

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

# Harness Racing

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

Inside  
Weekly  
harnessracing.com  
News Digest

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016

©2016 HORSEMAN PUBLISHING CO., LEXINGTON, KY USA • FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CALL (859) 276-4026

### New Faces As Levy, Matchmaker Get Underway At Yonkers

The veterans will be showing up in force in the George Morton Levy Memorial and Blue Chip Matchmaker series, which both get underway this weekend at Yonkers Raceway.

There are six Levy divisions Saturday night. Two-time Levy champion Foiled Again has drawn post 2 in Race 5. Defending champ Domethatagain is also in Race 5 and will start from post 7.

There are also new faces who will challenge the veterans. Two of the new faces in the Levy are Bettorever, Mattamerican and Let's Drink On It, who won at Yonkers last Saturday night to prep for the Levy. Another notable new Levy contender is Santa Fe Beachboy, who ran off and won by 7 1/4

**Although not entered this week, 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggle It is eligible and could be a contender after winning a qualifier by 32 lengths in 1:50.1 at Dover Downs on Wednesday, March 16.**

lengths at Yonkers on March 13, in 1:50.4, in his first start for trainer Richie Banca.

Although not entered this week, 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggle It is eligible and could be a contender after winning a qualifier by 32 lengths in 1:50.1 at Dover Downs on Wednesday, March 16.

One of the new faces to the Levy/Matchmaker scene is the 5-year-old pacing mare Delightful Dragon.

Delightful Dragon, a daughter of Bettor's Delight and the \$767,634 earner Little Miss Dragon, was a precocious 2 year old back in 2013, winning the Three Diamonds final. Her sophomore season wasn't quite as successful, with just one win in 12 starts. Then last year, at age four, she had to battle in the conditioned classes.

Noel Daley has trained Delightful Dragon during her entire 48-start career. He also now owns the mare.

"I trained the mother for Adam Victor and Adam bred her and I raced the foal, Delightful Dragon. Then Adam was downsizing big time and put her in the sale, but with a reserve on her. I went to the sale and bought her for \$65,000," explained Daley, who is training a stable of 24 horses, with 13 two year olds.

After buying Delightful Dragon, Daley phoned the late William "Bill" Weaver III to see if he might want to buy a piece of the very well-bred mare.

"He bought a piece. That was his way," said Daley.

Weaver passed away Feb. 10 and now Daley is the mare's sole owner, taking the offer of Weaver's family to buy out the late owner's interest.

Continues on page 2 >>>

### NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES



SPRING  
MIXED SALE

DELAWARE, OHIO CO. FAIRGROUNDS

MAY 9, 2016

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

ENTER ONLINE TODAY!

[www.bloodedhorse.com](http://www.bloodedhorse.com)



"There's No Substitute for Experience"

INQUIRIES TO ANY ONE OF THESE:

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

CHARLES MORGAN (937) 947-1218  
DEAN BEACHY & ASSOCIATES  
Auctioneers

### WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

- Can Legion Of Boom upset again?—pg. 3**
- South Florida barn fire kills 12 horses—pg. 4**
- WIJI romps to 32-length qualifier win—pg. 4**
- Pocono, Northville open this weekend—pg. 5**
- WHHC spot available at Meadowlands—pg. 5**
- Breeding Banter: Cantab Hall sidelined—pg. 6**

### Levy Memorial Series Stats

Year	Nominees	1st-leg Entries	1st-Leg Div.	Eventual Champion
2007	55	37	5	Maltese Artist
2008	38	24	3	Special Report
2009	34	31	4	Foiled Again
2010	52	43	6	Foiled Again
2011	59	46	5	Real Nice
2012	51	42	6	Atochia
2013	50	42	6	Razzle Dazzle
2014	47	36	5	PH Supercam
2015	39	35	5	Domethatagain
2016	50	42	6	?



Delightful Dragon

So Daley would certainly appreciate any influence the late Weaver, a man known as much for his good character and easy-going personality as his success in breeding horses, might be able to have in the heavens to bring Delightful Dragon a little bit of luck at Yonkers on Friday night.

“She’s been good,” says Daley of Delightful Dragon, who has already won three of six starts at Yonkers. “I’ve always liked her. She gets around Yonkers well. We basically put her in this race to try to get lucky. This race is a step up for her.”

Delightful Dragon already has had a bit of luck in the Matchmaker. Delightful Dragon will start from post 1 in Race 6 and has drawn into a division that appears weaker than the two others.

The second Matchmaker division on Friday includes defending Matchmaker champion Venus Delight; Yagonnakismeornot, the runner-up in both the 2015 and 2014 Matchmaker final; Velocity Vespa, a 1:49 winner at Pompano Park on March 5; and Cheyenne Robin, who has stepped up her game and become a threat. The third division field includes Gallie Bythe Beach, The Show Returns and Cinamony.

Also on Friday night, Daley will be keeping an eye on the trotter True Blue Stride, who will be making his first start of the year in Race 4 at the Meadowlands. The 4-year-old stallion by Muscle Hill has a qualifying mark of 1:56.1 but only one career victory in 17 starts.

“He’s a talented horse,” says Daley. “He’s always had ability, but he isn’t the best gaited.”

Mark Harder bought True Blue Stride as a yearling for Australian clients Emilio and Maria Rosati, paying \$160,000 for the brother to He’s A Demon 3, 1:53.1, a winner of \$315,000.

“He won in 1:56.4 as a 2 year old,” noted Daley. “When I got him I was real happy with his first three starts, but then he started going back to his ways. So he was gelded and turned out.

“He’s been ok in the qualifiers, but if he runs in and hits, it’s all about if he decides if he wants to stay with it. If he could race on a straightaway, that would help him.” — *By Kathy Parker*

**FREE  
Program  
Pages**

## THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

### Friday, March 18

- 8:50p YR6 **Matchmaker** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 9:10p YR7 **Matchmaker** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 9:30p YR8 **Matchmaker** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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

### Saturday, March 19

- 8:10p YR4 **Levy Memorial** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 8:10p Wdb3 **WEGZ** Pace final [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 8:30p YR5 **Levy Memorial** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 8:50p YR6 **Levy Memorial** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 8:50p Wdb5 **HPIBet.com** Pace final [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 9:10p YR7 **Levy Memorial** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 9:50p YR9 **Levy Memorial** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)  
 10:10p YR10 **Levy Memorial** Pace div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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



Visit [www.trackmaster.com](http://www.trackmaster.com)  
and subscribe to download  
full cards from your favorite tracks!



### HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

**Kathy Parker**

[kparker@harnessracing.com](mailto:kparker@harnessracing.com)  
Editor/ General Manager

**Lynne Myers**

[lm Myers@harnessracing.com](mailto:lm Myers@harnessracing.com)  
Advertising Manager

**Gordon Waterstone**

[gwaterstone@harnessracing.com](mailto:gwaterstone@harnessracing.com)  
Associate Editor

**Suzanne Starbuck**

[sstarbuck@harnessracing.com](mailto:sstarbuck@harnessracing.com)  
Production Manager

**Heather Kemper**

[hkemper@harnessracing.com](mailto:hkemper@harnessracing.com)  
Assistant Production Manager

**Vanessa Flannery**

[vflannery@harnessracing.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.harnessracing.com/members_sign_up.php)

## Can Legion Of Boom Lower The Boom Again?

Legion Of Boom was a 42-1 surprise winner late last month in the \$45,000 Ontario Boys final at Woodbine Racetrack, and trainer Gregg McNair is hoping the 4-year-old gelded son of Artistic Fella has another upset in the works in Saturday night's \$55,800 WEGZ final at Woodbine.

McNair will also send out the 4-year-old pacing mare Aniston Seelster in the \$54,400 HPIBet.com Series final as the pair of three-week events come to a conclusion.



**"If Legion Of Boom gets healthy enough he can race good. He's just not perfect all the time."**

—Gregg McNair

Legion Of Boom won the Ontario Boys final in a career-best 1:53.1 before finishing 6p5 in the WEGZ opener. He wasn't entered in round two due to sickness.

"If Legion Of Boom gets healthy enough he can race good," said McNair. "He's just not perfect all the time. He's not a bad horse and is comparable to the other horses. If they (the Moreau horses) make any mistakes I'm hoping we can pick up the pieces."

Legion Of Boom now shows two wins in eight starts this year for \$34,400 in earnings for owners Doug McNair and Equus Standardbreds Inc. His career bankroll currently stands at \$93,280.

As for Aniston Seelster, the daughter of Mach Three will also start from post 2 in a bulkier 10-mare field. Directly to Aniston Seelster's right on the starting gate is Much Adoo, who won the \$44,600 Ontario Girls final on Feb. 20 and captured her division of the opening round of the HPIBet.com Series on March 4 to bring her victory streak to four. Starting from post 4 is Our Hot Majorette, who was a winner in round one of the HPIBet.com and Wanda Bayama, who scored a victory in round two.

Aniston Seelster finished third and fourth in her opening two legs of the HPIBet.com.

Legion Of Boom and driver Doug McNair will start from post 2 in a short, six-horse field in the WEGZ final. Gregg McNair admits it will be a formidable task for Legion Of Boom to spring his second upset of 2016, especially considering a powerful Richard Moreau-trained threesome that comprises half the field. Moreau's Mohawk Warrior, Rafa and Cajon Lightning finished one-two-three, respectively, in last week's second round of the WEGZ Series, with Mohawk Warrior also capturing the opening leg on March 5.

### Legion Of Boom



New Image Media Photos

"She should race good," said Gregg McNair. "She popped a curb about a month ago and we had a little trouble with that. She had traffic troubles last week so you would think she'd be good this week."

Aniston Seelster is owned by Lindsey and Connie Rankin, who owned 2014 O'Brien Award-winning 3-year-old filly pacer Lady Shadow, also trained by McNair. A seven-time winner last year, Aniston Seelster's lone victory in seven starts this year came in a conditioned event on Jan. 23 at Woodbine. Her career earnings currently stand at \$146,250. — By Gordon Waterstone



**HarnessPro**

- All in one handicapping tool
- No software to install
- PDF race programs included

[trackmaster.com/harness](http://trackmaster.com/harness)

**TrackMaster HarnessPro**  
**The Ultimate Harness Racing Program For The Serious Player**



**TRACKMASTER**  
 An EQUIBASE Company

## South Florida Barn Fire Kills 12 Horses

A barn fire at the South Florida Trotting Center in Palm Beach County late Tuesday night, March 15, killed 12 horses and sent another 11 to a local animal hospital for smoke inhalation and burns. Two of the horses were reported in critical condition. Two firefighters who battled the blaze were taken to a local hospital to be treated for injuries.

The fire broke out in a barn where horses trained by Roman Lopez and Tommy Haughton were stabled. At a press conference the following morning, Trotting Center owner Sam Stathis, who purchased the site last year from Eric Cherry, singled out several horsemen who ran into the burning barn to get horses out of their stalls, including Lopez, who lived in the barn and himself suffered smoke inhalation.

**Investigators concluded that "an unspecified electrical malfunction caused a catastrophic failure at the meter."**

morning. "He took a lot of smoke to his lungs. Scott Renz was another who ran in and grabbed horses, he also took a lot of smoke to his lungs. Dale Gilmour and (my husband) Dan were pulling horses out. We saved 11 and lost 12."

Daley said she received a phone call at her nearby home around 11:30 p.m. from her daughter, trainer Jamie Daley.

"Jamie had come back from racing at Pompano Park and she called and said she had called 911 and that Barn 9 was on fire and I needed to get there as soon as possible," Daley remembered. "I went 90 miles an hour in my brand-new Ford pick-up truck blowing my horn and flashing my lights."

The Palm Beach Arson Unit Investigators have ruled the fire to be an accident. In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, investigators concluded that "an unspecified electrical malfunction caused a catastrophic failure at the meter. This failure caused flames and sparks to ignite hay, feed, and other combustible materials."

Five of the horses killed were owned by Winbak Farm. The five include the 2-year-old filly trotters Devious Winner, Missy Hill and Damsel's Credit, and the 2-year-old colt trotter Opening Bell. Also killed was the unraced 3-year-old filly pacer Too Much Play.

Daley said the two horses were still in critical condition on Thursday at Reid and Associates Equine Clinic.

"The two are still critical. I think with each day they've gotten better," said Daley. "But they've noticed that with some more of them there are more lung problems than originally thought. I sent all 11 there no matter what. Five of them right now are still very good. Besides burns, they are eating well and drinking."

A gofundme page has been set up to raise funds to help Lopez and Haughton, who lost all of their equipment—and source of income—in the blaze. Please click [here](#) to donate. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

"Roman heard some crashing and jumped out of bed and saw the smoke," farm manager Ann-Mari Daley told Weekend Preview on Thursday

## WIJI Romps To 32-Length Qualifier Win; Levy Next?

The 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit romped to a 32 1/4-length win in 1:50.1 Wednesday morning, March 16, in a qualifier at Dover Downs. The race was the second appearance of 2016 for Wiggle It Jiggleit, who finished third in his season debut in a March 2 qualifier at Dover Downs. The effort was the fastest qualifier in Dover Downs' history.

In the March 2 qualifier, Wiggle It Jiggleit opened a seven-length lead on his rivals before settling for a third-place finish. In that race, Kevin Switzer subbed in the sulky for a vacationing Montrell Teague. The effort led to owner George Teague Jr. and trainer Clyde Francis making the decision to skip this weekend's opening leg of the six-week George Morton Levy Series at Yonkers Raceway.

"It was my presence; I think he just missed me," laughed George Teague, who was with Montrell and several other family members on a cruise at the time of the first qualifier. "No, it was last time he was jumping over shadows.

"So today we rigged him a little different with a screen, which he wore one time last year in a qualifier at Chester (Harrah's Philadelphia). He's bad about jumping shadows, that's why he wears that shadow roll."

On Wednesday and with Montrell Teague back in the bike, Wiggle It Jiggleit left fast from post 7 and by the opening quarter of :26.4 had again opened up a seven-length lead over his six rivals. The distance continuously extended from there, reaching 12 lengths at the :55.3 half and 20 lengths at the 1:23.2 three-quarters. WIJI closed out his mile with a final quarter of :26.3, crossing the wire more than 32 lengths ahead of runner-up Fearless Diablo.

"I had told Montrell to go in 1:52, but it was just like a walk in the park for him," said Teague. "I told him to come a quarter of :26 or :27 on the end of it, but Montrell said he was doing it so easy he just let him pace on his own."

Teague said he plans on talking to race officials at Dover Downs about a possible start there for Wiggle It Jiggleit before making a Levy appearance. Dover Downs announced later Wednesday plans for a \$60,000 Invitational Pace on Monday, March 28.

"Maybe I can get him in at Dover but I will have to evaluate the Levy," said Teague. "They have five legs and I can't miss too many of them and try to make it to the final (on April 23)." — *By Gordon Waterstone*



**"I had told Montrell to go in 1:52, but it was just like a walk in the park for him."**

— *George Teague Jr.*

## Pocono Downs, Northville Open This Weekend

The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono opens its 2016 race meet on Saturday night with a post time of 6:30 p.m. The track will open with a Saturday/Tuesday schedule until adding Sundays on April 3 and then Mondays on April 11 for a four-night-a-week schedule through Nov. 26.

“What’s different this year is Mondays,” Pocono race secretary Rick Kane told Weekend Preview earlier this week. “This year we’ve dropped Friday, which was always a difficult day here especially when you got into the fall up against high school football, which is big around here. Friday nights were one of the worst days of the week so we’re

**“The first few weeks we are two days a week but once we get into April there will be more stables here and we will pick up a little bit.”**

—Pocono Downs race secretary Rick Kane

trying something different. There aren’t a lot of signals out there on Monday so hopefully it will be good.”

Kane said the draw for Saturday’s opening-night program wasn’t easy but he was still able to fill a 14-race card.

“We had 104 in the box,” said Kane. “I had about 16 classes (on the condition sheet) but a lot of them didn’t fill. So I added a

couple classes and ended up with 14 races.

“Since we’re starting up with only two days a week I didn’t start any of the late-closers until we get into April and we’re at four days. The first few weeks we are two days a week but once we get into April there will be more stables here and we will pick up a little bit.”

Kane said the top-class winners-over contests will carry a purse of \$25,000, while the bottom-class \$7,500 claimers will race for \$5,500. He noted maiden races will continue to have a purse of \$12,000.

“We geared it that more money goes to the younger horses,” explained Kane of the maiden events.

As for the opening-night card, the feature race is scheduled as Race 2, a \$15,500 conditioned trot. The 3-1 morning-line favorite is Its HuwYou Know from post 6 for driver Jim Morrill Jr. and trainer Ron Burke.

A 4-year-old gelded son of Holiday Road, Its HuwYou Know was a private purchase last October for Burke Rac-

## WHHC Spots Up For Grabs At Meadowlands

Two coveted berths to the \$50,000 World Harness Handicapping Championship will be on the line this Saturday, March 19, in a qualifying tournament hosted by the Meadowlands.

The qualifier features a \$200 buy-in that includes a \$100 entry fee and a \$100 bankroll. Contestants are required to bet a minimum of 10 Meadowlands live races with a minimum \$10 wager per race. There is no maximum wager per race. Only Win, Place, Show wagers will be allowed and only one horse per race can be selected. Entry fee includes a live racing program, Harness Eye, and food voucher.

The top two finishers in the qualifier will receive seats to the \$50,000 WHHC Final to be held on April 30 at the Meadowlands. In addition, contestants keep all pari-mutuel earnings accumulated during the contest plus a \$10,000 prize pool will be paid out to the top 10 finishers (based on 100 entries).

Walk-up registration will be available from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday. (*Meadowlands*)

ing Stable and Weaver BrusceMI LLC. Its HuwYou Know has two wins in seven starts this year, including a career-best 1:54.2 effort last time out on Feb. 26 at the Meadowlands. Overcoming post 9 in that contest, Its HuwYou Know surprised at odds of 19-1.

Also set to open this weekend is Northville Downs, the last-standing harness racetrack in Michigan. Racing at the half-mile oval gets underway on Friday night with the first of 11 races going postward at 7 p.m.

This year’s schedule shifts to Friday and Saturday nights, versus Wednesdays and Thursdays in 2015. Northville will have center stage in the state until June 3 when Hazel Park opens its Thoroughbred meet, also racing Friday and Saturday nights. Hazel Park closes on Sept. 3, but Northville will remain open until Oct. 8.

Nancy Byrge is back as race secretary but only through April as she will return to Running Aces in Minnesota to oversee that track’s race office. — *By Gordon Waterstone*



**To finding everything and anything in harness racing!**

**[www.harnessracing.com/guide](http://www.harnessracing.com/guide)**

From accountants to veterinarians and everything in between, the online Harness Racing Guide is the industry’s #1 source for business listings, with names, addresses, phone numbers and email. **Bookmark it today!**



## BREEDING *Banter*

The big news on the breeding scene this week was received by members of the Cantab Hall Syndicate and other breeders. Hanover Shoe Farms advised them that Cantab Hall needs neck surgery and will not be able to breed the remainder of the 2016 breeding season.

"About three weeks ago the horse showed instability," said Hanover president and CEO Jim Simpson. "At first we thought it might be EPM, but after tests we learned he has arthritis in his neck and it is pinching his spinal cord.

We chose to operate on the horse. Seattle Slew and other horses have had this surgery and it has been successful."

Seattle Slew actually underwent two neck surgeries, in 2000 and 2002. Simpson said Cantab Hall's surgery will take place in two weeks at the Mid-Atlantic Equine in New Jersey. Dr. Barrie Grant, who performed the surgeries on Seattle Slew, and many other horses, will perform the operation on Cantab Hall.

Cantab Hall was bred to 137 mares last year and was expected to service a similar book this year.

"We have frozen semen from Cantab and it will be distributed to syndicate members per their ownership of shares," said Simpson.

Simpson said about 40 non-syndicate owned mares that had been booked to Cantab, including some owned by Hanover, had to be turned away.

Cantab's son Father Patrick is standing his first full season—he bred and trained for racing during the 2015 sea-

son—at Diamond Creek Farm's Pennsylvania location and Hanover stands Cantab's son Explosive Matter. Other sons of Cantab are also standing at stud in North America.

In other breeding news, Mike Gulotta shared that the \$2.2 million-winning mare Rocklamation, who Gulotta's Deo Volente Farms owns with TLP Stable and J&T Silva Stables, is going to the court of Captaintreacherous. This will be the first foal of Rocklamation, who made her last career start on Hambletonian Day last year at the Meadowlands.

Rocklamation is an 8-year-old daughter of Rockroll Hanover out of the Artsplace mare Art Sale, so her foal will carry a 3x3 cross to Artsplace since Captaintreacherous is out of Worldly Treasure, also a daughter of Artsplace.

Gulotta also reported that Deo Volente has a yearling full brother in blood to Captaintreacherous, named Captain Deo, who will be sold this fall.

Captaintreacherous babies are being born at many farms but none has a story to tell quite like Cameo Hills Farm in New York. Owned by Steve and Kathy Jones, the Joneses thought they had lost a Captaintreacherous foal out of their 16-year-old mare Please Me Please, but instead they have a miracle colt born in late February.

"The mare wasn't due until March 12 but she started showing signs of placentitis," Kathy Jones began. "We put her on antibiotics and Regu-Mate and about five days later she showed she might be getting ready to foal and we called the vet and he said the mare was aborting.

"When they got to work on her they thought the foal was dead," she continued. "His legs were in the right position,

*Continues on page 7 >>>*

**Simpson said Cantab Hall's surgery will take place in two weeks at the Mid-Atlantic Equine in New Jersey.**



## NEW VOCATIONS Racehorse Adoption Program



**Where Happy Endings Begin!**

Accepting racehorses from tracks  
across the eastern United States  
(937) 947-4020 dot@horseadoption.com  
[www.horseadoption.com](http://www.horseadoption.com)  
a 501 (c) 3 public charity

but not his head. They had to anesthetize the mare, and they finally put a hook into the foal's lower jaw to get his head around so they could get him out of the mare. By now there are four vets here, and they think the foal is dead.

"Then they get him out and he's taking giant gulps of air," Jones continued. "So it was an all-out effort to work on him



**"By now there are four vets here, and they think the foal is dead. Then they get him out and he's taking giant gulps of air."**

*-Kathy Jones*

and then two of the four vets were working on her to help her recover."

Jones said the vets told her they didn't think the foal would survive the night. But he did.

"They sewed in a stomach tube and we started milking the mare and giving him milk," said Jones. "He couldn't stand at first. I have an old bean bag chair I put under him to prop him up so he didn't lay flat and get fluid in his lungs. Even though he couldn't stand, he wanted to nurse. And pretty quickly he

could balance himself and he finally stood."

The jaw was wired together the morning after he was born, then this week Dr. Mike Ross from the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, who comes to Pine Bush Equine twice a month for surgeries, operated again to make improvements in the repair of the colt's jaw.

"He said he had never seen that type of a broken jaw in a live foal before," said Jones. "And the colt is doing fantastic."

In addition to remaining under the watchful eyes of Kathy and the entire Cameo Hills staff, the Joneses Australian shepherd, Kobe, a 5-year-old male, has been a constant companion to the young colt.

"We're really careful about whether the mare thinks it's ok for Kobe to be around, and our resident mares are used to him," said Kathy. "I think because the mare herself was so beat up and trying to recover, she didn't care at all that Kobe was around."

With the warm spring weather and the second surgery going well, the young son of Captaintreacherous and Please Me Please, already the dam of four sub-1:51 pacers and two with sub-1:50 marks, is now prancing through a paddock with Kobe at his side.

But life on a breeding farm usually includes drama, and the Cameo Hills team had a bit more hand-wringing this week. The farm's blind mare Hidden Vision gave birth on March 16 to her first foal, by So Surreal, and thankfully all went well with the mare's first pregnancy and labor.

In addition to having the Cameo Hills staff by her side, Hidden Vision was kept company by her buddy, a donkey. Hidden Vision was born blind so the mare and donkey, who also happen to be the same age, have been companions from almost the beginning of their lives.

"We weren't sure how it would go, since she is blind and a maiden, and with a donkey. So far, it's one big happy family," said Kathy. "And the mare seems to know what it's all about. She's been moved to different fields and she always adjusts."

Cameo Hills has about 50-55 mares left to foal this spring. — *By Kathy Parker*

# PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR THE

2016

**AVAILABLE  
MARCH, 2016**

**HUFF'S  
NATIONAL  
FAIR DIRECTORY**

**\$9.00 Each**  
(includes postage  
& handling)

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

*Published by Horseman Publishing Co.*

## Letter To The Editor

### ***USTA Spending and Transparency: Time to Muck Out the Stall?***

*By Joe Faraldo*

A line item on the USTA budget exhibited to the Finance Committee at the recently concluded annual meeting revealed that \$15,000 of members' money was spent to perform out-of-competition testing by the Meadowlands at a lab outside the USA. This is odd to say the least, and is an indication that perhaps we should all be looking a little more closely at the issue of USTA spending and transparency.

On this particular issue, while the Meadowlands claims that track management does foreign testing out of its own pocket, it is USTA members' money that is being used for that purpose. When further inquiry was made, it was revealed that the cost of the Hong Kong tests amounted to an outrageous \$600 per test. From what I understand, that is far in excess of drug testing costs charged by USA labs, which range from \$90 to \$150 per test. Inasmuch as there are labs in America that are highly competent, one has to wonder why a foreign lab is being used in the first place. More importantly, why is members' money being used while track management insists that these tests—purportedly being conducted in the interest of a much heralded need for integrity—are already being paid for by the Meadowlands management?

USTA president Langley says that the Board approved the expenditure of USTA funds' to any track that sought to conduct out of competition testing. Indeed, if such an expenditure was approved by the USTA board, I have since found it difficult to find anyone who remembers such a USTA vote. That said, and assuming that it was duly approved somehow, why didn't the use of members' money come with mandatory due process protections for horsemen—such as split sample confirmation testing by an independent USA lab? After all, a portion of that \$15,000 given to the Meadowlands for Hong Kong testing, was generated in part from the then accused horsemen's dues and fees. As a membership-elected director, I sought only to fully understand exactly what was happening with our members' money and I did not receive an answer I thought satisfactory.

On another issue, the USTA has approved (and I supported) the setting aside of up to \$120,000 for subsidizing the TV broadcast of major races up to a maximum of \$37,000 per track. While the same limit was in place in 2015, it appears that the number was indeed exceeded for two particular events in 2015. One track received \$60,000 and another \$56,000, overrides of nearly \$23,000 and \$19,000 respectively. While these events are important, I learned that the USTA agreed to cover any overrides on these events. That is obviously troubling and raises the

question of whether the directors are being told one thing at the annual meeting and then learn about subsequent decisions long after they are sent home. Again, as I can best discern, the authority granted was to spend no more than \$37,000 per event.

In addition to the above, the USTA is about to raise dues and fees in 2018—in anticipation of a near \$1 million budget deficit in five years or so. That increase will come the year after the Board meets in, of all places, Las Vegas, in 2017. So with that said, what the heck is the USTA doing to justify the expenditure of budget items like \$15,000 for the Meadowlands' Hong Kong drug testing, overrides for TV expenditures or even \$250,000 for high-priced social media initiatives with admittedly no metrics to allow the directors to determine their efficacy? Especially on the heels of a dues and fees increase, if one is necessary for projects deemed necessary and fruitful, one can fully support those.

The TV project is "guesstimated" to have reached an estimated 40,000 households out of a US population of 323 million, which doesn't seem worthy of any cost override being absorbed by the USTA or a justification to be part of a dues and fees increase any more than the social media effort can be.

The social media expenditure of an even greater sum has no metric except the main proponent's full court press with uninformed members, and a structured e-mail and letter writing campaign that was coupled with the disgraceful last minute intimidation of directors. On this item, remember that our social media expert told us when we first embarked on this venture that spending money on TV was cost inefficient. However, after the public campaign to make the USTA change its position on TV funding, the expert changed oars and we were told TV was a necessary component to the social media effort.

While social media is very important and worth continuing and evaluating, don't we as directors have a responsibility to act as fiduciaries when spending members' money and insure that our social media efforts are worth the expenditure? Are we blindly to follow the presentation and politicking of the party interested in us spending money on social media when there is admittedly no metric to guide us?

In conclusion, the USTA has a responsibility to clearly and transparently demonstrate that our funds are being used well, whether it is a social media campaign, TV overrides, or the arbitrary use of Hong Kong tests.

It seems to me that the USTA may need its stall mucked unless, as some horsemen say, the reality is that USTA actually stands for the United States Track Association.

*Joe Faraldo is a USTA director representing New York's District 8-A. He serves on the USTA's Finance Committee. Editor's Note: We have been advised that the additional \$19,000 the USTA paid for the Hambletonian TV broadcast in 2015, which Faraldo calls an "override," was a bookkeeping error by the Meadowlands and has since been rectified.*



## Meadowlands To Host Hambletonian Through 2021

The Meadowlands Racetrack, longest-running host track of the classic Hambletonian race for 3-year-old trotters, has signed a contract extension to host the event through 2021.

The Hambletonian Society, which owns the race, and Jeff Gural, chairman of the New Meadowlands Racetrack LLC (NMR), have extended the existing Hambletonian contract from 2018 to 2021. An option to host future races was required before May 15, and the NMR was quick to exercise that option.

"Since 1981 the Meadowlands has been a proud host of the Hambletonian. This agreement solidifies that commitment, and we are all dedicated in continuing to make the race a world-wide attraction," said Gural.

"We appreciate the confidence of the Hambletonian Society in continuing their relationship with us," said Jason M. Settlemoir, CEO/GM of NMR. "Hambletonian Day is annually the most highly-anticipated day of racing in our sport and we take great pride in continuing to make the Meadowlands the home of America's Trotting Classic.

The agreement also means the Meadowlands will be the home of the Hambletonian for a record four decades through 2021, the longest the event has been raced at any one track.

Tom Charters, president of the Hambletonian Society, which has owned and administrated the Hambletonian since its inception in 1926, praised the Meadowlands for past contributions and future growth of one of the most iconic races in the world.

"The state of New Jersey (NJSEA) brought the Hambletonian here in 1981 and Jeff Gural and his management team have continued to keep the sport's signature race at the highest level. They are wonderful partners and we look forward to 2021 and beyond," said Charters.

The Hambletonian race is also the longest-running live broadcast in harness racing. The Aug. 6 event will be broadcast live on CBS Sport Network from 4-5:30 p.m. (EDT).

*(Hambletonian Society)*

## Referendum In November For North NJ Casinos

On Monday, March 14, New Jersey lawmakers approved legislation that will put a referendum on the November ballot, asking voters to approve or reject two northern New Jersey casinos. The Meadowlands continues to be mentioned as a site and Meadowlands owner-operator Jeff Gural has said he has spoken with potential casino partners and believes the leading candidates may be Caesars and MGM.

The ballot question will require that any winning bid must be controlled by a current Atlantic City casino operator, with

a minimum construction cost of \$1 billion. Any municipality from as far south as New Brunswick may be the site of a bid, but the Meadowlands and Jersey City are generally accepted as the most likely sites for the new casinos.

According to a survey by Rutgers Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, support for casinos in northern New Jersey continues to grow.

In addition, the horse racing industry would receive a minimum of two percent, although some sources have told racing industry leadership that the amount could increase in subsequent enabling legislation. Up to \$200 million from the northern New Jersey casinos would be earmarked for redevelopment/support of Atlantic City.

## Hotel Bed Tax Will Fund Delaware Improvements

In the good news department from Delaware, Ohio, voters in the county approved a three percent bed tax on guests staying in county hotels. The revenues will go directly to a fund for making improvements to the fairgrounds.

The measure passed with 40,139 "yes" votes against 29,994 "no" votes.

The five-year bed tax is expected to generate \$200,000 annually. Bonds issued against the bed tax income will likely go toward electrical grid upgrades, safety repairs to the grandstands, and improvements to storm sewer drainage, roads, plumbing and making restrooms compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

The fairgrounds was built in 1938 and several buildings on the grounds are nearly 80 years old.

## Hazmatt Ready For Matchmaker Series

She might not hail from a well-known family, but Hazmatt is ready to make a name on her own. A daughter of stallion Mattnamaras Band and the mare Surelymowdowner, the 4-year-old Hazmatt will take on some of the sport's best older female pacers in the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series at Yonkers Raceway.

A total of 23 pacing mares entered Friday's opening round of the Matchmaker, which will be contested over six weeks ending April 23 with a \$125,000-added final.

Hazmatt will be exiting the conditioned ranks for the first time, but is no stranger to success at Yonkers. She is five-for-five this year, with all of her starts coming at The Hilltop. For her career, she has won 11 of 22 races and earned \$81,510 for trainer Tony O'Sullivan and owners F. Bellino & Sons, Frank Bellino, and Joe Bellino.

"The good thing is that she doesn't know her breeding," Joe Bellino said. "When they line up, she's not going to know she's in against horses that were purchased for a lot

*Continues on page 10 >>>>*



of money. Dad (Frank) always says they don't know how much you paid for them."

The Bellinos bought Hazmatt privately from trainer Jim Mulinix, who also bred the horse, last July. Grant Wilfong, who trains horses in Indiana for the Bellinos, suggested the group take a look at the pacer.

Hazmatt has won every start at Yonkers in gate-to-wire fashion, with a margin of victory no less than one length each time, and posted a best time of 1:53.3.

"I don't think she's going to embarrass herself," Bellino said. "I know everybody says don't look at times, but if you look at the times and the quarters she's going, she's going just as good as any of them. I think she's going to be right there, to be honest with you."

Hazmatt was unraced at two. Last year, she won a maiden race in her career debut for Mulinix, then headed to O'Sullivan and won four of her next eight starts in Canada. She won once in her final eight races of the campaign, which were all contested at Woodbine Racetrack.

"She was a little inconsistent," O'Sullivan said. "When we first got her, she was very aggressive. It took a long time to get her to calm down. She threw in a couple bad races and it was mostly because she over-raced herself. When we went to Woodbine, she really didn't adapt to the style. They go the first eighth so fast at Woodbine. Even though she can leave, she wasn't herself. She wasn't finishing up well.

"We couldn't really find anything wrong with her. We decided to send her to Yonkers to see if a small track would help her. She has the speed and she's very handy. It's all kind of worked out perfectly. The first start at Yonkers she was very aggressive. (Driver) Brian (Sears) wanted us to play with her gear a little bit to get her to come back to him. We made some changes to her bit and since then, even though she's been up front, she's been two fingers."

Hazmatt will be stepping up in competition in the Matchmaker, but O'Sullivan, like Bellino, is hopeful the mare can do well in the series.

"It's a real big step up, but she gets around Yonkers really, really well so we figured we'd give her a shot," O'Sullivan said. "Her times have been very good at Yonkers and she's been doing it easily, but she's been doing it by herself. No doubt she's going to have to be more versatile. I wouldn't think she's going to be able to wire these mares.

"But up here (in Canada) she probably went her best races when she raced off the pace. She sat on a helmet and was super." (Ken Weingartner/HRC)

## Big M, RTN To Offer HD Streaming, Replays

The New Meadowlands Racetrack and Racetrack Television Network (RTN) have partnered together to distribute live streaming and race replays of Meadowlands Racetrack harness racing in high definition.

A 60-day free trial period began on March 11. During this trial offer, Meadowlands Racetrack customers will get to experience live streaming and race replays in HD on <http://www.playmeadowlands.com/> and an opportunity to learn more about the subscription packages available for purchase through RTN directly on the Meadowlands Racetrack website. In conjunction with the Meadowlands offer, RTN will also be offering a 60-day free trial period to customers for the RTN Harness Racing package.

Beginning on May 13, customers who would like to continue receiving the Meadowlands Racetrack live streaming simulcast in HD will have the opportunity to choose one of three RTN Online/Mobile subscription packages, each containing live streaming and race replays in HD available to PCs, Tablets and Mobile devices.

- The Meadowlands Racetrack a la carte package for only \$5 per month.
- The RTN Harness Racing package, with live streaming and race replays from over 50 harness racetracks in North America for only \$10 per month.
- The RTN "Full-Access" package for just \$25 per month gives racing fans the ultimate racetrack experience including live streaming and race replays from every track of every breed plus jai-alai with more HD racetrack video than any other racing website.

Customers will be able to subscribe to the service they desire by selecting the package offer on <http://www.playmeadowlands.com/>, which will redirect them to the RTN portal to sign up. All major credit cards are accepted. No minimum subscription term required.

Live streaming of the Meadowlands Racetrack will no longer be available to customers on the racetrack website as of May 13. Meadowlands Racetrack fans and racing fans from around the world will be able to sign up for any of the subscription packages RTN offers. Live streaming and race replays of qualifiers and baby races will remain on <http://www.playmeadowlands.com/> free of charge. Meadowlands will also continue to provide its fans race replays in standard definition on the track website once the trial promotion concludes. These race replays will be available to view at the end of each racing day. (Meadowlands)

## Hoosier Park Installs Passing lane

Hoosier Park has announced the completion of a passing lane to the track's seven-eighths mile racing oval. The 2016 race meet gets underway on Friday, April 1.

Track superintendent Gary Wolff and his crew, along with the help of track consultants Greg and Dan Coon, have been working diligently, not only to prepare the entire racing surface, but to complete the passing lane before the track opened for training on March 14. Track officials met regu-

Continues on page 11 >>>>


**harnessracing.com HEADLINES**

larly through the fall and winter with a team of experts to review the layout of the passing lane, identify needed materials, and establish construction timelines.

Hoosier Park's passing lane is one-eighth of a mile long, begins at the current starting pole, and proceeds just past the finish line. The added area is roughly eight feet wide and will provide drivers a new option when searching for room late in the race.

The track materials that were used in the construction process were the same materials that currently make up the main track surface to make the addition seamless. Along with the materials, the photo finish lights and the finish line sensor had to be relocated to accommodate for the added distance in the stretch. Once construction started, the project took just under two weeks to complete. (*Hoosier Park*)

### Handsoffmycookie Retired From Racing

The 7-year-old pacing mare Handsoffmycookie, a multiple-stakes winner of more than \$1.4 million, has been retired, trainer Scott DiDomenico said Thursday, March 17.

Handsoffmycookie was owned throughout her career by Joann Fucci's JFE Enterprise LLC and trained by DiDomenico. She won 33 of 116 lifetime races and hit the board a total of 58 times. Her victories included the 2011 New York Sires Stakes championship for 2-year-old filly pacers, the 2012 Lismore Pace, and 2013 Blue Chip Matchmaker Series consolation.

In addition, in 2011 Handsoffmycookie finished second to Economy Terror in both the Breeders Crown and Three Diamonds and second to Pirouette Hanover in the Sweetheart Pace. All three races were won in either world- or stakes-

record times. She also finished second to Romantic Moment in the 2012 New York Sires Stakes championship.

"She was a true warrior and probably my best friend throughout the whole time I trained her," DiDomenico said. "Our biggest thrills with her were probably her whole 2-year-old year. She raced well every time and took us to a lot of levels we never anticipated with her."

Handsoffmycookie is a daughter of Art Major out of the unraced Cambest mare Observe Me. She was purchased under the name Winbak Artzy Gal for \$25,000 at the 2010 Standardbred Horse Sale. She was one of the first ventures into the yearling market by DiDomenico and Fucci.

DiDomenico said the plan is for Handsoffmycookie to go to Majestic View Farms in Gardiner, N.Y., and be bred to stallion American Ideal. (*Ken Weingartner/HRC*)

### France/U.S. Drivers' Cup On Tap At Yonkers

On Sunday afternoon, March 20, the inaugural Drivers' Cup between the French and North Americans will take place at Yonkers Raceway.

Five of Yonkers' leading drivers battle five of France's finest in a four-race, transatlantic competition. It begins with races 2 and 4 here, with those events included among the seven races simulcast to the French-hubbed audience.

The Cup then concludes with two races at Vincennes (Paris), one each Friday, June 24, and Sunday, June 26.

It was blind dates all around, as all trotter/driver pairings were done completely at random. Yonkers is represented by Jason Bartlett (captain), Tyler Buter, Dan Dube, Pat Lachance and Jordan Stratton. France's roster includes Pierre Ver-cruysse (captain), Matthieu Abrivard, Nicolas Ensch, Pierre Levesque and Franck Ouvrie. (*Yonkers*)

# HarnessRacing.com

Updated 24/7 with current news, stakes results and more!

Among the sport's most popular internet destinations providing EXCLUSIVE news and data, [harnessracing.com](http://harnessracing.com) is also the source for unique racing & sale reports that aren't available ANYWHERE else! ...oh, yeah and they're **FREE**, too.



**RACE LINES**

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through March 15, 2016 (week difference March 9-15).

**Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses**

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Nickle Bag (6pg)	9	7	0	2	\$83,755
Bushwacker (5pg)	9	5	0	2	74,700
Major Athens (6th)	7	3	3	0	71,635
Regil Elektra (6pm)	8	4	1	1	69,600
Velocity Vespa (6pm)	8	6	1	0	69,125
Mustang Art (9pg)	10	3	2	1	64,050
Set Me Up (7pm)	10	3	5	1	62,625
Polak A (8pg)	6	4	1	1	60,400
Bad Boy Matt (6pg)	9	3	2	1	59,895
Bessie (5tm)	8	4	2	0	54,375
Spreester (5pm)	10	4	1	2	52,875
Musical Rhythm (4th)	5	5	0	0	51,660
Not Afraid (7tg)	7	3	0	0	50,560
Atta Boy Dan (7pg)	6	2	1	1	49,050
Trustworthy Kid (7tg)	7	3	2	1	48,700

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	472	135-83-50	.419	\$1,394,664 ( <b>\$245,025</b> )
Aaron Merriman	859	189-134-126	.356	1,319,020 ( <b>111,526</b> )
Tim Tetrick	480	94-75-62	.326	970,434 ( <b>126,004</b> )
Dave Palone	464	112-60-57	.354	960,389 ( <b>111,562</b> )
Brian Sears	335	68-55-50	.344	912,963 ( <b>131,042</b> )
Corey Callahan	547	91-81-78	.296	836,280 ( <b>0</b> )
George Brennan	392	59-58-58	.282	833,084 ( <b>90,133</b> )
Jim Pantaleano	508	73-78-56	.266	801,150 ( <b>77,431</b> )
Tony Hall	534	74-71-64	.252	766,304 ( <b>80,851</b> )
Matt Kakaley	458	48-58-62	.220	763,173 ( <b>118,064</b> )
Mike Wilder	506	69-75-80	.271	750,786 ( <b>74,542</b> )
Josh Sutton	550	99-74-60	.291	747,811 ( <b>86,650</b> )
Allan Davis	566	64-77-88	.240	685,574 ( <b>71,381</b> )
Eric Goodell	478	61-67-72	.256	672,564 ( <b>45,388</b> )
Daniel Dube	402	46-48-49	.221	643,432 ( <b>66,350</b> )

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	488	111-68-63	.348	\$1,243,505 ( <b>\$92,483</b> )
Richard Banca	208	57-27-23	.383	482,867 ( <b>85,359</b> )
Richard Moreau	245	40-42-26	.294	463,878 ( <b>65,632</b> )
Rene Allard	258	44-44-35	.311	439,813 ( <b>42,795</b> )
Carmen Auciello	301	36-46-34	.242	404,605 ( <b>21,771</b> )
Scott Di Domenico	149	31-32-18	.368	351,299 ( <b>45,014</b> )
Dylan Davis	166	40-33-22	.396	345,327 ( <b>14,159</b> )
Jim King Jr.	149	26-21-23	.304	299,135 ( <b>25,615</b> )
Jeff Bamond Jr.	146	21-19-19	.260	296,638 ( <b>59,793</b> )
Thomas Milici	87	29-18-9	.483	294,335 ( <b>84,250</b> )
Wayne Givens	121	28-13-11	.321	286,852 ( <b>33,190</b> )
Tony O'Sullivan	91	25-10-9	.369	276,415 ( <b>14,378</b> )
Norm Parker	142	20-23-21	.280	267,718 ( <b>30,255</b> )
Randy Bendis	139	21-20-18	.274	266,745 ( <b>25,867</b> )
Julie Miller	82	23-13-11	.413	263,985 ( <b>14,398</b> )

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	510	215	328	\$2,593,548
Winbak Farm	497	175	266	1,964,023
Brittany Farms	143	53	86	881,111
Perretti Farms	154	69	108	876,159
Bulletproof Enterprises	93	47	89	619,825
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	96	41	70	570,065
Seelster Farms Inc.	100	41	74	538,141
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	117	41	69	528,982
White Birch Farm	80	28	55	468,414
Frederick Hertrich III	82	36	49	448,814
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	79	38	61	389,467
Steve Stewart	62	28	44	370,202
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	53	24	46	323,326
Jules & Arlene Siegel	52	21	34	312,017
Midland Acres Inc.	65	25	41	309,685

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for March 9-15 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Jason Bartlett	61	24-14-3
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	51	15-9-6
Aaron Merriman	76	14-6-14
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	66	14-7-5
Dave Palone	52	14-6-8
Joe Bongiorno	67	14-10-6
Nicholas Steward	38	12-6-2
Tim Tetrick	60	12-6-8
Josh Sutton	66	11-8-11
Tony Morgan	46	11-6-6
Jim Marohn Jr.	53	10-7-3
Jim Morrill Jr.	22	10-5-3
Bob McClure	49	9-4-7
Chris Page	70	9-13-6
Kurt Sugg	55	9-10-10
Larry Stalbaum	34	9-13-2
Lewayne Miller	43	9-6-6
Matt Kakaley	55	9-5-8
Tony Hall	52	9-8-4

Trainers	Wins
Richard Banca	11
Ron Burke	7
Thomas Milici	7
Bob Johnson	6
Jose Godinez	5
Kimberly Asher	5
C. Brian Loney	4
Chelsea Knapp	4
Don Eash	4
Jackie Rousse	4
Jeff Brewer	4
John Kokinos	4
Kris Hite	4
Melissa Beckwith	4
Nick Surick	4
Scott Di Domenico	4
Traci Berry	4
Zach Henry	4