

Time For Final Shuffle Of Levy, Matchmaker Decks

The fifth and final preliminary leg of the George Morton Levy Memorial Series for older pacers will be contested Saturday night at Yonkers, with the four divisions again featuring the "Ron Burke Trio" of Something For Doc, Annieswesterncard and Foiled Again, who stand respectively one-two-three in the standings.

It's a similar scenario for Burke on Friday night at Yonkers where the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series for older mare pacers highlights the card. Burke trainees currently occupy four of the top eight spots in the standings, including Camille, who shares the number-one position with the P.J. Fraley-trained Anndrovette, and Rocklamation, who is tied for third with Fraley's Krispy Apple.

The conditions for both the Levy and Matchmaker preclude a trainer from starting more than two horses in the final. While Burke has a possible conundrum at the top of the Levy board, he seemingly has a solid one-two punch for the \$285,000 Matchmaker final on April 27. Because of that, Burke kept Camille on the sidelines this week, with only Rocklamation having a chance to pass her stablemate in the standings with a first or second-place finish.

"Camille can only be passed by Rocklamation, that's why I gave her the week off," explained Burke. "And I don't see any of the other ones passing Rocklamation. That will work out good on its own."

As for the Levy, Burke-trained horses for the most part have drawn well throughout the five legs. Something For

Foiled Again's Career Levy Posts

Post	# of Starts
1	5
2	3
3	3
4	4
5	4
6	5
7	0
8	1

Doc won from post three and post four in the opening two legs, and then has another win and a fourth after leaving from post one. Something For Doc drew post two in the second Levy split on Saturday night.

Annieswesterncard overcame post five and post seven to score victories in his opening two rounds, and then finished fifth from post five before capitalizing on the return to post one to

score another victory. And he again landed post one in the first Levy split on Saturday.

As for Foiled Again, the sport's all-time richest pacer has had great luck at the post-position draw in all five years competing in the Levy Series. In 25 starts he has never started from post seven, and from post eight just once, that being in last year's final, where he finished second. Fifteen

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times (60 percent) he has started from the inside four posts, including five times from the rail.

This Saturday night, Foiled Again will start from post one in the fourth Levy division, which follows up having started from post one (second), three (fourth), two (first) and two (first) in his opening four efforts.

"It's a little scary for the final though as we've been drawing too many rails. Hopefully it's a trend," said Burke. "But we'll probably draw the seven and eight in the final."

Foiled Again won the rich Levy final in both 2009 and 2010, but he settled for third and second the past two

Continues on page 2 >>>>

years, respectively. Unlike the years in which Foiled Again won the finals, Burke did not race his pacing superstar in the final preliminary leg the past two years. This year he said he had no choice but to start Foiled Again as he contin-

“It’s a little scary for the final though as we’ve been drawing too many rails.”

– Ron Burke

ues his climb toward the \$5-million mark in career earnings.

“He needs the race to get the points,” said Burke. “It’s what needed to be done this year.”

Burke said he still believes there is a chance either Some-

thing For Doc or Annieswesterncard could be sold prior to the \$450,000 Levy final on April 27, which would alleviate any dilemma as to Foiled Again’s status if he should still be third after Saturday’s action.

“There’s people calling about them and I’m hoping, but it really may all out work out on his own,” he said. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Levy Memorial Series Standings (after 4 legs)

(Points Awarded—50-1st; 25-2nd; 12-3rd; 8-4th; 5-5th; 25-each start)

Horse	1st leg	2nd	3rd	4th	25 pts/ start	total	Trainer
1. Something For Doc	50	50	50	12	100	262	Burke
2. Annieswesterncard	50	50	5	50	100	255	Burke
3. Foiled Again	25	12	50	50	100	237	Burke
4. Forever Just	25	25	50	0	100	200	Toscano
5. Casimir Jitterbug	12	50	25	8	100	195	O’Sullivan
6. Dancin Yankee	25	1	50	5	100	192	Green
7. Nob Hill High	50	0	25	0	100	175	Saunders
Razzle Dazzle	50	0	—	50	75	175	Silverman
9. Second Wind N	12	0	50	8	100	170	Tritton
10. Clear Vision	12	0	5	50	100	167	Burke
11. Classic Rock Nroll	5	37.5	8	8	100	158.5	O’Sullivan
12. Electrofire	8	50	0	0	100	158	Harris
Versado	50	8	25	—	75	158	Surick

Blue Chip Matchmaker Series Standings (after 4 legs)

(Points Awarded—50-1st; 25-2nd; 12-3rd; 8-4th; 5-5th; 25-each start)

Horse	1st leg	2nd	3rd	4th	25 pts/ start	total	Trainer
1. Anndrovette	25	50	50	50	100	275	Fraleay
Camille	50	50	25	50	100	275	Burke
3. Krispy Apple	50	50	25	12	100	237	Fraleay
Rocklamation	50	12	50	25	100	237	Burke
5. Feeling You	50	25	50	8	100	233	Buter
6. Royal Cee Cee N	25	37.5	25	12	100	199.5	Harder
7. Ginger And Fred	25	12	12	50	100	199	Burke
8. Bettor B Lucky	8	12	25	50	100	195	Burke
9. Ramalama	0	25	50	5	100	180	Burke
10. Warrawee Koine	5	37.5	8	25	100	175.5	O’Sullivan
11. Eighthundolarbill	25	50	—	25	75	175	Harris

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, April 19

All times listed are local.

4:00p	PhI11	Winners-Over Pace	Trackmaster PPs
7:15p	M1	A1/FFA Trot	Trackmaster PPs
8:10p	YR4	Matchmaker Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Matchmaker Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR8	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
9:50p	YR9	Matchmaker Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs

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

Saturday, April 20

7:15p	M1	A1/FFA Pace	Trackmaster PPs
7:25p	Wdb1	Preferred Pace	Trackmaster PPs
8:10p	YR4	Levy Mem. Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Levy Mem. Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:10p	YR7	Levy Mem. Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:12p	PcD10	Weiss 3CP final	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR8	Winners-Over Pace	Trackmaster PPs
9:50p	YR9	Levy Mem. Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
10:27p	M11	Night Styles Pace final	Trackmaster PPs

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Day Blue Chip Ready For Night Styles

Day Blue Chip wants to win; all she needs is a chance. Limited to eight starts during her career, the 4-year-old mare pacer has won six times. She was one-for-one as a 2 year old, one-for-two at three, and is four-for five this season.

Two of this year's victories came in the preliminary rounds of the Night Styles Series at the Meadowlands, the first by four lengths in 1:54.4 and the second by two lengths in 1:53.2. The \$32,800 final is Saturday night, with Day Blue Chip and driver Corey Callahan starting from post nine in a nine-horse field. She won her second-round race in the series from post nine.

Joseph Kyle Photo



"I don't know if they'll breed her this year or continue to race her; I guess she'll tell us."

— Linda Toscano

She's a very classy horse and she fits in with these horses."

Day Blue Chip is a daughter of Art Major out of the mare Misty Flirts. Jacobs liked Day Blue Chip enough to buy her full sister Aria J (originally named Miata Blue Chip) for \$75,000. Last season as a 2 year old, Aria J won a division of the Tompkins-Geers and the New York Sires Stakes Fall Harvest Series.

"It's a great family," Toscano said. "(Misty Flirts) turns out really nice looking mares with a great work ethic."

Day Blue Chip won her only start at two by 8 1/4 lengths in 1:54.1 at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in late October 2011.

"She was really late coming along; Ken gave her time and raced her only once by design," Toscano said. "We just wanted to make sure she was what we hoped she was going to be. She came back and she was really good at the start of her 3-year-old season and then she developed some problems.

"It was in a hind ankle that just bothered her. She just simply got sore; it was very hard to diagnose. It always looked good (on tests), but she just never would be 100 percent sound in it. We just shut her down."

This year, Day Blue Chip's only setback came when she was sixth, beaten by 3 1/2 lengths, while racing on the outside much of the way.

"She's a very fast horse and she's got a phenomenal work ethic," Toscano said. "All she wants to do is win." (HRC)

Day Blue Chip, who won a division of the John Simpson Memorial Stakes last year at the Meadowlands in a lifetime-best 1:52.4, was purchased as a yearling for \$60,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale by Ken Jacobs. After seeing Day Blue Chip sidelined by soreness last summer, Jacobs sold her to breeder Blue Chip Bloodstock.

"Blue Chip wanted her for her broodmare value, but decided to take one more chance with her and bring her back this year," trainer Linda Toscano said. "So far it's paid dividends. She hasn't made a ton of money, but she's a really nice horse.

"I don't know if they'll breed her this year or continue to race her; I guess she'll tell us. But this series has been a great situation for her.

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Meadowlands Racetrack, Sat., April 20, Race 11, Post Time: 10:27 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Liz's Lil KK	A. Miller/N. Surick	20-1
2—Lady's Art	J. Campbell/E. Lohmeyer Jr.	9-2
3—Zip It Lock It	M. Lewis/D. Washington	15-1
4—Winbak Speed	P. Lachance/M. Harder	15-1
5—Persuasive Hanover	J. Hanney/L. Pepin	20-1
6—Artie's Last Party	D. Miller/J. Azarow	5-1
7—Abrokenart Hanover	S. Allard/M. Capone	10-1
8—Bubby Jo	M. MacDonald/T. Fanning	8-1
9—Day Blue Chip	C. Callahan/L. Toscano	6-5

Michael Lisa/Lisa Photo



Day Blue Chip

Tamla Celeber Making 2013 Debut; Sweden's Olympic Trot Field Set

The Olympic Trot, set for Saturday at the Aby track in Gothenburg track in Sweden, is traditionally the beginning of Scandinavia's season of sensational races. In addition to the Olympic Trot, the card will include the season's debut of 2012 Breeders Crown Mare Trot champion Tamla Celeber.

The Olympic Trot sometimes offers a look at potential Finlandia Ajo, Oslo Grand Prix and Elitlopp contenders, so it's worth watching even though it is a "stayer" distance of 2,140 meters (1.3 miles) while the Elitlopp is a one-mile race.

The Olympic Trot will include Beckman, a 6-year-old gelding by Turbo Sund out of Nins Palema (Alf Palema), who one week prior to the Olympic Trot won his ninth straight race for Ake Svanstedt. In his latest race he took command but yielded to Raja Mirchi (Lutfi Kolgjini). The two horses traded the lead and Beckman won in a mile rate of 1:57.1 over 2,140 meters, with Raja Mirchi second.

Commander Crowe had been given a wildcard entry into the Olympic Trot, but trainer Fabrice Souloy decided to skip the race. That opened up a spot for Raja Mirchi, who filled out the field at 10.

OLYMPIC TROT

*Aby Racetrack, Gothenburg, Sweden; Saturday, April 20
Purse: \$230,000 (approx.); Distance: 2,140 meters (1.3 miles)*

Post	Horse (Sire)	Trainer/Driver
1	Beckman (Turbo Sund)	Ake Svanstedt/Jorma Kontio
2	Raja Mirchi (Viking Kronos)	Lutfi Kolgjini
3	Roxana de Barbrey (Speed Clayettois)	R. Donati/Dominique Locqueneux
4	Maharajah (Viking Kronos)	Stefan Hultman/Orjan Kihlstrom
5	Bagley (Bartali OK)	Conrad Lugauer
6	G.H. Nemo (Scarlet Knight)	Maria C. Karlsson/Jorgen Westholm
7	Save The Quick (Jasmin de Flore)	Ake Kristofferson/Torbjorn Jansson
8	Sebastian K. (Korean)	Ake Svanstedt
9	Persos Seaman (Running Sea)	Kari Lahdekorpi/Peter Ingves
10	Monster Drive (Thai Tanic)	Ake Svanstedt/Erik Adielsson

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Tamla Celeber

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BREEDING *Banter*

Not all that long ago, breeders needed to make their mating decisions early for their mares or risk being shut out to quite a few stallions. The downturn in breeding has opened up bookings to many stallions, although there are a couple of exceptions.

One exception is the young siring-sensation Somebeach-somewhere, who had a full book of mares before the breeding season started. Another is 2009 Horse of the Year Muscle Hill, who stands at Southwind Farm.

There are few outside breedings available to Muscle Hill. However, Michael Klau, the syndicate manager for the trotting stallion, said even breeders with shares waited later than ever to sign up their mares.

"Over the last three weeks, we've gotten the bulk of the bookings in," said Klau. "There will probably be in the range of 20 outside breedings to the horse this year, and because we have some European syndicate members, they have the option of using the European breedings we offer and then that opens up their bookings to syndicate members, and then if they go unused, to the public."

Klau said that as of April 17, Muscle Hill's book stood at 133 mares; he bred 130 mares in 2013. It is certainly one of the most accomplished and blue-blooded groups any stallion could entertain. The list includes mares whose credentials on the track or production as matrons are so lofty the info doesn't need to be included with their name: Passionate Glide, Windsong Soprano, Windylane Hanover, Possess The Magic, Graceful Touch, Emilie Cas El and Lavec Dream are just a few.

Muscle Hill's first crop of foals is presently in training and Klau said he's heard good reports. More importantly, he saw that 21 of the 97 eligibles to the Peter Haughton Memorial Trot are sons of Muscle Hill, which is a testament to their trainer's faith early in the year.

It's no secret that breeders in Ontario are leaving mares barren or selling them because the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. stopped the Slots at the Racetracks program, which is cutting racing opportunities and purses. Right now

the second-tier of stallions are the ones who are being hardest hit by the change in the landscape.

David Heffering stands seven stallions at Tara Hills Stud in Ontario, including the popular sires Mach Three and Kadabra. He told me that as of April 17, Mach Three's book was full and closed and Kadabra's was very close to full at 150 and 140 mares, respectively.

Mach Three was bred to 172 mares in 2012 while the trotting sire Kadabra was bred to 178 mares. "For Mach Three, especially, the number sometimes creeps up because we always have people on a waiting list, and if we have extra semen, we can accommodate them, and the same thing with Kadabra," he explained.

Heffering said he is all too aware of the decline in the number of mares bred in Ontario because his farm accounts for part of the drop. "In 2011, there were 3,200 mares bred in Ontario; in 2012 the number was 2,700. This year we're under half of where we were at this time last year. We originally had 950 mares booked last year and bred around 760 or 770. This year, right now I don't know if we'll breed 500 to 600 mares.

"Since breeding is a five to six year process, if we had a dollar amount for the Sires Stakes for next year, not just this year, that could obviously help, especially for the yearling sales this fall," said Heffering.

Heffering had hoped the young trotting sire Daylon Magician, a son of Kadabra, would give his numbers a boost this year, but that is not going to be the case.

"We've hit a fertility snag with him. I had originally hoped for 40 to 50 mares for him, and we got just over that in bookings, but we had to cut his book back," said Heffering. "Last year he had motility problems with his sperm. This year he has enough semen to breed a small book, but he has some immature cells. We've been working with the folks at Texas A&M and they said he would improve."

Another of Kadabra's sons, Windsong Espoir 2, 1:55.3, has a solid book for the 2013 breeding season, his fourth at stud. Alan Leavitt of Walnut Hall Ltd., who manages the horse for the Windsong Espoir Syndicate and stands him at Seelster Farm in Ontario, said the trotting stallion's book is at about 75 mares. Last year he was bred to 83 mares.

Leavitt said three of Walnut Hall Ltd.'s blue-blooded mares have delivered foals at the Kentucky farm. Canland Hall, the dam of Cantab Hall, has a filly by Windsong Espoir and Canland's daughter Constance Hall has a filly by Deweycheaturn-howe. Charlize Hall, a sister to \$1.8 million winner Cameron Hall, has foaled a filly by Credit Winner. — *By Kathy Parker*

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Daley Ready To Strike In Empire State

With 17 in the stable at the South Florida Training Center, Dan Daley has had extra time this winter to pursue other interests like show jumping. "It's just something fun to do, a little different from training all day," Daley said.

His hobbies have not held him back from producing what looks to be a strong group to compete on the New York Sires Stakes this season.

Daley is widely known for his success with the offspring of his former standout, RC Royalty, with his current 2 year olds looking to continue the tradition. His top two colts in training so far are **Pittstop Kip** (RC Royalty-Supreme Decision) and **Cherry R Clayton** (RC Royalty-Nowerland Kristen).

"They've got plenty of go. They have only been in 2:12, but they have already shown me they are going to be stakes horses," he said.

Pittstop Kip is a half brother to \$158,126 winner Pittstop Ruthie.

Another colt that Daley looks to take to the Sires Stakes is **Commissioner Daley** (Conway Hall-Irish Washerwoman), who is named after Daley's son, the city commissioner for Coral Springs, Fla. "He's alright. I think he is a Sires Stakes horse for sure," he said.

The filly side of Daley's trotting crop has shown some ability as well. **Flyhawk Falina** (Cash Hall-Nowerland Nanette) and **Pure Royalty** (RC Royalty-La Soeur De Lucy) have Daley in good spirits. Pure Royalty is a sister to two winners of over \$180,000, Magic and The Winner.

"I'm pretty high on both of them. They are fit for the Sires Stakes, and that is what I aim for," said Daley.

Daley also has a 3-year-old trotter he is high on, **Flyhawk Blacknight** (RC Royalty-Nowerland Hana), who won his second start last year in 1:59.2 at Vernon Downs in the NYSS. After suffering a broken knee to cut his freshman season short, Daley believes Flyhawk Blacknight could be a surprise this season.

"He's really fast, and he has trained well so far. I'm going to take it slow, but he has the speed."

Flyhawk Blacknight may take a similar path to his half brother, Cinderella Man. The Movie Mogul colt earned \$227,805 without racing his 2-year-old season.— *By Jay Hochstetler*

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Weekend's Guaranteed Pools

There are 12 guaranteed pools offered this weekend as part of the U.S. Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering Program. Included in the group are the late Pick 4s on Friday and Saturday night at the Meadowlands, which carry guarantees of \$50,000 and \$75,000, respectively.

To see the entire list of the weekend's guaranteed pools, please click [here](#). From that page, you can receive free program pages by clicking "[Free Program Pages](#)."

Stride For The Cure Race Saturday At Meadowlands

The eighth race at the Meadowlands on Saturday night is the fourth annual Lisa Photo Stride For The Cure Pace, a B2/B1 handicap contest that carries a purse of \$14,000. The



10 horses and drivers in the race will use pink equipment that will be later auctioned for charity.

The race was founded by Meadowlands track photographer Michael Lisa and his wife, Annette, a breast cancer survivor.

The charitable activities on Saturday actually kick off at 3 p.m. with the running of a sanctioned 5K race

to benefit the American Cancer Society. The \$25 entry fee includes a t-shirt and admission to a post-race party at the track's Kahuna Wedge (weather permitting) that includes live music, prize drawings and more.

Hayes Finishes Boston Marathon Before Blasts

Ontario horseman Dr. John Hayes, who has trained such notables as the stakes winners Memphis Flash and Proudfoot, competed in the Boston Marathon on Monday and told harnessracing.com that he thankfully finished about 40 minutes before the tragic terrorist attacks, run-

"People ask me why I run. I tell them if you're going to be in the horse business you either need medication, psychiatry, or you run!"

– Dr. John Hayes

ning the 26 miles in 3 hours and 42 minutes.

"I finished about 40 minutes ahead of the explosions," said Dr. Hayes, 64, who ran in the marathon for the fourth time. "I was one of the thousands congregating in an area where people gather to meet up with family and friends after the

race. It's about 1 1/2 blocks away from the explosion area. I heard two blasts. It sounded to me like they were dynamiting at a quarry. We couldn't see anything, but we heard the blasts. Then it was quiet for 20 or 30 seconds before we started hearing the emergency sirens and all the chaos."



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Dr. Hayes said that despite the blast, he plans to be back for next year's Boston Marathon. "I'm already qualified for next year. People ask me why I run. I tell them if you're going to be in the horse business you either need medication, psychiatry, or you run."

Because the Ontario harness racing program has been slashed, Dr. Hayes, whose father founded Beejay Stables and won the 1972 Little Brown Jug with Strike Out, is less involved in harness racing than ever before.

"When they made the announcement last year that the Slots at the Racetrack program was ended, I decided I would not invest in another horse until it was resolved, and now I think I will probably put the farm up for sale this summer," said Hayes. "There has been a Hayes family member and harness horses on the farm (two tracts totally about 60 acres) since 1954."

Dr. Hayes presently has only two horses in training. "Last summer I laid off a woman who had worked for me for 30-plus years," he added. "She had come to me with an art degree. This was a person who asked for so little and loved working with horses. There were tears rolling down my cheek when she left."

Because harness racing is in his blood, Dr. Hayes expects he will always have at least one horse. "I can't see myself doing nothing," he surmised. — *By Kathy Parker/harnessracing.com*



One Dayton Site Gains Approval; Ohio Racing Gets \$1.89 Mil

The Ohio State Racing Commission Tuesday morning, April 16, unanimously granted approval of Miami Valley Racing's plans to move Lebanon Raceway to the southern area of Dayton, but Penn National Gaming Inc.'s plan to move Raceway Park in Toledo to north Dayton is still on hold.

Both ventures have met with resistance by commission members for an insufficient number of seats for fans to watch the races. Miami Valley's approved revision brings the number of enclosed seats to 1,168. With the approval, it is expected the new Lebanon Raceway will be able to open in February 2014.

According to reports, Penn National has asked the commission to be allowed to continue its plan for the site under the proposed number of seats (nearly 1,400) with a promise to add seats after one year depending on attendance. Plans for construction to begin in early April have been suspended pending a decision.

Commissioners approved a distribution of tax revenue from casinos that has accrued to the OSRC during the first quarter of 2013. From the total of \$1.89 million, the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Ohio Standardbred Development Fund will each receive almost \$359,000.

Purse pools at the state's seven commercial racetracks will get \$793,000 collectively. Four of the racetracks not owned by casinos, Lebanon Raceway, Northfield Park, River Downs and Scioto Downs, will each get \$72,802.

The OSRC will receive \$94,403 for specific uses in support of live racing that are permitted by the revised code. *(with files from OSRC)*

"Nashgate" Leads To Klahr's \$40K WHHC Win

The story behind Jeff Klahr's journey to the 2013 World Harness Handicapping Championship and its \$40,000 first prize at the Meadowlands last Saturday sounds more like fiction than fact.

The 59-year-old salesman from Erie, Pa., earned his berth into the national championship under very unusual circumstances. Klahr played in "a few" of the first-ever USTA World Harness Handicapping Championship Free, Online Qualifiers held during January and February, but it was the Friday, Feb. 8, contest involving Northfield Park that started him on his odyssey.

"I used to play Northfield Park when I was in college, that's where I got my start," explained Klahr in why he chose to play this particular USTA online event. "I've played in some contests, not a lot. I've won some locally and placed in some national online contests."

The rule for the USTA contest was simple, win and you are in. That night, Klahr had to beat more than 1,000 players to win a

berth to the WHHC finals. And he almost did when he finished fourth, a little more than \$40 behind the winner Andrea Nash, who finished just ahead of Bridget Nash and Kathleen Nash. Another Nash, Rusty, a professional handicapper who had done selections on the USTA website for a previous qualifier in the series, also finished in the top 10 in seventh place.

While the rules of the contest did not restrict family members from playing in the same contest, it became evident that the four family members had used many of the same picks. Rusty explained that he and his family had utilized a program that he developed to select playable longshots as the basis for most of their picks, which explained why they were so similar.

Klahr was surprised when he got the call from the USTA the next day informing him that due to the circumstances with the Nashes, they had decided to purchase an additional entry into the WHHC final and awarded it to him.

"You guys (USTA) made the right decision, this is fair," said Klahr when he was informed of his chance to compete at the Meadowlands.

The Erie resident took full advantage of his second chance when he traveled to New Jersey last weekend.

"I came pretty prepared and had already planned to bet on the horses that I used in the contest," said Klahr. "I was definitely gunning for longshots because that's how you win these things."

The contest had three mandatory races, one each from Woodbine, Balmoral Park and Buffalo Raceway, plus any seven races from the Meadowlands that night.

Klahr's longshot strategy on the Meadowlands didn't start off very well, but he got rolling with his mandatory selections.

"I missed the first five races at the Meadowlands," explained the 2013 handicapping champion. "My first win was at Buffalo (Race 8, \$40 win, #4, win \$3.30, \$66.00 payout), so I thought at least I'm not going to get shut out. The next winner was the Woodbine race, but that was only a minimum \$40 bet (Race 6, \$40 win, #7, win \$16.40, \$328 payout). After that, I could bet \$100 a race."

The hot streak continued with the final mandatory wager on the sixth race from Balmoral Park.

"The next one was the Balmoral race. I had a \$100 win bet on (Race 6, #4, win \$13.60) and that was the big one that I won \$680 on," recalled Klahr.

The Woodbine win moved Klahr into contention in 16th place and then the Balmoral Park score moved him up to third with two races left to play at the Meadowlands where he was zero-for-five on the night.

With a real chance to win, the 2013 champion got more conservative in his approach. With his penultimate wager in the 12th race, he bet \$100 to win on the 5-2 second choice Goddess's Justin, who beat the odds-on favorite by 1 1/4

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lengths and produced a \$360 windfall (win \$7.20) to move Klahr into the lead with a race to go.

"I knew the guy in second still had a bet left and there was a big favorite that would probably win, so I had to play him," said Klahr about the Meadowlands' 13th and final race. "But I didn't want to play \$100 to win so I bet \$50 to win and \$50 to place.

"I figured anybody that could beat me would need to use a different horse, so I basically said 'come and get me.'"

He figured right when the odds-on favorite at 1-2, Bullet Speed, had just that and won easily by four lengths, clinching the \$40,000 grand prize and title of world champion for the unlikely winner. (*Dan Leary for USTA*)

Googoo Gaagaa Fifth In 2013 Qualifier Debut

Making his first appearance since finishing sixth in the Matron final on Nov. 18 at Dover Downs, world-champion trotter Googoo Gaagaa finished fifth in a qualifier Tuesday morning, April 16, at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Driven by Corey Callahan for breeder-owner-trainer Richard Hans, Googoo Gaagaa was never a factor in the race as he sat a distant fifth the entire mile before crossing the wire 1 1/2 lengths behind the 1:56.2-winning Looking Hanover. Googoo Gaagaa's official time for his mile was 1:58.3.

"He was OK. He wanted me to move and go on but we really didn't need to do that just yet," Callahan told harnessracing.com shortly after the qualifiers were completed. "He did everything I wanted him to do today. I figured he would want to drag me around there, but he went as slow as I wanted him to. I was happy with him."

A son of pacing sire Cam's Rocket and trotting mare Kora's Trotter, Googoo Gaagaa was a perfect six-for-six as a 2 year old and then posted a nine-for-14 resume last year, with his victories including the \$500,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in a world-record 1:50.4. He also scored a stakes- and track-record 1:52.1 in the \$500,000 Colonial Trot at Harrah's Philadelphia. Googoo Gaagaa's career earnings stand at \$663,212

His first race is expected to be the \$100,000 Meadowlands Maturity for 4-year-old trotters on Saturday, May 4, at the Meadowlands.

"That's the race we're targeting," said Callahan. "We'll see how he is next week and go from there."

Also in qualifying action Tuesday morning, the \$2.5 million-winner We Will See scored a 1:54.4 victory in his 2013 debut. Ron Pierce drove the 6-year-old son of Western Hanover for trainer Sam DePinto.

"He looks good," DePinto was quoted as saying afterward. "He's feeling good; he's got no issues at all. I think he's going to have a nice year. There are so many good (horses) out there; I think the competition is going to be twice as tough. But I think he's going to have a good year.

He's got everything going for him. He's as sound as I've ever had him."

Pennsylvania Sires Stakes champion Handsoffmycupcake was also successful in her 3-year-old debut as she won her qualifier in 1:56.2. Daniel Dube drove the daughter of Christian Cullen for trainer Scott DiDomenico. DiDomenico also teamed up with driver Tim Tetrick to score a 1:59.3 victory with 2011 Galt winner Haulin Laser.

Hillbilly Hanover posted a 1:54 victory for driver Matt Kakaley and trainer Ron Burke. The 4-year-old gelded son of Dragon Again enters 2013 with \$459,368 in career earnings. If Hillbilly Hanover reaches the \$500,000 mark in earnings, it will automatically propel his dam, Hattie, to Hall of Fame status.

The Hall of Fame rules state a broodmare with one \$1 million-winning offspring and two \$500,000 winners automatically become a member of the Hall of Fame. Hattie has already produced the \$2 million-winner Holborn Hanover and the \$1.1 million-winner Hyperion Hanover. She also has the \$467,000-winning Haverford Hanover, who is also currently racing.

Jins Dragon Bounces Back From Heart Ailment

Jins Dragon, who recently suffered a heart ailment that left his racing career in doubt, showed that his ticker—and his legs—are doing just fine when he scored impressively in a division of Tuesday's (April 16) Schoolkids Pace at The Meadows.

Jins Dragon took a mark of 1:55.2 last year at The Meadows and was preparing well for his 2013 campaign when, according to owner Craig McEvoy, several lengthy van trips stressed him and produced a heart problem, complete with blood in the lungs, that McEvoy feared would be fatal. But under the care of McEvoy, veterinarian Dr. Richard Balmer and trainer Brad Buxton, the son of Dragon Again-Gordon's Jin Mist recovered and qualified March 29 in a slowish 2:01.2.

He was a different animal Tuesday, powering three wide to the lead past the quarter for Randy Tharps and prevailing in 1:53, a half-length better than Tempster Hanover.

McEvoy said Jins Dragon likely will sport earplugs next week to make him more manageable.

"It is nothing short of a miracle to see your horse go from almost dying to the winners' circle," said McEvoy, who bred the horse and also raced his dam, the stakes-winning filly Gordon's Jin Mist.

Pacers Streaking At Pocono, Monticello

Jerseylicious won for the seventh straight time in 2013, conquering a group of 3-year-old fillies in a \$15,000 division of the Bobby Weiss Series at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs on Tuesday night, April 16.

Jerseylicious, trained by Wayne Givens and driven by Corey Callahan, dominated her division on the front end for

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the victory in 1:52 and is poised to be a heavy favorite in next week's Weiss final for the 3-year-old pacing fillies.

At Monticello Raceway, one pacer made it 12 in a row while another had his win streak snapped at 11.

Missing a week and having to start from the eight hole was in no way a detriment to Tracys Song. The 8-year-old Astreos mare cruised to her 12th consecutive victory, this one in 1:57.4, on Monday, April 15. She now takes sole command as the winningest horse in North America.

Once again Bruce Aldrich Jr. was at the controls for trainer Bob Lounsbury and owner Nancy Fugere and he used his wisdom on the racetrack to deter defeat.

"I could see the way they all left out of there that they were trying to get my mare beat and I can't say I blame them," Aldrich said. "She's been a monster this year and if I was driving against her I'd probably have done the same."

Shaq Is Back In Sweden

Shaq Is Back, a 6-year-old son of Credit Winner-Vivica Hall, put his name on the list of potential contenders for the Elitlopp when he set a season's record of 1:54 at the Solvalla racetrack in Stockholm on Wednesday night, April 17.

Trained and driven by Daniel Reden, Shaq Is Back cut the pace and fought off a challenge by Friction to win the 1,640-meter race (1.01 miles).

Shaq Is Back is owned by Brixton Medical, which also owned 2010 Hambletonian champion Muscle Massive. Brixton Medical bought Shaq Is Back in 2010 at the Harrisburg mixed sale, paying \$140,000. Shaq Is Back had a 2-year-old record of 1:55.3 and earnings of \$442,225 at the time.

Vernon "Showdown" Begins April 26

Vernon Downs is giving fans and horseplayers another way to win big this season by launching a free-to-enter online handicapping contest beginning April 26. Though the competition does not begin until April 26, free registration is open now.

Vernon Downs Showdown requires contestants to select one horse in any race each racing night. That horse must finish first, second or third in order for the contestant to remain in the competition. If the contestant is successful, they will advance to the next race night, otherwise, they will be eliminated.

The contestant that lasts the longest will win the \$1,500 top prize. The runner-up will receive \$750.

"I think this is a great contest because it sounds so simple, not only for our newer handicappers and racing fans, but also for the more experienced horseplayers out there," said Justin Horowitz, regional racing marketing manager for Vernon Downs. "I'm hoping this will prove to be a great way to help showcase our product to fans across North America."

Fans are encouraged to register now by visiting this link.

All contestants must be registered and submit their selection no later than 10 minutes before the first post time at Vernon Downs. First post time on April 26 is 6:45 p.m.

Free online streaming video is also available on the Vernon Downs website so contestants can follow along with their selections each race night.

The Horseman's Waterstone To Play In HANA Contest

The Horseplayers Association of North America's harness racing division, in association with the Hambletonian Society, Chicago Harness (Balmoral and Maywood Parks), Meadowlands Racetrack, Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs, are pleased to announce the handicappers and their respective charities for the 2013 Grand Circuit Handicapping Challenge which kicks off on Friday, April 26, at Northfield Park for the Courageous Lady.

Included among this year's handicappers is harnessracing.com and The Horseman's Gordon Waterstone, who is competing for Horse Lovers United. Waterstone has competed and contended in several National Harness Handicapping Championships at the Meadowlands.

In alphabetical order, here are the other handicappers who are competing for their charities, hoping to share in more than \$3,000 in donations:

- Garnet Barnsdale (Central Virginia Horse Rescue) is the writer of Driveon blog at HorseRacingNation.com and hosts a harness racing radio show on Blogtalkradio.com.
- John Bowman (Helping Hearts Equine Rescue) is a frequent guest handicapper at Tioga Downs.
- Sally Hinckley (RockinT Equine Rescue) is a long-time columnist on harness racing in Maine and sets the morning line at Scarborough Downs and fairs.
- Mark McKelvie (Racer Placers) won HANA's 2012 The Pen vs. The Chip Handicapping Challenge.
- Rusty Nash (Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals) has written for TrackMaster for 18 years.
- Earl Paulson (Heading For Home) is a former handicapper for Sports Eye.
- Richard Scott (Changing Fates Equine Rescue) is a former horse owner and trainer.
- Anne Stepien (Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation) has been a lifelong fan of harness racing and once trained horses for Dr. Robert Johns after which she went on the Grand Circuit working for Gene Riegler.

Fans may follow the competition at HANA Harness' contest site with the handicapper's selections being posted no later than the morning of each competition date. In addition to the named sponsors, HANA Harness would like to acknowledge Red Shores Charlottetown as a silver sponsor. Additional sponsorships are welcome. (HANA)

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through April 16, 2013 (week difference April 10-16).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Golden Receiver (8pg)	7	6	0	0	\$144,150
Versado (6pg)	13	6	2	0	143,830
Something For Doc (5pg)	10	6	0	1	136,300
Anniwesterncard (7pg)	9	5	1	0	121,250
Casimir Jitterbug (6pg)	9	4	3	1	116,695
Warrawee Koine (7pm)	11	4	4	0	96,450
Monochromatic (8pm)	11	6	3	0	96,150
Oil Magnet (9pg)	9	7	1	1	95,580
Escape The News (4pg)	7	5	2	0	92,875
Greystone Ladylike (4pm)	12	4	5	1	92,375
Do Me Honor (5pm)	12	7	3	2	90,150
Dancin Yankee (5ph)	9	3	2	1	89,750
Hesgotlegs (8tg)	15	7	4	0	87,684
Rusty's All In (7ph)	13	3	4	1	86,150
Code Word (6ph)	11	5	1	1	83,420

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Corey Callahan	1,242	259-174-162	.330	\$2,577,191 (\$271,095)
Brian Sears	655	169-114-98	.405	2,436,282 (180,265)
Tim Tetrick	826	153-119-108	.309	1,984,229 (187,130)
Matt Kakaley	714	127-91-112	.301	1,900,118 (164,620)
George Brennan	694	111-131-84	.305	1,895,302 (196,557)
Ron Pierce	949	149-134-120	.278	1,869,144 (155,370)
Yannick Gingras	561	111-92-85	.339	1,775,116 (123,200)
David Miller	696	106-105-92	.280	1,458,836 (180,250)
Dave Palone	725	199-112-76	.395	1,458,265 (77,211)
Jody Jamieson	689	133-109-76	.318	1,332,195 (153,159)
Jason Bartlett	629	70-71-82	.217	1,268,618 (113,850)
Scott Zeron	519	91-70-52	.284	1,169,750 (64,968)
Andy Miller	651	89-85-85	.253	1,158,398 (117,095)
Ross Wolfenden	824	104-110-106	.243	1,133,591 (73,620)
Eric Goodell	511	63-75-55	.241	1,124,722 (118,220)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	977	264-144-121	.393	\$3,384,213 (\$340,503)
Rene Allard	542	128-96-54	.368	1,178,417 (84,081)
Mark Ford	459	61-59-58	.246	924,287 (103,507)
Richard Moreau	467	92-81-70	.343	904,695 (68,468)
P.J. Fraley	240	42-35-34	.303	769,847 (78,655)
Tony O'Sullivan	206	41-39-19	.335	739,372 (83,241)
Michael Hall	301	65-52-39	.355	731,478 (51,675)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	213	47-42-24	.368	608,980 (99,335)
Josh Green	221	58-27-28	.373	579,435 (70,500)
Mark Harder	161	32-16-26	.308	524,962 (7,325)
Dylan Davis	228	49-31-35	.342	493,897 (23,350)
Erv Miller	253	51-34-33	.320	485,648 (76,228)
Carmen Auciello	283	34-34-28	.220	463,336 (36,550)
Joe Hundertpfund Jr.	217	53-31-30	.370	432,291 (38,380)
Randy Bendis	271	42-38-40	.282	420,268 (33,979)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	704	306	568	\$4,959,994
Winbak Farm	640	268	461	3,902,607
Brittany Farms	195	95	193	1,732,253
Perretti Farms	216	83	159	1,454,144
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	174	69	133	1,256,249
Walnut Hall Limited	150	63	104	855,924
Perfect World Enterprises	120	54	87	850,994
White Birch Farm	98	45	92	839,666
Frederick Hertrich III	106	48	103	768,942
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	105	52	97	744,459
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	94	43	86	734,624
Jules & Arlene Siegel	109	46	84	699,360
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	84	37	72	696,786
Steve Stewart	78	38	80	608,752
Seelster Farms Inc.	102	48	90	596,751

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for April 10-16 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Corey Callahan	91	24-10-7
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	82	17-13-10
George Brennan	52	14-8-6
Aaron Merriman	66	13-6-10
Dan Noble	71	13-7-6
David Miller	78	13-14-13
Jim Morrill Jr.	43	13-9-3
Billy Dobson	37	12-2-6
Ron Pierce	83	12-5-11
Tim Tetrick	67	12-12-8
Chris Page	42	11-9-8
George Napolitano Jr.	85	11-17-9
Michael Oosting	49	11-5-6

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	20
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	9
Mark Ford	7
Erv Miller	6
Michael Hall	6
Rene Allard	6
Allan Johnson	5
Bob Johnson	5
Colin Johnson	5
Daniel Crieghton	5
Daniel Gill	5
Jason Robinson	5
Jose Godinez	5
Linda Magnusson	5
Peter Pellegrino	5
Al Tomlinson	4
Brett Wilfong	4
David Cornachione	4
Dean Nixon	4
Gail Wrubel	4
Irwin Rosenthal	4
J.D. Perrin	4
Josh Green	4
Melissa Beckwith	4
Randy Bendis	4
Randy Bickmore	4
Rich Gillock	4
Roman Lopez	4
Tony O'Sullivan	4
William Zendt	4