

Takter Talks Trotters, Here And Abroad

While the harness world was abuzz following the world record-equaling 1:50.1 effort by Sebastian K in the first Arthur J. Cutler elimination on May 10 at the Meadowlands, and the sharp 1:50.3 victory by Market Share in the second elim, the most impressive trotting performance of the year so far may have been the 1:51.2 victory by the 3-year-old Trixton the night before in the Simpson Memorial.

Despite having post 10 in the \$51,543 Simpson, Trixton was able to work his way to the front past the quarter for

“He was way, way under wraps.”

- Jimmy Takter on Trixton

trainer-driver Jimmy Takter and then they never looked back, drawing clear to a 10 ³/₄-length walk in the park.

The time was faster than any male trotter went last year.

“It was a very impressive mile,” said Takter. “He was way, way under wraps. I just let him trot as if he was the best. I won with Trixton in 1:51.2 but he could have gone in 1:50 too.”

Trixton will have a chance to prove his Simpson effort was no fluke when he lines up behind the gate in post 7 in the first of two New Jersey Sires Stakes divisions Friday night at the Meadowlands.

“I know his ability, but this was the first time he really put everything together,” Takter said. “Hopefully it wasn’t a one-time deal. He trained this morning (May 13) and he trained very well, and I hope I can win with him Friday so I can give him a break for the Sires Stakes final!”

A son of Muscle Hill, Trixton is a half sister to 2010 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Trot champion Impressive Kemp. His dam, Emilie Cas El, is a full sister to champions Conway Hall, Angus Hall and Andover Hall. The colt was the highest-price trotting yearling sold at auction in 2012, costing \$360,000.

Trixton won four of eight starts last year, including a season-best 1:54.4 effort in a Kindergarten split at Vernon Downs. After a pair of winning qualifiers to open up his sophomore season, Trixton finished second in his debut on May 2 in a conditioned race at the Meadowlands.

Following Trixton’s Simpson score, Takter headed to the airport for an overnight flight to Denmark where he had Uncle Peter entered in the Copenhagen Cup on Sunday. Despite having the lead, Uncle Peter faded to fifth. While Takter returned to the U.S. the following day, Uncle Peter remained overseas as he prepares to start in the May 25 Elitlopp in Sweden.

Continues on page 2 >>>

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\$175,000 ARTHUR J. CUTLER MEM.

Meadowlands, Saturday, May 17, Race 7, Post Time: 9:11 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Sebastian K	A. Svandstedt	9-5
2—Market Share	T. Tetrick/L. Toscano	8-5
3—Sevruga	R. Pierce/J. Miller	8-1
4—Archangel	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	15-1
5—Intimidate	V. Ginsburg/L. Blais	10-1
6—Undercover Strike	C. Callahan/J. Czernyson	30-1
7—Arch Madness	G. Brennan/T. Smedshammer	8-1
8—Possessed Fashion	J. Campbell/T. Fanning	50-1
9—Modern Family	D. Miller/D. Bier	6-1
10—DW’s NYank	M. Lachance/R. Burke	30-1

"I learned one thing, and that is that the trip is a lot harder than you think," said Takter. "It takes four days to get there and he was just tired. He did not have that kick he normally has."

Takter didn't make the return trip home on Monday empty handed. While in Denmark he was approached by the connections of star trotter Ready Cash about training the horse for the Allerage Farms at The Red Mile and Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands.

Ready Cash, who has a mark of 1:53.1 and earnings of \$5.9 million, has not raced since he broke stride in the Prix de France in February. He has continued to train while also standing stud.

"Ready Cash will be done breeding by July 4 and after that he will come over here to me," said Takter. "He has been invited to the Allerage in Lexington, and then we will try and get him ready for the Breeders Crown. He's 9 years old now but when he's good, he's very good. He's one of the best in the world; he's one of the best horses ever. He's just a fantastic animal."

Takter's barn was already loaded with talent. Shake It Cerry, the 2013 Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year, will make her season debut on Saturday afternoon in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at The Meadows, while last year's 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year Father Patrick, who has a pair of qualifying tune-ups under his belt, makes his first appearance on Wednesday, May 21, in the Historic at Pocono Downs.

"Shake It Cerry qualified really well and I'm excited about her, and Father Patrick is very much ready to go," said Takter.

The 3-year-old colt trotter Nuncio, who is new to Takter's barn this year, got his campaign underway on Thursday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes.

John Campbell drove Nuncio last year and he was in the sulky on Thursday. Campbell had Nuncio on the move first-around around the final turn before the trotter drew clear to a three-length win in 1:54.3.

"John did a great job with him last year and I don't see any reason to change drivers. He's done very well with the horse. —By Gordon Waterstone

Top Drivers Fined In Ohio

Ohio racing officials are continuing their policy to uphold its racing rules against kicking, leaning back excessively in the sulky, and excessive whipping.

On the Sunday, May 4, card at Miami Valley Raceway, drivers Yannick Gingras, Dave Palone and David Miller were each fined \$100 for kicking their mounts. Gingras received his penalty for kicking the mare Camille while Palone was cited for kicking Cowgirl Hall in the stretch. Miller was fined \$100 for kicking Shebestingin in the stretch plus another \$500 because "Shebestingin made a break after the starting gate was moving and the driver Mr. Miller turned the horse around for no apparent reason, therefore the horse was able to get another chance to start because the starting gate had to turn all the horses for a restart."

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, May 16

All times listed are local.

7:34p M2 **NJSS 3CT** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:51p M6 **NJSS 3CT** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 10:27p M11 **A2/A1/FFA** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Saturday, May 17

12:25p Mea4 **PASS 3FT** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 1:45p Mea8 **PASS 3FT** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 6:30p PcD1 **PASS 3CP** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:13p M4 **NJSS 3FP** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:00p PcD6 **PASS 3CP** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:30p ScD7 **Laverne Hill Mem.** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 8:32p M5 **NJSS 3FP** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:11p M7 **Cutler Mem. Trot final** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 10:46p M12 **PASS 3CP** div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

Political Lessons From Ontario's Blunders

An election in Ontario is the likely culprit for word circulating this week that taxpayers are on the hook for nearly \$700,000 to pay for three former cabinet ministers to overhaul the horse racing industry. It was old news and not all that significant in the big picture. Wait until taxpayers in a province mired in debt finally process the fact they will be paying half-a-billion dollars to try to fix the provincial government's massive screw up over cancelling the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP).

Both tax bills serve as a reminder to all racing jurisdictions that it would be wise to learn from Ontario's blunders. It appears harness racing's future now depends as much on politicians as attracting new bettors. That is a scary proposition considering the gargantuan learning curve involved, the fact horse racing ranks fairly low on the public's priority list, and the high probability of the politicians being consumed with self-interest.

Under SARP, horse racing was funded not by tax dollars, but by a cut of the revenue of slot machines in privately-owned tracks.

That means only consenting, gambling adults supported the industry financially, which is exactly as it should be. But the governing Liberal Party wiped out that fair, efficient funding model when it rashly cancelled SARP. Now that premier Kathleen Wynne has admitted "mistakes" were made when her predecessor Dalton McGuinty was in charge—which is about as far as politicians from the same party will ever go toward saying they really screwed things up beyond all recognition—the mea culpa comes with a \$500 million tax bill to be paid over five years.

Make no mistake, at some point the politicians will come for the money. Chances are, those not well armed to defend it will be doomed to a similar sad fate suffered in Ontario.

Everything starts with educating politicians and ratepayers about the benefits of investing in horse racing, particularly to the rural economy. That will require many things that were in short supply in Ontario under SARP.

Detailed, accurate records need to be kept from the start about where every dollar is spent and the benefits of that investment. Politicians and the public need to be told ad nauseam about how many jobs were created, exactly how much slot or taxpayer money is churning in the economy, exactly how much money is returned to taxpayers from that investment and details about how the homegrown agricultural product—the quality of horseflesh—has been improved.

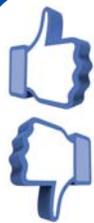
People in the horse racing industry need to speak with one clear voice, be constantly reminded that they are not entitled to either slot money or government subsidies and that the money won't flow forever. Further, the money has to be reinvested in the industry to make every effort to create racing customers, improve the game and attract more people to bet on horses or buy them.

One of the great failures of SARP was not having requirements for how the industry—both tracks and horsepeople—spent the slot money. There must be money spent on marketing, infrastructure improvements (including getting the sport on television more often), breeder incentive programs, animal welfare initiatives, education and research, gambling addiction programs and charitable donations. Benchmarks need to be set and expenditures reviewed annually.

Charity is key to maintaining a good relationship with politicians. The trick is to spread the money as widely as possible across the entire state or province, help improve communities in each political district, and be sure the politicians in that region know all about it.

Make no mistake, at some point the politicians will come for the money. Chances are, those not well armed to defend it will be doomed to a similar sad fate suffered in Ontario.

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What Do You Think?

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

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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.



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Brennan “Drives” For Hole-In-One, Now Drives Arch Madness In Cutler

Driver George Brennan is hoping his week finishes just as good as it started. Last Sunday (May 11) Brennan scored his first hole-in-one while playing a round of golf with horsemen Jeff Gregory and Mark Harder, and on Saturday night he hopes his good fortune continues as he will drive Arch Madness for the first time ever, lining up behind the gate for the \$175,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial final at the Meadowlands.

Trainer Trond Smedshammer has driven Arch Madness in both of his starts this year, including a second-place finish behind Market Share in the second of the two Cutler elims last weekend, and he and Brian Sears have been behind the trotter in 93 of his 109 career starts. Brennan said he was in the Yonkers paddock last Saturday night between races and was able to watch the second Cutler elim on TV, and that in turn led to getting the drive in the final.

“I was at Yonkers last Saturday night and saw Arch Madness race and I thought holy (cow) he raced good,” said Brennan. “I texted Trond after the races that the horse looked great and he answered back thanks and that ‘the old boy is good again, do you want to drive him next week in the final?’ I answered back that I would.”

“I texted Trond after the races that the horse looked great!”

*- George Brennan
on Arch Madness*

Brennan said he considers Arch Madness—who trotted a career-best 1:50.2 in last year’s Allerage final at The Red Mile—to be “the trotting version of Foiled Again.” He said he didn’t see the first Cutler elim, which was won by Swedish star Sebastian K in a world record-equaling 1:50.1 (Market Share won in 1:50.3, with Arch Madness just one length behind), but he planned on watching a replay.

As for his hole-in-one, which came on the seventh hole at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan Township, N.J., Brennan said what made it even better was that he won the hole despite Gregory and Harder both making birdies.

“The hole was 182 yards, playing about 190, and I hit a little cut 3 wood,” remembered Brennan. “It hit before the green and Mark and Jeff both said it must be trapped, but when I got up there and started looking around, I said it must have gone in the hole. And it did!”

“The funniest thing was that Jeff and Mark had honors on the hole and they stuck theirs tight, and Harder said to try and get it between those two. Those two had birdies and still lost the hole.”

Brennan said he also achieved another rare distinction in the round (he declined to reveal his 18-hole score): “I got everything from a one through an eight. I guess I hit the cycle; not a lot of guys can say they did that.” —By Gordon Waterstone

Mother Nature’s Rain Helped Meadowlands Track

The sub-1:51 miles by Sebastian K (a world record-equaling 1:50.1) and Market Share (1:50.3) at the Meadowlands last Saturday night (May 10) turned heads and set in motion discussions about the prospects for the first sub-1:50 mile by a trotter in the final of the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial this Saturday, May 17.

The two winning miles by Sebastian K and Market Share were actually part of a speed parade at the Meadowlands last Saturday night. All but two horses—Market Share and Uncle Peter—took new lifetime marks, and there were five sub-1:50 miles.

Horsemen acknowledged that the one-mile Meadowlands oval was extremely fast last Saturday night. Oftentimes a track is fast simply because it is hard, but that was not the case as Sebastian K even raced without shoes.

Gary Wolff is the track superintendent at the Meadowlands and he shared some insights about why the track played so fast.

“We got about two inches of rain at five o’clock, and that did a couple of things. First, it washed all the crap out of the track, the loose material. So the track was firmer, but it also had more spring in it because there had been so much rain. You can’t get water in a track with a truck like when it rains. The water is just more evenly applied when it rains like that,” explained Wolff.

Wolff said the Meadowlands track also drains well and by the fourth race that night he was watering the track.

Another factor which can cause problems when maintaining a track is the absence of horses on it on an almost-daily basis. The Meadowlands races Friday and Saturday nights, with qualifying races usually held on one of those days as well.

“It is really difficult to maintain a track without horses, but we don’t let the track sit,” added Wolff. “With or without horses, we work it every day. Jeff (Gural, chairman of the Meadowlands) has allowed us to make sure the track is maintained and we’ve also got a great material resource.”

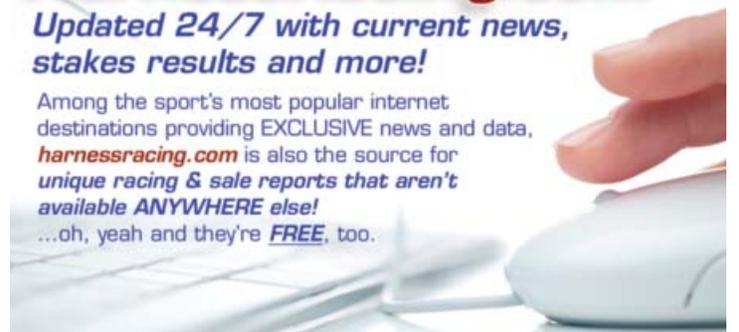
So does Wolff have any predictions about the track condition this Saturday night, when Sebastian K and Market Share square off in the Cutler final?

“We’re supposed to have a lot of rain on Friday here,” he noted. “We could have similar conditions.” —By Kathy Parker

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ONES TO WATCH

With many 3 year olds back in action and the stakes calendar becoming fuller, there are plenty of races you don't want to miss this weekend.

On Friday night at the Meadowlands you can see 3-year-old trotters compete in New Jersey Sires Stakes (NJSS) and pacing mares in overnight action. New Jersey-sired 3-year-old filly trotters are racing before the pari-mutuel program starts (6:50 p.m.) and in Race 4. There are two colt divisions, Race 2 and Race 6. **TRIXTON**, fresh off his huge effort the previous Friday at the Big M, will start from post 7 with **ODDS ON AMETHYST** (a 1:53.2 winner this year in his only start) and **SUMATRA** (the Dexter Cup winner) also in the race. The second split features **MUSCLE NETWORK**, who is making his first start of the season, and the two-for-two **MARTINIWITHMUSCLE**. The mare pacers square off in Race 11, with **JERSEYLICIOUS** (post 2) starting inside of **SHEBESTINGIN** (post 5) while **ROCKLAMATION** is on the far outside on the wing, post 7.

Saturday will require plenty of surfing between tracks, starting in early afternoon. Pennsylvania-sired 3-year-old trotting fillies, including last year's Dan Patch winner **SHAKE IT CERRY**, compete in Sires Stakes at The Meadows. With a post time of 11:25 a.m. for the first race on the card, the first of the two splits is scheduled to go off at 12:25 p.m. and includes **LIFETIME PURSUIT**, who is making her first start of the season for trainer Jimmy Taker. Taker's Shake It Cerry faces **TAKE THE MONEY** (five for six this year for trainer Julie Miller) in the second division (1:45 p.m. post time).

New Jersey-sired 3-year-old pacers are in action at the Meadowlands and four divisions of Pennsylvania-sired sophomore colts compete in Sires Stakes at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

At the Meadowlands, Race 4 and Race 5 are NJSS for pacing fillies while there is just one division for the colts, Race 12. Before Race 12, check out the 3-year-old pacing colt **ALWAYS B MIKI** in Race 6. The son of Always A Virgin is eligible to both the North America Cup and Meadowlands Pace. In the NJSS for pacing colts, the field includes last year's champion in the division, **WESTERN VINTAGE** (post 5), who made a bobble in the last turn in his qualifier at the Meadowlands last week, but then was brought back for a workout in 1:50 and change.

The Saturday night Meadowlands card will also feature a star-studded field in the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial Trot final, and older pacers will battle in a \$30,000 Free-For-All (Race 11), with the field including **GOLDEN RECEIVER**, who has done his best racing at the Meadowlands and will start here from post 3 in a seven-horse field.

PASS 3-year-old pacing colts step out at Pocono in Race 1, with that field including **SOMETIMES SAID** (trainer Jim Campbell), **SOMESIZESOMESTYLE** (trainer Ron

Burke) and **LIMELIGHT BEACH** (trainer Brian Brown). **SOMEWHERE IN LA**, who won the Diplomat final the previous Saturday over National Debt, will start in Race 6 for the team of John Campbell and Bob McIntosh, taking on **SOMESTARSOMEWHERE** and **PARNU HANOVER**. Race 6 includes this year's six-time winner **FIRE IN THE BELLY**, who has charted an impressive 2014 season thus far in Delaware, and the fast **MCWICKED** and **LET'S DRINK ON IT**, who both have won their only starts of the season.

Also Saturday night, 3-year-old trotting fillies compete in New York Sires Stakes action at Vernon Downs. The field in Race 8 includes **MARKET RALLY**, the filly by Cash Hall who was last year's New York champion and also the third-place finisher in the Breeders Crown championship. Trained by Burke and owned by a Burke partnership, she will start from post 8 in her second race of the season.

At Scioto Downs, Burke sends out the morning line favorite, **CAMILLE**, in the \$50,000 Laverne Hill Pace for older mares.

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Trainers Believe Sebastian K Ready For Cutler Final

Sebastian K will return to the races a little quicker than usual, but doing things quickly might be the trotter's style.

A week after winning his North American debut in 1:50.1 to equal history's fastest trotting race on a one-mile track, Sebastian K will start from post 1 in Saturday's \$175,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial at the Meadowlands.



Jason Lisa/Lisa Photo

"Sebastian K never raced back-to-back weeks, he always had like two weeks between the races, so that's the only question mark," said Bjorn "Bernie" Noren, assistant to Sebastian K's trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt, about the Swedish-born star's previous schedule in Europe.

"Sebastian K never raced back-to-back weeks...so that's the only question mark."

—Bernie Noren

"But when we trained him (Wednesday) he was very smooth and Ake is very happy with how he came out of the race. He'll get two days off in the paddock and we'll race him Saturday.

We knew our horse was ready to race," Noren said. "Ake had him qualify very good and he knew he was going to do a good race, but he was surprised by the time too. He didn't expect him to go that fast right off the bat. He won and he won with some power left in the lines. He was not all out in that mile.

"Of course (the final is) a harder competition; you've got 10 good horses. You've got Market Share and he's a tough horse, a game horse. You've got Arch Madness and I think he did a tremendous race too. It will be a good race."

Sebastian K, by Korean out of the mare Gabriella K, has won 27 of 64 career races and \$2.31 million for owner Knutsson Trotting. He raced last weekend without shoes, which is more common in Europe, as he equaled a world record already shared by Donato Hanover, Muscle Hill, Giant Diablo, Lucky Jim and Chapter Seven.

"He always raced without shoes in Sweden," Noren said. "He's a different horse without shoes. Of course, you have to look at the racetrack; the racetrack cannot be hard. You cannot race on a hard racetrack without shoes. Ake warmed the horse up and felt the track was very good, the track crew did a very good job to get a nice cushion, so he decided to race him without shoes.

"If the track is OK, every time he races he's going to race barefoot."

Sebastian K will get time off following the Cutler as he will not compete in the Maxie Lee Memorial Invitational on May 25 at Harrah's Philadelphia. —By Ken Weingartner for HRC

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The Meadows Sold For \$465 Million

Gaming and Leisure Properties Inc., a corporate spin-off from Penn National Gaming last November, has announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire The Meadows Racetrack and Casino from Cannery Casino Resorts LLC for \$465 million. Cannery purchased The Meadows in November 2006 for \$200 million from Magna Entertainment.

Gaming and Leisure Properties also owns the new Dayton harness track/racino, Bangor Raceway, Penn National, the new Mahoning Valley track in Austintown, Ohio, near the Pennsylvania border, Charles Town Racetrack, plus the casinos in Columbus and Toledo, Ohio.

The 180,000-square-foot Meadows casino, which opened in 2007, contains 3,317 slot machines, 61 table games and 14 poker tables. In addition to the casino, the property includes 11 casual and fine dining restaurants, bars and lounges, a 24-lane bowling alley and a five-eighths-mile racetrack with a 500 seat grandstand.

The Company will immediately begin a search for a third party operator for the property, to whom the Company will sell the licenses and operating assets, while retaining ownership of the land and buildings. The transaction, which is expected to be accretive immediately upon closing, is subject to and requires approval from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and the Pennsylvania Racing Commission and is expected to close in 2015.

A new 154-room hotel, to be owned and operated by a third-party operator, is currently under construction adjacent to the casino and is expected to open in 2015. In addition, a new, third-party retail center is currently planned, and the property contains developable space for an indoor event venue. *(Gaming and Leisure Properties)*

Crawford Farms To Sponsor Meadowlands Pace TV Show

Crawford Farms, located on more than 100 acres in Central New York, has signed on as a premier sponsor of the Meadowlands Pace, to be broadcast nationally for the first time since 1999. The \$750,000 classic for the sport's premier 3-year-old pacers will air on CBS Sports Network on Saturday, July 12.

Crawford Farms has also been a major sponsor at the two Upstate New York tracks owned by Jeff Gural, Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs, for several seasons.

"Crawford Farms is very excited about the multiple sponsorships with Vernon Downs, Tioga Downs and the Meadowlands including the Crawford Farms Trot and the Kindergarten Classic," said Crawford Farms owner Michelle Crawford. "We feel strongly that more marketing dollars must be spent by all participants for our industry to grow and prosper. A television presence as well as any media production is what our industry needs to thrive. As a New

York breeder we are in an industry that needs our support and we are happy to partner with Jeff Gural and his efforts." *(Meadowlands)*

Stride For The Cure Race Saturday At Meadowlands

On Saturday, May 17, join Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment at the fifth annual Lisa Photo Stride For The Cure race and fundraiser, hosted by award-winning Meadowlands Racetrack photographer Michael Lisa and his wife, Annette.

The festivities kick off at 3 p.m. with a 5K around the racetrack. The 5K is just \$25 to enter and includes an event t-shirt, post-race party with live music by the Past Masters, prize drawings and other activities.

The Stride For The Cure horse race will then take place during the live race card, featuring horses and drivers wearing pink equipment to raise awareness. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer program.

The 5K is a sanctioned event and prizes will be awarded for the top runners in each division. Registration can be done online at this link or onsite at the Meadowlands beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday. *(Meadowlands)*

Roosevelt Legacy Night Saturday At Meadowlands

Roosevelt Raceway Legacy Night at the Meadowlands is Saturday, May 17. Activities will include a Roosevelt driver autograph session with Herve Filion, Carmine Abbatiello, Ben Webster, Lucien Fontaine, Merritt Dokey and many other top Roosevelt drivers. Some great memorabilia will be on display compliments of the Harness Racing Museum. There will also be a race with current Meadowlands drivers wearing the silks of former Roosevelt regulars, special interviews, video clips of old races, and special trophy presentations.

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. *(Meadowlands)*

No Elitlopp Trip For Market Share

Market Share will not head to Sweden to race in the Elitlopp at the end of the month, and a Swedish horse is one of the reasons the two-time Dan Patch Award winner is staying home.

Richard Gutnick, who heads the Market Share ownership group, says the 5-year-old trotter will race in Saturday's \$175,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial final and then point to-

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ward the Maxie Lee Memorial Invitational on May 25 at Harrah's Philadelphia. The Elitlopp also is May 25.

The reasons for the decision were the demands of racing and traveling, not to mention the budding of a potential rivalry with 2012 Swedish Horse of the Year Sebastian K.

"Weather conditions and track conditions permitting, I think we will see a sub-1:50 time (in the Cutler final)," Gutnick said. "I really don't know who will win, but there will be two great horses going at each other.

"Seeing what we're up against, it makes no sense to go to Sweden. If the final goes in sub 1:50, then we have to ship to Sweden and go two heats (in the Elitlopp) and then ship home, I don't think we'll have much horse left after that.

"A Swedish horse was the deciding factor. I'm very happy we held off in making the decision until now. Maybe next year, if all goes well, we can do something different."

Gutnick envisions a summer-long rivalry between Market Share and Sebastian K, who now appear to headline an increasingly deep group of older trotters.

"This could be like Frazier and Ali," Gutnick said, referring to the great boxing rivals of the 1970s, adding with a laugh, "Hopefully, we're Ali with the quickness.

"There are going to be two great horses going at each other. I really don't know who will win. Hopefully people will be interested and start watching more. It's going to be an exciting year. It may not be great for me as an owner (to have to race against Sebastian K) but from my perspective as a fan it's going to be great racing. And my passion is racing." (HRC)

Ranger Hurt In Pompano Race Accident

Involved in a race accident in the third race at Pompano Park on Monday night, May 12, Bruce Ranger suffered a broken pelvis and lumbar vertebrae, according to Pompano Park director of racing operations John Yinger. He was still hospitalized as of Thursday.

The accident began at the three-eighths when driver Bryce Fenn attempted to tip Mini Shark to the outside from third. The horse appears to have touched the sulky wheel of the horse ahead of him which then led to him stumbling and falling to the racetrack. Ranger was sitting fifth with Diamond Dude and was unable to avoid the fallen horse, as did the David Ingraham-driven Forward Bliss.

Fenn and Ingraham were able to drive their remaining mounts on the card. There has been no reports of injuries to any of the horses involved.

The accident left just three horses the remainder of the contest, which was a \$6,000 leg of a conditioned-claimer late-closer. A Weekend and Buddy's Hope, respectively the one-two favorites, finished first and second, with Mach It Paiden third in the 1:57.3 mile.

Mixed Sale Set For Sunday At Meadowlands

The new Meadowlands Spring Mixed Sale gets underway on Sunday, May 18, at noon, and all systems are set to go, according to sale manager David Reid.

This year—and in years to come—the sale will feature 2 year olds in training, and 26 freshman trotters and pacers are in the main catalog and supplement. Nearly 100 three-year-old and older racehorses will also go under the auctioneer's hammer.

The sale catalog and updated racelines, including the 19-horse supplement, are available at www.tattersallsredmile.com and on the EquineLine sales catalog app for the iPad.

"We're really pleased with the number of 2 year olds we'll be selling for this first-time venture, and the outstanding quality in the racehorse section has really exceeded my expectations," Reid said.

"The vast majority of the racehorses are currently racing, with a large number winning in just the past week or two, many in the top classes, including the opens and stakes races," he continued.

The 2 year olds in the sale have the opportunity to take advantage of a special training session created just for those youngsters on Friday, after the regular Meadowlands qualifiers. Videos of the training

sessions for individual 2 year olds will be available on the Tattersalls website and at the sale. (Tattersalls)

USTA Announces Two Appointments

The U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) has added two employees to its staff in Columbus, Ohio. Allison Conte is a new member of the team while Bruce Brinkerhoff, rejoins the organization after 16 years. Conte will assume the newly-created role of social media and publicity manager and Brinkerhoff returns to the USTA as information and research associate.

Conte graduated from the School of Communications and Information at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media Studies last summer. While working for Burke during college, she had the opportunity to act as caretaker for equine stars Foiled Again and Fred And Ginger.

Conte also gained valuable experience during school by working for the Philadelphia-based, non-profit group Media Mobilizing Project where she was responsible for social media campaign promotion and newsroom management.

After working in the USTA's Information and Research Department from 1989 to 1998, Brinkerhoff accepted a position with Kentucky Standardbred Sales Company, where he wrote pedigrees and was a member of the yearling inspection team for that sale and the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and Indiana Premier Sale. (USTA)

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Saratoga Raceway, Churchill Team Up In New York

Saratoga Casino and Raceway (SCR) and Churchill Downs Inc. announced on Tuesday, May 13, that they will partner in bidding for the New York "Capital Region's" commercial casino license to build a \$300 million world class destination resort casino in the Town of East Greenbush.

According to a press release, the \$300 million proposed Casino at East Greenbush will use no public funds or government supported tax breaks. Located on East Greenbush's Thompson Hill with spectacular views of the Capital District, the Casino will feature world-class gaming, dining and entertainment options, including: A 300-room resort style hotel; a full complement of exciting dining options, including fine dining, casual dining and buffet; multiple entertainment venues, with a night club, sports bar and showroom; 20,000 square feet of high end retail; and convenient parking, with valet, plentiful covered parking and surface lots.

Hambletonian Monte Final On Aug. 1

The popular Hambletonian Monte (racing under saddle), a late-closing series for trotters, will feature a \$25,000 final on Hambletonian Eve, Fri., Aug. 1, at the Meadowlands. The inaugural Hambletonian Monte final was won by 2008 Hambletonian winning driver Ray Schnittker, who rode FlexThe Muscle to victory in the \$32,800 final.

Monte racing is a rising trend in North America, as last year saw nine tracks host events worth more than \$90,000 in purse money put up by industry sponsors.

The Hambletonian under saddle event has shown rapid growth under the direction of Helene Gregory, who won a U.S. Harness Writers Presidents Award for her efforts to bring the discipline to prominence.

The organization Monte America put together the series for trotters comprising two legs worth \$10,000 on July 18 and July 25 respectively and a \$25,000 final showcased on the eve of harness racing's richest and most prestigious day—a night dedicated to females, fun and fashion at the Meadowlands.

There will be RUS qualifiers and practical tests for RUS licenses held at Gaitway Farms in Manalapan, N.J., on three consecutive Mondays—June 9, 16 and 23.

Hambletonian Monte sponsors for 2014 include Allerage Farms, Valley High Stable, Back On Track, Arden Homestead Stable, Ron Burke Stable, Paul Kelley Stable, White Birch Farm, Winners Circle Blueberries and trainer George Ducharme. Sponsorships are still available by contacting Gregory at kickan@comcast.net.

A \$200 nomination fee is due June 15 for those wishing to compete. Conditions, nomination blanks and more information can be found on the Monte America website <http://www.monteamerica.com/> or on the Hambletonian Soc. website <http://www.hambletonian.org/resources/RUSSeries20143.pdf>. (*Hambletonian Society*)



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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through May 13, 2014 (week difference May 7-13).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
P H Supercam (7pg)	13	4	3	5	\$393,060
Apprentice Hanover (4ph)	10	6	3	1	271,340
Somwhero varrainbow (4pm)	7	5	1	1	266,750
Yagonnakissmeornot (5pm)	13	7	5	0	244,175
Dancin Yankee (6ph)	13	7	3	1	180,600
Foiled Again (10pg)	7	4	1	1	180,540
Easy Again (5pr)	13	5	2	3	148,860
Dw's Ny Yank (5tg)	11	7	2	1	141,600
Bettor's Edge (5pg)	11	5	2	0	125,750
Clear Vision (8pg)	8	2	3	1	122,790
Hldontghttoyurdrms (5tg)	12	5	3	1	118,090
Sapphire City (6pg)	15	1	3	1	113,870
Rock N Roll Xample (3pf)	15	9	3	1	110,540
Mach It So (4pg)	7	3	2	0	101,250
Modern Family (5th)	10	5	4	1	97,400

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Pierce	1,278	203-219-174	.299	\$2,739,998 (\$168,378)
Brian Sears	874	195-135-107	.350	2,614,474 (186,431)
Corey Callahan	1,273	220-181-170	.296	2,463,857 (165,534)
Yannick Gingras	711	171-112-78	.365	2,386,376 (229,355)
Jason Bartlett	893	149-123-126	.290	2,265,950 (156,730)
George Brennan	899	147-118-98	.273	2,149,033 (136,600)
Matt Kakaley	1,014	149-171-143	.288	2,084,010 (151,655)
Tim Tetrick	740	142-125-103	.332	2,026,052 (268,500)
Dave Palone	898	214-154-127	.381	1,815,455 (72,237)
Aaron Merriman	1,540	255-244-218	.301	1,779,620 (103,086)
Brett Miller	1,111	169-133-156	.265	1,766,693 (154,428)
David Miller	780	107-115-116	.269	1,586,452 (52,750)
Mike Wilder	926	145-133-126	.282	1,453,405 (69,901)
Jody Jamieson	590	108-94-86	.320	1,386,103 (93,969)
Daniel Dube	680	75-91-86	.227	1,352,396 (45,770)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,485	330-262-190	.363	\$4,809,002 (\$258,851)
P.J. Fraley	393	52-57-61	.265	1,374,070 (87,330)
Rene Allard	505	121-77-64	.367	1,340,283 (60,127)
Carmen Auciello	530	68-74-42	.232	932,903 (66,447)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	352	80-64-38	.364	883,301 (102,010)
Julie Miller	215	56-36-31	.402	814,399 (112,013)
Josh Green	246	65-49-23	.406	747,459 (15,530)
Richard Moreau	387	75-66-46	.328	678,096 (65,766)
Corey Johnson	270	48-42-29	.300	669,868 (18,812)
Mark Ford	436	43-49-49	.199	640,480 (21,252)
Scott Di Domenico	305	40-48-46	.269	576,295 (19,940)
Randy Bendis	298	45-53-38	.292	550,927 (57,003)
Darran Cassar	198	32-21-32	.274	527,300 (23,190)
Nick Surick	335	51-58-43	.291	515,720 (25,787)
Heidi Rohr	313	52-45-35	.283	511,750 (19,150)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	762	362	702	\$6,168,188
Winbak Farm	660	288	543	4,235,342
Perretti Farms	258	133	256	2,164,216
Brittany Farms	213	103	214	2,055,400
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	179	78	147	1,316,584
White Birch Farm	104	59	130	1,151,834
Jules & Arlene Siegel	119	54	122	1,141,393
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	130	76	128	986,251
Seelster Farms Inc.	109	57	113	869,765
Walnut Hall Limited	117	62	112	835,241
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	99	46	96	817,016
Steve Stewart	103	54	111	797,198
Robert J. Key	86	39	76	766,896
Frederick Hertrich III	111	51	95	674,711
Perfect World Enterprises	88	46	83	673,203

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for May 7-13 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

	Starts	W-P-S
Tim Tetrick	69	19-13-12
Yannick Gingras	68	17-11-9
Corey Callahan	80	13-10-7
Aaron Merriman	93	12-16-21
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	68	12-8-9
Jim DeVaux	68	12-10-10
Josh Sutton	51	12-8-8
Matt Kakaley	77	12-12-8
Mike Wilder	47	12-1-8
Trace Tetrick	64	12-9-9
Trevor Henry	58	12-4-9
George Napolitano Jr.	73	11-13-9
Jason Bartlett	56	11-7-7
Sam Widger	53	11-7-3
Tony Hall	69	11-12-6
Tony Morgan	72	11-10-8
W. Drew Campbell	29	11-4-4

Trainers

	Wins
Ron Burke	16
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	9
Linda Toscano	7
Carmen Auciello	6
Michael Hitchcock	6
Daniel Gill	5
Jason Robinson	5
Lou Pena	5
Rene Allard	5
Richard Moreau	5
Tracy Brainard	5
Brandon Simpson	4
Casie Coleman	4
Douglas Lewis	4
Erin Elliott	4
Jim Graham	4
Joseph Hundertpfund Jr.	4
Josh Green	4
Kevin Lare	4
Mike Croucher	4
P.J. Fraley	4
Rick Plano	4
Rob Harmon	4
Shaun Callahan	4