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WEEKEND PREVIEW

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Weekly
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News Digest

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017

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Fifth Leg Of Matchmaker, Levy Set To Finalize Finals

The fifth and final preliminaries for the George Morton Levy Memorial Series for older horse pacers and the Blue Chip Matchmaker for older mare pacers are on tap this weekend at Yonkers Raceway. Two six-mare Matchmaker fields will go to the post on Friday while a trio of divisions will line up behind the gate in Saturday's Levy action, all setting the stage for the rich finals on Saturday, April 22.

The Matchmaker field for the final is all but set, but with Empress Deo, fifth in the standings, sitting the week out, that opens the door for three others to take her spot. Empress Deo was second and first in her first two Match-

maker preliminaries, but after finishing fourth the last two weeks, she will sit out the fifth leg for trainer Wayne Givens.

The 25 points each receives for making a start could catapult four mares past Empress Deo on the leaderboard. As a result, Betabcool N, Divas Image, Krispy Apple and Sell A Bit N, respectively ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th on the standings, could pass Empress Deo for that final spot, depending on their finishes.

In the Levy, point-leader Missile J returns after sitting out last Saturday's fourth leg. Soto, who ranks second and has secured a spot in the final, is not racing this week after a fourth-place finish last weekend. Trainer

Levy Memorial Standings

Horse (trainer)	Points
Missile J (S. DiDomenico)	225
Soto (E. Ell)	200
Keystone Velocity (R. Allard)	217
Somewhere In LA (R. Banca)	212
Bit Of A Legend N (P. Tritton)	205
Blood Brother (R. Banca)	180
Provacativeprince N (P. Tritton)	180
Rockin Ron (R. Burke)	158
Wakizashi Hanover (J. King Jr.)	153
Long Live Rock (R. Allard)	150
Mach It So (J. Bamond Jr.)	150
McWicked (S. Elliott)	150
Great Vintage (J. Takter)	142
Guantanamo Bay (R. Renaud)	137

Matchmaker Standings

Horse (trainer)	Points
Shesjustadelight N (R. Cushing)	230
Bedroomconfessions (T. Alagna)	200
MacKenzie A (P. Tritton)	195
Mach It A Par (R. Banca)	192
Empress Deo (W. Givens)	191
Regil Elektra (K. Armer)	187
Lispatty (G. Garcia-Herrera)	178
Medusa (A. Federico Jr.)	178
Betabcool N (A. Annunziata)	154
Divas Image (R. Johnson)	147
Krispy Apple (J. Bamond Jr.)	142
Sell A Bit N (P. Tritton)	133

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Eric Ell told Weekend Preview that he contemplated not racing Soto in last week's fourth leg, and now the pacer will get the week off in preparation for the final.

Except for Soto, all of the top 14 pacers in the Levy standings will hit the track on Saturday. Just as the Matchmaker, the top seven spots appear to be secured, with seven horses having a chance to make the final, depending on the outcomes.

Red Mile Sets Historical Racing Record

On the heels of an all-time best \$23.1 million handle in February, The Red Mile handled \$28.2 million in March on its 902 Historical Racing machines, with the jump of more than \$5 million a 22.3 percent increase from the February numbers.

According to a report issued by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, the \$28.2 million is also nearly \$7 million more than a year ago in March 2016, an increase of 32.1 percent. More impressively, the year-to-date numbers for the first three months show a whopping 107.7 percent increase from 2016, rising from \$95.8 million to \$199 million.

The average daily handle on the 902 Historical Racing machines in March was \$912,269, an average of \$1,011 per machine. With \$106,051 going into the Standardbred Development Fund in March (one percent of the total handle), that Fund has thus far received \$995,301 in 2017.

"The Red Mile is very pleased with March setting a new record for monthly handle," said Red Mile president Joe Costa. "While the 2017 first quarter handle tracked slightly above budgeted projections, operating expenses also tracked slightly above those same budgeted projections. Future trend lines suggest continued growth in handle. Presently, operating expenses and razor thin margins have created a significant challenge. We are learning a lot. We should expect a few more surprises before we declare this economic model secure." — *By Gordon Waterstone*



THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, April 14

All times listed are local.

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 15

8:10p YR4 **Preferred** Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:30p YR5 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:50p YR6 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:10p YR7 **Levy Mem.** OHP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:30p YR8 **Open** Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)
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Confident McNair Ready For Mohawk Meet

It's easy to forget Doug McNair is only 27. The young reinsman has been a regular face on the Woodbine Entertainment circuit for several years and has been winning races since the day he hopped in a sulky.

But this winter McNair took his game to new heights and accomplished a feat that not many drivers in their 20s have been able to do: capture a driving title at Woodbine Race-



"No, I didn't think I would be rolling like I am; it just started as soon as we got back (to Woodbine)."

—Doug McNair

to jump right to the top.

"No, I didn't think I would be rolling like I am; it just started as soon as we got back (to Woodbine)," McNair said. "You got to have the horses and I got lucky that I got the horses this winter. Any top guy will tell you that you can't win races unless you have the horses."

McNair's top charge this winter has been the Brad Grant-owned, Richard Moreau-trained American Virgin, who has won the Preferred seven times since the new year. Success in the top classes has pushed McNair to the top of the earnings category on the circuit, having driven the winners of more than \$1.2 million this season.

The 27 year old's hot streak wasn't restricted to the WEG Circuit this winter as he also took his talents to Ohio to capture Miami Valley's inaugural North American Driving Championship in January.

"That set me off big time this year," McNair explained. "I went down there and wasn't expecting anything, was just going to have some fun and got lucky."

McNair's driving style has always fit racing at Woodbine, but he feels it also translates well for the way harness racing has developed over the years.

"You have to be aggressive (at Woodbine); it's always been more of a front-end place and Mohawk is kind of turn-

track.

"It's huge," McNair said about winning the driving title for the Woodbine fall-winter meet. "I remember being a kid and wanting to race here and to win the driver's title is huge, especially at a young age."

McNair, a winner of more than 2,600 races in his young career, led all drivers in victories and earnings during the recently concluded Woodbine meet, finishing with 126 wins, 37 more than his nearest rival.

Coming into the Woodbine portion of the season off a solid summer meet at Mohawk, which saw him win 125 races, McNair was poised to post good numbers, but even he didn't expect

Mohawk Meet Gets Underway

Harness racing shifted from Woodbine to Mohawk Racetrack on Thursday night, with the meet running through Nov. 6.

Live racing will be offered every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings will be added to the schedule in June for the duration of the meet.

The highlight of the 54th season is the 34th edition of the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup on Saturday, June 17. Over \$3 million in total purses will be up for grabs on the stakes-filled card, which includes the Fan Hanover, Goodtimes, Armbrø Flight, Roses Are Red and Mohawk Gold Cup.

Off the track, a pre-race concert featuring country stars Kira Isabella and Jojo Mason will get the party started. Fans will be able to take part in giveaways and contests, visit the beer garden, try a variety of special food items, get their "First Bet on Us," and receive a free hat with admission.

Mohawk will make one major change to this year's North America Cup night in charging admission. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 12 to 17, and children under 12 are free. Tickets can be pre-purchased through Ticketmaster.

So why the new admission charges?

"I do believe what we offer customers on Pepsi NA Cup night offers great value, and an admission of \$10 will not be a barrier for attendees based on that value," Woodbine Entertainment Group senior vice president of racing Jamie Martin explained to harnessracing.com. "The fact is, as we push our facility to accommodate an attendance in excess of 15,000 in an appropriate manner, our costs for temporary resources continue to grow. We need to grow revenue to meet those costs, and admissions along with wagering, food and beverage, and other revenue are all needed to ensure we are able to continue to put on a world class racing event." —

By Gordon Waterstone

ing into that, too," McNair said. "They're going so fast nowadays, going such big first-half speed and coming home so fast, that it's tough to win from off the pace."

McNair's Mohawk meet will start off in style as he will be recognized for leading the Woodbine meet with a winner's circle presentation on Saturday, April 15.

Getting off to a great start is important and McNair knows that all so well after starting 2017 with 27 wins in the month of January. Another flying start could lead to a second meet title for McNair this summer.

"I've had the right horses and hopefully my career is just starting to take off." (*Mark McKelvie for WEG*)

STRETCH CALL



BY ANDREA PIETRZAK

It's well-known that star singers can be demanding, asking for outlandish things while traveling. True talent means putting up with all of the idiosyncrasies that come with it. When it comes to talented horses, Pat Hudon agrees.

Hudon has a total of five horses in his Rockwood, Ont., stable, including the 6-year-old trotter Odds On Amethyst who commands the majority of his time and attention.

"Personally, I think that he's a very fine-tuned athlete and he's in his rhythm and he wants to race," says Hudon. "He's a very competitive horse, but only if you don't fight his quirks. As long as he gets his way, he wins."

To date in 2017, Odds On Amethyst has six wins, one second and one third-place finish in 12 starts and, as of April 10 he had won five in a row with Hudon in the sulky. The son of Muscle Hill out of Yankee Glide's accomplished daughter, Mystical Sunshine, was a Lexington Grand Circuit stakes winner in 1:54.2 at age two while racing for trainer Robin Schadt. At age three he found his way into the Jimmy Takter Stable, where he won a late-closer at Lexington in 1:52.1 and later drew post 7 in the Breeders Crown and was never in the hunt in the race won by Father Patrick. At age four he made six starts and won in 1:52.3 in open company at the Meadowlands.

According to Hudon, the gelding's bloodlines indicated obvious racing talent regardless of the horse's on-track miscues.

"His mom was a great horse and his dad was a great horse," Hudon says. "He has a lot of those family traits but, we had to get him healed up first, of course."

Significant soreness on the front end had Hudon put the trotter on immediate stall rest. It wasn't long before the 40-year-old horseman knew the layoff would require months instead of weeks to sort out. The horse's front feet were ridled with pus pockets and no sooner had one healed before another would develop.

Hudon's hypothesis is that the trotter's feisty temperament got Odds On Amethyst frustrated enough to tangle with his front feet whenever he was held off the gate or forced to tuck into traffic. Continuous, self-induced interference resulted in significant bruising and infection in both front feet.

"I told my owners that we're going to give him a year to work out so be patient, and it's a good thing I have a lot of patience because he's just a hot horse who always gets what he wants," he added.

It took more than five months for both of the horse's feet to fully heal. And that time required special care, and lots of patience as Hudon learned how to cope with the horse's

many eccentricities. There was frequent cow-kicking and a constant need to nip anything and everyone within reach. If not fed first, Odds On Amethyst would sulk in a stall corner, ignoring his food until real hunger drove him to eat. Paddock turnout required a strict timeline, set by the horse, who would either ram through the paddock gate or refuse to be caught if not brought into the barn when he wanted. Even a simple task like soaking the trotter's feet entailed special attention.

"You got to put the right one in before the left one because if you put the left one in first he won't put the other one in at all," explained Hudon. "He'll just fight and you'll get soaked."

Hudon was then faced with the even tougher task of preventing the gelding from re-injuring himself once Odds On Amethyst was sound enough to return to racing.

"I was a little stressed racing him because he is a lot of work and a strong, strong horse," he shared. "Trying to paddock him and drive him was taking a lot out of me."

Hudon hit on a solution. While at the farm, Odds On Amethyst is permitted to get away with any and all diva behavior, but only receives the same grooming, bathing and

"It's a good thing I have a lot of patience because he's just a hot horse who always gets what he wants."

—Pat Hudon about Odds On Amethyst

bandaging as the other race-horses. While at the track, the fiery gelding is expected to mind his manners, but enjoys the dedicated attention of paddock groom, Linnea Burgess, the daughter of Blair and Karin Burgess. On race night, Linnea fusses and coddles the equine to his heart's content.

"Linnea has got the upbringing to take care of a horse like him and he seems to like that comfort that she gives him," said Hudon. "I'll keep driving him and between Linnea and me, the routine seems to really help him to get the job done."

Hudon shares ownership of Odds On Amethyst with William Cripps, Charles Gazzola and Adam Kean and says that if the horse keeps turning in winning performances, he may make the move to a bigger racing stage in Ontario later this season.

"We've just nominated him to the Maple Leaf Trot," said Hudon. "If he keeps paying for it we'll keep him paid up and, if not, we'll keep in the Preferred at Woodbine."

In the meantime, Hudon plans to keep feeding the gelding first and soaking the right front hoof before the left because, as Hudon says, "You don't ever mess with the talent—especially when it's got talent to spare."

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.

ONES TO WATCH

Brian Sears will be back in the sulky beginning Friday night at Yonkers. Sears hasn't driven since Nov. 29 because he had laser eye surgery in December and decided to take more time off and spend the winter in Pinehurst, N.C., where he became familiar with the area golf courses during the years he visited his mother there. Along the way this year Sears scored a hole in one.

On Friday night over at the Meadowlands, the undefeated **PRAIRIE SWEETHEART** makes her 4-year-old debut in Race 6, starting from post 5 with John Campbell driving for trainer Ross Croghan. The Florida-bred star was supplemented to last fall's Allera Old Mare Pace at The Red Mile where she bested a field that included eventual divisional champion Lady Shadow with a 1:49.1 effort. Prairie Sweetheart enters the year with a perfect 14-for-14 record.

The Saturday morning Meadowlands qualifying program is again worth watching as some of the sport's stars from 2016 are set to line up behind the starting gate for the first time this season. Qualifiers start at 10 a.m. and two fast freshman trotting fillies in 2016 prep for their 2017 season in Race 1: the Jimmy Takter-trained **PRINCESS AURORA** 2, 1:54.3 and the Ron Burke-trained **TEMPLE OF RUINS** 2, 1:54.4. In Race 4, Burke sends out 2016 Peter Haughton Memorial Trot winner **WHAT THE HILL**. Then in Race 5 Burke sends out **CRAZY WOW** and **DAYSON**, with Crazy Wow edg-

ing his stablemate in an April 1 qualifier, and in Race 6 the Burke brigade's 2016 Dan Patch Trotting Mare of the Year **HANNELORE HANOVER** will line up along with Dan Patch 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year **BROADWAY DONNA** and **SIDE BET HANOVER**.

In Race 7, two 3-year-old pacing fillies of note are entered: **ELLA CHRISTINA**, who won a Standardbred stakes at Delaware last fall, and **ROCKETTE**, the runner-up in the Matron for the Burke stable.

Race 8 features the return the pacing mares **CALL ME QUEEN BE**, **BLUE MOON STRIDE** and **DARLIN ON THE BEACH**. Race 10 features a few well-bred 3-year-old pacers with little to no experience, and in Race 11, the 4-year-old **CHECK SIX** will make his second qualifying start of 2016 after finishing second on April 1.

On Saturday night at Pocono, the 5-year-old pacer **THE WAYFARING MAN** p, 1:50.2, a lifelong campaigner on the Woodbine Entertainment circuit for trainer Nicky Comenga, will make his first start for the Burke stable in Race 5.

While the final leg divisions of the George Morton Levy Memorial Series will be the feature at Yonkers on Saturday night, the track's \$55,000 Open Trot (Race 8) is worth watching thanks to the entries of **MELADY'S MONET**, the half-mile track specialist **BARN DOLL** (making her first start of 2017), and the three-time winners **BUEN CAMINO** and **LADY'S DUDE**.

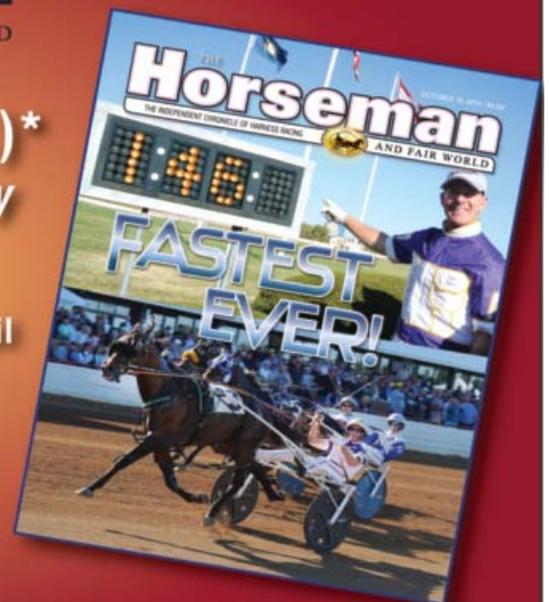
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BREEDING
Banter

Sugar Valley Farm in Ohio has announced that Dragon Again, the sire of \$7.5 million winner Foiled Again and 2015 North America Cup champion Wakizashi Hanover, has been retired from his stud duties.

Owned by a syndicate which bears his name, Dragon Again is now 22 years old and has a fused right front ankle that ails him, thus the decision for him to retire from stud duty.

"We made the decision in the best interest of 'Dragon,'" said Joe McLead, co-owner of Sugar Valley Farm. "As syndicate manager, I

consulted with Mr. (Ed) Mullinax, who owned him throughout his racing career and is still his majority shareholder, as well as Hanover Shoe Farms's Dr. Jablonsky and Jim Simpson, where he stood the majority of his career. 'Dragon' doesn't owe anyone and has been a huge asset to our wonderful sport and will continue to be in the years to come."

McLead said Dragon Again spends his time in a paddock near the Sugar Valley office.

"He likes people. Anyone can visit with him, even kids," added McLead.

Dragon Again is the sire of the winners of more than \$122 million and has bred mares this season, with a few already pronounced in foal. After beginning his stud career at Hanover Shoe Farms in Pennsylvania and standing there for 13 years, Dragon Again moved to Sugar Valley Farm in 2014 where the size of his books were 116, 107 and 82 in years 2014 to 2016.

In other breeding news, the pacing mare Jerseylicious is still showing she likes living in Ohio and racing. Last fall breeder Bruce Trogdon bought the 7-year-old daughter of Western Ideal for \$30,000 with the intention of adding her to his broodmare band. But since she had been qualified right before the Harrisburg sale, he decided to first give the mare to trainer Tim Lane and see if she was fit enough to race and compete in Ohio.

After winning twice and at a non-winners level, Jerseylicious had to step up to the open ranks and finished on the board in all of her starts in that class. She's in to go Saturday night at Hoosier Park and will be attempting to improve on her record of five wins in 10 starts this year and \$56,770 in earnings.

As for a date with a stallion this spring, Trogdon said he's not 100 percent sure Jerseylicious will be bred this year.

"We are going to give her a break and some grass soon and see where she's at repro wise, then make a decision," he said via a text.

Joe McLead's 10-year-old son Will (right) and his friend Nate visited Dragon Again at the farm.



Photo courtesy Sugar Valley Farm

Last year's top trotting filly Caprice Hill is in training to race this season, but owner Tom Hill also hopes the mare will begin her second career as a mother. Caprice was recently bred to Muscle Hill but did not get in foal, but another try is going to be made.

In another sort of breeding news, George Hempt, the son of Standardbred breeder Max J. Hempt and his wife, Amy, scored the winning goal for Roger William's University's men's polo team in the United States Polo Association's National Intercollegiate Championship. The championship took place April 4-8 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

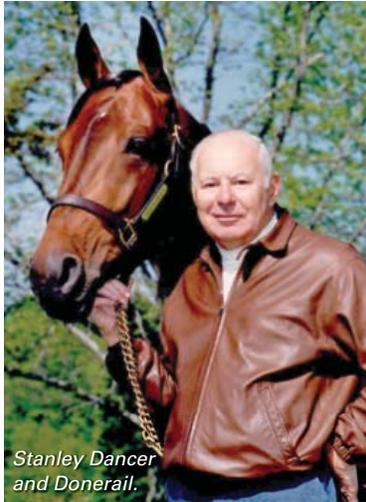
Hempt, a fourth-generation polo player, is named after his grandfather, the late George Hempt, who also was a polo player, as was his father, Hempt Farms founder Max Hempt.

The Roger William's University (RWU) Men's Polo Team's success was also noteworthy because the program is just two years old. The team defeated Southern Methodist University (SMU) in the championship match. SMU chipped away at RWU's lead before tying the match at 11-all within the last 30 seconds of regulation play. The match went to an overtime penalty shootout, where three players from both teams each get a free hit at goal from the 25-yard line. The two teams remained in lock-step, with one player from each side scoring in the first round, sending the match into double overtime for a second shoot-out. Hempt, a sophomore at RWU, scored the winning goal and was named a tournament All-Star. —By Kathy Parker

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Donerail Dies At 25 In Denmark

Donerail, a colt who was poised an early favorite to win the 1995 Hambletonian but instead left his mark as a filly sire and broodmare sire of champions, died in Jutland, Denmark, on Jan. 29 at age 25. According to reports in Denmark, Donerail was in his stall and unable to get up. Veterinarians suspected that he suffered a stroke.



Stanley Dancer and Donerail.

Bred by Mary Hilliard and named for small town outside of Lexington, Ky., where historic Walnut Hall Farm is located, Donerail was one of the last top colts trained by Hall of Famer Stanley Dancer. In 1994, the 66-year-old Dancer deputized John Campbell to drive Donerail and the colt owned by Bob Suslow's RJS Stable won 13 of 15 starts, including the Peter Haughton Memorial Trot.

In September of his 2-year-old season, Donerail was syndicated for \$2.5 million by Hanover Shoe Farms, with Suslow retaining 55 percent. The colt sired by Valley victory went on to win the Valley Victory Trot at Garden State Park in his last start of the season. Donerail was voted the 2-

Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year and anointed the colt as the one to beat in the 1995 Hambletonian, but his early starts were lackadaisical.

After a third-place finish behind Climbing Bud on June 7 at the Meadowlands, Donerail had throat surgery and on June 30 won his first start back in easy fashion. Dancer proclaimed the colt "definitely a lot better than he was."

But despite the throat surgery, Donerail's retirement from racing was announced on July 24.

"There's no use racing him if he's not right. All people would do is knock him," said Dancer.

Donerail stood at Hanover Shoe Farms in Pennsylvania from 1996 through 2007 and made his mark with his daughters, who thus far have produced four Hambletonian champions, Donato Hanover, Marion Marauder, Royalty For Life and Broad Bahn.

As for Donerail's fillies, his second crop included Merrie Annabelle winner Spellbound Hanover. Other notable stakes-winning fillies by Donerail are Fun And Strokes 3, 1:55 (\$735,556), Filly At Bigs 3, 1:54 (\$655,773), Day For Night 3, 1:54.2 (\$616,907), Flawless Bluestone 3, Q1:53.4 (\$589,935) and Bold Dreamer 3, 1:55 (\$531,258).

In addition to the four Hambletonian champions, Donerail's daughters have produced \$1.8 million winner Enough Talk; Hambletonian elimination winner Pampered Princess; and Dejarmbro.

In 2008 Donerail was sold and exported to Finland, where he has sired 191 foals. The best of these has been Good Dynamite, who took a mark of 1:55.3f. In 2016 Donerail was sold again and moved to Denmark, but did not get any mares in foal.



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Vernon Downs postpones April 21 opening

Jeff Gural, chairman of American Racing and Entertainment, announced Thursday that he will be delaying the opening day of racing at Vernon Downs amid significant financial losses due to the added competition from Yellow Brick Road, Lago and Rivers. [more](#)

Burke 3YO prospects qualify at Harrah's Philly

The Ron Burke-trained 3-year-old pacers Filibuster Hanover and Miso Fast, and the 3-year-old colt trotter Snowstorm Hanover, all prominently mentioned in the upcoming April 19 issue of The Horseman And Fair World by panel members participating in the Spring Training Report, made their 2017 qualifying debuts Tuesday morning at Harrah's Philadelphia. [more](#)

Canadian Hall of Famer Jack Kopas dies at 88

Standardbred Canada is reporting that iconic Canadian horseman Jack Kopas, inducted into Canada's Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 1989, has died at the age of 88. After a short illness, Kopas passed at his winter home in Orlando, Fla. [more](#)

Miami Valley's weekend full of action

Miami Valley Raceway has an exciting weekend in store. It includes a \$10,000 guaranteed total pool in the 50-cent Lucky Pick-5 wager on Friday, eliminations for the James K. Hackett Memorial series for top Ohio-sired 3-year-olds on Friday, April 14 (fillies) and Saturday, April 15 (colts), outstanding \$22,000 Opens for older mares on Friday and older horses and geldings on Saturday, and a special Easter Sunday matinee. [more](#)

Chip Walther watches when Chip Walther races

When Chip Walther races, Chip Walther is watching. Chip Walther, a 3-year-old pacing colt who finished last season with a four-race win streak, was named by co-owner Mike Anderson in honor of a college buddy, Chip Walther. The two attended Western Illinois University together. Walther now lives in Wisconsin, where he keeps a watchful eye on his namesake. [more](#)

NY shifts drug testing costs to horsemen

According to a report on Bloodhorse.com on Tuesday, the New York legislature has approved a state budget that includes shifting the full costs of equine drug testing in the state to the horsemen, both Standardbred and Thoroughbred. [more](#)

Big M gives fans taste of horse ownership

Joe Conte said he had never even been to the Meadowlands Racetrack, much less owned a racehorse. Thanks to the New Jersey racetrack's wildly popular "Own A Horse" promotion, Conte got to experience both thrills during March as an owner of the horse, Legion Of Boom. [more](#)

SBOANJ's Renaissance Program Available

As part of the 2016 Renaissance Incentive Program, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) will pay up to a \$400 rebate to those mares that qualified for the program. The office will rely on the USTA foal registrations to verify that the mare foaled in New Jersey. Your foal must be registered by Oct. 15, 2017, in order to receive the rebate. [more](#)

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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through April 11, 2017 (week difference April 5-11).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Somewhere In LA (6pg)	12	5	3	1	\$155,750
Soto (5ph)	12	6	0	1	133,000
Red Hot Herbie (7tg)	10	4	0	1	132,700
Caviart Luca (6pg)	11	5	0	1	120,400
Bedroomconfessions (5pm)	7	4	2	0	111,250
Missile J (4pg)	8	7	0	1	108,200
American Virgin (5pg)	11	7	2	1	105,696
Cousin Mary (4pm)	10	8	1	0	105,000
Blood Brother (5pg)	11	2	4	1	100,650
Lady's Dude (6tg)	6	3	2	1	97,250
Regil Elektra (7pm)	8	4	0	1	92,800
Guantanamo Bay (5pg)	12	3	0	3	91,600
Freeze Out (4pm)	10	4	3	1	86,640
Provocativeprincen (7pg)	7	4	1	0	85,500
Roland N Rock (5pg)	10	2	2	0	83,800

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	717	158-124-105	.365	\$2,948,536 (\$292,955)
Jordan Stratton	621	101-87-98	.293	2,162,979 (146,335)
Aaron Merriman	1,355	297-232-190	.361	2,077,460 (149,490)
Matt Kakaley	686	93-100-79	.255	2,056,301 (200,505)
George Brennan	599	79-70-68	.235	1,681,104 (65,325)
Corey Callahan	921	171-137-112	.309	1,552,414 (180,342)
Mark MacDonald	573	63-71-72	.221	1,475,208 (196,540)
Scott Zeron	504	66-62-66	.243	1,385,964 (0)
Daniel Dube	558	52-67-69	.201	1,294,260 (149,975)
Trace Tetrack	744	150-96-89	.313	1,253,264 (110,555)
Yannick Gingras	491	100-81-63	.338	1,240,322 (9,300)
Dave Palone	580	143-78-65	.359	1,103,562 (70,647)
Jim Marohn Jr.	741	142-125-99	.330	1,047,631 (62,707)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	799	165-157-125	.368	1,041,365 (93,689)
Joe Bongiorno	770	85-107-97	.230	1,038,323 (137,000)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	840	192-120-113	.353	\$2,449,606 (\$240,368)
Rene Allard	479	113-75-61	.365	1,378,480 (96,050)
Richard Banca	318	54-58-46	.319	1,255,550 (98,600)
Andrew Harris	263	51-46-28	.327	852,700 (66,050)
Scott Di Domenico	264	53-39-36	.328	833,954 (65,270)
Richard Moreau	379	63-58-51	.296	708,531 (77,830)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	289	45-37-39	.272	683,835 (156,070)
Rob Harmon	191	44-25-19	.336	582,734 (22,870)
Dylan Davis	215	58-43-29	.426	521,701 (39,509)
Carmen Auciello	331	42-41-36	.232	518,735 (20,856)
Matias Ruiz	189	25-22-24	.239	480,781 (45,080)
Mark Ford	269	30-29-40	.221	463,494 (73,890)
Jeff Bamond Jr.	169	18-23-25	.231	462,478 (44,730)
Jim King Jr.	164	33-30-19	.341	441,393 (50,948)
Nick Surick	323	93-57-49	.437	398,945 (27,133)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	611	263	461	\$4,444,455
Winbak Farm	558	232	420	3,505,543
Brittany Farms	150	74	144	1,353,838
Seelster Farms Inc.	114	65	142	1,193,054
Perretti Farms	135	69	116	1,060,099
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	106	39	92	847,129
Bulletproof Enterprises	101	44	87	822,797
White Birch Farm	92	41	76	801,740
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	74	34	63	766,691
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	85	46	86	751,286
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	103	37	77	685,956
Steve Stewart	89	42	71	683,430
Robert J. Key	77	41	70	652,714
Frederick Hertrich III	98	46	68	598,337
CSX Stables	42	29	60	564,037

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for April 5-11 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers Starts W-P-S

Aaron Merriman	101	21-18-20
Trace Tetrack	70	18-6-8
Jason Bartlett	56	17-6-8
Tim Tetrack	73	17-6-6
George Napolitano Jr	68	16-8-12
Corey Callahan	87	15-16-10
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	50	12-6-9
Josh Sutton	57	12-4-8
Louis Roy	39	12-3-3
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	69	12-15-12
Dave Palone	45	11-3-1
David Miller	64	11-10-8
Jim DeVaux	55	11-7-7
Matt Kakaley	66	11-6-9
Jack Harris	31	10-5-2
Tony Hall	45	10-3-4
Brett Miller	62	9-4-10
Jim Pantaleano	44	9-8-8
Joe Bongiorno	59	9-14-5
John DeLong	36	9-5-3
Mark Beckwith	35	9-5-5
Mark MacDonald	49	9-5-10
Randy Tharps	40	9-6-5
Tony Morgan	50	9-6-13

Trainers Wins

Ron Burke	24
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	12
Richard Moreau	8
Mark Ford	7
Tim Hall	7
Andrew Harris	6
Herman Hagerman	6
Melissa Beckwith	6
Rene Allard	6
Al Annunziata	5
Clyde Francis	5
Kathleen Plested	5
Rich Gillock	5