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# Harness Racing

## WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016

Inside  
Weekly  
harnessracing.com  
News Digest

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### WIJI, Pete Meet Again In Graduate Final

Fresh off his world record-equaling victory in the \$500,000 Ben Franklin and now resting on his laurels as the new top-ranked horse in the weekly Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll conducted by Harness Racing Communications, the 5-year-old stallion Always B Miki is getting a week's respite from racing.

While Miki remains in his luxurious confines at the New Jersey farm of trainer Jimmy Takter, Freaky Feet Pete and Wiggle It Jiggleit, who finished second and third, respectively, in the Franklin final, will battle again Saturday night in the \$250,000 Graduate Series final at

the Meadowlands. The Graduate is limited to 4 year olds.

Freaky Feet Pete and Wiggle it Jiggleit both won a division of one of the three preliminary Graduate legs, landing them in a tie for 11th on the point standings. Besides not being in the top 10, both were also technically not eligible for the final because they hadn't started twice in the series. But when My Hero Ron and Shades Of Bay, who were tied for the last two spots in the final, were

#### Graduate Series Pace Standings

Horse	Points
1. Rockin In Heaven	40
2. Artistic Major	37
3. Rockin Ron	35
4. In The Arsenal	26
5. Rock N Roll World	21
6. Americanprimetime	20
7. Dude's The Man	16
8. National Seelster	12
9. My Hero Ron	9
Shades Of Bay	9
11. Freaky Feet Pete	35
Wiggle It Jiggleit	35

not entered, that paved the way for FFP and WIJI to find a spot on the starting gate.

Point leader Rockin In Heaven—who did not win a leg but finished second and third in his two preliminary splits—drew from posts 1 through 6 and landed post 4. In the open draw, Wiggle It Jiggleit drew post 3—ironically the same starting spot he had in the Franklin final—and Freaky Feet Pete drew post 8.

"We're lucky we got in; I knew we were low on points," said Wiggle It Jiggleit's driver, Montrell Teague. "The main thing is we got in the race instead of having to sit out and watch it."

Teague said he was happy with Wiggle It Jiggleit's effort in the Franklin final.

"It didn't work out the way I thought it would, but I was still happy with his effort," said Teague of Wiggle It Jiggleit's Franklin trip, which resulted in the son of Mr. Wiggles racing first-over through the middle half against the leader and eventual winner Always B Miki.

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### WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

**Darlinonthebeach recovering from a-fib—pg. 2**  
**Travel Playlist sidelined by fracture—pg. 4**  
**Control The Moment draws bad again—pg. 6**  
**Brian Sears nominated for Hall of Fame—pg. 6**  
**Looking for Musical Rhythm at post 10—pg. 7**  
**Nickells draws for sale order at Goshen—pg. 8**

"I was pretty much hoping for a second-hole trip behind Freaky Feet Pete and having Miki on the outside and then battling and seeing what happened in the lane," Teague added.

Wiggle It Jiggleit returns to the Meadowlands, where he has seven wins in eight career starts. After rattling off seven straight last year, including the \$706,000 Meadowlands Pace, WIJI settled for fourth in the \$319,400 Cane Pace on Aug. 8. The Graduate final will be the Clyde Francis trainee's first Big M appearance since that Hambletonian day off-the-board finish, which came after a blazing backstretch duel

Continues on page 2 >>>

between Teague and Brian Sears, who was up behind In The Arsenal.

"I can't have a game plan going in, because pretty much like last week, it never works," said Teague, who has nine wins in 39 starts himself at the Meadowlands. "I'll see what it looks like behind the gate and go from there."

On the flip side, Freaky Feet Pete will be making his first-ever appearance at the Meadowlands. Driver Trace Tetrick has experience over the one-mile oval, with his 233 career starts resulting in 15 victories. Based in Indiana, Tetrick has used the Hoosier Park dark time the past few years to compete on the East Coast, which includes racing at the Meadowlands.

"This is a good group of 4 year olds this week," said Tetrick. "You have to have a little bit of luck on the big track. Hopefully things will work out. We drew outside, but Pete's versatile and that makes him a big threat." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

## Darlinonthebeach Recovering From Bout Of A-Fib

The 3-year-old filly pacer Darlinonthebeach suffered an episode of atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) while competing in the \$300,000 James Lynch Memorial at the Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono on Saturday night, July 2.

Darlinonthebeach started from post 6 in the Lynch and driver David Miller had the filly—the second betting choice—leaving the gate strongly. They took the lead just past the :27 opening quarter before yielding to the favored Pure Country in the :27.2 second quarter. Then, as Pure Country broke the beam at the half in :54.2, Darlinonthebeach suddenly slowed her pace and then backed through the field.

Trainer Nancy Johansson shared on Facebook after the race that the filly bred and owned by White Birch Farm had "a-fibbed" during the race, but had reverted to normal later, without treatment, which was a "great sign." Nevertheless, Darlinonthebeach was sent for a full check-up at Mid-Atlantic Equine Clinic. Johansson said she would let the filly get settled back in her normal environment before deciding when to qualify her.

Darlinonthebeach is a daughter of Somebeachsome-where and the \$2 million-winning mare Darlin's Delight. On June 18 she finished second in the Fan Hanover final to Pure Country and then finished third—pacing her last quarter in :26.3—in an elimination for the Lynch. She's thus far earned \$381,025, with \$165,634 in purses this season. — *By Kathy Parker*



## THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

### Friday, July 8

All times listed are local.

6:45p	HoP4	<b>INSS</b> 3FP final	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
7:15p	M1	<b>NJSS</b> 2CT	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
7:40p	M2	<b>NJSS</b> 2CP	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:25p	HoP12	<b>INSS</b> 2FP final	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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

### Saturday, July 9

1:00p	Mea1	<b>PASS</b> 2FP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
1:20p	Mea2	<b>PASS</b> 2FP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
1:40p	Mea3	<b>PASS</b> 2FP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
2:00p	Mea4	<b>PASS</b> 2FP div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
7:40p	M2	<b>Reynolds</b> 3FT div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:55p	M5	<b>Reynolds</b> 3FT div.	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:45p	M7	<b>Meadowlands Pace</b> elim	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
10:10p	M8	<b>Graduate</b> 4YO Trot final	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
10:55p	M10	<b>Graduate</b> 4YO Pace final	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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### HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

**Kathy Parker**

[kparker@harnessracing.com](mailto:kparker@harnessracing.com)

Editor/ General Manager

**Lynne Myers**

[lmyers@harnessracing.com](mailto:lmyers@harnessracing.com)

Advertising Manager

**Gordon Waterstone**

[gwaterstone@harnessracing.com](mailto:gwaterstone@harnessracing.com)

Associate Editor

**Suzanne Starbuck**

[sstarbuck@harnessracing.com](mailto:sstarbuck@harnessracing.com)

Production Manager

**Heather Kemper**

[hkemper@harnessracing.com](mailto:hkemper@harnessracing.com)

Editorial Production

**Vanessa Flannery**

[vflannery@harnessracing.com](mailto: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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## Travel Playlist Sidelined By Hairline Fracture

While only 11 three-year-old male pacers were entered in the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace, there were 38 horses eligible to be entered. Of those, the most accomplished was Travel Playlist, who not only is missing the Pace but has been sidelined for the season.

Ryan Randolph Photo



**“The second time we trained him he trained super, but when I pulled him up I felt something wasn’t right.”**

—Erv Miller  
on Travel Playlist

Travel Playlist, who entered 2016 with expectations of competing among the upper echelon of the 3-year-old colt pacer ranks, has suffered a broken coffin bone and will not race the rest of the year, according to trainer Erv Miller.

Miller told The Horseman Thursday morning that Travel Playlist incurred the injury late last week, shortly after returning to his stable from Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists veterinary clinic at Belmont Park, where he had been sent following a ninth-place finish in his seasonal debut on June 12 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Prior to that, Travel Playlist prepped for his season with three consecutive wins in

qualifiers, including a 1:50.2 effort at the Meadowlands.

“They checked him out at Belmont and he came out OK, and we brought him back and trained him twice,” said Miller. “The second time we trained him he trained super, but when I pulled him up I felt something wasn’t right. He was getting sorer as the day went, so I sent him to Dr. Patty Hogan to x-ray him. That’s where we found a hairline fracture in the left front coffin bone.”

With a seasonal-best 1:49.2 victory in a New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) race at Vernon Downs, Travel Playlist earned the distinction as the fastest 2-year-old pacer of 2015. With all five of his freshman victories coming in NYSS events, Travel Playlist finished the year with earnings of \$252,570 for owners Blue Chip Bloodstock, Ron Michelin, Fred Hertrich III and Taylor Made Stallions. Taylor Made, which is well known in Thoroughbred racing, purchased an interest in Travel Playlist on the eve of the pacer’s victory in last year’s \$225,000 NYSS final on Sept. 26 at Yonkers.

While Miller has definitely ruled out any more racing this year for Travel Playlist, he is hoping for a return to the race-track as a 4 year old in 2017.

“He was just phenomenal last year and it’s real letdown that this has happened because he’s shown so much ability,” said Miller. “He’s such a promising horse that I hate to see the way this has gone. Blue Chip became involved with the horse in anticipation he’d have a good 3-year-old year and probably then stand him as a sire. Now we’ll just have to see how it goes.” — By Gordon Waterstone

## Where are the Meadowlands Pace Eligibles? *(those not entered)*

Horse	2016 Record; best 2016 stakes finish
All The Cookies	Q1:54.4; 5th in NJSS final
American Passport	Q1:51.3; 2nd in Somebeachsomewhere
Big Top Hanover	no mark; 2nd in NA Cup elim
Dr. J Hanover	Q1:51.4; no stakes
Highlandbeachycove	1:50.4; 9th in NA Cup elim
I’m Some Graduate	1:51.4f; 5th in PASS
JJ Flynn	1:51.3f; 4th in PA All Stars
Katie’s Rocker	1:50.3; 1st in NJSS final
Major Hill	1:50.4; 4th in Somebeachsomewhere
McDave	Q1:55.2f; 3rd in PA Stallion Series
Mindtrip	1:52; no stakes
Nocturnal Bluechip	Q1:52.4; 3rd in Somebeachsomewhere
Pretty Boy Hill	Q1:56.1; 6th in PASS
Rock Power	no mark; no stakes
Rollaroundtheworld	1:50.1; no stakes
Show The Fashion	1:54.4f; 8th in PA Stallion Series
Some Gold	no mark; 7th in Somebeachsomewhere
Sossy’s King Kong	1:56f; 5th in PASS
Stonebridge Beach	1:52.3f; 5th in Ont. SS-Gold
Tailgunner Hanover	Q1:53; 2nd in Rooney final
The Catamount Kid	1:51.2f; 1st in PA All Stars
Tom Hill	1:51.2; no stakes
Travel Playlist	injured
Uncle Nicky	no pari-mutuel starts
Undrafted	no starts
Voracity	Q1:52.3; 3rd in Ont. SS-Gold
Western Dynasty	Q1:50.2; 5th in Hempt elim



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## Control The Moment's Bad Luck With Draws Frustrating Taylor

Among the factors making horse racing such a tough sport is that even when you have a very good contender, bad luck can ruin your chances for a victory.

Owner Howard Taylor feels like he's been living that scenario with the 3-year-old pacing colt Control The Moment, who had the misfortune of drawing outside post positions in the rich North America Cup and Max C. Hempt Memorial finals—post 9 in the Cup at Mohawk and post 8 at Pocono for the Hempt.

And the streak of bad posts continued with the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace elimination on Saturday night at the Meadowlands. Control The Moment drew post 9 in the 10-horse field.

### The draw for post positions for the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace final will be conducted after Race 11 at the Meadowlands.

"This colt is just getting brutalized by post positions," said Taylor, who is a member of the Control The Moment Stable along with trainer Brad Maxwell, Ed Gold, Ben Mudry and Tara Hills Stud. "Nothing has been going

right in that regard. Everyone knows that when you're racing for big money, you just can't draw the outside every time."

In the North America Cup, driver Randy Waples sent Control The Moment to the lead and they held their position until the stretch drive, with the Well Said colt holding on for third money. In the Hempt final, Waples knew he had to leave from post 8 but was rimmed in the opening quarter of :25.4, which resulted in a fourth-place finish.

"I can't blame Randy for the trips," said Taylor.

Although Taylor understands the predicament Waples faced with the outside post positions, in an effort to shake things up and try to change their luck, Brian Sears will be driving Control The Moment in the Meadowlands Pace elim. And Control The Moment still has all of the sport's top events for 3-year-old pacing colts on his schedule.

"He's a big, rugged colt and Brad (Maxwell) said he is fine and in good shape," added Taylor. "I love this colt and to see what's happened to him so far has been tough and frustrating, but he still has the Adios, Battle of Brandywine, Jug and other big races."

Taylor plans to be at the Meadowlands Saturday night to watch the Pace elim and then the draw for the \$732,050 final. Nine horses will advance from the elim, with Racing Hill taking a bye and going straight to the \$732,050 final on July 16. The draw for post positions for the final will be conducted after Race 11, on the West Deck at the Meadowlands.

Meanwhile, Taylor is part of the ownership group of In The Arsenal, who has drawn post 1 in the Graduate Series Pace final, and Graduate Trot finalists Crescent Fashion (post 3) and Honor And Serve (post 8). —By Kathy Parker

## Brian Sears Nominated For Hall Of Fame

Driver Brian Sears, a third generation horseman, is the sole nominee on the ballot in voting for the 2017 Harness Racing Hall of Fame. The Harness Racing Hall of Fame screening committee met this past weekend in Goshen and reviewed nominations from 11 chapters of the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA).

Sears was the only candidate to make the ballot.

The ballot will be sent to 223 members of USHWA and existing Hall of Fame inductees in August. A nominee must receive 75 percent of votes cast to be inducted in to the Hall of Fame. Results will be announced when tabulated.

Sears, who plies his trade primarily on the east coast, has 9,601 wins in nearly 50,000 starts. He has exceeded \$10 million in annual purse earnings nine times for a total of just over \$172 million. He concluded another outstanding driving year in 2015 with the highlights including capturing his third Hambletonian win with Pinkman and grabbing divisional Dan Patch Award honors behind the great trotting mare Bee A Magician.

Sears has driving wins in classic races such as 10 of the 12 divisions of the Breeders Crown, Hambletonian, Little Brown Jug, Kentucky Futurity, Meadowlands Pace, North America Cup, Yonkers Trot, Messenger, Cane, Adios, Battle of the Brandywine, Canadian Trotting Classic, Metro, Stanley Dancer, Del Miller and Canadian Pacing Classic.

He has been the primary driver on three Dan Patch Harness Horses of the Year, Muscle Hill in 2009 and Bee A Magician in 2013 plus Rocknroll Hanover in 2005.

Racing has been a family affair for Sears. His father, Jay, won more than 1,400 races and purses of over \$3.3 million. Brian's grandfather, the late Gene Sears, was also a 1,000-plus race winner who won \$1.7 million in purses during his career. (HRC)



Tom Berg Photo

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## Looking To Find The Rhythm From Post 10 In Graduate Trot

Over his 36-start career, Musical Rhythm has never started in the outside post 10 on a two-turn racetrack, and in fact had started just once as far right as post 9. But in start 37, Saturday night's \$250,000 Graduate Series final for 4-year-old trotters, Musical Rhythm will line up in the 10 hole, a starting spot that has resulted in just 15 wins in 317 starts—an average of 4.7 percent.

Trained by the Ontario-based Ben Baillargeon, Musical Rhythm is just one of five trotters who started in all three legs of the Graduate Series, posting a first, fourth and sixth. Although driven regularly in Canada by Baillargeon's brother, Mario Baillargeon, Musical Rhythm will be handled in the Graduate final by John Campbell, who was behind the son of Cantab Hall for his two U.S. Graduate appearances (at Tioga and the Meadowlands) that sandwiched his victory at Mohawk.

Musical Rhythm's 11 victories this year include a sweep of the General Brock Series at Woodbine and the Don Mills Series at Mohawk. He comes into the Graduate final off a four-length, 1:52.2 victory in the \$25,840 Preferred on June 27 at Mohawk. While it was Mario who drove Musical Rhythm in that race, because he had other drives that night in Ontario Sires Stakes, Campbell was at Mohawk and had the opportunity to watch the trotter's victory.

"He's raced really well at Mohawk every time," noted Campbell. "He actually raced OK at the Meadowlands, but he came up a little sick. He raced better than the line looks at Tioga; he was parked first-up and only got beat a length. He didn't get out of the gate on the right foot and I had to steady him a little bit and it cost him some position. He definitely can go with these horses."

After racing at two and three for trainer Tony Alagna, Musical Rhythm was purchased at last November's mixed sale in Harrisburg for \$33,000 by Baillargeon, Santo and Nunzio Vena and Claude Hamel. Musical Rhythm is out of the Valley Victory mare Musical Victory, who won the 1998 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Trot at Colonial Downs. His 11-for-13 record this year—including a career-best 1:52 effort at Woodbine—has resulted in earnings of \$151,823.

"I didn't buy him because he was perfect," said Baillargeon. "He had these little problems with his rigging, but he's been pretty good for me."

## Musical Rhythm



New Image Media Photo

### 2016 Post Position Wins at Meadowlands

PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
starts	808	808	808	808	806	804	772	673	542	317	50
win	74	94	92	79	122	134	87	65	46	15	4
place	89	90	90	84	112	100	79	81	48	26	7
show	83	104	96	110	91	95	100	49	58	17	5

#### Percent in Money

win	902	116	114	9.8	15.1	16.7	11.3	9.7	8.5	4.7	8.0
place	20.2	22.8	22.5	20.2	29.0	29.1	21.5	21.7	17.3	12.9	22.0
show	30.4	35.6	34.4	33.8	40.3	40.9	34.5	29.0	28.0	18.3	32.0

PP 12 had 5-0-1-0 record; PP 13 had 3-0-0-1 record; PP 14 had 2-0-0-0 record.

USTA statistics through 7/2/2016

Graduate points leader Maestro Blue Chip, who was two-for-two in the Graduate preliminaries, will start from post 6 while Crazshana, who had a first, third and fourth in the opening rounds, will start just inside of Musical Rhythm in post 9.

The 2015 Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year Pinkman, who is eighth in the standings, is sick and was not entered by trainer Jimmy Takter.

"You never know how the race will unfold," said Baillargeon about what he expects. "We're going there with the horse in good shape and I'm sure he'll do his best. If the trip

### "What do you tell John Campbell from the 10 hole? 'Good luck!'"

—Ben Baillargeon on Musical Rhythm starting from post 10

works out I'm hoping to get a good piece of it. I've seen horses win from the 10 hole at the Meadowlands. I'd rather have the 10 hole there than at Woodbine as it's a bigger track.

"What do you tell John Campbell from the 10 hole? 'Good luck,'" he said with a laugh.

Campbell said he already has in his mind his off-the-gate strategy.

"You have to go forward off the gate with that many in there, and then you're at the mercy of circumstances in the first turn," said Campbell.

Baillargeon said it's a nine-hour ship from his farm in Ontario to New Jersey, but that Musical Rhythm will remain in the States as he will also start in the July 16 Hambletonian Maturity at the Big M before returning home.—By Gordon Waterstone

## Nickells Draws For Sale Order At Goshen

Newly inducted member of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame, Bruce Nickells, drew the random letter "W" from a lottery-style basket for hip number allocation at the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame induction ceremonies on Sunday, July 3.

Yearlings whose dam's names begin with the letter "W" will start the Goshen Yearling Sale, and continue through the alphabet for the 160 colts and fillies being offered on Sunday, Sept. 18, at the Mark Ford Training Center, Middletown, N.Y.

Consignors and principles of the sales company were on hand to witness the ceremonial draw, which took place on the patio of Haughton Hall during the cocktail hour of the annual Hall of Fame event. Representing Winbak Farm was Hall of Famer Joe Thomson, who is also a director of the sale company. Russell Williams and Dale Welk observed the proceedings on behalf of Hanover Shoe Farms.

The son and daughter of Immortal Hall of Famers represented their respective farms; Steve Jones from Cameo Hills Farm and Jean Brown of Blue Chip Farm witnessed the draw. David Meirs from Concord Stud completed the group of consignors, with Mark Ford and Bob Boni also on hand to represent the sales company.



Chris Tully Photo

Bruce Nickells (right) is joined by Goshen Yearling Sale consignors and directors (left to right) Joe Thomson, Mark Ford, David Meirs, Jean Brown, Russell Williams, Steve Jones, Bob Boni and Dale Welk.

With hip numbers now drawn, pedigrees receive a final update next week with a digital version of the catalog being available on the sales company website on Thursday, July 21. Printed catalogs will be mailed Aug. 4 and will also be available during the Hambletonian festival at the Meadowlands.

For more information, or to request a catalog, visit the sales company website at: [GoshenYearlingSale.com](http://GoshenYearlingSale.com) (Goshen Yearling Sale)

## SEASON'S LEADERS

### 2YO Trotters

#### MILE TRACKS

- 2C 1:55.4 NEW JERSEY VIKING**, Muscle Hill-Hall Of Wishes-Broadway Hall Little E LLC & Knutsson Trotting. *Winbak Fm.* (M 7-1) A. Svanstedt. A. Svanstedt (**Southwind Frank 1:52.2**)
- 2F 1:57.3 FOXY SWAN**, Swan For All-Fox Valley Click-Varenne A. Lombardi & Ervin Miller Stb. D. Yoder (HoP 6-28) Tr. Tetrick. E. Miller
- AJESSIA**, Jailhouse Jesse-Atia-Conway Hall S & R Rcg. Stb. A. Fry (HoP 7-5) D. Rideout. D. Rideout (**Mission Brief 1:50.3**)
- 2G 1:58.2 TIME TO TRAVEL**, Jailhouse Jesse-Flanery Hall-Garland Lobell T. Pollack & J. Cullipher. *Double Spring Fm.* (HoP 7-6) J. DeLong. J. Cullipher (**Outburst 1:53.1**)

#### FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS

- 2C 1:57 PRESIDENT LINDY**, Cantab Hall-True Diva-Valley Victory Lindy Rcg. Stb., Andy Miller Stb. & GTY Stb. *Lindy Rcg. Stb.* (PcD 7-5) A. Miller. J. Miller (**Father Patrick 1:52.1**)
- 2F 1:56.4 TREVISIO**, Muscle Massive-Valbonela-Taurus Dream Klis Brothers Stb. & C. Norris. *Pedigree Fm.* (PcD 6-27) C. Norris. C. Norris (**COOLER SCHOONER 1:51.3**)
- 2G 1:57.2 BOX OF LUCK**, Lucky Chucky-New DVD-Like A Prayer Brocius Rcg. Stb. *Winbak Fm.* (Mea 6-21) A. Merriman. R. Rougeaux III (**Correctamundo 1:55**)

#### HALF-MILE TRACKS

- 2C 1:59.3 ZACK'S ZOOMER**, Deweycheatumnhowe-Passageway-Angus Hall H. Eisman & Ervin Miller Stb. *Brittany Fms.* (MR 6-30) A. Miller. E. Miller (**Dontyouforgetit 1:55.3**)
- 2F 1:57.4 CHIM SWIFT**, Triumphant Caviar-Blackrock-Credit Winner W. Lang & C. Beaver. *W. Lang* (Nfld 7-3) A. Merriman. C. Beaver (**Wild Honey 1:55.2**)
- 2G 1:59 STAR BUSTER**, Deep Chip-Frances Maxine-BJ's Mac M. Soehnlén. P. Soehnlén (Nfld 6-25) R. Stahl. J. Cox (**Pinkman 1:57**)

### 2YO Pacers

#### MILE TRACKS

- 2C 1:52.1 SPORTS COLUMN**, Sportswriter-Lady Leslie-Walton Hanover B. MacIntosh & Hutt Rcg. Stb. *Winbak Fm.* (Moh 7-4) C. Christoforou. B. MacIntosh (**Sweet Lou 1:49**)
- 2F 1:52.4 GLASSINE HANOVER**, Dragon Again-Gifted Yankee-Western Ideal T. & B. Graber, Trent Stohler Stb. *Hanover Shoe Fms.* (HoP 6-29) Tr. Tetrick. T. Stohler
- (I Luv The Nitelife, Precocious Beauty, JK She'salady, Sassa Hanover 1:50.1)**
- 2G 1:53 MEADOWBROOK TIGER**, Shadyshark Hanover-Rain Dance Jessica-Sportsmaster R. Michelin & The Kales Co. F. Bontrager (HoP 6-30) L. Miller. E. Miller (**Sheer Desire 1:49.3**)

#### FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS

- 2C 1:51.3 BLOOD LINE**, Somebeachsomewhere-Blood Diamond-Western Ideal Diamond Creek Rcg. *Diamond Creek Fm.* (PcD 7-4) Y. Gingras. J. Takter (**Somestarsomewhere 1:49.4**)
- 2F 1:54.4 WATCH WHAT YOU SAY**, Well Said-Bettor Beware-Bettor's Delight F. Hertrich III & CTC Stb. F. Hertrich III (PcD 6-28) B. Miller. M. Hall (**Allstar Rating 1:50.1**)
- 2G 1:53.3 MCRAVEN**, McArdle-Scooch-Real Desire Country Club Acres & L & H Mgmt. *Parent Rcg. Stb.* (ScD 7-4) R. Wrenn Jr. B. Brown (**One More Laugh 1:49.2**)

#### HALF-MILE TRACKS

- 2C 1:56.3 TOMS TARZAN**, Cam's Rocket-Radiant Breeze-Falcon Seelster T. Cooke. T. Cooke (OD 7-3) B. Burton. R. Hans (**Spider Man Hanover 1:51.4**)
- 2F 1:55.2 ZOE ELLASEN**, Santanna Blue Chip-Spring Delight-Bettor's Delight C. Perfect. W. Walters & J. McLead (Nfld 7-3) R. Wrenn Jr. R. Potter (**Dime A Dance 1:52.4**)
- 2G 1:57 STANLEY K**, McArdle-Streetcarnedsire-Real Desire D. Sherman. D. Sherman (Nfld 6-25) R. Stahl. K. Sherman (**Littlebitoflife 1:52.1**)

Data through 7/6/16.  
**Division, current season's record, current leader, breeding Owner(s), Breeder(s).**  
 (Track and date) Driver. Trainer. (World record).





### Horseman Ben Stafford Jr. dies at 45

Horseman Ben Stafford Jr., 45, has died in Delaware, where he trained horses with his father, Ben, and also drove horses at Delaware tracks. According to reports, just a few days before his passing Mr. Stafford learned he had a rare bacterial infection carried by ticks. [more](#)

### Sintra returns for Summertime final at Mohawk

After finishing second to the Pepsi North America Cup champion, Sintra returns to the Summertime Series Saturday looking to finish what he started two weeks back. The Dave Menary trainee headlines a field of eight for the \$47,000 Summertime Series final on Saturday night at Mohawk Racetrack. [more](#)

### Ideal Rocky looks for better luck in Pace elim

Ideal Rocky hasn't found himself in many ideal situations this season, but trainer John Butenschoen remains a fan of the 3-year-old pacer and hopes his luck can change in Saturday's lone Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace elimination at the Meadowlands Racetrack. [more](#)

### Freshmen in NJSS action Friday at Big M

Friday night's racing at the Meadowlands centers on the second preliminary leg of the New Jersey Sires Stakes (NJSS) for freshman pacers and trotters. There is a single \$25,000 division for each group in advance of next week's \$100,000 finals. [more](#)

### A conversation with trainer Brian Brown

Brian Brown enjoyed a career year in 2015, winning a Breeders Crown with pacing mare Color's A Virgin and setting personal records with 143 wins and \$3.43 million in purses. His earnings ranked No. 9 among all trainers in North America. [more](#)

### Hoosier horsepower making history

In a state that is well known for its racing industry, from the Indianapolis 500 to the Brickyard, motorsports have always reigned supreme in Indiana. Now Indiana's other racing industry is making national headlines. Indiana sired horses, Always B Miki, Freaky Feet Pete and Wiggle It Jiggle, finished first, second and third, respectively, in the \$500,000 Ben Franklin Pace last Saturday at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. [more](#)

### New Hall of Famers welcomed at Goshen

Breeder and industry executive Charlie Keller III and trainer Bruce Nickells were inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame during ceremonies held at the Harness Racing Museum Sunday evening, July 3. Also honored were Communicators Hall of Fame inductees David Carr and Jerry Connors; Living Horse Hall of Fame inductees Real Desire, Muscle Hill, Solveig and Arl's Troublemaker; Immortal inductees Carl Allen and Princess; 2015 Del and Mary Lib Miller Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit; 2016 Amateur Driving Champion Hannah Miller; and U.S. Harness Writers Association Unsung Hero Award winner Joanne Young. [more](#)

### First Turn Stable wins in Hoosier debut

On an evening stacked with stakes races, it was a \$12,500 claiming event that stole the show at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino on Saturday, July 2, as Boogie Nights made his racing debut for First Turn Stable, Hoosier Park's first fractional ownership opportunity, a winning one. In near gate-to-wire fashion, Boogie Nights and Jason Dillander crossed the wire nearly two lengths in front of the next closest competitor and stopping the timer in 1:51.4, a new lifetime-best performance. [more](#)

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**RACE LINES**

**Standardbred Poll**

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by  
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of July 5, 2016

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Always B Miki (30)	5ph	7-5-2-0	\$341,500	345	2
2. Wiggle It Jiggleit (5)	4pg	12-8-3-1	502,265	316	1
3. Betting Line	3pc	6-5-1-0	492,030	212	3
4. Pure Country	3pf	7-4-1-2	506,762	197	5
5. Freaky Feet Pete	4ph	7-5-1-1	233,326	195	4
6. Southwind Frank	3tc	4-3-1-0	318,750	184	6
7. Hannelore Hanover	4tm	9-8-1-0	224,505	104	8
8. Resolve	5th	5-1-2-0	258,273	84	7
9. Racing Hill	3pc	6-2-3-1	450,340	78	—
10. Obrigado	6tg	7-4-1-2	362,050	50	—

**Others receiving votes:** Bit Of A Legend N 43, Bee A Magician 28, Maestro Blue Chip 27, Rockeyed Optimist 20, Mel Mara 9, Check Six, Control The Moment 6, Rockin Ron 4, All Bets Off, Lady Shadow, Magnum J, Missile J 3, Luck Be Withyou 2, Caprice Hill, Sports Column, Yagonnakissmeornot 1.

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through July 5, 2016 (week difference June 29-July 5).

**Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses**

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Pure Country (3pf)	7	4	1	2	\$506,762
Wiggle It Jiggleit (4pg)	12	8	3	1	502,265
Betting Line (3pc)	6	5	1	0	492,030
Bit Of A Legend N (7ph)	13	9	2	0	473,750
Racing Hill (3pc)	6	2	3	1	450,340
Check Six (3pc)	7	5	1	0	376,099
Obrigado (6tg)	7	4	1	2	362,050
All Bets Off (5ph)	14	3	5	3	347,085
Always B Miki (5ph)	7	5	2	0	341,500
JK Will Power (3pc)	8	3	2	2	329,176

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Tim Tetrick	1,504	312-223-175	.329	\$4,377,932 (\$422,108)
Jason Bartlett	1,306	310-220-183	.378	4,212,165 (254,762)
Yannick Gingras	981	183-150-148	.322	3,859,834 (645,316)
Aaron Merriman	2,250	481-367-341	.355	3,842,735 (268,970)
Matt Kakaley	1,463	183-211-206	.252	3,489,126 (187,386)
David Miller	928	158-144-129	.303	3,406,482 (509,346)
Brian Sears	930	187-155-122	.337	3,099,122 (96,241)
George Napolitano Jr.	1,386	308-217-167	.349	3,046,657 (171,920)
Brett Miller	1,114	144-132-149	.240	3,042,808 (579,581)
Corey Callahan	1,594	237-227-212	.272	2,904,461 (211,857)

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	1,969	402-321-279	.342	\$7,590,989 (\$807,818)
Rene Allard	1,030	205-178-126	.336	2,738,231 (150,571)
Jimmy Takter	263	59-49-33	.370	2,215,621 (683,304)
Jeff Bamond Jr.	477	76-66-60	.278	1,639,601 (68,400)
Richard Moreau	671	135-111-82	.334	1,609,776 (72,930)
Richard Banca	579	112-90-74	.322	1,449,909 (76,833)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	872	106-106-132	.240	1,445,301 (83,714)
Julie Miller	297	70-53-38	.377	1,167,415 (165,641)
Linda Toscano	280	56-48-31	.332	1,082,445 (110,344)
Thomas Milici	313	101-46-36	.443	1,062,152 (51,656)

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	936	499	1,090	\$10,759,518
Winbak Farm	882	462	1,002	8,069,644
Brittany Farms	246	145	353	3,406,386
Perretti Farms	218	135	332	3,010,189
White Birch Farm	148	83	203	2,470,697
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	170	90	218	2,460,692
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	180	111	256	2,166,540
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	123	59	135	2,048,591
Bulletproof Enterprises	141	87	231	1,957,874
Seelster Farms Inc.	172	95	247	1,816,349

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for June 29-July 5 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Bob McClure	48	20-9-2
Jason Bartlett	76	18-10-8
Tim Tetrick	84	18-10-5
Aaron Merriman	89	15-19-7
Chris Page	70	14-9-12
Marcus Miller	64	14-4-10
Yannick Gingras	73	14-15-12
Corey Callahan	78	13-7-13
Kevin Switzer Jr.	47	13-11-4
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	69	13-12-9
Tony Morgan	49	13-9-6
Daniel Dube	56	12-9-2
Dave Palone	42	12-8-6
David Miller	68	12-16-9
Josh Sutton	62	12-7-7
Eddie Davis Jr.	45	11-12-10
George Napolitano Jr.	79	11-15-9
Sylvain Filion	47	11-7-8
Tony Hall	54	11-11-4

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	18
Erv Miller	14
Brian Brown	11
Rene Allard	10
Jimmy Takter	9
Julie Miller	8
Virgil Morgan Jr.	8
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	7
Tony Alagna	7
Chris Oakes	6
Christopher Beaver	6
Linda Toscano	6
Michael Hitchcock	6
Philip Sowers	6
Richard Moreau	6
Steve Wiseman	6
Dave Spagnola	5
Frank Antonacci	5
J.D. Perrin	5
Jackie Rousse	5
Jim Dailey	5
John Butenschoen	5
Kyle Spagnola	5
Nelson Willis	5