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WIJI Rides Three-Race Win Streak Into Ben Franklin Elims

George Teague Jr., who owns the 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit, who returned to the racetrack this year as a 4 year old without hardly missing a beat, admits he was surprised to see 22 entries for the \$500,000 Ben Franklin for older pacers on July 2 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, which has eliminations this Saturday night.

"It's surprising to me that there are that many, but I might be the only one surprised," laughed Teague when informed three eliminations would be necessary on Saturday to pare the final field down to nine (the first three finishers in each elim will advance).

"They are going in 1:47 like a year ago they were going in 1:48. I think 1:46 is around the corner."

— George Teague Jr.

The older pacers have started the season with sensational races as several records have been tied or shattered. Wiggle It Jiggleit put his name in the world record book with a 1:49.4h win in the May 21 Battle of Lake Erie at Northfield Park, and his 1:47.3f win in the Dorothy Mullin Invitational on May 29 at Harrah's Philadelphia set a new all-age track standard.

The older pacing ranks also includes 7-year-old Mel Mara, who turned in a 1:47 world record-equaling effort on June 4 at the Meadowlands, as well as 5-year-old Always B Miki, who set a 1:47.1 Canadian record last weekend in the Gold Cup at Mohawk.

The records set the stage for an epic showdown, arguably one of the most anticipated races in recent memory. But any such race to earn early bragging rights will have to wait at least until the Franklin final as Wiggle It Jiggleit drew away from his peers in the first elim (Race 10), with Mel Mara and Always B Miki landing in the same elim (Race 11).

And no disrespect to the other 18 Franklin entries, but the aforementioned trio is expected to become a quartet with the addition of 2015 Breeders Crown champ Freaky Feet Pete, who has four wins in five starts already this year. "Pete" will start in the third Franklin elim (Race 12).

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"It was our first match-up with Pete that everybody was looking forward to," noted Teague. "Then everybody started chatting about Always B Miki, and now Mel Mara has come in in the last month and made it a little bit more of four horses everybody wants to see go up against each other."

WIJI comes into the Franklin elims riding a three-race win streak, including an adventurous track record-equaling 1:48.1 win in a Graduate leg at Tioga Downs on June 12. In the race, WIJI overcame a broken Buxton bridle. It snapped in half at the start and flopped against his legs the entire mile but he still won by 5 ½ lengths.

Teague admits that while racing fans may be looking forward to a star-studded showdown, he isn't fully on board.

"A lot of people are looking forward to the match-ups, but my participation is different than the anticipation," said Teague. "I look at it with a different perspective. These four horses, we don't want to race against each other unless we have to. That's because one of us is going to take the winner's share of the money—not necessarily one of us but I think we have as big a chance as anybody."

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"It will come down to the draw, it will come down to the trip, and it will come down to which horse is best that day. It will happen at least four or five times this season. But I wouldn't trade one of the other horses for my horse."

Teague said one thing may result in a showdown of the star older pacers: a lowering of the all-time race record of 1:46.4.

"I think there is a definite possibility this year with these horses," said Teague. "The 1:47 miles are coming pretty handy. They are going in 1:47 like a year ago they were going in 1:48. I think 1:46 is around the corner." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Boston Red Rocks Looks To Bounce Back In Hempt

Thirteen 3-year-old male pacers will battle it out on Saturday night at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in a pair of eliminations for the \$500,000 Max Hempt Memorial on July 2.

The baker's dozen for the Hempt does not include recent North America Cup champion Betting Line, who is not eligible to the Hempt and instead will be resting on his laurels awaiting an Ontario Sires Stakes contest on July 2 at Mohawk.

However, the Hempt eliminations include four NA Cup finalists, including Racing Hill, Control The Moment and Boston Red Rocks, who finished second, third and fourth, respectively. Big Top Hanover, who finished seventh in the NA Cup final, is also entered, as is American Passport, whose sixth-place finish in his NA Cup elim could only earn him an also-eligible pass that ultimately kept him on the sidelines for the final.

Boston Red Rocks, who won his NA Cup elim in 1:50.3, fared no better than fourth in the final, beaten 7 ¼ lengths after closing from 10 ½ lengths behind at the half in sixth. While Boston Red Rocks posted an unofficial back half in :53 and change and a last quarter of :26.4, trainer Steve Elliott said the colt should have been better.

"To me he raced a little dull," said Elliott. "He was right on Betting Line's back so he should have been able to go with him. But he came out of it clean as a whistle, so we'll see."

With regular driver Tim Tetrick in the sulky, Boston Red Rocks will start from post 1 in the first elim (Race 3). Boston Red Rocks is listed as the 5-2 second choice on the morning line, behind the 2-1 Control The Moment, who starts from post 6 with driver Randy Waples.

"Anytime you are inside the four you are OK," Elliott said about starting from the inside post. "The rail is a little tougher

spot to leave though than on the outside at that track."

Elliott will also start Talk Show in the second Hempt



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THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, June 24

All times listed are local.

9:10p	YR7	NYSS 3CP div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	YR8	NYSS 3CP div.	Trackmaster PPs
9:50p	M7	Cutler Mem. FFA Trot	Trackmaster PPs

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Saturday, June 25

7:06p	PcD3	Hempt Mem. 3CP elim	Trackmaster PPs
7:42p	PcD5	Hempt Mem. 3CP elim	Trackmaster PPs
8:00p	PcD6	Lynch Mem. 3FP elim	Trackmaster PPs
8:18p	PcD7	Beal Jr. Mem. 3CT elim	Trackmaster PPs
8:36p	PcD8	Lynch Mem. 3FP elim	Trackmaster PPs
8:54p	PcD9	Beal Jr. Mem. 3CT elim	Trackmaster PPs
9:12p	PcD10	Franklin FFA Pace elim	Trackmaster PPs
9:30p	PcD11	Franklin FFA Pace elim	Trackmaster PPs
9:48p	PcD12	Franklin FFA Pace elim	Trackmaster PPs

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elim (Race 5). Scott Zeron will drive the 6-1 shot from post 5. Racing Hill is the morning-line favorite from post 1.

A son of Art Major, Talk Show is the 146-1 longshot that left fast from post 10 in last fall's Breeders Crown final at Woodbine, reaching the quarter in :25.3 before yielding to Betting Line, who hit the half in :53.2. The fast early fractions resulted in Boston Red Rocks able to rally from sixth in the final turn to score the 18-1 upset.

Talk Show comes into the Hempt elims with two wins in two starts this year, as many as he had in 11 tries in 2015. His wins this year include a 1:53.2 victory in a New York Sires Stakes split on June 6 at Monticello.

"He has manners this year that he didn't have last year," said Elliott. "We babied him all winter; we kept him covered up good. He's a very fast horse and I think he's in a good spot. We've limited his starts and he's very good right now, so I think he'll be fine."

As for Betting Line, don't expect to see the Casie Coleman trainee in the U.S. for several weeks. Because of bad luck in the Meadowlands Pace (Sportswriter and Art Colony never raced after starting in the race), Coleman said she didn't nominate Betting Line to the classic at the Meadowlands.

Although Betting Line won't be at Pocono for the Beal, the son of Bettor's Delight is still expected to make a start this year in Wilkes-Barre, that coming on Aug. 20 in the Battle of the Brandywine. Coleman said other major U.S. stakes for Betting Line include the Little Brown Jug and Breeders Crown. — *By Gordon Waterstone*



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Two Elims For Beal Include Southwind Frank, Dayson, Brooklyn Hill

Two eliminations for the \$500,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial Trot are part of the big card at the Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono on Saturday night, and there will be some fresh battles in the 3-year-old colt and gelding trot division.

In the first of the two elims (Race 7), Goodtimes elimination winner Dayson is the 3-1 morning line choice. He has the fastest record of the starters (1:52.2f) but will be making only his third stakes start against open company. In the Goodtimes final last Saturday he was leading the field into the homestretch when he suddenly broke stride and veered off course, ending his chances. Yannick Gingras drove the son of Conway Hall in the Goodtimes but Jim Morrill Jr., who won a New York Sires Stakes with Dayson last month, gets the mount for the Beal.

The third morning line choice to Dayson is New Jersey Sires Stakes championship runner-up Brooklyn Hill, who has been chasing Southwind Frank this year. Brooklyn Hill has shown speed, trotting his own mile in 1:52.3 in finishing second to Southwind Frank in a New Jersey Sires Stakes leg at the Meadowlands.

Jonas Czernyson trains Brooklyn Hill, a colt by Muscle Hill who Lennart Agren (SRF Stable) of Sweden bought as a yearling for \$390,000. As a 2 year old, Brooklyn Hill took a mark of 1:53.1 at The Red Mile in his last start of the season. This year he has made just two pari-mutuel starts, with two second-place finishes to Southwind Frank.

Brooklyn Hill goes into the Beal Memorial elim with a three-week layoff from racing, but Czernyson said he thinks his horse will be ready.

"He's been training really good. He doesn't need much training, but we kept him trained up pretty good with the layoff so he should be tight for this race," said Czernyson.

While acknowledging that Southwind Frank is obviously the clear leader in the division at this point in the season, Czernyson also thinks his horse has the potential to win the Hambletonian.

"The first Saturday in August is our goal, to win the Hambletonian," said Czernyson. "Southwind Frank can beat us from now until then!

"Obviously, Southwind Frank is the horse to beat, but I think after that, the division is pretty open," added Czernyson. "Last year in Pennsylvania, the 3-year-old colt trotters were going in 1:52 in the first and second legs. This year they've only been in :55 and :54."

Southwind Frank will line up in post 8 in the second Beal Memorial elim (Race 9). On paper, the only other horse in the field to have trotted sub-1:53 this year is Bar Hopping, who finished third to "Frank" in a New Jersey Sires Stakes leg and trotted his own mile in 1:52.3. Bar Hopping, who finished fourth in the Goodtimes final at Mohawk last Saturday, will start from post 6.

Of the Beal eligibles, the fastest 3-year-old colt trotter thus far this year was not entered in the race. Sutton, who won a qualifier on May 28 at the Meadowlands, competed in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes leg at Pocono on June 12 and finished fifth.—By Kathy Parker

\$500,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial 3YO Colt Trot

The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, Saturday, June 25, 1st \$25,000 elimination, Race 7, Post Time: 8:18 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Brooklyn Hill* (Muscle Hill)	D. Miller/J. Czernyson	4-1	Order By Stable/\$390,000 (HB)
2—Dayson (Conway Hall)	J. Morrill Jr./R. Burke	3-1	Salt Hill Farm/\$18,000 (Morris)
3—Milligan's School* (Yankee Glide)	A. Miller/J. Miller	7-2	R. & J. McClelland/\$120,000 (HB)
4—Jimmy William* (Cantab Hall)	B. Miller/J. Takter	8-1	Solveig's Breeders/Homebred
5—Jack Vernon* (Muscle Hill)	T. Tetrick/R. Beeckman	9-2	A. Libfeld/\$50,000 (Lex)
6—Dupree* (Andover Hall)	A. Svanstedt	6-1	Blue Chip Bloodstock/\$200,000 (Lex)
7—Reigning Moni* (Donato Hanover)	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	10-1	Moni Maker Stable/Homebred
8—Truemass Volo (Muscle Massive)	E. Goodell/D. Hamilton	20-1	Kentuckiana Farms & J. Jahre Jr./\$25,000 (Lex)
9—Hollywood Highway* (Muscle Massive)	J. Campbell/S. Lind	15-1	M. Katz & A. Libfeld/\$50,000 (Lex)

2nd \$25,000 elimination, Race 9, Post Time: 8:54 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Dice Man* (SJ's Caviar)	A. Svanstedt	10-1	K. Hansen/\$33,000 (HB)
2—Love Matters* (Explosive Matter)	B. Miller/J. Takter	3-1	Dr. J. Egloff & M. & J. Burroughs LLC/\$21,000 (HB)
3—Trolley* (Donato Hanover)	M. Miller/E. Miller	6-1	A. Libfeld/\$30,000 (Lex)
4—Lagerfeld* (Yankee Glide)	C. Callahan/J. Takter	5-1	T. Holmes & W. Zent/\$200,000 (Lex)
5—Iron Mine Bucky* (Explosive Matter)	G. Dennis/G. Haverstick	20-1	J. Swann & L. Swann/—
6—Bar Hopping* (Muscle Hill)	T. Tetrick/J. Takter	4-1	D. Hutchins/\$190,000 (HB)
7—Promise Delivered* (Muscle Hill)	A. McCarthy/S. Lind	12-1	Concord Stud Farm/\$50,000 (HB)
8—Southwind Frank* (Muscle Hill)	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	5-2	Southwind Farm/\$100,000 (Lex)
9—Leggs Matter* (Explosive Matter)	D. Miller/R. Clark	15-1	Lindwood Farm/\$65,000 (Lex)

* Hambletonian eligible

Ben Franklin Elims Loaded With Speedsters

With the style of racing and ease of making speed today, it is not surprising to see that all but three of the 22 horses entered in this Saturday's eliminations for the Ben Franklin free-for-all pace have sub-1:50 records. The only Ben Franklin starters without a sub-1:50 speed badge are Take It Back Terry, Rockin Ron and Rock N' Roll World.

The unique red surface at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono has produced 1,487 sub-1:50 miles, with the first scored by Yankee Finale on July 10, 2005. With Saturday's weather forecast for the Wilkes-Barre area calling for temperatures in the 90s and plenty of sun, and only the first three finishers in each elim advancing to the \$500,000 Ben Franklin final, very fast miles are expected.

Could a world record be set, especially since the two fastest winners of the season, Mel Mara and Always B Miki, are set to square off in Race 11?

"There are so many aged pacers, probably seven, who can go in 1:47," said David Miller, Always B Miki's regular driver. "When you get them in together and do battle, you are going to see some really fast times I think. When Wiggle It Jiggleit goes in 1:47 at Harrah's Philadelphia, that's a serious, serious mile there."

Wiggle It Jiggleit is in the first Ben Franklin elimination, starting from post 6.

Always B Miki is the 5-2 morning line favorite in Race 11, with Mel Mara given odds of 3-1. Always B Miki goes into the race after a 1:47.1 victory in the Mohawk Gold Cup that ended up being more like a walk in the park than a horse race. The mile was the fastest ever in Canada.

"He was really sharp," said Miller. "I wasn't shooting for any world records or track records. They were setting up some good fractions for him."

Miller's analysis of his drive certainly matches up with the Trackus data generated for the Gold Cup. Always B Miki's peak speed in the race was 35.9 miles, which wasn't even close to the peak speed for Nirvana Seelster, who took the lead in the race with a 12.1 second opening eighth, which no doubt resulted in his peak speed of 38.3 miles per hour. When Nirvana Seelster reached the opening quarter in :25.2, Always B Miki was 10 ¼ lengths behind the pacesetter.

The only other Mohawk Gold Cup starter in the Ben Franklin is Shamballa, who finished second to Always B Miki, but was beaten by 3 ½ lengths. Shamballa's peak speed in the Gold Cup was 35.8 miles per hour. — *By Kathy Parker*



ALWAYS B MIKI

David Miller's Fastest Drives

Horse	Race Date	Time	Track
PET ROCK	7/13/2013	1:47	M
SHEBESTINGIN	10/5/2013	1:47	Lex
STATE TREASURER	8/8/2015	1:47	M
ALWAYS BE MIKI	6/18/2016	1:47.1	Moh
WON THE WEST	6/18/2011	1:47.2	Moh
MODERN LEGEND	8/30/2014	1:47.2	Moh
STATE TREASURER	8/23/2015	1:47.2f	TgDn
MCWICKED	6/28/2014	1:47.3f	PcD
DEALT A WINNER	8/8/2015	1:47.3	M
MISTER BIG	8/4/2007	1:47.4	M
SHADOW PLAY	8/8/2009	1:47.4	M
ALWAYS B MIKI	9/27/2014	1:47.4	Lex
BETTING LINE	6/18/2016	1:47.4	Moh

Tim Tetrick's Fastest Drives

Horse	Race Date	Time	Track
HE'S WATCHING	7/12/2014	1:46.4	M
CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS	9/28/2013	1:47.1	Lex
A ROCKNROLL DANCE	8/31/2013	1:47.2	Moh
CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS	10/5/2013	1:47.2	Lex
A ROCKNROLL DANCE	8/24/2013	1:47.3	Moh
ONE MORE LAUGH	7/17/2010	1:47.4	M
A ROCKNROLL DANCE	8/17/2013	1:47.4f	PcD
ARTISTIC FELLA	6/15/2008	1:48f	Chst
ANN DROVETTE	7/20/2013	1:48	Moh
SOMWHERE RAINBOW	5/25/2014	1:48f	PcD
DOO WOP HANOVER	6/6/2015	1:48	M
ROCKEYED OPTIMIST	6/6/2015	1:48	M
WAKIZASHI HANOVER	6/20/2015	1:48	Moh

Yannick Gingras's Fastest Drives

Horse	Race Date	Time	Track
HURRIKANE KINGCOLE	7/14/2012	1:47.3	M
FOILED AGAIN	6/22/2013	1:48f	PcD
CAMAES FELLOW	7/20/2013	1:48	Moh
ALLSTAR LEGEND	5/17/2014	1:48	M
FOILED AGAIN	8/27/2011	1:48.1	Moh
A ROCKNROLL DANCE	7/14/2012	1:48.1	M
A ROCKNROLL DANCE	8/19/2012	1:48.1f	Phl
CAMAES FELLOW	8/31/2013	1:48.1	Moh
BETTOR'S EDGE	6/7/2014	1:48.1	Moh
LADY SHADOW	6/18/2016	1:48.1	Moh
ROCKIN IMAGE	7/3/2010	1:48.2	M
ROCKIN IMAGE	8/7/2010	1:48.2	M
FOILED AGAIN	10/12/2013	1:48.2f	PcD
CLEAR VISION	8/8/2015	1:48.2	M

Brett Miller's Fastest Drives

Horse	Race Date	Time	Track
DANCIN YANKEE	5/17/2014	1:47.2f	PcD
CAPOZZO	7/18/2015	1:48	M
ARACACHE HANOVER	5/31/2014	1:48.1	M
WAKE UP PETER	7/12/2014	1:48.3	M
JK ENDOFANERA	10/10/2015	1:48.3	Lex
WESTERN SHORE	6/27/2009	1:48.4	M
DREAM OUT LOUD N	6/1/2014	1:48.4f	Phl
TELLIT LIKE IT IS	6/7/2014	1:48.4	Moh
ST LADS HE MAN	6/29/2014	1:48.4f	PcD
WAKE UP PETER	12/20/2014	1:48.4	M
BLATANTLY BEST	5/2/2015	1:48.4	M
JK ENDOFANERA	8/14/2015	1:48.4	HoP
T'S ELECTRIC	8/15/2015	1:48.4f	PcD

George Napolitano, Jr.'s Fastest Drives

Horse	Race Date	Time	Track
LUCK BE WITHYOU	7/19/2014	1:48f	PcD
SCOTT ROCKS	5/28/2016	1:48f	PcD
VLOS	10/8/2010	1:48.2f	PcD
HRUBYS N LUCK	6/30/2012	1:48.2f	PcD
JEREMY'S SUCCESSOR	7/24/2010	1:48.3f	PcD
A STITCH IN TIME	4/19/2014	1:48.3f	PcD
BIG TIME PROMISE	6/21/2014	1:48.3f	PcD
SCOTT ROCKS	7/12/2014	1:48.3f	PcD
LUCK BE WITHYOU	8/9/2014	1:48.3f	PcD
DANCIN YANKEE	6/6/2015	1:48.3f	PcD



stallizes photo

\$200,000 ARTHUR J. CUTLER MEM. FFA TROT

Meadowlands, Friday, June 24, Race 7, Post Time: 9:50 pm

Post—Horse	Trainer/Driver	Odds
1—Crazy Wow	T. Tetrick/R. Burke	6-1
2—Gural Hanover	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	12-1
3—JL Cruze	J. Campbell/E. Ell	7-2
4—Obrigado	M. MacDonald/P. Kelley	5-2
5—Flanagan Memory	B. Miller/R. Dion	8-1
6—Wind OfThe North	D. Miller/D. Bier	10-1
7—Resolve	A. Svanstedt	2-1

Resolve Returns From Elitlopp For Cutler

After finishing second in the Elitlopp on May 29 at Sweden’s Solvalla Raceway, Resolve is back on familiar ground and ready for his next challenge in Friday’s \$200,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial for older trotters at the Meadowlands.

Resolve faces six rivals in the Cutler. He will start from post 7, with trainer Ake Svanstedt also driving, and is the 2-1 morning line favorite. Obrigado, whose wins this season include the Charlie Hill Memorial and Maxie Lee Memorial, is 5-2 and 2015 Dan Patch Award divisional champion JL Cruze is 7-2.

“He was a little skinny when he came home, but he’s eaten well and in a week or two he was normal again,” said Svanstedt, who conditions the 5-year-old Resolve for owner Hans Enggren. “He trained good. Everything is normal. I like the way he feels.”

Resolve finished second to former U.S.-based star Nuncio in the Elitlopp. It has been 18 years since Moni Maker was

the last U.S.-owned horse to win the Elitlopp, although Resolve joined Arch Madness and Mr. Muscleman as recent U.S. runners-up in the prestigious invitational event. Arch Madness had back-to-back second-place finishes in 2012 and 2013 and Mr. Muscleman was second in 2007.

Svanstedt is in his third year of competing in North America. He was Sweden’s Trainer of the Year five times and Driver of the Year on three occasions prior to moving his stable to the U.S. in the winter of 2013. During his career overseas, Svanstedt won many of the top races in Europe, including the Elitlopp twice.

“It was fun to go back for the Elitlopp,” Svanstedt said. “It was very nice. It seems a lot of people in America looked at the race too. That’s good. A lot of people have given us congratulations.”

Resolve’s earnings in the Elitlopp pushed his lifetime total to more than \$1 million. The son of Muscle Hill-Anikawiesahalee has won 10 of 43 career starts and banked \$1.07 million.

Last year, Resolve won four of 13 races and hit the board a total of 12 times on his way to \$700,938. His wins included the TVG Free For All Series championship and an elimination of the Maple Leaf Trot. He finished second in the Maple Leaf Trot final, as well as the Breeders Crown Open Trot and Hambletonian Maturity.

Resolve received the 2015 O’Brien Award for the best older male trotter to compete in Canada.

The Cutler is Resolve’s only stakes-level engagement until the John Cashman Jr. Memorial on Aug. 6—Hambletonian Day—at the Meadowlands. In the meantime, Svanstedt will try to race Resolve at Yonkers Raceway in the hopes the horse receives an invitation to October’s International Trot at The Hilltop.

Svanstedt often races Resolve without shoes, but on Friday the stallion will race with shoes on his hind feet.

“He can go fast with shoes too,” Svanstedt said.

Wind OfThe North is the only one of the seven horses who competed in last year’s Cutler, which was won by Bee A Magician. Wind OfThe North finished second, two lengths back. Svanstedt won the 2014 Cutler with Sebastian K.—Ken Weingartner for HRC

HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

Kathy Parker

kparker@harnessracing.com
Editor/ General Manager

Lynne Myers

lmyers@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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STRETCH CALL



BY ANDREA PIETRZAK

Making Sense Of NA Cup Night

It was an old habit.

During my tenure at The Canadian Sportsman I would annually invite friends and family members to join me track-side on North America Cup night. I'd provide free transportation to and from the track, along with a very modest betting voucher, to any eager volunteer. My only requirement was a willingness to stay in the grandstand until I'd finished all my post-race interviews.

For a while there was a fan or a racing novice ready to attend a \$1-million event, but after a decade my pool of possible participants dwindled. With the driving time factored in, it was usually two or three in the morning before we'd get home—too late for many.

In fact, I'd given up the habit of inviting people to the NA Cup until three weeks ago when a pair of friends asked what the big deal was about the North America Cup? They'd seen an advertisement for the race on TV and, never having been to a horse race, wondered what the fuss was about.

Invitation issued.

I've always enjoyed having industry outsiders come to harness racing's richest night of racing and seeing Mohawk Racetrack on North America Cup night through new eyes this year brought a fresh perspective to the event.

This year, with the warmth of the evening and the patio lights strung across the outdoor beer garden, Mohawk's grandstand exuded a real county-fair atmosphere—or so I noticed when my friends pointed out how much it felt like the local fair. My friends marvelled at the many young kids busy catching the little moths attracted to the patio lights while parents cheered themselves hoarse at the rail nearby.

Was it usual to have children at racetracks, and so late at night (post time for the NA Cup final was 10:40 p.m.), my friends asked.

No, I explained, not every track is kid and family friendly. Woodbine in Toronto, for example, definitely attracts serious horseplayers, bettors and trendy hipsters looking for a new form of weekend entertainment.

Some tracks, however, like Mohawk and Grand River Raceway make an effort to appeal to their local communities which have large numbers of young families.

Where were all the tuxedos and fancy hats, my friends wanted to know, admitting they were relieved they hadn't had to dress up and drink mint juleps.

They said they were confused. The North America Cup is worth \$1 million. Isn't horse racing all about wealth and

snobbery? The only people my friends could see wearing suits at Mohawk were media commentators—and even they weren't oozing obvious money.

Well, Standardbred racing and Thoroughbred racing are very different industries, I assured my friends.

Although there are people with plenty of money and big purses up for grabs, harness racing began as an "every-man's game" and has kept that easy accessibility. Trainers tend to have their whole families involved in the business, and some owners train and drive. There are very strong ties to rural communities and rural life, and it is common for a large group of people to invest in a racing prospect together.

This strong sense of community translates to racing events such as this year's NA Cup night, where there were entertainment events like barbecues and hat giveaways, and industry groups like the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society offering sulky rides around the track between races.

Contrast that kind of friendly inclusivity to the often elitist,

members-only atmosphere of the Thoroughbred industry.

This year, with the warmth of the evening and the patio lights strung across the outdoor beer garden, Mohawk's grandstand exuded a real county-fair atmosphere.

Thoroughbred racing started as a hobby for English nobility and it can sometimes carry with it all the class consciousness of the

very wealthy and privileged. With Thoroughbreds, trainers don't ride their own horses and sometimes only see the horses in their care once or twice a month. Trainers and owners just don't spend hours in the barn like they do with Standardbreds.

When it comes to watching live racing, there are rules and dress codes in place at Thoroughbred tracks to preserve tradition and history—especially for important races with big purses.

So, my friends wanted to know, the horse that won the NA Cup, Betting Line, set a stakes, track and Canadian record. He won in, what, just over a minute, they asked, as if not quite believing how quickly the big contest had come to a conclusion.

Right, Betting Line won in a time of one minute and 47.4 seconds, I clarified.

My friends both thought it must be tough for everyone involved to have such a short space of time to win or lose one million dollars. After years of planning and hard work from so many people—breeders, trainers, owners, grooms—it must be "thrilling and frustrating as all hell."

It sure is, but I don't think anyone in harness racing would want it any other way.

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.



harnessracing.com HEADLINES

Harrisburg yearling sale drops from 4 to 3 days

Standardbred Horse Sales Company has announced that its 2016 annual sale at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg will change from its previously announced format. Three yearling sale days will be held on Monday, Nov. 7, through Wednesday, Nov. 9. The mixed portion of the sale will be held on Thursday, Nov. 10, and Friday, Nov. 11. [more](#)

Layla fights cancer with lemonade stand at qualifiers

There were a number of stirring performances Monday when Gaitway Farm held its final round of June qualifiers, but the most inspiring had nothing to do with any of the horses that went onto the racetrack. The day belonged to Layla Mosley. [more](#)

Mike Wilder drives 7,000th career winner

Mike Wilder collected career win 7,000 Tuesday at The Meadows when he piloted 13-1 long hot Step Closer to victory in the 13th race. [more](#)



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Faraldo sends letter to New York legislators

Joe Faraldo, president of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York (SOA), has written a letter to John Bonacic, chairman of the New York State Senate Racing & Wagering Committee, and Gary Pretlow, chairman of the New York State Assembly Racing & Wagering Committee, with his subject line for the letter stating "Retribution against NYS harness horsemen for their opposition to NYS legislation." [more](#)

Massachusetts purses to receive boost

According to reports, the Massachusetts Standardbred industry will receive a boost as a result of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's action to give the breed a larger portion of the state's multi-million dollar Race Horse Development Fund. [more](#)

Team America arrives in France

Team America drivers Jason Bartlett, Jordan Stratton and Tyler Buter arrived in Paris, France, on Wednesday, accompanied by their wives Kristen, Denelle, and Amber; executive director of the SOA of New York, Alex Dadoyan; USTA Communications staff Rich Johnston and Allison Conte; and Brandon Valvo of Harness Racing America for the second leg of the inaugural Drivers' Cup. [more](#)

Online handicapping contests to continue in N.Y.

Prominent New York State advance deposit wagering (ADW) platforms BataviaBets, EmpireCityBets, and SaratogaBets, citing positive handle trends and player feedback, announced that they will continue to offer legal online handicapping contests. Fully approved and regulated by the New York State Gaming Commission, members of the joint promotional initiative have all agreed to extended terms to offer the online contests for an additional calendar year. [more](#)

Gall named Standardbred Canada's president/CEO

Standardbred Canada, the Canadian harness racing industry leader, announced Tuesday that Dan Gall has been named the association's president and chief executive officer. [more](#)

Warrawee Needy has first winner; to shuttle

Warrawee Needy p,4, 1:46.4 (\$1,258,027) has his first winner. On June 18, Warrawee Speedy, a filly out of the Dragon Again mare Warrawee Jangle, won in 1:57.1 at Hiawatha Horse Park for trainer-driver Eddie Green and owner Mona Racette of Oshweken, Ont. [more](#)

RACE LINES

Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of June 21, 2016

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Wiggle It Jiggleit (32)	4pg	10-7-3-0	\$427,265	347	1
2. Betting Line	3pc	5-4-1-0	451,605	225	9
3. Southwind Frank	3tc	2-2-0-0	62,500	216	3
4. Always B Miki (3)	5ph	5-3-2-0	76,500	192	8
5. Bit Of A Legend N	7ph	13-9-2-0	473,750	161	2
6. Freaky Feet Pete	4ph	5-4-0-1	93,326	144	4
7. Hannelore Hanover	4tm	8-7-1-0	212,955	92	—
8. Maestro Blue Chip	4th	12-11-0-1	191,500	90	7
9. Bee A Magician	6tm	3-3-0-0	107,000	87	5
10. Pure Country	3pf	5-2-1-2	346,762	86	—

Others receiving votes: Rockin Ron 71, Rockeyed Optimist 45, Mel Mara 37, Resolve 21, Lady Shadow 19, Obrigado 17, Darlinonthebeach 12, Check Six 10, Marion Marauder 9, Missile J 8, Control The Moment, Pinkman 5, Dante 4, All Bets Off, Caprice Hill, I Said Diamonds, Krispy Apple, Yagonnakissmeornot 3, Homicide Hunter, JL Cruze, Sunfire Blue Chip 2, Racing Hill 1.

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through June 21, 2016 (week difference June 15-21).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Bit Of A Legend N (7ph)	13	9	2	0	\$473,750
Betting Line (3pc)	5	4	1	0	451,605
Wiggle It Jiggleit (4pg)	10	7	3	0	427,265
Check Six (3pc)	7	5	1	0	376,099
Pure Country (3pf)	5	2	1	2	346,762
All Bets Off (5ph)	12	3	4	3	337,185
Rockin Ron (4pg)	13	10	2	0	263,690
Yagonnakissmeornot (7pm)	12	4	2	1	257,049
Obrigado (6tg)	5	3	1	1	248,530
Rockeyed Optimist	14	9	3	1	242,710

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	1207	287-207-166	.379	\$3,889,738 (\$247,037)
Tim Tetrick	1341	275-203-161	.329	3,740,254 (248,623)
Aaron Merriman	2058	445-338-320	.359	3,421,272 (150,100)
Matt Kakaley	1320	170-183-183	.252	3,094,767 (162,776)
Yannick Gingras	825	151-123-126	.317	2,944,326 (387,221)
Brian Sears	860	174-140-113	.337	2,860,957 (213,519)
David Miller	790	137-115-109	.300	2,728,551 (752,016)
George Napolitano Jr.	1232	280-190-154	.355	2,708,777 (177,605)
Corey Callahan	1466	222-211-192	.275	2,616,967 (185,902)
George Brennan	1013	139-161-151	.275	2,562,924 (96,000)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1718	362-277-235	.346	\$6,314,170 (\$490,725)
Rene Allard	942	188-160-113	.334	2,493,860 (145,362)
Jeff Bamond Jr.	432	71-63-53	.286	1,533,566 (102,102)
Richard Moreau	608	121-101-76	.333	1,479,245 (116,457)
Jimmy Takter	203	45-44-24	.381	1,439,037 (360,132)
Richard Banca	529	107-79-69	.329	1,323,141 (40,620)
Gilberto Garcia-Herrera	786	95-94-120	.238	1,310,882 (98,613)
Peter Tritton	144	24-26-21	.316	1,033,750 (13,787)
Carmen Auciello	713	81-93-94	.230	974,267 (38,465)
Thomas Milici	282	92-43-32	.449	949,621 (37,545)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	902	455	960	\$9,473,141
Winbak Farm	835	427	900	7,119,589
Brittany Farms	235	130	301	2,914,325
Perretti Farms	209	129	299	2,636,187
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	163	86	197	2,164,667
White Birch Farm	142	78	180	2,103,385
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	179	100	227	1,890,790
Bulletproof Enterprises	139	82	214	1,798,749
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	111	51	115	1,674,778
Seelster Farms Inc.	159	90	219	1,607,732

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for June 8-14 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	64	18-8-12
Aaron Merriman	91	16-17-18
Chris Page	69	15-4-10
George Napolitano Jr.	74	15-13-9
Michael Merton	47	14-6-2
David Miller	47	13-7-4
Jim Morrill Jr.	35	13-10-4
W. Drew Campbell	26	13-7-1
Brian Sears	51	12-5-10
Dave Palone	43	12-7-5
Tony Morgan	51	12-4-6
Alfred Carroll	49	11-6-7
Andrew McCarthy	62	11-8-8
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	61	11-11-11
John DeLong	53	11-6-10
Josh Sutton	63	11-8-4
Stephane Bouchard	38	11-4-5
Kayne Kauffman	62	10-8-4
Marcus Miller	75	10-9-11
Simon Allard	53	10-7-6
Tony Hall	50	10-9-6
Kevin Switzer Jr.	40	9-7-7
Mark MacDonald	42	9-7-2
Mike Wilder	59	9-12-9
Sam Widger	44	9-10-3
Sylvain Filion	46	9-8-5

Trainers

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	19
Rene Allard	16
Richard Moreau	8
Joseph Hundertpfund Jr.	6
Casie Coleman	5
Jim Dailey	5
Kimberly Vafiades	5
Melissa Beckwith	5
Michael Dowdall	5
Nelson Willis	5
Virgil Morgan Jr.	5
Walter Haynes Jr.	5
William Kapinos	5

JULY 2016



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
26 MDSS 4&5 Open Pace/Trot (OD) NYSS/Excelsior 3CT (BR) PA All-Stars 2CP (PcD)	27 ONSS Gold 3CT (Moh) PA All-Stars 2FT (PcD)	28 INSS 2FT (HoP) PA All-Stars 2FP (PcD)	29 INSS 2CT (HoP) INSS 3FT (HoP) NYSS/Excelsior 2FT (BR) PA Stallion 3FT (Phl)	30 INSS 2CP (HoP) INSS 3CT (HoP) PASS 3FT (Phl)	1 Canada Day (Can.) Excelsior 3CP/3FP (Gosh) INSS 2FP (HoP) INSS 3FP (HoP) Maine Breeders 2CP (Scar) Miss Versatility OMT (Moh) NJSS 2YOs (M) OHSS 3FT (ScD) Tompkins Geers 3CT/3FT (TgDn) Town Pro 3FP (Moh)	2 INSS 3CP (HoP) Ben Franklin OHP final (PcD) Cleveland Trot Classic (Nfid) Earl Beal Jr. Mem. 3CT final (PcD) James Lynch Mem. 3FP final (PcD) Maine Breeders 3CT/3FT (Scar) Max Hempt Mem. 3CP final (PcD) NYSS/Excelsior 2CT (MR) OHSS 3FP/Mini States H&G Pace (ScD) ONSS Gold 3CP (Moh) Summertime 3CP (Moh)
3 Excelsior 3CT/3FT (Gosh) MSRF 2YO finals (OD) OHSS 2FP/2FT (Nfid) PA Stallion 2CP (PcD) Hall of Fame dinner at Goshen, N.Y.	4 Independence Day OHSS 2CP/2CT (ScD) ONSS Gold 2CP (Moh) PASS 2CP (PcD) Tompkins-Geers 3CP/3FP (TgDn)	5 INSS 2FT final (HoP) ONSS Gold 2FP (GeoD) ONSS Gold 2FT (Moh) PA All-Stars 2CT (PcD)	6 NYSS/Excelsior 2FP (BR) INSS 2CT final (HoP) INSS 3FT final (HoP) PA Stallion 2FP (Mea)	7 INSS 2CP final (HoP) INSS 3CT final (HoP) Maine Breeders 2CT/2FT (Scar) MSRF 3YO finals (OD)	8 INSS 2FP final (HoP) INSS 3FP final (HoP) NJSS 2YOs (M) NYSS/Excelsior 2CP (Stga)	9 Graduate 3YO Pace/Trot (M) Meadowlands Pace elims (M) ONSS gold 3FP (Moh) PASS 2FP (Mea) Reynolds 3FT (M) Sheppard 2CP elims (YR) Summertime 3CP final (Moh) Town Pro 3FP final (Moh)
10 Maine Breeders 2FP (Scar) MDSS 2YOs (OD) NYSS/Excelsior 3CFT (TgDn)	11 NYSS/Excelsior 3CP (YR) OHSS 2CP (Nfid) ONSS Gold 3CT (Moh) PA Stallion 2FT (Mea)	12 NYSS/Excelsior 3CP (MR) OHSS 2CT (Nfid) PASS 2FT (Mea)	13 NYSS/Excelsior 2CT (BR) PA Stallion 3FP (Phl) PA Stallion 2CT (Mea)	14 Maine Breeders 3CP (Scar) MDSS 3YOs (OD) NYSS/Excelsior 3CT (YR) PASS 3FP (Phl)	15 NJSS 2YO finals (M) NYSS/Excelsior 3FP (YR) OHSS 3CT (ScD) PASS 2CT (Mea)	16 OHSS 3CP (ScD) Golden Girls OMP (M) Sheppard 2CP final (YR) Delvin Miller Mem. 3FT (M) Hambletonian Maturity 4YO Trot (M) Maine Breeders 3FP (Scar) Meadowlands Pace final (M) Miss Versatility OMT (M) Mistletoe Shalee 3FP (M) ONSS Gold 2CP/3FT (Moh) Stanley Dancer Mem. 3CT (M) Wm. Haughton Mem. OHP (M)
17 MDSS 2YOs (OD) NYSS 3FT (BR)	18 NYSS/Excelsior 2FP (YR) ONSS Gold 2FP (Moh) PA Stallion 2FT (PcD)	19 ONSS Gold 2FT (Moh) OHSS 2FP/2FT (ScD) PA Stallion 2CP (Mea)	20 NYSS/Excelsior 2CP (BR) PA Stallion 2FP (Phl) PASS 2CP (Mea)	21 Maine Breeders 3CP (Scar) MDSS 3YOs (OD) NYSS/Excelsior 2CT (VD) PASS 2FP (Phl) Whenuwishuponastar 2FP (Moh)	22 INSS 2CP (HoP) INSS 3FP (HoP) Kindergarten 2CT/2FT (M)	23 Adios 3CP elims (Mea) Joe Gerrity Open Pace (Stga) INSS 3CP (HoP) Kindergarten 2CP/2FP (M) Maine Breeders 3FP (Scar) PA Stallion 3FP (Mea) PASS 3FP (Mea) NYSS/Excelsior 3CP (Stga) ONSS Gold 3CP (Moh)
24 Maine Breeders 2CT/2FT (Scar) NYSS/Excelsior 3FP (VD) Zweig Memorial 3CT/3FT (VD) Red Mile opens	25 Battle of Waterloo 2CP elims (GRvr) Battle of the Belles 2FP elims (GRvr) Dream Maker 2CP (Moh) NYSS/Excelsior 2FT (BR) ONSS Gold 2CT (Moh)	26 INSS 2FP (HoP) INSS 3CP (HoP)	27 INSS 2CT/2FT (HoP) NYSS/Excelsior 2FP (Stga) Ohio State Fair 2FP/2FT (ScD)	28 DSBF 3YO finals (Har) INSS 3FT (HoP) Maine Breeders 2CP (Scar) Ohio State Fair 2CP/2CT (ScD) Whenuwishuponastar 2FP (Moh)	29 Arden Downs 2CT/2FT (Mea) Jim Doherty Mem. 2FT elims (M) Ohio State Fair 3FP/3FT (ScD) NYSS/Excelsior 2CP (TgDn) P. Haughton Mem. 2CT elims (M)	30 Adioo Volo 3FP (Mea) Adios 3CP final (Mea) Arden Downs 2CP/2FP (Mea) Arden Downs 3CT/3FT (Mea) Hambletonian Oaks 3FT elims (M) Maine Breeders 3CT/3FT (Scar) Ohio State Fair 3CP/3CT (ScD) Reynolds 3CT (M)
31 Maine Breeders 3FP (Scar) MDSS 3YO finals (OD) Tattersalls Summer Mixed Sale at E. Rutherford, N.J.	1 Battle of Waterloo 2CP final (GRvr) Battle of the Belles 2FP final (GRvr) Dream Maker 2CP (Moh) NYSS/Excelsior 3FT (YR) ONSS Gold 3FP (GRvr) Pure Ivory 2FT elims (Moh)	2 INSS 2CP/2FP finals (HoP) INSS 3CP/3CT finals (HoP) INSS 3FP final (HoP) NYSS/Excelsior 2CT (Stga) ONSS Gold 2FT (Moh)	3 INSS 2CT/2FT finals (HoP)	4 Define The World 2CT (Moh) INSS 3FT final (HoP) ONSS Gold 2CT (RidC) Whenuwishuponastar 2FP (Moh)	5 Duenna 3FT (M) NYSS/Excelsior 2FT (TgDn) Townsend Ackerman 3CT (M)	6 Cane 3CP (M) Fresh Yankee OMT (M) Hambletonian 3CT (M) Hambletonian Oaks 3FT final (M) Jim Doherty Mem. 2FT final (M) John Cashman Mem. OHT (M) Lady Liberty OMP (M) NYSS/Excelsior 2FP (VD) P. Haughton Mem. 2CT final (M) Shady Daisy 3FP (M) U.S. Pacing Champ OHP (M)



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