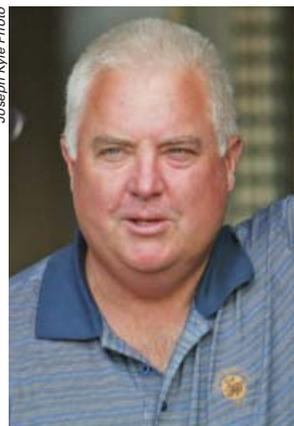


Always B Miki Appears Primed For Somebeachsomewhere

Twenty-three 3-year-old colt pacers—all but three with North America Cup aspirations next month—have been divided into three \$75,000 divisions of the Somebeachsomewhere on Saturday night at Mohawk Racetrack.

Starting from post 4 in the second of the three divisions is Always B Miki. After opening up his sophomore campaign with a pair of impressive victories, including a career-best 1:50.3 effort in the Reynolds on April 26 at the Meadowlands, Always B Miki has gone a pair of hellacious miles—without reaching the winner's circle.



Joseph Kyle Photo

“He was very impressive because horses don’t come from where he came from and win races. I know he got placed back, but regardless he raced really good.”

— Joe Holloway on Always B Miki

impressive because horses don’t come from where he came from and win races. I know he got placed back, but regardless he raced really good.”

In his next start on May 17 in a conditioned pace at the Meadowlands, Callahan and Always B Miki—the 7-5 betting favorite—were parked the entire mile. Despite the grueling, first-over journey, Always B Miki was able to take a brief lead in midstretch before getting caught at the wire by Bet OnThe Law in 1:48.2.

“In his last start, it just didn’t work out,” said Holloway. “Usually he’s quick off the wings and Corey was going to leave and he didn’t pop off the wings so he decided to sit him in, but there was no hole and he got parked first-over.

Continues on page 2 >>>>

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WHAT’S INSIDE . . .

- All eyes on He’s Watching in SBSW—pg. 3**
- Alagna sends three to Rooney final—pg. 4**
- Dave Briggs’ Stretch Call—pg. 5**
- Foiled Again aims for third Molson—pg. 6**
- Harnessracing.com Headlines—pg. 7**



Michael Usat/Leo Photo

Always B Miki

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You kept waiting for him to tire and he just didn't. If he hadn't run in once or twice in the stretch, he would have still won the race."

Bred by Joe Hurley's Roll The Dice Stable and carrying the nickname of Hurley's wife Miki, Always B Miki began in Holloway's barn last year but after baby-racing and a first and second in his first two pari-mutuel starts at the Meadowlands, he was sent to Hoosier Park for the Indiana Sires Stakes. The son of Always A Virgin finished third in both \$200,000 Sires Stakes finals, and then capped off his rookie season with a second-place finish in the Elevation.

"In his baby races he was phenomenal, including once when he came a last quarter in :25.4," remembered Holloway. "He was big, growthy and immature and he started making breaks. He went out to Indiana and then he came back to me this year and he's bigger and stronger."

Holloway said he likes Always B Miki's draw in the Somebeachsomewhere, but he added all the divisions appear tough on paper. That includes the first split that features a match-up between 2013 Breeders Crown champion Luck Be Withyou, who is making his 3-year-old debut, and 2013 Governor's Cup champ JK Endofanera, who is an impressive two-for-two thus far this year.

"Everybody likes to say they had the toughest division, but it looks like there are a couple really good ones in each division," said Holloway. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, May 30

All times listed are local.

- 6:30p Mea1 **PASS** 3CT div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 7:55p Mea4 **PASS** 3CT div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:39p VD7 **NYSS** 3FP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:58p VD8 **NYSS** 3FP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:17p VD9 **NYSS** 3FP div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:35p Mea9 **PASS** 3CT div. [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:23p Lon12 **Molson** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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

Saturday, May 31

- 7:34p M2 **NJSS** 3CP final [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 7:54p M3 **NJSS** 3CT final [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:05p Moh3 **Somebeachsomewhere** 3CP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:13p M4 **NJSS** 3FT final [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:32p M5 **NJSS** 3FP final [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:45p Moh8 **Somebeachsomewhere** 3CP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:20p YR9 **Lismore** 3FP final [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 10:25p Moh10 **Somebeachsomewhere** 3CP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 11:00p YR11 **Rooney** 3CP final [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Sunday, June 1

- 4:30p TgDn10 **Roll With Joe** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

Kathy Parker

kparker@harnessracing.com
Editor/ General Manager

Lynne Myers

lm Myers@harnessracing.com
Advertising Manager

Gordon Waterstone

gwaterstone@harnessracing.com
Associate Editor

Suzanne Starbuck

sstarbuck@harnessracing.com
Production Manager

Heather Kemper

hkemper@harnessracing.com
Assistant Production Manager

Suzy Hall

shall@harnessracing.com
Production & Design

Stephanie Condrón-Hall

scondronhall@harnessracing.com
Editorial Art Director

Vanessa Flannery

vflannery@harnessracing.com
Accounting & Circulation

For mail sent via U.S. Postal Service, either P.O. Box 8480, Lexington, KY 40533, or 1910 Harrodsburg Rd., Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40503. (859) 276-4026

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All Eyes Watching He's Watching In Somebeachsomewhere

Trainer Dave Menary admits last week wasn't the best of weeks for him, not only with his 3-year-old colt pacer He's Watching, who finished last in his 2014 debut in the Art Rooney elims at Yonkers Raceway and failed to advance to this Saturday night's \$300,000 final, but also personally.

Maybe Menary should have considered it an omen of things to come when he hit a deer while driving his girlfriend's car through Pennsylvania on his way to Yonkers, killing the deer and virtually totaling the vehicle. He's Watching, the 2013 Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year, then faded to sixth in his Rooney elim after getting away second as the 1-9 favorite, handing the son of American Ideal his first-ever defeat after going undefeated in eight starts his freshman campaign.

"It was just a series of bad events and we're going to turn the page and go forward," said Menary, who shares ownership with Brad Gray, Michael Guerriero and Muscara Racing Trust. "His air got shut off in the race. He trained really good on Tuesday morning (May 27) while I was still at Gaitway Farm (in New Jersey). It was just bad luck."

After not receiving the ticket to advance to the Rooney final, He's Watching will instead start in Saturday night's Somebeachsomewhere at Mohawk Racetrack. While Jim Morrill Jr. has been in the bike behind He's Watching in all nine career starts—which resulted in two world records and six track records last year—Menary has called upon Wood-

bine Entertainment Group driving champion Jody Jamieson to direct the colt. Jamieson, who drove He's Watching to a 1:52.1 qualifying victory on May 16 at Mohawk, will start from post 5 in the third \$75,000 division.

"I think this is a good spot for him," Menary said of the \$3,000 yearling purchase who earned \$291,722 in 2013. "There are a lot of colts in there who can go fast so we're going to have to go fast. I've quit watching the replay (of the

"I've quit watching the replay (of the Rooney elim) and turned the page and now it's onward and upward."

— Dave Menary

Rooney elim) and turned the page and now it's onward and upward."

He's Watching's seven rivals include 2013 Metro winner Boomboom Ballykeel, Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final winner Bugger Bruiser, American National champ Let's Drink On It, and the \$350,000 yearling purchase That's My Opinion, who has been impressive in two wins in 2014.

As for Menary's encounter with the deer on a Pennsylvania highway, he said things could have been a lot worse.

"The deer was so big and came at me so fast I couldn't even swerve at all," said Menary, who needed to rent a car in Wilkes-Barre to continue his trip to New York. "It did a lot of damage to the car but the airbag didn't go off. I'm lucky the deer didn't come through the windshield. My girlfriend a lot of times will travel with me and she'll drive so I can rest, and I'm glad it was me driving because somebody else might have reacted and swerved. I hit it square." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

\$225,000 Somebeachsomewhere 3YOCP

Mohawk Racetrack, Saturday, May 31, 1st \$75,000 division, Race 3, Post Time: 8:05 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Marco De Vie (Camluck)	R. Waples/B. Wallace	8-1	Joie De Vie Farm/Homebred
2—Three Of Clubs (Mach Three)	D. McNair/G. McNair	12-1	C. Campbell/FC (\$25,000)
3—Play It Again Sam (Shadow Play)	J. Jamieson/I. Moore	15-1	Perretti Farms/HB (\$25,000)
4—Somewhere Fancy (Somebeachsomewhere)	D. Miller/L. Toscano	8-1	Emerald Highlands Farm, J. Sprow III/Lex (\$40,000)
5—Falcon Justice (Mister Big)	P. MacDonell/R. Boyd	5-1	B. Muschera/HB (\$7,500)
6—JK Endofanera (Art Major)	B. Sears/R. Burke	7-5	3 Brothers Stable/Homebred
7—Luck Be Withyou (Western Ideal)	R. Pierce/W. Cass	9-5	Brittany Farms/Lex (\$77,000)

2nd \$75,000 division, Race 8, Post Time: 9:45 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Here Comes William (Dragon Again)	R. Pierce/M. Dupont	12-1	New Jennaration/—
2—Somewhere In LA (Somebeachsomewhere)	S. Condren/R. McIntosh	4-1	R. McIntosh Stb., CSX Stbs., A. McIntosh Hldgs./Homebred
3—McWicked (McArdle)	D. Miller/C. Coleman	7-2	Andray Farm/HB (\$35,000)
4—Always B Miki (Always A Virgin)	C. Callahan/J. Holloway	5-2	Roll The Dice Stable/Homebred
5—Silverhill Shadow (Shadow Play)	J. Jamieson/I. Moore	6-1	Silverhill/Homebred
6—Roger Mach Em (Mach Three)	P. MacDonell/B. MacDonald	12-1	S. Smith-Rothaug/HB (\$55,000)
7—Somestarsomewhere (Somebeachsomewhere)	B. Sears/R. Burke	9-2	S. Tawil, M. Butler/HB (\$110,000)
8—Capital Account (American Ideal)	S. Zeron/J. Takter	8-1	Brittany Farms/Homebred

3rd \$75,000 division, Race 10, Post Time: 10:25 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Melmerby Beach (Somebeachsomewhere)	P. MacDonell/B. MacGrath	6-1	Schooner II Stable/Homebred
2—Jet Airway (Jereme's Jet)	C. Callahan/E. Miller	7-2	Spring Haven Farm/HB (\$36,000)
3—Boomboom Ballykeel (Mach Three)	S. Filion/R. Moreau	15-1	Ballykeel Racing/Homebred
4—That's My Opinion (Somebeachsomewhere)	S. Zeron/T. Alagna	4-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$350,000)
5—He's Watching (American Ideal)	J. Morrill Jr./D. Menary	3-1	Brittany Farms, K. Burgess, R. Burgess/HB (\$3,000)
6—Let's Drink On It (Art Official)	T. Smith/J. Seekman	5-2	Kentuckiana Farms/Lex (\$12,000)
7—Bugger Bruiser (Believeinbruiser)	A. MacDonald/C. Auciello	12-1	G. Mijal/Homebred
8—Surprise Hanover (Bettor's Delight)	J. Moiseyev/J. Dean	15-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$70,000)

Alagna Sends Three To Rooney Final

It's not too often a stable entry of three horses in a major stakes event draws posts 1, 2 and 3, but that's how Saturday night's \$300,000 Art Rooney final for 3-year-old pacers at Yonkers Raceway shakes out for trainer Tony Alagna.

Alagna originally qualified Gold Rocks and Bondi Hanover for the final after the pair finished second and third, respectively, in their elimination last weekend. As a result of an early scratch, Alagna was able to land a third horse in Maxi Bon, who was the first also-eligible after a fifth-place finish in his elim.

"Anytime you can get the one, two and three going for \$300,000 on a half, you have to be happy about that," said Alagna, who will race Maxi Bon and Gold Rocks as a coupled entry due to common ownership and Bondi Hanover as a single betting interest.

In his elim, Maxi Bon made a break on the outside in the final turn for driver Scott Zeron, which resulted in a distanced fifth-place finish behind the winning All Bets Off. When There is a space for us,



Horseman Photo

"Anytime you can get the one, two and three going for \$300,000 on a half, you have to be happy about that!"

— Tony Alagna

who was fourth in his elim, was scratched after drawing post 1 in the final, Maxi Bon was able to move into that prime position.

"Anytime you can scratch into the rail going for \$300,000, you can't complain, that's for sure," said Alagna. "I'm willing to take a shot and hopefully things will work out for him. He's got plenty of speed; speed is not an issue."

Alagna said he has enlisted Daniel Dube to drive the son of Somebeachsomewhere in the Rooney final.

"Maxi Bon has shown he can go enough, he just has his moments where he gets a little unsure of himself and makes mistakes," said Alagna. "We've made some changes and I asked Dan Dube to come out and train him and he got along with him well. Hopefully we'll get a nice result Saturday night."



While Maxi Bon has a 1:49.4 win on his 2014 resume earlier this month at the Meadowlands, Gold Rocks is winless in three attempts this year. The son of Rocknroll Hanover won twice in seven starts last year, including the Lou Babic final at Freehold. With driver George Brennan, he was second at odds of 44-1 in his elim behind the winning Stevensville.

"Gold Rocks won the Babic last year so he showed he was definitely a good half-mile track type of horse," said Alagna, who will have Eric Goodell driving on Saturday.

As for Bondi Hanover, the son of Somebeachsomewhere was winless in two starts last year and shows the same ledger in 2014. After making a break his first start, he was third in his Rooney elim.

"I like Bondi, the way the horse trained on a half at home (Gaitway Farm) and the way he qualified," said Alagna, who named Jason Bartlett to drive in the final. "In his first start he touched a wheel coming out of the hole, that's why he ran."

Although Alagna's trio were all longshots in the elims, having the inside posts moves them up into consideration. Still, Alagna knows the elim winners are the ones to beat on Saturday.

"All Bets Off and Stevensville, who won their eliminations, are the horses to beat, without a doubt," said Alagna. "They both have great stakes experience and both are very sharp right now. We just have to hope things work out for us from the inside posts and one of the three gets a shot to get a good piece of it. I thought all three horses of mine warranted putting them in." — By Gordon Waterstone

\$380,000 Art Rooney 3YOCP final

Yonkers Raceway, Saturday, May 31, Race 11, Post Time: 11:00 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Maxi Bon* (Somebeachsomewhere)	D. Dube/T. Alagna	8-1	Black Horse Racing/Lex (\$125,000)
2—Bondi Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere)	J. Bartlett/T. Alagna	10-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/Lex (\$90,000)
3—Gold Rocks* (Rocknroll Hanover)	E. Goodell/T. Alagna	8-1	Emerald Highlands Farm/Lex (\$15,000)
4—All Bets Off (Bettor's Delight)	M. Kakaley/R. Burke	7-5	R. Tucker, G. Tucker/HB (\$7,000)
5—Some Playa (Somebeachsomewhere)	G. Brennan/J. Sabot	8-1	John Carver/HB (\$37,000)
6—Stevensville (Somebeachsomewhere)	T. Tetrick/R. Schnitker	4-1	R. Schnitker, C. Iannazo/Homebred
7—Unlocked (Duneside Perch)	B. Holland/E. Miller	12-1	Bart Seales/—
8—Ideal Fashion (American Ideal)	J. Stratton/J. Campbell	12-1	Blue Chip Bloodstock/HB (\$115,000)

* coupled in wagering

STRETCH CALL



BY DAVE BRIGGS

From Burke To Ontario, Some Incredible And Scary Numbers

When Ron Burke recently became the first trainer to hit \$100 million in career earnings it was just the latest in a long string of crazy numbers to hit the sport. In fact, Burke is responsible for more than his share of lofty digits. Consider that it took his operation just six years to break the nine-figure plateau five months after he also became the first trainer to record both a \$20 million season (over \$22 million to be exact) and win more than 1,000 races in a year (1,090).

Of course, it helps to have more than 300 horses in training in total from a number of outposts—Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, New York, etc. But you still have to get the job done.

“It’s scary the numbers he’s putting up. It’s a great operation,” said Yannick Gingras, one of Burke’s main stakes drivers. “Obviously, Ronnie is the head of it, but he’s got a lot of good people underneath him. The New Jersey barn has 100 head of horses, or something like that. Ronnie probably shows up once or twice a month at most.”

Yet, the trainer remains on top of everything, Gingras said.

“It’s amazing that (Burke) remembers every horse,” Gingras said. “You can call him right now and ask him about a 10 claimer he’s got in the barn and what he wears and he’ll tell you.”

Burke excels at keeping horses on the track longer than the norm. The age-defying superstar Foiled Again is a great example, Gingras said. The 10-year-old pacer is the richest Standardbred in the world with earnings exceeding \$6.2 million—virtually every penny earned the hard way.

“He’s an overachiever that wasn’t an expensive yearling, wasn’t a great 2 and 3 year old,” Gingras said. “He’s a horse that’s done it the hard way his whole life. Not only did he have to earn it against the best in the world, the \$6 million he’s earned he’s earned it in the open company. He didn’t make \$3 million by the time he was three against restricted horses. He’s made the most the last six years racing against the best North America has to offer.... He’s a very easy horse to love.”

Gingras said Burke treats his horses really well. “They train the same routine. They train hard, but they also get their two or three days off every week and I think it makes a

difference. These horses all get their two months off every year. Foiled’s been in the same routine for five years.”

Friday night at The Raceway at The Western Fair District in London, Ont., Foiled Again will race in his sixth straight Molson Pace, which is incredible in itself. One lucky fan will even get a chance to sit behind Foiled Again in a two-seat jog cart as the pacer goes for a warm-up spin of the half-mile oval.

Meanwhile, the \$150,000 Molson Pace, as well as the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup at Mohawk next month, will provide a nice distraction from some staggering numbers of a negative kind in Ontario.

Ontario’s Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) once injected \$345 million into purses each year in an industry that supports 30,000 full-time equivalent jobs. The program’s cancellation was a major contributing factor in an estimated 9,000 job losses.

Between 2011 and 2013, Ontario’s horse racing industry suffered a decrease in total purses of 35 percent, a race dates cut of 39 percent and a mass exodus of human and equine talent. The number of stallions standing in the province is down 43 percent (243 to 138); the number of licensed owners is off 31 percent and the number of licensed racing participants has dropped 28 percent. Just on the harness side, the number of mares bred by Ontario owners is down 60 percent and the number of mares bred to Ontario stallions declined 56 percent between 2011 and 2013.

The combined earnings of Canada’s 10 leading drivers plummeted 31 percent in just one year from 2012 to 2013. Worse, the top 10 trainers saw their combined earnings decline over 40 percent in that same one-year span.

Proving numbers have the ability to impress or depress you, depending on what ones you’re looking at.



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.

Foiled Again Aims For Third Molson Pace

He defies what you would expect from a world-class professional athlete at the top of his game in just about every category except heart. He lacks size, is an old man in a younger man's game and isn't blessed with blinding speed or a chiseled physique.

Yet, Foiled Again stands atop the globe as the richest horse in harness racing history and is an epic overachiever by any sport's standards.

Friday night at The Raceway at The Western Fair District in London, fans will get a chance to sit mere yards away from this 10-year-old superstar as Foiled Again competes in his sixth consecutive \$150,000 Molson Pace. Yannick Gingras will be in the sulky behind Foiled Again, a horse who has earned more than \$6.2 million in his career.

"He's that third-line guy, the sixth round draft pick that scores 50 goals six years in a row," Gingras said.

In the 42nd edition of the Molson Pace, Foiled Again will start from the outside post 7 in the eight-horse field as he tries to win the race for the third time in his career to go along with victories in 2012 and 2011. Gingras said Foiled Again's post might not be as big a hindrance as it may first appear.

"He never takes his trip with him. He likes it roughed up. He's a fighter," Gingras said.

Last year's champ, State Treasurer, drew the rail in a deep field in which the horses have combined earnings exceeding \$10.5 million, as well as 215 career victories between them from nearly 650 starts.

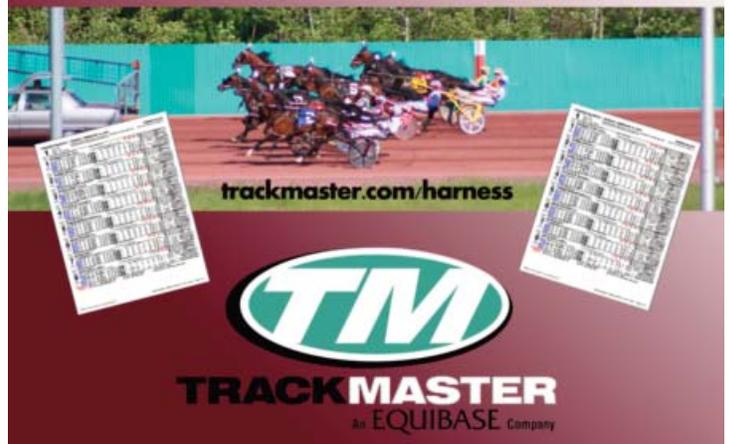
Meanwhile, Foiled Again's fan following has grown substantially. Western Fair will even have a special postcard giveaway Friday night.

"I love that," Gingras said. "At the end of 2012, I think he earned a lot of people's respect. It was definitely when he went over Gallo Blue Chip's money record in the Canadian Pacing Derby... It started a little bit there, but it snowballed into last year. At the end of last year all the attention was well, well deserved. I'm very proud of him." (*Western Fair*)

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Claims & Trainer Change Details	NO	YES
Auction Sales Data	NO	YES
Yearling Prices & Stud Fees	NO	YES
Race Replay Links	NO	YES
Result Chart Links	NO	YES



\$150,000 MOLSON PACE

Western Fair, Friday, May 30, Race 12, Post Time: 10:23 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—State Treasurer	C. Christoforou/I. Moore	7-5
2—Bettor's Edge	T. Henry/R. Burke	8-1
3—Banolito	M. MacDonald/D. Bier	5-1
4—Apprentice Hanover	J. Jamieson/B. Wallace	7-1
5—Dancin Yankee	B. Miller/J. Green	9-2
6—PH Supercam	J. Bartlett/P. Fraley	3-1
7—Foiled Again	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	4-1
8—Captive Audience	S. Filion/C. Johnson	10-1



Front of postcard.



Back of postcard.



Hall Of Famer Doug Ackerman Dies

Hall of Fame horseman, Douglas J. Ackerman, 86, died Wednesday, May 28 in North Carolina after an illness of almost two years.

He was one of the most respected trainers in harness racing and widely admired for his innate horsemanship, iron-clad integrity, and memorable sense of humor. His fellow horsemen held him in the highest esteem, and that is the ultimate compliment in his profession.

Mr. Ackerman was a fixture on the Grand Circuit for decades and trained and drove many top horses, such as Albaquel, Crowning Point, Self Confident, Noble Hustle, Denali, Happy Chatter, Noble Traveler, Amer I Can, Cape Canaveral, Leopard, and the old warrior Bramble Hall. The list could go on and on.

In recent years, he turned the driving duties over to his son D.R., and together they raced Chocolatier, a winner of \$1.3 million and the champion freshman trotter of 2005.

Mr. Ackerman had a master's touch in selecting yearlings and his advice on conformation was sought by many other trainers. He was one of those rare horsemen who could "look right through a yearling" and size up its potential.

He grew up in the small rural community of Three Oaks in southwest Michigan, and both his father and grandfather trained and raced horses in the Midwest. His late brother Jack was a noted horseman in his own right while brother Charles stayed on the family farm.

Their father Rollin died of a heart attack in a race at the fair in Hillsdale, Michigan when Doug was just 14 years old. His father was only 48.

Mr. Ackerman went west to seek his fortune in harness racing in California as a young man and set down roots there for more than a half-century. He trained for decades over the Thoroughbred track at Del Mar, just north of San Diego, which once had a large and thriving Standardbred winter colony.

He met Ada Jean Funderbunk, daughter of the prominent horseman Foy Funderbunk, in 1950 and they were married four years later. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Ackerman was particularly close to Pres Jenuine, the major domo of the Western Harness meet at Hollywood Park for many years. When Hollywood Park conducted a seminar for new owners in 1970, Mr. Ackerman met Richard Staley, a fellow transplant from the Midwest to California. They formed an owner-trainer partnership and friendship that lasted until Staley's death in the mid-1990s.

When Del Mar closed its track for training purposes almost a decade ago, Mr. Ackerman had to relocate his horses to

Pinehurst, N. C. When asked the difference between training in southern California and Pinehurst, Mr. Ackerman quipped, "About 50 degrees."

Mr. Ackerman was seldom seen without his beloved wife Ada Jean at his side and she was as popular and widely known in harness racing as her husband. Their daughter Connie Hochstetler is a noted racing official whose husband Homer is a veteran trainer. Their son Jay, a student at the University of Kentucky, is now working as an intern at The Horseman And Fair World. Son D.R. Ackerman has been training and racing the Ackerman Stable horses during his father's illness. He and his wife, Angelika, have two sons, D.R. Ackerman Jr. and Kevin.

The Ackerman family will receive friends from 1-2:30 p.m. at Boles Funeral Home in Pinehurst on Tuesday, June 3, prior to a memorial service at 2:30 p.m. A reception will follow at the Holly Inn in Pinehurst.

Memorial contributions may be directed to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, N.C. 28374; Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, 240 Main St, Goshen, N.Y. 10924; or Harness Horse Youth Foundation, 16575 Carey Rd, Westfield, Ind. 46074. — *By Dean Hoffman*

Father Patrick Brings Streak To PASS

Juvenile champion Father Patrick brings a 10-race winning streak to the Meadows for Friday's \$211,700 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes for sophomore colt and gelding trotters, but Hall of Fame trainer Jimmy Takter said the streak is the farthest thing from his mind.

"I don't think like that," Takter said. "They're horses. They win, they get beat. I don't worry about things like that."

Instead, Takter hopes the son of Cantab Hall-Gala Dream builds on his facile victory in 1:53.3 in the Historic-Dickerson Cup at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, which kicked off his 3-year-old campaign and pushed his career bankroll to \$762,688.

Father Patrick may not be tested sternly Friday; of the six other contenders in his split, one is a maiden, and two remain eligible for NW2. Amped Up Hanover, perhaps the most accomplished of the rest, stalked Father Patrick from the pocket in the Dickerson Cup and still was beaten 4 1/2 lengths. Nevertheless, Takter has Father Patrick where he wants him on the road to the Hambletonian.

"I'm very comfortable with what I'm doing with him," Takter said. "We haven't started pushing him, and I'm really happy with how he's performing. I expect him to win and step forward."

He said Father Patrick likely will follow Friday's PASS with several starts at Pocono Downs before heading to the Meadowlands.

Continues on page 8 >>>



"I love this horse," Takter said. "He's a serious, serious animal. I think he's the horse I've been waiting for that's really, really, special."

Father Patrick goes from post 4 in the first of three PASS divisions, Race 1, with Yannick Gingras piloting.

Takter also has the presumptive favorite in the second division (Race 4) with another of his hard-hitting sophomores, Nuncio. Although the son of Andover Hall-Nicole Isabelle has raced in Father Patrick's shadow, he's hardly been a slouch, with six victories in 11 starts—he's never been worse than second—and nearly \$500,000 in career earnings.

Nuncio faces a potential surprise package in Wheel-sandthelegman (Donato Hanover-Carmita), who was unraced at two but has captured all four of his 2013 starts, including a PASS victory for trainer Walt Carroll. Nuncio leaves from post 3 for John Campbell while Jim Raymer will guide Wheel-sandthelegman from post 2.

The third split (Race 9), a wide-open event, features Datsyuk, an Explosive Matter-Pink Ribbons gelding who has won his only two lifetime outings, including a PASS split at Pocono Downs. Charlie Norris trains and drives Datsyuk, who drew post 2. (*The Meadows*)

KHHA, Red Mile Reach Historical Racing Agreement

Kentucky Harness Horsemen's Association president Bob Stewart told harnessracing.com Wednesday morning (May 28) that a seven-year agreement has been reached with The Red Mile on revenue generated by the Historical Racing machines that are scheduled to go into operation next summer.

"We reached the deal and it was accepted by us last night," said Stewart. "Hopefully now it's full speed ahead."

The Red Mile received approval from the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission in early April to begin construction on a \$25 million, 48,000-square-foot building located along the track's homestretch. Plans call for 500 Historical Racing machines, which as slot-like machines that allow bettors to wager on random races selected from a massive archive of previously-run contests.

The Commission stipulated at the time of approval that state regulations called for a revenue-sharing agreement between the track and horsemen to be finalized prior to the opening of the facility.

"This is a bright spot and as a horsemen's association, we appreciate The Red Mile stepping up to the plate," said Stewart. "We've got 24 days of racing back and then we'll go to 30 days for the next four years. I think this secures the viability of the sport in Kentucky for the future."

Stewart added the Kentucky Standardbred Breeders Incentive Fund will separately receive three-quarters of the 1.5 percent of the tax money generated by the Historical Racing machines.

Precocious Beauty To Make 2014 Debut In NYSS

The 2013 Dan Patch Award winner in the 2-year-old pacing filly division, Precocious Beauty, makes her 2014 debut on Friday in a \$41,300 division of the New York Sire Stakes at Vernon Downs. Precocious Beauty races in the first of three divisions and is the 5-2 second choice on the morning line.

"I've already got the butterflies, that's for sure," said breeder-owner Jim Avritt Sr. "She came through the winter fine, trained well down in Florida. Qualified well there and at Mohawk, I didn't get down to see her since I have a bunch of broodmares and yearlings (at his Kentucky farm) and just couldn't get away."

Avritt said trainer Gregg McNair had no particular goals for the winter. Last season, Precocious Beauty won seven of 11 races, including the She's A Great Lady Stakes, and finished second on three occasions. She equaled the world record of 1:50.1 for a 2-year-old filly pacer on a mile track when she won a division of the International Stallion Stakes at The Red Mile.

"Just tried to maintain what we had," he said. "She's a filly who will give you whatever she has to give; she just goes what she has to go. The other filly I have (in the sires stakes the same night), Barefoot Beauty, she is also a very talented filly, but she's always wanting to give you everything she's got, and more too. It's hard to rein her back, she qualified and came the last half in :55.4."

Avritt will not be able to make the debut, but hopes to catch up with his homebred soon.

"I've got another mare to foal out. I might save my air miles for the Fan Hanover (eliminations June 7 at Mohawk Racetrack and final on June 14) if we're lucky enough to make the final."

Avritt has a yearling filly from broodmare Precious Beauty, a Rock N Roll Heaven-sired half-sister to Precocious Beauty at home in the wings. Precocious Beauty is by Art Major.

"We have a half-sister to break next fall—Passionate Beauty," he said. "I'll keep all the fillies out of Precious Beauty from here on."

Precocious Beauty's driver for much of last year, Doug McNair, son of trainer Gregg McNair, is optimistic about her form coming into the season.

"She wintered pretty good, she was down in Florida all winter," McNair said. "She was a big filly last year, but she filled out a little bit more this year. Size-wise, she looks great. She feels about the same. She qualified a couple times and we schooled her once and she seems like she should be ready to go a pretty good trip here." (*HRC*)

Continues on page 9 >>>



TV Fund Up To \$57,800 From \$103,900 In Pledges

The Meadowlands would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the National Television Fund in response to the Jack Darling initiative in his Standardbred Canada blog.

So far, Meadowlands has received \$ 57,817.99 of the \$103,875 total that was pledged. If anyone who made a pledge would still like to contribute, please send in a check to:

Meadowlands Racetrack TV Fund, 1 Racetrack Drive, East Rutherford, N.J. 07073. (*Meadowlands*)

Meadowlands Pace Has 47 Eligibles

After the final sustaining payment, 47 three-year-old pacers remain eligible for the 35th edition of the Meadowlands Pace.

Due to the increase in horses eligible for the Meadowlands Pace, the purse of the race will grow, according to director of racing operations Darin Zoccali.

"This year just worked out perfectly for this race," said Zoccali. "The combination of a wide open 3-year-old pacing division tied into the changes we have made to the payment structure have secured a stronger purse for the final of the Meadowlands Pace than the past two years, which was our hopes in implementing this plan. At this time last year, we had 25 horses still eligible to the Pace. This year that number is 47, which is incredible. While the purse for the final is always dependent on the number of eliminations, I estimate the purse for the final being in the vicinity of \$750,000."

In addition, the payment structure for the eliminations and final of the Meadowlands Pace is different, with a \$2,500 starting fee for the elimination and a \$5,000 starting fee for the final.

"We thought asking someone to put up \$6,000 for just the elimination with no guarantee of making the final was a policy that could be improved upon," added Zoccali. "By structuring the payments this way, we were able to lighten up the nominating and sustaining payments for the race, while only requiring a \$2,500 starting fee for the elimination. Now, in the case where an owner's horse does not make the final after contesting the eliminations, he has paid nearly \$5,000 less than in previous years. These improvements will continue in 2015 and 2016 and I envision the purse continuing to grow as well." (*Meadowlands*)

49 Eligible To North America Cup

The connections of 49 three-year-old pacing colts and geldings have kept their charges eligible to the 31st edition of the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup by making the final May 15 sustaining payment.

Eliminations for the North America Cup are scheduled for Saturday, June 7, at Mohawk Racetrack, while the rich final

is scheduled to be raced Saturday, June 14, at the Campbellville, Ont. oval.

Headlining this year's group of nominees is the Dan Patch Award winner He's Watching along with top candidates, Lets Drink On It, Always B Miki, JK Endofanera, Tellitlikeitis and Luck Be Withyou, just to name a few.

Woodbine Entertainment Group announced David Bolland, currently a center for the Toronto Maple Leafs, will be the guest drawmaster for the 2014 edition of the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup.

On Tuesday, June 10, at Mohawk Racetrack, Bolland, 28, will be on hand to assist with the noon media event to draw post positions. (*WEG*)

Breakfast With The Babies Saturday At Meadowlands

This time of year is always exciting, not only because warmer weather is upon us, but we have the opportunity to get our first glance at the stars of tomorrow with "Breakfast with the Babies" at the Meadowlands.

The first baby-race session will take place Saturday, May 31, with post time at 9:30 a.m., and will be combined with older qualifying races as well. Thanks to our new facility, we have a new location to offer breakfast each Saturday morning. That location is the elegant Trotters, located on the second floor on the west side of the building.

Trotters members can enjoy complimentary breakfast each Saturday morning while watching the 2 year olds take to the track, but also any New Jersey licensed owner that is not a member of Trotters can enjoy breakfast for just \$7.95 per person. The qualifier and baby race proofs will be made available at the Players Club desk and Trotters hostess stand. In addition, Sam McKee will be calling the baby-race action and each of the 2 year olds yearling sales price will be provided in the racing proof. (*Meadowlands*)

Iovino Named Saratoga Race Secretary

Saratoga Casino and Raceway is pleased to welcome Peter James (P.J.) Iovino as race secretary. Iovino will be replacing Don Hoover, who is retiring at the end of this month after serving as race secretary for Saratoga Harness for 12 years.

Hailing from Brooklyn, Iovino's lifelong passion for harness racing developed at an early age through trips to Monticello Raceway to watch family-owned horses. His involvement in the industry commenced in 1997 when he began as a program editor and chart-caller at Sports Eye.

After exploring other opportunities, Iovino returned to his roots as a chart-caller and race office assistant at Freehold Raceway in 2006. He quickly moved up the ranks and was promoted to assistant race secretary in 2008. Iovino also served as a freelance correspondent for the Daily Racing Form. (*Saratoga*)

RACE LINES

Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of May 27, 2014

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Sebastian K (30)	8th	2-2-0-0	\$107,500	345	1
2. Perfect Alliance (4)	4tm	10-10-0-0	106,650	238	2
3. Somwhoverrainbow (1)	4pm	8-6-1-1	279,250	226	4
4. Foiled Again	10pg	7-4-1-1	180,540	158	3
5. Market Share	5th	3-2-0-0	145,000	154	—
6. Dancin Yankee	6ph	14-8-3-1	193,100	121	5
7. Sweet Lou	5ph	5-2-1-1	68,500	92	—
8. P H Supercam	7pg	14-4-3-6	397,620	89	6
9. Trixton	3tc	3-2-1-0	40,896	77	7
10. Modern Family	5th	11-5-5-1	141,150	71	8

Others receiving votes: Apprentice Hanover 56, Father Patrick, Maven, Shake It Cerry 46, Bee A Magician 29, JK Endofanera 17, Yagonnakissmeornot 15, Wake Up Peter 11, Shebestin 9, Sumatra 8, Classic Martine, DW's NY Yank, Sevruqa 6, Bandalito, Easy Again, Nitro Nitany, Western Vintage 5, Nuncio, State Treasurer 4, Dovuto Hanover, Let's Drink On It, Mach It So 3, Anndrovette, Bettor's Edge, Clear Vision, Rompaway Galaxy, Sam Hill, Tellitlikeitis, Uncle Peter 2, I Like My Boss, Seventh Secret 1.

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through May 27, 2014 (week difference May 14-27).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
P H Supercam (7pg)	14	4	3	6	\$397,620
Somwhoverrainbow (4pm)	8	6	1	1	279,250
Apprentice Hanover (4ph)	11	6	4	1	279,160
Yagonnakissmeornot (5pm)	14	7	5	0	244,175
Anndrovette (7pm)	7	2	1	1	194,712
Dancin Yankee (6ph)	14	8	3	1	193,100
Foiled Again (10pg)	7	4	1	1	180,540
Dw's Ny Yank (5tg)	13	7	2	2	171,600
Easy Again (5pr)	15	5	3	3	160,760
Market Share (5th)	3	2	0	0	145,000

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Pierce	1,458	234-246-203	.301	\$3,336,832 (\$596,834)
Brian Sears	970	217-154-123	.354	3,017,039 (402,565)
Corey Callahan	1,427	245-201-197	.296	2,873,939 (410,082)
Tim Tetrick	894	176-154-120	.337	2,738,006 (711,954)
Yannick Gingras	780	192-120-83	.367	2,648,072 (261,696)
Jason Bartlett	997	168-134-142	.291	2,574,320 (308,370)
George Brennan	1,018	170-130-116	.276	2,554,698 (405,665)
Matt Kakaley	1,151	168-188-159	.283	2,508,302 (424,292)
Brett Miller	1,292	193-149-175	.259	2,116,284 (349,591)
Aaron Merriman	1,735	297-284-251	.310	2,095,113 (315,493)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,695	373-299-215	.360	\$5,595,650 (\$786,648)
P.J. Fraley	452	57-71-69	.264	1,659,485 (285,415)
Rene Allard	582	138-91-74	.366	1,566,812 (226,529)
Julie Miller	248	68-39-36	.410	1,110,377 (295,978)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	417	99-74-43	.370	1,081,556 (198,255)
Carmen Auciello	607	80-80-48	.231	1,071,181 (138,278)
Josh Green	270	73-53-29	.415	804,069 (56,610)
Richard Moreau	437	83-74-49	.321	797,440 (119,344)
Mark Ford	496	51-54-55	.200	761,027 (120,547)
Corey Johnson	298	52-48-34	.302	730,014 (60,146)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	794	407	815	\$7,389,469
Winbak Farm	698	321	624	4,890,892
Perretti Farms	268	143	287	2,598,852
Brittany Farms	223	119	248	2,447,374
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	188	89	172	1,636,900
White Birch Farm	110	67	149	1,428,988
Jules & Arlene Siegel	122	58	144	1,347,919
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	136	81	146	1,183,760
Seelster Farms Inc.	116	64	133	1,033,226
Walnut Hall Limited	125	73	132	1,009,565

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for May 14-27 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Aaron Merriman	195	42-40-33
Tim Tetrick	154	34-28-18
Ron Pierce	180	31-27-29
Casey Leonard	101	27-17-14
George Napolitano Jr.	168	27-22-16
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	132	25-16-15
Corey Callahan	153	25-20-27
Brett Miller	181	24-16-19
George Brennan	119	23-12-18
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	126	23-17-18
Brian Sears	96	22-19-16
Josh Sutton	130	22-21-10
Ross Wolfenden	102	21-10-16
Yannick Gingras	69	21-8-5
Jim DeVaux	118	20-24-14
Jim Marohn Jr.	78	20-9-9
Tony Hall	132	20-17-18
James MacDonald	86	19-17-11
Jason Bartlett	104	19-11-16
Matt Kakaley	137	19-17-16
Mike Wilder	71	19-10-8
Trace Tetrick	117	19-13-12

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	43
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	19
Rene Allard	17
Virgil Morgan Jr.	17
Erv Miller	13
Carmen Auciello	12
Jimmy Takter	11
Julie Miller	11
Wayne Givens	11
Daniel Gill	10
Heidi Rohr	10
Chris Oakes	9
Chris Ryder	9
Rick Plano	9
Walter Haynes Jr.	9
Dan Ater	8
Joseph Hundertpfund Jr.	8
Josh Green	8
Mark Ford	8

JUNE 2014



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 NYSS 3CP (TgDn) Roll With Joe OHP (TgDn)	2	3	4 Currier & Ives 3FT (Mea)	5	6 Armbro Flight OMT elims (Moh) Goodtimes 3CT elims (Moh) NYSS 3FP (MR) PA Stallion 3CP (Mea)	7 Charlie Hill OHT (ScD) Fan Hanover 3FP elims (Moh) Hanover 3CT/3FT (BlmP) INSS 3YO (HoP) North America Cup elims (Moh) OHSS 3FP/3FT (ScD) PASS 3CP (Mea) Roses Are Red OMP elims (Moh)
8 Emp. Breeders Classic 3CT (VD) Emp. Breeders Classic 3FT (VD) NYSS 3CP (VD)	9	10	11 PA Stallion 3CT (PcD) PA Stallion 3FP (Phi)	12 PASS 3FP (Phi)	13 Meadowlands Maturity 4YOP (M) TVG FFA Open Trot (M)	14 Flag Day Armbro Flight OMT final (Moh) Fan Hanover 3FP final (Moh) Goodtimes 3CT final (Moh) Mohawk Gold Cup OHP (Moh) North America Cup final (Moh) PASS 3CT (Mea) Roses Are Red OMP final (Moh)
15 Father's Day DSBF 3CP (Harr) NYSS 3CT (BR)	16 DSBF 3FP (Harr) ONSS Gold 3FT (Moh)	17 DSBF 3FT (Harr) PA Stallion 3FT (PcD)	18 DSBF 3CT (Harr) NYSS 3FP (BR) PASS 3FT (PcD)	19 NYSS 3CP (YR)	20 NYSS 3CT (Stga) Town Pro 3FP (Moh) TVG FFA Open Trot (M)	21 First day of Summer Ben Franklin OHP elims (PcD) Earl Beal Jr. 3CT elims (PcD) James Lynch 3FP elims (PcD) Max Hempt 3CP elims (PcD)
22 DSBF 3CP (Harr) MDSS 4-5YOT (OD)	23 DSBF 3FP (Harr) NYSS 3FT (TgDn) ONSS Gold 3FP (Moh) Summertime 3CP (Moh)	24 DSBF 3FT (Harr) INSS 2CT (HoP) ONSS Gold 3CT (Moh)	25 DSBF 3CT (Harr) INSS 2FT/3FT (HoP)	26 INSS 2FP/3CT (HoP) NYSS 2FT (VD)	27 INSS 2CP/3FP (HoP) NJSS 2CT/2FT (M) NYSS 3CP (BR) Town Pro 3FP (Moh)	28 Ben Franklin OHP final (PcD) Earl Beal Jr. 3CT final (PcD) INSS 3CP (HoP) James Lynch 3FP final (PcD) Max Hempt 3CP final (PcD) NJSS 2CP/2FP (M) NYSS 3FP (TgDn) ONSS Gold 3CP (Moh)
29 MDSS 4-5YOP (OD) NYSS 3CT (BR) PA All Stars 2CP/3FT (PcD)	30 Miss Versatility OMT (Moh) Summertime 3CP (Moh)	1 PA All Stars 2FP (PcD)	2 NYSS 2CP (BR) PA All Stars 2FT (PcD)	3 OHSS 2FP/2FT (Nfld) ONSS Gold 3FT (Moh)	4 Landmark Series (Gosh) NJSS 2CT/2FT (M) NYSS 2FP (MR) OHSS 2CP/2CT (ScD) PA All Stars 2CT (PcD) Town Pro 3FP (Moh)	5 Hambletonian Maturity 4YOT (M) INSS 2&3YO finals (HoP) Meadowlands Pace elims (M) Mistletoe Shalee 3FP elims (M) NJSS 2CP/2FP (M) PA All Stars 3CP/3FP/3CT (PcD) Wm. Haughton TVG Pace elims (M)

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