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# HarnessRacing

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018

Inside  
Weekly  
[harnessracing.com](http://harnessracing.com)  
News Digest

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### Sports Betting's Impact At Meadowlands, Freehold

The discussion surrounding the impact on harness racing began seconds after the U.S. Supreme Court announced on Monday, May 14, that it had voted 6-3 to strike down the 25-year-old law known as the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) that allowed wagering on sporting events only in the states of Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon.

The case went to the Supreme Court as a result of a suit filed by the state of New Jersey after it passed legislation in

**"I told (the horsemen) that it's possible I would consider, if it turns out we're making more money than I expected, that I would consider putting some of it into the purses."**

—Jeff Gural

2014 allowing sports wagering, but was rebuffed two years later when a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled the state was in violation of PASPA.

With the law now overturned, New Jersey officials said sports wagering could be available in weeks. Upwards

of 20 other states came out in support of the New Jersey suit and could soon follow.

Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural told HarnessRacing Weekend Preview the following day that he hopes sports betting will be available at the track in a few months.

"Our goal is to be up and running for the NFL season," said Gural. "That would be the logical goal if we can get all the rules and regulations put together."

Chris McErlean, vice president of racing of Penn National Gaming, the parent company of Freehold Raceway, told Weekend Preview he is on the same timetable.

"Freehold is excited at the opportunity afforded to the racetracks and casinos to conduct sports wagering," said McErlean. "We are working now on plans for the facility and in operational details to accommodate sports wagering with a goal to be ready by the fall football season, subject to pending legislation and regulatory requirements."

Gural and McErlean said the first step is securing a company to operate the sportsbooks.

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"We would be hiring a company to run it; we wouldn't run it ourselves. They would pay us a percentage of the profits," Gural explained.

"Freehold is a partnership between us and the people who own Parx casino, so we basically have to come to a decision on that," said McErlean. "At this point no decision has been made as to who is going to run the operation. We're exploring all options."

Unlike the addition of racinos at racetracks, which fulfilled expectations of dramatically increased purses, the jury is still out about what impact sports betting will have on handle on pari-mutuel horse racing. Gural is unsure of the im-

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fact and said initial profits will be used to offset the millions of dollars he has personally used to help fund the purse account.

"It doesn't mean much to the horsemen," he said. "The main thing is that it basically eliminates the need for me to subsidize it. It's not going to generate nearly enough money to put into the purse account.

"The horseman contract is up at the end of the year. I told them that it's possible I would consider, if it turns out we're making more money than I expected, that I would consider putting some of it into the purses."

McErlean said funds for purses are on a wait-and-see basis

"We really don't know anything at this point because we don't know what the legislation is going to end up being, what the costs are going to end up being, we don't know what revenues are going to end up being," he said. "We really have no comment on that at this point."

Monmouth Park Thoroughbred track has already teamed up with well-known sports wagering company William Hill to operate the sportsbook at that track. The gambling company took a gamble on sports wagering

**"Under New Jersey law I have to allow them to race at the Meadowlands from Labor Day until Dec. 12.... That would wipe out the fall (harness) meet at the Meadowlands. And that's a bad thing!"**

—Jeff Gural

being approved and has completed a sportsbook at Monmouth Park, which is leased from the state by the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

Gural said because the Thoroughbred horsemen operate Monmouth Park, revenue generated from sports wagering will likely go toward purses. With

purse money available, Gural is fearful the Thoroughbred horsemen will want to race a fall meet at the Meadowlands.

"It's possible that the Thoroughbreds, since they own Monmouth Park, they put all the money they are going to get into the purses," he said. "Under New Jersey law I have to allow them to race at the Meadowlands from Labor Day until Dec. 12. If they have the money they could ask to race. That would wipe out the fall (harness) meet at the Meadowlands. And that's a bad thing."

Gural noted another issue with sports wagering at the Meadowlands will come on NFL Sundays. With the New York Giants and New York Jets sharing adjacent MetLife Stadium, the track is forced to close on days either team plays at home. Which means mostly every Sunday.

"We're at a big disadvantage because Sundays are so crowded we can't open," said Gural. "One of the teams is usually home every Sunday, so on Sundays, when you have most of your biggest gaming, we're not able to open." — By Gordon Waterstone



## THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

### Saturday, May 19

7:27p	Wbsb3	<b>SBOA</b> 3FT final	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
7:30p	PcD1	<b>PASS</b> 3CP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:24p	PcD4	<b>PASS</b> 3CP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:30p	Wbsb6	<b>SBOA</b> 3FP final	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:30p	YR6	<b>Rooney</b> 3CP elim	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:45p	M5	<b>Graduate</b> 4YO Trot div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:10p	YR8	<b>Rooney</b> 3CP elim	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:28p	M7	<b>Graduate</b> 4YO Trot div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
10:12p	PcD10	<b>PASS</b> 3CP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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

### Sunday, May 20

9:40p	FmD12	<b>Confederation Cup</b> 3CP	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
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## SBOANJ Issues Statement On Sports Betting

Mark Ford, president of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey, released the following statement after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that New Jersey can implement legalized sports betting:

"Monday's U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding the state's rights to permit sports betting is important to New Jersey's harness racing industry. We thank all of those who pursued this lengthy litigation, which was designed to help the state's horse racing and casino industries.

"The Standardbred breeding and racing industry has a long and important history in New Jersey and has been a vital part of the state's economy, maintaining farms and open spaces and providing jobs. We believe that a fair division of profits from sports betting can benefit the state and our industry, and that this new addition to the gambling menu can have a positive impact on the handle on harness races.

"We look forward to working with the state of New Jersey, legislators, and horse racing leadership, to ensure that sports betting is a plus for New Jersey's horse racing industry." (SBOANJ)

# MIDLAND ACRES'

Sires are off to a great start in 2018 Ohio stakes action!

**PET ROCK** led the way with this pair of OHSS winners at Miami Valley...



Ohio Sire Stakes 3YO Filly Pace - Miami Valley 5/4

**PET WALKER** p,3,1:52f-'18

**PET ROCK** - Miss Walker

Owner/Breeder: Black Magic Racing LLC  
Trainer: Greg Luther • Driver: Dan Noble



Ohio Sire Stakes 3YO Colt Pace - Miami Valley 5/6

**ROCKN MOTION** p,3,1:51.1f-'18

**PET ROCK** - Graceful Motion

Owner/Breeder: Ron Mersky  
Trainer: Jim Dailey • Driver: Dan Noble

Conrad Photos

And these Midland Acres-sired performers won Buckeye Stallion Series divisions:

**OUR MISS REESE** p,3,1:54.2f-'18

**ART OFFICIAL** - Brianna Joy

Owner/Breeder: Sawgrass Farms LLC  
Trainer/Driver: Hugh Beatty

**OSBORNE'S ELLIE** p,3,1:54f-'18

**BIG BAD JOHN** - Docdor Cam

Owners: Michael Osborne & Lori Hamlet  
Breeder: MIDLAND ACRES, Inc.  
Trainer: Eric Hamlet • Driver: Tyler Smith

**CROSSWIND BUTERCUP** p,3,1:55.4f-'18

**PET ROCK** - Gramma Gordie

Owner: Crosswinds Stbrd. Farm & Stephen Sexton  
Breeder: Dean Davis  
Trainer: David Elliott • Driver: Kyle Ater

**RIDE THE RAILS** 3,1:55.4f-'18

**BREAK THE BANK K** - Nina Rail

Owner/Breeder: Robert J. Key  
Trainer: Rich Gillock • Driver: Aaron Merriman

**BIG CC'S ROCK** p,3,1:53.3f-'18

**PET ROCK** - CC Biggirl Bretta

Owners: Kim Dailey, Carl & Melanie Atley  
Breeder: MIDLAND ACRES, Inc.  
Trainer: Jim Dailey • Driver: Tyler Smith

**CASS DELIGHT ROCK** p,3,1:53.3f-'18

**PET ROCK** - Amber Delight

Owners: Bret Schwartz, Stephen Sexton & Ada Jacobs  
Breeder: Jeff Jones  
Trainer: Bret Schwartz • Driver: Cameron McCown

**GOTAROCKINMYPOCKET** p,3,1:53.2f-'18

**PET ROCK** - Fran Anna

Owners/Breeders: Jerry Zosel & Kathy Ratcliff  
Trainer: Jim Dailey • Driver: Jeff Nisonger

**GOINGTOCALIFORNIA** p,3,1:53.1f-'18

**PET ROCK** - Steuben Baywatch

Owners: Country Club Acres, L & H Mgmt. & Robert Lombardo  
Breeder: Adam Eicher  
Trainer: Brian Brown • Driver: Chris Page

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## Sports Betting State By State

Following the announcement that the U.S. Supreme Court had overturned the 25-year ban on sports wagering except for four states, including Nevada, USA Today published a state-by-state guide on the ruling's impact.

According to USA Today, New Jersey, West Virginia, Delaware and Mississippi are the only states that already had legislation enacted in anticipation of a favorable court ruling and thus can be operational quickly. The report also stated that several states, among them New York, Illinois, Michigan and California, have sports-betting bills pending.

USA Today contacted the governor's office of several states to find out where each stood on sports wagering. Here is its update regarding states which have Standardbred racetracks.

**CALIFORNIA**—An active bill would authorize the legislature to permit sports betting if a change in federal law occurred that would allow the state to have sports betting. The advance deposit wagering company WatchandWager operates Cal Expo, and that could be a benefit as California's draft bill specifies only land-based racetracks and casinos will be eligible for license applications.

**DELAWARE**—Sports betting of a sort already is allowed in the state, but it is limited to multi-game bets on NFL games. Gov. John Carney said in a release that if sports betting was approved by the Supreme Court, "Full-scale sports gaming could be available at Delaware's casinos before the end of June."

**FLORIDA**—"We will review the court's ruling. Any changes to Florida's gaming laws would be made by the Florida Legislature," a spokesman for the governor said in a statement.

**ILLINOIS**—There are several bills active, including one that would authorize sports betting in the state to occur with licenses under the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975. Another bill authorizes sports wagering at a facility that is authorized to conduct gambling operations under the Riverboat Gambling Act. This bill would require a sports betting operator to pay a 12.5 percent tax of its gross sports wagering revenue.

**INDIANA**—Sports wagering bills have been introduced the past few years but have not advanced to a vote. State Rep. Alan Morrison, who has introduced some of the bills, believes the approval of sports wagering has a "fairly good" chance of passing next year.

**KENTUCKY**—Had bills that would have authorized sports betting at horse racing tracks and/or under authority of the Kentucky Lottery Corp.

**MASSACHUSETTS**—There is an active bill that would create "a special commission to conduct a comprehensive study and offer proposed legislation relative to the regulation of online sports betting."

**MICHIGAN**—There are currently eight bills that would expand gambling, including several that would legalize sports betting and wagers on fantasy sports. Three other

## Gural Looks For Horse Shortage Solution

At the same time Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural is celebrating the U.S. Supreme Court's approval of sports wagering across the country, he is extremely concerned about the critical problem of not having enough horses to fill race cards.

Racing only two nights per week, the Meadowlands has struggled to fill full fields. Last Saturday night only 71 horses started on the 10-race card. The night before, only nine races could be filled with just 67 starters.

"(Sports betting) doesn't solve the problem of the horse shortage. That's the bigger problem," said Gural. "I think it solves the problem of me having to subsidize it for a couple of million dollars a year, but it doesn't solve the horse shortage.

"I've been working my ass off trying to convince the legislator and the governor they have to reinstate the \$30-million subsidy (for purses) we used to get between the Thoroughbreds and the harness. Without that, we're in trouble."

Gural said in his quest to seek financial relief from the state, he and Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association director Mike Gulotta met with Gov. Phil Murphy at his home on Monday night. Gural said he hasn't stopped there.

"Mike Gulotta and I attended a function at the governor's home on Monday and discussed the critical horse shortage issue," said Gural. "I've met with Craig Coughlin, the Assembly speaker, and I have another meeting set up with Paul Sarlo, the Senate Finance Chair, to explain how the horse shortage is affecting the Meadowlands." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

bills would legalize sports betting and allow the Michigan lottery to handle those wagers, but those pieces of legislation have not yet received hearings in committee.

**NEW JERSEY**—The state's law, signed by then Gov. Chris Christie in 2014, was the basis for the issue being brought before the Supreme Court. Following the ruling, current Gov. Phil Murray issued a statement saying enacting a new version of the law is "in the very near future."

**NEW YORK**—State lawmakers and Gov. Andrew Cuomo approved language that would allow wagering on athletic events if the federal ban on sports wagering was struck down. But Cuomo has now said he's in no rush to move forward and suggested a new law would have to be passed.

**OHIO**—A state official said, "Expanding gambling has not been a priority for this administration, and that remains unchanged. We are aware of the ruling and looking to see what impact it will immediately have on Ohio policies."

**PENNSYLVANIA**—In 2017, the state passed a law authorized sports betting in the state if federal law allowed states to regulate the activity. But the state's law also called for a \$10 million licensing fee and 34 percent tax rate on this revenue.

## Ariana G Ready For 4YO Campaign

Two-time Dan Patch divisional champ Ariana G makes her 2018 debut on Saturday night at the Meadowlands, starting from post 5 in the first of two \$50,000 divisions (Race 5) of the opening leg of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old trotters.

Never has a 4-year-old mare trotter been voted Horse of the Year, but if the last two years are any indication, Ariana G might become the first to take home the E. Roland Harri-man trophy. A winner of 21 of 26 career starts with earnings of \$1,867,657, Ariana G embarks on her 2018 campaign off a pair of winning qualifiers for driver Yannick Gingras (1:53.3 and 1:53.2, respectively) at the Meadowlands.

“She’s feeling very nice,” trainer Jimmy Takter simply stated. “Yannick came off the qualifiers and said, ‘Wow!’ But we haven’t really squeezed her enough to know. It’s such a long season and you want them to come into form by themselves.”

Takter said Ariana G will race a couple of times against her age group in the Graduate Series before possibly taking on older horses in the Armbro Flight, which has eliminations on June 8 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. It is there (or in the June 16 final) that Ariana G could face the 2017 Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover, who is also driven regularly by Gingras.

That means it could be decision time for Gingras.

“Hopefully not, but Yannick is the Cookie Monster, he al-ways wants to drive the best horse,” he said with a laugh. “And who knows?”

Although 4-year-old mares have yet to claim a Horse of the Year title, six 4-year-old trotters have earned the Horse of the Year honor, most recently Chapter Seven in 2012.

Also, while several two-time divisional champions have raced at age four—Broadway Donna, Mission Brief, Check Me Out, Pampered Princess, Passionate Glide and Cameron Hall in the 2000s alone—none have ever risen to the high-est honors at four.

“It’s really tough to do. It’s a tough season to showcase yourself,” said Takter. “You are racing against horses that are a little bit more mentally brainwashed and tougher in a different way.”

While Takter is optimistic about Ariana G’s chances and her overall talents, he believes there is one chink in the armor: “She doesn’t like rain and she doesn’t like mud,” he said.

Ariana G won 12 of 15 starts last year, with two of her three losses coming on a “sloppy” track. Under off-track conditions, she finished second in the Zweig Memorial at Vernon Downs and in the second heat of the Kentucky Filly Futurity at The Red Mile. Takter said Ariana G’s Breeders Crown final win on a “sloppy” track at Hoosier Park last Oc-tober came primarily as a result of the filly towering over her foes that night.

“She’s too light of a horse for that,” said Takter of Ariana G racing on sloppy tracks. “When she lost the Futurity she was so tired. That track was one we shouldn’t have raced on. When she lost at Vernon against the boys it was also a muddy track.” — *By Gordon Waterstone*



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# Lis Mara

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## Lost In Time Looks To Return To Races With Flair

Dan Patch Award-winner Lost In Time makes his seasonal debut Saturday in the third of three divisions of the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes for 3-year-old male pacers at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, and there is no shortage of familiar faces in the field.

Also making their seasonal debuts in the same race are Breeders Crown champion Stay Hungry and stakes-winners Hayden Hanover, who was the fastest 2-year-old male pacer of 2017, and Nutcracker Sweet. In addition, stakes-winner Wes Delight is part of the eight-horse field.

Stay Hungry, who starts from post No. 3 for driver Doug McNair and trainer Tony Alagna, is the 5-2 morning-line favorite. Lost In Time, who leaves from post six with Scott Zeron at the lines for Jimmy Takter, is the 3-1 second choice

**"I really hope this horse can deliver and be a real champion because (Ric Flair) was very excited about being brought in on this horse!"**

—Scott Zeron

while Hayden Hanover is 4-1 from post one with Andy Miller driving for Julie Miller.

"It's a Who's Who of horses; it's heavy hitters," Zeron said. "It's about as interesting as it gets. There are amazing horses in that race."

Last year, Lost In Time won five of nine races including the Metro Pace, Governor's Cup, and a division of the International Stallion Stakes. He earned \$608,112, which led all 2-year-old male pacers. The colt was trained by Jim Mulinix for most of the season before Mulinix turned the horse over to Takter for his final two races of the year.

Lost In Time enters Saturday's race off two qualifiers. He finished fourth in the first, timed in 1:53.1 with a :25.4 last quarter. He won the second, timed in 1:51 with a :26.3 final quarter.

"Those qualifiers, to me, were exactly what I was looking for," Zeron said. "It's nice to see the way he's started this season. He's come back great. There are a lot of similarities to last year, which is what you kind of want; the same horse with a little progression. That's the way it's felt."

"Mentally he's gotten a little sharper. He's always been nice to handle and he's nice on himself. It's like Jimmy has said, he's a horse that likes to win. I don't think he's flashy on a day-to-day basis, but he enjoys racing. He's easy to drive, so that makes it easy for me."

Lost In Time is owned by Diamond Creek Racing, J&T Silva Stables, William Rufenacht, and Scott Robinson's Team S Racing Stable. At February's Dan Patch Awards banquet, Robinson's guests included professional wrestling legend Ric Flair, who was celebrating his 69th birthday. While accepting Lost In Time's Dan Patch trophy, Robinson announced he was giving Flair an ownership percentage in the horse as a birthday present.

## Takter Anxious To See Lazarus N

While Jimmy Takter has many of his stable stars in action this weekend, he is already anticipating the early June arrival of Down Under star Lazarus N.

After being recently purchased by a group led by Taylor Made Sales and Stallions, Lazarus N is being sent to Takter for an abbreviated racing campaign that the connections hope could lead to a world-record mile.

"It will be interesting," said Takter of the new addition to his stable. "I haven't really sat down and laid out a schedule. I want to see the condition he is in when he gets here. It's a tough trip just to travel that far, and he's been off racing since March. I've watched most of his races and he is a very interesting horse. It looks like he can take air forever."

As for the 6-year-old Lazarus N breaking the world record of 1:46 set two years ago by the Takter-trained Always B Miki at The Red Mile, Takter said he is open to the possibility.

"First of all, it's not that easy to do," he said. "At the same token, all world records are made to be broken. And I'd rather do it myself than have somebody else do it."

"Always B Miki was a super horse and maybe five or six years from now, that will be a walk in the park. Horses nowadays are going faster and faster. If he breaks the world record I would be proud. It would not take anything away from Miki's greatness." —By Gordon Waterstone

"I really hope this horse can deliver and be a real champion because (Flair) was very excited about being brought in on this horse," Zeron said. "And it's exciting to know that somebody that's lived the life he's lived is excited about a horse. It's nice for everybody connected with it."

In Saturday's first Pennsylvania Sires Stakes division, Takter's Grand Teton, a half-brother to three-time Dan Patch Award-winning mare Pure Country, is the 5-2 morning-line favorite. Kindergarten Series champion Points North is the 3-1 second choice.

The second division finds Chris Ryder's stakes-winning This Is The Plan as the 5-2 favorite followed by Dorsoduro Hanover at 3-1. The field also includes defending Pennsylvania Sires Stakes champion Pedro Hanover, who is 9-2 on the morning line.

"Right now, everyone talks about Stay Hungry and Lost In Time, but there are other horses out there that were good last year," Zeron said. "It's the way every year starts out, you see at the beginning who comes to play. Maybe that will stamp your mark on the year."

"This Pocono race might be one that puts one ahead of the others, but in my eyes it really won't. It's just a step toward the North America Cup for me." (Ken Weingartner/USTA)

## Propulsion Preps For Elitlopp With Big Win

Propulsion, the runner-up in last year's Elitlopp, tuned up for this year's edition by winning on May 15 at the Solvalla track in Stockholm. Bred by Rikki Caldwell (Cane Run Farm) and Bluestone Farms, the 7-year-old son of Muscle Hill-Danae won by three lengths in 1:52.2 over the five-eighths mile Solvalla oval.

Although Propulsion almost always races barefoot in the big races, he was wearing aluminum shoes with pads for this race. The horse's regular driver, Örjan

Kihlström, was in the sulky. Propulsion was parked out for most of the 1,640-meter race (a little more than one mile) but pulled away in the stretch to defeat Dupree and Not Afraid.

"He's a fantastic horse in every way," said Kihlström.

Daniel Redén trains Propulsion for Bengt Agerup's Stall Zet. Kihlström said the trainer made a shoeing change after warming the horse up prior to the race.

"Daniel was not completely satisfied...so he chose to go back to the same type of aluminum shoes he wore at Gävle (where he won on April 26)," shared Kihlström.

The victory at Solvalla on May 15 was the second start for Propulsion since he finished third in the Prix de France on Feb. 11 at the Vincennes track in Paris.

The Elitlopp will be held Sunday, May 27, at Solvalla and the draw will be complete on May 24.

Stallitz.se/Adam Strom Photo



**Propulsion**

## Crown Champ Beckham's Z Tam Second In 2018 Debut

Beckham's Z Tam, winner of the 2017 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace (pictured below, outside), is back on the track.

After three qualifiers at Hoosier Park, Beckham's Z Tam, a son of Always A Virgin, finished second in his first start of the season on Friday, May 11, at Hoosier. He competed in the Invitational Pace, which was won by the Dylan Davis-trained Jet Airway in 1:49.3.

Jamie Macomber trains Beckham's Z Tam, a winner of \$565,494, for Bill Matz' Z Tam Racing.

"His next race won't be until Chester (Harrah's Philadelphia) on May 27," said Macomber of the horse's upcoming schedule. "I didn't want to go to Chester (the track has a \$150,000 Invitational Pace on May 27) off a three-week layoff, but otherwise he would have too many weeks in a row."

The next race on Beckham's Z Tam's schedule is the second leg of the Graduate, which is limited to 4 year olds, on June 2 at Woodbine Mohawk. A third leg of the Graduate is scheduled for June 10 at Tioga Downs with the final on July 7 at the Meadowlands.



**Beckham's Z Tam**

Dean Gillette Photo

# THE Horseman

AND FAIR WORLD

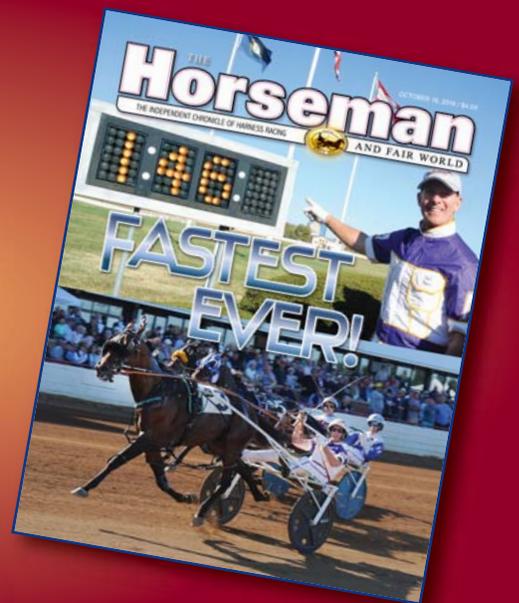
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## Burke Likes Filibuster; Paris Possible For Hannilore

While we can long for 2016, when the older male pacers Always B Miki and Wiggle It Jiggleit provided thrilling battles, this year this division is wide open and certainly will create better wagering opportunities.

Sunday's Confederation Cup should add a bit of clarity to the picture.

Last Sunday, Western Joe won his Confederation Cup elimination with a front-end trip, scoring over Maroma Beach in 1:51.3. The second elim went to Filibuster Hanover, winner of last year's Little Brown Jug, in 1:51.4. Both horses finished on the wire together at the Meadowlands on May 5 in the first leg of the Graduate for 4 year olds.

The 4-year-old Western Joe, a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes leg winner at age two and fourth in the Progress Pace final last fall, has stepped to the top tier as has Filibuster Hanover, also 4 years old and winner of the 2017 Little Brown Jug.

For the Confederation Cup final, Filibuster has the edge with post 3 while Western Joe will start from post 7 on the half-mile Flamboro oval.

Trainer Ron Burke has three entries in the Cup and said it's obvious the older male division is presently wide open.

"I think Filibuster has a next level of speed, like (Sweet) Lou showed at four," said Burke while attending the Blooded Horse Sale in Ohio earlier this week.

"Right now (this division) is totally unsettled," he continued. "I think Check Six should be better at age five than at four. Rockin Ron's still strong. All Bets Off isn't good yet, but it's early. And I'm not conceding anything to Lazarus. We'll race and find out who's best."

There is no doubt about the top older trotting mare on the track this year. That's the Burke trained and co-owned Hannelore Hanover, the 2017 Horse of the Year. Earlier this month she returned to racing and won the Cutler Memorial at the Meadowlands.

Although Sweden's famed Elitlopp is later this month, Burke said he never considered going to the race this year.

"What I might do is extend her season and go to France next winter for the Prix d'Amerique," said Burke. "To me, that can be done. That appeals to me. And Yannick (Gingras, the mare's regular driver) claims he'll go over to France for a whole month to get her ready."

Burke also shared that he has given up trying to breed Hannelore Hanover to Southwind Frank, the Diamond Creek Farms stallion who he campaigned on the racetrack.

"I wouldn't have tried breeding her but I really wanted to give Frank a great mare," he said. "It didn't work so we're done."

Burke is close to racing his 2 year olds.

"Right now I think my best pacing colt is a Captain-treacherous out of Lisjune (dam of \$1.9 million winner I Luv The Nitelife), with four Sweet Lous right behind him," he said. — *By Kathy Parker*

## \$182,500 CONFEDERATION CUP

*Flamboro Downs, Sunday, May 20, Race 12, Post Time: 9:40 pm*

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Daiymir	J. Drury/C. Francis	8-1
2—Bags To Riches	J. Jamieson/J. Skinner	9-1
3—Filibuster Hanover	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	7-2
4—Eddard Hanover	L. Roy/R. Burke	5-1
5—Boogie Shuffle	R. Waples/M. Brethour	10-1
6—Funknwaffles	C. Callahan/J. Butenschoen	9-2
7—Western Joe	D. McNair/C. Choate	5-2
8—Maroma Beach	T. Henry/R. Burke	12-1
9—Odds On Delray	S. Fillion/T. Alagna	7-2
AE—Rock N Tony	TBA/R. Burke	—

## Campbells Brings Trio To PASS Opener

When Fashionwoodchopper won last year's Pennsylvania championship for 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters at 38-1—from post 8, no less—he surprised everyone but his trainer, Jim Campbell.

"We liked him all along, but it took him a little while to get himself set," Campbell said. "I'm really happy with the way he's come back."

Fashionwoodchopper leads a trio of talented Campbell-trained 3 year olds into Saturday's \$174,888 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) opener at The Meadows. He'll go in race 9 from post 6, with David Miller up. His stablemates, Crystal Fashion (race 10, post 8) and Patent Leather (race 8, post 1) will have the services of Tim Tetrick. Jules Siegel's Fashion Farms owns all three hopefuls.

Fashionwoodchopper added victories in the International Stallion Series and Bluegrass to his impressive resume, earning \$258,449 for the year. He opened his sophomore campaign with a strong show finish in a tough overnight at the Meadowlands, timed in 1:52.2.

"He's a really nice horse to be around, a real pleasure to train," Campbell said of the son of Donato Hanover. "It's early in the season, so my main concern is that he doesn't get roughed up. I want to get a good race into him without too tough a trip."

Fourth in last year's PASS final, Crystal Fashion, a Cantab Hall gelding, banked \$161,292. He launched his sophomore season with an impressive victory at Harrah's Philadelphia.

"Where Fashionwoodchopper can race either way, Crystal Fashion likes to come from behind," Campbell said. "He's really good if he can sit on the outside and grind horses down. He really seems to thrive on that."

Although he's the least heralded of the three, Patent Leather earned \$77,992 last year while racing through injuries.

"He's a real gutsy horse," Campbell said. "He forgot all about those injuries when he raced last year. He has quick speed, and he's gritty."

The son of Broadway Hall enters the Super Bowl after a win in a Harrah's Philadelphia overnight. (*Evan Pattak/The Meadows*)



## Manchego to make first start Monday in PASS

Undefeated champion filly Manchego makes her 2018 seasonal debut Monday (May 21) at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, racing in the \$56,480 tenth race division of the second preliminary leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes for 3-year-old trotting misses. [more](#)

## Empire Breeders 3YOT elims Friday at Vernon

On Friday night, Vernon Downs will host five \$12,500 elimination races for the Empire Breeders Classic, the first major event of the season for 3-year-old trotting fillies and colts, as races five through nine. [more](#)

## Kakaley returns to sulky Saturday at Pocono

Matt Kakaley is ready to go. Sidelined since a March 13 racing accident, the 30-year-old driver will be back in action Saturday with nine drives at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. [more](#)

## Blooded Horse Sale strong at new venue

Horsemen flooded to the Champions Center, the new site for the Blooded Horse Sale, in Springfield, Ohio, on May 15, seeking racehorses and breeding stock among the 404 cataloged. It was the strongest Spring Sale in its 55-year history with a lot of happy sellers and happy buyers. [more](#)

## Trevor Henry wins Ontario Regional

By virtue of three wins in the nine-race tournament, Trevor Henry captured the 2018 Ontario Regional Driving Championship (ORDC), held Wednesday evening (May 16) at The Raceway at Western Fair District in London, Ont. [more](#)

## Connor hopes dreams come true

Chuck Connor Jr. stood in the race paddock at the Meadowlands Racetrack one recent morning and looked around at the 2-year-old trotters and pacers on hand for a training session at the North Jersey oval. [more](#)

## High Glider being sold, exported to Sweden

High Glider, 4-year-old son of Yankee Glide-Highland Ridge, has been sold to Brixton Medical of Matawan, N.J., it was announced by Sue Agopian, a principal of Deo Volente Farms. [more](#)

## Kaplan named Canadian Hall of Fame president

A capacity crowd of racing industry supporters, Hall of Fame-honored members and incoming inductees were expertly guided through a jam-packed agenda by Master of Ceremonies and CHRHF-honored member Jim Bannon during Wednesday evening's annual Hall of Fame President's Reception. [more](#)

## Trotting 4 Charity hits home for Harris

For Andrew Harris, the inaugural Trotting 4 Charity event speaks to his two biggest loves—harness racing and his wife Amanda. [more](#)

## Camluck Classic field announced

The Raceway at Western Fair District has finalized the details for what promises to be one of the biggest days in Canadian harness racing this season when it hosts the inaugural Camluck Classic program on closing night, Saturday, May 26. [more](#)

## Indiana's Midwest Mixed Sale set for Nov. 23

The Midwest Auction Company is pleased to announce that dates have been set for the annual Midwest Mixed Sale. Now in its second year, the sale is set for Friday, Nov. 23. The sale will once again be held at the Michiana Event Center in Shipshewana, Ind. [more](#)

## Delaware Fair starting gate arrives in Hungary

After a journey of more than 5,000 miles, the harness racing starting gate used for the prestigious Little Brown Jug in Delaware, Ohio, is now safely in the least likely of racing locations, Budapest, Hungary. [more](#)

## New owners seminar set for June 24 at Tioga

A seminar for new and prospective owners will be hosted by Harness Horse Breeders of New York State at Tioga Downs in Nichols, N.Y. This seminar will provide valuable information for prospective or new owners and focus on all aspects of horse ownership. [more](#)

## Lineweaver named race secretary at Shenandoah

The Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) announced the appointment of Doris Lineweaver to the position of racing secretary at its annual fall harness meet at Shenandoah Downs in Woodstock, Va. This is the 42-year-old Lineweaver's first position as racing secretary. [more](#)

## Illinois star Taser Gun dies at 23

Taser Gun, who starred for many years racing primarily in Illinois, died Monday, May 14, at his home at the American Standardbred Adoption Program (ASAP) in De Soto, Wisc. Taser Gun, who retired from racing in 2007, was 23. [more](#)

## Illinois horseman Brian Cotton dies

Brian Philip Cotton, 31, of Fairfield, Ill., died May 11. He was a Standardbred driver and was also employed by ENS Metals. [more](#)

## Well-known farrier Charles Cable dies at 76

Charles Cable, a well-known farrier in the Goshen, N.Y., area, died May 15 at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, NY. He was 76. [more](#)

**RACE LINES**

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through May 15, 2018 (week difference May 9-15).

**Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses**

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Shartin N (5pm)	11	9	1	0	\$343,975
Keystone Velocity (10ph)	6	2	2	0	320,000
Sell A Bit N (8pm)	11	5	2	1	216,450
Bit Of A Legend N (9ph)	6	2	3	1	214,000
Somewhere In LA (7pg)	10	4	2	3	168,920
NF Happenstance (8tm)	13	8	3	0	140,450
Motu Moonbeam N (6pm)	15	3	3	3	133,360
Will Take Charge (5tg)	10	5	3	1	130,268
Dr J Hanover (5pg)	7	3	2	1	125,100
Killer Martini (6pg)	15	3	1	3	123,800
Seasoned Saint (5tg)	12	7	3	0	120,500
Long Live Rock (9pg)	12	3	3	3	119,000
Dudesalady (4pm)	15	5	1	3	117,140
Mach It So (8pg)	7	2	1	2	117,060
Caviart Cherie (4pm)	16	8	3	0	113,450

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	954	183-159-142	.334	\$3,051,960 ( <b>\$195,432</b> )
Jordan Stratton	909	168-151-114	.319	3,027,513 ( <b>187,094</b> )
Aaron Merriman	1,517	355-282-215	.385	2,758,548 ( <b>146,933</b> )
Tim Tetrick	876	170-155-107	.333	2,592,034 ( <b>201,938</b> )
Trace Tetrick	1,031	228-161-127	.349	2,034,582 ( <b>74,034</b> )
George Brennan	783	110-100-80	.245	1,954,101 ( <b>64,307</b> )
Dan Noble	954	198-134-124	.329	1,889,883 ( <b>129,260</b> )
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	1,142	271-172-154	.366	1,831,274 ( <b>115,592</b> )
Jim Marohn Jr.	1,000	170-140-136	.293	1,758,770 ( <b>82,228</b> )
Corey Callahan	942	141-153-135	.288	1,745,958 ( <b>100,649</b> )
Daniel Dube	675	67-70-85	.199	1,657,376 ( <b>52,095</b> )
Chris Page	954	148-110-112	.258	1,652,382 ( <b>116,686</b> )
Louis Roy	805	192-138-117	.382	1,524,735 ( <b>64,892</b> )
Yannick Gingras	521	85-70-59	.276	1,412,009 ( <b>86,210</b> )
Anthony Napolitano	780	125-100-109	.278	1,378,975 ( <b>79,055</b> )

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,168	239-181-134	.329	\$3,212,266 ( <b>\$216,722</b> )
Rene Allard	542	114-77-68	.331	1,901,416 ( <b>128,285</b> )
Scott Di Domenico	555	92-88-66	.293	1,417,459 ( <b>69,740</b> )
Richard Moreau	574	132-91-68	.358	1,290,092 ( <b>57,812</b> )
Richard Banca	356	59-56-51	.301	1,082,866 ( <b>80,792</b> )
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	441	67-56-51	.261	975,702 ( <b>60,518</b> )
Nick Surick	645	124-100-85	.322	880,651 ( <b>41,950</b> )
Jim King Jr.	164	33-27-21	.335	775,452 ( <b>48,560</b> )
Carmen Auciello	559	53-54-66	.188	738,787 ( <b>42,072</b> )
Jennifer Bongiorno	202	55-28-26	.392	733,628 ( <b>44,760</b> )
Peter Tritton	93	23-18-13	.401	723,210 ( <b>25,020</b> )
Rob Harmon	262	41-35-36	.277	639,463 ( <b>40,513</b> )
Andrew Harris	259	46-31-37	.292	630,095 ( <b>60,198</b> )
Kimberly Asher	227	49-51-35	.392	583,963 ( <b>19,235</b> )
Dan Ater	261	42-47-27	.295	578,147 ( <b>25,780</b> )

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	689	332	607	\$6,423,586
Winbak Farm	665	319	593	5,253,969
Brittany Farms LLC	165	81	176	2,018,064
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	144	77	149	1,480,218
Perretti Farms	114	71	138	1,307,086
Seelster Farms Inc.	148	73	145	1,189,223
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	109	61	121	1,171,548
White Birch Farm	116	52	106	1,072,667
Steve H Stewart	123	53	105	974,732
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	106	50	87	930,692
Spring Haven Farm	91	50	92	911,563
Bulletproof Enterprises	94	48	100	894,889
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	83	44	101	824,151
CSX Stables	54	35	79	801,630
Midland Acres Inc.	113	43	76	754,779

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for May 9-15 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Dan Noble	54	19-9-4
Ronnie Wrenn Jr	69	16-14-7
Aaron Merriman	87	15-17-14
George Napolitano Jr	79	15-7-5
Chris Page	64	13-7-8
Jason Bartlett	52	13-10-6
Tim Tetrick	60	13-9-6
Casey Leonard	35	12-7-3
David Miller	63	12-13-14
Jim DeVaux	52	12-9-3
Sam Widger	55	12-8-7
Jordan Stratton	52	11-9-8

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	19
Rene Allard	12
Mark Steacy	8
Erv Miller	7
Nick Surick	7
Richard Moreau	6
Andrew Harris	5
Dolores Basilone	5
Julie Miller	5
Richard Banca	5
Ross Croghan	5
Virgil Morgan Jr	5
Andy Gardner	4
Anette Lorentzon	4
Blake MacIntosh	4
Brett Wilfong	4
Gary Messenger	4
Hunter Oakes	4
Jim Campbell	4
Mark Harder	4
Michael Hitchcock	4
Patrick Shepherd	4
Rob Harmon	4
Ross Leonard	4
Ryan Swift	4
Scott Di Domenico	4
Terry Leonard	4
Vincent Fusco Jr.	4