

Swedish Star Sebastian K Set For Debut

Sebastian K (you will see an "S" on his name in the program because he is registered in Sweden) will make his much anticipated North American debut on Saturday night at the Meadowlands, starting from post 1 in the second of two \$40,000 eliminations for the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial. The top five finishers in each elim will return for the \$180,000 (est.) final on Saturday, May 17.

The Cutler elim will be the first start for 2012 Swedish Horse of the Year Sebastian K since he went three heats in capturing the Group 1 Aby Stora Pris (at an approximate distance of one mile) for the second consecutive year last September in Sweden. The 8-year-old son of Korean brings a career resume of 26 wins in 63 starts and \$2,290,649 in earnings for owner Knutsson Trotting Inc. Top Swedish horseman Ake Svanstedt, who moved his base of operations to the U.S. this past winter, trains and drives Sebastian K. While Sebastian K never won the famed Elitlopp in his home country, Svanstedt is a two-time winner, scoring with Gidde Palema in 2004 and Torvald Palema in 2009.

After prepping at Svanstedt's winter base at Palema Training Center in Vero Beach, Fla., Sebastian K comes into Saturday's race off just one qualifier at the Meadowlands. In that April 26 race, he finished fourth by three lengths, race-timed in 1:56.2.

Bjorn "Bernie" Noren, assistant trainer in the Svanstedt Stable after years of working for Jimmy Takter and a couple of seasons on his own, said the race was what they were looking for.

"Why go like crazy in the qualifier?" said Noren. "He could have gone more; he had some horse left. He could have gone by the other horses but we wanted him to get

Continues on page 2 >>>>

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\$40,000 ARTHUR J. CUTLER— 1ST ELIM

Meadowlands, Saturday, May 10, Race 6, Post Time: 8:51 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Sebastian K	A. Svanstedt	7-2
2—Sweet Justice	J. Campbell/B. Saunders	12-1
3—DW's NY Yank	R. Pierce/R. Burke	6-1
4—Intimidate	S. Zeron/L. Blais	5-2
5—Archangel	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	10-1
6—Modern Family	T. Tetrick/D. Bier	8-5
7—Americash Express	J. Bongiorno/P. Agro-Primiani	30-1
8—Upfront Billy	C. Callahan/M. Ford	15-1

\$40,000 ARTHUR J. CUTLER— 2ND ELIM

Meadowlands, Saturday, May 10, Race 11, Post Time: 10:27 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Sevruga	R. Pierce/J. Miller	5-2
2—Market Share	T. Tetrick/L. Toscano	6-5
3—Daylon Magician	M. MacDonald/M. Ford	6-1
4—Possessed Fashion	J. Campbell/T. Fanning	20-1
5—Quick Deal	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	15-1
6—Undercover Strike	C. Callahan/J. Czernyson	10-1
7—Arch Madness	T. Smedshammer	4-1



Sebastian K

around the racetrack and get used to it. He's been training so he's ready."

Noren said Sebastian K had a bit of trouble after arriving in the U.S. last winter.

"He had a tough time when he came out of quarantine after five weeks as it took a little bit out of him," said Noren. "But after a couple weeks he came back to his normal self. He trained very good all winter."

Noren said Sebastian K is versatile on the track so Svanstedt will have plenty of options on Saturday.

"He's quick behind the gate," he said. "He has wicked speed. He can race on the lead or from behind, but you will see him better when he can come from behind."

Noren said Sebastian K will be doing a lot of traveling this year as he has a full stakes schedule on his plate. Those races include the TVG Free For All Series, the Maple Leaf Trot at Mohawk, the John Cashman Jr. Memorial at the Meadowlands, the Crawford Farm at Vernon Downs, the Centaur at Hoosier Park, the American National at Balmoral Park and the Allerage Farms at The Red Mile. He would have to be supplemented to the Breeders Crown in November at the Meadowlands.

Drawing post 4 in the same elim is Intimidate, who will be making his first-ever start at the Meadowlands and just his second appearance outside his home country of Canada. The winner of the 2012 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot final at Woodbine, Intimidate's lone U.S. start came last year at Vernon Downs when he won the \$214,000 Credit Winner in an all-age track record 1:51.

Drawing post 1 in the first elim is defending Cutler champion Sevruga, who has two wins in three starts thus far in 2014. Post 2 goes to Market Share, whose trainer, Linda Toscano, will be evaluating closely before making a final decision on sending the trotter overseas for the May 25 Elitlopp in Sweden.

Starting in post 7 is Arch Madness, who has traveled across the Atlantic in prior years for the Elitlopp but is staying home this year. A winner of more than \$4.1 million, Arch Madness finished fourth in his lone start in 2014, finishing 1 1/2 lengths behind Uncle Peter, who is headed to the Elitlopp. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, May 9

All times listed are local.

7:54p	M3	Simpson 3CT	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	F&M Open Pace	Trackmaster PPs
8:51p	M6	Reynolds 3FP	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR8	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
10:27p	M11	A2/A1/FFA Pace	Trackmaster PPs

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

Saturday, May 10

8:05p	Wdb3	Diplomat 3CP final	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Open Pace	Trackmaster PPs
8:51p	M6	Cutler Mem. Trot elim.	Trackmaster PPs
9:11p	M7	TVG FFA Pace	Trackmaster PPs
9:25p	Wdb7	Princess 3FP final	Trackmaster PPs
10:27p	M11	Cutler Mem. Trot elim.	Trackmaster PPs

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STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

In My Heart, No Horse Will Ever Surpass Moni Maker

The horse that changed my life? That's easy. Her picture is the only one of a horse on display in my home. It hangs in a place of honor at the top of the stairs.

So when word spread May 2 that Moni Maker had died at the age of 21, it was like learning of the passing of a close friend from high school you haven't spoken to in years. The initial wave of melancholy— which probably had more to do with the passage of time and feeling one's mortality than anything — quickly washed away in a flood of cherished memories.

She was the more-worldly friend that opened my eyes, took me fantastic places, introduced me to amazing people and made me fall in love with this sport.

That's easy to do, of course, when you find yourself sipping champagne into the night in an exquisite restaurant on the Champs-Élysées a few blocks from the Arc de Triomphe mere hours after she conquered the Prix d'Amerique with the French chanting her name.

Truth is, I had fallen hard long before I found myself leaning on a redbrick wall on an October afternoon; a mile of Lexington red

clay stretched out before me as this magnificent trotter and her female jockey threw harness racing's greatest retirement party.

Sure, there was also Stockholm and Montreal, New York and Toronto along the way as she piled up record earnings while regularly beating the boys while jetting back and forth between six countries on two continents, but Moni Maker was always more about the complete journey to me than the scenic photo stops.

It was at Solvalla in 1997 that she first introduced me to one of her owners; a curly-headed man with a gentle soul and an easy smile named Geoff Stein, whose death never should have proceeded hers.



Moni Maker celebrating her win in the 1999 Prix d'Amerique.

In Paris, it was Moni Maker who introduced me to more of her owners, most notably David Reid and Frank Antonacci, as well as future Hall of Famers Murray Brown, Moira Fanning, Wally Hennessey and Jimmy Takter. It was on the bus to Vincennes that January morning that I was first exposed to the talented Takter.

All of that I owe to the big mare with the even bigger heart who did everything on her terms.

For me, Moni Maker's time seemed like better days, before slot machines and politicians complicated our lives; before death too frequently made us take stock.

Don't all of us have a horse like that? One that inspired us above all others, made crucial introductions and enriched our lives? More often than not, doesn't that great horse arrive in our youth, never to be surpassed by the great ones that follow, no matter how fast they go or how much they make?

That photo of Moni Maker in my home stands as a constant reminder of better times. It is an incredible image taken by my friend Dave Landry in Montreal in 2000 after Moni Maker's final pari-mutuel start. As the great mare walked off into the sunset, caretaker Roman Kogalin has his free arm raised in bent victory and Hennessey has his arm around Takter's shoulder.

In my home, they will remain there, frozen in time. In my heart, no horse will ever replace her.

What Do You Think?

Do you have something to say about Dave Briggs' column? Or about anything else going on in harness racing?

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



Dave Briggs was the editor of *The Canadian Sportsman* for 18 years and is an award-winning journalist. His column appears in *HarnessRacing Weekend Preview* in part through the advertising support of Hanover Shoe Farms and Woodbine Entertainment Group. Any opinions expressed in this column are his own and not necessarily those of the Horseman Publishing Company and its publications or its advertisers.

Claus Karstrand Photo



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Clinton Raceway (Clinton)

www.clintonraceway.com

Sunday, Jul 20, 2014.....	2FP
Sunday, Aug 03, 2014.....	3FP
Sunday, Aug 17, 2014.....	2FT
Sunday, Aug 31, 2014.....	2CP

Flamboro Downs (Dundas)

www.flamborodowns.com

Tuesday, Sep 02, 2014.....	2FP
Thursday, Sep 11, 2014.....	3FT
● Sunday, Sep 21, 2014.....	3FT
● Tuesday, Sep 23, 2014.....	2CT
● Sunday, Sep 28, 2014.....	3FP

Georgian Downs (Innisfil)

www.georgiandowns.com

Saturday, Jul 12, 2014.....	2CT
● Sunday, Jul 13, 2014.....	2CT
Tuesday, Jul 22, 2014.....	2FT
Saturday, Jul 26, 2014.....	3CP
Saturday, Aug 09, 2014.....	2FT
● Sunday, Aug 10, 2014.....	2CP
● Sunday, Aug 10, 2014.....	2FP
● Tuesday, Aug 12, 2014.....	3FP
Saturday, Aug 16, 2014.....	2CT
Sunday, Aug 17, 2014.....	3FP
Saturday, Aug 23, 2014.....	2FP
Sunday, Aug 24, 2014.....	2CP

Grand River Raceway (Elora)

www.grandriverraceway.com

Wednesday, Jul 02, 2014.....	3FT
● Wednesday, Jul 16, 2014.....	2CP
● Friday, Jul 18, 2014.....	2FP
Monday, Jul 21, 2014.....	2CP
● Wednesday, Jul 23, 2014.....	2FT
Wednesday, Jul 30, 2014.....	2CT
● Monday, Aug 04, 2014.....	3CP
Monday, Aug 11, 2014.....	3CT
● Wednesday, Aug 13, 2014.....	3FT
Wednesday, Sep 10, 2014.....	3FP

Hanover Raceway (Hanover)

www.hanoverraceway.com

Saturday, Jul 05, 2014.....	3CT
Sunday, Aug 03, 2014.....	3CP
Saturday, Sep 06, 2014.....	2CT

Rideau Carleton Raceway (Ottawa)

www.rcr.net

● Sunday, Aug 10, 2014.....	2FT
● Thursday, Aug 21, 2014.....	3CT
Thursday, Aug 21, 2014.....	3CT
Sunday, Aug 24, 2014.....	3FT
Sunday, Sep 07, 2014.....	3CP

The Raceway at Western Fair District (London)

www.westernfair.com

● Friday, May 23, 2014.....	3CP
● Friday, May 30, 2014.....	3CT

Mohawk Racetrack (Campbellville)

www.woodbineentertainment.com/Mohawk

Monday, Jun 09, 2014.....	3CT
Friday, Jun 13, 2014.....	3CP
● Monday, Jun 16, 2014.....	3FT
Tuesday, Jun 17, 2014.....	3FT
Thursday, Jun 19, 2014.....	3FP
● Monday, Jun 23, 2014.....	3FP
● Tuesday, Jun 24, 2014.....	3CT
Thursday, Jun 26, 2014.....	3CT
● Saturday, Jun 28, 2014.....	3CP
Tuesday, Jul 01, 2014.....	3CP
● Thursday, Jul 03, 2014.....	3FT
● Monday, Jul 07, 2014.....	2CP
Tuesday, Jul 08, 2014.....	2CP
Thursday, Jul 10, 2014.....	2FP
● Friday, Jul 11, 2014.....	2FP
● Monday, Jul 14, 2014.....	2FT
Tuesday, Jul 15, 2014.....	2FT
Monday, Jul 21, 2014.....	2CT
Friday, Jul 25, 2014.....	3FP
● Monday, Jul 28, 2014.....	3CP
● Tuesday, Jul 29, 2014.....	2CT
Thursday, Jul 31, 2014.....	2FT
● Monday, Aug 04, 2014.....	3FP
● Tuesday, Aug 05, 2014.....	2CT
Friday, Aug 08, 2014.....	2CT
Monday, Aug 11, 2014.....	2FP
Tuesday, Aug 12, 2014.....	3FT
● Thursday, Aug 14, 2014.....	3CT
Friday, Aug 15, 2014.....	2CP
● Monday, Aug 18, 2014.....	2FT
Tuesday, Aug 19, 2014.....	3CP

Monday, Aug 25, 2014.....	3FP
Monday, Sep 01, 2014.....	3CT
Tuesday, Sep 02, 2014.....	3FT
● Monday, Sep 08, 2014.....	3FP
Tuesday, Sep 09, 2014.....	2FT
Thursday, Sep 11, 2014.....	2FP
Friday, Sep 12, 2014.....	2CP
● Monday, Sep 15, 2014.....	2FP
● Tuesday, Sep 16, 2014.....	2CP

Friday, Sep 19, 2014

Grassroots Semi-Finals2YO

Saturday, Sep 20, 2014

Grassroots Semi-Finals3YO

● Monday, Sep 22, 2014.....	3CT
● Thursday, Sep 25, 2014.....	2FT
● Friday, Sep 26, 2014.....	3CP

Saturday, Sep 27, 2014

\$400,000

GRASSROOTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

● Monday, Sep 29, 2014.....	2CP
● Monday, Sep 29, 2014.....	2FP
● Tuesday, Sep 30, 2014.....	2CT
● Tuesday, Sep 30, 2014.....	3FT

Saturday, Oct 11, 2014

\$2 MILLION

GOLD SUPER FINALS

● Gold Event

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www.ontariosiresstakes.com

Foiled Again Begins Defense Of TVG FFA Title

Last November's TVG FFA final at the Meadowlands was voted the 2013 Race of the Year in balloting conducted on The Horseman's website www.harnessracing.com, and on Saturday night at the Big M seven of the 10 finalists, including the top five finishers, will be in action in the opening leg of this year's TVG FFA Series. The contest is scheduled as Race 7 on the program.

Foiled Again won last year's \$512,000 TVG final, edging Golden Receiver in a thrilling finish by a neck in 1:49.2. The race was so close that Pet Rock, who finished ninth, was just four lengths behind at the wire. Going into the race Foiled Again had locked up honors as Older Pacer of the Year, but the win nearly propelled him to Pacer of the Year honors. Captaintreacherous, who was dominant over his 3-year-old peers and was a shoo-in for the divisional title, finished sixth in the TVG final, a result that likely swayed some POY votes to Foiled Again. In the end it was The Captain edging Foiled Again in POY voting by a count of 68-57.

Trained by Ron Burke, Foiled Again joins stablemates Sweet Lou (fourth in last year's TVG final) and Bettor's Edge (seventh) as a coupled entry in Saturday's \$50,000 TVG FFA contest. Starting from post 3, Foiled Again comes into the contest off a third-place finish as the beaten favorite in the \$567,000 Levy Memorial Series final April 26 at Yonkers. He also comes into the contest with his record bankroll of \$6,199,008.

\$50,000 TVG FFA CHAMPIONSHIP

Meadowlands, Saturday, May 10, Race 7, Post Time: 9:11 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Modern Legend	E. Abbatiello/D. Drew	15-1
2—Thinking Out Loud	J. Campbell/R. McIntosh	4-1
3—Foiled Again *	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	8-5
4—Word Power	M. Lachance/L. Remmen	12-1
5—Sweet Lou *	R. Pierce/R. Burke	8-5
6—Bolt The Duer	M. MacDonald/P. Foley	6-1
7—Warrawee Needy	T. Tetrick/M. Ford	12-1
8—Dovuto Hanover	S. Zeron/D. Cassar	5-2
9—Bettor's Edge *	J. Bongiorno/R. Burke	8-5
10—Golden Receiver	C. Callahan/M. Harder	8-1

* coupled in wagering

Although he has great gate speed, Golden Receiver appears to be in trouble as he will start from post 10. Making the 154th start of his career, the 9-year-old pacer will be starting from post 10 for the first time ever. He has had the outside post 9 five times—three times at Pocono, once at Tioga Downs and once at Hoosier Park—and has only a third-place finish in a 2009 open at Pocono to show for it.

Bolt The Duer, who was third at odds of 101-1 in last year's TVG final, will be making his first start of the year after three winning qualifiers, the last coming on May 1 at Pocono Downs where he scorched the five-eighths mile oval in 1:51.2.

Thinking Out Loud, who won last year's U.S. Pacing Championship on the Hambletonian day *Continues on page 6 >>>*



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card at the Meadowlands, did not start in the TVG FFA final. His season came to an end following his 1:47.1 victory that day as a result of foot problems. Thinking Out Loud finished third in his 2014 debut and then won his next two starts in preferred company, all at Woodbine. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Miller Dumped, Still Heading To Denmark

The Jimmy Takter-trained Uncle Peter will start from post 1 in Sunday's Copenhagen Cup at the Charlottenlund race-track in Denmark, taking on nine rivals for a winner's purse of approximately \$135,000. While the native Swede Takter is no stranger to starting horses overseas, this will be the first-ever trip across the Atlantic for driver David Miller.

"I'm excited about the trip," said Miller. "I think I have a good horse. Jimmy thinks he will do well over there and that's good enough for me."

"Jimmy thinks he will do well over there and that's good enough for me."

— *David Miller on Uncle Peter*

Miller had a scare though on Wednesday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia when he was unseated when he was hit from behind by another horse while going to the starting gate with Contraband Hanover in the seventh race.

Miller drove the remainder of the card but because on Thursday morning he was not feeling 100 percent, he went to the doctor. After spending much of Thursday being tested, Miller said he was given approval to still make the trip to Denmark.

Miller and Takter will travel together on Friday night and then return to the U.S. on Monday. He will make a return trip to drive Uncle Peter in the May 25 Elitlopp in Sweden.

Miller said he has done some homework as to driving at the five-eighths mile Charlottenlund track. The Copenhagen Cup is contested at a distance of 2,011 meters (about 1 ¼ miles).

"Jimmy told me to go to YouTube to watch the replay of the past few years of the race," said Miller, who recently went over the 11,000-win mark for his career. "I also talked to (bloodstock agent and Denmark native) Ole Bach and he told me a little bit about it. I hope to get a drive or two before the race to feel out the track."

As for Uncle Peter, Miller said he couldn't be happier with the trotter's start to 2014.

"I got to qualify him once and race him twice," said the 49-year-old Miller who will formally inducted into the sport's Hall of Fame in July. "The first race when he was second I was happy with him because he went in 1:51.1. And then he came back and won (on May 2 at the Meadowlands) in 1:52.1 pretty handily. I think he is a good enough horse to go anywhere."

Uncle Peter, a 5-year-old stallion by Cantab Hall, is owned by Takter's wife Christina, Goran Falk, brothers John and Jim Fielding, and Bengt Agerup's Brixton Medical. — *By Gordon Waterstone*



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COPENHAGEN CUP

Charlottenlund Racetrack (5/8ths mile), Copenhagen, Denmark; Sunday, May 11; Distance: 2,011 meters (1.25 miles)

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Breeding)	Trainer/Driver
1—UNCLE PETER (5h, Cantab Hall-Victory Treasure)	J. Takter/ David Miller
2—KASH'S CANTAB (6h, Cantab Hall-O'cala Kash)	Stig H. Johansson/Erik Adielsson
3—MR PICOLIT (7h, Scarlet Knight-Good Enough)	Raoul Engblom/Jorma Kontio
4—ORALI (8h, Great Challenger-Action Elpin)	Jeppe Juel
5—SOLVATO (5h, Donato Hanover-Solveig)	Veijo Heiskanen
6—BECKMAN (7g, Turbo Sund-Nins Palema)	Fabrice Souloy/Franck Nivard
7—MOSAQUE FACE (5h, Classic Photo-Iona L.B.)	Lutfi Kolgjini
8—HARRY HAYTHROW (8g, Rite On Line-Speedy Tilda)	Johnny Johansson/Peter Untersteiner
9—MAGIC TONIGHT (5h, Andover Hall-Miss Possessed)	Roger Walmann/Orjan Kihlstrom
10—CABALLION (8h, Kesaco Phedo-Lady Brick)	Franck Leblanc/Bjorn Goop

Requiem For A Racetrack: Hazel Park

By Gordon Waterstone

I worked at Hazel Park Raceway for 18 years, the latter 16 as publicity director. To be more precise, that's 2,520 live race dates over the course of my career that ran from 1979-1996, and I'm proud to say you wouldn't need the fingers on one hand to count the nights I missed.

That's why it's such a sad feeling knowing that last Saturday night's race card at the track—which was the sport's first five-eighths mile oval when it began hosting harness racing in 1953—will likely be the last.

As a result of an impasse over simulcast revenue with the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, track management switched breeds and will bring back Thoroughbreds, which last raced on the track in 1984. With the bulldozers on the track already working on converting the surface for the Thoroughbred meet that begins on June 29, I just can't see them converting back to the limestone.

Through those 18 years there were plenty of great moments, but there were also some low ones. Like the barn fire in 1987 that took the lives of 15 horses, or the night the guy dropped dead in my office after asking if he could sit a moment and catch his breath, or the ABC News expose on gamblers at the track and how one in particular cashed most of the big exotic tickets.

But the good far outweighed the bad. Through most of those years both the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press had dedicated racing writers, Al Coffman and Gene Guidi, respectively. They were frequent visitors to the races and when they weren't, they were always calling looking for a story because their editor told them there was space. All of the Detroit TV stations had sports anchors who liked racing and we got more than our share of coverage. I remember Dave Diles of the local ABC affiliate loved to do his live sports segment from the upper stratospheres of the old, towering grandstand that was finally razed in 2004.

Speaking of the old building, to this day I am surprised nobody found the \$200,000 that was taken in a robbery of the money room in the early 1980s during the demolition process. A couple guys allegedly hid in the service elevator and made off with the money during a live race card. I thought for sure the cash was stashed in a well-hidden spot.

Hazel Park was also the place to be for many professional athletes. Golfers would spend a night at Hazel Park when a tournament was in town, as did baseball players, both Tigers and out-of-towners. That includes one unnamed guy dressed in a flashy white suit that probably cost more than my annual salary who wanted to borrow a hundred bucks from me, telling me he'd pay me back on the team's next trip to town. I gave him back a two-letter answer, not three letters.

Hockey players Bob Probert and Darren McCarty were always around, and Darren even ended up buying a few horses. Baseball ump Ken Kaiser always paid a visit. How about the



Hazel Park had cash giveaways every Friday in the late 1980s and former New York Yankees manager Billy Martin (third from left) helped out with the drawing one night in the winner's circle. Martin is flanked by Gordon Waterstone and track security director Bill Pagano, joined by Benson Ford, the great-grandson of Ford Auto Company founder Henry Ford.

night Willie Mays was there when he was working for a casino company? Former managers Earl Weaver and Tom Kelly always came out, and to this day Tom and I remain friends.

Tigers pitcher Milt Wilcox loved the races and he too also ended up as an owner. I remember early one night Milt called me and said he'd be on his way shortly and could I leave a couple extra passes at the clubhouse gate for him. I said sure, but wasn't he pitching? He laughed and said, "Yes, but it's not going so good so I won't be much longer." Sure enough, Milt stopped by my office about an hour later.

The horses that raced at Hazel Park were second to none. Director of Racing Ken Marshall knew how to get the best horses available. One of my most memorable races was Artsplace winning the 1992 Hudock Pace. We also proudly hosted two Breeders Crowns in 1987 and '88.

Don MacFarlane, who owned the track in my early years, also owned some great horses, such as Trenton Time and Cold Comfort, and some of my most memorable nights were when his trainer, Billy Haughton, was in town for Grand Circuit and he'd come up to the Directors' Room outside my office to hold court until the wee hours of the morning. I wouldn't say much, only sit and listen to story after story being told.

I was lucky enough that the horse community embraced me as a friend and not just as a track official. We all sort of grew up together and I love it today when a Michigan horseman comes to The Red Mile and we can get together. It's also bittersweet for me when I call a Michigan horseman for a story and they express their appreciation.

What's most sad about the situation is that the Michigan horsemen are virtually without a home now until late November when Sports Creek opens. Who knows what the 2015 calendar will look like? And it's just so sad that I feel like I've had to write the obituary for Hazel Park Harness Raceway.

Top Performers Entered For Opening Weekend At Scioto

Scioto Downs kicks off its first weekend of racing of the 2014 with Open events featuring top performers of the 2013 season. The higher purse structure at Scioto, thanks to the infusion of revenues earned from video lottery terminals, put the purses for the Open Pace and Open Trot at \$17,500.

Friday night Southwind Pepino, who finished fourth in last year's John Cashman Jr. Memorial Trot on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands, is the 5-2 morning line favorite in the Open Trot even though he'll be starting from post 7 in the field. Trained and driven by Hugh Beatty, Southwind Pepino has gotten off to a good start this year with wins in two of three starts.

The Open Pace, scheduled for Race 6 on Saturday night (post time estimated at 8:10 p.m.), will feature a 10-horse field with Twilight Bonfire (winner of last year's Reynolds at the Meadowlands), Beach Memories (Pennsylvania Sires Stakes champion), Dedi's Dragon (upset Captaintreacherous in the Monument Circle at Hoosier Park, and Carol's Comet (regular in Scioto's open class last season) are scheduled to line up behind the gate.

Post time both Friday and Saturday night is 6:30 p.m.

Ryder Sends Two To Simpson 3CT

Well Built looks to bounce back from going off stride in the Dexter Cup elimination at Freehold on April 26 when he faces 10 rivals in Friday's \$51,543 John Simpson Memorial for 3-year-old male trotters at the Meadowlands.

Part of a Chris Ryder-trained entry with Walk The Walk, Well Built is 7-2 on the morning line and will start from post 1 with driver John Campbell.

Last year, Well Built won a division of the Simpson and his elimination for the Matron Stakes. He is a son of Muscle Hill, who was the 2009 Horse of the Year, and his dam is Working Girl, who is a half-sister to stakes-winner Poster Pin Up.

"He got jammed up in the Dexter," said Ryder, who owns Well Built with Robert Mondillo. "I was mortified about that. But he's fine; he's training fine.

"I like the horse. He's got good speed. He doesn't usually make a break. I'm not going to say he's reliable—he was just unreliable—but he shouldn't have made a break. He had a horse alongside him and got a little anxious."

Walk The Walk, owned by Ryder, Mondillo, Sidney Korn and Max Wernick, was unraced as a 2 year old. The son of Muscle Hill-Letsjustalkaboutme has won two of four starts and \$13,500 this season.

"He's coming out of weaker company, but I like him," Ryder said. "He just didn't make it last year. He was ouchy last year, a big growthy horse. But here he is. I like the horse. He's alright. He might be a little understaked for what I think he might be, but we'll see. He's still immature. He'll be a good 4 year old, I think."



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Rockingcam Park Favored In Reynolds 3FP

Rockingcam Park is the 5-2 morning line favorite in Friday's Reynolds Stakes for 3-year-old female pacers at the Meadowlands. She starts from post 6 for trainer Ron Coyne Jr. and driver Tim Tetrick.

Rockingcam Park won last week's four-horse Simpson Stakes, beating Ken Doll J by a nose in 1:53.2. It was her first start of 2014 after winning three of 10 races and \$67,378 last year.

"That was a nice win," Coyne said. "Last year was kind of a mixed bag. It's nice when you have a filly that you have a lot of hopes for, but she found herself in some unlucky spots and things didn't turn out the way we dreamed.

"She's got big ability and a lot of upside," Coyne said. "She's a nervous filly, but if she gets herself where she's squared away, she has a lot of talent. A lot of it is just mental maturity."

The filly is owned by Rockingcam Park Stable, Blair Corbeil, Erna Corbeil, and J&T Silva Stables.

She is a daughter of Rocknroll Hanover, the 2005 Horse of the Year, out of the Camluck-sired mare Cameron D Art. She is a full sister to recent Clyde Hirt Series winner Avatartist. Her family also includes 2005 She's A Great Lady Stakes winner Little Miss K.

The \$33,516 Simpson Memorial for 3-year-old filly trotters attracted a field of three horses and will be contested as a non-wagering event at 6:50 p.m. Friday. The three fillies are Annies List, Sweetie Hearts and Thisgirlisonfire. (HRC)

Captaintreacherous Set To Qualify May 16

The countdown has begun for the 2014 debut of two-time Pacer of the Year Captaintreacherous. Trainer Tony Alagna told harnessracing.com Wednesday afternoon (May 7) that Captaintreacherous, who dominated his 3-year-old peers last year before finishing sixth in the season-ending \$512,000 TVG FFA final against older horses, will qualify for the first time as a 4 year old on Friday, May 16, at the Meadowlands.

"I'll train him at the Meadowlands on Saturday (May 10) and we'll qualify him next Friday," Alagna said of the son of Somebeachsomewhere who has won 21 of 26 career starts and enters the season less than \$17,000 shy of the \$3-million mark in career earnings. "I'll let Tim (driver Tim Tetrick) go with him on Saturday."

Alagna said The Captain would then have at least one more qualifier before making his pari-mutuel debut on June 13 in the Meadowlands Maturity for 4-year-old pacers.

"We'll give ourselves plenty of room so there will be two qualifiers, maybe a third, but we'll just take it a week at a time and see how he seems," he said. "We'll adjust the schedule."

Alagna said he was thrilled with Captaintreacherous's progress toward his 4-year-old campaign.

"I'm very happy with the way he's come back so far," said Alagna. "He's got great weight and is in good shape. Every-

thing is really good. I trained him 10 days ago at Gaitway a mile in 1:53 and he was excellent."

Alagna said he was able to gauge Captaintreacherous versus older competition in last year's TVG final, where he lost to the winning Foiled Again by just two lengths.

"With another year of maturity, I am looking forward to seeing how he stacks up against the aged horses this year," said Alagna. "Based on as good as he raced against them, beaten only two lengths at the end of a tough 3-year-old year, I think he will fit very well. I have a lot of faith in the horse."

Alagna said Saturday's opening round of the TVG FFA Series at the Big M was never marked on the calendar.

"We never did," he said. "Our plan for his first start has always been against the 4 year olds in the Meadowlands Maturity." — *By harnessracing.com*

Blue Chip Buys Interest In Sunshine Beach

Blue Chip has announced that it has become partners with Hudson Standardbred Stable (Tony Infilise), Diane Bertrand and Conrad Leber on world champion Sunshine Beach. Now 4 years old, Sunshine Beach took his world record of p,3, 1:47.3f in winning the \$500,000 Battle of Brandywine at Pocono in 2013, defeating Captaintreacherous. He was second in the elimination and final of the Breeders Crown.

Mark Steacy will continue to train and direct Sunshine Beach, a son of Somebeachsomewhere-Light Up, during the horse's racing career for the group.

Tom Grossman, the owner of Blue Chip, noted that, "We looked at them all, but not since Art Major have I seen a horse at this level with all the other requirements met, AND where there are several very legitimate reasons to believe in genuine improvement from three to four. We are unbelievably excited to go out with our new partners and prove it against any and all competition."

Infilise, on behalf of Bertrand and Leber, commented, "We are honored to have one of the very best Standardbred farms in the business join our partnership and very much look forward to Sunshine Beach's 2014 racing schedule."

Sunshine Beach will stand at Blue Chip's New York farm for the 2015 breeding season. The partnership, led by Blue Chip, plans to syndicate Sunshine Beach by the end of his 4-year-old year. (Blue Chip)

Roosevelt Legacy Night May 17 At Big M

Just a reminder...Roosevelt Raceway Legacy Night at Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment is fast approaching on Saturday, May 17. If you are a former driver/trainer/owner who competed at, or is connected with Roosevelt Raceway and are planning on attending, please call (201) 460-4090 to confirm.

Activities will include a Roosevelt driver autograph session with Herve Fillion, Carmine Abbatiello, Ben Webster, Lu-

Continues on page 10 >>>

The banner features a blue background with a gold circle on the left and the text "harnessracing.com HEADLINES" in orange and white.

cien Fontaine, Merritt Dokey and many other top Roosevelt drivers. Some great memorabilia will be on display compliments of the Harness Racing Museum, a race with current Meadowlands drivers wearing the silks of former Roosevelt regulars, special interviews, video clips of old races, trophy presentations, and much more.

In addition, the Meadowlands will turn back the clock on some of its food and beverage offerings, with pricing from the days of Roosevelt Raceway. There will be \$1 Budweiser and Bud Light Drafts, \$1 canned sodas, \$1 hot dogs and \$1 pretzels.

Roosevelt Raceway Legacy Night is brought to you by the New Meadowlands and the Harness Racing Museum and Hall Of Fame. Jeff Gural's Allerage Farm is the event sponsor. For more information, log on to <http://www.playmeadowlands.com/> (*Meadowlands*)

Blue Chip Farms Featured In Chase Bank Ad

Like most seemingly effortless artistic endeavors, the short film shoot for Chase Bank Platinum Business Services at Blue Chip Farms took time, a lot of time. Three days, in fact.

"It was a huge production," said Blue Chip owner Tom Grossman, of the two-and-a-half minute production designed to highlight how Chase Bank can help businesses.

"They must have had 25 or 30 people following us around the farm," he said. "We've been a Chase customer for years and years. Our business has gotten much more complicated and getting payments from Canada, Australia, New Zealand became very difficult. At times, they have really helped us.

"It's all sorts of things, like being able to scan checks. Little things that don't seem like a lot but the truth is, we've doubled or tripled our business and our office staff has not really increased. I have great staff, but a lot of it is technology and outsourcing headaches to them."

Blue Chip was approached by Chase, who was looking for unusual types of businesses to highlight in their advertising.

"We had four or five meetings with the Chase people and then the crew from California descended on us in mid-March," said Grossman. "They came ahead of time and they were rushing to get it done because of the snow, even though it's a challenge to shoot in the snow.

"I can't tell you how many hours of video they shot. They could tell we were really excited about our business and they are the same about theirs. It was really a fun few days."

The race horses were filmed at a private training center a few miles from the farm. Many farm staff made cameo appearances, including Nikki the springer spaniel, owned by vice president of operations Jean Brown, who makes two cameo appearances.

To read a story on the campaign on businesswire.com, click [here](#). To view the video, click [here](#). (*HRC*)

USTA Social Ambassador Program Upgraded

The Harness Racing Social Ambassador Program, launched in Q4 2013 to help industry advocates spread the word about harness racing through social media, Thursday announced that it has expanded its capabilities and mission to become the industry's first-ever consumer-rewards program.

The new enhancements make the platform easier-to-use for even novice social media users while adding a more sophisticated point and tracking system to better support new and current fans, participating tracks and industry sponsors.

"After testing the initial program with key industry Ambassadors and collecting valuable feedback and insight, we're excited to now take the program to the next level and open it up to a wider range of potential participants," said Rob Key, CEO of Converseon, which is helping to spearhead the initiative in partnership with the USTA. "While it was always the plan to eventually evolve the program into a broader consumer rewards initiative, we decided to accelerate it so that we could leverage and scale it more effectively this year, including to better support the industry's TV initiative.

"The first phase was designed to bring in our most important advocates and we thank them for their participation; while this next phase is about opening the program up to all of our current and potential fans."

Currently, there are more than 70 Ambassadors in the program whose efforts have reached more than 200,000 current and potential fans through harness racing related conversations across social media. The new features are designed to accommodate tens of thousands of current and new fans and provide enhanced tracking capabilities that allow consumers to be rewarded not only for spreading the word through social media, but also for a wide range of other desired actions, such as watching the sport on television, checking in at a racetrack, purchasing items from a store, participating in contests and even supporting industry sponsors.

The platform also presents an opportunity for harness racetracks, venues and industry events to integrate "point-of-purchase" systems as an added benefit to better provide support for attendance and participation. It creates the possibility that participating tracks could allow consumers to earn or redeem points and receive rewards at their locations.

These rewards can range from free drinks or dinner, to magazine subscriptions, industry "swag" and more personal behind-the-scenes, "VIP-type" experiences.

To sign up for the program, please visit <http://www.harnessracingfanzone.com/> or <http://www.harnessracingambassadors.com/>. Interested tracks and other industry constituents can contact Rob Key directly at rkey@converseon.com. (*USTA*)

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through May 6, 2014 (week difference April 30-May 6).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
P H Supercam (7pg)	12	3	3	5	\$374,060
Apprentice Hanover (4ph)	10	6	3	1	271,340
Somwherovrainbow (4pm)	6	4	1	1	251,750
Yagonnakissmeornot (5pm)	13	7	5	0	244,175
Dancin Yankee (6ph)	13	7	3	1	180,600
Foiled Again (10pg)	6	4	0	1	168,040
Easy Again (5pr)	13	5	2	3	148,860
Dw's Ny Yank (5tg)	10	7	2	1	139,600
Bettor's Edge (5pg)	10	5	2	0	125,750
Clear Vision (8pg)	8	2	3	1	122,790
Hldontghtoyurdrms (5tg)	12	5	3	1	118,090
Sapphire City (6pg)	14	1	3	0	109,310
Mach It So (4pg)	6	3	2	0	100,000
Ideal In Vegas (5pm)	12	3	2	0	95,080
Dovuto Hanover (4pg)	12	5	2	2	94,460

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Pierce	1,197	193-206-162	.302	\$2,571,620 (\$123,273)
Brian Sears	819	186-125-100	.353	2,428,043 (221,310)
Corey Callahan	1,193	207-171-163	.299	2,298,323 (166,780)
Yannick Gingras	643	154-101-69	.363	2,157,021 (224,347)
Jason Bartlett	837	138-116-119	.289	2,109,220 (192,902)
George Brennan	842	138-111-92	.274	2,012,433 (127,683)
Matt Kakaley	937	137-159-135	.289	1,932,355 (186,000)
Tim Tetrick	671	123-112-91	.321	1,757,552 (169,113)
Dave Palone	848	206-143-120	.384	1,743,218 (169,567)
Aaron Merriman	1,447	243-228-197	.301	1,676,534 (112,949)
Brett Miller	1,021	160-125-135	.269	1,612,265 (149,460)
David Miller	762	104-111-113	.267	1,533,702 (145,377)
Mike Wilder	879	133-132-118	.279	1,383,504 (111,399)
Daniel Dube	647	73-89-80	.230	1,306,626 (80,855)
Jody Jamieson	552	99-84-81	.313	1,292,134 (86,668)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,388	314-241-178	.365	\$4,550,151 (\$380,786)
P.J. Fraley	360	48-54-49	.262	1,286,740 (59,830)
Rene Allard	467	116-71-61	.376	1,280,156 (99,377)
Carmen Auciello	489	62-70-36	.231	866,456 (62,088)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	315	72-56-35	.364	781,291 (113,320)
Josh Green	234	61-48-22	.406	731,929 (61,955)
Julie Miller	198	53-30-29	.401	702,386 (73,851)
Corey Johnson	259	46-42-28	.304	651,056 (8,954)
Mark Ford	402	43-47-45	.209	619,228 (70,650)
Richard Moreau	366	70-61-41	.321	612,330 (46,392)
Scott Di Domenico	284	39-47-43	.280	556,355 (28,285)
Darran Cassar	183	32-17-31	.283	504,110 (30,790)
Randy Bendis	283	42-48-35	.284	493,924 (41,403)
Heidi Rohr	291	51-43-34	.296	492,600 (61,454)
Nick Surick	314	51-54-40	.300	489,933 (33,330)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	744	341	642	\$5,719,756
Winbak Farm	645	263	491	3,935,875
Perretti Farms	248	124	237	1,982,442
Brittany Farms	203	97	197	1,913,990
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	170	73	135	1,213,596
White Birch Farm	103	56	121	1,084,873
Jules & Arlene Siegel	109	51	113	1,047,303
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	125	72	118	908,485
Seelster Farms Inc.	106	55	104	793,532
Walnut Hall Limited	112	60	106	783,544
Robert Mcintosh Stables Inc.	95	44	92	736,083
Steve Stewart	96	48	104	731,735
Robert J. Key	85	38	71	694,532
Perfect World Enterprises	87	44	79	629,201
Frederick Hertrich III	106	48	88	622,913

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for April 30-May 6 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Driver	Starts	W-P-S
Josh Sutton	76	21-9-13
George Napolitano Jr.	78	19-6-6
Jason Bartlett	59	18-10-5
Yannick Gingras	57	17-7-6
Billy Dobson	39	16-4-2
Dave Palone	71	16-9-9
Matt Kakaley	84	16-10-18
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	67	15-13-9
Chris Page	55	15-7-8
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	53	15-9-2
Tyler Smith	58	15-8-5
Aaron Merriman	108	14-19-12
Allan Davis	64	14-4-5
Brian Sears	52	13-5-3
Casey Leonard	47	12-9-7
Tony Hall	59	12-8-10
Brett Miller	82	11-11-10
Kevin Cummings	37	11-4-2

Trainers

Trainer	Wins
Ron Burke	30
Heidi Rohr	12
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	11
Virgil Morgan Jr.	8
Wayne Givens	8
Michael Hitchcock	7
Carmen Auciello	6
Josh Green	6
Les Givens	6
Lou Pena	6
Randy Bickmore	6
Rene Allard	6
John Mungillo	5
Linda Toscano	5
Peter Pellegrino	5
Steve Wiseman	5
Tony Alagna	5
Tyler Nostadt	5