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WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

Inside
Weekly
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News Digest

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Last Call For Levy, Matchmaker Finalists

Although it would take a miracle of circumstances for the bottom horses in the standings to advance to the final of the George Morton Levy Memorial Series for older male pacers at Yonkers Raceway, there are 21 horses that still have a mathematical chance to advance to the \$500,000-plus contest on Saturday, April 25. Twenty of those 21 will be in Levy action in this Saturday night's fifth and final preliminary, divided into three \$50,000 splits.

On the flip side, the Blue Chip Matchmaker for older mare pacers is down to just one six-horse \$40,000 prelim on Friday night, with the field for the rich final all but set. While the top three in the point standings are sitting this week out in preparation for the April 25 final, the order of the remaining five spots will be shuffled some depending on Friday's outcome.

Back in Levy action this week after taking off last Saturday are PH Supercam and Beach Memories, one-two in the standings and secure in their positions in the final.

Defending Levy champ PH Supercam—who is three-for-three in his 2015 preliminaries—is trained by Jeff Bamond

Jr., who is secure with a second Levy finalist in Fat Mans Alley, who has a first, second and third in four starts and is also starting Saturday night.

Bamond has a third starter Saturday in Mach It So, who is 14th. Even with a victory a lot would have to happen for him to jump ahead of Fat Mans Alley in the standings. While new Levy conditions preclude a trainer from having more than one starter in any prelim di-

vision, a stable can have two in the final.

"I don't think he even had to start but the starting points (25) really make it difficult strategy-wise," said Bamond. "I didn't do the math, but if Fat Mans Alley doesn't get a check and Mach It So wins, I think he would pass him. But it's close."

Interestingly, PH Supercam and Fat Mans Alley were both claimed by Bamond Racing from trainer Rene Allard. PH Su-

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Levy Memorial Series Standings

| Horse (trainer) | Points |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. PH Supercam (J. Bamond Jr.) | 225 |
| 2. Beach Memories (S. DiDomenico) | 200 |
| 3. Michael's Power (M. Silva) | 100 |
| Take It Back Terry (R. Burke) | 100 |
| 5. Fat Mans Alley (J. Bamond Jr.) | 187 |
| Windsong Jack (J. Sabot) | 187 |
| 7. Polak A (T. O'Sullivan) | 175 |
| 8. Sapphire City (P. Blumenfeld) | 170 |
| 9. Domethatagain (R. Allard) | 168 |
| 10. Heez Or! Black N (A. Vallee) | 166 |
| 11. Bettor's Edge (R. Burke) | 163 |
| 12. Lucan Hanover (A. Harris) | 162 |
| 13. Frankie's Dragon (T. O'Sullivan) | 158 |
| 14. Mach It So (J. Bamond Jr.) | 154 |
| 15. National Debt (R. Coyne Jr.) | 142 |

WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

Levy chances improve for Aussie—pg. 3

Burke has two in Whata Baron—pg. 4

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Breeding Banter—pg. 6

percarn, claimed for \$30,000 on Aug. 5, 2013, has made 60 starts for Bamond, earning \$801,870. With career earnings of \$987,261, a win Saturday by PH Supercam would propel the 8-year-old gelding past the \$1-million mark. Fat Mans Alley, claimed on Nov. 3, 2012, has earned \$528,790 for the Bamond family, and he's done it the hard way. The \$25,000 check for winning his Levy split on April 4 was the biggest of the 7-year-old gelding's 133-start career.

"He's definitely an overachiever," Bamond said of Fat Mans Alley. "He just tries and finishes well every week. He gives you all he's got."

After six consecutive appearances in the Levy final, the 2011 Pacer of the Year and three-time Older Male Pacer of

Continues on page 2 >>>

the Year Foiled Again will be sitting this one out. After Foiled Again finished second, third and fifth in the opening three rounds this year, trainer Ron Burke decided to give the 11 year old some time off.

Foiled Again has made 33 career starts in the Levy Series, with 22 wins, seven seconds and three thirds with \$1,337,190 in earnings. In his six final appearances, Foiled Again has two wins (2009-10), two seconds and two thirds. His Levy bankroll represents 19.3 percent of Foiled Again's all-time record \$6,923,781 in earnings.

"He had no chance of making the final so I had to go with the ones I had," said Burke.

Burke right now has just one Levy starter secure for the final. That is Take It Back Terry, who has two wins and a second in his three preliminaries. Because of the new conditions for the preliminaries—dubbed "The Burke Rule" because of the trainer's domination in the past with a plethora of entries—Burke sent Beach Memories to trainer Scott Di Domenico prior to the third leg. Burke still has an outside shot with Bettor's Edge, who would seemingly need a top-three finish to have any chance for the final, and a remote possibility with 17th-ranked Clear Vision.

"Bettor's Edge was no good last week (fifth after going off-stride in the stretch as the betting favorite) but we are going to try a different way of racing him this week," said Burke "Hopefully, it will get it turned around a little bit. (The series) hasn't been good this year, thank God for Take It Back Terry."

One horse in a precarious position for the Levy final is Michael's Power, who had a win and two seconds in the three opening rounds, but then finished sixth in the fourth leg. Trainer Mark Silva did not enter Michael's Power on Saturday, and despite currently sitting in a second-place tie in

Blue Chip Matchmaker Series Standings

| Horse (trainer) | Points |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Carolsideal (R. Allard) | 300 |
| 2. Venus Delight (J. Bamond Jr.) | 200 |
| 3. Yagonnakissmeornot (R. Allard) | 191 |
| 4. Camille (R. Burke) | 175 |
| 5. Monkey On My Wheel (A. Harris) | 157 |
| 6. Krispy Apple (J. Bamond Jr.) | 155 |
| 7. Fancy Desire (D. Renaud) | 146 |
| 8. Strings (J. Sabot) | 140 |
| 9. Anndrovette (J. Bamond Jr.) | 111 |
| 10. Charisma Hanover (R. Burke) | 110 |
| 11. For The Ladies N (P. Tritton) | 100 |
| 12. Coffee Addict (B. Saunders) | 92 |

tively in the standings for trainer Allard, are sitting this week out, as is the second-place Venus Delight, who is trained by Bamond. While Bamond will be sending out sixth-place Krispy Apple on Friday as his second Matchmaker entry, he took Anndrovette, who finished fourth, third

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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, April 17

All times listed are local.

8:50p YR6 **Matchmaker Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:02p M6 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:10p YR7 **F&M Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Saturday, April 18

7:38p M2 **Whata Baron Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:30p YR5 **Levy Mem. Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:45p Moh5 **Don Mills Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:50p YR6 **Levy Mem. Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:10p YR7 **Levy Mem. Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:12p PcD10 **Weiss Pace** final [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:30p YR8 **Open Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 11:10p M12 **Whata Baron Pace** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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and second in the last three Matchmaker finals, out of consideration by entering her instead in the \$31,000 Mares Open that same night at Yonkers.

"We wanted Anndrovette to get in...she had an outside shot to pass Krispy Apple," said Bamond. "If there was only one, I wanted to pick the safe one. If I picked Anndrovette and she didn't somehow win—and she hasn't won yet—I could only have one (in the final). So I wanted to go with the safe one."

After having maximum entries in the past in the Matchmaker, Burke is down to just one finalist this year: Camille, who is currently fourth but could move up to second with a victory with the trio ahead of her remaining in their stalls this weekend.

"The series has been a train wreck for me this year," said Burke. "But it is what it is and I'll give it my best shot at winning. Maybe it worked out better for everybody else, but for

Levy Chances Improving For Down Under Import

When it comes to qualifying for the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series championship, Heez Orl Black N is on the outside looking in. But thanks to a preliminary-round win last week at 13-1 odds, the gelding's chances of advancing to the lucrative final have improved significantly.

Yonkers Raceway on Saturday hosts the last preliminary round of the Levy Series. Heez Orl Black N, who is 10th in the standings, drew post 1 in the first division. The all-black 7-year-old New Zealand-bred gelding, trained by Anita Vallee, trails Sapphire City by four points for the eighth spot in the standings.

Sapphire City drew post 3 in the same Levy division as Heez Orl Black N while Polak A, who is seventh in the standings, got post 5. Bettor's Edge, who is 11th in the standings, three points behind Heez Orl Black N, received post 2.

"With a good draw, I think we have a chance to hit the board and then we'll let the chips fall where they may," said Shaun Vallee, who owns Heez Orl Black N with Daniel Vlahakis' DPV Racing Stable. "I'm not wishing any of the other ones bad luck, but just hoping I have enough luck to get in."

Vallee purchased Heez Orl Black N, a former stakes-winner in New Zealand, in October. Heez Orl Black N, a son

of In The Pocket, won 15 races and \$182,615 competing Down Under.

"When he was racing over there, his races were very consistent and very good races," said Vallee, who saw Heez Orl Black N while visiting friends in Australia. "I was just lucky they were willing to sell him."

In his first start this year, Heez Orl Black N finished third at the Meadowlands. He then was sent to Yonkers, where the half-mile oval suited his smaller build. He won his first two starts before finishing second to PH Supercam in a conditioned race in late January.

"After I raced him a couple starts, I thought that if he kept racing consistently that we could put him in the Levy," said Vallee. "But in the beginning, I wasn't that sure. After he won three or four races, I thought he might be alright in there and we gave him a chance."

Heez Orl Black N won last week with driver Brian Sears by one length over National Debt in 1:53.1. He also has two fourth-place finishes among four starts in the Levy. (HRC)



Shaun Vallee and Daniel Vlahakis flank Heez Orl Black N.

Ken Weingartner/Photo

Sire of three feature winners at Woodbine on March 28:

Youthful Series...DIALAMARA p,3,1:52.3-'15
Preferred Pace...THUNDER STEELER p,1:49.2
Conditioned Pace...RAMBLINGAMBLINMAN p,4,1:51.3-'15

LIS MARA



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Burke Brigade Brings Two To Whata Baron

The Whata Baron Series gets underway Saturday night at the Meadowlands, with 13 of the 24 nominees divided into a pair of \$22,500 splits. The event for male pacers who were non-winners of four pari-mutuel races or \$100,000 through Feb. 15, 2015, continues with a second leg on April 25 and the \$75,000 final on May 2.

Trainer Ron Burke, easily atop the Big M standings in wins and earnings this year, will send two into first-round action in the Whata Baron. Burke will start Rediscovery from post 3 in the first division (Race 2) and Panchester United from

“Rediscovery was sneaky good last week; he had pace between horses.”

—Ron Burke

was bought by Burke Racing, Weaver Brussemi LLC and Phil Collura just prior to the \$62,200 Sagamore final on March 31 at Yonkers, a race which the 4-year-old son of Tell All paid a quick dividend, with a season-best 1:54 victory. Burke then sent Rediscovery to the Meadowlands for an April 11 overnight, where he finished fourth by 2 ¾ lengths in tight quarters.

“Rediscovery was sneaky good last week; he had pace between horses,” said Burke. “I really like the horse. He was a horse we were looking at for a while and they finally agreed on a price. I think he’s our kind of horse and I’m excited.”

As for consummating the deal on the eve of the Sagamore final, Burke said, “We probably gave them enough that it made it worth it for them. And we got lucky and drew the rail and got a good trip and got the money.”

post 4 in the second division (Race 12). Both will be driven by David Miller.

Both pacers are also recent additions to the Burke Brigade via private purchases. Rediscovery



Sean Harrocks Photo

Panchester United came to the Burke Stable via competing primarily in Maine his first two years of racing and then recently at Yonkers and the Meadowlands. After earning \$72,481 and taking a career mark of 1:53.1h at Scarborough Downs in 2014 for his prior connections, Panchester United has a record of 6-3-2-1 and earnings of \$33,400 since being purchased by Burke Racing and Weaver Brussemi LLC. His three wins at the Big M for Burke include a career-best 1:50.2 effort on March 14.

“Mark (Weaver) is all over the place and talks to thousands of people every day. He called and said we could buy this horse and I said I don’t care, sounds good,” Burke explained of finding Panchester United. “He’s a very nice horse that does everything you ask of him. He seems to be a classy little horse. It’s turned out very well.” — *By Gordon Waterstone*

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ONES TO WATCH

Whether you watch live or via a replay, there are a few notables making their first starts of the season on Friday afternoon.

At Harrah's Philadelphia, Race 7 (2:45 p.m. estimated post time) will feature the 4-year-old mare pacer **GALLIE BYTHE BEACH**, who is making her 2015 debut after winning a qualifier in 1:53.3f. The multiple stakes winner will start from post 7 with Tim Tetrick aboard for trainer Jim Campbell. In Race 13 at Philly, **BETTOR BE STEPPIN**, a New York-sired filly who took a mark of 1:52 last year as a freshman, begins her season in an overnight for trainer Joe Holloway.

At The Meadows Friday afternoon, you might peruse the entries and overlook **UF LARRY ALLTHEWAY** (Race 8, post time 3:15 p.m.), but the 3-year-old son of Dragon Again was named by his trainer, Kelly O'Donnell, as his "sleeper" when he recently submitted his list of his top five pacers for The Horseman And Fair World magazine's annual "Top Picks" feature. "Larry," who won in 1:51.2f as a 2 year old, starts from post 7 with Tony Hall aboard.

The most compelling competition on Saturday night will likely take place at Yonkers and the Meadowlands, where series action is carded. Before the Saturday night action, a few stars of the 2014 season will be on the track at the Meadowlands in qualifiers: Race 3—the 3-year-old trotters **CRUZADO DELA NOCHE** and **CANEPA HANOVER**; Race 6—**MELADY'S MONET** (five for eight this year), **MUSCLE NETWORK**, **BEE A MAGICIAN**, **D'ORSAY**; Race 7—**SHAKE IT CERRY**, **SUMATRA**; Race 10—**WHITE BLISS**; Race 13—**THE SHOW RETURNS**; Race 14—**LIMELIGHT BEACH**; Race 15—**SOMEWHERE IN LA**, **SOMESIZESOMESTYLE**, **ALL BETS OFF**.

Outside of the Meadowlands and Yonkers, you can catch the 2014 stars **NATURAL HERBIE** and **MODERN LEGEND** in action at Hoosier Park and Mohawk, respectively. Natural Herbie will make his first start of the season in Race 9 (7:55 p.m.) at Hoosier Park, an Invitational Trot. "Herbie" comes into the race after winning a qualifier in 1:55.2 at Hoosier for his owner-trainer-driver, Verlin Yoder. At Mohawk, 2014 Canadian Pacing Derby champion Modern Legend makes his second start of the season in the \$34,000 Preferred Pace (Race 8, 9:45 p.m. post time). He won his season debut on April 11 at Mohawk in 1:50.3.

Next week be sure to check harnessracing.com for updates about the season debut of **NUNCIO**, the winner of last year's Kentucky Futurity. After racing in North America as a 2 and 3 year old, he is now in Sweden with owner Stefan Melander and will be making his first start at the Solvalla track in Stockholm on Wednesday, April 22. Nuncio will start from post 9, in the second tier, in the one-mile race over the five-eighths mile Solvalla track, with Melander scheduled to drive. It could be a tough test for Nuncio as he will be facing a field that includes the 10-year-old Reven d'Amour, who finished fourth behind Timoko in an elimination heat for last year's Elitlopp and was fourth in an overnight at Solvalla on April 8, which was his first start of 2015. Also of note, Melander has not set this year's Elitlopp as a goal for Nuncio since the horse is only 4 years old.



**Nominations Close
Friday, May 15, 2015**



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BREEDING *Banter*

The resurgence of harness racing in Ohio has been documented by the increase in purses, number of mares bred, influx of stallions to the state and most recently, the 69.4 percent increase in nominations to the Ohio Sires Stakes program.

Two of the state's largest breeders, Midland Acres and Hickory Lane Farm, are thrilled with the resurgence, but keeping in mind that more Ohio-sired foals will change the business dynamic very soon. Neither farm has any plans to breed

more mares in 2015 than it did last year.

"I think breeding activity in Ohio is about the same as it was last year," said Dr. John Mossbarger of Midland Acres, where 80-90 mares will be bred this year. "There are more stallions this year, that's for sure. And there are certainly a lot of mares being bred. But I think in the future you've got to have quality. We're probably down a little this year because we've culled some mares.

"I liked it when demand was high and supply was low," laughed Dr. Mossbarger. "I think the 2015 yearling sales will still show higher demand than supply, but in 2016 supply will be catching up."

Hickory Lane Farm will breed about 45 of its own mares, with about 10-15 boarders.

"Like other people, we've culled," said Hickory Lane manager and partner Brad Wallace. "We're trying to upgrade our quality."

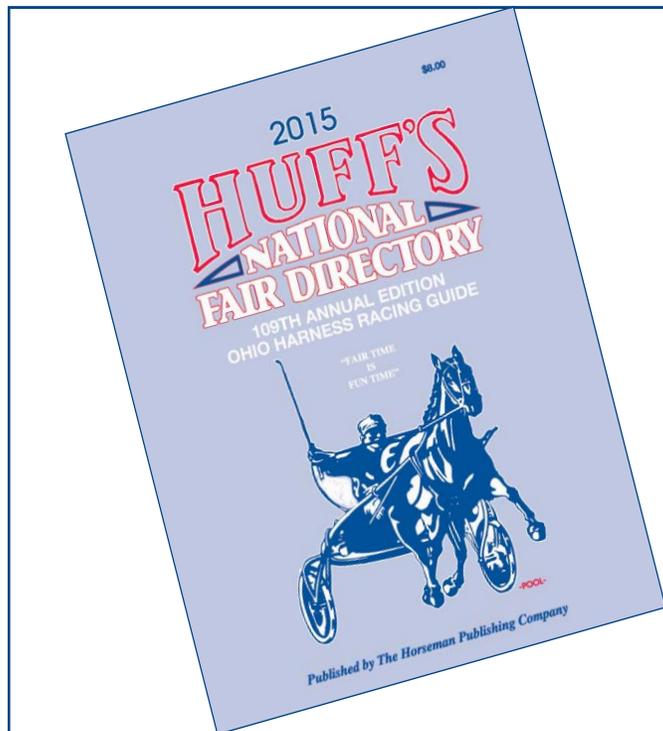
Even with the culls, Hickory Lane's horse supply has pushed the limits of its property—the 110 acres it owns and 50 acres it rents from Jim Koehler.

"We're land-locked here and won't have the opportunity to acquire anything that's contiguous," noted Wallace. "We had so many more colts born last year than fillies—and I have certain areas set up for the colts—that we had to send eight of them to Walnut Hall Stock Farm in Kentucky. One of them was the Dejarmbro colt out of Pink Ribbons."

In addition to being two of the state's largest breeders, Midland Acres and Hickory Lane also stand some of the state's most popular stallions. Midland Acres is the home of nine stallions—Art Official, Big Bad John, Break The Bank K, Broadway Hall, Feelin Friskie, Jailhouse Jesse, Lionhunter, Manofmanymissions and Pet Rock. Hickory Lane is the home to Dejarmbro and McArdle, who are both standing their third seasons, and first-year sire Uncle Peter.

With the influx of stallions in the state, not all studs are going to be breeding full books this year. Because of that, Wallace said he was surprised at how well bookings have held up for his older stallions.

"I'm not surprised that Uncle Peter is full, but Dejarmbro is at about 110 today, and McArdle is at 103, so with all the new stallions, that's incredible," said Wallace on Thursday, April 16. "With all the stallions that are here, you have to have a horse at the top of the heap if you want to play, and I think we've got the right horses." — *By Kathy Parker*



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Lincoln Chafee Running For President?

Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee said Thursday on CNN that he's running for the Democratic nomination for president, just a week after announcing he formed an exploratory committee. As a young man Chafee worked in harness racing as a farrier and last July he and his wife attended the races at Goshen's Historic Track and the Hall of Fame induction dinner.

"Yes, that's why I'm running. Because I feel strong about where we're going as a country," Chafee told CNN's "New Day" on Thursday, when asked why he's been so critical of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. Chafee was asked by CNN's John Berman in the context of having not formally declared his presidential campaign.

Chafee spokeswoman Debbie Rich told CNN Chafee did not declare himself as a candidate for president Thursday, despite saying "that's why I'm running."

"We are still in the exploratory committee phase," she told CNN in a phone interview, adding, "We will file the proper papers to be an official candidate, but that has not happened yet."

Miami Valley Goes 10-For-10

Miami Valley Raceway has a deep and talented driver colony, but rarely do you see a night at a commercial track nowadays where a different driver wins every race. That was the case on Wednesday, April 15, as 10 drivers won each of the 10 races on the program. Even more shocking, leading driver Josh Sutton—currently in fifth place in the national dash standings with 155 wins at Miami Valley—was not one of the winners.

Those that did reach the winner's circle were: Alex Hawk, Ken Holliday, Randy Tharps, Hugh Beatty Jr., Dan Noble, Chris Page, Adam Beatty, Jeff Nisonger, Jason Brewer and Jeremy Smith. (*Miami Valley*)

Twitter Contest To Name Ultimate Velocity Foal

Hoosier Park Racing & Casino and the Trent Stohler Stable have announced "The Ultimate Name Game," a Twitter competition to name the final foal from the standout open pacing mare Ultimate Velocity p,3,1:53; 4,1:51.1 (\$254,373). The contestant that submits the winning name will win a VIP Certificate to Hoosier Park Racing & Casino compliments of the connections of Ultimate Velocity.

Last month Ultimate Velocity tragically passed away following complications from surgery after delivering her second foal only one day earlier. Ultimate Velocity's second foal, sired by Bettor's Delight, arrived healthy and full of life on March 18, 2015. This competition will honor the legacy of his dam and her prolific racing career.

Ultimate Velocity raced 33 times, resulting in 19 wins, four seconds, and two thirds. While she did earn victories in

multiple stakes, she was most known for her gritty efforts in the open mare events on the Indiana racing circuit. Sired by Western Ideal, Ultimate Velocity's lifetime mark was only one fifth of a second off of the track record at the time. She was also race timed in 1:49.2.

Bred by brothers Kenneth "Dave" Stohler and Merrill Stohler, Ultimate Velocity was the second filly from their homebred mare Extreme Velocity p,4,1:50.3 (\$856,070). Among the highlights on Extreme Velocity's resume was a victory in the \$288,000 Breeders Crown for older pacing mares in 1998.

"We thought this would be a fun, unique way to remember Ultimate (Velocity)," trainer-driver Trent Stohler noted. "She was a great mare so this foal is going to need a great name. I would like the name to include the word 'velocity' in some way, but I am looking forward to seeing all the names submitted."

All are welcomed to enter the contest. Contestants are encouraged to submit their name suggestions from now until 11:59 p.m. on April 24 via Twitter. Using #NameGame, contestants will send their submissions to Trent Stohler on twitter, @TrentStohler. Stohler along with his father Dave will select their favorite name for the colt on Saturday, April 25.

All names must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on April 24. Names must be USTA eligible, 18 characters or less, and not currently in use. Multiple submissions of the same name will be credited to the first person to submit the name. (*Hoosier Park*)

Gingras Spends A Day In 10th Grade

The 2014 Driver of the Year Yannick Gingras went back to school on Monday (April 13) as guest speaker at two grade 10 French classes in an Allentown, N.J., High School. Gingras, a native of Sorel, Quebec, is a native speaker who became fluent in English in his 20s when he moved to the United States to compete.

The classes were taught by Standardbred breeder and owner Kathy Hoch Ricci, who prepared the class with vocabulary words in advance, such as pouliche (filly) and poulain (colt). Gingras spoke for over an hour to each class, showing his casque (helmet) and driving colors; he spoke a few sentences in French and then translated those sentences into English.

He discussed racing strategy using video from races he won with Mission Brief, Foiled Again and Limelight Beach, stopping and starting the video to show various crucial points in the race. Gingras also wove in some life lessons, discussing that he loses more than he wins and even in times of great disappointment, such as the loss in the 2014 Hambletonian with favored Father Patrick, it's important to face difficult situations and not dwell on mistakes and misfortune.

Students had questions, in French, about his favorite horse (Foiled Again), injuries he's had (broken collarbone and concussion), as well as whether he rides horses (absolutely not, he's afraid and feels he has no control). At the

Continues on page 8 >>>



end of the class, students were allowed to momentarily turn on their cell phones in order to "like" Gingras on Facebook (Yannick Gingras) and follow him on Twitter (@Gingras3).

This was the third year Gingras shared his vocation with area high school students in his native French, providing a chance for students to practice language learning in a real life situation. (HRC)

NJ Offers Stud Fee Rebates For Pacing Sires

Rebates are not only for new cars. The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ), acting on a recommendation of its Breeders Committee, has announced a rebate program of up to \$100,000 for 2015 breeding fees for pacing stallions standing in the State of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Pacing Stallion Breeding Incentive offers a rebate of the full advertised stallion fee (up to \$2,500 maximum) for New Jersey resident mares and 50 percent of the stallion fee (up to a \$1,250 maximum) for non-resident mares.

"Essentially, this will result in a heavily subsidized breeding with the strong likelihood that when the resulting foals reach the races, New Jersey will have a much improved purse structure," said Michael Gulotta, chairman of the SBOANJ Breeders Committee. "With expectations growing for a positive environment for racing in the next couple of years, these foals could very well be highly valuable assets."

The rebate will coincide with the stud fee payment.

A requirement for participation includes the nomination of the resulting foals as well as two-year-old sustaining payments for the New Jersey Sire Stakes program. The New Jersey Sire Stakes payments will be deducted from the rebate. Additionally, to be eligible, stallions must be enrolled in the USTA's STARS program.

"We want to incentivize breeders who have not as yet bred their broodmares this year to consider New Jersey's pacing stallions," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "With the number of pacing mares booked so far in 2015, we foresee a limited number of two-year-old pacers competing in the New Jersey Sire Stakes in 2018. This is a pilot program for 2015, but if it proves successful, our Breeders Committee will review the possibility of renewing it."

Eligible stallions are Great Vintage and Hurrikane King Cole, who are standing at Walnridge Farm; If I Can Dream and Lis Mara, who are at Deo Volente Farm, and Philos Hanover at Last Cance Farm.

For further information, contact the SBOANJ.

Durkin Holding Announcing Workshop At Goshen

Tom Durkin, whose race calls have thrilled fans all over the world, will conduct a one-day workshop on how to call a horse race on Sunday, June 7, at The Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

Durkin, a native of Chicago, got his start at the Wisconsin county fairs and has called the most prestigious races of both Standardbred and Thoroughbred racing. He retired last August after a 43-year career calling some 80,000 races, including the Hambletonian, Breeders Cup and all the Triple Crown races.

He is also a Standardbred owner and breeder, along with his partner Joe Spadaro. Their stable includes the homebred 2012 New York Sires Stakes champion trotter Coraggioso.

Classroom work will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon at The Harness Racing Museum, 240 Main Street, Goshen, N.Y. Tuition is \$50, payable by a check to Saratoga Harness Hall of Fame and Museum. There are six premium spots available at \$150 for those who would like to also call a race at adjacent Goshen Historic Track that afternoon at 1 p.m. Those not opting to also call a race pay only \$50.

The races at the harness track are non-betting events with no purse and are designed to provide experience to young horses. Durkin will stand by as backup while each race is called by a student. Admission to the races and a program are included in tuition. Lunch is available at the track concession stand.

The workshop is a cooperative venture between the USTA, Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame and Goshen Historic Track. For more information or to sign up for the workshop, email ellen.harvey@ustrotting.com or call (732) 780-3700. (HRC)

Meadowlands Survival Challenge Begins May 1

It will be a battle to the finish for cash prizes in the new look Meadowlands Racetrack's Championship meet Survival Challenge 2015 powered by 123Racing, an online handicapping competition that begins Friday, May 1. Enrollment is now open.

The game covers the Meadowlands' summer championship meet and concludes on Hambletonian Day on Saturday, Aug. 8.

The winner is determined by the highest total bankroll at the end of the Challenge based on a \$2 "across the board" wager (win, place and show) on selections for three designated races each program.

However, to continue in the game, entrants have to "survive" by finishing in the money (first through third) with at least one of their selections each day. Failing to do so or not making selections knocks the player out of the game. To aid in the player's survival a "lucky horseshoe" is given. The lucky horseshoe is a "free pass" given to all Challenge participants that allows the player to survive if he does not make selections for a race card of all three of his selections fail to hit the board.

The grand prize is \$2,000. The second-place prize is \$1,000. The third-place prize is \$500. There is also a bonus award of \$500 for most number of winners.

Continues on page 9 >>>



The contest is open to legal residents of the United States and Canada 18 years and older, and all selections must be made through the format provided on the Survival Challenge website page. No selections will be accepted by phone, fax, e-mail or any other means. Trackmaster Platinum Past performances for the three designated races will be provided through the game board.

The deadline for selections each day is 30 minutes before 7:15 p.m. post time for the first race. Exceptions include Saturday, May 2 (first post is 5:30 p.m.), Friday, July 10 (first post is 5:30 p.m.), Saturday, July 11 (first post is 5:30 p.m.) and Hambletonian Day (post time 12 noon). After 30 minutes to post, all selections are final.

To set up a username and password, and for more of the contest rules, visit <http://www.survival-challenge.com/>.
(Meadowlands)

RMTC Approves Threshold For GABA

The executive committee of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) has approved a uniform testing threshold of 110 parts per billion (ppb) in blood for the naturally occurring amino acid gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA).

The threshold, which was developed by the RMTC's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), will be submitted to the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) for consideration as a model rule at RCI's meeting next week in Tampa Bay, Fla. The SAC is a standing committee of the RMTC, comprised of leading chemists, pharmacologists, lab directors, regulatory veterinarians and racetrack veterinarians from across the U.S. horse racing industry.

The RMTC has already submitted a recommended testing threshold for cobalt, another naturally occurring substance in horses.

Believed to have a calming effect on racehorses for up to three to four hours, GABA has been inappropriately administered on race-day as a performance enhancer through a supplement called Carolina Gold. Concerns about adverse reactions of this substance in horses led to its ban by the United States Equestrian Federation.

For additional information, visit the RMTC website at rmctnet.com or contact Hallie Lewis, RMTC communications and development consultant, at (859) 224-2848.

Vets Plead Guilty, Cooperating With Feds

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Dr. Kevin Brophy, age 60, Florida, Dr. Fernando Motta, age 44, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Christopher Korte, age 43, Pueblo, Colorado, pleaded guilty today (April 14) before U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan E. Schwab in Harrisburg. Dr. Renee Nodine, age 52, Annville, pleaded guilty yesterday afternoon.

According to U.S. Attorney Peter Smith, the four defendants were each charged in separate criminal investigations on March 26, 2015, for their involvement in illegally treating Thoroughbred race horses on race day at Penn National Race Track in Grantville, Pennsylvania.

Each defendant is charged with allegedly administering drugs to horses within 24 hours of when the horse was entered to race. This conduct was in violation of the state law prohibiting the rigging of publicly exhibited contests and regulations prohibiting the administration of drugs to horses within 24 hours of when they are entered to race. Additionally, because the administering of the drugs was in violation of the state criminal laws, rules and regulations governing Thoroughbred racing, they were not dispensed in the course of the defendants' professional practice.

The maximum penalty in these cases under the federal statute is 2 years imprisonment, a term of supervised release following imprisonment, and a \$200,000 fine. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the Judge is also required to consider and weigh a number of factors, including the nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offense; the history and characteristics of the defendant; and the need to punish the defendant, protect the public and provide for the defendant's educational, vocational and medical needs. For these reasons, the statutory maximum penalty for the offense is not an accurate indicator of the potential sentence for a specific defendant.

Sentencing for the four defendants is scheduled for July 21 before Magistrate Judge Schwab. (edited U.S. Attorney's office)



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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through April 14, 2015 (week difference April 8-14).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

| | Sts. | W | P | S | Earnings |
|--------------------------|------|----|---|---|-----------|
| Not Afraid (6tg) | 11 | 7 | 2 | 0 | \$167,650 |
| Carolsideal (6pm) | 10 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 152,300 |
| JL Cruze (4tg) | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 140,513 |
| Take It Back Terry (6pg) | 12 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 129,750 |
| PH Supercam (8pg) | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 109,500 |
| Rockeyed Optimist (4pg) | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 106,650 |
| Michael's Power (6pg) | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 102,240 |
| Opulent Yankee (4tg) | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 95,631 |
| Witch Dali (4pm) | 10 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 95,508 |
| Nickle Bag (5pg) | 13 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 95,006 |
| Sapphire City (7pg) | 12 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 82,950 |
| Machs Beach Boy (6pg) | 12 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 79,300 |
| Radar Contact (7pm) | 12 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 78,200 |
| Beach Memories (5pg) | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 77,800 |
| Bourbon Bay (4tg) | 11 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 77,560 |

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

| | Sts. | W-P-S | UDR | Earnings (wk. diff) |
|------------------|-------|-------------|------|-------------------------|
| Corey Callahan | 1,042 | 236-167-162 | .367 | \$2,166,759 (\$249,594) |
| Jason Bartlett | 686 | 127-138-80 | .336 | 2,016,091 (196,740) |
| Daniel Dube | 635 | 115-89-72 | .297 | 1,755,711 (125,785) |
| George Brennan | 655 | 84-88-82 | .245 | 1,535,497 (101,865) |
| Aaron Merriman | 1,146 | 254-169-173 | .354 | 1,529,429 (126,024) |
| Brian Sears | 527 | 90-81-79 | .306 | 1,490,184 (170,785) |
| Tim Tetrick | 507 | 90-63-75 | .296 | 1,227,857 (166,916) |
| Dave Palone | 563 | 153-82-71 | .395 | 1,212,498 (84,879) |
| Matt Kakaley | 709 | 80-70-88 | .209 | 1,206,964 (154,415) |
| Eric Carlson | 565 | 64-70-81 | .230 | 1,181,733 (107,950) |
| Brett Miller | 584 | 81-98-65 | .269 | 1,141,215 (135,012) |
| Yannick Gingras | 387 | 77-70-48 | .341 | 1,042,494 (105,948) |
| Ronnie Wrenn Jr. | 888 | 230-152-106 | .394 | 970,899 (78,659) |
| Allan Davis | 788 | 86-117-110 | .238 | 961,216 (89,275) |
| David Miller | 525 | 68-69-73 | .249 | 950,275 (125,376) |

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

| | Sts. | W-P-S | UTR | Earnings (wk. diff) |
|------------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------------------|
| Ron Burke | 906 | 204-154-120 | .364 | \$2,890,731 (\$321,230) |
| Carmen Auciello | 504 | 51-55-55 | .198 | 776,550 (42,921) |
| Virgil Morgan Jr. | 414 | 105-46-56 | .360 | 776,124 (46,365) |
| Jeff Bamond Jr. | 221 | 35-33-45 | .309 | 749,646 (91,340) |
| Richard Moreau | 352 | 80-44-48 | .342 | 735,908 (75,837) |
| Gilbert Garcia-Herrera | 382 | 59-54-39 | .267 | 727,360 (123,038) |
| Rene Allard | 259 | 53-35-36 | .326 | 727,110 (131,955) |
| Mark Ford | 374 | 32-35-48 | .180 | 545,250 (55,435) |
| Julie Miller | 161 | 26-36-20 | .327 | 509,159 (47,815) |
| Jose Godinez | 180 | 38-30-26 | .352 | 492,275 (32,704) |
| Scott Di Domenico | 223 | 35-37-26 | .288 | 477,078 (35,495) |
| Dylan Davis | 187 | 54-29-18 | .407 | 474,235 (35,435) |
| Tracy Brainard | 165 | 44-25-18 | .387 | 454,421 (60,920) |
| Rob Harmon | 238 | 45-30-26 | .296 | 437,396 (31,840) |
| Tony O'Sullivan | 123 | 19-24-15 | .304 | 423,806 (41,058) |

Leading Breeders

| Breeder | Starters | Winners | Wins | Earnings |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|------|-------------|
| Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. | 640 | 290 | 505 | \$4,264,738 |
| Winbak Farm | 563 | 245 | 408 | 3,161,393 |
| Perretti Farms | 201 | 90 | 173 | 1,531,688 |
| Brittany Farms | 180 | 95 | 180 | 1,513,354 |
| Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par | 147 | 58 | 97 | 864,986 |
| Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. | 120 | 60 | 99 | 842,974 |
| Bulletproof Enterprises | 104 | 49 | 92 | 724,010 |
| White Birch Farm | 92 | 39 | 68 | 714,501 |
| Arlene & Jules Siegel | 73 | 39 | 63 | 657,505 |
| Seelster Farms Inc. | 98 | 46 | 94 | 649,183 |
| Frederick Hertrich III | 83 | 38 | 68 | 611,933 |
| Fair Winds Farm Inc. | 57 | 31 | 48 | 526,035 |
| Robert J. Key | 89 | 36 | 58 | 519,493 |
| Perfect World Enterprises | 60 | 37 | 61 | 512,006 |
| Walnut Hall Limited | 76 | 37 | 70 | 499,117 |

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for April 8-14 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

| Drivers | Starts | W-P-S |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|
| Aaron Merriman | 84 | 25-9-12 |
| Ronnie Wrenn Jr. | 81 | 20-13-12 |
| George Napolitano Jr. | 79 | 18-15-7 |
| Corey Callahan | 81 | 16-12-13 |
| Trace Tetrick | 49 | 15-7-4 |
| Alfred Carroll | 54 | 13-5-4 |
| Chris Page | 68 | 13-6-4 |
| Jason Bartlett | 50 | 12-11-7 |
| Casey Leonard | 42 | 11-7-7 |
| Matt Kakaley | 85 | 11-11-8 |
| Simon Allard | 42 | 11-6-5 |
| Brett Miller | 87 | 10-10-8 |
| Bruce Aldrich Jr. | 63 | 10-15-6 |
| Brian Sears | 29 | 9-4-5 |
| Dave Palone | 42 | 9-5-6 |
| Jason Merriman | 61 | 9-8-8 |
| Jim Marohn Jr. | 59 | 9-11-4 |
| Jim Morrill Jr. | 37 | 9-5-6 |
| W. Drew Campbell | 19 | 9-1-4 |
| Yannick Gingras | 40 | 9-6-5 |

| Trainers | Wins |
|-------------------------|------|
| Ron Burke | 23 |
| Brian Brown | 12 |
| Richard Moreau | 12 |
| Rene Allard | 11 |
| Gilberto Garcia-Herrera | 8 |
| Tracy Brainard | 7 |
| Vincent Fusco Jr. | 7 |
| Jennifer Sabot | 6 |
| Mike Watson | 6 |
| Victor Puddy | 6 |
| Virgil Morgan Jr. | 6 |
| Randy Bendis | 5 |
| Richard Banca | 5 |
| Robert Bongiorno | 5 |
| Stephen Murchison | 5 |