Huntsville Favored, But Brown’s Horses Have Beaten Him Before

Based on last year’s Pennsylvania Sires Stakes championship for 2-year-old colt pacers, Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace, and Governor’s Cup, a rivalry developed between the colts Huntsville and Downbytheseaside. They met in five races and Huntsville won three of the match-ups, including the Crown.

This is a new season and the two colts have yet to meet. Huntsville has been defeated once this season, and the loss was delivered by Fear The Dragon. Like Downbytheseaside, Fear The Dragon is trained by Ohio’s Brian Brown.

Last year Fear The Dragon was sometimes overlooked as the other two colts waged their battles. Although Fear The Dragon finished third in last year’s PASS championship, he was beaten 6 ½ lengths, which took his name out of the conversation a bit.

All three colts will meet for the first time in 2017 in Saturday’s $1 million Pepsi North America Cup at Mohawk Racetrack. And after beating Huntsville in a PASS leg this season, and winning his NA Cup elim handily, Fear The Dragon is definitely part of the conversation about who will win.

David Miller has driven both Downbytheseaside and Fear The Dragon. His decision to drive Fear The Dragon speaks to his confidence in the colt.

“I don’t think he was at his best tonight for whatever reason. I’ve seen him better,” said Miller after Downbytheseaside won his elim in 1:50.4, but was the slowest of the elim winners and paced his final quarter in just :29.

Fear The Dragon won his elim in 1:50 despite jumping over a head number in the homestretch.

“If you watch leaving the gate, Yannick’s horse (Ocean Colony) lost his head number as he was crossing over,” said Miller after the race. “I didn’t even think of it. My horse stepped over it.”

At the NA Cup press conference held on Tuesday, Brown spoke about Miller’s assessment of Downbytheseaside’s sub-par performance and the victory by Fear The Dragon.

$1 million Pepsi North America Cup

Mohawk Racetrack, Saturday, June 17, Race 12, Post Time: 10:40 pm

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<th>Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Ocean Colony (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/J. Takter</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Garth Bechtel/$115,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Downbytheseaside (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>B. Sears/B. Brown</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>Blue Chip, Seltzer, Rabinowitz, Farkas/$65,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Huntsville (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/R. Schnittker</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>Ray Schnittker &amp; Charles Iannazzo/Homebred</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fear The Dragon (Dragon Again)</td>
<td>D. Miller/B. Brown</td>
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<td>Sports Column (Sportswriter)</td>
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<td>Classic Pro (Shadow Play)</td>
<td>T. Henry/L. Moore</td>
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<td>Ozone Blue Chip (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Filibuster Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>L.-P. Roy/R. Burke</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$90,000 (HB)</td>
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<td>Western Hill (Western Ideal)</td>
<td>D. McNair/T. Alagna</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Tom Hill/Homebred</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Miso Fast (Roll With Joe)</td>
<td>M. Kakaley/R. Burke</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Kentuckiana Farms/$125,000 (Lex)</td>
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<td>AE1</td>
<td>Some Attitude (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/R. McIntosh</td>
<td>25-1</td>
<td>R. McIntosh Stables/Homebred</td>
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“We think he’s getting off by himself and waiting on them (other horses),” said Brown. “We’re thinking about a bridle change. But there’s not going to be (a case of) off by himself Saturday.”

While still mulling over Downbytheseaside’s performance, Brown had a scare when Fear The Dragon broke stride while on a clear lead to a NA Cup elim victory.

“When he’s opening up, you’re finally starting to relax,” said Brown of the unexpected miscue. “The first thing you worry is, ‘Did he hurt himself?’ But he checked out fine; he jogged good, so everything’s fine.”

Brown agreed that Huntsville was the most impressive of the three elimination winners, which was confirmed when that colt was made the 8-5 favorite.

Huntsville won his elim by 4 ¼ lengths in 1:49.1. The victory was the 10th for Huntsville in his career. Although he has never finished worse than second, four of Huntsville’s five career defeats have been dealt to him by either Downbytheseaside or Fear The Dragon.

At the draw for post positions on Tuesday, the winners of the eliminations drew to determine the order for who got to pick their post first. Downbytheseaside had first choice and Brown took post 2. Next up was Huntsville’s caretaker, Denelle Stratton, who followed the order of trainer Ray Schnittker to take post 3, and then Brown followed again and chose post 4 for Fear The Dragon.—By Kathy Parker
The 2017 Ohio Sires Stakes

Saturday, June 17
3-Year-Old Filly Trot
Leg 2
Northfield Park

Monday, June 19
3-Year-Old Colt Trot
Leg 2
Scioto Downs

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Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator
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Ohio Sires Stakes, 77 S. High St., 18th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215
Fear The Dragon Latest Big Winner For Emerald Highlands

The breeder of Fear The Dragon is officially Perretti Farms, since the farm owned Armbro Cinnamon when she was bred to Dragon Again in the spring of 2013. But Ohio breeder Bruce Trogdon bought Armbro Cinnamon in foal in the fall of 2013 in Harrisburg, spending $15,000 for the 11-year-old mare. On April 16, 2014, Armbro Cinnamon foaled the colt Trogdon would name Fear The Dragon.

Fear The Dragon races in the name of Trogdon’s Emerald Highlands Farm. Trogdon, who owns a group of small-town newspapers in Ohio, established Emerald Highlands in 1982 in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Armbro Cinnamon is one of 37 broodmares at the farm.

Although Emerald Highlands is not the breeder of Fear The Dragon, the farm can take credit for all of his early months. He was born, raised and broke to jog at Emerald Highlands Farm prior to being sent to trainer Brian Brown.

Sometimes Trogdon sells the foals as yearlings; other times he keeps a foal to race, as was the case with Fear The Dragon and Color’s A Virgin, winner of the 2014 Jugette and 2015 Breeders Crown Mare Pace.

Fear The Dragon was an early achiever, stringing together four straight wins in stakes company last July and August, with the fourth win a one-length score over Huntsville in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes leg at Harrah’s Philadelphia. Trogdon was receiving phone calls to sell the colt, but put them off and made the trip south to Lexington to see him in action in Grand Circuit stakes action at The Red Mile. The first week the colt raced poorly and finished seventh in a field of seven. The following week he turned in a second-place effort to Huntsville.

“He injured an eye just before the Lexington Grand Circuit meet last year at two and we quit for the season as he was not staked to the Breeders Crown or Governor’s Cup,” shared Trogdon.

Meanwhile, Armbro Cinnamon delivered a full brother to Fear The Dragon earlier this year and has been bred to Captraintreacherous.

“We planned to breed her back this year to Dragon Again but he unfortunately died before we had the chance,” said Trogdon.

Trogdon and his wife, Sabrina, plan to drive to Mohawk to see Fear The Dragon compete in the NA Cup.

“Brian Brown has done a fabulous job with him,” added Trogdon. “To have two great horses in the same year like Dragon and Downbytheseside is a remarkable feat.” — By Kathy Parker

$440,000 Fan Hanover Final

Mohawk Racetrack, Saturday, June 17, Race 9, Post Time: 9:15 pm

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Bettor’s Up (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>D. McNair/S. McEneny</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms/$15,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2—Al-Mar-Got A Fever (Third Straight)</td>
<td>T. Henry/M. Weller</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Walnut Hall Ltd./$16,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3—She’s Watching (Rocknroll Hanover)</td>
<td>S. Zeron/T. Alagna</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Perretti Farms/$200,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4—Idyllic Beach (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/J. Takter</td>
<td>9-5</td>
<td>Steiner Stock Farm/$100,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5—Tequila Monday (American Ideal)</td>
<td>B. Sears/C. Oakes</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>Winbak Farm/$40,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6—Action Majesty (Royal Mattjesty)</td>
<td>S. Filion/G. McNair</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>K. Sommer/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>7—Agent Q (Western Terror)</td>
<td>D. Miller/A. Lambert</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>K. Wood, W. Dittmar &amp; S. Iaquinta/$25,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8—Future Headlines (Sportswriter)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/C. Johnson</td>
<td>25-1</td>
<td>Tara Hills Stud, S. Calhoun/$20,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9—RoaringTo Go (Art Major)</td>
<td>B. Miller/K. Lare</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Carter Rcg Stb, M. Frank, Concord Stud Fm, J. Fodera/$16,000 (GYS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10—Dancing Shadows K (Shadow Play)</td>
<td>R. Waples/R. Boyd</td>
<td>25-1</td>
<td>R. Key/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE1—Obvious Blue Chip (Roll With Joe)</td>
<td>J. MacDonald/M. Steacy</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock/$35,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fast, Free-Legged, And Tough On Trainer’s Nerves

He’s a longshot to win the $1 million North America Cup final at 20-1, but Classic Pro was the closest horse to Huntsville in their NA Cup elim last Saturday. Since Classic Pro has drawn a good starting position, post 6, you couldn’t blame the colt’s trainer and co-owner, Dr. Ian Moore, if he is dreaming of a big purse check.

Dr. Moore, however, expects to be a basket of nerves as the field goes to the gate for the NA Cup final. That’s because Classic Pro races without hobbles, free-legged, and in a division of the Somebeachsomewhere on June 3 he broke stride at the start and was never in the race.

“He’s never liked the hobbles, that’s why I’ve been racing him without them,” said Dr. Moore. “I tried him with the hobbles and put him behind the gate and Trevor (Henry) told me he was somewhat crazy. Otherwise he’s always a very calm horse.”

Dr. Moore said Classic Pro is now wearing a bigger sulky and he thinks that is helpful because the colt had hit the inside wheel.

“Hopefully there will be no disruptions Saturday. I’ll be on pins and needles when he leaves the gate.”

—Dr. Ian Moore

“Hopefully there will be no disruptions Saturday. I’ll be on pins and needles when he leaves the gate,” said Dr. Moore.

While Huntsville hit the wire in 1:49.1 in the NA Cup elim, Classic Pro’s own mile was timed in 1:50—with a .27 last quarter. Dr. Moore said one reason he’s left Classic Pro free-legged is because he’s a faster horse without hobbles.

“He has a much different stride without hobbles,” he explained. “But racing without hobbles is too hard on my nerves. It’s one thing when you’re in a non-winners; it’s another when you’re going for this kind of money. We are planning on going to the Meadowlands Pace so after this race I’m going to try to put the hobbles on him.” —By Kathy Parker

Some See Retirement as an End, but for a Racehorse it’s Just the Beginning…

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Zeron Talks NA Cup Card Chances

While Scott Zeron has driven in five of the past six Pepsi North America Cups, the 27 year old will be watching Saturday night’s renewal from the Mohawk Racetrack paddock.

“The only race I’ve wanted to win my whole life and I have nothing in,” lamented Zeron.

Zeron’s best luck in the Cup has come via fifth-place finishes the last two years with Artspeak and Michael’s Victory. And while he won’t have a chance to improve on his NA Cup record, he still has chances in other major stakes on the Saturday card. Here are his thoughts:

**KESTREL**—PP2, ARMBRO FLIGHT
*finished fifth in her elimination*

“Last week was the first time I drove her and (trainer Chris Beaver) said she was still a little tied up so she wasn’t going to be at her best, but he felt he could have her good for the final. She is going to give me an improved effort, that’s for sure. Whether or not it’s good enough to get up close—obviously we’re chasing Hannelore and good mares in there—and a check would be nice. You don’t try and beat Hannelore Hanover, you race your own race and try not to cost yourself money by chasing her.”

**SHAMBALLA**—PP7, MOHAWK GOLD CUP
*fourth in Preferred at Mohawk on June 10*

“He’s been getting a little bit better. He came back a little bit sore to start the year and they’ve kind of figured out what was wrong. This week he should definitely give a much-improved effort. Last week I came a really big third quarter with him and he always likes that one run. I felt I used him up chasing that third quarter. He didn’t finish as strong as I wanted him to, but he is going to round into form soon.

**SHE’S WATCHING**—PP3, FAN HANOVER
*finished third in her elimination*

“I think if I have her in the right position she’s every bit the best in there. She has an unbelievable turn of foot and it’s just a matter of the kind of trip I can get. Last week, obviously first-up wasn’t the greatest thing. I was patient with her as I didn’t want her to make a break again, as when I pulled the plugs for the first time in her life and she wasn’t ready for it. I pulled them again last week just to test her and she was fine. Last week was a positive effort and I was happy with the way she finished. I’m lucky enough to get the three hole and I think that’s perfect for the way I want to race her.”

**INTERNATIONAL MON**—PP2, GOODTIMES
*won his elimination in 1:54.2*

“He won from an impossible spot (ninth by 13 ¾ lengths at the half). And it wasn’t scorching hot fractions or anything like that so he overcame a lot. I was just praying to get up to the top five. It was his first start of the year so I didn’t want to push him 27 seconds off the gate just to make the final. He’s been good enough coming back this year that I thought he could pass them down the lane, but off those fractions I was a little worried. When I moved him he was strong. I picked the two hole and I think I will just let him run his own race. I think he is one of the best in there. This should be a good race and I love my horse.”

**CALL ME QUEEN BE**—PP6, ROSES ARE RED
*finished second in her elimination*

“She was great last week and I was lucky enough to draw the six hole in the final which is a great spot for her, especially with her gate speed. She came back really well this year and is so nice to drive. I can put her in any position.”
Cup Night Insights

PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP: Huntsville

“It’s like a chess match. I try to drive three or four horses in a race all the time. I know where everyone is, and where I can put them. I always try to put them where they don’t want to be. That’s the name of catching driving. And you’ve got to think about speed and time and who’s leaving and who you want to follow. You’re looking for a little bit of an edge, where you can get a jump on somebody or keep them locked in.” — Tim Tetrick, driver of the 8-5 morning line favorite.

ARMBRO FLIGHT: Hannelore Hanover

“It’s the first time I thought that she looked like herself. I think she’s back to being sharp. She’s ready to go. The other horses look good in there, but they’re going to have to trot in 1:51 to beat her.” — trainer Ron Burke about his 5-year-old trotting mare, who won her Armbror Flight elimination by 2 ¾ lengths in 1:52.2. Hannelore Hanover is the defending Armbror Flight champion.

GOODTIMES: Enterprise

“He moves so easy, even though he’s a pretty big horse. He’s got speed, but he never gets tired. Of course that will happen when he faces tougher horses; maybe it will happen in the final on Saturday. But he’s a very strong horse. He’s got the tools to be a good horse. It’s still several weeks until the Hambletonian and anything can happen. But I wouldn’t trade either of my horses for anyone.” — Marcus Melander, trainer of Enterprise, who won his Goodtimes elimination by two lengths in a lifetime best 1:53.1.

FAN HANOVER: Bettor’s Up

“I knew she’d be good because she likes to race tough. When she won in (1):51, Doug McNair raced her first-up. I think she got a little lazy up front in the elimination, plus I thought we could’ve gotten the third quarter to be a little slower; Scotty Zeron (driving She’s Watching) was coming kind of hard, so she went a big third quarter but still came home in :27. I was pretty happy with her. That was a tough filly (Tequila Monday) that beat her. Some of the other fillies, like Idyllic Beach, we’ve beaten before, so I think she can go with them. It’s going to come down to who gets the right trip and there are four, five, six good fillies in there. It’s not going to be a cakewalk for anybody.

“She’s not a very big filly, but she’s filled out over the year. She doesn’t wear very long hobbles—she just has a big heart. We paid $15,000 for her and she has a good pedigree, but her biggest problem is her size.” — trainer Scott McEneny

EBC Finals Highlight Vernon Father’s Day Card

The rich finals of the Empire Breeders Classic (EBC), a New York-sired event for 3-year-old trotters, will be raced as a part of the Father’s Day card on Sunday at Vernon Downs.

Ten fillies will compete in the first of the pair of finals (Race 8) for a purse of $228,250, with Barn Bella the obvious choice despite the disadvantage of starting from the far outside post 9. The Conway Hall lass has won 10 straight races including the NewYork Sires Stakes (NYSS) final at two last August for owner-trainer Steve Pratt and partner Wanda Polisseni’s Purple Haze Stables. Barn Bella has handled older open trotters on two occasions and won the first NYSS of the season while preparing for the EBC and beyond. Jeff Gregory will drive.

The $252,000 EBC colt final is the ninth race and promises to be a far more contentious affair. Devious Man (post 5) is the defending NYSS champ and is off to a great start on his sophomore campaign for the husband-wife team of driver Andy and trainer Julie Miller. The son of Credit Winner has won both 2017 starts including last week’s EBC elimination in 1:53.4 after a freshman campaign that saw him earn over $300,000, including a Grand Circuit win at The Red Mile. He is owned by Stroy Inc. and the Andy Miller Stable.

Competition comes directly from the left as Bill’s Man (Corey Callahan), who took the other EBC elimination in 1:53, starts from post 4. He’s a very well-bred colt on the improve for trainer John Butenschoen and owners William Wiswall and M & L of Delaware.

Lord Cromwell (post 9) already has a Grand Circuit score on his sophomore card with a convincing win in last month’s Dexter Cup. He was third in the Devious Man elim but has drawn poorly in the final for Hall of Fame driver John Campbell. Ed Hart trains the homebred for Carolyn Atherton. (Vernon Downs)
McNair Hoping For Better Than Last Time

Doug McNair has his game face on. On Saturday the 27-year-old driver will be making his second North America Cup appearance in two years and, although he’s hoping to grab a piece of the $1 million purse, McNair is well aware the odds say he won’t.

“I’m over the moon to be in (the race) but I’m keeping my fingers crossed that, with a bit of luck, we can hopefully get some money,” said McNair.

To be fair, his cautious optimism isn’t related to McNair’s NA Cup driving assignment, Western Hill. Homebred by owner Tom Hill of Hamilton, Ont., and trained by Tony Alagna, the gelding has been a consistent performer, getting on the board twice in three starts on the year and earning a 5-2-1 record from 13 career starts to date.

McNair said the son of Western Ideal out of the Art Major mare Cosmo Blue Chip is a calm and versatile horse who is noticeably improving with every start. In fact, in NA Cup elimination action at Mohawk Racetrack on June 10, McNair guided Western Hill to a respectable second-place finish behind Downbytheseaside.

McNair says his concerns for this weekend’s big race are mostly due to post positions. Western Hill drew post 9 for the NA Cup, which McNair admits was a disappointment but says was an improvement over his starting position in the 2016 Cup.

“Last year I drew the 10 hole with Magnus J and it’s really tough to be sitting on the outside of a really tough, tight field,” McNair said, adding that there is never an easily beatable horse in any of harness race’s biggest races. Every trainer will have their entry primed for a win this weekend.

“You could say things are improving for me though,” McNair joked.

“I’ve been in (the North America Cup) twice and the first time I was farther out, so every time it gets better and better. If this keeps up, after about 12 years I should be on the rail.”

Besides Western Hill’s post position, McNair says an added obstacle to Western Hill’s possible NA Cup success is the fact that all three of the race’s top contenders are stacked shoulder-to-shoulder near the rail in posts 2, 3 and 4. Respectively, the three are NA Cup elimination winners Downbytheseaside, Huntsville and Fear The Dragon.

“We’re going to need luck,” says McNair. “That’s all you can really hope for, you know, from the nine hole when you’ve got three real tough powerhouses sitting on the inside.”

If he had to make a prediction about which of the big three has the best shot at taking the 2017 North America Cup, based on last weekend’s elimination racing, McNair believes Fear The Dragon will be the horse to beat.

“Obvious Huntsville is a beast too with a 1:49.1 win last weekend, but Fear The Dragon looked like he was going to go 1:49 flat until he jumped over the head number that fell on the track down the homestretch. That was a young horse move, but he recovered quick—no problem.

“I think Fear The Dragon will be sharp and bring that speed this weekend, and I think it’s going to be a really battle between the three elimination winners for the rail right off the gate.”

McNair is far happier about his starting position for the $400,000 Fan Hanover on Saturday evening. His horse for the 3-year-old pacing filly showdown is Bettor’s Up. A son of Bettor’s Delight, the Scott McEneny-trained Bettor’s Up will be starting from post 1.

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.
OSS Action Features

3YOF'T’s At Northfield

A pair of $40,000 Ohio Sires Stakes (OSS) divisions will be featured Saturday night at Northfield Park. A total of 16 sophomore trotting fillies will line up behind the Cleveland half-miler starting gate for the two events that are set as races three and seven.

Of those 16 diagonally-gaited distaffs, only three will be making their first start in OSS competition this season, while the remaining 13 all vied in first-leg contests. Looking for their second straight victories in the four-leg series are leg one winners Chim Swift, Gabbysloosechange and Rose Run Sydney.

Ohio sires Triumphant Caviar and Dejarmbro are represented by four daughters each, while stallion Break The Bank K has three of his progeny competing. Ohio-based stallions And Away We Go, Chip Chip Hooray, Full Count, Iron Duke and Neely Dunn all have one foal each looking for a victory Saturday night.

Owner-breeder Robert Key owns three of the OSS-eligible sophomore trotting jesses: Amuse's and Pennys N Dimes in the first division (Race 3) and Monee Bank in the second division (Race 7).

Trainer Chris Beaver will harness three of the fillies: Bamaslastchance in the first division and Gabbysloosechange and Chim Swift in division two.

Conditioners Marty Wollam and Norm Parker will tighten the girth on two of the OSS starters: Wollam has Purple Sona in the first division and Full Of Pride in the second division, while Parker has Pennys N Dimes in the first and Monee Bank in the second.

Rose Run Sydney is the clear standout in division one (Race 3) for owners Steve Carter, Adam Friedland and RBR Racing LLC. Carter trains the Triumphant Caviar lass, who has a trio of victories under her belt coming into this OSS event. She captured OSS leg one on May 1 at Miami Valley Raceway in 1:58.1 with a come-from-behind effort for driver Jason Brewer, who drives again from post two.

Bred by the Rose Run Farm of Sugarcreek, Ohio, Rose Run Sydney has amassed $137,067 lifetime from 10 wins, four seconds and two thirds in 17 career starts.

Purple Sona, a daughter by Dejarmbro who hails from the Marty Wollam Stable, will vie against Rose Run Sydney from post six with Kurt Sugg aboard. She was a smart second to rival Gabbysloosechange in leg one of this series on May 1 at Miami Valley. This winner of $75,362 lifetime has two overnight wins—one each at The Meadows and Northfield—as she goes postward for Acadia Farms Inc., Dale Sweet and G&B Racing.

Bamaslastchance and driver Aaron Merriman leave from post five in this same division for trainer Chris Beaver. This Iron Duke filly was third to Rose Run Sydney in OSS leg one at Miami Valley before scoring a neck victory in a Scioto Downs overnight on May 10 in a career best 1:55.3. Owned by Beaver, Synerco Vent, Steve Zeehandelar and Michael Robinson, Bamaslastchance has career earnings of $90,861 from two wins in 11 starts.

Bred by Vernon E. Miller, Bamaslastchance is the third foal out of the Kadabra mare Sweetsomeourbama and is a full sister to the 2014 OSS champion Sunrise Nibbles.

Beaver will then harness Chim Swift and Gabbysloosechange in the second OSS division.

Chim Swift, owned by Beaver and breeder Wilbur Stoll Lang, is a daughter of Triumphant Caviar who tripped the timer in a seasonal best 1:57.2 at Miami Valley on May 1, holding off the game Saw Mill Road by a neck. A winner of $133,870 in her career, Chim Swift won an OSS leg, an Ohio Fair Stake and the $57,220 Ohio Breeders Championship last season as a freshman.

Chim Swift is the second foal out of the unraced Credit Winner mare Blackrock and is a full sister to the speedy and prolific Kestrel 4, 1:52.1f ($384,998), who won OSS legs at ages two and three.

Gabbysloosechange is co-owned by Beaver and breeder Johanna Beaver. This filly was unraced at two and has five seasonal starts to date with three wins and a second and $28,500 in 2017 earnings. She won her OSS leg one division at Miami Valley on May 1 in 1:57.2 (the fastest division) and captured an overnight at Hoosier Park in 1:57.2 in commanding fashion on May 24. (OSDF)
Year-round racing, improvements to Mohawk

Woodbine Entertainment today announced an investment of over $10 million for Mohawk Racetrack at Tuesday’s Pepsi North America Cup post-position draw. The venture is intended to upgrade the facility so to be exclusively dedicated to Standardbred horse racing and capable of offering the sport year round. Currently, Mohawk operates from April to October. more

Vernon Downs, casino could close later this year

According to WKTV in Utica, N.Y., Vernon Downs’ chairman Jeff Gural plans to close the track, and its casino and adjacent hotel, while it awaits a tax relief bill passage that may not come to fruition. The closings, however, would not come until later this year. Gural said they are required by state law to give employees a 90-day notice of termination. more

Cousin Mary to make open debut at Yonkers

Standout 4-year-old pacing mare Cousin Mary will make her debut in Yonkers Raceway’s $55,000 Filly and Mare Open Handicap Pace Friday night. The Andrew Harris trainee is set to return to the Hilltop Oval for the first time since she swept the Petticoat Series in March. Since then, Cousin Mary completed another series sweep, this time in the Bobby Weiss Series at Pocono Downs. She sports 11 wins this season from 14 starts and boasts a $135,000 bankroll. more

Yonkers to introduce new finish line

Yonkers Raceway is moving the finish line...for starters. The Raceway has, if you shall pardon the pun, put the finishing touches on the new finish line. The project, which has been approved by the New York State Gaming Commission, shall see the current line moved up the track by 105 feet, meaning the length of the stretch decreases from 660 to 555 feet. more

Meadowlands/USTA fundraiser for McKee family

The Meadowlands and U. S. Trotting Association are inviting horsemen, friends, and fans to contribute to the McKee Fund to benefit the family of the late Sam McKee. more

Camels, ostriches at Meadowlands Friday

Horses will not be the only animals racing down the famed stretch of the Meadowlands Racetrack this Friday night—ostriches and camels will compete as part of the track’s annual event that regularly draws 10,000 fans to the East Rutherford facility. This is the sixth year the unique brand of racing has been staged with crowds growing each year to catch a glimpse of the exotic animals. more

Plans being finalized for Shenandoah meet

Plans are being finalized for the second season of pari-mutuel harness racing at Shenandoah Downs, scheduled to take place this fall from Sept. 16-Oct. 15. more

Mass. Stakes expanding breeders’ interests

Breeding competitive Standardbreds in Massachusetts goes back to the 1800s when the Boston-based New England Trotting Horse Breeders Association backed and promoted it. And as a result of organizations like that, quality state-bred trotters and pacers have been breaking major records in the sport as far back as 1912 when Uhlan, who was foaled in Bedford, Mass., trotted a world record mile in 1:58. more

#SendItIn shirts on sale to benefit McKee Fund

Racing fans can purchase #SendItIn t-shirts from eBay, with 100 percent of the net proceeds going to the McKee Fund, to benefit the family of the late Sam McKee. more

Campbell to drive at Goshen on July 2

The 107th season of racing in Goshen, N.Y., will include the final race in the United States for all-time money-winning driver John Campbell and inductions for harness racing’s finest over a long weekend from July 1-4. more

Top trotters among Spirit of Mass. eligibles

Plainridge Park has released the list of eligible horses for its signature event, the $250,000 Spirit of Massachusetts Trot, which will be contested on Friday, July 28. The roster was confirmed after the second sustaining payments were received on Monday, May 15. more
Equuleus, Safe From Terror 1. North American statistics only.

Roll World, Sintra 3, Broadway Donna, Hurricane Beach, Magic Presto 2, Long Tom, Odds On Glassine Hanover, Missile J, Nike Franco N, Sortie, Western Fame 5, Clear Vision 4, Rock N’ Peter Tritton 85 20-17-7 .37 4 844,556
Matias Ruiz 351 51-39-4 .254 857,903
Scott Di Domenico 470 87-65-62 .306 1,470,247
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera 583 92-91-88 .295 1,496,449
Rene Allard 824 193-138-95 .366 2,679,114
Richard Banca 496 84-78-57 .315 2,178,978
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera 583 92-91-88 .295 1,496,449
Scott Di Domenico 470 87-65-62 .306 1,470,247
Andrew Harris 431 79-66-49 .306 1,340,730
Richard Moreau 602 115-92-90 .326 1,258,255
Rob Harmon 328 57-47-30 .284 879,876
Matias Ruiz 351 51-39-49 .254 857,903
Peter Tritton 85 20-17-7 .374 844,556

- **Leaders Of The Week**
  - **Drivers**
    - Aaron Merriman: 98, 25-14-13
    - Sam Widger: 47, 22-8-3
    - Tim Tetrick: 55, 16-10-7
    - George Napolitano Jr.: 73, 15-16-11
    - Greg Merton: 29, 15-1-4
    - Simon Allard: 63, 15-10-5
    - Jim Morrill Jr.: 36, 13-4-1
    - Jim DeVaux: 55, 12-6-6
    - Bruce Aldrich Jr.: 61, 11-5-10
    - Jim Marohn Jr.: 52, 11-3-8
    - Jim Taggart Jr.: 64, 11-12-7
    - Kevin Switzer Jr.: 39, 11-5-7
    - Casey Leonard: 40, 10-4-8
    - Jason Merriman: 61, 10-11-8
    - Jeremy Smith: 55, 10-5-5
    - Kyle Ater: 45, 10-6-3
    - Ronnie Wrenn Jr.: 72, 10-8-8
    - Scott Zeron: 36, 10-3-4
    - Trace Tetrick: 61, 10-4-7
    - Victor Kirby: 56, 10-5-7
    - Andrew McCarthy: 55, 9-6-8
    - Bob McClure: 43, 9-7-6
    - Dan Noble: 53, 9-10-7
    - Josh Sutton: 54, 9-5-6
    - Michael Merton: 44, 9-7-6

  - **Trainers**
    - Rene Allard: 10
    - Philip Sowers: 8
    - Ron Burke: 8
    - Dolores Basilone: 7
    - Brian Brown: 6
    - Erv Miller: 6
    - Al Amruzzita: 5
    - Dan Ater: 5
    - Daniel Gill: 5
    - Frank Antonaci: 5
    - Jimmy Takter: 5
    - Linda Toscano: 5
    - Tim Hall: 5

- **Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll**
  - **Horses**
    - Ariana G: 3tf, 2-2-0-0, 60,000
    - Huntsville: 3pc, 4-3-1-0, 74,279
    - Crazy Wow: 5th, 5-2-3-0, 231,500
    - Downbytheseaside: 10th, 10-3-2-3, 193,170
    - Red Hot Herbie: 13th, 4-4-1-0, 231,500
    - Other: 13th, 3-7-0-3, 231,500

  - **Horsemen**
    - Steve Stewart: 134, 69, 153, 1,578,098
    - Seelster Farms Inc.: 150, 95, 237, 2,091,173
    - Brittany Farms: 203, 115, 254, 2,726,583
    - Perretti Farms: 164, 102, 220, 2,096,755
    - Seelster Farms Inc.: 150, 95, 237, 2,091,173
    - Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.: 157, 82, 191, 1,834,625
    - White Birch Farm: 133, 72, 151, 1,595,855
    - Steve Stewart: 134, 69, 153, 1,578,098
    - Bulletproof Enterprises: 124, 65, 156, 1,515,292
    - Diamond Creek Farm LLC: 110, 58, 125, 1,506,578

- **Basic Statistics**
  - **Bets**

- **Leading Money-Winning Horses**
  - **North American-Based**
    - Somewhere In LA: 1st, 4-4-0-0, $207,160
    - Keystone Velocity: 2nd, 4-3-1-0, 231,500
    - Crazy Wow: 3rd, 4-2-3-0, 193,170
    - Missile J: 4th, 4-0-0-0, 184,580
    - Red Hot Herbie: 5th, 3-7-0-3, 184,580
    - Other: 6th, 3-7-0-3, 184,580

  - **Other Bets**
    - All Bets Off (6ph): 9, 3, 1, 1, 17, 4, 167,260
    - Red Hot Herbie (7tg): 13, 5, 1, 1, 177,200

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    - Linda Toscano: 5
    - Tim Hall: 5