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NJSS Trot Finals A Hambo Day Preview? Walner's 2017 Debut Is Delayed

The 2017 edition of the New Jersey Sires Stakes for 3 year olds will conclude with \$100,000 finals for each division on Friday night at the Meadowlands.

With 3-year-old offspring by top trotting sire Muscle Hill eligible, the Sires Stakes finals for the trotters could be a bit of a preview of the first Saturday in August, when the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks will be held at the Meadowlands.

"He's battling something and while it's not a terribly big problem, we have to wait for the horse to tell us when he's ready!"

—Linda Toscano
about Walner

Ariana G, last year's Dan Patch award winner in her division thanks to nine wins in 11 starts, including the Breeders Crown and Jim Doherty Memorial, leads the trotting fillies. Trained by Jimmy Takter, she was held out of leg two of the Sires Stakes off after her crushing 1:52.2 victory for Yannick Gingras in the first leg. She drew post 5 in the final (Race 5) and appears to have

speed to spare to win this race.

The final for 3-year-old trotting colts (Race 7) is certainly more competitive, at least on paper. It includes Long Tom, an easy 1:52.1 winner of a Sires Stakes leg on May 19; What The Hill, last year's Peter Haughton Memorial champion and a winner of all three of his starts this season; plus the Jimmy Takter-trained King On The Hill. Those three colts will line up side-by-side from the rail out.

Last year's top 2-year-old trotting colt, Walner, is by the New York-based sire Chapter Seven and is thus not New Jersey eligible, but he qualified at the Meadowlands on May 6. He was scratched from a second qualifier and trainer Linda Toscano has confirmed that his season debut is being delayed.

"I'm not sure he's going to make the Empire Breeders (June 18)," said Toscano. "He's battling something and while it's not a terribly big problem, we have to wait for the horse to tell us when he's ready. The big goal, of course, is the first Saturday in August."

While the Sires Stakes finals for trotters could be previews of Hambletonian day, the finals for the pacers are filled with young horses with more modest accomplishments. All six of the starters in the colt pace are by If I Can Dream but Every Way Out stands out by sweeping through both legs with multi-length victories. He has been installed as the 1-5 choice on the morning line from post 2 in Race 2.

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The filly division includes five daughters of If I Can Dream, but a filly by Philos Hanover is poised for a sweep. Colorful Jasmine, has dominated her rivals in both legs and starts from post 1 in Race 4. Trained by Tom Cancelliere, Colorful Jasmine was bred and is owned by Cancelliere's brother John. The filly is one of just two foals by Philos Hanover born in 2014. The Cancellieres raced Philos and the stallion is now leased by Delaware Valley University and stands at stud in Pennsylvania.—By Kathy Parker

\$200,000 BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

Northfield Park, Saturday, June 3, Race 11, Post Time: 9:45 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Guantanamo Bay	V. Ginsburg/D. Renaud	9-2
2—Soto	A. Stafford Jr./E. Ell	6-1
3—Luck Be Withyou	A. Merriman/C. Oakes	3-1
4—All Bets Off	M. Kakaley/R. Burke	5-2
5—Mr. Wiggle Pants	D. McNair/S. McEneny	15-1
6—Night Pro	R. Wrenn Jr./D. Decker	12-1
7—Rockin Ron	R. Stahl/R. Burke	8-1
8—Sunfire Blue Chip	M. MacDonald/J. Takter	10-1

Third Time A Charm For Luck Be Withyou?

Trainer Chris Oakes is hoping the third time will be a charm for Luck Be Withyou in Saturday night's \$200,000 Battle of Lake Erie at Northfield Park. Now six, Luck Be Withyou hasn't had much luck in his first two Battle appearances, finishing fourth to Wiggle It Jiggleit last year, and in 2015 making a break while on the lead at the three-quarters as the even-money favorite.

Add in a dead-heat second-place finish in the 2014 Carl Milstein Memorial, and Luck Be Withyou is winless in three career attempts over the half-mile Northfield Park oval. But coming into this year's Battle renewal off a pair of sparkling 1:49.3 victories at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, Oakes is optimistic.

"He's really good right now; he's sound and sharp and this is a good spot for us," said Oakes.

Luck Be Withyou is listed as the 3-1 second choice on the morning line, starting from post 3 with Northfield Park's leading driver Aaron Merriman, who is also comfortably on his way to his third consecutive North American dash title.

"My horse is a speed horse, and if someone wants to try and leave around him, they're in for a long night."

—Chris Oakes

All Bets Off, who won the 2014 Milstein and was second in last year's Battle, is the 5-2 program favorite with Matt Kakaley driving.

"Glad he took him because he knows that surface pretty good," Oakes said of Merriman climbing into the sulky behind the son of Western Ideal whose career earnings are \$1,339,741.

Oakes said he still isn't sure what caused Luck Be Withyou to go offstride while seemingly on his way to a victory in the 2015 Battle. Last year he was satisfied with a fourth-place finish considering his pacer was up against Wiggle It Jiggleit.

"Three strikes and you're out, so maybe we will do some good this year," said Oakes. "The main thing was the post position. My horse is a speed horse, and if someone wants to try and leave around him, they're in for a long night."

With the \$500,000 Ben Franklin on July 1, a win in the Battle of Lake Erie would go a long way toward Luck Be

FREE Program Pages

THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, June 2

All times listed are local.

7:40p	M2	NJSS 3CP final	Trackmaster PPs
8:20p	M4	NJSS 3FP final	Trackmaster PPs
8:40p	M5	NJSS 3FT final	Trackmaster PPs
9:25p	M7	NJSS 3CT final	Trackmaster PPs

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

Saturday, June 3

1:05p	Mea1	Currier & Ives 3CT div.	Trackmaster PPs
2:05p	Mea4	Currier & Ives 3CT div.	Trackmaster PPs
3:25p	Mea8	Currier & Ives 3CT div.	Trackmaster PPs
7:50p	Moh2	Graduate 4YO Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs
8:30p	Moh4	SBSW 3CP div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	Moh7	Graduate 4YO Trot	Trackmaster PPs
9:45p	Nfld11	Battle of Lake Erie	Trackmaster PPs
9:50p	Moh8	SBSW 3CP div.	Trackmaster PPs
10:10p	Moh9	Graduate 4YO Pace div.	Trackmaster PPs

[Click here to download all Saturday 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

Editorial Production

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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Withyou securing a spot in the main event (richest entrants in 2017) and not in the consolation, which he won last year. Luck Be Withyou won the \$500,000 Franklin in 2015, which ties with the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace final in 2013 as his biggest purse victories. — By Gordon Waterstone

WIJI To Miss Franklin; Pointed To Haughton

Trainer George Teague Jr. told Weekend Preview Tuesday afternoon (May 30) that his 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit, who is on the verge of topping the \$4-million mark in career earnings, is still battling back issues and is not expected to return to the track until mid July.

"I'm not going to make the Ben Franklin (on July 1 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono) with him, so now I'm back to a month later for the William Haughton at the Meadowlands (on July 15)," said Teague, who owns the 5-year-old gelding. "He's had the same back issues which he's had since he was a 2 year old. I've been injecting his back and it's more of a treatment than we used before. It's something we are going to have to maintain and keep up on."

Teague said Wiggle It Jiggleit has been training, but is nowhere close to returning.

"He's been back in 1:57 (on the back track at Harrington Raceway) about 10 days ago, but the problem with him and any other horse of his status, you have to be ready before you are ready," said Teague. "So when I get the chance to get him back on the track, he will be ready to go. Unfortunately, any setback at all is like a dagger, but he's fine.

"Two things with him, he has to be more than 100 percent right," added Teague. "Last year, coming back as a 4 year old, when he qualified the first time he jumped a shadow and everybody was really concerned. I was a little bit con-

Diamond Creek PA Holding Open House Saturday

Diamond Creek Farm is throwing its third annual Open House on Saturday (June 3) from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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cerned too. The next time he qualified he qualified in 1:50. This is where he has to go. If he can't go in 1:50, he won't be able to race very often. He will get there and I don't think it will be too much longer."

Wiggle It Jiggleit currently has \$3,907,557 in earnings, with more than \$1.7 million coming in 2016. He has catapulted to sixth on the all-time earnings list, about \$3.6 million behind the \$75-million-winning Foiled Again. His career best of 1:47.2 came last July while winning the \$250,000 Graduate final at the Meadowlands. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

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Marcus Melander Hopes Long Tom Is Big In Big Races This Year

After opening his 2017 campaign with a 1:52.1 win in the first round of the New Jersey Sires Stakes series for 3-year-old male trotters, Long Tom is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line in Friday's \$100,000 championship at the Meadowlands Racetrack, with Tim Tetrick in the sulky. The colt's win time is the fastest this season for a 3-year-old trotter.

"I couldn't be happier with him after the first race he did," said Melander, who trains Long Tom for owner AMG Stable Oy of Finland. "He's been training great. I was very happy he won because we didn't have to race the week after (in the second round of the Sires Stakes). It was perfect for him to have a week off and go into the final."

"He put a lot of muscle on him over the winter. He looks really good. I can't be happier with him."

—Marcus Melander about Long Tom

Long Tom, who arrived from Europe to Melander's stable in April 2016, won three of seven races last year and earned \$60,950. He had three wins and a second in his first four starts, capped by a 1:55.2 victory in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile. He was third in a division of the International Stallion before finishing

off the board in his Breeders Crown elimination and the Matron Stakes.

"He raced very good before Lexington and he raced very good at Lexington, but then we had some bad luck in the Breeders Crown and Matron," Melander said. "He got a little sore, but he's a very good horse. We knew that when we shut him down last year.

"He came back very good. He grew a lot over the winter. He's a very big boy now. He put a lot of muscle on him over the winter. He looks really good. I can't be happier with him."

Following the New Jersey Sires Stakes, Long Tom is eligible to the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial, Stanley Dancer Memorial, and Hambletonian Stakes. The \$1 million Hambletonian is Aug. 5 at the Meadowlands.

"That's the plan with him at least," said Melander, whose uncle Stefan won the 2001 Hambletonian with Scarlet Knight. "It's going to be tough to beat (returning Dan Patch Award winner) Walner, that's for sure, but behind Walner it's pretty open. I think Long Tom is one of those horses with the potential to race in the big races."

In addition to Long Tom, Melander has a Hambletonian hopeful in Enterprise. The colt raced only once last year after a late arrival from overseas, but is undefeated in four career starts for Melander. His most recent triumph was a 1:53.4 score in a division of the New York Sire Stakes at Vernon Downs.

"He's been very good too," Melander said. "I'm very happy with my 3-year-olds. The main thing is to keep them sound and healthy and we could have a good year for both of them." —By Ken Weingartner/Harness Racing Communications

Hambletonian Charity Event Set For Night Before Big Race

Save the date for the Hambletonian Party and Poker & Casino Night Charity Event. It will be held Friday, Aug. 4, at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Proceeds will benefit the Standardbred Retirement Foundation and the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame.

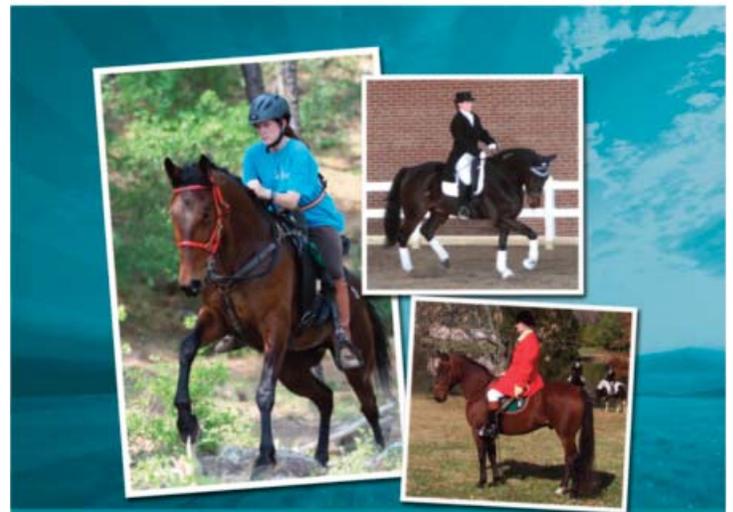
If you are at the Meadowlands for the races on Friday, or in town for the Hambletonian on Saturday, Aug. 5, you can join the fun and camaraderie and help raise funds for two important harness racing charities.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include open bar, appetizers, dessert and \$25 in casino chips. As always, there will be many fantastic raffle prizes available and additional casino chips may be purchased through the night. The silent auction item is six tickets to the general manager's suite for a New York Yankees game. Open bar and table games begin at 6 p.m. in Victory Sports Bar & Club.

A poker tournament is part of the event at \$125 per person, with limited seats available. The chip leader will receive a three-night, four-day trip for two to Las Vegas, including round-trip airfare, first-class hotel accommodations, food/beverage allowance and show tickets. Second place is \$250, third \$125. The tournament begins at 7:15 p.m. in Victory.

Purchase tickets now by calling either the Harness Racing Museum or the Standardbred Retirement Foundation. Tickets will also be available online at a later date and at the door.

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STRETCH CALL



BY ANDREA PIETRZAK

Blake MacIntosh's NA Cup Dreams Ride With Sports Column

The closest Blake MacIntosh has come to experiencing a North America Cup win was via a vicarious connection to Sportswriter when that colt captured the \$1.5 million race in 2010.

Back then, MacIntosh had been the boyfriend of Sportswriter's trainer, Casie Coleman, for almost 10 years. Although the two Ontario-based conditioners had been in direct competition on the provincial stakes circuit for the better part of decade, MacIntosh whole-heartedly celebrated when his then-girlfriend's colt captured that year's edition of the lucrative pace in a commanding clocking of 1:48.3.

"It was exciting just to be in the background for that one," says MacIntosh about Sportswriter's NA Cup score. "It's not the same as it being your own horse, but I was happy for Casie."

A native of Orillia, Ont., MacIntosh says he, like pretty much every horseman, dreams of winning the sport's biggest races. Getting a taste of a North America Cup triumph in 2010, no matter how indirectly, made him all the hungrier to experience the thrill for himself.

"It's the biggest race for the breed out there so there's nothing else like it," says MacIntosh.

Fast forward seven years. Coleman and MacIntosh have split up and gone on to marry other partners. Both trainers continue to manage their own sizable stable of stakes winners, both have raced offspring of Sportswriter, and both are mainstays on the Ontario circuit. More importantly, though, both Coleman and MacIntosh currently have a solid North America Cup eligible in their respective barns.

Coleman, who garnered a second North America Cup title in 2016 when Betting Line tied the stakes, track and Canadian record of 1:47.4, is now pinning her hopes for a third NA Cup trophy on Ideal Wheel. A son of another one of Coleman's previous trainees, American Ideal, Ideal Wheel has yet to prove he has the gears to win the big race and will be tuning up for the NA Cup with a start in the second division of the Somebeachsomewhere at Mohawk Racetrack on Saturday.

For his part, MacIntosh will be sending Sports Column postward in the first division of the Somebeachsomewhere with the aim of getting the 2016 Battle of Waterloo winner ready for a possible NA Cup showdown.

"He has the rail for this weekend—which is where he likes to be," the veteran trainer said.

"He's really coming on nicely and he's matured great over the winter. So, we'll see how he manages with Chris (Christoforou) in the bike again like always and hopefully we'll keep the Cup in sight," MacIntosh added with cautious optimism.

A multiple Ontario Sires Stakes winner with \$229,180 in career earnings to date, Sports Column has four wins, two seconds and one third in eight career starts. A \$20,000 purchase for MacIntosh at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, this son of Sportswriter is co-owned by Hutt Racing Stable of Paoli, Pa., and Daniel Plouffe from Bromont, Que.

MacIntosh says he liked the look of Sports Column as soon as he saw him at auction.

"He looks like Sportswriter," said MacIntosh. "He's dark and now about the same size as his sire except that he has four white feet. That's more chrome than I usually go for, and he has a slightly offset knee, but he's otherwise a perfect individual that really caught my eye."

The sophomore pacer did experience a few health problems after his rookie season. Fluctuating liver numbers and a snotty nose caused his connections some concerns until it was discovered that pine chips were causing chronic al-

"He's dark and now about the same size as his sire except that he has four white feet."

—Blake MacIntosh about Sports Column, a starter in this Saturday's Somebeachsomewhere and a North America Cup eligible

lergy problems. A simple change of bedding material solved that headache. Then, there was some soreness in a front leg.

lergy problems. A simple change of bedding material solved that headache. Then, there was some soreness in a front leg.

"We had some trouble with him popping an osselet at the end of last year, but that has cleared up real well with rest and turn out. I'm real happy with how that

healed," MacIntosh stated emphatically.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for MacIntosh will be keeping Sports Column focused on his work. A feisty 3 year old, the crafty colt has a knack for unlatching gates and climbing fences. As a result, down time is often spent in the arena at Hunter Hills Farm, a riding stable in Cambridge, Ont. The youngster also has quite the eye for the ladies and his trainer has seriously considered gelding the pacer on numerous occasions.

"He's my buddy and he's just got to be a colt, but I've promised him he gets to keep his balls if he behaves himself," MacIntosh joked.

Sports Column will face some serious competition in his Somebeachsomewhere division with Beyond Delight, Canada's 2-year-old pacing colt of the year in 2016, scheduled to start in the seven hole.

Andrea Pietrzak was on the staff of the Canadian Sportsman magazine for 10 years until leaving to complete her education. She currently lives in London, Ont. Her column appears in HarnessRacing Weekend Preview in part through the advertising support of Woodbine Entertainment Group. Any opinions expressed in this column are her own and not necessarily those of the Horseman Publishing Company and its publications or its advertisers.


ONES TO WATCH

With the calendar turning to June, 2 year olds are beginning to hit the racetrack for the first time and on Friday 17 will take to the track at Mohawk while another 31 will race Saturday in six qualifiers at the Meadowlands.

Post time at each track is 10 a.m. Announcing the qualifiers at Mohawk will be Mark McKelvie, recently named announcer at the Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile, while at the Big M the race caller at qualifiers will be general manager Jason Settlemoir.

PRO BEACH, at \$450,000 the highest-priced pacing colt sold at auction last year, will start in the last of the six baby races at the Big M, starting from post 1 with driver David Miller. Pro Beach is one of 10 rookie starters from the barn of trainer Jimmy Takter in action on Saturday.

A son of Somebeachsomewhere, Pro Beach is out of the standout mare Darlin's Delight, making him a full brother to the stakes-winning Darlinonthebeach, who races for Takter's daughter, Nancy Johansson. Johansson starts **SPEAR POINT** from post 5 in the same qualifier. Spear Point is a son of A Rocknroll Dance who is out of a half-sister to 2006 Pacer of the Year Total Truth.

WILD BILL, a son of Somebeachsomewhere, will start from post 2 for trainer-driver Ray Schnittker. Wild Bill is a full brother to 2016 Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year Huntsville. Takter has a second starter in **JK FIELDING**, a son of Well Said renamed for co-owner John Fielding. Starting from post 4, JK Fielding is out of a full sister to 2008 Horse of the Year Somebeachsomewhere.

Race 1 is for 2-year-old filly trotters and Takter will start **MANCHEGO**, who is out of half-sister to Possess The Magic. The field includes the Johansson-trained **CAVIART LADY**, who is out of a half-sister to world champion Cash Hall, and **MADE IT HAPPEN**, a daughter of Conway Hall out of the Valley Victory mare Meadowbranch Magic, making the filly a full sister to 2010 Kentucky Futurity champ Wishing Stone.

Takter starts three in Race 2 for 2-year-old male trotters, including **STRAIGHT FLUSH**, a half-brother to The Bank and whose second dam is Lantern Kronos. Another Takter trainee is the \$230,000 yearling purchase **BROTHERS N ARMS**, a son of Cantab Hall out of Gala Dream, already the dam of stars Father Patrick and Pastor Stephen. Takter's last entry in this race is **BAUTISTA**, a son of Muscle Hill out of the Andover Hall mare Ever Gorgeous. Schnittker will start **CHASIN' DREAMS** in this baby race. A son of Credit Winner, Chasin' Dreams is out of the Donerail mare Bold Dreamer,

whose progeny include Pampered Princess, who earned more than \$1.6 million for Takter.

Takter also has three in Race 3 for first-year male pacers, including \$110,000 purchase **DECOY**, whose dam is a half-sister to two-time divisional champ See You At Peelers, \$150,000 purchase **NUTCRACKER SWEET**, a half-brother to champions Sweet Lou and Bettor Sweet (combined earnings of more than \$6.2 million), and **MACADOODLEDOO**, a son of Somebeachsomewhere.

Trainer Joe Holloway sends out **CLOSING BELL**, a half-sister to Sassa Hanover, in that same race while Schnittker starts **LUCKY LEONARD**, a son of Well Said out of Beachy Lady, whose family includes Holloway's great filly She's A Great Lady. Lucky Leonard is a sibling to four winners of more than \$200,000, including Summer Side, who recently finished second in the Art Rooney final at Yonkers.

Two-year-old filly pacers comprise Race 5, with Johansson starting **EDEN**, whose dam is a full sister to world champion Jereme's Jet, and **KISSIN IN THE SAND**, a daughter of Somebeachsomewhere out of the mare Kiss Me Kate, who is a full sister to Kikikatie. Holloway will send out **NEWS-DAY**, whose dam is 2008 Jugette winner Good News Lady, while Brett Bittle will be represented by **CLASSY CHRIS**, whose second dam is the Hall of Fame broodmare Classic Wish, whose line-up of stars includes Bettor's Delight, No Pan Intended and Roll With Joe.

Holloway comes right back in Race 5 for freshman filly pacers with **RAINBOW ROOM**, whose dam is the 2004 Horse of the Year Rainbow Blue. Holloway trained Rainbow Room's full sister Somwherovrainbow to a win in the 2014 Blue Chip Matchmaker final.

In that same race, Takter starts **SANTA ROSA**, a sister to his \$1 million-winner Great Vintage and a half-sister to his \$2 million-winner Vintage Master. Johansson sends out **JK HIGHER POWER**, who is a full sister to Highalator, who has already won 10 races in 2017, including the Weiss final at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

The first-year starters at Mohawk include **CANALE HANOVER**, whose dam is a half-sister to the star trotter Supergrit, **ZEPELIN BI**, whose second dam is the 1997 Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year No Nonsense Woman, **MCKINNON**, whose dam is a full sister to the Canada's 2005 Horse of the Year Admiral's Express, and **ATTHEBEACH HANOVER**, a son of Somebeachsomewhere out of the 2008 Breeders Crown champ and 2007 She's A Great Lady winner A And Gs Confusion.



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USTA Driving School Gets Underway

When he was a young child, around the age of 4 or 5, Pep Moretti sat down with some crayons and began to create his own harness racing driving colors. Now, three decades later, he hopes to begin on a path to put his design to use.

Moretti, a police officer from Illinois, is among the 20 participants in the 18th annual U.S. Trotting Association Driving School, which got underway Wednesday at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in central Ohio with a welcome dinner and keynote address from Bob Boni, the founder and president of Northwood Bloodstock Agency and co-owner of 2016 Horse of the Year Always B Miki.

The school runs through Saturday and offers students a mix of hands-on learning and classroom sessions culminating with the administration of the USTA's trainer and/or driver exam. Participants came from eight different states, with Ohio producing the most attendees, with seven.

"I've been a railbird since I've been alive," said Moretti, who grew up in Chicago. "When I was a kid, I wanted to be a police officer and a harness driver. I'm a police officer now, but I never was able to work for a stable and get to drive. For the last five years I've been trying to get to the school. My schedule finally matched up to where I could make it."

Moretti recently bought an interest in a 2-year-old pacer, his first foray into horse ownership, and was anxious to get to work Thursday in the barn and on the track at the Driving School. His goal is to get licensed as a driver and participate at least at the amateur level.

"Even if I just drove my own horse I'd be happy," Moretti said. "My friends and family think I'm nuts because they say my idea of a vacation is to work in a stable. Yes, it is. I'm excited. To be here, at the home of the Little Brown Jug, is pretty sweet."

While the majority of Driving School attendees came from Ohio and neighboring Indiana, Marcus Taylor traveled the farthest distance to the fairgrounds. Taylor, a 37-year-old telecommunications tech, is from Alaska. Taylor has lived in Anchorage since getting out of the Army in 2002.

His interest in harness racing, though, has its roots in Tennessee, where he grew up watching his father and uncles compete on small backwoods tracks. The family also raced horses in Kentucky, but has not been active in the sport for about 25 years.

That has not diminished Taylor's passion for harness racing. "I watch races on my tablet at least five times a day," Taylor said. "I would love to drive in an amateur race. It's always been something I've been interested in, I just didn't know how to go about doing it. I saw about the school on YouTube and wanted to do it. I always helped my dad and uncles; harnessing the horses, hooking them up to the bike, but it's been a while."

In addition to learning about training and driving, Taylor has one other dream when it comes to harness racing—to meet Hall of Fame driver John Campbell.

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FEATURE	TRACK PROGRAM	PLATINUM PAST PERFORMANCES
Basic Program Information	YES	YES
Speed & Class Ratings	NO	YES
Power Ratings	NO	YES
Conditional Driver & Trainer Stats	NO	YES
Lifetime Horse Statistics	NO	YES
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



"What Michael Jordan is to basketball, to me, that's what John Campbell is to harness racing," Taylor said.

Boni noted during his hour-long talk with the Driving School participants that access to the stars in harness racing is much greater than most sports.

"One of the things I always stress about this business is you get to meet some of the most wonderful, most special, people you're going to meet anywhere," Boni said. "And unlike other areas, they're very approachable. There's no other sport that you can go into and literally be shoulder to shoulder with the very best."

"You can't go to a football game and have a conversation with Tom Brady. It's not happening. But you can come here and have a conversation with (Hall of Fame trainer) Jimmy Taker, and he's every bit as accomplished on his level as they are. Great horses, great people, it all goes hand in hand."

Boni, who grew up in New York's borough of Queens and was introduced to harness racing through trips to Roosevelt and Yonkers raceways, began working in the industry in the late 1960s. He spent 11 years at Pine Hollow Stud Farm, rising to the position of vice president, before starting his own ventures.

"It's available, it's accessible," Boni said. "It's not impossible. I'm living proof. Being with the horses, if you're fortunate enough to do it, I think is a very, very special experience. I would recommend it to anybody."

"When your horse crosses the wire first, that's a pretty good feeling. I don't care what class it is, what level it is, it's a feeling that's great." (HRC)


harnessracing.com HEADLINES
France's Timoko wins his second Elitlopp

France won the Elitlopp but Bold Eagle was not the horse standing in the winner's circle. Instead, the 10-year-old Timoko, who won the race in 2014, advanced to the final with a third-place finish in his elimination and then surprisingly controlled the final heat. He won in 1:51 by one-half length over the fast-closing Propulsion, bred in the US by Cane Run Farm and Bluestone Farms. [more](#)

Late Pick 4 pool continues growth at Big M

The Late Pick Four at the Meadowlands has continued its growth in 2017 with an average nightly pool size of \$91,912 during May. That amount is an increase of 7.8 percent versus April (carryover date excluded). May saw a nearly 24 percent increase in average pool size compared to January, which traditionally provides some of the larger nightly handles of the year. [more](#)

Bouchard returns to Hippodrome 3R after 20 years

Stephane Bouchard is heading back to his home province of Quebec this Sunday to compete in the second annual All-Star Drivers Tournament at the Hippodrome 3R. [more](#)

Russell Foster takes Rosecroft driving titles

Driver Russell Foster celebrated an incredible spring meet at Rosecroft Wednesday evening by winning five races, including two Maryland Sire Stakes Finals, on his way to the driving title on closing night. [more](#)

Simon Allard hits 3,000 wins with Pocono score

Driver Simon Allard, coming to The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono Sunday night (May 28) one sulky success short of 3,000 for his career, wasted little time getting the milestone triumph, taking the second race at the mountain oval with San Jose Hanover, rallying the pacer from the pocket and giving him a new mark of 1:54.3. [more](#)

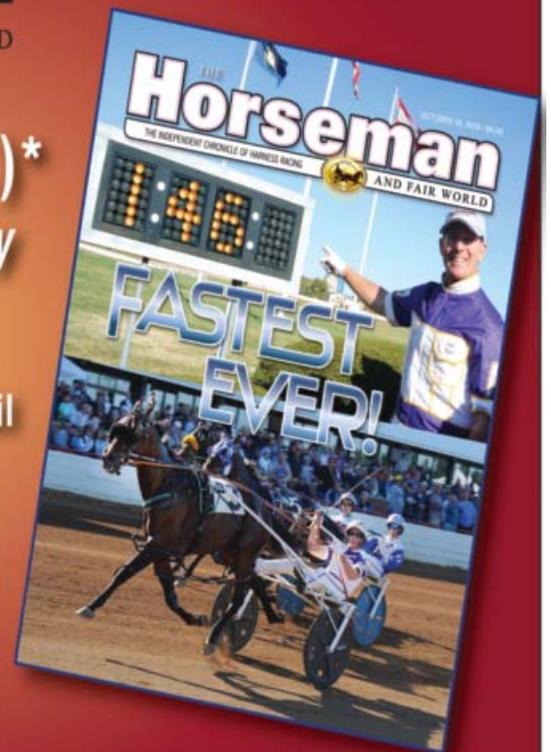
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RACE LINES

Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of May 30, 2016

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Downbytheseaside (21)	3pc	3-3-0-0	\$188,910	295	—
2. Lady Shadow (7)	6pm	2-2-0-0	125,000	235	—
3. Bit Of A Legend N (1)	8ph	10-3-2-3	193,170	167	—
4. Crazy Wow	5th	4-1-3-0	131,500	134	—
5. Somewhere In LA (2)	6pg	17-7-4-2	346,500	129	—
6. Mossdale Conner N (1)	8pg	4-4-0-0	126,000	109	—
7. Resolve (1)	6th	1-1-0-0	93,000	91	—
8. Keystone Velocity	9ph	8-3-0-1	323,000	82	—
9. Ariana G (1)	3tf	1-1-0-0	10,000	75	—
10. Fear The Dragon	3pc	3-3-0-0	47,907	72	—

Others receiving votes: Hannelore Hanover 65, Missile J 63, Huntsville 52, Mackenzie A 37, What The Hill 29, Broadway Donna 28, Clear Vision 25, Rock N' Roll World 23, Rockeyed Optimist 17, Highalator 15, Cousin Mary 13, Lord Cromwell 12, Medusa, Mel Mara, Red Hot Herbie 11, Soto, Western Fame 10, Christen Me N, Enterprise 8, Safe From Terror, Sintra, Tequila Monday 7, Hemi Seelster, Tight Lines 6, American Virgin, Caviart Wonder, Major Uptrend, Sortie 5, Bags To Riches, Sandbetweenurtoes 4, Caviart Luca, Freeze Out, Keystone I Wish, Treviso 3, Barn Girl, Charmed Life, Mach It So, Magic Presto, Master Clave 2, Belle'svictoryring, Dontellmeagain, Knocking Around, Mach It A Par, Odds On Amethyst 1). Huntsville received 1 first-place vote. North American statistics only.

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through May 30, 2017 (week difference May 24-30).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Somewhere In LA (6pg)	17	7	4	2	\$346,500
Keystone Velocity (9ph)	8	3	0	1	323,000
Mackenzie A (5pm)	9	2	2	1	217,800
Bit Of A Legend N (8ph)	10	3	2	3	193,170
Downbytheseaside (3pc)	3	3	0	0	188,910
Missile J (4pg)	13	7	0	3	184,580
Red Hot Herbie (7tg)	13	5	1	1	177,200
Medusa (6pm)	18	5	2	4	167,260
Soto (5ph)	14	6	0	1	161,950
Freeze Out (4pm)	14	7	3	1	161,640

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	1,103	247-188-157	.366	\$4,932,038 (\$236,294)
Jordan Stratton	960	166-139-139	.302	3,925,199 (180,695)
Aaron Merriman	1,952	461-324-277	.376	3,315,550 (187,457)
Matt Kakaley	1,132	157-163-155	.264	3,305,851 (137,855)
George Brennan	919	104-109-105	.217	2,566,695 (145,011)
Yannick Gingras	819	173-137-97	.344	2,432,833 (280,458)
Corey Callahan	1,368	243-196-172	.299	2,420,078 (104,527)
Tim Tetrick	832	160-114-117	.315	2,352,940 (268,206)
Daniel Dube	838	82-96-106	.204	2,332,800 (169,925)
Mark MacDonald	802	91-99-93	.221	2,179,256 (40,688)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,433	307-230-194	.349	\$4,428,183 (\$316,927)
Rene Allard	766	172-127-91	.356	2,504,505 (210,540)
Richard Banca	484	82-86-70	.316	2,124,633 (142,535)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	546	86-86-83	.296	1,421,275 (65,665)
Scott Di Domenico	430	82-57-59	.310	1,374,714 (59,135)
Andrew Harris	401	73-62-45	.305	1,258,010 (54,835)
Richard Moreau	549	109-83-82	.332	1,157,385 (112,331)
Rob Harmon	307	57-43-28	.294	858,956 (25,030)
Peter Tritton	82	19-16-7	.369	838,606 (149,250)
Matias Ruiz	322	50-35-44	.261	824,773 (73,722)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	740	383	770	\$7,981,635
Winbak Farm	707	352	731	6,308,740
Brittany Farms	187	107	230	2,362,715
Seelster Farms Inc.	142	86	219	1,882,968
Perretti Farms	160	95	191	1,829,218
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	135	75	165	1,600,390
White Birch Farm	126	65	135	1,427,535
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	112	60	146	1,371,828
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	99	54	110	1,353,135
Steve Stewart	111	63	136	1,341,712

Leaders Of The Week

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

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Aaron Merriman	100	25-22-15
George Napolitano Jr	88	19-17-14
Trace Tetrick	58	17-7-5
Yannick Gingras	61	16-6-7
Jim Morrill Jr.	39	15-8-5
David Miller	64	14-10-10
Josh Sutton	48	13-3-6
Simon Allard	56	13-9-4
Tim Tetrick	68	13-10-9
Brian Sears	47	12-5-6
Bob McClure	47	11-6-11
Greg Merton	32	11-6-2
Jim DeVaux	58	11-4-8
Ryan Stahl	49	11-9-11
Jason Bartlett	49	10-9-6
Kevin Switzer Jr.	41	10-10-6
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	56	10-7-9
Sam Widger	51	10-8-7
Scott Zeron	49	10-6-8

Trainers

Trainers	Wins
Rene Allard	15
Ron Burke	14
Virgil Morgan Jr	10
Richard Moreau	8
Al Annunziata	6
Dolores Basilone	6
Frank Antonacci	6
Kyle Spagnola	6
Richard Banca	6
Scott Di Domenico	6
Christopher Hitchcock	5
David Dewhurst	5
Erv Miller	5
Jackie Greene	5
James Stiltner II	5
Kayne Kauffman	5
Kimberly Asher	5
Linda Toscano	5
Matias Ruiz	5
Monica Krist	5
Sam Schillaci	5
Tyler George	5

JUNE 2017



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
28 Ben Stafford Jr. OHP (Phl) Betsy Ross OMP (Phl) Maxie Lee Mem. OHT (Phl) NYSS/Excelsior 3FT (TgDn) Elitlopp OHT (Solvalla)	29 Memorial Day NYSS/Excelsior 3CT (VD)	30 INSS 3FT final (HoP)	31 INSS 3CT final (HoP) MDSS 3YO finals (RcR) PA Stallion 3CP (Phl)	1 PASS 3CP (Phl)	2 INSS 3CP final (HoP) NJSS 3YO finals (M) NYSS/Excelsior 3FP (Stga)	3 Battle Of Lake Erie OHP (Nfid) Currier & Ives 3CT (Mea) Graduate 4YO Pace (Moh) Graduate 4YO Trot (Moh) INSS 3FP final (HoP) Somebeachsomewhere 3CP (Moh)
4	5	6 D-Day	7 Horseman NYSS/Excelsior 3CP (BR) PA Stallion 3FT (Phl) Rose OHT (HoP)	8 PASS 3FT (Phl)	9 Armbo Flight OMT elims (Moh) Emp. Breeders Classic 3CT elims (VD) Emp. Breeders Classic 3FT elims (VD) Goodtimes 3CT elim (Moh) NYSS/Excelsior 3FP (VD) OHSS 3FP (ScD) Trimble H&G Pace (HoP) Bluegrass Downs opens	10 Charlie Hill OHT (ScD) Fan Hanover 3FP elims (Moh) North America Cup 3CP elims (Moh) OHSS 3CP (ScD) PASS 3CT (PcD) PASS 3FP (Mea) Roses Are Red OMP elims (Moh) Thompson F&M Pace (HoP)
11 Graduate 4YO Pace (TgDn) Graduate 4YO Trot (TgDn) PA Stallion 3CT (PcD) Ocean Downs opens	12 DSBF 3CP (Har) PA Stallion 3FP (Mea)	13 Buckeye Stallion 3FP (ScD) DSBF 3FP (Har)	14 Flag Day DSBF 3CT (Har) DSBF 3FT (Har) Rose OHT (HoP)	15	16 Trimble H&G Pace (HoP)	17 Armbo Flight OMT final (Moh) Fan Hanover 3FP final (Moh) Goodtimes 3CT final (Moh) Mohawk Gold Cup OHP (Moh) North America Cup 3CP final (Moh) OHSS 3FT (Nfid) Roses Are Red OMP final (Moh) Thompson F&M Pace (HoP)
18 Father's Day Emp. Breeders Classic 3CT final (VD) Emp. Breeders Classic 3FT final (VD) NYSS/Excelsior 3CP (VD) PASS 3FT (PcD)	19 DSBF 3CP (Har) OHSS 3CT (ScD) PA Stallion 3FT (PcD)	20 Buckeye Stallion 3CP (ScD) DSBF 3FP (Har)	21 Horseman First day of Summer DSBF 3CT (Har) DSBF 3FT (Har) NYSS/Excelsior 3FP (BR) Rose OHT final (HoP)	22	23 Trimble H&G Pace final (HoP)	24 Ben Franklin OHP elims (PcD) Buckeye Stallion 3FT (Nfid) Earl Beal Jr. Mem. 3CT elims (PcD) James Lynch Mem. 3FP elims (PcD) Max Hempt Mem. 3CP elims (PcD) Thompson F&M Pace final (HoP)
25 MDSS 4&5YO Pace (OD) NYSS/Excelsior 3FT (BR)	26 MDSS 4&5YO Trot (OD)	27 Buckeye Stallion 3CT (Nfid)	28 INSS 3FT (HoP)	29 INSS 3CT (HoP)	30 INSS 3CP (HoP) NJSS 2YO's (M) NYSS/Excelsior 2FT (BR)	1 Ben Franklin OHP final (PcD) Cleveland Classic OHT (Nfid) Excelsior 3CP/3FP (Gosh) INSS 3FP (HoP) Earl Beal Jr. Mem. 3CT final (PcD) James Lynch Mem. 3FP final (PcD) Max Hempt Mem. 3CP final (PcD) OHSS 3CP (Nfid)



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