"I've been watching Yonkers a little bit and this year it's going to be different in these races."

—Ross Croghan

Waikiki Beach and Hug The Wind have already raced this year. All four horses are owned by Let It Ride Stables and Dana Parham.

Croghan said that he thinks his mares are race-ready despite the fact that the Matchmaker is their first start of the season.

"The mares are very, very good," said Croghan on Tuesday. "They will both train lightly, just 2:15, tomorrow. But I can tell you that they've trained faster than they qualified."

Call Me Queen Be's fastest qualifier was a 1:54.3 winning effort at Pompano on Feb. 25. The winner of \$1.2 million, with the 2016 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Pace championship among her victories, Call Me Queen Be won four of 20 starts last year at age four, but no stakes.

A daughter of Somebeachsomewhere, Call Me Queen Be will start from post 3 in Race 9 at Yonkers on Friday night. She'll be facing the accomplished Lady Shadow, who

Continues on page 2 >>>

NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES



SPRING
MIXED SALE

CHAMPIONS CENTER EXPO, SPRINGFIELD, OH

MAY 15, 2018

Racehorses, racing prospects,
broodmares, foals, yearlings & more!

New Location!

CHAMPIONS CENTER EXPO
4122 Laybourne Rd., Springfield, OH 45505

ENTER ONLINE NOW AT

www.bloodedhorse.com



"There's No Substitute for Experience"

JERRY HAWS • P.O. Box 187 • Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
Phone: (859) 858-4415 • Fax: (859) 858-8498

WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

- Takter's Levy hopes include 10 year old—pg. 3**
- NZ import winning at Meadows—pg. 4**
- Stratton ready for series action—pg. 4**
- Kakaley recovering after accident—pg. 4**
- Drivers contribute to USTA board—pg. 5**
- Breeding Banter—pg. 6**

2018



HUFF'S

NATIONAL

FAIR DIRECTORY



Find us on Facebook

ORDER YOURS NOW!

\$9.00 Each

(includes postage & handling)

For credit card orders (Visa & MasterCard),
call toll free 1-800-860-8199
or email vflannery@harnessracing.com

racked up major victories for trainer Ron Adams but is now with new owners and in the Richie Banca Stable.

The 5-year-old mare Twinkle is a new face without any stakes victories on her resume, but she won 11 of 12 starts in 2017, which was her first year of racing. Yes, that's right. Twinkle did not race at ages two and three. But Croghan saw talent in the daughter of Bettor's Delight and pressed her owners, who bought her as a yearling for \$77,000, to keep her.

"She's been as impressive to me as a horse can be," said Croghan of Twinkle. "I'm expecting really big things from her. She's got freaky speed."

Twinkle's qualifying appearances at Pompano, on Feb. 11 and March 4, resulted in miles of 1:54.4 and 1:55.4, with last quarters in :27 and change.

As for why Twinkle is making the first stakes start of her career in the Matchmaker (she will start from post 2 in Race 10) but posted four wins at Yonkers last season. Croghan said the mare didn't race at two and three because she wasn't sound.

"She had canon bone remodeling at two, which is fairly common," shared Croghan. "She was so bad at two and then again at three that she couldn't even go for a walk very well. The owners didn't want to keep her, but I kept insisting and I think they're going to be rewarded."

Let It Ride Stable and Parham also own the Levy contenders Croghan will send out on Saturday night, Waikiki Beach A (Race 5) and Hug The Wind N (Race 6). Both horses were racing in Australia when Croghan advised his clients to buy them. Waikiki Beach A was a top performer in Australia who had won 25 of 40 starts.

Waikiki Beach A, a 6-year-old gelding by Somebeach-somewhere, won his North America debut on Jan. 28 at Pompano Park, then won again on Feb. 11 at Pompano in 1:50.2. Hug The Wind N has more North American experience, with five starts resulting in a win, a second and a third.

"I think Waikiki Beach has more high speed than the other horse, but they are both very good," said Croghan.

Trainers are known to fret about post positions on half-mile tracks, but Croghan is also keen to see the Matchmaker and Levy contested without a passing lane.

"I've been watching Yonkers a little bit and this year it's going to be different in these races. I think last year's winners of these races (Keystone Velocity in the Levy and Mackenzie A in the Matchmaker) sat in the two hole and came up the passing lane to win. That's not going to happen this year," said Croghan.

"I think it's great that they eliminated the passing lane and the races are a lot more interesting and unpredictable. Monday night I raced a horse and he sat the two hole and never got loose. With a passing lane, he wins for fun. Without the passing lane there were three horses finishing on the wire together." — *By Kathy Parker*



THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, March 16

8:50p	YR7	Matchmaker OMP div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:10p	YR8	Matchmaker OMP div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR9	Matchmaker OMP div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:50p	YR10	Matchmaker OMP div.	Trackmaster PPs

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

Saturday, March 17

7:50p	YR4	Levy Mem. OHP div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:10p	YR5	Levy Mem. OHP div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:30p	YR6	Levy Mem. OHP div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR7	Levy Mem. OHP div.	Trackmaster PPs
10:10p	YR11	Levy Mem. OHP div.	Trackmaster PPs

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

Sunday, March 18

11:45a	YR1	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
--------	-----	------------------	---------------------------------

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



TRACKMASTER
An EQUIBASE Company

Visit www.trackmaster.com and subscribe to download full cards from your favorite tracks!



HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

Kathy Parker

kparker@harnessracing.com

Editor/ General Manager

Lynne Myers

lmeyers@harnessracing.com

Advertising Manager

Gordon Waterstone

gwaterstone@harnessracing.com

Associate Editor

Heather Kemper

hkemper@harnessracing.com

Production Manager

Hannah Reynolds

hreynolds@harnessracing.com

Editorial Production

Vanessa Flannery

vflannery@harnessracing.com

Accounting & Circulation

For mail sent via U.S. Postal Service, either P.O. Box 8480, Lexington, KY 40533, or 1910 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503. (859) 276-4026

© Copyright Horseman Publishing Company. A product of Horseman Publishing Company, publishers of the website www.harnessracing.com and The Horseman And Fair World magazine. This newspaper may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior written permission.

To sign up for the Weekend Preview please visit www.harnessracing.com/members_sign_up.php

Takter's Levy Hopes Include 10-Year-Old Great Vintage

Trainer Jimmy Takter has trained thousands of horses over his Hall of Fame career but never has he ever had a 10 year old in his barn, let alone a pacer from a barn renowned for its success with trotters.

But that's the case with Great Vintage, who at age 10 will make his third appearance in the George Morton Levy Memorial Series, which gets underway Saturday night at Yonkers Raceway. Takter also has a second Levy entry in Western Fame—at the relatively spry age of five.

"I have never trained a horse 10 years old," said Takter. "I broke him and had him in my barn now for nine years."

Great Vintage—who was fifth in last year's Levy consolation—will start from post 2 in the last of five \$50,000 Levy divisions (Race 11) with Yannick Gingras driving. Western Fame drew post 7 in the first division (Race 4) with Mark MacDonald in the sulky.

A \$65,000 yearling purchase, Great Vintage is owned by Christina Takter, John Fielding, Goran Anderberg and Goran Falk. The son of American Ideal has made 150 starts over his career, with \$1,170,998 in earnings. And he did it the hard way, with his single biggest purse check of \$115,200 coming via a third-place finish in the \$960,000 Metro final in 2010 at Mohawk. His biggest win came in the \$150,000 Taylor Invitational at Harrah's Philadelphia in 2015.

Great Vintage has a mark of 1:49.1 taken at Pocono Downs as a 4 year old. He has 41 career wins, with 27 of them coming at Yonkers. He has been pretty steady on the racetrack, except for his 3-year-old season when he was limited to just five starts.

"He had a tough 3-year-old year with an infection in his knee," remembered Takter. "He lost his whole 3-year-old season and he almost died."

But that was then and this is now. After totally shutting down Great Vintage last September, Takter brought the pacer back with a pair of February qualifiers at the Meadowlands. After finishing first and second in those morning tests, Great Vintage has a third and first in two overnights at the Big M, including a 1:49.2 victory his last time out.

"The Meadowlands was good for him to stretch out and open up his lungs," Takter explained of the Meadowlands preps. "Coming to Yonkers it will be easier on him."

"But how good is this little guy? He was good all last year and we shut him down and gave him a break. He's just a fantastic horse."

Takter is ecstatic with Great Vintage's form heading into the Levy opener.

"He lost his whole 3-year-old season and he almost died!"

—Jimmy Takter
about Great Vintage

"He is coming into it very good this year, and actually, there are not that many outstanding aged pacers right now," he said. "Maybe I'm wrong, but this is early and it could be good for him in there. When he's in good form he's good and happy about racing. These old horses are just so great."

As for Western Fame, the biggest of four wins last year in 13 starts came in the Prix d'Ete at Hippodrome 3R and the Confederation Cup over the half-mile oval at Flamboro Downs. At three he won his Little Brown Jug elimination and then was second in the final, and he also won a Breeders Crown elim and was second in the final.

"We tried to manage him a little bit as a 4 year old last year and I think he is ready to step up with the older horses," said Takter. "He is a very-laid back horse, just so lazy. You have to be a little bit tough on him."

Also shut down for a few months over the winter, Western Fame finished second and first in a pair of Meadowlands qualifiers on Feb. 24 and March 3. In his seasonal pari-mutuel debut on March 10 at the Meadowlands, Western Fame finished third in the Preferred Pace.

"Yannick (Gingras) was very happy with him in that last start. He paced in 1:50.1 and came a good last quarter of :26.4. He drew the seven post (in the Levy prelim) and that will be tough for his first start there. But it's a five-week race program and this is just his second start back." —By Gordon Waterstone

TrackMaster Platinum Past Performances

Taking you above and beyond the standard track program

FEATURE	TRACK PROGRAM	PLATINUM PAST PERFORMANCES
Basic Program Information	YES	YES
Speed & Class Ratings	NO	YES
Power Ratings	NO	YES
Conditional Driver & Trainer Stats	NO	YES
Lifetime Horse Statistics	NO	YES
Claims & Trainer Change Details	NO	YES
Auction Sales Data	NO	YES
Yearling Prices & Stud Fees	NO	YES
Race Replay Links	NO	YES
Result Chart Links	NO	YES

trackmaster.com/harness

TM

TRACKMASTER
An EQUIBASE Company

NZ Import Rycroft N Ready For St. Paddy's Day

The Meadows-based trainer Randy Bendis dabbled in the international Standardbred market years ago but had drifted away from imports. Now, he's back.

"The American dollar is very strong compared to what it was," Bendis says. "You can buy more for less overseas.

"When horses make over a certain amount in New Zealand, they never can go back down in class. The connections get a little frustrated and look to sell. We've had luck there in the past, and we figured we'd take another shot."

The result: Late last year, Bendis and Jack Piatt II purchased Rycroft N, who will be seeking his first U.S. win Saturday in an action-packed card flush with wagering opportunities and St. Patrick's Day activities for fans. Rycroft N goes from post 5 in race 5, an \$11,500 conditioned pace, with Mike Wilder driving.

Rycroft N, a 7-year-old gelding with \$113,078 in career earnings, hit the ticket his first two starts for Bendis—the second with the addition of Lasix—but was perhaps strongest in his most recent outing, when he finished a rallying fourth after dropping back to last.

"That definitely was his best effort," confirms Bendis, who ranks second in 2018 wins at The Meadows behind only Ron Burke. "He was six or seven high in the last turn. He'll like it when they start going more early. He likes to hunt rather than being hunted." (*The Meadows*)

Stratton Ready For Yonkers Series Action

Jordan Stratton is no stranger to success in the Blue Chip Matchmaker and George Morton Levy Memorial pacing series at Yonkers Raceway and the 30-year-old driver will have two past champions among his hopefuls when those events get underway this week at Yonkers Raceway.

First up is the Matchmaker, which begins Friday. Stratton's drives in the series for older female pacers will include Australian-bred defending champion Mackenzie. On Saturday in the Levy, for older male pacers, Stratton's drives include New Zealand-bred 2016 winner Bit Of A Legend.

"It's tough, but at the end of it you get to see who the iron horse is."

—Jordan Stratton

ries. At the same time, you want to have something left for the final, too.

"It's tough, but at the end of it you get to see who the iron horse is."

The opening round of the Matchmaker features four \$40,000 divisions. Stratton will drive New Zealand-bred El-liesjet in the first division, New Zealand-bred Sell A Bit in the second, and Mackenzie in the fourth.

"I love the series," said Stratton, who also won the Matchmaker in 2009 with Panceleefandarpels. "You have to race every week almost because of the 25 points, and they're good horses, so it's a hard series.

Kakaley Recovering After Race Accident

Linda Kakaley, the mother of driver Matt Kakaley, who was injured in a race accident on Tuesday night, March 13, at Yonkers Raceway, told Weekend Preview Thursday morning that her son is recovering following facial surgery and is grateful for all the support he's received.

"We can't thank everybody enough for all of the calls, texts and messages Matt has received expressing their support for him," said Linda. "Matt said last night that he couldn't believe how many people have reached out and that it made him feel so really good that it brought tears to his eyes."

Kakaley suffered a broken nose and collarbone and facial fractures in the accident that occurred in Race 10 on Tuesday. Kakaley was driving Lawgiver Hanover when the horse took a bad step and went down going into the third turn. Driver Jim Marohn Jr., who was behind Big Jer, also went down, but he and the horse both escaped injury. Lawgiver Hanover was later euthanized.

Originally taken to a hospital in Bronxville, N.Y., Kakaley was moved to Westchester Medical Center, where the surgery was performed.

"Matt had surgery yesterday but will need two more surgeries later to repair the collarbone and some other facial injuries," said Linda. "But we're hopeful the doctors will be able to release him to go home as soon as today."

Kakaley and longtime partner Annie Larrabee in late December became parents of a baby girl, Arianna Christine. Kakaley will celebrate his 30th birthday on March 19. The 2010 Rising Star Award winner, Kakaley has 4,169 career victories with \$61.1 million in purse earnings.

Mackenzie and Sell A Bit are trained by Peter Tritton, who also conditions Bit Of A Legend on the Levy side.

Sell A Bit was the runner-up in the 2016 Matchmaker championship, but failed to advance to last year's final. Sell A Bit heads to this season's event with three wins in her past four starts, all in the open handicap for fillies and mares. Mackenzie, who won four of her last five races of 2017, is making her seasonal debut.

Saturday's Levy action will be spread over five \$50,000 divisions. Bit Of A Legend, who is making his seasonal debut in the fifth division, made history by going unbeaten in the 2016 Levy. He finished fourth in last year's championship, but counted the Molson, Gerrity, and Quillen among his victories.

"The run Bit Of A Legend went on (in 2016) was unbelievable," Stratton said. "I don't know whatever stars aligned, but it seemed like he never got used and he was always pacing forward at the wire. Hopefully he can do it again. He qualified last week and he seems to be really good. I was a hundred percent happy with him." (*Ken Weingartner/USTA*)

Driving Trio Contribute To USTA Board

While there are 59 members of the U.S. Trotting Association's (USTA) board of directors, only three fit the category of drivers: Corey Callahan, Jeff Gregory and Jordan Stratton.

Gregory (District 12) and Stratton (District 8-A) have been on the board for a few years now, while Callahan (District 11) broke his maiden during the recent three-day annual meeting of the USTA board in Columbus March 10-12.

"I'm involved more nationally than anyone else in my district from Delaware, so it's good to have me as a face for our district," said Callahan, who was elected by other District 11 directors to fill out the remainder of Dr. William Moffit's term that runs through this year, following Moffit's resignation from the Board last October. "It's a little tough on me having to leave my three little kids and my wife for the couple of days, but I feel like I can be an asset to the organization. That's why I said yes. Everybody has been very welcoming. I'm excited to be part of the group."

Callahan, 39, annually ranks among the busiest drivers in North America, including 2017 where only Aaron Merriman climbed into the sulky more times. Among Callahan's most successful drives last year was with the 3-year-old trotter Bill's Man, who capped off his sophomore season with a Matron victory.

"We have our own broodmares and babies, but I also recently went down to Florida and John (Butenschoen) is training some nice trotting fillies that I'm looking forward to," said Callahan. "And I trained Bill's Man and he was unbelievable. I know they're planning on racing him lightly this year and maybe head to Europe as a 5 year old."

At age 30, Stratton is the youngest member of the USTA board. Like Callahan, Stratton is among the busiest reinsmen on the continent and ranked annually among the leaders at his home track of Yonkers Raceway. Stratton drove at Yonkers on Saturday night—with three winners—and then caught a 6 a.m. flight to Columbus on Sunday to attend the general session.

"I wanted to get involved a little bit and give back to the sport," explained Stratton, who has been a director for about five years. "The first couple of years I kind of kept my mouth shut and ears open, but as it progresses I try to speak up a little bit and give my two cents for what it's worth. Hopefully a couple of younger guys will follow our footsteps."

Gregory agreed sitting on the USTA board was a learning process, one he's been at for about 12 years.

"It's not a demanding job, but it's a job where we need to keep the business in check and not let it go off the rails."

—Jeff Gregory



USTA directors (left to right) Jeff Gregory, Jordan Stratton and Corey Callahan

"When you first become a director you think it's going to be overwhelming with the work, but it's concentrated into a few short spurts where you can get a lot of things done," said Gregory. "It's not a demanding job, but it's a job where we need to keep the business in check and not let it go off the rails. Making changes are never easy, but avoiding mishaps sometimes is a little more important than actually instituting the change."

Gregory said having retired Hall of Fame driver John Campbell leading an attempt to unify jurisdictions in racing and medication rules has been a positive.

"It's not an easy task, but one step at a time we're hoping to unify the state's rules," he said.

Gregory has more than 6,800 driving victories with \$72.2 million in purse earnings, but the 51 year old has been reducing his time in the sulky over the past few years to concentrate on training.

"I've been beat up pretty good the last few years with a couple bad injuries so I was ready to slow down a little bit," said Gregory, who has 18 horses at Gaitway Farm and a staff that includes assistant Roni Newhart and three caretakers. "Fortunately, I developed a good relationship with a lot of heavy hitters in the business who became my owners and stepped up to the plate and bought me horses.

"With any trainer who has young horses, we're on edge hoping for the best. That's why we buy babies every year—to dream. We have some promising young horses and a nice bunch of aged horses that are hard-knockers that keep the business going. I still drive my own and for a few guys; I'm just not doing it every night like I did before." —By Gordon Waterstone



BREEDING *Banter*

If you happened to catch the CBS show "60 Minutes" last Sunday night (March 11), you saw the interesting feature about an Argentinian polo player and breeder who has 17 clones of his top horse, Aiken Cura.

Adolfo Cambiaso, who owned Aiken Cura, his clone Cuartertera, and now Cuartertera's clones, said the idea to explore cloning his best horse began when Aiken Cura broke a leg while competing. Before the horse was euthanized, Cambiaso, who had heard

of the cloned sheep named Dolly, asked the veterinarian to save some of his horse's skin tissue.

Following advances in technology and an American benefactor who set up a cloning laboratory, Cambiaso had his first clone of Aiken Cura.

In 2003 a mule named Idaho Gem became the first member of the horse family to be cloned.

While polo associations permit horses that are clones to compete, the U.S. Trotting Association, The Jockey Club (the Thoroughbred breed registry), and the American Quarter Horse Association all prohibit registration of cloned horses. The Quarter Horse Association successfully defended its anti-cloning rule against a lawsuit, noting in its position that "when people with shared interests, goals and values come together to form a voluntary private association to serve a common purpose, the members have a right to determine the rules for their association."

One world equestrian official has said that his organization decided to allow clones to compete because just as there is no such thing as an exact identical twin, there are no exact clones.

The World Equestrian Association also allows cloned horses to compete. One official said that his organization decided to allow clones to compete because just as there is no such thing as an exact identical twin, there are no exact clones.

One famous show jumper, the mare Sapphire, has clones that have competed and also become a part of the breeding population. Sapphire, by the way, was owned by Tom Grossman of Blue Chip Farms.

"Talking about cloning can become a very religious debate, and a very polarizing debate," said Grossman. "It's nature versus nurture so it's very intriguing."

Sapphire, a top show jumper, passed away in 2014 at the age of 19. She had six foals and there are two "Sapphire" clones, with the clones having six foals.

"There are some things that are different," said Grossman when asked about the clones. "I believe they have the same amount of white hair, but it's distributed differently. Only one of them had a blaze that was identical to Sapphire's. One of the clones was a little bigger than the other one, and a little bigger than the original."

As would be expected, there were aspects of the clones that were spot-on with the original Sapphire.

"We had the same person who was the caretaker for Sapphire for 12 or 13 years work with the clones, and she noticed about 20 things were exactly the same," shared Grossman. "For instance, with my clones, they carry their tails the same way, and their coronet bands are all sensitive in the same fashion."

To further compare Sapphire and her clones as specifically as possible, Grossman called the blacksmith who had regularly shod Sapphire to put the first shoes on the two clones.

"Before he even picked up a foot I asked him to describe Sapphire's feet to me in detail. He did, and then out came both clones and it was the same for them," Grossman recalled.

Grossman said the quest to breed a better horse is what drove him to clone Sapphire, with the two clones produced for breeding not showing. (The clones did compete in the 6-year-old championship and received great reviews).

"Obviously, you don't want 40 Somebeachsomewhere colts racing against each other in every single top race, but one of the ways cloning sounds intriguing is for instance with the geldings Gallo Blue Chip and Mr. Muscleman. If you cloned them you get a stallion. Otherwise, because they've been gelded, their genes don't carry on. Seventy percent of the time the horse needed to be gelded, but if a great gelding is cloned, you would broaden the gene pool," said Grossman.

By the way, Blazin' Britches, the 2017 Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year, has conceived and the embryo has been transferred to a recipient mare. Blazin' Britches is in training at Spring Garden Ranch in Florida.

FREE searchable sale & racing reports at
harnessracing.com



New USTA rules, meeting minutes now available

The U.S. Trotting Association's newly adopted rules that were approved at the recent annual Board of Directors meeting held at the Hilton Columbus at Easton from March 10 through 12 and the minutes from each of the committee meetings are available online on the USTA's website. [more](#)

USTA wraps up annual meeting in Columbus

The USTA board of directors' annual meeting concluded Monday (March 12) with approval of the 2018 USTA budget, final decisions on the USTA rule and bylaw change proposals, and the formation of two new committees to further USTA projects. [more](#)

Microchips to replace lip tattoos, freezebrands

The USTA Registration Committee approved a proposal that will require all Standardbreds, starting with foals born in 2019, to be implanted with a microchip for identification during the USTA Board of Directors meeting Sunday (March 11) at the Hilton-Easton. [more](#)

USTA proposes 501c3 aftercare alliance

Mike Tanner, USTA Executive Vice President and CEO, unveiled a proposal for a Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA) at the general session of the USTA Board of Directors annual meeting Sunday (March 11) at the Hilton-Easton. [more](#)

USTA to add youth delegate program

Meetings of the executive committee, communications and marketing committee, and pari-mutuel fairs subcommittees were held on the opening day of the USTA board of directors annual meeting Saturday (March 10) at the Hilton-Easton. [more](#)

KY bill proposes sales tax on yearlings

Two bills introduced in the Kentucky legislature could bring back a sales tax on horse purchases in the Bluegrass State. The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), Kentucky's equine economic advocate, is urging Kentucky lawmakers to not increase the tax burden on Kentucky's signature horse industry. [more](#)

DerbyWars.com to host WHHC Mega-Qualifier

This Saturday, March 17, DerbyWars.com will host an online World Harness Handicapping Championship Mega-Qualifier featuring five qualifying spots for the \$75,000-guaranteed World Harness Handicapping Championship presented by DerbyWars. The WHHC will be held on April 28 at the Meadowlands. [more](#)

Meadowlands Spring Sale set for April 29

The Meadowlands Spring Mixed Sale, conducted by Tattersalls, is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 in the track's race paddock. [more](#)

Shartin N a newcomer to US, Matchmaker

New Zealand-bred mare Shartin N will take her first shot against stakes competition since arriving in the barn of Jim King Jr. last fall in the first leg of the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers Raceway Friday night. [more](#)

A conversation with Wally Hennessey

Wally Hennessey is still relishing the job he says he was born to do. The 61-year-old Hall of Fame driver is leading the standings at Florida's Pompano Park, where he has long been one of the top drivers and is looking for his third consecutive title. [more](#)

French trotters generating interest in NY

Two weeks after announcing an ambitious program that would see 24 French-bred trotters flown to North America to compete at Yonkers Raceway, Standardbred Owners Association of New York executive director Alex Dadoyan's initial nerves have transformed to cautious optimism. [more](#)

Caesars says it shouldn't have to pay fee

The Associated Press has reported that Caesars Entertainment is threatening to drop plans for building a new casino in southern Indiana while arguing that it shouldn't be forced to pay a \$50 million fee in the state for buying Hoosier Park and Indiana Downs. Last November Caesars announced it had entered an agreement to purchase the two Centaur Gaming-owned tracks for \$1.7 billion. [more](#)

Hoosier Park readies for March 30 opener

With the return of live harness racing at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino just a few weeks away, final preparations for the 2018 season are well underway throughout the property. Opening day of the 160-day meet is set for Friday, March 30. With a daily post time of 6:30 p.m., the live racing season will be conducted through Nov. 10. [more](#)

Scarborough postpones opening weekend card

Opening day of the 2018 harness racing season at Scarborough Downs has been postponed as southern Maine continues to dig out and recover from a fierce succession of nor'easters and blizzards. The opening of the season, originally scheduled for March 24, has now been pushed back one week to Saturday, March 31, with post time slated for 1:30 p.m. [more](#)

Hoosier Park offers racing internships

Hoosier Park Racing & Casino is currently accepting applications for two internship opportunities with the Race Marketing Department for the upcoming 2018 live harness racing season. Both internships will be with the Race Marketing Department and are ideal for students pursuing careers in marketing, hospitality, communications, business, and any equine related fields. [more](#)

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through March 13, 2018 (week difference March 7-13).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
NF Happenstance (8tm)	8	5	1	0	\$81,700
Sell A Bit N (8pm)	6	3	1	1	76,800
Don'tcallmefrancis (5pg)	9	5	1	2	68,350
Nirvana Seelster (7pg)	8	3	3	1	62,847
Caribbean Pacetry (7pm)	8	4	1	1	61,750
Money Maven (9tg)	6	2	1	0	60,000
Caviart Cherie (4pm)	9	6	2	0	58,750
Killer Martini (6pg)	8	2	0	1	57,600
Thisjetsabookin (6pg)	6	2	2	0	57,500
Chumlee A (7pg)	8	4	1	0	57,422
Circle The Page (4pm)	9	6	0	2	56,436
Beat The Drum (7pg)	9	5	1	1	56,400
Theresademoninme (7tg)	8	3	3	1	55,875
Bettorhaveanother (6pm)	7	4	2	0	55,375
Pretty Boy Swag (4pg)	9	5	2	1	55,140

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jordan Stratton	456	90-68-62	.326	\$1,363,310 (\$198,365)
Jason Bartlett	476	82-77-76	.315	1,328,533 (174,975)
Aaron Merriman	732	166-132-106	.375	1,155,864 (156,103)
Trace Tetrick	491	115-77-59	.361	1,081,788 (104,810)
Matt Kakaley	431	62-70-51	.274	1,079,180 (118,780)
George Brennan	412	56-65-41	.257	953,860 (96,710)
Corey Callahan	483	78-86-65	.305	876,343 (72,445)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	598	143-93-88	.375	867,188 (132,900)
Tim Tetrick	379	76-68-50	.344	788,354 (92,837)
Chris Page	468	76-49-53	.258	787,393 (106,609)
Jim Marohn Jr.	492	83-66-62	.285	782,757 (74,325)
Louis Roy	372	86-68-59	.386	741,838 (87,132)
Dan Noble	403	74-56-66	.315	733,003 (47,170)
Daniel Dube	361	38-36-57	.213	725,230 (82,060)
Tony Morgan	366	75-50-48	.325	675,570 (44,144)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	427	89-68-46	.333	\$994,398 (\$119,711)
Scott Di Domenico	263	50-47-19	.313	705,037 (71,350)
Richard Moreau	295	72-50-32	.374	697,902 (73,060)
Rene Allard	191	32-26-24	.285	498,096 (48,560)
Nick Surick	352	71-58-40	.331	467,197 (25,713)
Carmen Auciello	270	23-28-35	.186	363,839 (33,058)
Jennifer Bongiorno	100	33-14-11	.444	347,997 (29,070)
Dan Ater	138	26-25-15	.325	346,335 (38,705)
Andrew Harris	134	26-17-15	.302	344,542 (40,799)
Al Annunziata	174	30-18-21	.270	341,890 (0)
Richard Banca	157	23-23-21	.272	325,485 (64,170)
William Adamczyk	96	19-15-7	.309	319,819 (16,064)
Jeff Brewer	190	23-27-27	.247	319,231 (14,375)
Rob Harmon	114	21-16-17	.312	307,745 (41,940)
Kimberly Asher	119	41-25-18	.512	298,293 (37,492)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	457	174	248	\$2,396,567
Winbak Farm	461	168	271	2,152,822
Brittany Farms LLC	109	48	71	837,555
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	92	44	70	595,726
Perretti Farms	90	38	58	587,065
Seelster Farms Inc.	100	42	65	537,210
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	85	31	53	417,607
Bulletproof Enterprises	77	27	44	398,554
White Birch Farm	74	27	46	392,587
Spring Haven Farm	59	26	37	383,082
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	65	29	50	380,703
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	65	24	38	366,980
Steve Stewart	72	24	39	360,364
Victory Hill Farm Inc.	51	22	34	294,808
Midland Acres Inc.	68	20	32	294,175

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for March 7-13 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr	72	23-11-11
Aaron Merriman	93	19-21-15
Doug McNair	48	14-6-4
Jason Bartlett	55	13-9-10
Louis Roy	47	13-8-7
Jordan Stratton	56	12-10-9
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	50	11-4-8
Tony Hall	58	11-9-4
Trace Tetrick	63	11-11-10
Jeremy Smith	52	10-6-8
Robert Shepherd	44	10-5-7
Tim Tetrick	36	10-6-2
Jim DeVaux	58	9-16-9
Shawn Gray	20	9-3-2

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	12
Jose Godinez	9
Richard Moreau	8
Randy Bendis	6
Scott Di Domenico	6
Jackie Greene	5
Maria Rice	5
Nicole Stewart	5
Richard Banca	5
Becky Zubkoff	4
Donald Billings	4
Dylan Davis	4
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	4
James Clouser Jr.	4
Jennifer Bongiorno	4
Nick Surick	4
Patrick Shepherd	4
Sam Schillaci	4
Virgil Morgan Jr.	4