

Levy Series Attracts Hodge-Podge Of Hopefuls

For the fourth consecutive year, there will be six \$50,000 divisions of the opening round of the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series on Saturday night at Yonkers Raceway.

There are 42 older pacers—from a list of 50 nominees—entered for the first of five preliminary legs, with the point leaders advancing to the final on Saturday, April 27. While several trainers have more than one Levy entry—including Ron Burke, who has six starters (one in each division) in the opening leg—no more than two from any single barn can start in the final.

The average age of the 42 starters is 5.92 years, with the “old-timer” award going to the 9-year-old Foiled Again.

While 20 of the Levy starters made their last racetrack appearance this year at Yonkers, 22 are arriving from other tracks, including Dover Downs, Harrah’s Philadelphia, Meadowlands,

Pompano Park, Saratoga, The Meadows and Woodbine.

The race has attracted a hodge-podge of starters, including one who began the year at Western Fair (Stonehouse Adam); one who is making just his second career start in North America after earning more than \$200,000 competing in Australia (Heza Trick N); the 2010 Meadowlands Pace winner (One More Laugh), and a 2010 Little Brown elimination winner (Classic Rock Nroll).

The average age of the 42 starters is 5.92 years, with the “old-timer” award going to the 9-year-old Foiled Again, who is a two-time Levy final winner in 2009-10. This is the fifth consecutive year Foiled Again has competed in the Levy. Last year he finished second to stablemate Atochia (who starts from post six in the fifth division Saturday). Foiled Again will start from post one in the sixth division

Continues on page 2 >>>>

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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	6	Real Nice
2012	51	42	6	Atochia
2013	50	42	6	?



Foiled Again

Mike Lizzi Photo

STAT TRACK			
Leading Drivers at Yonkers			
1/11/13—3/21/13			
<i>Driver</i>	<i>Sts-1st-2nd-3rd</i>	<i>Earnings</i>	<i>UDR</i>
1. Brian Sears	452-115-77-70	\$1,486,835	.401
2. Matt Kakaley	413-88-45-65	1,213,380	.326
3. George Brennan	484-80-89-55	1,268,460	.305
4. Jason Bartlett	425-52-55-49	885,345	.233
5. Eric Goodell	266-32-47-35	589,575	.262
6. Jordan Stratton	359-30-37-59	591,105	.196
7. Brent Holland	217-25-18-26	393,540	.201
8. Larry Stalbaum	327-21-44-38	476,940	.178
9. Mark MacDonald	280-20-32-24	379,430	.163
10. Dube Daniel	130-16-13-22	250,420	.235

with driver Yannick Gingras, who will be behind all of Burke's entries.

Foiled Again will be making his 2013 debut off a third and first in qualifying action at the Meadowlands. The son of Dragon Again entered 2012 as the seventh richest pacer of all-time and ended it at the top of the list. He enters the year with career earnings of \$4,625,984, a little more than \$1 million behind the trotter Varenne's all-time record of \$5,636,255.

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.](#)"

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WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, March 22

All times listed are local.

- 7:44p Wdb2 **F&M Preferred Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:10p YR4 **Matchmaker Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:50p YR6 **Matchmaker Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:51p M6 **A2/A1/FFA Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:10p YR7 **Matchmaker Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:11p M7 **Mares B1/A2/FFA Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:30p YR8 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:50p YR9 **Matchmaker Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:10p YR10 **Matchmaker Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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

Saturday, March 23

- 8:30p YR5 **Levy Mem. Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:50p YR6 **Levy Mem. Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:10p YR7 **Levy Mem. Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:30p YR8 **Levy Mem. Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:50p YR9 **Levy Mem. Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:10p YR10 **Levy Mem. Pace div.** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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3YO Pacing Fillies In Blossom At Woodbine

Woodbine's Blossom is traditionally a top preview for well-bred fillies who got off to slow starts as 2 year olds. Its condition line is non-winners of three races or \$15,000 in 2012.

The first leg of the Blossom Stakes gets underway Friday at Woodbine. Good timing for trainer Joey Shea, who likes the way his filly Marquise De Sarah is heading into the \$18,000 event.

"She's coming into the race as good as we can expect," Shea said. "I trained her the other day and she trained very well, so we'll see what the weekend brings."

The daughter of Mach Three-Putnam Flyingbye has posted a 5-2-0 record from 10 starts, including two straight wins and \$53,600 in earnings for owner Robert Bridges.

Marquise De Sarah didn't come into the Shea stable until last September. "She was broke by Riina Rekila then moved over to Chad Milner," Shea said. "They decided to stop with her early as a 2 year old because she was 'growthy' and she needed to develop. I picked her up in September to get her ready to race and she's been terrific since day one."

Marquise De Sarah raced three times last season and sported a pair of wins along with a second-place finish and \$23,000 in earnings. Driver Phil Hudon has been the filly's regular pilot throughout her 10 career starts.

"She was racing very well early on, but she was starting to get hot behind the gate and Phil and I talked and we decided to race her from behind and that worked out very well," Shea said. "Now Phil's able to race her any way he wants. He's done a terrific job with her and we're lucky to have him."

Shea admires the qualities Marquise De Sarah possesses. "She's got a terrific attitude," he said. "She loves beating



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other horses and can put up a fight. She's a medium-size filly with a lot of speed and a big heart."

The \$18,000 second leg of the Blossom Series is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, with the \$60,000 final slated for Thursday, April 11. — Woodbine publicity department

Blossom Pace—3YO Fillies

Woodbine Racetrack, Friday, March 22, 1st division, Race 1, Post Time: 7:25 pm

Post—Horse (Sire-Dam)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Yearling Sale (Price)/Breeder
1—Wildcat Hanna (Mach Three-Easy Going Hanover)	S. Filion/T. Gillespie	7-1	Homebred
2—In The Wheelhouse (Stonebridge Regal-Two Times Three)	B. Davis Jr./C. Auciello	3-1	Open (\$9,500)/Ferre Carillon
3—Just One More (Shanghai Phil-Cover Of Darkness)	C. Christoforou/T. McDonald	10-1	Homebred
4—Russian Kisses (Badlands Hanover-Whig Party)	K. Oliver/R. Shepherd	8-1	NA/Docs Farm
5—Selandia (No Pan Intended-Armbo Danish)	J. Moiseyev/J. Kopas	8-1	Open (\$10,000)/Four Bucks & Doe Farms
6—Burning Beaches (SBSW-Burning Point)	P. MacDonell/K. Sucee	4-1	HB (\$25,000)/Cuzzins Stable
7—Stellar Steel (Mach Three-Preference)	J. Brewer/J. Mihelich	8-1	HB (\$32,000)/Ruch, ECS Racing, Gust
8—Senorita Santanna (Santanna Blue Chip-Sweetie Gonzalez)	J. Jamieson/C. Jamieson	5-2	FC (\$17,000)/Annelies Horn

2nd division, Race 4, Post Time: 8:23 pm

Post—Horse (Sire-Dam)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Yearling Sale (Price)/Breeder
1—Notalkingback (Royal Mattjesty-Double Talk)	R. Zeron/M. Brethour	5-1	Homebred
2—Belle Boyd (Art Major-Yankee Luck)	J. Jamieson/C. Jamieson	3-1	Lex (\$90,000)/Kentuckiana
3—Air Miles Hanover (Western Ideal-Artaffection)	C. Christoforou/T. O'Sullivan	4-1	Lex (\$12,000)/Hanover Shoe Farms
4—Marquise De Sarah (Mach Three-Putnam Flyingbye)	P. Hudon/J. Shea	7-2	Homebred
5—A And Gs Doll (Mach Three-A And Gs Dream)	Stephane Pouliot	20-1	Private/Willie Tomlin
6—Bride In A Box (Christian Cullen-Latakia)	B. Davis Jr./I. Waxman	20-1	Lex (\$20,000)/Kentuckiana
7—Keep The Dream (Mach Three-Keepsake Killean)	P. MacDonell/T. Umphrey	15-1	Homebred
8—OK Feisty (Modern Art-Camaronni N Cheese)	S. Zeron/D. Menary	8-1	FC (\$20,000)/Oak Knoll Stables
9—Angels Delight (Rocknroll Hanover-Belovedangel)	R. Waples/R. McIntosh	5-1	Homebred



Trainer Chuck Sylvester knows a good horse when he sees one. He's won three Hambletonians and in 2010 finished second in the race with Lucky Chucky. This winter he is Hambo dreaming once again with the colt Spider Blue Chip.

"I have a very good crop training. I definitely have a lot of chances this year to succeed," said Sylvester, who is training 13 two year olds at his Florida winter base at Sunshine Meadows.

Spider Blue Chip (Andover Hall-Southwind Caitlin) won \$89,182 as a 2 year old and took a mark of 1:56f, and Sylvester is already smiling about the way his colt has trained for the 2013 season.

"I think Spider Blue Chip is the real deal," he said of the colt owned by Dave McDuffee and Mel Hartman. "He is Hambletonian eligible and has been training very good."

As for 2 year olds, Sylvester has a barn full of phenomenal pedigrees and high hopes. Can Can Frisco (Cantab Hall-Aerobics) is a half sister to Lucky Chucky and has shown promise recently after a shaky start.

"She was not very good all winter. At one point, I was ready to consider breeding options," he added. "Then, the last two weeks she has been much better."

Another filly under Sylvester's control is Graceful Kelly (Muscles Yankee-Graceful Touch), a full sister to Muscle Massive and the Merrie Annabelle winner Thatsnotmyname.

"She is a very small filly. Perretti brought her back from the sale for breeding purposes, but gave her a try first. She does her work very well," Sylvester noted.

On the colt side, Sylvester has several that have made great impressions thus far. Royal Dazzler (Donato Hanover-Royal Bait), from the family of the super filly Peaceful Way, has been a standout for Sylvester.

"I like him. If nothing happens, I really think that he is the real deal," he said.

Another colt showing promise is Big Chum, a flashy Explosive Matter out of \$180,000 winner Anklet Hanover.

One change for Sylvester this year is that he picked up two young pacers. Fanticipation (Rocknroll Hanover-Real Fanfare), and Easter Surprise (Allamerican Native-Ultimate Test) bring no complaints from their trainer.

"I haven't had pacers in awhile," he said. "They can go so fast so early, which makes it hard to tell."

Meanwhile, in northern Florida at Spring Garden Ranch, Steve Elliott, whose last home-run horse was 2009 Pacer of the Year Well Said, has just one colt from the sire's first crop in his stable, which consists of 11 two year olds.

"We bid on a bunch but we just didn't get them. You set your price and if you get them, you get them, and if you don't, you don't," said Elliott.

Elliott's Well Said-sired pupil is Angela M Fra, who was bought at the Harrisburg sale for a bargain-basement price of \$5,000. The filly is the second foal out of the Pro Bono Best mare Easy Go Go, a half sister to world champion and \$2.6 million winner Artistic Fella, also trained by Elliott.

Bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, Angelina M Fra was named Esotric Hanover when purchased by Christine Matos and Angelo Frassetto's The Fra Stable. She was re-named in honor of Frassetto's granddaughter.

Churchill Hanover, a son of Well Said who is a sibling to millionaires Cabrini Hanover and Cathedral Dot Com, as well as standout performers Western Shooter and The Preacher Pan, was the highest-priced yearling sold at auction last year with a price of \$380,000. Seventy-nine sons or daughters of Well Said went through the ring last year at Harrisburg and Lexington, bringing an average of \$53,911. Angelina M Fra was third from the bottom on the modest price scale.

"I don't understand it because she sold as hip 145," Elliott said. "She only had offset knees on her, otherwise she was fine. She was tough early but ever since she's been fine."

Elliott said he went a 2:23 training mile with Angelina M Fra on Monday morning, March 18, adding that a specific race schedule has yet to be set.

"At two, she'll probably only be in the sire stakes and one or two other races, and then at three, she'll probably be in a lot of things. That's how Angelo likes to do things," said Elliott. "I only want to get eight or 10 starts out of any 2 year old." — *By Jay Hochstetler & Gordon Waterstone*



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BREEDING *Banter*

Rocknroll Hanover's tragic passing at age 11, which came just five years after Perretti Farms lost Windsong's Legacy, brought many folks in the breeding community to recall past cases of studs dying too young.

Chris Coyle, who operates Olive Branch Farm in North Carolina, worked at Blue Chip Farms in New York when Most Happy Fella was euthanized.

"I spent six weeks at New Bolton Center with Most Happy Fella," recalled Coyle. "When the horse had to go to New Bolton, they asked me to go

because I was single and didn't have a family."

In late 1983, Most Happy Fella was 16 years old when he slammed a knee into a fence in his paddock.

"A deer jumped into his paddock and spooked him, and he made skid marks 25-feet long where he tried to stop in the wet field," said Coyle. "He shattered a knee and they put him in a primitive splint back then. They were trying to get the bone to calcify so he could bear weight and eventually breed again. But he started to founder on his other right front. I just remember Mr. Brown (Blue Chip farm manager Bill Brown) crying over the phone when we knew the horse would be euthanized. He could barely speak."

Hanover Shoe Farms has also suffered unexpected stud losses in its long history. Most recently, on July 17, 1990, Tyler B, whose first crop included Dragon's Lair and Dignatarian, died at age 13. In the late 1970s Hanover also lost the young pacing sire Armbro Nesbit, who had just three crops of foals, among them the fast filly Armbro Vibrant.

"With Armbro Nesbit it was completely expected," said Hanover's Murray Brown of that sire's death. "I'm pretty sure that he had EPM, which was a totally unknown condition at that time. At first he showed a slight lack of coordination in his rear end. It evolved to the point where he couldn't handle his rear end at all. He would go down and could not get up. He was in a sling for a few days and eventually had to be euthanized.

"Tyler B's passing was a complete shock," recalled Brown. "He was turned out, he ran up and down his paddock once, and just keeled over. Apparently he had an aneurysm or something similar."

The same week Tyler B died Nihilator was taken to New Bolton Center with a case of laminitis. He recovered and stood stud in 1991, but suffered another bout of laminitis that fall and was euthanized on Nov. 6 at age nine.

Brown also reminded that two stallions who died young at Hanover are among those having the greatest impact on the breed: Spencer Scott and Billy Direct. Spencer Scott died at age 10, thankfully after he had sired Rodney, who

started the male line that produced Speedy Crown and Valley Victory.

Billy Direct, the first pacer to stand at Hanover, died at 12 but first gave the breed Tar Heel. "There are very few pacers alive today that don't carry his blood," added Brown.

Rocknroll Hanover's passing in the midst of the breeding season sent many owners of pacing broodmares scheduled to be bred to Rocknroll Hanover scrambling for alternative studs.

Among the mares looking for a date was Artistic Vision, who teamed up with Rocknroll Hanover to produce 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven. Artistic Vision is due to deliver a foal by Rocknroll Hanover any day now and she was scheduled to be bred back to the stallion. Steve Stewart of Hunterton Farms, who bred Rock N Roll Heaven in partnership with Cotton, Julie and Francene Nash, who own Artistic Vision, said the logical choice for the mare was Western Ideal, the sire of Rocknroll Hanover.

Rock N Roll Heaven stands at Blue Chip Farms in New York and his book has been closed. He was bred to 90 mares in 2012 and is standing his third year at stud.

Rocknroll Hanover's sire Western Ideal, who stands at Hanover Shoe Farms, picked up five or six mares earlier in the week.

Brittany Farms has closed out the book of Western Ideal's son American Ideal, who it stands at Blue Chip Farms in New York. Brittany is also seeing the first results of the siring prowess of its homebred stud Vintage Master, who it stands at stud at Winbak Farm of Canada in Ontario.

On March 2, Brittany's broodmare Major Harmony gave birth to a colt by Vintage Master at the farm in Versailles, Ky. Brittany manager Art Zubrod said Major Harmony's colt "is the kind of foal you hope for" when planning a mating.



On March 2, this Vintage Master-Major Harmony colt was born at Brittany Farms in Versailles, Ky.

"I'm very pleased with the amount of leg and size," said Zubrod. "And this colt has an interesting pedigree, as he's out of Major Harmony (by Art Major), making him line-bred 2 x 4 to the great race mare and producer Napa Valley."

Doubling up on a mare's blood in a pedigree is something Brittany has done recently with great success. The farm's homebred filly American Jewel carries a dose of Three Diamonds on both her paternal and maternal sides.

Zubrod said that American Jewel, a daughter of American Ideal, has settled into the

routine of a broodmare. She was bred to Somebeachsome-where but did not conceive so is scheduled for another breeding soon. Another maiden mare, Onthebrightside 3, 1:53.4 (Cantab Hall-Passionate Glide-Yankee Glide), is being bred to Credit Winner. —By Kathy Parker

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I have long been a fan of the Meadowlands racing and I also have bet relatively significant amounts of money over the years and after I looked at the entries for this weekend I felt that I had to write someone to air my frustrations.

While I have admired what the new management has been trying to do and the racing this year has been very competitive with full fields and good drivers I see this is the weakest weekend card put together this year and some of the drivers listed simply should not be racing at the Meadowlands as they are not good enough.

I noticed Tetrick and Gingras have gone to Yonkers Friday and Saturday and I have now learned that they will probably be there for the next five or six weekends and this will make it very difficult for me to bet with confidence on the races at the Meadowlands which also are of much poorer quality and probably not nearly as competitive as they have been all year.

As a fan and gambler I ask if you know if anyone in Meadowlands management has ever considered changing their racing schedule this time of year during the Levy Series and maybe racing on Monday and Tuesday when there is less competition and maybe get better horses that may have gone somewhere else and also keep the better drivers.

This is something that me and my friends also talked about last year and we also thought that more days in the winter would be a good idea when there is less competition from other tracks like Pocono and Chester as we like to bet on the Big M and we even thought it

then might be OK to close for awhile this time of year when the horses and drivers are not that good.

I have really enjoyed betting at the Meadowlands this year with the increased handle and larger pools and I would hate to see that change as it would also affect how much I will play and looking at what's racing this weekend was very disappointing.

Maybe you could ask the people at the Meadowlands if it is possible to make any changes to their schedule for now or even in the future and if it is something that they have even thought about and I appreciate anything you can do about this.

Thank you.
Dennis Martin
Hoboken, N.J.

Editor's Note:

The Meadowlands was asked to comment about the suggestion and provided the following:

"The moving to racing Monday and Tuesday would do nothing to help the horse population. There are still the same number of horses to go around, so whatever day you are racing, you are dealing with the same issue. In addition, moving racing to Monday and Tuesday would cause us to take a large hit to our live handle, which as you know is the most valuable portion of our revenue. Just as an example, a typical Thursday night of racing does half the live handle of Friday and roughly one-third the live handle of a Saturday. The further up the work week you go, the lower the live handle gets. In addition, on Monday we would still be racing against Northfield, Yonkers and Woodbine, and on Tuesday we would be racing against Northfield, Pocono, Yonkers and Rosecroft, so it's not like there is a total lack of competition."



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Faraldo Comments On “Cartels” And Handle

The following editorial was written by Joseph A. Faraldo, an attorney and president of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York, representing the over 1,000 owners, trainers and drivers regularly competing at Yonkers Raceway. He is a director and past chairman of the Board of the United States Trotting Association.

Faraldo told harnessracing.com that he wrote the following editorial because of his concerns that the increase in handle at the Meadowlands has not translated into an increase in purses, presumably because a “cartel” has been responsible for the additional wagering.

“My concern is people are going to be turned off and not bet on our game. My position is directed at anyone doing this in racing, not just the Meadowlands,” said Faraldo. “I believe there also may be other tracks dealing with cartels. This concerns me that others will want to pay less than six percent for our signals.”

Faraldo’s editorial follows:

The “loss leader” is a concept that has been used in business forever. Basically, a product is offered at a price that generates no profit for the sake of generating increased activity. So, if you make a million dollars in sales, but your production costs are a million, you really haven’t accomplished a whole heck of a lot.

It is only against this backdrop that one may appropriately consider the purported spike in handle at the New Meadowlands Racetrack. In this regard, there is a legitimate concern posed by the phenomenon referred to as “cartel wagering.”

The accommodation of the cartel at the New Meadowlands was recently exposed in an insightful Daily Racing Form article penned by Jay Bergman. Again, while everyone wants to see handle increase, the fundamental question that must be asked is at what cost?

The typical cartel represents a small group of sophisticated, moneyed players that have developed an elaborate, highly structured computer analysis handicapping and wagering system. The cartel then invests huge sums of money into track pools. Because of their level of investment, track management treats the cartel like an Advanced Deposit Wagering System. Unlike an ADW, however, the cartel doesn’t take action from players like you or I; rather, it is the player.

Here’s how it works. The track that wants to increase handle sells its signal to the cartel just like it was an ADW, but at a cheaper rate. Why? Well the cartel is expected or obligated to guarantee a certain level of play at a track. For example, let’s say the cartel commits to \$300,000 in wagers per night on New Meadowlands races. To entice that level of play, the track sells its signal to the cartel for one-third the usual rate. Thus, while the New Meadowlands sells its sig-

nal to everybody else at a premium of around six percent, the Cartel is charged only two percent. Other tracks and ADWs still pay the higher rates.

So, how does the reality of this loss leader play out? Simply, even if handle is tripled, since the price charged to those responsible for a large component of that handle is a third of what it “sells” to other bettors, both the track and horsemen are still in the same position economically. The addition of gross handle in this fashion produces a zero-sum effect, resulting in no additional revenue being generated to increase purses or add a race day. Sadly, it has done nothing for increasing on-track wagering heralded as a major accomplishment at the New Meadowlands. If the strategy has any positive ramification at all, it is that added handle generates more handle from other entities, like ADWs or other tracks whose rate was not lowered. Presumably, this bump in activity could at some point produce some increase in retained revenue for enhanced purses, but at the cost of other fellow racetracks, their horsemen and ADWs who pay the premium rate.

What does it all mean? Thanks to crackerjack computer software, coupled with the benefit of being afforded bargain basement pricing by the track, the cartel make a profit at the expense of the other bettors. Meanwhile, the New Meadowlands makes a little extra money, but nowhere near the benefit it should be realizing from what is daily touted as harness racing’s largest handle. In effect, the high handle number is an illusion: Yes, there are a lot more dollars passing through the tote system, but very little of it produces a retained amount beneficial to the horsemen, the track or its investors who are played for more support.

The economic illusion serves as an excellent device to get more investors to contribute to track management.

It gets tiresome reading the daily pats on the back of growing handle because of all the smart things going on at the Meadowlands— yet the truth is that there will be no additional race dates and no meaningful purse increases because, the truth be known, on-track handle is flat.

Then there is the potential for danger with these cartels. For example, an entity betting that \$300,000 per card into pools via computer technology has the ability to manipulate those pools. A cartel certainly has the ability to, for example, create false favorites by pumping money into the win pool on an entrant/s in the first flashes of the tote board. It’s even more dangerous if, like ADWs, it can later cancel those wagers. Other bettors will be influenced to follow the early money.

The DRF article did glimpse at this when it discussed some early favorites that didn’t really figure from a handicapping point of view. Was this the cartel, the big fish, placing money on a horse, sucking in others to believe that there was a reason for making the no apparent form horse the choice?

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

Sound crazy? Well there have been instances at the New Meadowlands where at the start of a race three or four horses open up with large win bets in equal denominations— \$2,000 to win on different horses in a race— which distorts and skews the pool odds significantly. While the cartel may not be at the root of the Saturday (Feb. 16) late double at the New Meadowlands, the \$17 horse and a \$56 horse combined for a mere payoff of \$133.00 in a \$32,000 pool. Results like this are quite hard to ignore, much less justify to the non-cartel type bettor.

The bottom line is that while a steadily increasing handle sure looks good, and maybe lures more investment money to management's pocket, it is not at all efficacious to the purse account. The cartel wagering entities come with risks that can produce more harm than good. The SOA of NY thought about dealing with cartels or, even worse, exchange wagering that NJ has authorized (where you can bet on a horse to lose). It's just too huge a risk to integrity, and makes the payoff a bad bet, both long and short term.

Meadowlands Responds To Faraldo's Comments

While it is unfortunate that Mr. Faraldo has targeted the Meadowlands in another public outburst that would have been better left to a private discussion, due to the vast inaccuracies in his "editorial," the Meadowlands Racetrack feels compelled to respond.

Yes, the Meadowlands Racetrack, like many other racetracks with larger-sized pools has players that bet through a computer-assisted wagering system. The notion that these players are a "cartel" is erroneous. Contrary to Mr. Faraldo's beliefs, the Meadowlands Racetrack has not been made any guarantees from a wagering prospective by these players.

For full disclosure, prior to the start of our meet, the Meadowlands has amended an existing simulcast agreement with one of our present customers which would likely result in their increased wagering. We did this mainly to see if by their added handle it would encourage others to wager into the larger pools. To protect ourselves and our customers that if there was a problem, we intentionally added a clause that would allow us to cancel the agreement on three days-notice. Fortunately the results are better than expected. That increase has been nearly \$7 million, or 29 percent of our overall handle increase. However, there has been additional 71 percent in increases from other sources, just as we had hoped. Therefore, the idea that these bettors are creating "the illusion of beneficial revenue" is false.

The simple truth is these players bet more than the average customer, thus receive a larger rebate. This is a concept that has existed since the opening of casinos in this country. A \$1,000 per hand blackjack player is going to receive a larger rebate than a \$10 per hand player.

The allegation that New Jersey horsemen are not seeing "beneficial revenue" is also false. By the end of this racing season, the SBOANJ will receive additional revenue well into six-figures directly from these larger players. The agreement was made with the full support of the SBOANJ and its leader, Tom Luchento, had this to say: "The Meadowlands Racetrack and the SBOANJ have an outstanding relationship. We support each other in everything we do. The Meadowlands Racetrack is an industry leader in moving this sport in the right direction and utilizing new ideas to make The Meadowlands successful. The idea that the management at the Meadowlands and Jeff Gural would ever do something that would harm the horsemen of New Jersey is utterly ridiculous and offensive to both The Meadowlands and the horsemen of New Jersey."

Mr. Faraldo also questions the revenue earned by the Meadowlands on these bettors in relation to the purse account. For full disclosure, The Meadowlands has carried an overpayment into the purse account for 2013 of nearly \$300,000. Thanks to our game plan for 2013, we are on track to wipe out that overpayment by year-end. It is impossible to raise purses until it is proven that we will continue to have full fields since the Pennsylvania tracks have opened and a total handle that continues to perform at the same consistent level it has all year.

Furthermore, the allegation that the Meadowlands is misleading its investors and "playing them for more support" is both erroneous and defamatory. The Meadowlands Racetrack is in constant communication with our investors as they are given daily updates of how our business is doing. They have been extremely pleased with the progress we have made in 2013 at both the Meadowlands Racetrack and Winners Bayonne.

It comes as quite a shock that Mr. Faraldo would grow "tiresome" of reading about The Meadowlands success. The national handle figures published on the USTA website, show an increase of over \$50 million in industry-wide betting handle in 2013. The Meadowlands Racetrack is responsible for 45 percent of that increase. Thus, the Meadowlands is literally driving the industry in the right direction. But rather than supporting the Meadowlands, since the industry is clearly so dependent upon its success, he tries to tear it down. This is one of the major problems within our industry today.

In his editorial, Mr. Faraldo touches upon the subject of integrity. With all due respect, no racetrack in this sport has done more to promote integrity than The Meadowlands. No person in this sport has done more to promote integrity than Jeff Gural. When a trainer is suspended, the Meadowlands does not allow that trainer's horses to be raced under an "assistant's" name for the duration of that suspension. We believe our customers appreciate the stand we have taken in this regard and it is reflected in our handle.

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Additionally, Mr. Faraldo cites two examples that could represent the danger of these larger players and the potential for pool manipulation. Let's put this to rest right now. Neither of his two examples have anything to do with larger computer-assisted wagers. The individual that wagers \$2,000 to win on multiple horses does so at a simulcast facility at a teller window. Furthermore, the \$2,000 win bets are never cancelled, so where is the pool manipulation? The daily double made reference to was also predominantly due to an individual who placed a large daily double wager at the Meadowlands. After looking into the wager, there was nothing suspicious or "manipulative" about the wager. Neither incident stemmed from large computer bettors at all.

We apologize that this editorial required a public response and we hope to have clarified the issues raised by Mr. Faraldo to our betting customers as they are what matters the most to us. Lastly, if Mr. Faraldo took issue with a business decision the Meadowlands Racetrack made, he should have contacted us privately and professionally. Quite frankly, his concerns should focus on the Standardbred horsemen of New York and he should leave the Meadowlands to us. After all, despite boasting large purses thanks to an approximate \$50 Million casino-subsidized purse account, The Meadowlands consistently handles five times more wagering dollars than Yonkers on Saturday night. This is because large purses alone do not make for a great betting product. However, the integrity-driven, quality racing that the Meadowlands presents does make for that great betting product. *(Meadowlands)*

Ohio Commission: Still Not Enough Seats

For the second week in a row, on Wednesday morning officials from both Penn National Gaming and Miami Valley Gaming and Racing presented plans for proposed new harness racetracks in Dayton to the Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC). And for the second week in a row, were told to come back next week with further revisions.

Penn National has proposed moving the Beulah Park Thoroughbred track in Columbus to Austintown, in the northeast corner of the state, and Raceway Park to north Dayton. The plans presented to the commission for both Penn National sites are nearly identical. Miami Valley—a partnership of Churchill Downs Inc. and Delaware North—plans to move Lebanon Raceway to south Dayton.

The OSRC earlier expressed concerns about seating at the proposed facilities, including the numbers and those which had a view of the racetrack. In its latest presentation, Penn National showed revisions to add more than 600 bleacher seats at Hollywood Dayton Raceway, which would increase seating from 770 to 1,400. There is still a concern that those seats are outside and exposed to the weather.

Although the revised plan calls for increasing the number of inside seats from 220 to 518, the commission again expressed dissatisfaction with sight lines from those seats.

Miami Valley's plans call for seating for 860 persons and the commission expressed a desire to increase that number to 1,200.

Revised plans are scheduled to be presented at the next meeting of the racing commission on Wednesday morning, March 27.

MacDonald Crosses Hudson To Meadowlands

Beginning Saturday, driver Mark MacDonald will be making a change in his driving plans. For at least the duration of the winter meet, MacDonald will be driving Friday and Saturday nights at the Meadowlands.

Macdonald said several factor played into his decision. "The Meadowlands is where I always wanted to be, it's the place to drive. With the stakes races at Yonkers coming up and some of the Meadowlands regulars following horses over to Yonkers, some opportunities have opened up at the Meadowlands. Plus if you are there full time, you tend to get more chances."

While MacDonald is committed to drive through the end at the winter meet, this move is not necessarily timed out once the Championship Meet kicks off. "If I can get things going well at the Meadowlands, then I'll stay. Like I said, when I came down here I always wanted to drive at the Meadowlands, I like the bigger track too."

At just 34 years of age, MacDonald has over 5,100 victories and lifetime earnings of over \$64 million. His two biggest wins came in the Little Brown Jug with Mr. Feel-good and the North America Cup with Sportswriter. *(Meadowlands)*



RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through March 19, 2013 (week difference March 13-19).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Golden Receiver (8pg)	5	5	0	0	\$121,750
Versado (6pg)	10	5	1	0	102,330
Escape The News (4pg)	7	5	2	0	92,875
Sparky Mark (6ph)	6	3	3	0	79,740
Oil Magnet (9pg)	6	6	0	0	78,050
Rusty's All In (7ph)	11	3	3	1	77,150
Holdingallthecards (4pg)	7	6	0	0	74,700
Greystone Ladylike (4pm)	9	3	4	1	72,077
Watkins (6tg)	9	2	3	2	71,955
Do Me Honor (5pm)	9	5	3	1	69,450
Casimir Jitterbug (6pg)	5	3	2	0	69,195
Warrawee Koine (7pm)	7	3	3	0	66,250
Stolen Car (5ph)	8	2	3	0	66,050
Mr Dennis (4pg)	10	2	2	3	61,590
Define The World (8tg)	5	3	1	0	61,265

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	861	170-132-112	.326	\$1,645,176 (\$138,426)
Brian Sears	452	115-77-70	.401	1,486,835 (110,370)
George Brennan	484	80-89-55	.305	1,268,460 (141,265)
Matt Kakaley	433	89-47-69	.319	1,257,310 (133,360)
Ron Pierce	614	96-95-80	.286	1,197,546 (176,428)
Tim Tetrick	554	94-75-69	.286	1,073,674 (148,535)
Yannick Gingras	395	81-65-48	.337	1,050,606 (198,100)
Dave Palone	513	143-83-53	.403	1,036,441 (112,736)
Jody Jamieson	443	87-66-47	.315	909,156 (108,392)
Scott Zeron	369	72-47-43	.305	900,684 (88,603)
Jason Bartlett	435	52-56-54	.232	895,002 (81,540)
David Miller	398	66-56-49	.285	842,459 (148,070)
Ross Wolfenden	650	84-85-84	.245	806,076 (78,890)
Eric Carlson	602	58-70-64	.196	784,045 (53,760)
Aaron Merriman	701	102-104-96	.274	769,335 (67,195)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	623	179-89-72	.405	\$2,064,459 (\$249,847)
Rene Allard	365	93-58-34	.374	765,139 (110,572)
Richard Moreau	343	67-59-52	.341	660,959 (51,033)
Michael Hall	223	49-42-29	.368	549,888 (33,904)
Mark Ford	292	31-38-31	.214	521,360 (106,325)
P.J. Fraley	167	26-23-23	.278	444,382 (71,320)
Tony O'Sullivan	132	23-31-10	.330	428,075 (42,486)
Josh Green	182	44-26-26	.369	423,815 (28,170)
Mark Harder	110	21-11-20	.307	353,072 (42,280)
Dylan Davis	169	37-23-24	.342	343,582 (30,960)
Carmen Auciello	207	24-28-18	.220	325,790 (27,768)
Joe Hundertpfund Jr.	162	44-26-20	.402	319,911 (26,565)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	162	30-28-23	.329	286,002 (23,181)
Randy Bendis	169	29-27-21	.302	282,497 (28,444)
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	87	20-17-11	.381	282,190 (80,435)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	565	226	367	\$3,127,200
Winbak Farm	548	203	316	2,447,016
Brittany Farms	159	73	136	1,197,761
Perretti Farms	172	70	112	891,828
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	141	55	92	833,166
Perfect World Enterprises	106	45	65	599,409
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	87	37	60	535,368
Walnut Hall Limited	123	44	67	520,387
White Birch Farm	83	35	61	512,478
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	73	28	46	449,830
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	89	35	59	448,166
Frederick Hertrich III	86	37	65	436,190
Jules & Arlene Siegel	90	35	57	424,724
Seelster Farms Inc.	95	36	64	415,886
Fox Valley Standardbreds	96	34	44	410,795

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for March 13-19 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Dave Palone	55	18-7-7
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	73	15-10-7
Billy Dobson	39	14-5-3
Ron Pierce	85	14-11-9
Corey Callahan	95	13-9-13
Tim Tetrick	84	13-16-9
Yannick Gingras	62	13-13-9
Brett Miller	43	12-4-5
David Miller	78	12-10-11
Matt Kakaley	42	12-2-8
Doug McNair	45	11-3-7
Ross Wolfenden	48	10-7-6
Trevor Henry	32	10-7-1
Bruce Ranger	33	9-7-3
Chris Page	42	9-5-5
George Brennan	44	9-8-2
Tyler Smith	32	9-7-3

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	19
Mark Ford	10
Rene Allard	8
Colin Johnson	6
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	6
Erv Miller	5
Joseph Hundertpfund Jr.	5
P.J. Fraley	5
Peter Pellegrino	5
Virgil Morgan Jr.	5
Angie Affrunti	4
Ben Stafford	4
Brian Georges	4
Daniel Crieghton	4
Daniel Gill	4
David McCaffrey	4
Dylan Davis	4
Harla Loney	4
Les Givens	4
Matias Ruiz	4
Michael Palone	4
Richard Moreau	4
Robert Lounsbury	4
Timothy Torbert	4
Vincent Fusco Jr.	4