

Meadowlands Maturity Attracts Top 4YO Trotters

Darin Zoccali's morning line for the \$100,000 Meadowlands Maturity, set for Saturday night at the Meadowlands, has the Jimmy Takter-trained Guccio, who fell a neck short of winning last year's Hambletonian, as the 5-2 favorite.

Zoccali isn't the only one to make Guccio a strong choice to win. Driver Yannick Gingras, who will be up behind Little Brown Fox, took a shot at a morning line for the race on his Facebook page, setting the odds as follows: Guccio-6-5; Little Brown Fox-6-1; Googoo Gaagaa-7-2; Solvato-15-1; Harbor Point-10-1; Modern Family-9-2; Magic Tonight-20-1; Uncle Peter-12-1; Another Amaretto-30-1; My MVP-20-1.

The Maturity will feature several of the top colts from last year's 3-year-old division: Googoo Gaagaa, the Colonial champion and fastest of his division last year with a 1:50.4 win at Pocono; Kentucky Futurity winner My MVP; two other speedsters from the Takter Stable, Little Brown Fox and Uncle Peter; and Modern Family, a winner of seven of 10 starts this season. Hambo champion Market Share is also returning to the track in 2013 and is slated to qualify soon.

Googoo Gaagaa and My MVP will be making their first starts of the season, which puts them at a disadvantage against Guccio, who proved he is in top form when he won in 1:52 at the Meadowlands on April 19. Googoo Gaagaa caught a break when he drew post three in the race while My MVP was unlucky and will start from post 10.

Googoo Gaagaa has two qualifiers under his belt, winning the second on April 23 at Harrah's Philadelphia when he turned in a 1:55.2 mile. Corey Callahan, who regularly drives the horse he fondly calls "Goo" for breeder-owner-trainer Richard Hans, said he was very pleased with the effort.

Continues on page 2 >>>

\$100,000 MEADOWLANDS MATURITY

Meadowlands Racetrack, Sat., May 4, Race 6, Post Time: 8:55 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Guccio	J. Takter	5-2
2—Little Brown Fox	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	10-1
3—Googoo Gaagaa	C. Callahan/R. Hans	6-1
4—Solvato	Trond Smedshammer	15-1
5—Harbor Point	R. Pierce/R. Maxwell	9-2
6—Modern Family	T. Tetrick/D. Bier	4-1
7—Magic Tonight	J. Campbell/N. Daley	8-1
8—Uncle Peter	D. Miller/J. Takter	9-2
9—Another Amaretto	A. Miller/J. Silverman	25-1
10—My MVP	M. Lachance/T. Alagna	15-1

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Nigel South Photo



Guccio

			
Leading Drivers at Meadowlands			
1/3/13—4/20/13			
Driver	Sts-1st-2nd-3rd	Earnings	UDR
1. Yannick Gingras	356-73-57-40	\$963,246	.331
2. David Miller	458-64-65-60	913,381	.262
3. Andy Miller	442-58-61-55	817,069	.249
4. Corey Callahan	339-57-43-46	739,716	.284
5. Tim Tetrick	340-47-37-44	644,739	.242
6. John Campbell	406-43-53-45	623,837	.215
7. Ron Pierce	291-34-31-29	499,137	.209
8. Simon Allard	307-32-31-27	426,506	.190
9. Joe Bongiorno	106-10-4-13	99,072	.156
Eric Carlson	190-10-12-11	175,628	.107
Marcus Miller	139-10-9-14	130,102	.141

“His first qualifier wasn’t so good (1:58.3) and Richard changed his shoes,” reported Callahan, “but he was absolutely super the second time.”

“I don’t think he’s primed for the best mile he’s capable of, and I’m going to race him like it’s his first start.”

– Corey Callahan on Googoo Gaagaa

Callahan admitted that Googoo Gaagaa probably is not at his peak form just yet.

“I don’t think he’s primed for the best mile he’s capable of, and I’m going to race him like it’s his first start,” said Callahan.

“Richard (Hans) put up \$2,500 to be in this race, and our goal was to be ready. And with his post

position, we should be in a good spot. I’ll probably try to follow Guccio.”

Callahan said that “Goo” put on some weight during the off season and Hans has made a couple of rigging changes. “Goo” is no longer wearing a Crit Davis and now has a regular overcheck. “He seems totally comfortable,” noted Callahan.

“He’s a bigger, stronger Goo now,” added Callahan. “I’m excited about his season. I texted Richard when I saw the draw.” — By Kathy Parker

This Weekend’s Guaranteed Pools

There are eight guaranteed pools offered this weekend as part of the U.S. Trotting Association’s Strategic Wagering Program. Included in the group are \$50,000 guaranteed Pick 4s at the Meadowlands on both Friday and Saturday nights.

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.”](#)

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, May 3

All times listed are local.

7:55 p M3 **A-2/FFA**Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:55p M6 **3YOCT/Simpson** Pref. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
[Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

Saturday, May 4

3:34p FhId9 **Dexter Cup** 3YOCT [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 7:35p M2 **Simpson Mem.** 3YOCP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:55p M6 **Mlands Maturity** OT [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:12p Poc10 **Van Rose Inv.** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:55p M9 **3&4YO** NW 3 [Trackmaster PPs](#)
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HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

<p>Kathy Parker kparker@harnessracing.com <i>Editor/ General Manager</i></p> <p>Lynne Myers lm Myers@harnessracing.com <i>Advertising Manager</i></p> <p>Gordon Waterstone gwaterstone@harnessracing.com <i>Associate Editor</i></p> <p>Jay Hochstetler jhochstetler@harnessracing.com <i>Intern</i></p> <p>Suzanne Starbuck sstarbuck@harnessracing.com <i>Production Manager</i></p>	<p>Heather Kemper hkemper@harnessracing.com <i>Assistant Production Manager</i></p> <p>Suzy Hall shall@harnessracing.com <i>Production & Design</i></p> <p>Stephanie Condrón-Hall scondronhall@harnessracing.com <i>Editorial Art Director</i></p> <p>Sherry Lane slane@harnessracing.com <i>Accounting & Circulation</i></p> <p>For mail sent via U.S. Postal Service, either P.O. Box 8480, Lexington, KY 40533, or 1910 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503. (859) 276-4026</p>
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Dexter Cup Begins Road To Hambletonian

The quest for the Hambletonian kicks off this Saturday at Freehold Raceway. With no eliminations, seven 3-year-old trotters will head to the gate for the \$139,600 final.

The heavy favorite looks to be Dontyouforgetit, winner of the Pennsylvania Sires Stake Final en route to \$337,837 last season, who is making his first start of 2013.

Dontyouforgetit is a son of Cantab Hall and out of Solveig, a winner of \$820,791 lifetime. With trainer Jimmy Takter at the lines, the colt won his April 27 qualifier in 1:57.1 in a dominating nine-length romp. Owned by Solveig Racing Partners, Takter's colt will look to build off his qualifier with a stakes victory to start the year.

Trainer Jim Oscarsson has a chance to pull an upset with Dewey Luvs Britt. The Deweycheatumnhowe colt has been pointed for the Dexter Cup since the start of the year by Oscarsson and appears to be in his best form yet, coming off an easy win in 1:58.4 on April 3 at Pompano Park.

"He trained well on Monday (April 29) like he has all year. I'm definitely satisfied with him heading into the race," said Swedish native Oscarsson.

With Oscarsson's son, Kevin, in the sulky, father Jim hopes the family connection works like it has in his two consecutive wins in Florida. While Kevin Oscarsson and Dewey Luvs Britt have not teamed up on a half-mile track before, Jim Oscarsson is not concerned.

"We train on a half mile, and he (Dewey Luvs Britt) has always trained good. He is a small horse, who is very good on the turns," he said.

Starting from post six, Oscarsson is hopeful yet reserved on how Dewey Luvs Britt will finish in the final. "It's going to be fun to see what he can do. There are lots of good horses in the race, but I believe in him," he added.

After the Dexter Cup, Dewey Luvs Britt will ready for the Tompkins Geers and then rest until the Kentucky Sires Stakes in August. He was not kept eligible to the Hambletonian or other major stakes.

The field also includes the blue-blooded Il Pizzaiolo, a son of Deweycheatumnhowe-Pizza Dolce, who is making his fourth start this season for trainer-driver Ray Schnittker. — *By Jay Hochstetler*

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Post Position Wins at Freehold Raceway

PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Starts	570	570	570	570	570	568	545	428	12
Win	143	107	81	80	77	39	27	16	0
Place	114	121	90	78	78	46	22	20	4
Show	88	90	94	89	74	67	44	20	2

Percent in Money

Win	25.1	18.8	14.2	14.0	13.5	6.9	5.0	3.7	0.0
Place	45.1	40.0	30.0	27.7	27.2	15.0	9.0	8.4	33.3
Show	60.5	55.8	46.5	43.3	40.2	26.8	17.1	13.1	50.0

USTA stats through 4/27/2013

\$139,600 Dexter Cup

Freehold Raceway, Saturday, May 4, Race 9, Post Time: 3:34 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—King Muscles (Muscles Yankee)	A. McCarthy/A. Lambert	6-1	Herb Liverman/\$22,000 (HB)
2—Il Pizzaiolo (Deweycheatumnhowe)	Ray Schnittker	8-1	Stewart/Schmucker/Robinson/\$85,000 (Lex)
3—Stirling Bullet (Conway Hall)	C. Manzi/P. Wojtowicz	10-1	Stirling Brook Farms/\$3,000 (Lex)
4—Celebrity Maserati ^H (Andover Hall)	T. Jackson/S. Strandqvist	9-2	Diamond Creek Farm/\$45,000 (HB)
5—Celebrity Stimulus (Cantab Hall)	S. Smith/S. Strandqvist	7-2	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$35,000 (HB)
6—Dewey Luvs Britt (Deweycheatumnhowe)	K. Oscarsson/J. Oscarsson	5-1	Crawford Farms/\$6,000 (Lex)
7—Dontyouforgetit ^H (Cantab)	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	5-2	Homebred

^H Hambletonian eligible

Derby Fever At Harness Tracks

Quite a few harness tracks will be trying to capitalize on Kentucky Derby fever on Saturday. The Derby is the big attraction, even for the tracks which will only offer simulcasting on Saturday.

Harrah's Philadelphia usually does not race on Saturdays but will begin a live 14-race program at 2:30 p.m. The addition of the program will mean a busy day for drivers and trainers. Driver Tim Tetrick lined up a plane to fly drivers from qualifying races at the Meadowlands to Philadelphia for the Harrah's card, and then after the 11th race there they will fly back to Teterboro in New Jersey so they can be at the Meadowlands for the first race.

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs will have a tripleheader of sorts, showcasing live harness racing beginning at 11 a.m., 30 minutes following the first post racing at Churchill Downs. Pocono will begin its regular night card following the Kentucky Derby, with top free-for-aller Golden Receiver competing in the feature pace of the night.

Another Derby connection for harness racing is the contender Normandy Invasion. A 12-1 choice on the morning line from post five, is trained by Chad Brown, who once worked for Standardbred horseman Paul Kelley.

Hazel, Tioga Open This Weekend

Hazel Park Raceway's 61st season of harness racing will get underway Friday night, May 3, at 7:35 p.m. It won't take long for fans to notice a big change as longtime Windsor Raceway race caller Marty Adler will be in the announcer's booth.

"We are very fortunate to have someone like Marty Adler join us here at Hazel Park this year," said Ken Marshall, the director of operations at the suburban Detroit racetrack. "He's been so well known in this area for years and we hope too that he will help bring some of his strong Canadian following with him. He will be a real asset for our live race meet. Although we haven't heard his voice since the closing of Windsor Raceway, he has never lost his enthusiasm for live racing."

Adler replaces Mike Bozich, who was hired as announcer at Cal Expo after he resigned his position to move closer to his family in California. As a result of the closing of Windsor Raceway last year, Adler was available to move into the Hazel Park announcer's booth that was also the home of the late Jack Riggs for decades until his retirement in the early 2000s.



Continues on page 5 >>>

His first foal has arrived in Ohio.

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"I am really excited about this opportunity as Hazel Park is one of North America's major racetracks," said Adler. "When one door closes another one opens, and I am thrilled that I was able to stay in the same market. I know Michigan racing very well and am very familiar with many horsemen who came over to race at Windsor. Plus, there is a real sense of commitment on behalf of Hazel Park management to continue the positive trend the live race meet has shown over the past few years."

Following Friday night's opening, Hazel Park will race a three-night-per-week schedule on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The 54-date meet will close on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2, with a special afternoon race card. Also highlighting the meet is the \$100,000 William Connors Memorial Trot for 3-year-old colts on Friday, July 12. The Connors elims are scheduled for Friday, July 5, with that special 6:30 p.m. program capped off by a spectacular fireworks display.

Tioga Downs opens its live harness meet on Saturday and has billed the opening as the "Ultimate Derby Fest." A live racing program begins at 5 p.m., with the 10 races including the \$18,000 Hudson River Series, the \$16,000 Open Trot, and a \$16,000 Open Handicap Pace for fillies and mares.

Tioga will race every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Sept. 12, with selected Mondays and Thursdays also a part of the season. With the exception of opening night, post time for the Friday and Saturday cards will be 6:50 p.m.



Somwherovrainbow Begins Season In Friday's Simpson

George Teague Jr. saw dreams come true with Somwherovrainbow in 2012. He visualizes the possibility of another strong season from the filly pacer this year. Somwherovrainbow, who was last season's Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old filly pacer, will make her 3-year-old debut in Friday night's \$38,415 John Simpson Memorial at the Meadowlands Racetrack. She drew post four, with Montrell Teague set to drive, and faces five rivals: O Narutac Rockette, Authorize, Shebestingin, JK Letitgo and Somstreetsomewhere.

Authorize was last year's New Jersey Sires Stakes champion. Shebestingin was a stakes winner who saw her season cut short by injury after a 3-for-3 start. She won her first two races this year before finishing second by a neck to Jerseylicious in the Bobby Weiss Series final at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

Last year, Somwherovrainbow won seven of 11 races and finished the season with a six-race win streak. Her victories included the Breeders Crown and Matron Stakes, helping her to \$527,156 in earnings. She prepped for her



New Image Media Photo

Somwherovrainbow

seasonal opener by winning qualifiers at Dover Downs, Harrah's Philadelphia and the Meadowlands.

"I couldn't ask for her to be any better," George Teague said. "So far so good; three qualifiers under her belt and she did them exactly the way you want to do them. She got a chance to sit in a little bit (at Harrah's Philadelphia on April 9) and she was perfect, nice and loose in the pocket. Everything is pretty much ideal."

Somwherovrainbow is a daughter of two Horse of the Year award winners: Somebeachsomewhere and Rainbow Blue. Teague trained Rainbow Blue, who in 2004 became only the third filly pacer in harness racing history to be named Horse of the Year. Only one other mating of Horse of the Year winners has resulted in a divisional champion, when trotters Victory Song (the first Horse of the Year in 1947) and Emily's Pride (1958) produced Noble Victory, who was the 1964 2-year-old trotter of the year.

Teague and fellow Rainbow Blue owners Kevin Fry and Ron Fry are the breeders of Somwherovrainbow and now own her with Ted Gewertz.

Somwherovrainbow faces comparisons to Rainbow Blue, but Teague does not mind. "That's not a bad one to compare her to," he said, laughing. "I love that part. But I don't want her to be her mom. I just want her to be herself, or a little bit better, I hope. I know she's got more speed than her mom, which is a great asset. But it's a different era. It's different than it was 10 years ago; horses are improving all the time."

Last year, Somwherovrainbow closed her season with a stakes-record-equaling 1:51.3 triumph in the Matron at Dover Downs. She set her mark of 1:51.2 in winning her elimination for the Breeders Crown at Woodbine and captured the final in 1:52.2 (over a track labeled good) a week later.

"She started to mature toward the middle to end of last year, which is always good when you can finish off a year like that," Teague said. "She was a little more aggressive early on in the year, so she's learning her way around the racetrack and she seems to be coming back a lot more relaxed than last year when she was starting off." —By Ken Weingartner/Harness Racing Communications

Only one other mating of Horse of the Year winners has resulted in a divisional champion.

KY Futurity Champ My MVP In Meadowlands Maturity

With the improvement he showed from age two to three, My MVP proved to be a most valuable trotter. And trainer Tony Alagna thinks the horse can continue to make strides this season as a 4 year old.

My MVP will make his seasonal debut in Saturday night's inaugural \$100,000 Meadowlands Maturity for 4-year-old trotters at the Meadowlands Racetrack. He will be joined in the field by Another Amaretto, Googoo Gaagaa, Guccio, Harbor Point, Little Brown Fox, Magic Tonight, Modern Family, Solvato and Uncle Peter.

The draw was unkind to My MVP and regular driver Mike Lachance, who will start from post 10. My MVP and Googoo Gaagaa are the only horses in the field yet to have raced this season.

Last year, My MVP won the Kentucky Futurity—one of the three jewels in the Trotting Triple Crown—and earned \$721,999 for Alagna and owners Brittany Farms, Joe Sbrocco and Modern Family Partners.

He won five times, finished second to Magic Tonight in the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes championship, third behind Market Share and Guccio in the Hambletonian (the three were separated by a neck) and picked up a paycheck in 19 of 21 starts. As a 2 year old, My MVP won one of five races and earned \$9,795.

"I was tickled to death with his season last year," Alagna said. "Mike did a tremendous job managing him and putting money on his card.

"He was very weak behind at (age) 2 and he got stronger going into his 3-year-old year. He's even stronger and more mature this year. As much as I've seen him change from (age) three to four, I expect him to have a nice year this year and an even better year at five."

For My MVP, maturity was more physical than mental.

"The two usually go hand-in-hand, but it's more physical with him," Alagna said. "You can see it with his balance; he's really come together."

My MVP was an \$85,000 purchase at the Lexington Selected sale. A son of stallion Cantab Hall, he was the first foal out of the mare Exceed Expectation, who is a half-sister



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to 1997 Hambletonian Oaks winner Must Be Victory. The family also includes 1998 Merrie Annabelle winner Rae.

The Meadowlands Maturity was created to give 4-year-olds a chance to gradually transition into racing against older horses. The Maturity is limited to 10 starters based on lifetime earnings. A race for 4-year-old pacers is scheduled May 18.

Jimmy Takter sends out Guccio, Little Brown Fox and Uncle Peter. Guccio, who starts from post one, won last year's Matron Stakes and earned \$751,561. He has one victory and one second-place finish in two starts this season; in both Guccio was the only 4-year-old in the race.

Googoo Gaagaa won last year's Earl Beal Jr. Memorial at Pocono Downs in 1:50.4, which is the fastest mile ever trotted on a five-eighths-mile oval. A week earlier, he won his Beal elimination in a then-world-record 1:51.3. He also won the \$500,000 Colonial Trot at Harrah's Philadelphia in a stakes- and track-record 1:52.1 and the Maryland Sires Stakes championship at Rosecroft Raceway in a stakes- and track-record 1:54.1.

"The more 4-year-old races, the better," Alagna said. "That's key to bringing these horses back (at age 4). You don't really want to go against older, more experienced horses right at the start of the year. Later in the season it's a different story, but at this stage it gives them a chance to get going and mature." — By Ken Weingartner/Harness Racing Communications



Nigel Souff Photo


ONES TO WATCH

Friday's Meadowlands program has several horses to watch, including the 3-year-old pacing filly **Some-whereoverarainbow** in the \$38,414 Simpson Memorial, which will be held as a non-betting race at approximately 9:20 p.m. The field also includes a couple of fillies who have stepped up their game this year: **Shebestingin**, a two-time winner, and **JK Letiitgo**, who won in 1:51.4.

In race 3, **Ice Machine**, **Wishing Stone**, **Sevruga**—a winner of five of seven starts this year—and **Arch Madness** square off in an A-2/FFA Handicap Trot, with a purse of \$30,000 on the line. Race 6 is a 3-year-old colt trot with Simpson eligibles given preference, and there are two starters coming into the race off of big qualifiers: **Show Ticket** and **Keystone Ace**.

Show Ticket, who finished fifth in last fall's Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot, won a qualifier at The Meadows on Friday morning, April 26, by a whopping 26 3/4 lengths in 1:55.3. Brett Miller drove the colt for trainer Rich Gillock and breeder-owner Robert Key. Show Ticket is a son of Broadway Hall-Amity Winner. Trainer Carlo Poliseno drove **Keystone Ace** (Yankee Glide-Balanced Action) to a 13 3/4-length, 1:55.2 score in a qualifier at Harrah's Philadelphia. This colt was unraced as a 2 year old.

In race 8, **Brookroad Knight** 3, 1:53.4, a multiple New York Sires Stakes winner at ages two and three, will make his first start of the season. In race 9, **Fashion Athena** 2, 1:53.2, a winner of five of 11 starts and \$213, 541 last year as a freshman, will make her first start of the season in a C-1 event against more experienced horses.

Race 12 at the Big M will mark the first starts of the year for a few 3-year-old trotting colts who took fast

marks as freshmen: **Andie Sophia** 2, 1:55.4; **True Day Dream** 2, 1:54.1; **Deja Vu Too** 2, 1:55.1 and **Dewey Lane** 2, 1:56.4f.

Lebanon Raceway plays host to Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old fillies on Friday night, both trotters and pacers. **Contessa Leigh**, the defending champ in the trotting filly division, makes her first start of the season in race 1 with Chip Noble driving the first time for trainer Marty Wollam, who handled the filly in all of her starts as a freshman. In race 3, for the filly pacers, **Cating Around** will take to the track fresh off her triumph in the Hackett Memorial and is undefeated in two starts this season.

The feature of Saturday night's card at the Meadowlands will be the \$100,000 Meadowlands Maturity, but there are plenty of other notables in action: New Jersey Sires Stakes champ **Johny Rock**, Kentucky Sires Stakes champ **Duel In The Sun**; Pennsylvania Sires Stakes final runner-up **Johns Polyview** (all in race 1, Simpson Memorial); **We Will See** (race 3); the 3-year-old pacers **Source Of Pride** p,3, 1:52.1 and **Martini Hanover** p,2, 1:51.1 (race 9) and **Hurrikane Kingcole** (race 11).

Golden Receiver will try for his seventh win in eight starts this season when he competes in the \$50,000 Van Rose Memorial Invitational Pace (race 10) at Pocono Downs on Saturday night.

Lebanon Raceway will feature Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old colt trotters and pacers on Saturday night (races 1 and 7 for trotters; 4 and 9 for pacers). Last year's freshman pacing colt champion **Feelin Lika Winner** is making his first start of the season in race 9.



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Dontyouforgetit Set For Dexter

Dontyouforgetit is small in size, but races big. A 3-year-old colt trotter who last season trotted the fastest mile ever by a 2 year old on a half-mile track, Dontyouforgetit begins his 2013 campaign in Saturday afternoon's \$139,600 Dexter Cup at Freehold Raceway. Dontyouforgetit faces six rivals and starts from post 7 with trainer JimmyTakter handling the driving.

Last year, Dontyouforgetit won six of 10 starts, including the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes championship and the Standardbred Stakes at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Ohio, where his time of 1:55.3 set the world record for 2 year olds on a half-mile oval. He won by nearly 18 lengths.

Given the colt's size, Takter expects Dontyouforgetit to excel on the smaller tracks, such as Freehold, which is also a half-mile oval. Other than the Hambletonian Stakes, which is raced on the Meadowlands' one-mile oval, most of Dontyouforgetit's major stakes are on five-eighths-mile or half-mile tracks.

"I'm going to manage him more on the smaller tracks; I'm going to try to keep him there a little bit more," Takter said. "I'm not going to rush him for the big tracks. I have some other horses I think are better on the big tracks. But who knows; size sometimes doesn't matter. He's got long legs; he doesn't look that small on the track, actually."

Dontyouforgetit prepped for the Dexter Cup with a 1:57.1 qualifier win last weekend at the Meadowlands. He also won a qualifier in 2:00.4 at Freehold on April 18 after finishing third in his first outing of the year five days earlier at the Meadowlands.

"He qualified really good (at the Meadowlands)," Takter said. "I was happy with him. He wasn't too good the first qualifier, but I was happy with him at Freehold; he handled the track very well. He was really sharp (Saturday)." — *By Ken Weingartner/Harness Racing Communications*

New Meadowlands Meet Opens Friday

The \$1.2 million Hambletonian headlines the 28-day Championship Meet at The Meadowlands Racetrack that begins this Friday night.

While the younger stars of the sport shine during the Championship Meet, the well-established veteran pacers and trotters will share the spotlight as well. They have new targets this year: the TVG Free For All Championship series throughout the meet. The lucrative races will award qualifying points toward the inaugural finals, each worth a guaranteed \$500,000, for trotters and pacers on Nov. 30.

The series will also encompass races at other tracks, the Allerage Farms Trot and Pace at the Red Mile on Oct. 6 and the Breeders Crown Open Trot and Pace at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs on Oct. 19.

There are nine races for each gait and contenders for the November finals must compete at least five times in the series to qualify. The first of those nine races will take place on



Nick Savini/Photo

Saturday, May 11, for both trotters and pacers. The Meadowlands will also extend an invitation to the finals to a leading 3-year-old trotter and pacer, giving them an opportunity to step up and face older rivals with a lucrative pot on the line.

The emphasis on older horses advances the goal of Meadowlands Chairman Jeff Gural to keep the sport's stars racing beyond their 3-year-old campaigns.

"It is vital to keep our stars on the racetrack," said Meadowlands Racetrack chairman Jeff Gural. "Given that offspring of stallions retired before their four-year-old season are not eligible to race in stakes events at The Meadowlands, we felt it was necessary to formulate a new free for all series, recognizing that our stars will be competing longer. This Free For All series will provide the best racing this industry has seen in decades and will go a long way to deciding year-end honors, including Horse Of The Year."

The new series has already sparked positive reaction from horsemen and owners.

"We have seen, especially on the pacing side, massive increases in nominations to the W.R. Haughton and the U.S. Pacing Championship," said director of racing operations Darin Zoccali. "They have virtually doubled. Those races will be going for more money than they have in some time. All told, the series will be worth about \$4 million."

Through the April 15 sustaining payments, 41 horses were paid into the U.S. Pacing Championship, with an estimated purse of \$242,500, while 40 are still eligible to the W.R. Haughton Memorial, with an estimated purse of \$500,000.

On a nostalgic note, this will be the final meet in the current Meadowlands grandstand. The track, which raised harness racing to unprecedented heights when it opened in 1976, will be replaced by a gleaming new facility currently under construction along the backstretch. — *By Mike Farrell/Meadowlands Racetrack*

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1992 Hambletonian Winner Alf Palema Dies

Alf Palema, the winner of the 1992 Hambletonian and a top sire in Sweden, died Monday (April 29) at Palema Farm. He was 24 and died of conditions caused by old age.

Alf Palema was a classic mix of the blood of Speedy Crown and Super Bowl. He was a son of Speedy Crown's fast son Speedy Somolli and out of Highland Bridget, a daughter of Super Bowl. Bred by George Alexander, Alf Palema was acquired when Karl-Erik Bender bought Highland Bridget in foal to Speedy Somolli. Bender then campaigned him in partnership with trainer Per Eriksson throughout the colt's two seasons of racing in North America.

In 1992 Alf Palema was one of two colts Eriksson had entered in the Hambo. Eriksson's pupil King Conch was more respected prior to the Hambo, with Alf Palema having only one win and \$16,496 on his resume. But Alf Palema pulled off the victory, winning by a head in 1:56.3 over his stablemate. Mickey McNichol drove Alf Palema.

After the Hambo, trainer Per Eriksson said the decision to enter Alf Palema in the race was made by Karl-Erik Bender. "He was very game. He said, 'put him in. I want to see him race.'"

Alf Palema went on to capture the World Trotting Derby and was entered in the Kentucky Futurity but was scratched from the race due to a quarter crack. That ended his career and he was exported to Sweden, where he stood at stud and sired Swedish Derby winners Colombian Necktie and Gazza Degato, and the Swedish free-for-allsers Gidde Palema and Torvald Palema.

Karl-Erik Bender continued to participate in North American racing and today operates the Palema Training Center in Vero Beach, Fla., with his own horses trained by Steffan Lind. Alf Palema was buried at Palema Farm in Vastergotland.

Big Numbers By Empire City At Yonkers

Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway produced nearly a half billion dollars in economic activity and \$374 million in revenue for state and local governments in 2012 while supporting nearly 4,000 jobs locally and across the state, according to a new report.

The report by the New York Gaming Association (NYGA) highlights the Yonkers facility as one of the most successful racetracks and casinos in the country. According to the NYGA report, Empire City employed nearly 1,200 people as of December 2012, 79 percent of whom worked full-time, and 97 percent of who were New York State residents. Wages and salaries paid totaled more than \$42.8 million. Employees who worked full-time earned an average of \$41,635.

Purchases of goods and services (including construction) from New York State suppliers and contractors totaled more than \$74.3 million in 2012, directly supporting 333 full-time-equivalent (FTE) jobs with these businesses, with nearly \$25.6 million in wages.

The report said that by using a multiplier effect, Empire City's spending in 2012 on payroll, purchasing, and construction indirectly supported 573 additional jobs with New York businesses, with wages totaling nearly \$34.0 million and increased New York's economic output by \$88.6 million.

Attendance at Empire City in 2012 totaled more than 8 million, including about 1.2 million visits by people who were not New York State residents. The report estimated that off-site spending by these out-of-state visitors directly and indirectly generated \$68.8 million in statewide economic output and 567 FTE jobs, with wages and salaries totaling \$22.5 million.

Empire City also provided nearly \$54.5 million in support for New York State's racing and breeding industries, directly and indirectly generating \$112.6 million in statewide economic output and 1,370 FTE jobs, with wages and salaries totaling \$52.7 million.

In 2012 Empire City paid almost \$331.2 million (61 percent of its gross gaming revenues) to New York State, including more than \$276.7 million in support for education. Empire City's casino operations, its support for racing and breeding and offsite visitor spending directly and indirectly generated \$13.1 million in New York State income, sales and business taxes and \$29.5 million in aid to municipalities and in local property, sales and income taxes.

In total, Empire City provided 3,969 jobs, \$178 million in wages, \$270 million in economic output and nearly \$374 million in state and local revenues in 2012.

Break The Bank K Back Breeding

Despite a setback several weeks ago, first-year stallion Break The Bank K is "back in business" and will return to the breeding shed to resume his duties. He stands at Midland Acres in Bloomingburg, Ohio.

"Although he started the breeding season getting mares in foal as one would expect, we had a problem that developed in early April with Break The Bank K's fertility. His sperm count had dropped dramatically low," said Dr. John Mossbarger.

Dr. Mossbarger said that although the stallion's enthusiasm for breeding and volume were fine, the sperm count wasn't enough to consider optimal breeding of a mare over the past three weeks.

"We did testing to determine the cause of the problem, and came to find out that it was nothing more than what is termed an 'insult,' which is basically either trauma or another unknown cause that resulted in his sperm count dropping," Mossbarger said.

"Whatever the cause, he's now recovered from it, and we're glad to report that his sperm count has increased to satisfactory levels where we are able to breed mares. We anticipate a full recovery for maximum reproduction efficiency in approximately two weeks," he added.

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Mossbarger said that he had alerted those who were scheduled to breed to the horse about the issue, and now wants to let everyone know that Midland is accepting mares back to the stallion for the remainder of the breeding season.

BreakThe Bank K 2,1:55.3f; 3,1:51.3-1:52.2f, campaigned by Bob Key, earned over \$1.1-million in his racing career and captured the 2010 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot in world record time. (*Midland Acres*)

Panel Says No \$100k Payment Needed

The Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA), a member of Harness Horsemen International (HHI), scored a victory on April 4, 2013, when an Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) Panel upheld a May 2012 ruling that the OHHA was not responsible for paying \$100,000 to the ORC.

The ORC Director had asked for the \$100,000 as compensation for costs that arose from an investigation conducted by the ORC in 2004. In 2004, the OHHA held a license as a Purse Accounts Manager (PAM), which had been issued by the ORC. From April through November of 2004, the ORC Director conducted a comprehensive, forensic audit, which involved retaining an accounting firm, and assessed the cost at \$100,000. During the time of the investigation, the ORC suspended the OHHA's PAM license (during those same months in 2004).

In early 2005, the ORC Director and OHHA representatives met to discuss the \$100,000 payment and if the OHHA would apply for a 2005 PAM license. On Feb. 14, 2005, the ORC granted the OHHA its PAM license, as long as the OHHA agreed to pay the \$100,000. The OHHA refused and the PAM license was rescinded.

Further, the ORC Director had presented the OHHA with a trio of options in regards to payment of the \$100,000 and/or renewal of the PAM license. These were:

- 1—Renew the PAM license & pay the \$100,000
- 2—Challenge the ORC Director's right to recover the \$100,000 investigatory costs & request a hearing
- 3—To not renew the PAM license, in which case the \$100,000 would not be payable.

On Sept. 11, 2011, the ORC Director again took the position (this time in a formal order) that the OHHA was still responsible for paying the \$100,000. The OHHA then asked the ORC Panel to review the order and on May 31, 2012, the ORC Panel concluded that the OHHA was not obligated to pay the \$100,000.

In a formal statement, the ORC Panel admitted that the ORC Director had provided the OHHA with three options, and that the OHHA had chosen not to renew the PAM license, and therefore, was not required to pay the \$100,000. In essence, the ORC Panel stated that "the terms for the 2005 license were not consented to by the OHHA, which then ended the ORC claim for the charge of the \$100,000.

The OHHA's position had been that since they did not exercise a 2005 PAM license, they did not owe \$100,000 to the ORC, taking the third option provided to them by the ORC Director. The OHHA had chosen the option of non-renewal of the 2005 PAM license, which provided for the non-payment of the \$100,000.

The ORC Director challenged the ORC Panel's May 2012 decision, and asked for a judicial review of the ruling. In a formal meeting on April 4, 2013, the ORC Panel upheld their original decision of May 2012, and forced the ORC to pay the OHHA's legal fees represent, in the amount of \$13,500.00, within 30 days. (*Harness Horsemen International*)

Ohio Commission OKs New Raceway Track

The Ohio State Racing Commission approved the transfer of the racing license of Raceway Park to Dayton at a meeting held on Wednesday, May 1. Raceway Park is owned by Penn National Gaming. The commission also had been reviewing Penn National's application to transfer its Beulah Park license in Columbus to the Youngstown area, and that plan was approved as well.

Penn National officials had been before the commission at several meetings with its plans for the two tracks, but the commission members, including chairman Robert Schmitz, remained steadfast that the company had not included enough seating for racing patrons. Penn National said adding more seats would require a change in architectural and construction plans would thus cause delays in the project, but at the May 1 meeting company officials said they could make modifications for additional seats without substantial delays in the construction timetable.

The new Raceway Park in Dayton will have 1,037 seats. The track opened its 2013 season last weekend and Jerry Knappenberger of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association said he thought the crowd was in the range of 1,000-1,200.

Hollywood at Dayton Raceway, as the Raceway Park will be known, will be located on 125 acres in North Dayton on the site of an abandoned Delphi Automotive plant. Plans for the Austintown (Youngstown area) and Dayton facilities include up to 1,500 VLTs, as well as restaurants, bars and other amenities at each facility. Penn National expects Both Hollywood at Mahoning Valley Race Course and Hollywood at Dayton Raceway to create approximately 1,000 direct and indirect jobs as well as approximately 1,000 construction jobs.

Eric Schippers, Penn's senior vice president of public affairs, told the Toledo Blade newspapers that construction of the facility will take about one year. Raceway Park is currently scheduled to race until October of this year but will likely be used for part of track's 2014 dates, until the Dayton facility is ready to open.

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through April 30, 2013 (week difference April 24-30).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Razzle Dazzle (6pg)	6	4	0	0	\$301,250
Feeling You (6pm)	9	6	1	0	243,200
Versado (6pg)	15	6	3	1	210,330
Foiled Again (9pg)	6	3	2	1	206,000
Anniwesterncard (7pg)	11	6	1	0	182,250
Something For Doc (5pg)	12	7	0	1	161,300
Anndrovette (6pm)	6	3	3	0	151,250
Golden Receiver (8pg)	7	6	0	0	144,150
Casimir Jitterbug (6pg)	11	4	3	1	143,195
Shoobe's Place (6ph)	11	2	3	3	111,430
Do Me Honor (5pm)	14	9	3	2	108,150
Burnin Money (5tg)	13	7	1	3	107,762
Greystone Ladylike (4pm)	13	5	5	1	107,075
Oil Magnet (9pg)	10	8	1	1	106,080
Camille (5pm)	5	3	1	1	104,200

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Brian Sears	750	195-133-110	.407	\$3,083,972 (\$425,205)
Corey Callahan	1,364	273-189-186	.323	2,791,222 (71,560)
Tim Tetrick	953	176-144-129	.314	2,458,614 (291,840)
Ron Pierce	1,121	180-154-145	.280	2,273,844 (185,420)
Matt Kakaley	863	143-119-134	.294	2,228,025 (152,390)
George Brennan	778	123-139-92	.297	2,152,277 (180,935)
Yannick Gingras	611	122-97-95	.340	2,152,091 (227,625)
David Miller	836	132-121-111	.283	1,787,536 (125,675)
Dave Palone	817	226-126-87	.398	1,685,812 (136,380)
Andy Miller	765	108-103-95	.257	1,442,463 (155,405)
Jason Bartlett	721	76-78-92	.208	1,400,028 (83,450)
Jody Jamieson	712	137-115-81	.320	1,386,330 (24,947)
Scott Zeron	598	104-75-66	.280	1,337,331 (78,635)
Billy Davis Jr.	981	162-134-111	.279	1,294,593 (112,786)
Eric Goodell	574	68-80-64	.233	1,252,897 (75,310)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,164	299-173-145	.381	\$4,124,159 (\$447,258)
Rene Allard	630	149-107-62	.364	1,417,352 (99,763)
Mark Ford	538	76-68-69	.254	1,133,643 (112,412)
Richard Moreau	527	109-88-81	.351	1,045,475 (77,275)
P.J. Fraley	281	52-44-40	.319	1,018,947 (181,990)
Tony O'Sullivan	238	44-45-23	.322	863,482 (75,551)
Michael Hall	340	70-56-47	.343	797,061 (40,950)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	278	58-46-37	.345	752,060 (58,920)
Amber Buter	244	47-42-30	.329	637,751 (170,580)
Josh Green	233	59-29-29	.364	597,851 (14,230)
Mark Harder	183	36-18-30	.306	580,182 (31,250)
Scott Di Domenico	202	43-30-21	.330	575,370 (115,350)
Erv Miller	291	58-41-36	.319	567,347 (18,749)
Carmen Auciello	312	39-40-30	.228	548,953 (49,847)
Dylan Davis	245	52-31-37	.333	514,597 (7,440)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	746	355	683	\$6,125,170
Winbak Farm	697	303	536	4,485,872
Brittany Farms	211	106	218	1,987,867
Perretti Farms	234	99	187	1,731,712
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	185	74	147	1,439,578
Walnut Hall Limited	157	73	133	1,041,600
White Birch Farm	110	51	107	981,714
Perfect World Enterprises	123	61	100	972,229
Frederick Hertrich III	113	55	123	905,307
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	123	59	115	871,738
Arlene & Jules Siegel	119	55	104	848,797
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	104	45	91	810,294
Peter Pan Stables Inc.	93	39	81	778,352
Fox Valley Standardbreds	128	52	80	696,341
Steve Stewart	87	45	93	695,805

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for April 24-30 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Trevor Henry	38	16-3-7
Brian Sears	43	15-6-3
Tim Tetrick	59	15-12-6
Victor Kirby	45	15-6-9
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	76	14-18-10
Dave Palone	47	14-4-4
Ron Pierce	82	14-10-16
Aaron Merriman	64	13-11-6
Chris Page	58	13-6-8
Jim DeVaux	57	13-6-7
Michael Oosting	53	13-7-8
Ed Hensley	55	11-7-4
George Napolitano Jr.	85	11-16-8
Ray Fisher Jr.	42	11-4-5
Sylvain Filion	37	11-2-7
David Miller	54	10-4-7
Brett Miller	61	9-11-12
Dan Noble	50	9-6-3
George Brennan	54	9-4-6
Jason Merriman	28	9-4-4
Jim Morrill Jr.	48	9-8-4
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	59	9-10-12

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	19
Richard Moreau	9
Scott Di Domenico	9
Mark Ford	8
P.J. Fraley	7
Rene Allard	7
Virgil Morgan Jr.	7
Harla Loney	6
John Mungillo	6
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	5
Les Givens	5
Melissa Beckwith	5

MAY 2013



sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31



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