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Harness Racing

WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

Inside
Weekly
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News Digest

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Changes Made On Top NA Cup Contenders

Lost InTime and Stay Hungry, respectively one-two in Dan Patch Award divisional voting in 2017, arguably are two of the top contenders in this year's Pepsi North America Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park, which has 29 entries divided into a trio of eliminations on Saturday night.

The top three finishers in each elim, plus a fourth-place finisher drawn by lot, will advance to the \$1 million final on June 16.

In addition to the NA Cup elims, Saturday's card also features pairs of elims for the Fan Hanover for 3-year-old filly pacers and the Roses Are Red for older pacing mares. Friday's action includes pairs of elims for the Goodtimes for 3-year-old colt trotters and the Armbro Flight for older trotting mares.

"He's a bad-steering horse and is a little bit in-and-out all the time and we've been working with him."

—Jimmy Takter
about Lost In Time

day's action includes pairs of elims for the Goodtimes for 3-year-old colt trotters and the Armbro Flight for older trotting mares.

Lost InTime and Stay Hungry drew into separate eliminations, delaying a possible showdown until the rich

final. Lost InTime starts from post 1 in the third elim (Race 8) with driver Scott Zeron, while Stay Hungry starts from post 3 in the first elim (Race 4) with driver Doug McNair.

Lost InTime finished second by a nose in his sophomore debut in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes on May 19 at Pocono, and then was second by 4 ½ lengths to the non-NA Cup-eligible Jimmy Freight in a Somebeachsomewhere division last Saturday night at Mohawk. In that race, driver Zeron moved Lost InTime on the outside but the son of A Rockroll Dance had some issues.

"He was mad at the head pole and got on the right line so we had to do a little adjustment on him," trainer Jimmy Takter explained to Weekend Preview. "Still, he had good pace coming home.

"He's a bad-steering horse and is a little bit in-and-out all the time and we've been working with him. I was happy how he trained this morning and he is going to be ready.

"I'm happy with him because he has the punch," said Takter, who took over training Lost InTime before last fall's Governor's Cup. "It's just a small rigging adjustment."

Trainer Tony Alagna has made a change on Stay Hungry as well: Alagna added the anti-bleeding medication Lasix. After Stay Hungry finished third in a photo in his seasonal debut, Alagna added Lasix for a June 2 qualifier at the Meadowlands, where the son of Somebeachsomewhere responded by finishing second in 1:49.1, last quarter in :26.2.

"The Lasix is very similar to the situation I had with Racing Hill," said Alagna. "He doesn't show much when you scope

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him. He'll have a couple specks of blood, but he just fights allergies all the time. The Lasix seems to help dry him up, much like it did with Racing Hill as a 2 year old. This is more for the allergy type of mucous that he has and the few specks of blood he gets related to the allergy mucous laying in his throat.

"New Jersey is the only state you can request to be on Lasix and I qualified him rather than ship him up there to go to the Somebeachsomewhere, but there is a method to my madness as I never go to the Somebeachsomewhere. I've never raced in it anyways. Captaintreacherous didn't race in

Continues on page 2 >>>

it, Racing Hill didn't, Artspeak didn't. That's too many weeks in a row away from home."

Alagna said he was pleased with Stay Hungry's limited form thus far in 2018.

"Absolutely pleased. He qualified in (1):49 and you can't be disappointed in that," he said. "He almost got by Dealt A Winner, a legitimate open pacer, how can you not be happy with that?"

Stay Hungry is driven by McNair, the 2017 O'Brien Award winner as Canada's Driver of the Year.

"Doug came down (to the Meadowlands) to qualify him and he was very, very happy with him," said Alagna, who also sends out Captain Deo in that same elim and American History and Babes Dig Me in the other NA Cup splits.

Alagna concluded he doesn't believe there is much separation among the division thus far this year.

"I don't think anybody has moved themselves up from last year; I think this is a very even group," he said. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Takter Treating Ariana G For Sickness, Now Training Tactical Landing

Trainer Jimmy Takter may be in the waning months before heading off into retirement, which he announced last fall, but the Hall of Famer is still as busy as ever.

Takter's New Jersey farm is filled with prospective star 2 year olds, several of which are in action Saturday morning at the Meadowlands. When the morning races are over, Takter will head to nearby Teterboro Airport for a flight to Canada for the stakes-elim-filled card at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

One horse not in action this weekend for Takter is the two-time divisional champ Ariana G, who will remain in her stall fighting sickness. After winning in her 4-year-old debut in 1:52.1 over a "sloppy" track at the Meadowlands on May 19

"He's acting like a 2 year old, with high speed."

—Jimmy Takter about Tactical Landing

in a Graduate division, Ariana G finished sixth in the second Graduate leg last Saturday night at Woodbine. Driver Yannick Gingras moved Ariana G to the lead prior to the :55.1 half, but after reaching the three-quarters in 1:25 (third quarter in :29.4), Ariana G faded to sixth, beaten 2 ¼ lengths in a 1:53 mile. It was just the second time Ariana G finished off the board in 28 career starts (22 wins), and the first since she made a break while trying to run out the draw gate on Sept. 23, 2016, at Hoosier Park.

"She came back and the blood work was really off the scale," said Takter. "She is fighting some bug right now. I will now try to get her ready for the Graduate final (on July 7 at the Meadowlands). She was empty in that last start."

FREE
Program
Pages

THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, June 8

7:50p Wbsb2 **Armbr Flight** OMT elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:50p Wbsb5 **Goodtimes** 3CT elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:10p Wbsb6 **Armbr Flight** OMT elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:50p Wbsb8 **Goodtimes** 3CT elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Saturday, June 9

7:50p Wbsb2 **Fan Hanover** 3FP elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:30p ScD7 **Charlie Hill Mem.** OHT [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:30p Wbsb4 **North America Cup** elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:50p Wbsb5 **North America Cup** elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:10p Wbsb6 **Fan Hanover** 3FP elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:30p Wbsb7 **Roses Are Red** OMP elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:50p Wbsb8 **North America Cup** elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

10:10p Wbsb9 **Roses Are Red** OMP elim [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Takter also has a newcomer in his stable in Tactical Landing, the \$800,000 yearling in 2016 who had trouble getting untracked last year as a 2 year old. Conditioned by Bob Stewart, who shares ownership of the son of Muscle Hill, Tactical Landing made breaks in his only two starts in 2017 in Kentucky Sires Stakes at The Red Mile.

"They got into a spot where they didn't go forward with the horse, so why not try somebody else?" said Takter of picking up the high-profile trotter. "We did a lot of adjustments and it seems like it's worked pretty good. He's a good horse; he's definitely a good horse."

Takter said Tactical Landing has been with him for only two weeks.

"It will be interesting to see. He has a lot of ability," said Takter. "I trained him in 1:53 at the Meadowlands and he has the speed, but that was by himself. We put him in a group of eight horses a couple times on the farm which I think is going to help him. He will get familiar to go with big groups. He's acting like a 2 year old, with high speed."

While a Hambletonian start on Aug. 4 is the ultimate goal, Takter remains realistic.

"The Hambletonian is coming up and the weeks are going fast," he said. "This horse has no life experience. He basically hasn't done a race in his life. If he qualifies in 1:51.2 or 1:51.3, maybe we'll take a shot with him. But right now it's down the road." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

NA Cup Contender Burning Midnight In Top Form For Saturday

This past Saturday Burning Midnight turned in the effort of his life to win a \$60,000 division of the Somebeachsomewhere at Woodbine Mohawk Park and thus earned his entry fee to this Saturday's Pepsi North America Cup eliminations. And he did not get there on his good looks.

"I did not pick him as a yearling when he sold for \$25,000 in Harrisburg," said trainer Corey Giles. "He is not flashy.

"He is not one of those big, strong types and he is almost identical in size to Jimmy Freight, who also won a division. At best he is average in size and plain but he is a naturally, good athlete who knows how to take care of himself. He will not impress anyone who comes to see him, but that does not win races."

Burning Midnight's victory in the Somebeachsomewhere left Giles with a very fair assessment going into the NA Cup elimination.

"I believe that as of today there is no one Cup eligible that

"...as of today there is no one Cup eligible that is capable of getting the worst of a race and still able to grab the field by the throat."

—Corey Giles

is capable of getting the worst of a race and still able to grab the field by the throat," said Giles.

"There are a couple that have registered some fast miles but can they do it with a pack breathing down their necks? That can change over the next couple starts but right now Burning Midnight can be competitive. He has to get some racing luck like he

did the other night. That race set up perfectly for him and given his history, he deserved it."

Giles was referring to the series of misadventures ranging from bad posts like the Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final to getting caught in, to whatever one can imagine in his rookie season, which still saw him win \$77,977 for owners Brad Gray and Denise Guerriera.

"I thought had things worked out differently he could have earned close to \$300,000 last year, which made me excited to get him back to race this season," added the 33-year-old Giles.

"I had no doubt he'd come back well, but become a Grand Circuit horse? The Somebeachsomewhere win came out of

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NA CUP CHATTER

Wes Delight— "He's good. He's in a nice groove right now. Last year he was just a little immature and his gait wasn't there, and he wasn't as strong as he is now. He's not a big, tall horse, but he does have a real big real reach, and he's very handy." — *trainer Mark Harder*

Grand Teton— "We did a couple of adjustments with him that he responded very well on. He was a little bumpy (last start) but he had good pace. Yannick (Gingras) was very happy with his punch but he said he was a little bumpy." — *trainer Jimmy Takter*

Nutcracker Sweet— "I'm a little disappointed with him because he should have won his last race. By the same token, Timmy (Tetrick) said he was looking around in front and wasn't paying attention. With post 9 he will definitely be coming from behind. This horse is the worst-drawing horse I've had in years." — *trainer Jimmy Takter*

Captain Deo— "It was a tough draw for him (post 10). I couldn't be happier with how he raced last Saturday night. He definitely merited giving him a shot but the draw didn't work out. Brett (Miller) stuck with him so hopefully he can get something worked out." — *trainer Tony Alagna*

American History— "He was phenomenal at Vernon (a 1:49.1 win). He came out of the race good and trained back good. Hope for the best. It's a good spot for him. Yannick (Gingras) knows him and he's confident in him. Hopefully it's a good spot for him to get into the final." — *trainer Tony Alagna*

Babes Dig Me— "He raced great at the Meadowlands. He was great at The Meadows but he isn't a very good horse on the front. He had to use him hard in the Rooney final to make the front out of the seven hole, but it was a very good effort (third) considering." — *trainer Tony Alagna*



the clouds and now he's in the mix. He's giving us a shot. He's healthy and at the peak of his ability. Will it be good enough? We'll see.

"This turn of good luck has to be there for Burning Midnight again in this Cup elimination. He can't leave out of there 100 miles an hour, let someone go, then come marching out and carry on to the wire. That's not him, but he has shown he's not a horse to ignore. Given half a chance he will be there."

Like Burning Midnight, Giles is also at a high-water mark. He conditions a team of 15 head at Emerald Isle Training Centre near Flamboro Downs. Last season his stable won \$233,000 in purses but already has \$164,000 tallied and he will most certainly have a career year. Being around high-quality horses is not new for the young trainer who is the stepson of Gaetan Hebert, who developed and campaigned the much admired \$1-million winning filly Lady Dillinger in the years of 2004-2006.

Giles also landed the assignment of prepping Pedro Hanover for the Cup, with the colt shipping up from New Jersey's Andrew Harris. He finished a disappointing sixth in the Somebeachsomewhere and Giles said the horse "wasn't 100 percent and it showed." — *By Harold Howe*

Post Position Wins at Woodbine Mohawk

PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PACE	starts 225	225	225	225	225	222	214	187	132	73	2
	wins 29	23	17	30	38	42	22	13	7	4	0
	win% 12.9	10.2	7.6	13.3	16.9	18.9	10.3	7.0	5.3	5.5	0.0
TROT	starts 109	109	109	109	109	108	104	91	78	52	1
	wins 7	16	11	15	17	24	5	6	6	2	0
	win% 6.4	14.7	10.1	13.8	15.6	22.2	4.8	6.6	7.7	3.8	0.0

Standardbred racing data through 6/5/18

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Pepsi North America Cup 3CP Eliminations (first three finishers in each elim, plus fourth-place finisher by lot, advance to 6/16 final)

Woodbine Mohawk Park, Saturday, June 9, 1st \$50,000 elimination, Race 4, Post Time: 8:30 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Hayden Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere)	A. Miller/J. Miller	5-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$85,000 (HB)
2—Summer Travel (Western Ideal)	D. Miller/C. Coleman	6-1	Winbak Farm/\$35,000 (HB)
3—Stay Hungry (Somebeachsomewhere)	D. McNair/T. Alagna	9-5	AV and Son Bloodstock/\$150,000 (Lex)
4—Major Authority (Art Major)	Y. Gingras/A. Harris	20-1	R. Hamather/Homebred
5—Done Well (Well Said)	T. Tetrick/B. Brown	2-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$45,000 (HB)
6—Sports Legend (Sportswriter)	B. McClure/R. Moreau	20-1	K. Feuker, M.K. Weed/\$50,000 (HB)
7—Rootin Tootin (Roll With Joe)	M. MacDonald/B. MacIntosh	15-1	Winbak Farm/\$12,000 (GYS)
8—Topville Olympian (American Ideal)	J. Jamieson/D. Menary	15-1	R. Bonafield, G. Bechtel/\$15,000 (HB)
9—Grand Teton (A Rocknroll Dance)	S. Zeron/J. Takter	10-1	Diamond Creek Farm/Homebred
10—Captain Deo (Somebeachsomewhere)	B. Miller/T. Alagna	8-1	Deo Volente Farms, Hill View Ent./\$90,000 (Lex)

2nd \$50,000 elimination, Race 5, Post Time: 8:50 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Whos Better (Bettor's Delight)	D. Miller/B. Brown	8-1	Dunroven Stud/\$60,000 (Lex)
2—Sometimesawinner (Well Said)	L. Roy/R. Allard	10-1	Fashion Farms/\$27,000 (HB)
3—Beachin Lindy (Somebeachsomewhere)	M. MacDonald/S. Charlton	20-1	Lindy Farms of Conn./\$120,000 (Lex)
4—Wes Delight (Bettor's Delight)	C. Callahan/M. Harder	7-2	Winbak Farm/\$55,000 (Lex)
5—Burning Midnight (Mach Three)	T. Henry/C. Giles	6-1	Winbak Farm/\$25,000 (HB)
6—When You Dance (Mach Three)	J. Drury/B. Wallace	12-1	Birnam Woods Farms/\$150,000 (Lex)
7—American History (American Ideal)	Y. Gingras/T. Alagna	3-1	Brittany Farms/\$150,000 (Lex)
8—Dorsoduro Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere)	M. Kakaley/R. Burke	5-2	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$100,000 (HB)
9—Nutcracker Sweet (Bettor's Delight)	T. Tetrick/J. Takter	10-1	Birnam Wood Farms/\$150,000 (HB)
10—Dragon Time (Bettor's Delight)	J. Jamieson/D. Menary	20-1	AV and Son Bloodstock/\$50,000 (Lex)

3rd \$50,000 elimination, Race 8, Post Time: 9:50 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Lost In Time (A Rocknroll Dance)	S. Zeron/J. Takter	4-1	Diamond Creek Farm/\$47,000 (Lex)
2—Lather Up (I'm Gorgeous)	M. Teague/C. Francis	9-5	G. & B. Isles/Homebred
3—Venom (Rock N Roll Heaven)	Y. Gingras/B. Brown	12-1	F. Bellino And Sons/Homebred
4—Babes Dig Me (Somebeachsomewhere)	D. McNair/T. Alagna	15-1	R. Lassonde/\$100,000 (Lex)
5—Shnitzledosomethin (Fred And Ginger)	P. Wrenn/D. Davis	8-1	A. Stutzman/\$18,000 (Hoos)
6—Hitman Hill (American Ideal)	B. Miller/C. Oakes	6-1	Blue Chip Bloodstock/\$145,000 (HB)
7—St. Lads Neptune (Mach Three)	J. Jamieson/S. Jamieson	5-1	St. Lads Farm/\$22,000 (Open)
8—Courtly Choice (Art Major)	D. Miller/B. MacIntosh	7-2	Winbak Farm/\$65,000 (Lex)
9—Levis Day (Shadow Play)	T. Tetrick/V. Puddy	20-1	Winbak Farm/\$37,000 (Lex)

MacIntosh Sends Out Fastest 3YO Pacer Of 2018 In NA Cup

Blake MacIntosh will be one of the busiest people in harness racing on Saturday with no less than 25 two year olds headed to qualifiers at Woodbine Mohawk Park in the morning and then four to race that night, including two in the Pepsi North America Cup eliminations and another two in the preliminaries for the Fan Hanover Stakes.

It was a long winter for MacIntosh, who enjoyed a career year in 2017 with \$1.2 million in winnings, but now it is show time.

Courtly Choice and Rootin Tootin are his two hopefuls in the NA Cup despite landing posts 8 and 7, respectively, in arguably the two toughest divisions.

With a 1:48.4 win at Vernon Downs a few weeks ago, Courtly Choice has the fastest winning time of the year for any 3-year-old pacer, but MacIntosh admits he will have his hands full in this next start.

"He draws the outside against Lather Up, Lost InTime and St Lads Neptune—other than that, it should be an easy night," he quipped.

"We know he's fast enough but is he tough enough?" said MacIntosh of Courtly Choice. "He's 100 percent healthy and sound but this will be the real test."

A son of Art Major that was purchased for \$60,000 from Winbak Farm as a yearling, Courtly Choice was a MacIntosh favorite from day one.

"When he was first pulled out of a stall at the farm for me I loved him. He doesn't look like an Art Major. I didn't know if I could get him but made up my mind to take a shot."

Hutt Racing Stable, Touch Stone Farms and Daniel Plouffe share ownership with MacIntosh.

When the dust settled on his juvenile year, Courtly Choice, who is a ridgling, had won

"We know he's fast enough but is he tough enough?"

— *Black MacIntosh*
about Courtly Choice

\$53,371 but immaturity held him back from doing better despite a track record-setting performance in a New York Sires Stake at Saratoga.

"This year he has calmed down

and there is no more of this coming into the paddock on his hind feet. All winter he was an impressive trainer, never having a bad training mile. And that break at the start of the Vernon Downs race came because Dave (Miller) touched him with the whip and it startled him, but he came right back down," said MacIntosh.

Stablemate Rootin Tootin is a different story.

"Here's a little horse that is the sort everyone should own in their lifetime. He just never stops trying and I love the guy," said MacIntosh.

This is a son of Roll With Joe who was a mere \$12,000 yearling purchase at the Goshen Yearling Sale. Stuart MacIntosh, Fred Brayford, Robert MacNeil and MacIntosh share ownership of the colt.

Shnitzledosomethin A Player In NA Cup

Peter Wrenn expects Shnitzledosomethin to do something he always does when it comes time to race at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Saturday in his Pepsi North America Cup elimination—be right in the mix.

Over the course of his 15-race career, Shnitzledosomethin has posted seven wins and hit the board a total of 14 times. The only time the colt finished outside the top three came last October when he was pulled up because of broken equipment. Three of his five runner-up finishes came by a neck or less, including his setback to Stay Hungry in last season's Breeders Crown for 2-year-old male pacers.

"He's not scared of speed and he's got good manners, so those are probably two things in his favor," Wrenn said. "He doesn't get too wound up and he's a big enough horse where fractions don't hurt him too bad. He's not going to walk away from nobody, but they're going to know he's in the race some. He's a very nice horse.

"He was a player last year, and he's a player this year."

Wrenn, who last appeared in a North America Cup final in 1999, finishing fourth with Sioux Dawn, has driven Shnitzledosomethin every start of his career. All but one of those races came in Indiana, a third-place finish in the Matron Stakes at Dover Downs.

Shnitzledosomethin, a son of Fred And Ginger out of Summer N Sand, is trained by Dylan Davis. He is owned by BFJ Stable, Thomas Lazzaro, Ed Gold, and Abraham Basen. He will start from post 5 in the third of the three elims.

"He's a bigger, stronger horse, which a lot of them get that way," Wrenn said about the 2018 version of Shnitzledosomethin. "He had a lot of natural talent last year, which has carried over to this year for sure."

Wrenn is looking forward to driving at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Although he does not drive regularly in Canada, he enjoyed one of his biggest wins north of the border, capturing a Breeders Crown with Yankee Cashmere in 1994 at Woodbine.

"I've had a little luck up there in the past," Wrenn said. "Maybe not always coming home with a big W, but some nice paychecks. Maybe it will work out. I hope I make the final. They put on a nice show. It's always got a good feeling about being there. The fan base really enjoys racing and they put it all forward. They love it. They're very enthusiastic." (*Ken Weingartner*)

"Again, I saw him at Winbak Farm as a yearling and loved him and he does look like a little bulldog. I wasn't at the sale because that was the year the Standardbred Canada sale was held the same day. But I sent a bid of \$15,000 with a friend and we got him," recalls MacIntosh.

"Last year he made \$64,000 in New York and was a horse you just had to admire. He won in 1:52.1 at the Meadowlands in an overnight and paced in 1:50.2 in a New York Sires at Vernon, but he's got his hands full here." — *By Harold Howe*

Brown Has Three Chances To Advance To NA Cup

Last year trainer Brian Brown had two top contenders in the Pepsi North America Cup and lived every trainer's dream as he took home the trophy plus third place in the \$1 million race. This year's he's back with another three starters in the eliminations: Done Well (Race 4), Whos Better (Race 5) and Venom (Race 8).

As far as which one of the trio is his top Cup contender, Brown said he'll let them sort it out on the track. But he gave a review of the three.

"They were all trained Tuesday morning (before the entry box closed for the NA Cup) and they all finished within a quarter-length of each other, and none of them were all out," said Brown of the training trip over the half-mile oval

"...they all finished within a quarter-length of each other, and none of them were all out!"

—Brian Brown

at his home base at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. "We went a mile in 1:54 with a last half in :56."

Because of a spring setback due to an abscess in a lung, Done Well goes into the Cup elim with just one start, a 1 1/2-

length, 1:51.2 victory in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes on May 23 at Pocono.

"He's come back from that lung problem really good, but I wish I had one more race in him to toughen him up," said Brown. "He's never disappointed us, but we're asking a lot for him to go into this race off of just one start."

Brown has trained Done Well since he was a yearling for owners Jim Stambaugh, Wingfield Brothers, Milt Leeman and Alan Keith. Last year the colt by Well Said was undefeated in four starts before he was sidelined when he cracked a cannon bone on his right hind leg.

Brown's second NA Cup contender, Who's Bettor, goes into the race with a fast second-place finish to Wes Delight (pacing his own mile in 1:50.3, with a :27.1 last quarter). The son of Bettor's Delight is owned by Country Club Acres, Joe Sbrocco and Bill Donovan.

"We had to do a tie-over (throat surgery) on him last fall and he's coming on and getting better," said Brown. "His last start was really good. The start before that he bled a little over Lasix.

"We drew the rail, but that's not always the best on a big track. We want to stay out of trouble. But we've got David (Miller) driving."

Venom was unraced as a 2 year old and joined the Brown Stable this year. The son of Rock N Roll Heaven was bred and is owned by Frank Bellino And Sons, who also campaigned 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven.

Brown has raced Venom five times this year and the colt improved with each start until his May 28 appearance in a New York Sires Stakes at Vernon. He made a move to challenge in the middle half of the race but struggled in the last

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quarter mile and was almost pulled up by driver David Miller.

"We were very worried," said Brown of how Venom finished the race. "The vet at Vernon gave him fluids after the race and he bounced back, and then when we got him home we had a vet go over him again and he checked out perfect." —By Kathy Parker

Hat Trick Habit Rolls Into Goodtimes

Trainer Domenico Cecere didn't have to rebuild Hat Trick Habit, just tinker with some equipment, but like television's "Six Million Dollar Man," the horse has come back better than he was before. Better, stronger, faster.

And the colt wasn't too bad to begin with.

Hat Trick Habit, unbeaten in two starts this season, is preparing for Friday's eliminations of the Goodtimes Stakes at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The Goodtimes is one of the stepping stones toward August's \$1.2 million Hambletonian, the sport's premier race for 3-year-old trotters.

A total of 21 horses entered the Goodtimes, so the group was divided into two eliminations and the top five

"I think we're going into the Goodtimes with good confidence."

—Domenico Cecere

finishers from each group will advance to the June 16 final. Hat Trick Habit, with driver David Miller, is the 3-1 second choice on the

morning line in the first elimination, which is the 11-horse field. Wolfgang, from the stable of trainer Jimmy Takter, is the 5-2 favorite.

O'Brien Award winner Alarm Detector, trained by Ben Bailargeon, is the 2-1 favorite in the second elimination, followed by Bill Crone's Breeders Crown champion Fiftydallarbill at 3-1.

Hat Trick Habit, the winner of five of 11 lifetime starts and \$181,724 for the Fred Monteleone Stable, enters the Goodtimes off a career-best 1:52.4 victory in a conditioned race June 1 at the Meadowlands.

"Last year he showed he was a nice horse, but he was kind of a little bit hot, a little grabby," said Cecere, who changed Hat Trick Habit's bridle this year, going from closed to open. "This year he's got a better attitude and is more quiet. He is nicer to drive. It looks like we're in good shape. He looks good.

"I think we're going into the Goodtimes with good confidence."

Hat Trick Habit, a son of Donato Hanover out of Habit's Best, is a half-brother to O'Brien Award-winning millionaire Habitat. His family also includes millionaire Civil Action.

Last year, Hat Trick Habit's three wins included the Kentucky Sires Stakes championship. But the colt went off stride in his elimination of the Breeders Crown and the final of the Valley Victory Stakes.

"I think we have a little bit different horse from last year to this year; more strong and more mature," Cecere said. "He has a lot of speed. He showed it to me at the Meadowlands. All of us are happy with how he's raced. Hopefully he can go all the way. He's been a nice horse." (Ken Weingartner)

STAKES HORSE INSIGHTS

Fiftydallarbill, Goodtimes Trot— "It's the first time he's been out of Indiana. I'm taking it race by race. From there if all goes well he'll go to Pocono for the Earl Beal." — owner John Barnard

Wolfgang, Goodtimes Trot— "I think he is ready to go. I trained him in 1:55 on my farm last Friday with a :55 last half. He is definitely going to need some races. I hope he races good. Alarm Detector is the one to beat and he drew into the other division. One start under his belt is going to help him a lot." — trainer Jimmy Takter

Story Time Hanover, Goodtimes Trot— "He's been racing good. If he can make the final I will be pleased with him. Paul MacDonell will be driving him; I wanted to put a little bit of experience up behind him." — trainer Jimmy Takter

Hill Street, Goodtimes Trot— "He's been racing good lately. He's a little sleeper, that horse. He's getting better and better." — trainer Jimmy Takter

Pure Country, Roses Are Red— "She hasn't raced that good. I had a hard time last year getting her started and it looks like we're on the same route this year. She feels very sound and good, but she hasn't fired up yet. Yannick is going to get instructions to make the final with her and give her a kind race. She drew well in what I think is a slightly easier division." — trainer Jimmy Takter

Missile Hill, Goodtimes Trot— "I had one other possible starter in Dawson Springs but he scoped sick after I trained him so I didn't take him and was just left with him. And then (Missile Hill) drew the 10 hole." — trainer Tony Alagna

Caprice Hill, Armbro Flight Trot— "She made an uncharacteristic break last time out. She had never made a break in her entire career. We did some work on her and she trained back good. I expect her to be back to her old self." — trainer Tony Alagna



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ONES TO WATCH

The preview for Mohawk's big North America Cup program begins Friday night. In addition to the Goodtimes eliminations for trotters, older mare trotters will be competing in elims for the Armbr Flight and the fields include **HANNELORE HANOVER** and **CAPRICE HILL** (both in Race 2) and **ICE ATTRACTION**, **BARN BELLA** and **EMOTICON HANOVER** (Race 6).

Baby races are scheduled for Saturday morning at Mohawk and the Meadowlands. There were 11 races for 2 year olds drawn at Mohawk with eight at the Meadowlands.

On Saturday night at Mohawk, 3-year-old filly pacers and older mare pacers will join the 3-year-old male pacers on the track in the Fan Hanover and Roses Are Red, respectively. But before the gals start battling, the accomplished **SINTRA** and **MCWICKED** will compete in Race 3, a Preferred.

In the first Fan Hanover elim (Race 6), **YOUAREMYCANDY-GIRL**, the defending Dan Patch divisional winner, starts from post 2. **SHARTIN N**, **LA DELIGHT** and **BLAZIN BRITCHES** will face off in the first Roses Are Red elim (Race 10). The second elim field includes **NIKE FRANCO N**, **PURE COUNTRY** and the supplemented-Firebby A (post 7).

On Saturday night at Scioto Downs, 3-year-old pacing colts compete in two divisions of Ohio Sires Stakes. The first division (Race 5) includes defending divisional champ **SEEING EYE SINGLE** (post 2), plus the fast 2018 performers **BOUNDING DRAGON** (1:50.4) and **CINNAMACK** (1:50.4). In the second split, **SLICK MICK** (post 1) and **ROCKATHON** (post 3) are the morning-line favorites.

The Great Northeast Series continues this weekend with open pacers in action in one division on Saturday night at Pocono and older trotters competing on Sunday at Harrah's Philadelphia. The trot race field (Race 8) includes **BROADWAY DONNA**.

Crawford Buys Interest In Filly Trotter Atlanta

Horseman Rick Zeron has announced that he has sold an interest in his 3-year-old filly trotter Atlanta to Crawford Farms. On Memorial Day, Atlanta became the fastest sophomore trotter of the 2018 season when she won the Empire Breeders Classic in 1:50.3.

Zeron told Standardbred Canada's Trot Insider that he sold part of his ownership interest in Atlanta. The Atlanta ownership group also includes Holland Racing Stable, Howard Taylor, and Brad Grant, who will all maintain their current ownership interests in Atlanta.

Zeron shared that that Michelle Crawford bought the share as a father's day gift to her husband, Albert.

"After her most recent race, we had her examined from top to bottom, and she came out of it with 100 percent flying colors," said Zeron, who also trains Atlanta. "Her next race is at Tioga Downs in the New York Sires Stakes on June 24."



Followon Photo

Goodtimes 3CT Eliminations

Woodbine Mohawk Park, Friday, June 8, 1st \$30,000 elimination, Race 5, Post Time: 8:50 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Jula Downton (Kadabra)	L. Roy/S. Kerwood	8-1	Marti Alaseppala/\$30,000 (HB)
2—Stormont Ventnor (Justice Hall)	P. Hudon/K. Benn	6-1	Eric Baker/Homebred
3—Hat Trick Habit (Donato Hanover)	D. Miller/D. Cecere	3-1	Fredericka Caldwell/\$65,000 (Lex)
4—Lawmaker (Muscle Massive)	A. MacDonald/J. McGinnis	12-1	Pedigree Farm/\$20,000 (Lex)
5—Wolfgang (My MVP)	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	5-2	Fair Island Farm/\$60,000 (Lex)
6—Run Director (Kadabra)	S. Filion/B. Baillargeon	8-1	Thomas & Elizabeth Rankin/Homebred
7—Joey (Yankee Glide)	Tr. Tetrick/L. Zendt	12-1	Windsong Stable/\$25,000 (HB)
8—Henderson Seelster (Holiday Road)	B. McClure/K. Jones	20-1	Seelster Farms/\$34,000 (Forest City)
9—Story Time Hanover (Muscle Hill)	P. MacDonell/J. Takter	8-1	W.J. Donovan/\$410,000 (HB)
10—Winning American (Kadabra)	J. Jamieson/P. Reid	10-1	Robert J. Key/Homebred
11—Barney Mac (Cornaro Dasolo)	C. Christoforou/P. Henriksen	15-1	Sea Of Green/—

2nd \$30,000 elimination, Race 8, Post Time: 9:50 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Fiftydallarbill (Swan For All)	Tr. Tetrick/W. Crone	3-1	John Miller/\$16,000 (Hoosier)
2—Cruising In Style (Muscle Mass)	A. MacDonald/K. McMaster	15-1	Terry Devos/—
3—Chief Justice (Justice Hall)	P. MacDonell/J. Bax	15-1	Jim Avritt Sr./\$50,000 (HB)
4—War Story (Muscle Hill)	P. Henriksen	10-1	Diamond Creek Farm/\$100,000 (Lex)
5—Alarm Detector (Chapter Seven)	T. Henry/B. Baillargeon	2-1	Order By Stable/\$110,000 (HB)
6—Smokey Mirrors (Kadabra)	J. Jamieson/P. Reid	15-1	Robert Key/Homebred
7—Perfetto (Majestic Son)	D. Miller/R. Norman	5-1	Seawind AMG Stables/\$32,000 (HB)
8—Joey Bats (Holiday Road)	B. McClure/K. Jones	12-1	David & Julie Keyes/\$17,000 (Can. Open)
9—Hill Street (Muscle Hill)	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	6-1	Brittany Farms/\$180,000 (Lex)
10—Missile Hill (Muscle Hill)	D. McNair/T. Alagna	12-1	Silver Linden Farms/—

Delaware Commission Investigating Hidden Ownership

HarnessRacing Weekend Preview has learned the Delaware Harness Racing Commission (DHRC) sent approximately 200 registered letters dated June 1 to owners and trainers asking for documentation dating back to Jan. 1, 2013, to essentially prove ownership of more than 500 horses that raced in the state.

Governor John Carney's office and certain local legislators had received complaints regarding hidden ownership and bearded trainers, which triggered the response and investigation by the DHRC.

In the letter signed by DHRC executive director Mark A. Davis, it states the DHRC is "conducting an in-depth review of the ownership and management of horses raced at Delaware tracks over the past few years."

The letter went on to ask for specific documents, including those showing purchases of all horses (copies of checks or wire transfer documentation or bill of sale); records of purse checks from tracks; training bills; federal and state tax returns; 1099s from all tracks; W-2s from other personal or spousal income claimed on the tax returns; and expenses such as feed, straw/shavings, farrier, vet, and other assorted horse-related expenses.

"We have regulatory authority to ask for the records; it's a standard spot review of ownership records to ensure proper ownership has been maintained and there isn't bearded ownership," Davis explained to Weekend Preview. "We want to know that the true and rightful owners are receiving purse checks and the betting public's interest has been ensured."

Davis met twice with DSOA officials, which he said also requested implementing the initiative. He said initial response to the action has been positive.

"I've had horsemen come up to me unsolicited and thanked me for doing it," said Davis.

The letter stated that "failure to supply the requested information (by July 2, 2018) may result in horses being placed on the Steward's List...other penalties may apply including fine, suspension or revocation of your license." —By Gordon Waterstone

Crazy Wow Looks To Repeat In Hill Memorial

Ron Burke believes Crazy Wow feels at home in the Midwest. Chris Page is not going to argue.

"I don't know what it is, but I know I've had good luck with him out here," said Page, who will drive Crazy Wow for trainer Burke in Saturday's \$200,000 Charlie Hill Memorial for older trotters at Scioto Downs. Page teamed with Crazy Wow to win last year's edition of the race with a track-record 1:52 mile.

"He was very good last year. What I like about him is you can do it anyway you want; you can be on the front, two hole, off the pace. There's not really a bad trip for the horse on the track. It's an honor to drive him. We'll see if we can keep the crown from last year. It's just a pleasure in itself to get the opportunity"

"He's been very sharp each time I've driven him."

—Chris Page

Page drove Crazy Wow three times overall last year, adding a win in the Cleveland Trotting Classic and a second in the Dayton Trotting Derby.

"I wouldn't say I fit the horse any better than anybody else, I think I just got to drive him when he was sharp," Page said. "He's been very sharp each time I've driven him."

For his career, the 6-year-old Crazy Wow has raced 12 times in either Ohio or Indiana and posted six victories, three seconds and a third.

"This is a good spot; he likes those tracks," Burke said. "He did good last year in the Midwest and hopefully that will continue this year."

Crazy Wow, who has won 21 of 63 lifetime races and earned \$2.27 million, will start the Charlie Hill Memorial from post No. 3 and is 7-2 on the morning line.

Will Take Charge, who won the Maxie Lee Memorial at Harrah's Philadelphia in world-record-equaling 1:50.3 on May 27, is the 3-1 favorite from post six. The field was also expected to include two-time Dan Patch Award-winner Marion Marauder, but he has been scratched because of sickness. (Ken Weingartner)



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Another try for 100 for Foiled Again at Meadows

He's the richest Standardbred ever with more than \$7.5 million in career earnings, but in his final year of racing, 14-year-old Foiled Again would like to nail down one more accomplishment—career win 100. He'll shoot for that elusive milestone Saturday at The Meadows when he leaves from post 2 with Dave Palone in race 11. [more](#)

Delaware sees \$322,135 in first-day sports bets

Espn.com has reported \$322,135 was bet on sports at Delaware's three racetracks of Dover Downs, Harrington Raceway and Delaware Park on Tuesday, June 5, the first day the First State offered full-blown sports wagering. The number comes despite both the NBA Finals and Stanley Cup Finals were on travel days and there were no games being played. [more](#)

Betfair to run Meadowlands, Tioga sportsbooks

Betfair US announced Thursday that it has reached long-term agreements for retail and online/mobile sports betting with Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey and Tioga Downs in New York. [more](#)

Maple Leaf's Carrick named NA Cup drawmaster

Woodbine Mohawk Park is pleased to announce Connor Carrick, Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman, as this year's drawmaster for the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup. The post position draw and media conference for the Pepsi North America Cup is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, at Woodbine Mohawk Park. [more](#)

Captain's Court ready for game-changing season

Captain Treacherous, a winner of \$3.1 million with a mark of 1:47.1, made an immense impact on the sport during his incredible racing career and now the two-time U.S. Pacer of the Year is ready to rock the industry again. [more](#)

Plenty of babies in action at Gaitway

Julie Miller could smile after watching a group of her 2-year-old pacers and trotters qualify for the first time Monday (June 4) at Gaitway Farm. [more](#)

Prix D'Ete attracts 27 nominations

A near record number of 27 four-year-old pacers have made the final nomination payment to the \$200,000 fifth renewal of the Prix D'Ete at the Hippodrome 3R in Quebec on Sunday, Aug. 19. [more](#)

Carter joins USTA social media, PR team

Michael Carter, the 2017 U.S. Harness Writers Association Breakthrough Award winner and well-known co-host of Post Time with Mike and Mike, presented by BetAmerica, joined the U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) on Monday as social media and public relations coordinator. [more](#)

Driving School, Museum a winning combination

David Pirnstill found plenty to enjoy at the U.S. Trotting Association Driving School, and it involved not only the present and future, but the past. [more](#)

John Hayes elected Ontario Racing chairman

Ontario Racing (OR) Monday announced the full composition of its new Board of Directors. The first order of business for the new Board was electing, unanimously, John Hayes, the Independent Chairman of the Board. [more](#)

Peter Rhulen dies at age 79

Peter L. Rhulen, a well-known insurance agent in harness racing and also a horse owner, died June 2 in New York City due to complications related to Parkinson's disease. He was 79. [more](#)

Horseman Tom Sells passes at age 72

Charles Thomas "Tom" Sells, died peacefully from a long illness on Friday (June 1) in West Alexander, Pa. He was 72. [more](#)

Kentucky owner-breeder Jim Thompson dies

James Daryl "Jim" Thompson, 84, of Danville, Ky., died May 29 at his home. He bred and raced horses under the banner of Fountain Valley Farm. [more](#)



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RACE LINES

Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of June 5, 2018

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Hannelore Hanover (17)	6tm	2-2-0-0	\$99,863	300	1
2. Shartin N (7)	5pm	12-10-1-0	418,975	286	2
3. Filibuster Hanover (5)	4pg	4-4-0-0	177,725	271	3
4. Will Take Charge (2)	5tg	11-6-3-1	205,268	187	4
5. Atlanta (2)	3tf	3-3-0-0	127,284	177	6
6. Bit Of A Legend N	9ph	9-3-4-1	330,775	115	—
7. Keystone Velocity (1)	10ph	6-2-2-0	320,000	100	5
8. Manchego (1)	3tf	1-1-0-0	28,240	99	8
9. Lather Up	3pc	4-4-0-0	58,915	71	—
10. Rockin Ron	6pg	11-5-3-0	217,750	67	7

Others receiving votes: Ariana G 50, Trump Nation 38, Six Pack 27, Marion Marauder 16), Dorsoduro Hanover 14, Jimmy Freight, Mach It So 11, Courtly Choice, NF Happenstance, Wes Delight 9, Always A Prince, Sell A Bit N 7, Blue Moon Stride, Done Well, Dunbar Hall, Easy Lover Hanover, Jet Airway 4, Fox Valley Gemini, Somewhere In LA, Ubettergo Go, Youaremycandygirl 3, Barn Girl, Crazy Wow, Dr J Hanover 2, Agent Q, Carol's Z Tam, Fiftydallarbill, St Lads Neptune, Theresademoninme, Velocity Stifler 1

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through June 5, 2018 (week difference May 30-June 5).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Shartin N (5pm)	12	10	1	0	\$418,975
Bit Of A Legend N (9ph)	9	3	4	1	330,775
Keystone Velocity (10ph)	6	2	2	0	320,000
Rockin Ron (6pg)	11	5	3	0	217,750
Sell A Bit N (8pm)	11	5	2	1	216,450
Will Take Charge (5tg)	11	6	3	1	205,268
Trump Nation (3pc)	4	3	1	0	181,766
Somewhere In LA (7pg)	11	4	3	3	179,920
Filibuster Hanover (4pg)	4	4	0	0	177,725
NF Happenstance (8tm)	13	8	3	0	140,450

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	1,034	201-177-151	.338	\$3,540,067 (\$0)
Tim Tetrick	1,088	217-178-145	.335	3,481,342 (184,599)
Jordan Stratton	1,004	182-164-127	.314	3,395,968 (147,411)
Aaron Merriman	1,785	414-325-254	.381	3,280,728 (192,460)
Trace Tetrick	1,196	252-192-153	.343	2,423,090 (197,973)
Corey Callahan	1,081	165-170-150	.286	2,277,427 (166,897)
Dan Noble	1,128	242-162-139	.335	2,239,908 (116,995)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	1,332	322-206-178	.372	2,236,499 (169,971)
George Brennan	860	118-108-88	.241	2,145,844 (65,730)
Yannick Gingras	641	105-87-78	.280	1,996,410 (99,654)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,437	296-214-174	.329	\$4,321,470 (\$347,805)
Rene Allard	642	139-97-78	.341	2,234,198 (46,508)
Scott Di Domenico	638	105-100-78	.292	1,601,608 (60,910)
Richard Moreau	687	142-110-84	.336	1,462,392 (58,623)
Richard Banca	400	65-65-57	.300	1,218,702 (8,290)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	534	82-64-63	.259	1,160,311 (56,812)
Nick Surick	735	137-115-91	.315	1,000,168 (20,367)
Jim King Jr.	191	40-30-25	.340	943,180 (3,460)
Carmen Auciello	655	69-62-73	.195	880,771 (52,386)
Peter Tritton	103	25-20-14	.396	860,055 (100,000)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	735	389	767	\$8,207,191
Winbak Farm	722	375	737	6,510,694
Brittany Farms LLC	181	94	215	2,624,297
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	152	94	198	2,126,343
Perretti Farms	117	77	161	1,584,503
Seelster Farms Inc.	157	88	183	1,530,219
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	112	65	141	1,389,507
White Birch Farm	128	66	128	1,375,330
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	123	67	117	1,323,884
Steve Stewart	137	68	132	1,309,103

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for May 30-June 5 from results
 at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Driver	Starts	W-P-S
Aaron Merriman	96	24-13-17
George Napolitano Jr.	87	21-11-12
W. Drew Campbell	49	17-7-4
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	58	16-12-5
David Miller	66	14-13-10
Tony Hall	83	14-10-8
Dan Noble	62	13-12-5
Dave Palone	44	13-3-1
Tim Tetrick	66	13-7-12
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	59	11-4-7
Casey Leonard	34	11-4-3
Guy Gagnon	23	10-3-2
Jeremy Smith	57	10-7-2
Jim DeVaux	37	10-5-8
Mike Wilder	52	10-6-12
Ray Fisher Jr.	27	10-7-1
Russell Foster	51	10-5-10
Steve Wiseman	27	10-4-4
Trace Tetrick	57	10-9-7
Drew Monti	31	9-4-9
Shawn Gray	38	9-6-9

Trainers

Trainer	Wins
Ron Burke	20
Carmen Auciello	8
Dolores Basilone	7
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	7
Ross Croghan	7
Jamie Macomber	6
John Butenschoen	6
Jose Godinez	6
Mark Steacy	6
Arlene Cameron	5
Benoit Baillargeon	5
Jessica Roegner	5
John MacDonald	5
Kathleen Plested	5
Kent Sherman	5
Kurt Sugg	5
Ryan Swift	5
Terry Leonard	5