

Bamond's Trio On Edge In Matchmaker Series

Round three of the six-week Blue Chip Matchmaker Series for older pacing mares is on tap Friday night at Yonkers Raceway and trainer Jeff Bamond Jr. will again send out a formidable trio in Anndrovette, Krispy Apple and Venus Delight in each of the three \$40,000 divisions.

While last year's first two legs of the Matchmaker yielded wins by Krispy Apple and Venus Delight, none of Bamond's triumvirate have reached the winner's circle yet this year.

"I'm happy with all of them," said Bamond. "It's definitely a long series and it's not who wins first, it's who wins last."

Venus Delight is the defending Blue Chip Matchmaker champion, a prestigious notch on her 2015 resume that led to the now 6-year-old daughter of Bettor's Delight being voted the Dan Patch Older Pacing Mare of the Year. Venus Delight took the title away from Anndrovette, who was voted divisional honors four consecutive years from 2011-2014 (tied with Rocklamation in 2014).

Venus Delight starts from post 2 in the second Matchmaker split (Race 6) with Jason Bartlett driving. This will be Venus Delight's third start of the year, following up a second and fourth in the opening two rounds of the Matchmaker Series.

"Venus didn't really have too much racing luck last week," explained Bamond. "She sat in and then didn't have great cover. You try and get as many points as you can in as good as a start as you can without doing too much work."

Krispy Apple has a pair of seconds in her Matchmaker splits. The 8-year-old daughter of Western Ideal starts from post 6 in the first Matchmaker division on Friday (Race 5) with Bartlett driving.

"Six out of six, when you draw outside at Yonkers it all depends on the (time at the) half," said Bamond. "As soon as you see the half you know if you have a shot or not. Some of those races that get to the half in :58, you're done."

"(Bartlett) may decide to leave the gate. There are not a lot of mares left so you don't have to leave, but sometimes it just makes sense."

As for Anndrovette, the 9-year-old daughter of Riverboat King enters Friday's race as the second richest pacing mare

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"It's definitely a long series and it's not who wins first, it's who wins last."

—Jeff Bamond Jr.

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of all-time with \$3,469,848 in earnings. She is just \$278,726 behind the leading Eternal Camnaton, which places the top spot in firm sight.

Anndrovette will make her second start of the year on Friday night, starting from post 3 with Tim Tetrick driving in the third division (Race 7). After missing the Matchmaker opener, Anndrovette finished third in her round-two division.

"I was very happy with her first start," said Bamond. "I thought she came out of the race good. I was really happy with the way she finished up good. Everything you want to see in a first start, she did."

Continues on page 2 >>>>

Post Position Wins at Yonkers Raceway

PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Starts	686	686	686	686	686	684	663	503	50	45
Win	139	97	105	115	108	58	38	18	5	5
Place	124	133	102	109	91	58	44	19	4	5
Show	113	125	109	96	102	66	34	27	6	4
Percent in Money										
Win	20.3	14.1	15.3	16.8	15.7	8.5	5.7	3.6	10.0	11.1
Place	38.3	33.5	30.2	32.7	29.0	17.0	12.4	7.4	18.0	22.2
Show	5.8	51.7	46.1	46.6	43.9	26.6	17.5	12.7	30.0	31.1

USTA stats through 3/29/2016

Bamond said he is aware of the earnings record but admits it's not something he is solely focused on. "I've looked it but I don't know the exact number. It's not like if she wins this week I will cross off a number and mark it down," said Bamond. "I know she's close and if she does it, she does it. If she doesn't I wouldn't take anything away from her. She doesn't owe us anything."

Bamond will also have a starter in each of the four George Morton Levy Memorial Series divisions on Saturday night at Yonkers. The group includes Bettorever, Mach It So, 2014 Levy champ PH Supercam, and Ideal

"...if he gets out of there fast enough then maybe there is a seat in behind him!"

—Jeff Bamond Jr.

Cowboy, who starts from post 8 (with driver Bartlett) in the same Levy split as 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit. Wiggle It Jiggleit will be making his Levy debut five nights after a 1:51.4 score on March 28 at Dover Downs in his first appearance of the year. Wiggle It Jiggleit will

start inside of Ideal Cowboy in post 7 in the third Levy division (Race 8).

"I would have rather been one spot inside of him because if you could leave under him you could end up getting a good trip," said Bamond. "The other way to look at is that if he gets out of there fast enough then maybe there is a seat in behind him. He's a great horse and if he makes the lead and gets the fractions he got (at Dover Downs) he will be awfully tough to beat." —By Gordon Waterstone



THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, April 1

- 8:30p YR5 **Matchmaker** OMP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 8:50p YR6 **Matchmaker** OMP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 9:10p YR7 **Matchmaker** OMP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- [Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

Saturday, April 2

- 8:30p YR5 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 8:50p YR6 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 9:10p YR7 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 9:30p YR8 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 - 9:50p YR9 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
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HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

Kathy Parker
kparker@harnessracing.com
 Editor/ General Manager

Lynne Myers
lm Myers@harnessracing.com
 Advertising Manager

Gordon Waterstone
gwaterstone@harnessracing.com
 Associate Editor

Suzanne Starbuck
sstarbuck@harnessracing.com
 Production Manager

Heather Kemper
hkemper@harnessracing.com
 Assistant Production Manager

Vanessa Flannery
vflannery@harnessracing.com
 Accounting & Circulation

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

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US \$500,000
-US \$500-
Final Sustaining Payment - \$600 -- due May 15
Entrance Fee: \$5,000

THE ELEVATION

\$150,000 Est in 2016
-\$500-
Open. To be raced Saturday, September 24 at Hoosier Park
Final Sustaining Payment - \$500-- Due May 15
Entrance Fee: \$750

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT PACE 2016

2 Year Old Filly Pace
\$250,000 Est. in 2016
To race Saturday, September 24 at Hoosier Park
-\$500-
Final Sustaining Payment - \$1,000 -- due May 15
Entrance Fee: \$1,250

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT TROT 2016

2 Year Old Filly Trot -- Open To The World.
\$200,000 Est. in 2016
To race Friday, September 23 at Hoosier Park
-\$500-
Final Sustaining Payment - \$1,000 -- due May 15
Entrance Fee: \$1,250

MADISON COUNTY (for 2-year-olds)

\$75,000 Est. in 2016
-\$300-
To be raced Saturday, October 29 at Hoosier Park
Entrance Fee: \$300

MATRON SERIES 2016 (for 2-year-olds)

-\$400-
To be raced Thursday, November 3 at Dover Downs
Top 8 format
Final Sustaining Fee - \$500 -- due May 15
Entrance Fee: \$1,000

THREE-YEAR-OLDS

BREEDERS CROWN® No. 29

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-US \$900-
To race Saturday, October 29, at Meadowlands Racetrack
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For more information about supplements and regular entries, please contact the office
Entrance Fee: \$7,500

MATRON SERIES 2016 (for 3-year-olds)

-\$750-
To be raced at Dover Downs Thursday, November 10
Top 8 format
Entrance Fee: \$1,500

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-\$1,000-
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Pace Entrance Fee: \$8,000

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WIJI To Be First HOY To Race In Levy Series

On Saturday, the 4-year-old Wiggle It Jiggleit will become the first returning Horse of the Year Award winner to ever compete in the George Morton Levy Memorial Series at Yonkers Raceway. The Levy began in 1978 and was raced through 1996 before an 11-year hiatus. The event returned in 2007.

Wiggle It Jiggleit, who was not entered in the first two rounds of this year's six-week series, will start from post 7 in Saturday's third of four \$50,000 divisions. Montell Teague will drive Wiggle

"The first race back always makes you a little nervous, but he was good and I was very happy with him."

—George Teague Jr.

It Jiggleit for trainer Clyde Francis and owners George Teague Jr. Inc. and Teague Racing Partnership.

Despite starting from an outside post, Wiggle It Jiggleit is the 2-1 morning line favorite in his third-round division, which also includes the Levy's defending champion, Domethatagain, as well as morning line second choice Ideal Cowboy.

Wiggle It Jiggleit heads to the series off a victory in his seasonal debut Monday night at Dover Downs. For his career, the gelding has won 24 of 28 races and earned \$2.21 million. He captured 22 of 26 starts last season on his way to being named Horse of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

"The first race back always makes you a little nervous, but he was good and I was very happy with him," owner George Teague Jr. said. "He didn't get beat up, so I felt bet-

ter putting him back in (to race Saturday). I wish I'd drawn better than post seven, but I'm sure everyone that draws outside at Yonkers feels the same way too."

Wiggle It Jiggleit, a son of Mr Wiggles-Mozzi Hanover, will need to be at his half-mile best on Saturday as he attempts to overcome his outside starting spot. Post 7 at Yonkers has produced winners in only 5.7 percent of 663 starts.

"I haven't raced there much, but I've watched the races over there and it doesn't seem like a normal half-mile track," said the 25-year-old Montrell Teague, who in his career has driven nine races at Yonkers. "It's a little different coming from the outside there; a little harder to get to the front. They say the inside horses have at least a length advantage going into that (first) turn. Hopefully, we can get a good trip."

Wiggle It Jiggleit's late arrival to the Levy puts him in a difficult spot to qualify for the \$200,000-added final on April 23. Horses receive 25 points for entering, then 50 points for a win, 25 for second place, 12 for third, 8 for fourth and 5 for fifth. Bit Of A Legend N, Lucan Hanover, and Take It Back Terry are all 2-for-2 in the series and the top 11 horses in the standings have at least 100 points so far.

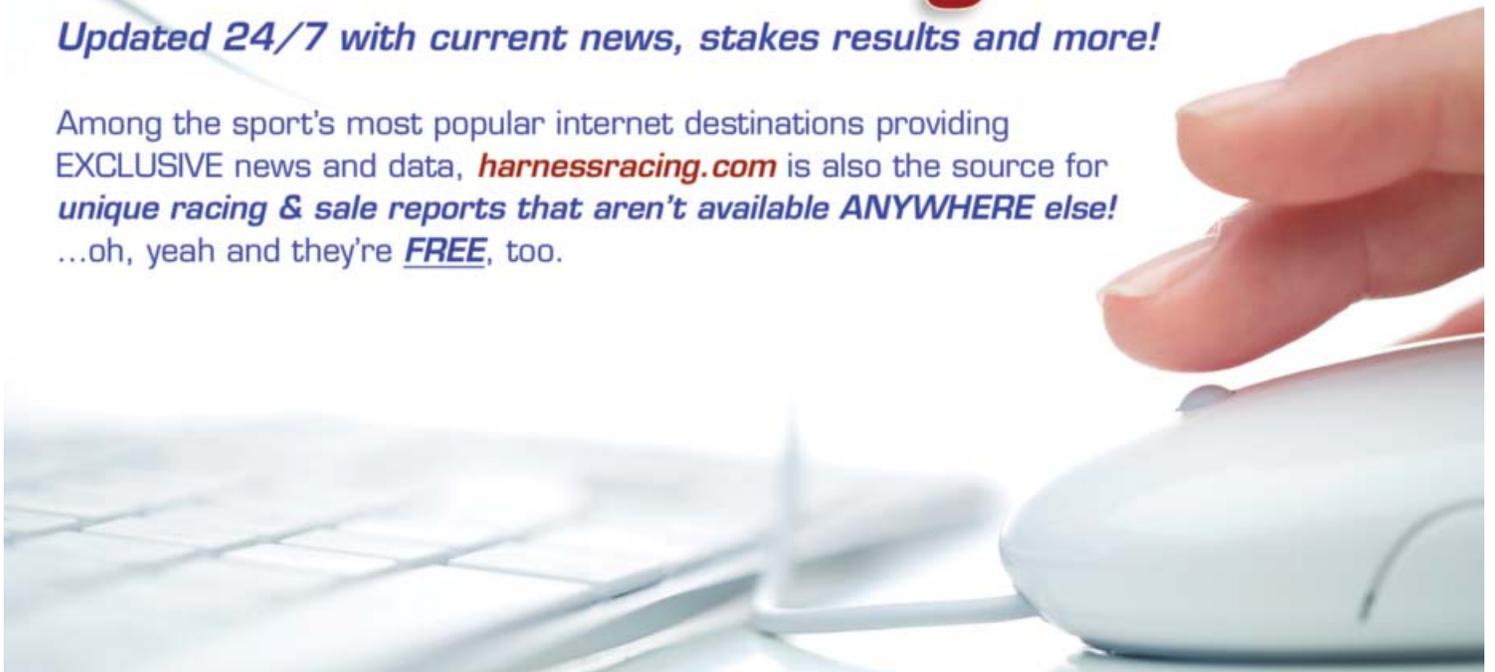
"I hope we can make it to the final," George Teague said. "I know it's going to be a tough task. But even if he doesn't, I've put up \$5,000 (to nominate Wiggle It Jiggleit to the Levy) to race for \$50,000 each week. Where else am I going to race? I don't believe in giving him off six months and then racing. My theory is to race him now."

If Wiggle It Jiggleit can advance and win the Levy final, he would be the first 4 year old to do so since Whiteland Trouble in 1992. (HRC)

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Entry Box Full For Hoosier Park's Friday Opener

Hoosier Park Racing & Casino's 2016 live harness racing meet will get off to a strong start on Friday, April 1, as the season opener attracted a record number of horses to the entry box. With over 250 horses entered, a total of 14-races have been carded for Hoosier Park's opening night that will be highlighted by full fields and quality racing. Post time for the first race is 5:45 p.m.



Mark Hall Photo

"I couldn't be happier with the response we received for our opening day card!"

—Scott Peine

Friday's card will offer remarkable value to the horseplayers as 12 of the 14 races feature 10 or more betting interests. The fully-stocked card includes 10 divisions of the Donnie Conrad Memorial and Rosie Harness Memorial, an overnight series for trotters of both sexes.

"I couldn't be happier with the response we received for our opening day card," Hoosier Park's director of racing and racing secretary Scott Peine noted. "I am very enthusiastic about the 2016 meet and if opening night is any indication of what we have to look forward to this year, we will offer racing fans nationwide one of the best harness racing programs in North America. On behalf of myself and Hoosier Park, I would like to thank all the horsemen and owners for supporting us with entries for opening night and for their continued support throughout the year."

In addition to offering full fields and competitive racing, in late 2015 Hoosier Park initiated a fair start pole one-sixteenth of a mile from the start, ensuring all starters have the opportunity to be at or close to the gate for each race. For the 2016 meet, a much anticipated passing lane and high definition broadcast equipment have been added.

On the wagering side of the ledger all of Hoosier Park's familiar betting options are back, with an exciting addition. New for 2016, Hoosier Park is proud to introduce the Hoosier High-5, which requires a bettor to select the first five finishers in a race in exact order. With a minimum wager of 10 cents, the Hoosier High-5 will be offered on the last race each night, provided there are at least seven entrants. If there are no winning tickets sold, the net money wagered that day will be carried over to the next day's Hoosier High-5 pool.

Live racing at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino will follow a Friday, Saturday schedule the opening week, a Thursday, Friday, Saturday schedule the second week and then resume a Tuesday through Saturday schedule throughout the remainder of the meet. The 160-day season will be conducted through Nov. 12. (*Hoosier Park*)



Stat/Zeke/Adam Strom Photo

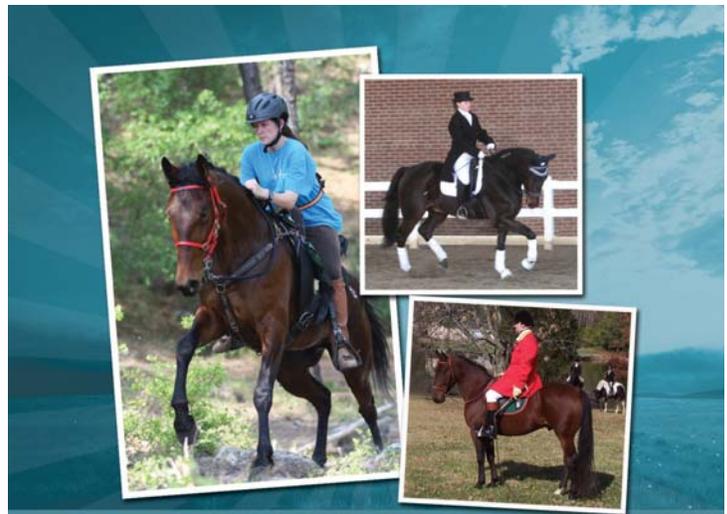
Nuncio Wins in 2016 Swedish Debut

Nuncio, the winner of the 2014 Kentucky Futurity, captured his 2016 season debut on Wednesday night at the Solvalla track in Stockholm, Sweden.

Driven by his owner and trainer, Stefan Melander, Nuncio was sent to the lead after 450 meters. In the middle half of the one-mile race he was challenged by the classy Orrechietti, but that foe was no match. Nuncio pulled away in the homestretch and won by open lengths. He was timed in 1:53.4.

"I did not demand too much of him," said Melander. "It feels good to start like this so we'll see how it goes forward."

Nuncio was not nominated to the John Cashman Memorial, the first major trotting event to attract overseas horses.



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Wally Hennessey Grabs 9,000th Win, But Says He's Not Done Yet

Hall of Fame driver Wally Hennessey reached the 9,000 win mark on Tuesday night at Pompano Park, securing the milestone as part of a five-win night. Hennessey reached the winner's circle with Columbia Lion (\$3.60) in the first race, Bodacious Becky (\$3.60) in the fourth, De Vin's Girl (\$9) in the seventh and Winbak Heavenly (\$3.20) in the eighth as his 9,000th victory. He scored his fifth victory in Race 10 with Real Temptation (\$4.40) to finish the night with 9,001 wins.

Hennessey, 59, is a native of Canada's Prince Edward Island. Although always associated with the great trotting mare Moni Maker, he has won many major sakes, including several Breeders Crown races, the Hambletonian Oaks, Kentucky Futurity, Woodrow Wilson and the Nat Ray—the latter three times with Moni Maker, who he also drove to victory in the 1998 Elitlopp in Stockholm, Sweden.

Since 1989, Hennessey has had 26 seasons with 200 or more wins and 26 seasons with a UDR (batting average) of over .300. His biggest money-winning season was 1997, when his mounts earned \$4.2 million. In addition to winning the Elitlopp with Moni Maker, Hennessey won Breeders Crowns with My Dolly and Catch As Catch Can and the Kentucky Futurity with Take Chances.

In an interview following his milestone win, Hennessey said, "I owe my success to many, many people, including my dad, who taught me so much, my wife, who has stuck with me all the way down this path, and my brother, Dan, who is an inspiration every day at the barn."

The day after hitting the milestone, Hennessey reported to the barn on the Pompano backstretch where he trains a stable of 10 horses with his brother, Dan. After the work was done, Wally and Dan—Dan is two years older—headed to one of their favorite places to grab some lunch, Bru's in nearby Coconut Creek.

After finishing a salad and a beer, Wally answered a few questions about his driving career.

Which track has been your favorite?

"Pompano. Even before it became my home, I loved the layout of the five-eighths mile track here. It's different from most five-eighths. We get a pretty good run from the starting pole to the first turn. You can actually pass in the second turn. You also have enough racetrack from the head of the stretch home to win."

So which track has been the toughest for you?

"Meadowlands. I believe to do well there you need to know about speed and you can't appreciate it unless you are a regular there. I only drove there on an occasional basis. I always felt like a duck out of water."

Living in South Florida, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?



A large group welcomed driver Wally Hennessey upon returning to the winner's circle for the 9,000th time.

"I love sports, so being in South Florida is a sports paradise. Me, my wife (Barbara) and daughter (Kristi) have season's tickets to the Florida Panthers hockey team. I love golf, both watching and playing, and I try to play once a week. South Florida allows you to do about anything you want."

What do you miss about Prince Edward Island?

"Everything. Of course, I miss my family. There are nine kids in my family; my brother Dan, my brother Jody, who has 2,500 wins, my brother Gordy, who has 1,000 to 1,500 wins, and another brother, who became a lawyer; plus four sisters, none of who got involved in harness racing."

You've been driving the free-for-all trotter Wind Of The North at Pompano this winter. Are you going to travel to drive the horse this season?

"I've stopped doing any traveling. I have no intention of traveling with any horse. When Kristi was younger, I wanted to be around for her. It's not fair to just go around with one horse."

Do you do anything special to keep in shape?

"I'm the same weight I was in my 20s. Instead of going to a gym, I've continued to do physical work in the barn. I still fill water buckets and carry muck baskets. I've never graduated from that! My dad used to tell me you could advance, but never graduate in this business. I like being hands-on with the horses and Dan and I just have a great rapport. We have 10 horses and that's as high as we want to be. We like doing the work ourselves."

Do you have any plans to retire from driving?

"I feel like I'm driving the best I've ever driven. Partly it's because I'm getting better horses. It's better horses and experience." — By Kathy Parker



Declining Horse Population In Ontario

For the Ontario harness racing industry, the 10th and final race on Woodbine Racetrack's Monday, March 28, card represented all that is both right and troublesome with Ontario's Standardbred racing circuit. After quite a lot of front-end action between Mac Raider, Comeonandgetsome and Prince Clyde, the 6-year-old gelded pacer Sir Machalot, with Mike Saftic aboard, charged third-over, advancing from next to last in the field, to win in 1:55.

Sir Machalot beat eight horses. According to Woodbine's racing secretary Scott McKelvie, the number of entries for March 2016 at the Toronto track is down approximately 15 percent over the same period last year. That is an overall loss of roughly a horse-and-a-half per race, or 15 horses per card.

"It's typically lighter as the winter progress," McKelvie says of the reduced entry numbers. "That said, there is definitely a shortage of horses here (in Ontario). The number of mares bred in the past three years is definitely down and our horse

"We are handing out over \$200,000 day in purses before stakes season even starts. There aren't too many tracks anywhere that can say that!"

—Scott McKelvie

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) seems to confirm McKelvie's assessments.

Released on March 24, the survey estimates the racehorse population of Ontario to be 34,101. Of that total, 20,894 racehorses were Standardbreds, 12,660 were Thoroughbreds, and 547 were Quarter Horses. Those owners, owner-breeders, owner-trainers and owner-breeder-trainers that indicated they owned a particular breed of horse said that on average their stables consisted of 8.8 Standardbreds.

By contrast, a 2011 statistical report compiled by Equine Canada found the Ontario Standardbred population to number around 26,100.

Even a quick check of auction results indicates the Ontario harness horse population is experiencing a year-over-year decline. For example, at last year's Forest City Sale 136 yearlings sold for a gross of \$3,197,000 and an average price of \$23,507. In 2014, 144 yearlings were sold for \$2,202,400 for an average price of \$15,294. By comparison, in 2011, the

auction sold 263 yearlings for a total of \$4,815,900 and an average price of \$18,311.

McKelvie says despite the dip in eligible entry numbers, racing dates at Woodbine and Mohawk will not be changing.

"Racing at Mohawk gets more people in when the track gets started in April. It's more convenient and the stakes racing will really bring the entries in when it gets started in May," says McKelvie. "We've got our 222 race dates for the year and we won't have trouble filling them.

"We are handing out over \$200,000 day in purses before stakes season even starts. There aren't too many tracks anywhere that can say that. We will maintain quality with fields of seven rather than cut racing opportunities for people who want to race their horses in Ontario."

The OMAFRA survey findings echo McKelvie's certainty. Standardbred industry survey respondents indicated they regularly participate in the greatest number of races at Woodbine and Mohawk and traveled an average total of 10,357 km (6,436 miles) annually to get to those two tracks.

In fact, Woodbine Entertainment Group recently revealed its unaltered \$14 million-plus (Canadian) 2016 Standardbred stakes schedule. That schedule includes the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup for 3-year-old pacers on June 18 at Mohawk Racetrack. In all, the total purse monies for the NA Cup card are expected to exceed \$2.5 million.

Over \$2.2 million will be on offer when the Canadian Pacing Derby and Metro Pace are held on Saturday, Sept. 3. Returning to the stakes calendar in 2016 is the Fall Four Stakes for 2 year olds on Saturday, Nov. 19, at Woodbine Racetrack. Last held at Woodbine in 2014, the Fall Four consists of the \$565,000 Governor's Cup, \$525,000 Valley Victory, \$465,000 Goldsmith Maid and \$425,000 Three Diamonds.

As for purse allotment, no changes are planned there either. As in 2015, WEG will continue to distribute purse money to all finishers in major stakes events in 2016. The winner of the finals will receive the traditional 50 percent of the total purse. The horses finishing second through fifth will receive 50 percent, 24 percent, 16 percent, and 10 percent respectively while those finishing sixth through last will take home one percent of the remaining purse.



What Do You Think?

Do you have something to say about Andrea Pietrzak's column? Or about anything else going on in harness racing?

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

Andrea Pietrzak was on the staff of the Canadian Sportsman magazine for 10 years until leaving to complete her education. She currently lives in London, Ont. Her column appears in HarnessRacing Weekend Preview in part through the advertising support of Woodbine Entertainment Group. Any opinions expressed in this column are her own and not necessarily those of the Horseman Publishing Company and its publications or its advertisers.



BREEDING *Banter*

Sebastian K, World's Fastest Trotter, Has Full Book Of Mares

With fewer mares being bred, many stallions still have openings in their books as we head into April. Hanover Shoe Farms has closed the books for its most popular stallion, the leading money-winning pacing sire Somebeachsomewhere, and in what may come as a surprise to some, the rookie trotting sire and Swedish import Sebastian K.

"Sebastian's full book, especially at this point in the season, was a pleasant surprise to both myself and Tristan (Sjoberg, who co-owns the stallion with Knutsson Trotting)," said Hanover CEO Jim Simpson.

Hanover Shoe Farms is breeding 28 mares to Sebastian K and Sjoberg and Knutsson Trotting bought mares specifically to breed to their star trotter. Among their acquisitions are Blazing Musclegirl, who hails from the maternal family of Trixton and the greats Andover Hall, Conway Hall and Angus Hall; Caviar Session, a sister to Centurion ATM; and a Chocolatier sister to Kadabra.

Sebastian K may be the world's fastest trotter with his record of 1:49f, but his sire line is French, which is certainly a bit of a mystery, and a gamble, for American breeders. Nevertheless, he is the world's fastest trotter and showed not only incredible speed but an efficient gait. He also is a good-looking horse, and his maternal line is American, with his dam, Gabriella K, by the Super Bowl stallion Probe.

So with a stud fee of just \$6,000, Sebastian K attracted mares from a wide variety of places and is scheduled to be bred to 133 mares in North America this season. Mares owned by breeders in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Maryland and Ontario, have been booked to the stallion.

Sebastian K's book includes mares by Muscles Yankee (10), Cantab Hall (nine), Credit Winner, Donato Hanover, Kadabra, Conway Hall, Donerail and Yankee Glide.

The most accomplished producers in Sebastian K's book are probably ENS Tag Session, the dam of Peter Haughton Memorial Trot winner Centurion ATM, \$796,794-winner Triumphant Caviar and Prayer Session, a winner of \$678,401, and Classical Flirt, the dam of Hambletonian champion Market Share, who is by Revenue S, whose male line is also French-blooded.

Also booked to Sebastian K are Angel Eyes Hanover, a Cantab Hall granddaughter of the prolific Amour Angus; Seducedbychocolate 3, 1:54.3 (\$174,558); Hawaiianphotograph 4, 1:54.3f (\$635,522); Georgie Hall, whose fourth dam is Amour Angus; Pine Yankee, a half sister to Broadway Schooner 3, 1:53.3 (\$885,933) and Cooler Schooner 2, 1:51.3f; Somebody To Love 3, 1:56f (\$618,686), a daughter of Pick Me Up and thus from the maternal family of Hey Mister, Flirtin Miss and Flirtin Man; and perhaps in an attempt to get another Googoo Gaagaa, Take It Off Girl, a daughter of the pacing-blooded Cam's Rocket, the sire of Googoo Gaagaa.

Stephanie Smith-Rothaug, who bred Somebeachsomewhere, is breeding her mare Baby Bella, the dam of Buen Camino 3, 1:54.3f (\$374,021), to Sebastian K.

"I just thought outcross, outcross, outcross," said Smith-Rothaug of her reasoning. "He was such a great horse. I really like the horse. She's a big, beautiful mare and for that price—she's in foal to Trixton right now so I paid a bigger stud fee for that breeding—I thought it was worth taking a chance."

All Star Hanover 3, 1:55.3 (\$333,328), was barren last year and was bred to Sebastian early this year and is already in foal. The daughter of Cantab Hall out of a Valley Victory mare is owned by Fredericka Caldwell and Blue-stone Farm.

"We thought the cross would be interesting," said Elizabeth Caldwell, who manages the mares her mother breeds. "I tend to lean toward experimenting, especially for an outcross. It just seemed like there was a lot of like about Sebastian K, and he was well-priced."

Another notable mare booked to Sebastian K is the stakes winner Armatrading 3, 1:55.4, who is owned by Atlantic Trot and Oscarsson Racing.

"For me, it came down to Andover Hall or Sebastian," said Atlantic Trot's Mario Zuanetti. "I then polled my partner, Jim (Oscarsson). We didn't want to go to a high-priced stallion. We were looking for value. And if I went to Sebastian K, I wanted to go the first year. Another reason for Sebastian is I wanted to give this mare's offspring some size.

"But you can try all these theories and you just have to wait and see what happens." — By Kathy Parker



Gunjan Patel/Hanover Shoe Farms

Sebastian K

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Elitlopp Playoff To Memorialize Mack Lobell

The Meadowlands has announced that the inaugural edition of the track’s newest stake will be titled “The Mack Lobell Elitlopp Playoff,” celebrating the memory of that great trotter. The purse is estimated to be \$150,000.

Mack Lobell achieved legendary status in a racing career that spanned six seasons. He was trained and driven by Hall of Fame horsemen Chuck Sylvester and John Campbell, respectively. Mack was Horse of the Year in 1987 and 1988 and won virtually all of the classics including the Hambletonian, Yonkers Trot, International Trot, three Breeders Crowns and the 1988 Elitlopp for those connections. He was later sold to Swedish interests, went on to win the Elitlopp again 1990 and retired with career earnings of nearly \$4 million.

The race itself was born of a discussion Solvalla Racetrack directors Markus Myron and Christer Haggstrom had with Meadowlands brass Jeff Gural and Jason Settlemoir during Hambletonian week last summer. Ideas were exchanged and through their joint efforts a trotting bridge between continents has resulted. A group of 20 or so is expected to travel from Sweden to America to attend the race while the Meadowlands will send representatives to Sweden for the Elitlopp.

International interest in the event is very high. The Meadowlands’ Sam McKee is working closely with ATG in Swe-

den on commingling wagers into the Meadowlands pools. The Meadowlands is planning to simulcast a block of seven races to Europe, headlined by the Elitlopp Playoff, which will be the first race on the Mother’s Day matinee card set for Sunday, May 8, at 12:40 p.m.

Nominations to the inaugural race number 15 and include many of the finest trotters in North America. Among them is 2015 Dan Patch Trotter of the Year JL Cruze, who makes his first start of the season on Friday at the Meadowlands. Also nominated are 2015 Breeders Crown winner Creatine, TVG FFA Championship winner Resolve and millionaire mares Bee A Magician and Shake It Cerry.

The winner will be rewarded with an invitation to participate in the 2016 Elitlopp at the Solvalla Racecourse outside Stockholm, Sweden on Sunday, May 29.

Harness racing fan Ken Burgdorf submitted the idea to name the race for Mack Lobell via a message sent to the Harness Racing Fan Zone. (*Meadowlands*)

Pinnacle Entertainment Buying The Meadows For \$138 Million

Pinnacle Entertainment, a gaming company has announced will acquire the Meadows Racetrack and Casino from Gaming & Leisure Properties for \$138 million. Pinnacle will lease the underlying property from Gaming & Leisure under the terms of a triple net lease.

According to its website, Pinnacle Entertainment is a “growing casino entertainment company with nearly 15,000 team members. Pinnacle Entertainment Inc. owns and operates 15 gaming entertainment properties, located in Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada and Ohio. Pinnacle holds a majority interest in the racing license owner, as well as a management contract, for Retama Park Racetrack outside of San Antonio, Texas.” Its properties also include the Belterra casino in the northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area.

Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc. (GLPI) purchased the entire Meadows property—80 acres and the entertainment complex—for \$440 million in mid-December from Cannery Casino Resorts LLC. That sale and the one with Pinnacle are expected to close in the third quarter this year. In December GLPI had announced that it intended to sell the gaming operations to a third party. The 10-year deal with Pinnacle calls for GLPI to own the real estate and get \$25.5 million in rent from the Las Vegas operator during the first year.

Both sales must be approved by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission.

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JL Cruze Makes 2016 Debut Friday At Big M

At the Meadowlands on Friday night, the 2015 Dan Patch Older Trotter of the Year and Meadowlands all-time track record holder JL Cruze will make his seasonal debut in the second race, a \$25,000 Open Handicap Trot.

JL Cruze ascended to the mountain top with a string of remarkable performances at the Meadowlands last year including all of the winter series, then held his form to win both the Graduate final and Hambletonian Maturity. He became the fastest trotter in history on a mile track with his 1:49.4 win in that Graduate final and collected over \$660,000 on the strength of 16 wins in 21 starts in 2015 for owners Ken Wood, Bill Dittmar and Steve Iaquinta.

Trainer Eric Ell has had JL Cruze at the Meadowlands for a pair of formful qualifiers with regular driver John Campbell at the lines in anticipation of Friday's race. JL Cruze will start from the outside post seven as the morning line choice with Crosby's Clam Bake and Opulent Yankee leading the competition from just inside the favorite. (*Meadowlands*)

Macharoundtheclock Retired, Will Be Bred

Macharoundtheclock, a mare who won more than \$500,000 in her career and thrilled crowds with her patented "Silky Sullivan" rallies, was retired from racing following her start Monday at The Meadows and will begin her career as a broodmare with a booking to Sweet Lou.

Tim Twaddle, who trained the 6-year-old daughter of Mach Three-Summers Soul, said her owner, Seth Rosenfeld's Birnam Wood Farms, actually planned to breed her last year to Sweet Lou, transfer the embryo and return Macharoundtheclock to racing. Unexpected complications prevented the mating from taking place, resulting in a prolonged layoff for Macharoundtheclock.

"She came back off her game," Twaddle said. "She wasn't winning at the top levels like she had been. I think they were waiting for her to hit the half-million mark to retire her.

"I knew my time with her was borrowed time, but I'm grateful for the time we had with her. It's been a treat racing a horse like her. I'll miss her."

Macharoundtheclock couldn't write a storybook ending to her racing days, finishing seventh in a conditioned event. She completed her on-track career with 22 wins in 91 starts, 51 in-the-money finishes, \$501,013 in earnings and a fine mark of 1:51.1 taken at Mohawk at three.

Rosenfeld and Twaddle have a concrete reminder of Macharoundtheclock in their barn. They're partners with Don Tiger in a 2-year-old half sister to the distinguished re-tiree. (*The Meadows*)

World Champion Casimir Camotion Dies At 15

World champion Casimir Camotion, winner of the 2004 Canadian Pacing Derby, was euthanized on March 25 at a

New Jersey clinic. Casimir Camotion was 15 and just two days shy of 16 years from his foaling date.

A winner of 53 of 269 lifetime starts with earnings of \$1,705,817 for Bill Matz and Cary Potkin's M&M Harness Racing LLC, Casimir Camotion's biggest victory came when he captured the \$806,400 Canadian Pacing Derby at Woodbine in a career-best 1:48.3. Casimir Camotion equaled that time two years later in a Classic Series leg at Dover Downs, which established a new world record for gelding pacers on a five-eighths mile track.

Casimir Camotion was retired from racing while still healthy and happy at the age of 13. He became competitive in the life of a pleasure horse, earning multiple ribbons at the 2013 Standardbred Pleasure Horse Show.

Casimir Camotion was trained during his racing career by Stew Firlotte, Pat Lachance and Bruce Saunders.

The ultimate warrior on the racetrack, Casimir Camotion was intelligent, sensitive and appreciate of the people around him. He was a most unique horse and will be mourned by those whose presence he graced.

Horseplayer Judy Wagner New RCI Chair

The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) has installed Judy Wagner as its new chairman for 2016-2017. Recently re-appointed to the Louisiana State Racing Commission by Governor John Bel Edwards, Wagner is the first horseplayer to assume the helm of North America's umbrella group of racing regulatory bodies.

Wagner is the only woman to have won the National Handicapping Championship (2001) and is a member of the National Handicapping Championship's Hall of Fame. In 2007 she joined the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) National Player's Committee.

In 2014, Wagner was appointed as the first and only horseplayer to the NTRA Board of Directors. In 2015, she was elected to a three-year term.

A native of Mississippi and former school teacher, Wagner fell in love with horse racing and owned horses from 1995 to 2006. She has been a national leader in lobbying Congress on matters pertaining to tax fairness for horseplayers as well as owners and breeders. (*RCI*)

Merriman Heading To Ireland In August

The Ladbrokes Vincent Delaney Memorial Committee has announced that North America's leading dash-winning driver in 2015, Aaron Merriman, is committed to coming to Ireland for the Delaney Memorial Weekend on Aug. 13-14.

"I was shocked when I got the invite," Merriman said. "I have read about the race, knew that George Brennan went last year and had a great time and now I am getting to come over this year, what a great honor this is."

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The 37-year-old Ohio native is coming off a career-best harness racing season in 2015, capturing his first North American driving title and earning a personal-high \$7.4 million in purses. His 873 victories last year were the most for a dash-winning champion since Tony Morgan's 959 triumphs in 2008.

"Our committee board was ecstatic that Aaron agreed without even flinching to come over for the VDM this year," said Derek Delaney, who along with his brother, James, developed the Vincent Delaney Memorial in honor of their younger brother who passed away in 2011.

The Ladbrokes Vincent Delaney Memorial is for 2-year-old pacers with elimination divisions on Saturday and the finals on Sunday. For the first time this season there will be a separate filly division, sponsored by Diamond Creek Farm.

When it comes to his heritage, Merriman says he will fit in just fine.

"My father's family is British and my mother is Swedish and Irish," he said. "I think I will fit in perfectly.

"I'm very eager to experience another continent with harness racing. I've never left North America before. I've checked out some of the history of this race and have read about the great enthusiasm and real love for our sport that they have and it is so heartwarming." — *By Steve Wolf*

Dave Little Named Big M Oddsmaker/Handicapper

Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment has announced the hiring of veteran racing journalist Dave Little as the track's new morning-line oddsmaker and track handicapper.

Little comes to the Meadowlands with four decades of experience as a racing writer, announcer, and handicapper, most recently working as the racing editor at The New York Daily News.

Little's main responsibility will be to create the track's morning-line odds and write the handicapping comments that appear in the racing program and on the Meadowlands website. Little will also appear on the Meadowlands television broadcast and fill in as the on-site host on TVG Network in addition to writing news releases and features for the media relations staff.

"I enjoyed my many years in the newspaper industry, but was looking for a change," said Little. "To get the chance to work at the Meadowlands, and take on the challenge that comes with morning-line odds making, is something I am looking forward to." (*Meadowlands*)

Indiana Horseman Richard Taylor Dies

Indiana horseman Richard D. Taylor, 88, died on Friday, March 25, at his home in Westfield.

Mr. Taylor served his country as a member of the United States Army with the Occupation Forces in Japan where he chauffeured for the staff of General Douglas MacArthur. He earned his bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 1952.

He began his training and driving career with his father at their training headquarters at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. He traveled county fair circuits throughout the Midwest and shipped to pari-mutuel racetracks on both coasts.

Mr. Taylor's gift came in the form of developing young horses, particularly 2-year-old trotters. His undeniable patience resulted in considerable success as he developed champions including Dauntless Ann, Matann, Majestic Cliff, Allot, Will Sikes, Gold, Isaac C, Home Court, and Spinning Ranger. He summed up his nine decades of experience by saying: "I want to know more about a horse tomorrow than I do today."

Mr. Taylor served as president and director of the Indiana Trotting & Pacing Horse Association, member of the Indiana Standardbred Board of Regulations, and assistant to the director of Harness Racing at the Indiana State Fair in the early 1970s, as well as working tirelessly in the fight to legalize pari-mutuel wagering in Indiana. He also received the Sagamore of the Wabash from former Governor Robert Orr. In 2014, he was inducted into the Indiana Standardbred Hall of Fame.

He is survived by three children: Jo Barbara Taylor (George Greason), Robert Taylor (Tammera), and Tara Ellen Taylor; sister Sue Ann Smith; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents Donald and Mabel Taylor and brother James, he was preceded in death by his wife Margot Marlatt Taylor, also well known in the harness racing community.

His life will be celebrated on April 10 at Parlay Farm, 16565 Carey Road, Westfield, from 4-7 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, 16575 Carey Road, Westfield, Ind. 46074 or through the website <http://www.hhyf.org/>, which Mr. Taylor's daughter Ellen heads. (*HHYF*)

Marjorie Marsh, Wife Of Joe Marsh Jr., Dies

Marjorie Ann Marsh, 83, of Fostoria, Ohio, and formerly of Findlay, Ohio, and the wife of noted horseman Joe Marsh Jr., died March 29.

She was born in Putnam County on Nov. 25, 1932, to the late Ralph E. and Orpha M. (Winkle) Dillon. On Sept. 25, 1952, she married Standardbred driver Joe Marsh Jr., who survives along with five children, Ronald, Susan (Jay) Litchfield, Edward (Maureen), Robert (Nicole) and William (Sheana); brother, Dale Dillon; grandchildren, Deadra, Bradley, Frankie, Trisha, Ryan, Tara, Eric, Adam and Christopher; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Robert Dillon and James Dillon; and sisters, Maxine Smith and Helen Binger.

Mrs. Marsh owned her own beauty salon and was a homemaker. She was loved and will be missed by all of her family and friends.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, March 31.

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through March 29, 2016 (week difference March 23-29).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Major Athens (6th)	8	4	3	0	\$96,635
Nickle Bag (6pg)	10	7	0	2	85,030
Bushwacker (5pg)	11	5	0	3	84,780
Mustang Art (9pg)	12	3	4	1	80,550
Lucan Hanover (6pg)	4	4	0	0	80,000
Bit Of A Legend N (7ph)	6	4	2	0	78,000
Capela (4pm)	9	6	0	1	76,875"
Bad Boy Matt (6pg)	11	4	2	1	76,395
Set Me Up (7pm)	11	4	5	1	73,875
Regil Elektra (6pm)	10	4	1	1	72,800
Atta Boy Dan (7pg)	8	3	2	1	72,600
Rockeyed Optimist (5pg)	6	4	2	0	72,250
Velocity Vespa (6pm)	9	6	1	0	69,125
Mohawk Warrior (4ph)	8	5	2	1	61,712
Blazing Bobby Sox (5pg)	12	5	2	0	60,665

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	589	164-100-72	.414	\$1,819,265 (\$172,466)
Aaron Merriman	1,024	225-163-153	.358	1,573,223 (137,258)
Tim Tetrick	575	110-88-69	.316	1,237,959 (125,545)
Brian Sears	429	84-71-63	.337	1,195,088 (129,580)
Dave Palone	559	131-73-67	.347	1,164,890 (107,389)
George Brennan	492	71-76-75	.281	1,161,109 (149,900)
Corey Callahan	638	109-102-88	.306	1,067,075 (120,520)
Matt Kakaley	579	64-81-81	.235	1,055,365 (118,395)
Jim Pantaleano	604	87-98-68	.272	982,273 (98,891)
Tony Hall	627	90-80-83	.259	929,672 (84,770)
Mike Wilder	607	83-91-98	.274	917,306 (81,330)
Josh Sutton	667	122-94-77	.300	908,121 (78,495)
Scott Zeron	480	70-58-56	.252	854,495 (103,310)
Daniel Dube	489	52-55-59	.209	809,732 (97,040)
Allan Davis	660	73-88-103	.237	808,838 (66,190)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	611	141-85-78	.351	\$1,684,081 (\$214,187)
Rene Allard	349	61-57-47	.310	661,392 (122,991)
Richard Moreau	291	55-55-30	.328	646,922 (82,689)
Richard Banca	261	68-32-32	.370	644,139 (62,936)
Carmen Auciello	361	40-54-41	.232	478,963 (37,541)
Jeff Bamond Jr.	189	25-25-25	.250	462,018 (67,380)
Scott Di Domenico	183	35-38-22	.347	423,817 (33,260)
Thomas Milici	114	42-21-10	.500	417,075 (41,120)
Dylan Davis	190	43-40-26	.389	404,037 (39,210)
Jim King Jr.	177	31-26-26	.306	368,985 (37,405)
Wayne Givens	145	29-19-15	.307	342,817 (37,375)
Norm Parker	171	25-29-23	.285	341,785 (38,067)
Randy Bendis	169	29-22-20	.283	336,802 (38,752)
Tony O'Sullivan	113	27-12-13	.336	336,235 (20,460)
Mark Ford	243	25-22-31	.196	335,808 (33,982)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	585	247	408	\$3,324,754
Winbak Farm	535	211	319	2,442,547
Perretti Farms	167	74	123	1,099,216
Brittany Farms	157	59	101	1,063,201
Bulletproof Enterprises	103	56	107	785,035
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	106	46	82	698,834
Seelster Farms Inc.	101	45	87	656,103
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	126	47	83	620,653
White Birch Farm	88	34	67	616,653
Frederick Hertrich III	88	39	64	579,167
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	81	46	73	493,414
Steve Stewart	67	32	52	458,518
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	62	25	54	407,976
Midland Acres Inc.	82	29	48	382,986
Robert J. Key	70	26	44	376,869

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for March 23-29 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Driver	Starts	W-P-S
Aaron Merriman	82	19-15-13
Joe Bongiorno	66	16-5-9
Kayne Kauffman	56	13-4-4
George Dennis	46	12-3-4
Jason Bartlett	53	12-5-8
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	56	12-11-8
Sylvain Filion	34	12-7-2
Wally Hennessey	34	12-6-5
Jim Morrill Jr.	36	11-4-6
Tony Morgan	36	11-3-4
Chris Page	61	10-6-5
Dave Palone	44	10-7-3
Alfred Carroll	53	9-12-9
Anthony Napolitano	38	9-5-4
Corey Callahan	55	9-11-6
George Napolitano Jr.	26	9-2-1
Jim Taggart Jr.	33	9-2-6

Trainers

Trainer	Wins
Ron Burke	15
Rene Allard	10
Richard Moreau	8
Vincent Fusco Jr.	7
C. Brian Loney	5
Gary Messenger	5
Gerard Demers	5
Kevin Lare	5
Kyle Spagnola	5
Philip Sowers	5
Steve Wiseman	5
Thomas Milici	5
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	4
J.D. Perrin	4
Jack Franklin	4
Jim King Jr.	4
Joe Pereira	4
Maria Rice	4
Peter Tritton	4
Richard Banca	4
Tyler George	4
Tyler Stillings	4
Virgil Morgan Jr.	4

2016 APRIL

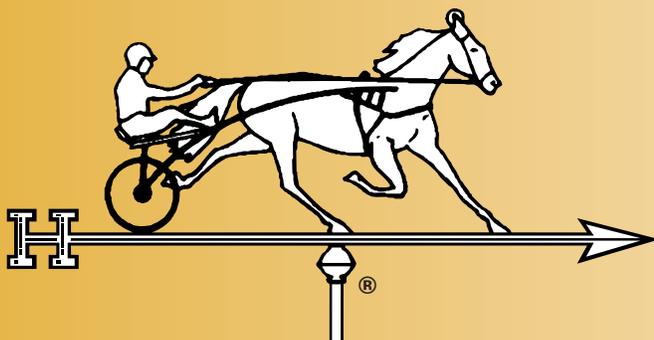


sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
27 Easter	28 Blossom 3FP (Wdb) DSBF 3CT (DD) George Owens Mem. Pace (MVR) Petticoat F&M Pace final (YR) Ray Paver Sr. Mem. Trot (MVR)	29 DSBF 3FP (DD) Omar Hiteman Mem. Pace (MVR) Sagamore Pace final (YR)	30 DSBF 3FT (DD)	31 DSBF 3CP (DD)	1 April Fool's Day Blue Chip Matchmaker Pace (YR) Dr. Mossbarger Mem. Pace (MVR) Harrah's Philadelphia opens Hoosier Park opens	2 Levy Memorial Pace (YR) Tom Tharps Mem. Pace (MVR) Youthful 3CP (Wdb)
3 Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD)	4 Blossom 3FP (Wdb) Do Me Honor 3FP (Mea) DSBF 3CT (DD) Paver Sr. Mem. Trot (MVR) Owens Mem. F&M Pace (MVR)	5 Classicality 3CT (Mea) DSBF 3FP (DD) Hiteman Mem. Pace (MVR) SOA Bonus Trot (YR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD)	6 DSBF 3FT (DD) Whata Donato 3FT (Mea)	7 DSBF 3CP (DD)	8 Blue Chip Matchmaker Pace (YR) Dr. Mossbarger Mem. Pace (MVR)	9 Atta Boy Dan 3CP (Mea) Don Mills Trot (Moh) Levy Memorial Pace (YR) Tharps Mem. Pace (MVR) Youthful 3CP (Moh)
10 Brown Mem. Trot (MVR) Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD)	11 Blossom 3FP (Moh) Do Me Honor 3FP (Mea) DSBF 3CT final (DD) Owens Mem. F&M Pace (MVR) Tie Silk 3CT (Moh) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD) Plainridge Racecourse opens	12 Classicality 3CT (Mea) Dr. Farwick Mem. Trot (MVR) DSBF 3FP final (DD) Hiteman Mem. Pace (MVR) SOA Bonus Trot (YR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD)	13 DSBF 3FT final (DD) Whata Donato 3FT (Mea)	14 Celas Counsel 3FT (Moh) DSBF 3CP final (DD)	15 Blue Chip Matchmaker Pace (YR) Dr. Mossbarger Mem. Pace (MVR)	16 Atta Boy Dan 3CP (Mea) Don Mills Trot (Moh) Levy Memorial Pace (YR) Tharps Mem. Pace (MVR)
17 Brown Mem. Trot (MVR) Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD)	18 Do Me Honor 3FP final (Mea) Tie Silk 3CT (Moh) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD)	19 Classicality 3CT final (Mea) Dr. Farwick Mem. Trot (MVR) SOA Bonus Trot (YR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD)	20 Horseman Whata Donato 3FT (Mea)	21 Celas Counsel 3FT (Moh)	22 Earth Day Hackett Mem. 3FP (MVR) Princess 3FP (Moh)	23 Passover Atta Boy Dan 3CP final (Mea) Blue Chip Matchmaker final (YR) Don Mills Trot (Moh) Hackett Mem. 3CP (MVR) Levy Memorial Pace final (YR) The Diplomat 3CP (Moh)
24 Brown Mem. Trot final (MVR) Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD)	25 Tie Silk 3CT final (Moh) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD) Harrington Raceway opens	26 Dr. Farwick Mem. Trot final (MVR) SOA Bonus Trot final (YR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD)	27	28 Celas Counsel 3FT final (Moh)	29 Hackett Mem. 3FP final (MVR) Princess 3FP (Moh)	30 Dexter Cup 3CT elims (Fld) Hackett Mem. 3CP final (MVR) Miss Pennsylvania 3FP elims (PcD) Penn. Classic 3CP elims (PcD) The Diplomat 3CP (Moh)

PAYMENTS DUE APRIL 15

2-YEAR-OLDS
Breeders Crown No. 30
 The Elevation
 Kentuckiana Stallion
 Management Pace 2016
 Kentuckiana Stallion
 Management Trot 2016
 Madison County
 Matron Series 2016

3-YEAR-OLDS
Breeders Crown No. 29
 Matron Series 2016
 Carl Erskine
 Monument Circle
4-YEAR-OLDS & OLDER
Breeders Crown No. 28
 Dayton Trotting & Pacing Derby
 Miami Valley Distaff Pace & Trot



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609-371-2211, Fax 609-371-8890 • Email: callie@hambletonian.org