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WEEKEND PREVIEW

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Inside
Weekly
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News Digest

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Can Wiggle It Jiggleit Be Beat In Meadowlands Pace?

Fourteen 3-year-old male pacers are divided into a pair of seven-horse eliminations for the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace on Saturday night at the Meadowlands, with the top five finishers in each returning for the \$700,000 final on July 18.

Teague made a couple of equipment changes for the Hempt: two headpoles and a hood with a cut out.

Both \$50,000 Pace eliminations appear competitive on paper. The first elim (Race 6) includes reigning divisional champ Artspeak and Rooney winner InThe Arsenal, while lining up behind the gate in the second split (Race 11) is newly-crowned Max C. Hempt winner Wiggle It Jiggleit and North America Cup victor Wakizashi Hanover.

Wiggle It Jiggleit and Wakizashi Hanover start from post 7 and 6, respectively.

Owned by George Teague Jr., who turned the training responsibilities over to longtime assistant Clyde Francis, Wiggle It Jiggleit had his career 11-race unbeaten streak snapped when he finished second to Wakizashi Hanover in the NA Cup. Wiggle It Jiggleit then captured his elim and \$500,000 final of the Hempt on July 4 at The Downs at Mohagan Sun Pocono.

With Teague's son Montrell driving, Wiggle It Jiggleit asserted his dominance by scoring in 1:48.2, defeating Artspeak by 1 1/2 lengths.

Montrell Teague had Wiggle It Jiggleit on top early and then with confidence held onto the lead down the lane. Teague said he tried to make sure he and his horse weren't passed in deep stretch, as happened in the NA Cup.

"I was looking everywhere and I was looking for anybody," said Teague. "I saw Timmy (driver Tim Tetrick with Wakizashi Hanover) pull three wide and that's when I popped the earplugs and stepped on the gas. I know how good his horse is coming off cover."

George Teague said he made a couple of equipment changes for the Hempt.

"He raced with two headpoles and we added the hood with the cut out in it for the first time because Montrell thought he might get stuck on the front end and he wanted to give him a chance to see horses," he said. "He didn't want to get blindsided like he did last time.

Teague said Wiggle It Jiggleit is coming into the Pace elims as good as he can be.

"He's a tough horse and he's as good now as he was when he started," he said. "So I feel pretty confident that he is on the right track. This is a good group of horses so this is a credit to him.

Continues on page 2 >>>>

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Big M Moves Post To 5:30 On July 10-11

Because of Taylor Swift concerts at adjacent MetLife Stadium on Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11, the Meadowlands has moved up its first-race post time on both nights to 5:30 p.m. The July 10 card features New Jersey Sires Stakes for 2 year olds, while the July 11 card is highlighted by the \$250,000 Graduate final for 4-year-old trotters and eliminations for the Meadowlands Pace, William Haughton Memorial Pace and Mistletoe Shalee for 3-year-old filly pacers.

Montrell has mostly used front-end strategy with Wiggle It Jiggleit, except in the Hempt elim, when he settled in fourth early before tipping near the half and going on to the victory.

Yannick Gingras, who drives Lyons Levi Lewis in the race from post 4, said he expects Wiggle It Jiggleit to be on the

“Sometimes in the elimination you are better off not ducking because that’s when they’re not racing as hard.”

–Yannick Gingras

front in the Pace elim.

“Sometimes in the elimination you are better off not ducking because that’s when they’re not racing as hard,” said Gingras. “In the final, that’s when you race harder. I think he (Wiggle It Jiggleit) will be given an easy race if he leaves but we’ll see what he does.

In his seventh year of driving, Montrell, 24, has 786 career victories, and said getting the chance to direct a talented horse like Wiggle It Jiggleit is a bonus.

“It’s easy to drive a good horse, but it’s hard to drive a bad horse,” said Montrell. “Bad horses are limited. With this horse, you have plenty of options. He does everything on his own and makes me look good.

As for winning the Meadowlands Pace, Teague added, “We’re ready. It would be my first one and it’d be very special. Any race is special but this one is top-notch. And to win it for my dad would make it that much better.

The second elimination also includes the newest buzz horse: The undefeated Iowa sensation Roland N Rock.

A son of Rocknroll Hanover trained by the Iowa-based Duane Roland, who shares ownership with his wife, Connie, Roland N Rock is undefeated in 18 career starts, 15 of them on the Iowa fair circuit. That said, Roland N Rock showed last year he is capable of stepping up into open stakes competition, capturing the American National and Review.

In making his journey east this year, Roland and Roland N Rock stopped July 4 at Goshen, N.Y., where he won impressively by more than 10 lengths in 1:56.3 over a “sloppy” track. Although Roland had been in the sulky behind his sta-



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, July 10

5:30p	M1	NJSS 2FT division	Trackmaster PPs
5:55p	M2	NJSS 2CT division	Trackmaster PPs
6:18p	M3	NJSS 2FT division	Trackmaster PPs
6:41p	M4	NJSS 2CP	Trackmaster PPs
7:25p	M6	NJSS 2CT division	Trackmaster PPs
9:14p	M11	NJSS 2FP division	Trackmaster PPs

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Saturday, July 11

5:55p	M2	Reynolds 3FT division	Trackmaster PPs
6:41p	M4	Reynolds 3FT division	Trackmaster PPs
7:25p	M6	Meadowlands Pace elim	Trackmaster PPs
7:47p	M7	Reynolds 3CT	Trackmaster PPs
8:50p	YR6	Sheppard 2CP elim	Trackmaster PPs
8:52p	M10	Graduate 4YO Trot final	Trackmaster PPs
9:10p	YR7	Sheppard 2CP elim	Trackmaster PPs
9:14p	M11	Meadowlands Pace elim	Trackmaster PPs
9:35p	M12	Mistletoe Shalee 3FP elim	Trackmaster PPs

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ble star, he turned the lines over to John Campbell for the Goshen start and the Hall of Famer will be back in the bike for the Pace elims.

“He is a really good horse and they certainly made the right decision by putting him in here,” said Campbell.

Gingras will also drive Hurrikane Ali in the first Pace elim.

Hurrikane Ali has three wins in [Continues on page 3 >>>](#)

Meadowlands Pace Elims

Meadowlands, Saturday, July 11, 1st \$50,000 elimination, Race 6, Post Time: 7:25 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Dealt A Winner (Cam’s Card Shark)	D. Miller/M. Silva	8-5	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$35,000 (HB)
2—In The Arsenal (American Ideal)	B. Sears/K. Harrison	15-1	White Birch Farm/\$7,500 (HB)
3—Dude’s The Man (American Ideal)	C. Callahan/J. Okusko	4-5	Brittany Fms. & B. Monieson Revtrust/\$40,000 (HB)
4—Artspeak (Western Ideal)	S. Zeron/T. Alagna	8-1	Brittany Farms, M. Hartman/\$100,000 (Lex)
5—Hurrikane Ali (Rocknroll Hanover)	Y. Gingras/J. McDermott Jr.	12-1	Emerald Highlands Farm/\$63,000 (Lex)
6—Revenge Shark (Cam’s Card Shark)	T. Tetrack/T. Alagna	12-1	A. McDonald LLC 2/—
7—Pierce Hanover (Cam’s Card Shark)	B. Miller/K. Sucee		Hanover Shoe Farms/\$38,000 (Lex)

2nd \$50,000 elimination, Race 11, Post Time: 9:14 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Trading Up (Somebeachsomewhere)	S. Zeron/T. Alagna	20-1	Fair Winds Farm/\$80,000 (HB)
2—Rock N’ Roll World (Rocknroll Hanover)	D. Miller/M. Silva	20-1	MJG Racing Stables, Hill View Ent./\$125,000 (HB)
3—Roland N Rock (Rocknroll Hanover)	J. Campbell/D. Roland	12-1	Perretti Farms/—
4—Lyons Levi Lewis (Well Said)	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	15-1	E. Gold/\$32,000 (HB)
5—Badiou Hanover (Well Said)	A. Miller/J. Miller	8-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$105,000 (HB)
6—Wakizashi Hanover (Dragon Again)	T. Tetrack/J. Looney-King	9-5	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$23,000 (HB)
7—Wiggle It Jiggleit (Mr. Wiggles)	M. Teague/C. Francis	3-5	J. Bernstein, T. Bantle, E. Feller, V. Tancredi/—

six starts this year, including a pair of New Jersey Sires Stakes. The son of Rocknroll Hanover comes into the race off a 1:52 qualifying win at the Meadowlands, which followed up a sixth in the NA Cup final.

"I'm happy with the division but also the short field," said Gingras. "It shouldn't be too hard to make the final and he could be peaking next week. Right now as he's a little bit one-dimensional, so a shorter field will definitely help him. Not having to over-use him in the elimination I think will play in his favor. I think he will show what kind of horse he is."

Gingras noted that Hurrikane Ali had a three-week break following the NA Cup and that the time off could work to his advantage. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Muscle Diamond Makes Second Start Of Season Saturday At Meadowlands

July 8 marks one month before the Hambletonian, and no trainer is more aware of the countdown than Brett Bittle. Bittle trains the Hambletonian eligible Muscle Diamond, who finished second to Pinkman in last year's Breeders Crown.

While Muscle Diamond is most certainly Hambo eligible, his strength as a contender will be revealed on Saturday night at the Meadowlands, when he makes only his second start of the season in the \$62,406 Reynolds Memorial (Race 10). Muscle Diamond will start from post 1 with John Campbell driving.

So why only one start before the Reynolds?

"He had an area of concern," said Bittle "I think he hit himself on the left front ankle while in the field and I wanted to give him some time off to make sure nothing was wrong."

Bittle also co-owns Muscle Diamond with his brother, Dan, and uncle, Charlie Keller III and his son, Charles Keller IV. Charlie bought Muscle Diamond as a yearling for \$40,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. He was thrilled to get the Muscle Hill colt for such a reasonable price because the youngster was a son of Windylane Hanover, who won the 2002 Hambletonian Oaks for the Keller family.

In his first and only pari-mutuel start of the season, Muscle Diamond finished second behind French Laundry in a New Jersey Sires Stakes leg. He qualified at the Meadowlands on Friday, July 3, winning in 1:55.4 with Campbell aboard.

"He was really good in the qualifier, and John thought he was better than ever," revealed Bittle. "Previously, watching him, I thought he was a little bumpy, although John wasn't concerned. But we're all looking to improve each week, and I could see from the way he moved he could be smoother. So I changed the shoeing on him; I went from steel to aluminum in front, with a shorter front. I think the lighter shoe helped him and like I said, John was really happy with him."

With the Hambletonian a month away, and one setback already this year with Muscle Diamond, Bittle knows all too well that racehorses can be fragile creatures.

"It's never a static situation, with my horse or anyone's horse," he noted. — *By Kathy Parker*

JL Cruze Favored In Graduate Final

The biggest purse event on the Saturday night card at the Meadowlands is the \$250,000 final of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old trotters, scheduled as Race 10 on the 14-race card. Nine horses will line up behind the gate, including the 6-5 morning-line favorite JL Cruze, who starts from post 6 with John Campbell.

JL Cruze has been sensational all year with 14 wins and two seconds in 16 starts. JL Cruze, who swept both Graduate preliminaries, comes into the final off a 1:51 victory in the \$75,000 Sun Invitational on July 4 at The Downs at Mohagan Sun Pocono, edging past world champ Sebastian K in the shadow of the wire.

Not to be overlooked in the field are a pair of Jimmy Takter

"You have to live with it and try to beat him next time. That's the bottom line in my mind!"

—Yannick Gingras about Father Patrick's second-place finishes behind JL Cruze in the opening rounds of the Graduate Series

trainees in 2014 Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year Father Patrick and 2014 Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year and Trotter of the Year Shake It Cerry. Takter will drive Shake It Cerry, the lone mare in the field, from post 4, while Yannick Gingras will be in the bike behind Father Patrick from post 7.

Father Patrick, who had 12 wins in 17 starts last year

on his way to divisional honors, has a win and two seconds in three 2015 attempts. The son of Cantab Hall won the \$150,000 Maxie Lee Memorial at Harrah's Philadelphia on May 24 in his season debut, but then finished second in photo finishes in both Graduate preliminaries behind JL Cruze.

"He was really good both times," Gingras said about the Graduate legs. "I definitely wasn't thinking in either race that he shouldn't have lost. You have to live with it and try to beat him next time. That's the bottom line in my mind. I think he is coming into this race really good." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

\$250,000 GRADUATE 4YOT FINAL

Meadowlands, Friday, July 11, Race 10, Post Time: 8:52 pm

Post—Horse	Driver/Trainer	Odds
1—Rompaway Galaxy	J. Marohn Jr./K. Harmon	30-1
2—Opulent Yankee	A. Miller/J. Miller	15-1
3—Resolve	A. Svanstedt	15-1
4—Shake It Cerry	J. Takter	5-1
5—Gural Hanover	M. Kakaley/R. Burke	8-1
6—JL Cruze	J. Campbell/E. Ell	6-5
7—Father Patrick	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	8-5
8—Sumatra	D. Miller/T. Fanning	20-1
9—Madewell Hanover	C. Ryder	50-1



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Svanstedt Has Four Chances To Wrap Up Reynolds 3CT

Ten of 11 scheduled starters in Saturday's \$62,406 Reynolds Memorial 3-Year-Old Colt Trot are eligible to the Hambletonian. While the Reynolds field is not comprised of the division's elite, it is still an evenly-matched field which should give the horses' connections an indication of whether or not they are worthy of a Hambletonian entry payment.

Four of the 11 Reynolds starters hail from the barn of trainer Ake Svanstedt. The quartet includes Real DJ Hanover (post 2), Colbert (3), Mountain Top (10) and Ice O Late (11). All but Ice O Late are Hambletonian eligible.

"They are all coming along very good and hopefully they can pay for themselves," said Svanstedt Stable assistant trainer Bjorn "Bernie" Noren.

"They are all coming along very good and hopefully they can pay for themselves."

*-assistant trainer
Bernie Noren*

With a yearling purchase price of \$30,000, Real DJ Hanover is the lowest-priced of the Svanstedt foursome. The son of Andover Hall had one win in four starts last year and has already posted two wins in five starts this year, including a PA All Stars division and a career-best 1:54.3 win in a

June 30 overnight at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Brian Sears has been named to drive.

"He has a really good post," said Noren. "He is going to get better and better. He's a nice colt. If everything goes well he will be in the Hambletonian." Colbert is the most expensive yearling of the group at \$175,000. A son of Cantab Hall, Colbert is out of the Yankee Glide mare Domestic Diva, a half sister to \$1.7 million-winner Maven and the \$797,000-winner Lanson. Colbert is a full brother to the ill-fated stakes-winning Modern Family.

Colbert was winless in three attempts in 2014, and after three second-place finishes to open up his sophomore campaign he has posted back-to-back victories, including a career-best 1:55 effort in a Pennsylvania Stallion split at Pocono Downs. Matt Kakaley has been tabbed to drive.

"He was very green last year and was green in his first race (this year)," said Noren. "In the two races he won he's acting like a good horse. He will get better the more he races. He's not a bad horse and is going to make quite a name for himself." Mountain Top appears he may have to climb the mountain top to win the Reynolds as he is starting from the far outside post 10 with Oskar Florhed driving. A \$45,000 yearling buy-back by breeder Mario Mazza, Mountain Top is a son of Muscle Hill out of the 2008 Moni Maker champion Diana Hill.

Mountain Top has been in the Svanstedt barn for only four starts since early May, bringing with him a one-for-14 slate as a 2 year old and a zero-for-three sophomore resume.



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After finishing sixth in his Svanstedt debut, Mountain Top made breaks his next three starts.

"He's a nice colt who has had his problems," said Noren. "From the 10 hole he's going to need a lot of luck. We've made some shoeing changes on him.

We don't know yet (if he will race barefoot in the Reynolds), we'll see how it goes." Svanstedt will direct Ice O Late from the trailing 11 post. A \$75,000 yearling purchase, Ice O Late is a son of Yankee Glide out of the mare The Ice Queen, a half sister to stakes winners Southwind Serena—the dam of speedster filly Mission Brief—and Southwind Spirit.

After going winless in three freshman starts, Ice Queen broke his maiden in his 3-year-old debut but has since come up short in three attempts. Two starts back he made a break in the two hole as the 2-5 favorite in a PA Stallion split, an error Noren can explain.

"When he made the break he was going over the horse who won the race," he said. "He's not quite ready yet but he's a horse who is going to pretty fast in the fall. I think he can go a 1:52 mile in about a month or so." —By Gordon Waterstone

Silverman Brings "X" Factor To Mistletoe Shalee

Trainer Richie Silverman might have the "X" factor in Saturday's Mistletoe Shalee elimination at Meadowlands Racetrack, if not the 3-year-old female pacing division as a whole.

Silverman will send out Thirty X in the lone \$25,000 elimination, from which the top seven finishers advance to the Mistletoe Shalee final on July 18 at the Big M. Unraced at two, Thirty X has two wins and a second-place finish in three lifetime starts for Silverman and

breeder/owner Marvin Rounick.

The top seven finishers advance to the Mistletoe Shalee final.

Thirty X will start the elimination from post 3, with Tim Tetrick listed to drive.

"She had some soundness issues last year, but I rated her as good as any filly that I've trained in a long time," Silverman said. "She showed a tremendous amount of ability, so Mr. Rounick and myself decided that we were going to give her time and let her mature and keep our fingers crossed for 2015. She's coming along well so far this year. It's very early in the season, but I'm happy where she is today.

Thirty X is a daughter of Rocknroll Hanover out of the Rounick/Silverman Stable star mare Glowing Report, who earned \$2.09 million in her career and was a Nova and O'Brien Award winner. Thirty X is a half-sister to stakes-winner Net Ten Eom and her family also includes stakes winners Must See (who is the dam of Dan Patch Award winner Well Said), Perfect Union, and Urgent Action.

"That pedigree, there's not much better in the business as far as I'm concerned, Silverman said. "I'm happy the way she's progressing. She's still getting tighter, still learning. This is only going to be her fourth lifetime start. We know that going in. I think she's going to race very, very well.

"Hopefully she's going to be another step tighter and more mature going into, hopefully, the final. It's all stepping stones. She's going up the ladder the way we'd like her to at this point.

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The top seven finishers in the elimination will join three fillies who received byes to the final: Lynch Memorial winner Bettor Be Steppin, New Jersey Sires Stakes champ The Show Returns, and multiple stakes winner Sassa Hanover.

Silverman knows the Mistletoe Shalee is a step up for Thirty X, but he believes in the filly.

"We wouldn't put her in this race just as a tightener, put it that way, Silverman said with a laugh. "I think if she stays sound she's going to be a top filly in this division this year. (HRC)

\$25,000 Mistletoe Shalee 3FP Elimination

Meadowlands, Saturday, July 11, Race 12, Post Time: 9:35 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)
1—Happiness (Rocknroll Hanover)	J. Bongiorno/R. Burke	8-1	Vieux Carre Farms/\$12,000 (HB)
2—Divine Caroline (Rock N Roll Heaven)	C. Callahan/J. Holloway	9-2	Diamond Creek Farm/\$75,000 (HB)
3—Thirty X (Rocknroll Hanover)	T. Tetrick/R. Silverman	20-1	Marvin Rounick/Homebred
4—Band Of Angels (Rock N Roll Heaven)	Y. Gingras/R. Burke	7-2	S. Stewart & Birch Hollow Farms/\$100,000 (Lex)
5—Single Me (Bettor's Delight)	A. Miller/R. Croghan	4-1	Docs Farm/Homebred
6—Well Hello There (Well Said)	M. Kakaley/R. Burke	10-1	Frederick Hertrich III/\$50,000 (HB)
7—Moonlit Dance (Art Major)	D. Miller/T. O'Sullivan	8-1	David Goodrow Stable/Homebred
8—Deli Beach (Somebeachsomewhere)	J. Campbell/B. Bittle	15-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$50,000 (HB)
9—Storm Point (Somebeachsomewhere)	B. Miller/R. Burke	20-1	Black Horse Breeding, B. Guariglia/\$135,000 (Lex)
10—Stacia Hanover (Western Ideal)	S. Zeron/S. Elliott	3-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/\$35,000 (HB)

Top seven finishers advance to final. Sassa Hanover, Bettor Be Steppin and the Show Returns received byes.

The “Dude” Ready For Pace Elims

Doug Paul and Victoria Dickinson hope “Dude” is the man in the Meadowlands Pace.

Paul and Dickinson are among the owners of Dude’s The Man, who was one of the 14 horses entered in Saturday’s Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace eliminations at Meadowlands Racetrack. The 3-year-old male pacer is Dickinson’s first race horse and is named after her Jack Russell terrier, Dude.

“And Dude is the man,” Dickinson said with a laugh, adding about the horse and dog, “They have similar strong personalities.”

“One of these days he’s going to step up and win a big race for us.”

—Doug Paul

Dude’s The Man, with Corey Callahan listed to drive, is in the first of two \$50,000 Meadowlands Pace eliminations (Race 6) Saturday.

“He’s a fast horse,” said Paul, who owns Dude’s The Man with his mother, Rosalind, as M And L of Delaware LLC. “One of these days he’s going to step up and win a big race for us. Hopefully it will be next weekend. He’s got the speed, he’s just got to get the right type of trip.

“We’re real happy with him. We couldn’t be happier.”

Dude’s The Man prepped for his Meadowlands Pace elim with a second-place finish against older horses July 6 at Vernon Downs, the home base of trainers Howard Okusko Jr. and Jessica Okusko. For the year, the colt has won two of six races—including a division of the Somebeachsome-where Stakes—and earned \$43,501. He has been off the board just once, when he was beaten by only one length in his North America Cup elimination and finished fifth

“The North America Cup, it was just the luck of the draw,” Paul said. “The way the race set up, he just had a little too far to come, but he was flying at the wire.

“He never knows the end of the mile. He’s always full of pace finishing. He normally runs out of racetrack before he’s tired.”

Dude’s The Man’s connections decided to skip last weekend’s Max C. Hempt Memorial in the hopes of having a fresh horse for the Meadowlands Pace.

“We figured we’d skip the Hempt because they fly there anyhow and be fresh coming into the Meadowlands Pace,” Paul said. “Hopefully some of them tired themselves out, although those good ones never seem to tire themselves out, do they?”

Dude’s The Man is a son of American Ideal out of the mare Art’s Risk. His second dam is Dan Patch Award winner Delinquent Account, who is the mother of Dan Patch Award honoree Artiscap. Dude’s The Man was purchased under the name American Risk for \$40,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale.

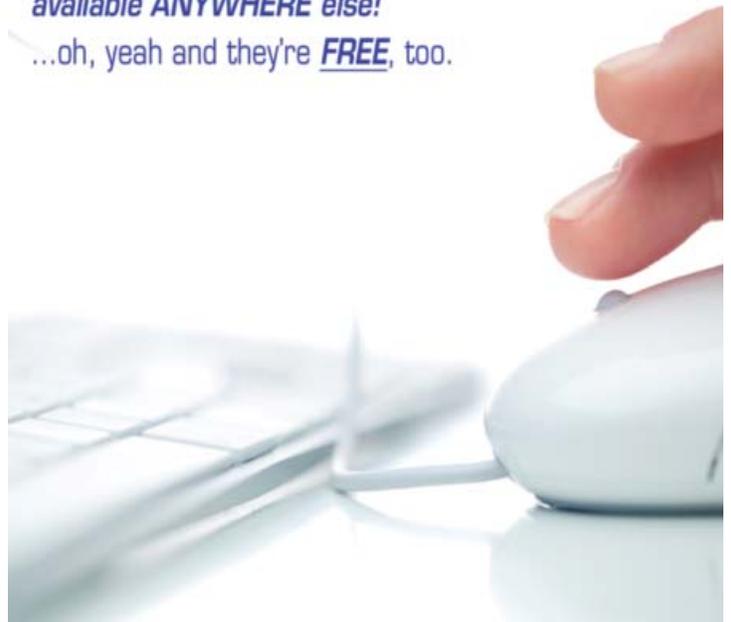
“He was the only yearling in the sale that didn’t have a video,” said Paul, who has seen Dude’s The Man win four of 16 career races and earn \$87,788. “I don’t know if that hurt his price or not. But we liked what he looked like and we try to buy families that can produce a good horse.” (HRC)

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STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

Lawson: Full-blown Casino At WEG “Wonderful News” For Horse Racing

Jim Lawson sounded euphoric, yet weary, when reached late Wednesday night. It's been a heck of a week for the Woodbine Entertainment Group's (WEG) new chief executive officer.

Three days after bettors poured more than \$11 million into Woodbine for the 156th running of the Queen's Plate, the racetrack scored an even bigger coup when the Toronto City Council voted 25-19 Wednesday in favor of allowing a full-blown casino at the track that would add 300 table games and 2,000 electronic gaming machines to the 3,000 already humming there.

“I would say that this is wonderful news for the horse racing and breeding industry in this province,” Lawson said of council's vote. “There's a lot of work to be done and there's a lot of moving pieces, but this is a critical step today and I can say, ‘Wow, this is great. This is really positive.’”

WEG has been pushing to be the site of Toronto's first full-blown casino for the better part of three years when the Ontario government surprised the horse racing industry by terminating the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) in favor of establishing casinos in all the major population centers in the province. In 2013, a Toronto City Council mired in politics and deeply divided over controversial mayor Rob Ford—a staunch supporter of casino expansion at Woodbine—voted down WEG's bid to be the location of the city's casino. Current mayor John Tory also supported a casino at Woodbine.

Wednesday's debate at City Hall lasted more than eight hours, with anti-gambling forces pushing hard for council to nix the idea. In the end, the economics proved too good to pass up. A staff report issued last month suggested expansion would bring jobs to a depressed region of the city and inject between \$12.5 and \$19.5 million in revenue annually to city coffers. That's on top of the \$15 million a year the city already receives from Woodbine, which does some \$600 million in business annually, making it the most lucrative gaming operation in Ontario.

Council will eventually have to approve a more detailed plan for the 700-acre site just down the street from Pearson Airport. Council's support on Wednesday hinged largely on WEG and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) coming up with a plan for a full-scale entertainment and hospitality complex.

Lawson is a big proponent of bringing a wide range of entertainment, hospitality, retail and residential tenants to

Woodbine's property that features terrific access by surrounding highways, more than 7,000 parking spots and the possibility of a light-rail or subway stop in the future. Pearson Airport just added a rail link to downtown.

“There are just so many things that point to a great opportunity there,” Lawson said. “I'm not focusing on the gaming aspect of it. I'm focusing on the entertainment opportunities—entertainment including food and beverage, live entertainment, live music. All of those things that as an industry are the types of things that we need to do to attract fans and, in particular, new fans and younger fans and people interested in the industry. One of the best avenues to do that

is to get people flow to the site. That's why this is so exciting for us. Not only will it get people to our site, but, from an economic standpoint, it does two things: 1. It protects the jobs that currently exist and 2. It creates a number of additional jobs.”

Lawson is charged with carefully managing one of Canadian horse racing's best assets—a huge parcel of valuable land in the nation's biggest city.

“We've been left with this wonderful piece of land. Was it good management or are we just lucky that we're now sitting there with 700 acres of land? I think it's probably a bit of both. It's a great position to be in and you don't want to misstep,” Lawson said. “We've got to do the right thing to make sure we do the socially responsible and environmentally responsible things to make sure that it's planned out carefully. If we do that, it will give us long-term economic sustainability to the horse racing industry... We look forward to trying to look at different ways to integrate the racing and the gaming industry.”

As for whether the OLG will give racing a direct cut of gaming revenue at Woodbine, Lawson's not ruling it out, though an outside casino company will most likely be tabbed by the OLG with operating the gaming side.

That's all part of the finer details to come. For now, Lawson is just excited about the opportunity.

The same week after the Queen's Plate set an all-time wagering record for Woodbine—not counting the 1996 Breeders' Cup—and less than three weeks after a record \$4.3 million was wagered on the Pepsi North America Cup at Mohawk, Lawson and WEG are on a roll.

Horse racing just might be the big beneficiary.



Dave Briggs was the editor of The Canadian Sportsman for 18 years and is an award-winning journalist. His column appears in HarnessRacing Weekend Preview in part through the advertising support of Hanover Shoe Farms and Woodbine Entertainment Group. Any opinions expressed in this column are his own and not necessarily those of the Horseman Publishing Company and its publications or its advertisers.

Woodbine does some \$600 million in business annually, making it the most lucrative gaming operation in Ontario.



Bruce Nickells Selected For Hall Of Fame

Bruce Nickells, a trainer-driver who was associated with many top horses during his 70-year career in harness racing and who specialized in the developing of young pacing fillies into champions, has been selected for induction into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. The mandate was taken by the Screening Committee of the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) under a "Veterans" provision incorporated into the organization's by-laws earlier this year.

Nickells, 87, has developed champions for more than four decades, an impressive feat by any standard.

At the age of 13, Nickells got his start as a part-time groom with the late C.F. Rumley. He got his first drive and first win at Aurora Downs in 1949 and opened his own stable in 1953. His career stats are incomplete since USTA record-keeping began well after Nickells started his harness racing career, but he is still credited with more than \$6 million in purses as a driver and more than \$7 million in training earnings in the pre-slots racing era.

Nickells developed many outstanding horses early in his career, including the trotter Scribe Rodney, Combat Time, Batman, Kentucky, and Fast Clip.

Nickells' prowess soon caught the attention of Grand Circuit patrons, and his training of the great mare Follow My Star in 1985 resulted in a partnership with mega-owner Lou Guida—one that would rewrite the record books. He trained six freshman divisional winners and/or the richest freshman filly of the year.

Nickells broke his own single season earnings record set by Follow My Star in 1991 with the great Miss Easy, who won 25 of her 32 lifetime starts (including an 11-race win streak), with earnings of \$1,777,656. Nickells was voted 1991 Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year.

Miss Easy was a repeat divisional winner as a sophomore.

Other top horses for Nickells include Hambletonian Oaks winner Park Avenue Kathy, Central Park West, Hazleton Kay, Immortality, Freedoms Friend, Bruce's Lady, Efishnc and six Breeders Crown champions. His Crown starters earned \$1.9 million, currently ranking him 15th in all-time Crown earnings even though he's started just one horse in the series since 1999.

For the last 20 years Nickells has concentrated on the winter training and breaking of colts, and gave youngsters such as Cypress Creek (\$384,000) and Grinfromeartoear (\$1.7 million) their early lessons. Nickells has turned his stable over to his daughter, Brooke, and is an active consultant and trainer in their rotation from Florida in the winter to summers at Hoosier Park.

Nickells will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Sunday, July 3, 2016, going directly to the Hall under the Veterans provision. (USHWA)

Charles Keller III Named To Hall Of Fame Ballot

Charles Keller III, who took over the spirit and desire for excellence at Maryland's Yankeeland Farm, started by his father/New York Yankees star Charles "King Kong" Keller, has been selected to appear on the ballot for the Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Chapters of the U.S. Harness Writers Association annually nominate outstanding individuals for ballot consideration. The Screening Committee of USHWA meets over Fourth of July weekend with an Advisory Board of Hall of Famers and selects the nominee or nominees for the Hall of Fame ballot. The ballot will be sent to eligible USHWA and Hall of Fame members in late summer.

In 1955 "King Kong" Keller bought the property in Frederick, Md., to found Yankeeland Farms, with such notable early successes as Fresh Yankee, 1970 Harness Horse of the Year and a winner of more than \$1 million. Charles Keller III, already an integral part of the farm's managerial team, took over the operation of the farm following the death of his father in 1990.

Under the younger Keller the farm's reputation grew and produced two Hambletonian winners in Muscles Yankee (1998) and Yankee Paco (2000). Muscles Yankee went on to sire three consecutive Hambletonian winners from 2008-10, Deweycheatumnhowe, Muscle Hill and Muscle Massive.

Muscles Yankee also appears among the list of four Breeders Crown winners bred by Yankeeland, the others being Strong Yankee, Yankee Slide, and Yankee Cashmere.

Yankeeland owned 2003 Dan Patch Award-winning trotting mare Windylane Hanover and Yankeeland-product Yankee Glide has been a longtime leading trotting stallion. Another Yankeeland-bred star is the 2003 North America Cup winner Yankee Cruiser, who has gone on to become a successful pacing sire.

In addition to having enriched the sport with his Yankeeland horses, Keller also contributes at the highest levels of the sport's major organizations. He has been on the board of directors of the Hambletonian Society since 2000 and took the position of executive chairman last year. A longtime trustee of the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, Keller was also a longtime director of the U.S. Trotting Association and active member of its important Finance Committee. (HRC)

Horseman Jim Raymer Dies At 62

Horseman Jim Raymer, known for his knowledge and success with trotters, died Wednesday, July 8, at age 62 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

A native of Ontario, Mr. Raymer developed and trained many stakes-winning trotters, the richest being world champion Green Day, a \$1.3 million winner who captured the 2007 Yonkers Trot and finished third in the Kentucky Futurity final.

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Before trotters, Mr. Raymer didn't know anything about horses until age 18, and worked first with endurance horses with his first wife, Mary. They decided to get involved in harness racing because they needed an income rather than ribbons. In Mr. Raymer's early years in harness racing, he also worked as a refrigeration mechanic.

He chose to work with trotters because he found it to be an art and pacers more of a science. He was a self-taught blacksmith and had a gift for picking out yearlings and pedigrees, as evidenced by Green Day, who he bought for just \$6,000 because he didn't see anything wrong with the horse.

Rita Jay was Mr. Raymer's first horse. In addition to Green Day, those that followed included, most recently, world champion Keystone Activator (winner of the Old Oaken Bucket), Nirvana Blue Chip, Freeze Frame, and in 2014, Harley Momma and Wouldn't it be sweet, who were stakes winners at Hoosier Park. Before that Mr. Raymer developed and trained Deanna Troy, Tasha Yar, world champion Scully FBI, Galt winner Rossini, New York Sires Stakes champ Bouncing Bax and Summertime Yankee.

He also bred Federal Flex and had Beverly Crusher, the dam of the accomplished trotters In Focus, Not Afraid and Rossini.

Mr. Raymer is survived by his wife Terry; son Tyler, who trains horses in partnership with wife Leigh; daughter Amy (Trevor); step-sons AJ Fort and Christopher Fort; and grandsons Zack, Gavin and Rory.

Horseman, Race Official Doug Lough Dies

Horseman James "Doug" Lough, 56, of Springfield, Ohio, died July 2 in his home.

Mr. Lough trained the good pacer Cambridge and in the early 1990s served as a patrol judge, riding in the starting car at Pompano Park, including the years of Breeders Crown competition there.

He was born June 28, 1959, in Springfield. He was a 1977 graduate of Mechanicsburg High School and attended The Ohio State University and graduated from Urbana University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. He enjoyed running and golfing, but his true passion was training and racing Standardbreds.

He is survived by his parents, James and Linda (Moore); his longtime companion, Beccy Killman; brother, David (Amy); nephew, Tylor; nieces, Alli and Taylor Bond; and great-nephews, Alec Bond and Jett Stratton. He was preceded in death by his paternal and maternal grandparents.

Big M Makes Hi-5 Change, Adds Pick 4

This past Saturday night, one lucky player cashed the jackpot Super Hi-5 in the last race at the Meadowlands for over \$173,000. The wager was placed through TVG by a bettor in Virginia. It was the second time this meet that a person took home over six figures on the Jackpot Super Hi-Five wager.

Given that there are only 10 racing dates remaining in the 2015 Championship Meet, rather than begin a new jackpot pool with only one month to build that pool, the Meadowlands has made some changes to its wagering format.

Beginning Friday, July 10, the carryover pool for the fifth race Jackpot Super Hi-5, which presently sits at \$175,601.70, has been moved from the fifth race to the last race. Therefore, those customers looking to wager into the Jackpot Hi-Five carryover pool can do so in the last race each racing card going forward. The pool will have a mandatory payout on Hambletonian Day, Saturday, Aug. 8. The wager carries a 20-cent minimum and consists of an eight percent takeout rate. If there is one winner, the entire jackpot pool pays out. If there is more than one winner, the wager pays out 75 percent of the net pool of new money, with 25 percent added to the jackpot carryover pool for the next live harness racing date.

Second, the fifth race will continue to offer a Super Hi-Five each night, but there will be no jackpot carryover pool. The pool will pay out each and every night and it will still carry an industry-low eight percent takeout rate. It will be offered at the 20-cent minimum as well.

Lastly, the next two Saturday nights of racing, Meadowlands Pace elimination night and Meadowlands Pace night, will offer 14 races and will carry three pick four wagers, with the newest edition covering races 11 through 14 with a takeout of just 15 percent. The late night pick four pool will carry a \$25,000 Guarantee and will be offered at the 50-cent minimum.

Meadowlands Pace Night will see increases for the guaranteed pools on the Meadowlands' multi-race mainstay wagers. The Pick 5, covering races one through five and the Early Pick Four, covering races three through six, will carry \$50,000 guaranteed pools. The Late Pick Four Pool, covering races seven through 10, will carry a \$100,000 guaranteed pool. *(Meadowlands)*

Winters Is 2015 Lady Pace Honoree

Diane Winters, the Little Brown Jug outrider and parade marshal for the past 34 years, will be honored as the 2015 Lady Pace honoree during the Grand Circuit meet at the Delaware County Fair.

Winters has led every Jug field in the post parade since Niatross in 1980 after replacing her cousin, Marilyn Evans, who served as the parade marshal for 15 years.

Besides the Delaware Grand Circuit meet, Winters also worked as an outrider for the Red Mile, Ohio State Fair and other Ohio county fairs.

A native of Delaware, Ohio, Winters has been a member of the Delaware County Agricultural Society Board of Directors since 1991 and served as Board President in 1995. She also has been the driving force behind the All Horse Parade

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since its inception 30 years ago. The All Horse Parade is the biggest all-horse parade east of the Mississippi River.

Winters will be honored in a winner's circle ceremony after a division of the Ohio Breeders Championship for 3-year-old filly pacers on Jug Day on Thursday, Sept. 25. (LBJ)

World Champ Shelliscape Retired

Two-time Breeders Crown winner and world champion Shelliscape has been retired and is in foal to stallion Somebeachsomewhere, owner-trainer Jeff Bamond Jr. said Monday, July 6. She is expected to be sold at November's Standardbred Horse Sale, unless a deal is reached with a buyer sooner.

Shelliscape, a 6-year-old daughter of Artiscape-Shell I Scoot, won 16 of 73 races and earned \$1.15 million during her career. She was unraced this season.

"She had a minor injury we thought she could come back from, but we decided it was best to retire her and let her go become a mom," said Bamond, who with his father, Jeff Sr., purchased Shelliscape in September of her 4-year-old season. "We have never been in the broodmare business so we are going to put her in the Harrisburg sale at the end of the season." (HRC)

HOF Communicator Janoff Dies At 100

Murray Janoff, 100, Communicators' Hall of Fame member and the last surviving founding member of the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA), passed away peacefully in his sleep early Tuesday morning, July 7, in Boca Raton, Fla.

Mr. Janoff was one of the dozen chroniclers of Roosevelt Raceway who met "over hamburgers and beer" after the races on the night of May 8, 1947 to form USHWA, harness racing's leading media organization, and was a member for 68 years.

In 2007, Mr. Janoff was inducted into the Communicators Hall of Fame, the highest honor in the sport that can be bestowed on a member of the media. He was still active in the Florida Chapter of USHWA, for whom he had served a term as President, and is also a member of the Florida USHWA Hall of Fame.

Caryle Smith, Owned Moni Maker, Dies

E. Carlyle Smith, 87, of Skaneateles, N.Y., passed away on July 8, after a brief bout with cancer.

Mr. Smith was an avid horseman. He had the good fortune over the years of buying two eventual Elitlopp winners and one Elitlopp runner-up from the yearling catalog pages. Those horses included the great mare Moni Maker, who he co-owned with his son David until she was sold to Guy "Sonny" Antonacci and his family and partners.

Mr. Smith also at one time owned Elitlopp champion Gum Ball and Elitlopp runner-up Nordin Hanover.

Many of Mr. Smith's horses were winners on the New York Sires Stakes circuit, with Moni Maker leading the list. Other top horses that he campaigned include Silent

Spring, No Short Cuts, Mattgilla Gorilla, Oranges, Muscle Memory and Algiers Hall.

Mr. Smith was predeceased by his wife of 49 years, Clare, who passed away in December of 2000. He is survived by his six children, Julie (Kent) Stoffle, Larry Smith (Marianne Oliva), Cheryl (Jim) Roy, Vicki (Terry) Kelly, David (Diane) Smith and Timothy (Jackie) Smith; 14 grandchildren: Alex, Scott, Ryan, Maggie, Nora, Kyle, Kevin, Lauren, Danny, Eric, Samantha, Luke, Nick and Tori; and his companion of 14 years, Eloise Luchsinger.

Calling hours will be 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, July 13, at Maurer Funeral Home in Baldwinsville, N.Y. A funeral Mass in celebration of his life will be Tuesday, July 14, at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Parish on Fay Road in Syracuse, N.Y. There will be no graveside ceremony. Donations in Mr. Smith's name can be made to the Standardbred Retirement Foundation, 353 Sweetmans Lane, Suite 101, Millstone, N.J. 08535. Cards can be mailed to: Dave Smith, 5000 Campuswood Drive, E. Syracuse, N.Y. 13057.

Memorabilia Auction To Benefit SRF

Shoes worn by See You At Peelers, honored as a divisional champion at two and three, are among the items that will be auctioned to benefit the horses in the care of the Standardbred Retirement Foundation (SRF). More than 20 items of interest to fans of racing will be auctioned on eBay, starting July 12.

Suzanne D'Ambrose, a volunteer with the SRF, will be conducting the 10-day auction for the second year. All the proceeds are used to buy grooming supplies, fly spray, horse care items and special treats for the retirees at the Cream Ridge, NJ, farm.

See You At Peelers, who was the 2-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year in 2010 and the 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year in 2011, retired with 26 wins in 31 starts and \$1.5 million in earnings.

Among the items that will be auctioned are Hambletonian shirts and scarves. Autographed driving whips, which also have certificates of authenticity, will be included. The whips are signed by Hall of Famer John Campbell as well as Tony Alagna, Ron Burke, Casie Coleman, Jeff Gregory, and Brian Sears. One driving whip has four signatures on it: Cory Callahan, Nancy Johansson, Marcus Miller, and Scott Zeron.

Another special item is a 10 ½ x 13 ½ mounted photo of Niatross and driver-trainer Clint Galbraith, winning the 1980 James B. Dancer Memorial at Freehold Raceway.

Starting on July 12, visit the eBay website and use "Advanced Search" to find seller "Jerseyhorselover" to view and bid on all the items. Extra charges will be required for shipping to Canada or other countries.

For any questions, contact Suzanne D'Ambrose at mi-amisuzanne698@aol.com. (SRF)