Drivers Talk Meadowlands Pace Strategy

If 10 handicappers study a race in the program it wouldn’t come as any surprise that there were 10 different opinions. The same holds true for drivers, who look at their rivals in a race and then try and come up with a winning strategy.

Conditioned and claiming races are one thing, but when there is big money on the line, like there is on Saturday night’s huge race card at the Meadowlands, it’s a safe bet that pre-race strategy goes out the window when the wings of the starting gate fold. We talked to some of the drivers competing in Saturday night’s $776,000 Meadowlands Pace and found differing views of race scenarios.

“I will have no plan going into the race; I will take things as they come. But I will be aggressive.”
— Ron Pierce on Luck Be Withyou

as the 2013 Breeders Crown champion drew post 5, the winnigest post (15.6 percent) at the Meadowlands, just as it is at virtually every racetrack in North America.

Luck Be Withyou also started from post 5 in his Meadowlands Pace elim and after what driver Ron Pierce termed a “conservative” drive, he finished third by three lengths behind He’s Watching (1:48.1), respectively, chose posts 2 and 3 for their charges, the other eight finalists went into an open draw for posts. Luck Be Withyou had the luck of the draw as post 5, the winningest post (15.6 percent) at the Meadowlands, just as it is at virtually every racetrack in North America.

Luck Be Withyou also started from post 5 in his Meadowlands Pace elim and after what driver Ron Pierce termed a “conservative” drive, he finished third by three lengths behind He’s Watching, just missing finishing second after a late rally. Pierce left for the early lead and then was shuffled back to third, and after sliding back to fifth at the top of the stretch he was able to angle to the outside and let Luck Be Withyou pace home with a final quarter of :27.2 to snag show honors.

“He was good last week,” said Pierce. “I raced him conservatively. I wanted to make sure I got him into the final; that was the main thing.”

With four horses inside of him and five to the outside, Pierce said he will be watching closely at the start.

“The five is a good spot,” said Pierce, a four-time Meadowlands Pace winner. “I’m going to do what I do pretty much every race I have a contender. I’ll see how he feels, have a look around at the start and see what everybody’s doing, and take it from there. He doesn’t have to leave. I’m sure it would be no problem leaving around everything on the inside of him if he wanted, and if I wanted to I could even put the horses on the outside in. But I don’t want to use him any harder than I have to.

“I will have no plan going into the race; I will take things as they come. But I will be aggressive.”

One slot to Pierce’s right in post 6 is Lyonssomewhere, who finished a close third for driver Yannick Gingras in his Pace elim, behind JK Endofanera. In the elim, Gingras left from the outside post 8 with Lyonssomewhere and then after yielding to the eventual winner at the half, tried valiantly to come back up the pylons in the stretch, with the bid falling just short.

“Last week I had a lot of pace and I was loaded for most of the stretch and ripping his face off,” said Gingras, who won the 2012 Pace with A Rocknroll Dance. “If I could have got through right away I think he would have exploded off that trip.”

Gingras said that on paper, it appears most of the action will be on the inside and that he will be watching what Pierce and Brett Miller (with Tellitlikeitis from post 4) do at the start.

Continues on page 2
“My horse showed last week he can leave real fast, but if Tel-litlikeitis and Pierce both get out of there I think it makes my decision easy,” said Gingras. “You take off and then try and follow the two best horses in the race (JK Endofanera and He’s Watching). It won’t work for me if they both move, but if only one of them does then I can get a good trip. I really believe we have a good chance, as good a chance as anybody.”

Gingras said since it appears the outside four horses don’t have gate speed, the race may lack some excitement.

“There’s not a whole lot of speed,” he said. “The majority of the action will be going up the inside. I don’t think that either (JK Endofanera or He’s Watching) will be hectic going to the quarter as they want to be the last ones to the front. The one horse I could see taking a shot early is Doo Wop Hanover (post 10) because where is John (Campbell) going to go from last? He’s not going to pass Jet Airway, Sometimes Said or Always Be Miki because they are fast closers, plus you don’t see Campbell taking off to last for $700,000 often.”

The newly-inducted Hall of Famer David Miller, who rallied Always B Miki to a close second-place finish behind Jet Airway, Sometimes Said or Always Be Miki because they are fast closers, plus you don’t see Campbell taking off to last for $700,000 often.

“Don’t be locked in or don’t get in a spot where somebody can jam you down on the rail. Get away clean and have a clear shot at it.”

— driver Tim Tetrick

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— driver Tim Tetrick
Always B Miki Trying To Give Connections A Pace Victory

As a new Hall of Famer, David Miller has more classic wins and money-winnings than all but a handful of drivers, but he still hasn’t joined the club of drivers who have won the Meadowlands Pace. Always B Miki will be giving him his 15th chance at the Meadowlands Pace winner’s circle on Saturday night.

Always B Miki is trained by Joe Holloway, who has had four previous chances to win the Meadowlands Pace but is also still looking for his winner. In 2007 Holloway had the betting favorite in Always A Virgin, the sire of Always B Miki, but Always A Virgin broke stride in the homestretch while making his move to collar the leaders.

Always B Miki finished second in the Meadowlands Pace elimination won by JK Endofanera, making up more than six lengths in the final half to just miss, beaten by a neck. He is 4-1 on the morning line and will start from post 9.

Some may see post 9 as an undesirable post position, but Gallo Blue Chip and Allamerican Theory both won the Meadowlands Pace from post 9. In fact, the outside isn’t all that bad as post 8 is the win-ningest for the Meadowlands Pace at 16.6 percent, with Roll With Joe (2011) the last winner to start from that position.

Holloway believes this year’s Meadowlands Pace is wide open and he’s not worrying about his horse’s starting point in the race.

“I don’t see where post 2 or 3 is an advantage,” said Holloway. “I’ll be shocked if either one of the elim winners go wire to wire. We haven’t seen that either of these horses can do that.

“I know we’ll be in the outside flow. Our horse has been parked the mile in 1:48.4 and lived to tell about it,” he con-tinued, making reference to Always B Miki’s second-place finish on May 17 at the Meadowlands, when he was beaten by a nose after racing parked the entire mile.

Always B Miki was the betting favorite to win his North America Cup elimination in early June at Mohawk, but he broke stride in the first turn at Mohawk. The miscue highlighted the big and speedy colt’s occasional problem of being tough for his drivers to steer. Holloway added a head pole to the equipment the 16.2 hands-colt wears before a qualifier on June 27, when Miller drove him for the first time, but he didn’t like the result.

“I tried him with the head pole and he was fighting too much, so I took it off,” said Holloway.

Holloway did change Always B Miki’s driving bit before the Pace eliminations, but didn’t see any reason to make any changes before the final.

“I trained him Tuesday and he seemed just fine,” he said.— By Kathy Parker
Meadowlands Pace Card Watch List

“Maybe I should have gone a little more with her than I did last time.” — Ron Pierce on Miller Memorial starter Shake It Cerry, who won her last start at Pocono Downs in 1:54.

“At Pocono last week he was as good as he’s been. He was locked in and never got a chance to race and he paced in 1:47.1. He had good pace on the end of it. I think he’ll give a good account for himself.” — Yannick Gingras on Sweet Lou, who starts from post 10 in the Haughton final.

“With a horse like that you work your way around most of them, if not all of them, and go from there. I’m not that worried. He has good gate speed and good manners so I can also sit him in a hole as long as I want to.” — Yannick Gingras on Father Patrick, who starts from post 9 in the Dancer Memorial.

“Post 9 isn’t good for her because she’s not a big leaver. It’s going to be tough for her.” — David Miller on Mistletoe Shalee starter Uffizi Hanover.

“I thought he was going to get beat (in his Meadowlands Pace elim), but he showed a lot of class and held them all off. We’re tickled pick about him. We’ve never taken anything for granted; they have to get a lot of good things to happen. It’s a race. Anything can happen. But he’s been giving us a thrill.” — Alan Katz, co-owner of Meadowlands Pace morning-line favorite JK Endofanera

“It’s the first time he ever got a trip in his whole life (in his Meadowlands Pace elim win). He’s always been doing all the work or he’s been racing against the clock. It’s almost like he learned to race a little bit and he got a trip and it worked out the way we wanted it to.” — trainer Dave Menary on Meadowlands Pace starter He’s Watching.

“A lot of these horses, you map out every start. With him, we’ve been kind of winging it. He’s had 38 starts since he’s had a real break. Believe me, he’s not getting one soon as well as he’s racing.” — Mark Weaver, co-owner of Haughton Memorial starter Bettor’s Edge.

“They’re all night and day. All three look different. Designed To Be is real tall, Bambino Supreme is more lackadaisical and athletic, like a stud colt, and Cee Bee Yes is the sweetheart of the group. So I’ve got the wild one, the ornery one and the sweetie.” — trainer Julie Miller on her trio of Miller Memorial starters

“She definitely needed that last start. She qualified good and if the trip had worked out, I think she could have been right there.” — Yannick Gingras on Miss Versatility starter Maven’s first start back after returning from her trip to Sweden for the Elitlopp.
“Andycapping” The Meadowlands Pace

With driver Andy Miller still on the sidelines following back surgery needed in the aftermath of an early April race accident at Yonkers Raceway, we have enlisted him to “Andycap” Saturday night’s $776,000 Meadowlands Pace at the Meadowlands.

Following a doctor’s appointment on July 9, Miller said he is still a couple months away from returning to the sulky. Miller said he is ready to begin physical therapy but that his hopes to resume driving late next month appear dashed. He said while he will be able to resume jogging horses, he doesn’t expect to drive until after the fall Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile.

So how does he see the action in the Meadowlands Pace?

**AT THE START**

I look for Luck Be Withyou and Lyonssomewhere to leave hard, and National Debt should too from post 1. I think they will probably line up Lyonssomewhere, Luck Be Withyou and National Debt. JK Endofanera, He’s Watching and Tellitlikeitis will be next. There’s also a big shot that John Campbell will leave hard from post 10 with Doo Wop Hanover. I also think David (Miller) will try and leave from the nine hole with Always B Miki, but that horse is not a big leaver. It’s going to be hard for horses to be three deep because nobody wants to go to the rail.

**AT THE QUARTER**

I expect Lyonssomewhere to still be on the lead at the quarter in :26.2. Since I think Brian and JK Endofanera are going to get away fourth, I think he will move to the front at the quarter or just past the quarter. I expect Timmy (Tetrick, with He’s Watching) to go with him, and that leaves Brett Miller following with Tellitlikeitis. David will be in the mix somewhere though by then with Always B Miki. That will leave Yannick now in the two hole and Pierce locked in third on the rail with Luck Be Withyou.

**AT THE HALF**

The half is reached in :54 by JK Endofanera. He’s Watching is still out there first-over and the others looking to get in the mix behind.

**THREE QUARTERS**

They’ll get there in 1:21 and a piece or 1:22. It’ll be JK Endofanera on the front, He’s Watching still first-over, Tellitlikeitis second-over and Always B Miki third-over. John is the wildcard with Doo Wop Hanover as he could get away fourth and then get stuck in there. Then it’s going to be a race from there.

**AT THE FINISH LINE**

Always B Miki with a Hall of Fame drive by David Miller in 1:48.2. And then it’s between JK Endofanera, He’s Watching and Tellitlikeitis. Marcus (Miller) could be flying at the end with Jet Airway and finishes up there. That horse gets home big but I don’t think he can get involved enough.

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**Post Position Wins at the Meadowlands**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starts</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>881</td>
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<td>880</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>104</td>
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<td>95</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>Show</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Percent in Money**

| Win | 10.7 | 9.6 | 9.0 | 11.6 | 15.6 | 14.6 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 8.4 | 78 |
| Place | 22.2 | 21.3 | 20.5 | 22.4 | 278 | 278 | 20.7 | 18.8 | 170 | 15.0 |
| Show | 34.2 | 32.7 | 29.9 | 34.4 | 40.5 | 39.5 | 32.6 | 279 | 25.8 | 21.7 |

Post position 1 had 27-1-3-3; 12 had 14-2-0-3; 14 had 1-0-1-0; 13 had 1-0-1-0; 14 had 1-0-0-0
### $212,150 Mistletoe Shalee 3YO FP

**Meadowlands, Saturday, July 12, Race 6, Post Time: 8:18 pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Table Talk (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/B. Dalious</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>Big Al’s Stable, D. Smith, D. Parham/HB ($3,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Allstar Rating (Four Starzzz Shark)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/R. Burke</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms, B. Monieson Revtrust/Lex ($25,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sandbetweenurtoes (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>B. Miller/L. Remmen</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>J. Carver/—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Act Now (Western Ideal)</td>
<td>B. Sears/N. Dremann</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms, B. Monieson Revtrust/Lex ($40,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gallie Bythe Beach (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>J. Campbell/Ji. Campbell</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>A. &amp; J. Siegel/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rock N Roll Xample (Rocknroll Hanover)</td>
<td>R. Pierce/R. Allard</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>R. Hamather/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Weeper (Allamerican Native)</td>
<td>C. Callahan/K. O’Donnell</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Winbak Farm/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Precocious Beauty (Art Major)</td>
<td>D. McNair/G. McNair</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>J. Avritt Sr./Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>My Lady Day (Western Ideal)</td>
<td>M. Kakaley/J. Holloway</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Perretti Farms/Lex ($75,000)</td>
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### $213,500 Del Miller Memorial 3YOFT

**Meadowlands, Saturday, July 12, Race 5, Post Time: 7:56 pm**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Horse (Sire)</th>
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<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Designed To Be (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>B. Sears/J. Miller</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>A. Libfeld, M. Katz/Homebred</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cooler Schooner (Broadway Hall)</td>
<td>Jo. Campbell/Ji. Campbell</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>A. &amp; J. Siegel/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scream And Shout (Muscles Yankee)</td>
<td>J. Takter</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Perretti Farms/HB ($60,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bambino Supreme (Broadway Hall)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/J. Miller</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms/HB ($45,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cee Bee Yes (Muscles Yankee)</td>
<td>M. Miller/J. Remmen</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Perretti Farms/HB ($45,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Heaven’s Door (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>A. Svandstedt</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>Winwintrotting Ab/—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Shake It Cerry (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>R. Pierce/J. Takter</td>
<td>9-5</td>
<td>Solveig’s Breeders/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tweet Me (Andover Hall)</td>
<td>B. Miller/D. Swick</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/HB ($80,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chivaree Hanover (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>D. McNair/G. McNair</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>J. Silva, Diamond Creek Farm/Lex ($12,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lifetime Pursuit (cantab Hall)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/J. Takter</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms/Homebred</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Struck By Lindy (Explosive Matter)</td>
<td>D. Miller/R. Norman</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Lindy Racing Stable/HB ($32,000)</td>
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### $317,500 Stanley Dancer Memorial 3YOCT

**Meadowlands, Saturday, July 12, Race 4, Post Time: 7:34 pm**

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<th>Post</th>
<th>Horse (Sire)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Muscle Network (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>A. Svandstedt</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Silver Linden Farms/—</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Martininwithmuscle (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>R. Pierce/J. King</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>D. Hutchins/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Revrac Harbour (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>S. Zeron/T. Alagna</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>J. Carver, H. Taylor/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Don Dorado (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/R. Baggitt Jr.</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>M. Walker/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Skates N Plates (Revenue)</td>
<td>B. Sears/T. Smedshammer</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>R. Key/Homebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sumatra (Muscles Yankee)</td>
<td>B. Miller/T. Fanning</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Perretti Farms, Black Horse Racing/HB ($9,000)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nuncio (Andover Hall)</td>
<td>J. Campbell/J. Takter</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>R. Williams/HB $7,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Speak The Truth (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>D. Miller/L. Toscano</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Silver Linden Farms/HB ($65,000)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Father Patrick (Cantab Hall)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/J. Takter</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Brittany Farms/Lex ($105,000)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Well Built (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>C. Ryder</td>
<td>50-1</td>
<td>Way To Win Farms/Lex ($30,000)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Kapow Hanover (Explosive Matter)</td>
<td>C. Callahan/S. Lind</td>
<td>50-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/HB ($90,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Trixton (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>J. Takter</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>S. Stewart, M. Ala-Seppala, J. Bootsman/Lex ($360,000)</td>
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</table>
Tweet About Judges’ Ruling Sparks Debate

Monday night, about 30 minutes after judges at Mohawk Racetrack placed Manny In Sports from first to sixth in a $70,000 Ontario Sires Stakes Gold event for allegedly gaining an unfair advantage when he went inside a pylon in the stretch, the driver of the 2-year-old pacing colt took to Twitter to express his displeasure.

James MacDonald (@Jamesomac26) didn’t mince words. “Worst call I have ever been involved with!! Absolutely ridiculous, no idea what they could of been looking at!! ?#hiwayrobbery”

MacDonald is far from the first driver, trainer or professional athlete to use social media to publicly criticize officials, but his tweet brings up an interesting dilemma for a sport desperate to engage fans while needing to be extremely cautious about what is communicated to bettors.

On one hand, a driver telling the public he thinks he was robbed by the judges is useful to those who might want to hold onto their tickets—the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) confirmed Wednesday that the race is under appeal—but participants in other sports have been taken to the woodshed by their governing bodies for much less.

In January 2011, soccer’s Ryan Babel, who plays for Liverpool, was fined more than $13,000 for criticizing an official on Twitter and posting a photo of the referee wearing an opposing team’s jersey. Mark Cuban, owner of the NBA’s Dallas Mavericks, was fined $25,000 by the league in 2009 for criticizing a referee on Twitter and the NBA has routinely fined players and coaches—Cuban in particular—for doing the same.

The NFL has been more lenient. In September 2012, replacement referees botched the end of the NFL game between Seattle and Green Bay won by the Seahawks. Shortly afterward, Packers guard T.J. Lang took to Twitter with this blast: Got f— by the refs. Embarrassing. Thanks NFL.

He then followed it a few minutes later with this tweet: F— it NFL. Fine me and use the money to pay the regular refs.

The NFL was amazingly tolerant on this one and let it slide without a fine. (And the regular refs were back the next week.) The ORC does not have a specific policy or rule related to the use of social media in the sport.

But Ray Kahnert, the ORC’s manager of communications, wrote in an email Wednesday that the regulator, “does take action within existing rules when inappropriate conduct is observed or reported,” and the Commission “recognizes the challenges of regulatory action within social media and it is clearly on our radar.”

Kahnert also wrote that the ORC only informally monitors social media comments and has never fined anyone “related to social media use.” It has, however, fined at least one participant for quotes made in a magazine article indicating a horse was not being raced with full effort to save it for an upcoming stakes race.

That suggests the commission has the power to bring down the hammer on those who admit to cheating or lack of effort, but may be more lenient about those in the sport expressing an opinion, so long as that opinion steers clear of obscenities, racial slurs or libel.

Let's hope commissions everywhere remain lenient about social media use by participants and, instead, provide some education and guidance about what should and should not be communicated to the public.

James MacDonald wrote in a private message Wednesday through Facebook that he had not, yet, been contacted by the ORC about his tweet, nor do I believe the ORC should fine him for this case. His tweet didn’t call anyone out specifically. He didn’t even mention the ORC or the specific race. Instead, he gave bettors exactly what the sport needs: more transparency and access to those most in control of races. Bettors saw the race and have their own opinions about the ruling. MacDonald’s tweet provides interesting insight into his opinion and emotions, as raw as they were.

For my betting money, I’ll take a passionate driver clawing for every nickel over the alternative every time—even when that passion comes out in fewer than 141 characters.

Gunn bred Queen’s Plate winner

Reproductive expert Dr. Moira Gunn, the former president of Armstrong Bros., celebrated a special victory on Sunday. She and her late husband, Dr. Mike Colterjohn, are the breeders of Lexie Lou, the filly that beat the boys in Canada’s biggest Thoroughbred race, the $1 million Queen’s Plate. Colterjohn, who died in March of 2012 of brain cancer at the age of 55, was the mastermind of Paradox Farm of Caledon East, Ont., a farm he ran with Gunn. Lexie Lou sold for just $5,500 as a yearling.
Sebastian K Takes Show To Mohawk
For Maple Leaf Trot Eliminations

The 63rd edition of the Maple Leaf Trot has attracted 12 of the world’s finest trotters, who will compete in two $40,000 six-horse eliminations on Friday night at Mohawk.

Headlining the group of 12 is the world’s fastest trotter and the talk of the harness racing world, Sebastian K and trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt. Sebastian K has drawn post 6 in the first elimination carded as Race 2 and will be making his Canadian debut fresh off setting the trotting world record of 1:49 at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs on June 28. The 8 year old enters the Maple LeafTrot elimination a perfect four-for-four, having won all his races in 1:50.3 or better.

While most of the attention will be on the world champion, a couple of local 4-year-old trotters will look to take their best stab at the “Scandinavian Powerhouse.”

Wheeling N Dealin will leave from post 1 for driver Jody Jamieson and trainer Luc Blais, while Flanagan Memory has been assigned post 5 with regular pilot Chris Christo-forou in the sulky for trainer Rene Dion.

Both 4-year-old trotters are past O’Brien Award winners and come into their Maple LeafTrot elimination after competing in the 1 1/8-mile Hambletonian Maturity at the Meadowlands last Saturday. Flanagan Memory finished third, one spot ahead of Wheeling N Dealin.

Race 8 will be the second elimination and will feature a showdown between 2012 Maple LeafTrot champion Mister Herbie and 2013 champion Market Share.

Mister Herbie was the 2013 O’Brien Award winner for older trotter, but came up just short of capturing back-to-back Maple LeafTrots when he finished second to Market Share in last year’s edition. Market Share captured last year’s Maple LeafTrot by 2 1/2 lengths in 1:51.1, the second fastest Maple LeafTrot behind only Mister Herbie’s stakes record clocking of 1:50.4 in 2012.

The top five finishers from the two eliminations will advance to the $550,000 final on July 19 at Mohawk. The elimination winners will also be able to select their post position for the final. (WEG)
2YO TROTTERS
MILE TRACKS
2C 1:56 FRENCH LAUNDRY, Muscles Yankee-Creamy Mimi-Conway Hall
2F 1:55.1 MISSION BRIEF, Muscle Hill-Southwind Serena-Varenne
Weaver Bruscemi, Burke Rcg. Stb, Our Horse Cents Stbs & J&T Silva Stbs. S. Stewart, Black Creek Fm. & Andrea Lea Rcg. Stbs. (M 7-4) Y. Gingras.
2G 1:58.1 AZUCAR, Crazed-Lindy Loves Candy-Angus Hall

FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS
2C 1:56.3 THE BANK, Donato Hanover-Lantern Kronos-Viking Kronos
C. Takter & G. Falk. Falkbolagen Ab (PcD 7-4) J. Takter. J. Takter (Father Patrick 1:52.1)
2F 1:53.3 TOMY TERROR, Western Terror-Mib Hanover-Tyler B
W. Wiswell, VIP Internet Stb., J. Goehlen & E. Schick. VAE LLC (PcD 6-29) C. Callahan. J. Butenschoen

2G 1:53.3 TOMY TERROR, Western Terror-Mib Hanover-Tyler B
W. Wiswell, VIP Internet Stb., J. Goehlen & E. Schick. VAE LLC (PcD 6-29) C. Callahan. J. Butenschoen

HARNESSRACING WEEKEND PREVIEW, 9 of 14
July 11, 2014
www.harnessracing.com

2YO PACERS
MILE TRACKS
2C 1:52.4 ONEISALONEYNUMBER, Bettor’s Delight-No One Is Alone-The Panderosa
West/Wins Stb. & A. Sorella. R. & R. Brady. K. & L. Jackson (M 7-9) D. Miller. C. Coleman (Sweet Lou 1:49)
2F 1:53.1 JK SHE’SALADY, Art Major-Presidential Lady-Presidential Ball
3 Brothers Stbs. 3 Brothers Stb. (M 7-9) Y. Gingras. N. Johansson (I Luv The Nite life, Precious Beauty 1:50.1)
2G 1:52.4 DEALT A WINNER, Cam’s Card Shark-Lazan Hanover-Matt’s Scooter
J. Snyder. Hanover Shoe Fms. KELLY D, Panspacificflight-U Olive-Incredible Finale L. Breed. L. Breed (Sheer Desire 1:49.3)

HALF-MILE TRACKS
2C 1:57.2 MIKADO BLUE CHIP, American Ideal-Ichiban Blue Chip-Sealed N Delivered
M. Ford. Blue Chip Bldstk. (BR 7-2) D. McNav. G. McNav (On Golden Ponder, He’s Watching 1:52.2)
2G 1:56.3 SMOKING JOEY, Rigging-You Don’t Know Me-Western Terror
CTC Stb. Bufeproof Ent. (Har 7-2) G. Dennis. D. Lewis (Littlebitoflife 1:52.1)
**Trotters**

**MILE TRACKS**

| 3C  | 1:52.1 | TRIXTON, Muscle Hill-Emilie Cas El (IM 5-9|-9) J. Takter  
C. Takter & Briston Medical Ab.  
S. Stewart, M. Alle-Sepalla & J. Bootsman  
[DONATO HANOVER, MUSCLE HILL 1:50.1]  
[3F  | 1:52.0 | HEAVEN'S DOOR, Muscles Hill-Girlie Tough (IM 5-3|-1) Ake Svanstedt  
Melby Tag Inc. Winnowintoting AB  
[BE A Magician 1:51.9]  

**FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS**

| 5C  | 1:52.1 | SMOOTHER RIDE, Yankee Glide-Mazda Hanover (IM 6-6) B. Miller  
J. Leaf Rcg.  
J. & L. Jackson, R. & R. Brady  
[CHAPTER SEVEN 1:51.0]  

**HALF-MILE TRACKS**

| 3C  | 1:56.4 | CASH ME OUT, Yankee Glide-Tommy Hanover (IM 6-21) D. Miller  
C. Green, Quantum Fms. Corp.  
[Summer Indian 1:51.1]  

| 3C  | 1:56.4 | NOT AFRAID, S. S.s Caviar-Beverly Crusher (PC 6-14) J. Morrill  
[SVEGRA 1:50.3]  

**Pacers**

**MILE TRACKS**

| 3C  | 1:48.1 | HE'S WATCHING, American Ideal-Babedoom (IM 7-4-9) T. Tetrick  
Brittany Fms.  
[SOMEBEACHSWHEREOM 1:46.4]  

**FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS**

| 4C  | 1:49.1 | SWEET LOU, Yankee Cruiser-Sweet Destiny (PC 5-24) R. Pervier  
A. Libfeld, M. Katz & A. & J. Siegel  
[JUST A JOLT 1:50]  

**HALF-MILE TRACKS**

| 3C  | 1:52.2 | ALL BETS OFF, A Piece Of The Action (MH 7-9) D. Miller  
R. Roesler & Teague Inc.  
[DROP THE BALL 1:48.2]  

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Data through 7/9/14. NEW LEADERS IN GREEN* Division, current season's record, current leader, breeding (Track and date) Driver Owner(s). Breeder(s). (world record, all-age record in caps,  

*Leaders are shown in green with number of leaders in parentheses.*
$1 Million “30 Out Of 30” Challenge Starts Saturday

The “30 out of 30” Grand Circuit challenge gets underway with Saturday’s Meadowlands Pace at the Meadowlands. The deadline to register for the contest is at noon on Saturday.

Entrants have the chance to win $1 million by correctly picking the winners of 30 designated races this year. For those who miss a race and don’t qualify for the $1 million grand prize, there are $10,000, $5,000 and $2,500 prizes for second, third and fourth, respectively.

Enter the contest at www.harnessracingambassadors.com. Entries for the 30 races will be posted online and a leaderboard will help all entrants track their progress during the season.

PASS Freshman Filly Trotters Friday At Meadows

A total of 52 freshman filly trotters will make their Pennsylvania Sires Stakes debut Friday evening at The Meadows Racetrack & Casino. Quality likely will be on display as well, as top trainers are sending well-bred babies after a total of $247,481 in purses.

Hall of Famer Jimmy Takter and Jim Campbell will be represented by six fillies each while Julie Miller sends out four. Ake Svanstedt, conditioner of leading Horse of the Year candidate Sebastian K, has a pair in Friday’s PASS.

First post is 6:55 p.m., with the stakes races contested over seven divisions.

Campbell was reluctant to over-praise his sextet—five of them owned by Jules Siegel’s Fashion Farms—but conceded that he and Siegel are excited about their prospects. “Some of them are coming off one baby race,” Campbell noted, “but we’re coming out there, so we decided to bring them all. They’re just getting started. We put too much pressure on these horses right from the word go. They need a little time to find their way and develop. Once you get into August, they’ll separate themselves.”

Among the most noteworthy from Fashion Farms is Fashion Voyage, a full sister to world champion Pilgrims Taj (Broadway Hall-BWT Maija), who opened her career in hopples with a handy PA All Stars win. She goes in Race 2 from post 7 with John Campbell piloting.

“She did it very easily,” Jim Campbell said. “She’s done everything that we’ve asked of her so far.”

Takter, whose ownership groups have the resources to patronize any stallions they choose, will send out fillies from six different stallions—Andover Hall, Broadway Hall, Cantab Hall, Donato Hanover, Explosive Matter, Muscle Massive—an indication of the strength of Pennsylvania’s ranks and Takter’s emphases in selecting yearlings.

“I try to buy the horses we like,” Takter said. “The sire is not the number one priority; the maternal line is number one. And you have to find out which are the best crosses.”

Among his six-pack, Takter cited Sarcy, who was beaten a neck in her PA All Stars split after being roughed up in the first quarter.

“I really like her, but she’s in a very tough division,” he said. “She’s a nice, quick little thing. At Pocono, it was a sprint, and she couldn’t get to the horse in front of her.”

Father Patrick Leads Takter Trio In Dancer

Father Patrick is no stranger to overcoming difficult starting spots, and no stranger to providing fantastic finishes.

He did both in his most recent performance, starting from post 8 at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and winning the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial in a world-record 1:50.2. Post eight produces only 6.7 percent winners at Pocono Downs, the worst figure at the five-eighths-mile oval.

On Saturday night, Father Patrick will leave from post 9 in the $317,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial for 3-year-old trotters at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Post 9 produces 8.4 percent winners at the Big M, the second-worst percentage of the 10 starting spots on the gate.

Undefeated in five races this year, and the owner of a 14-race win streak dating back to last July, Father Patrick is the 4-5 favorite on the morning line in the 12-horse field. Regular driver Yannick Gingras will be at the lines for trainer Jimmy Takter, who also sends out the only other horses at less than 15-1 on the morning line: Trixton, 3-1 from the second tier’s post 12, and Nuncio, 4-1 from post seven.

“It will be an interesting race,” Takter said. “They didn’t draw good, but they’re good horses so we’ll see what happens. Patrick got the toughest [draw] with the nine and two horses trailing, but he can do anything you want; he’s so handy.

“His win (in the Beal final) was very impressive. He went in (1):50.2 and Yannick didn’t even ask him at all. I was a little worried going into the race that he wasn’t stretched out enough. They need that. Now he’s got it. It’s good to have that.

“Patrick is, to me, the perfect horse.”

Nuncio, driven by John Campbell, finished second to Father Patrick in the Beal, beaten by 2 3/4 lengths. Nuncio, who is the only horse to beat Father Patrick, has won nine of 15 career races and finished second on six occasions—with five of those runner-up efforts coming to Father Patrick.

Interestingly, Nuncio’s win over Father Patrick came last July 12, exactly one year to the day as the Dancer.  

Continues on page 12 ››››
“Don’t count Nuncio out,” said Takter, who trains the colt for owner Stefan Melander’s Stall TZ. “He’s very good. John has basically nursed him, not to get him fired up, and mentally he’s 10 times better than I dreamed I was going to get him. I’m sure from the seven post John is going to test him a little bit out of the gate. He’s a hell of a horse. I like his chances too.”

Trixton, who will be driven by Takter, has won five of six races this year and is making his first start in a race with Father Patrick and/or Nuncio. He won the Goodtimes Stakes in a Canadian-record 1:51.3 on June 14, his most recent outing, and won the New Jersey Sire Stakes championship in 1:52.1 on May 31 at the Meadowlands.

“Trixton, when he has his ‘A’ game, we know what he can do,” said Takter, who trains the colt for Brixton Medical AB and Christina Takter.

“At this point, I’m sitting on three really, really good horses. I would be extremely disappointed if I don’t end up winning the Hambletonian this year. My goal is to win the Hambletonian.”

Ritchie Reflects On Four Decades Of Driving

Writing for the Guelph (Ont.) Mercury, Dave Briggs talked to driver Trevor Ritchie the day after he announced his retirement:

In simplest terms, injuries brought a premature end to the tremendous driving career of Trevor Ritchie. But integrity also led the 58-year-old Acton resident to announce this week that he was retiring from the sulky after some 25,000 races over nearly 40 years.

He said Tuesday that a debilitating neck condition had him questioning whether he was doing the best job he could for the trainers he drove for and the bettors who wagered on him.

“You start second guessing yourself. If I had been able to turn my head more and seen that guy coming, would I have moved if I would have seen him sooner?”

He said he sought out a range of medical opinions, but no one could find the source of the problem, or a solution. He said modern race bikes likely compounded his pain.

“You’re in these carts that, especially this day and age, have you leaning back. You have to, obviously, support your neck. That was a large part of my issue. On nights that it was acting up it could be damn painful and not a whole lot of fun being out there. So, I’m assuming and I’m hoping that without having to put my neck in that sort of a situation that it might not be as aggravating for me.”

Ritchie drove the winners of more than $70 million on the track. He won 3,710 races, none bigger than when he drove Yankee Paco to victory in the 2000 Hambletonian in New Jersey for trainer Doug McIntosh.

To read the rest of the story, please click here.

Report: $436,865 Purse Underpayment At Running Aces

The Minneapolis StarTribune has reported a legislative auditor has found Running Aces Harness Park underpaid purses from 2008 through 2012 by $436,865. The report indicated the track contributed 8.4 percent of the takeout to the purse pool when state law requires the track to pay the money from the total handle.

The state’s Thoroughbred track Canterbury Park has paid the purse pool from the total handle, and Running Aces began doing so in 2013. The situation led to a dispute between Running Aces, the harness horsemen and the racing commission on how much money the track should pay to make up the shortfall.

The auditor’s report recommended the track make a “reasonable payment” to make up the difference, and that the state law regarding purse payments be clarified. It also recommended the racing commission improve its oversight.

Running Aces officials issued a statement that it paid an additional $100,000 into the purse fund in February and that other prior payments to horsemen offset the rest of the shortage.

“I and other members of the committee from both sides of the aisle have been raising serious questions about Running Aces’ operations for some time,” State Rep. Joe Atkins said in a statement to the StarTribune. “We will discuss steps to prevent this from happening again and to ensure there is absolute integrity and honesty in Minnesota racing.”

Minnesota Racing Commission executive director Tom DiPasquale has scheduled a meeting with the board of directors at Running Aces to discuss the report and the track’s contention it does not owe any more money to the purse pool.

Winbak’s Joe Thomson On HOF Ballot

Joe Thomson, owner of the successful Standardbred breeding operation Winbak Farm, based in Maryland, but whose impact is felt in every racing state and province, has been selected by the screening committee of the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) for inclusion on the ballot for election to the sport’s Hall of Fame, to be decided later this summer.

Winbak has produced three Standardbred horses of the year in the last dozen years: No Pan Intended (2003), Rainbow Blue (2004), and Muscle Hill (2009). Muscle Hill joins Vivid Photo (2005) as Winbak graduates who have won the sport’s most prestigious race, the Hambletonian.

Thomson is a co-owner of The Red Mile. Among other important positions he holds in the sport, Thomson serves as a director of the Hambletonian Society. In addition, Thomson was recognized with the 2013 Stan Bergstein Proximity Award. (USHWA)
World Champion Miss Easy Dies

World champion Miss Easy passed away at her home at Hanover Shoe Farms on Tuesday morning, July 8. She was 26.

Miss Easy was bred and raised by Stoner Creek Farm in Paris, Ky. She was purchased as a yearling by Rose Guida and Royal Palm Stables for $30,000. She was broken and trained by Bruce Nickells and was primarily driven by John Campbell throughout her racing career. She was voted the 2-Year-Old PACING Filly of 1990. She won 15 of 17 starts and earned $1,128,956. In 1991 she was voted the 3-Year-Old PACING Filly of the Year. She won 10 of 15 starts, earned $648,700 and concluded her racing career with 2- and 3-year-old earnings $1,777,656.

Unfortunately, her success on the racing front did not carry forth to her career in the breeding shed. At best, her achievements as a mother of quality racehorses could be considered to have been moderate.

So great was the perceived disappointment in Miss Easy as a producer that January of 2002 found her being offered for sale in the Meadowlands Winter Sale as a barren broodmare. Jim Simpson of Hanover Shoe Farms was there together with farm manager Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky and PR. director Murray Brown. Dr. Jablonsky mentioned her disappointment that a mare who was as great as Miss Easy was going to be auctioned and would likely just bring a relative pittance. The three decided that if indeed that would transpire, Hanover would purchase her and she would be guaranteed a forever home. At the time, the thought was that she would be retired and turned out with Hanover’s noted group of retired mares.

When booking season came along Dr. Jablonsky said that Miss Easy was in great shape and suggested that she be booked along with the rest of Hanover’s active mares. That happened and she subsequently produced eight foals for Hanover, bringing a total of $220,500.

While Miss Easy never became the great producer that she was as a racehorse, she spent her remaining years enjoying the good life that she had earned and deserved.

Miss Easy was laid to rest in the Hanover Shoe Farms cemetery. (Hanover Shoe Farms)

Mayhugh Named OHHA Communication Director

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association welcomes Regina Mayhugh as she takes on the role as communication director.

Mayhugh has been part of the Pickaway County Speed Committee for seven years with the role of designing promotional materials for the fair.

Mayhugh will serve as lead for external communications of OHHA such as the monthly newsletters, magazines, stallion guides, website and both the OHHA and Ohio Fair Racing Conference Facebook pages. She will also be the internal lead for the Ohio Fair Racing Conference, will lead track activities that involve media such as charity and championship nights, work with the banquet committee in planning and organizing the OHHA yearly banquet, represent OHHA at any special race track or fair promotions and various others tasks involving promotion of the Ohio harness racing industry. (OHHA)

Joe Muscara Dies At Age 90

Surrounded by his extended family in his home in Philadelphia, Pa., harness racing owner and former trainer-driver Joseph Muscara died Monday, July 7. He was 90.

Mr. Muscara has been involved in harness racing since the early 1970s. Running his stable at Liberty Bell Park, he was one of the first in the Standardbred business to begin exporting race horses from Australia and New Zealand on a regular basis. In the mornings he would be out at his stable at Liberty Bell Park training horses and by the afternoon he was running his very successful real estate development and construction company in Philadelphia.

Muscara Standardbred currently has three stallions in Mach Three, Art Official and Mister Big, and recently purchased half interest in the 2013 Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year He’s Watching as well as an interest in 2012 Meadowlands Pace winner A Rocknroll Dance. They currently have 20 race horses with trainer Darin Cassar. Mr. Muscara had purchased Mister Big for $250,000 in Harrisburg and he went on to win $4 million. He’s Watching, who Muscara Trust purchased half interest in this past winter, is one of the favorites this Saturday to win the $776,000 Meadowlands Pace.

“I remember one of the first horses he ever owned named Dream Volo,” said Robert Muscara, “And my dad was the leading owner/trainer at Liberty Bell back then in 1970 and that horse really helped him get his career going. He would rather work the horses than work in the construction business.

“He was very pleased this past weekend when he saw He’s Watching win his elimination division of the Meadowlands Pace in 1:48.1. He was really hoping that this horse could win him his second Meadowlands Pace. He won his first Meadowlands Pace with Mach Three in 2002.”

Mr. Muscara is survived by his wife, Lorraine; sons Joseph G. (Johanna), Robert (Barbara) and Mark (Kristie); daughters Cheryl (John) Rodinelli and Lori (Mark Heron); 10 grandchildren; and nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

Visitation will be on Sunday, July 13, from 7-9 p.m. at The Lamb Funeral Home, 101 Byberry Rd., Huntingdon Valley, Pa. Viewing will also be at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Knowles Rd and 2nd Street Pike, Southampton, Pa. 18966, on Monday, July 14, from 10-10:30 a.m., immediately followed by a funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. His Interment will be in West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one’s choice.
Standardbred Poll

Hambleden Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications for the week of July 8, 2014

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Leading Money-Winning Horses

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Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for July 2-8 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

- George Napolitano Jr...................................................87........................................21-15-12
- Aaron Merriman.........................................................100......................................17-21-11
- Jason Bartlett.............................................................63........................................17-12-10
- Dave Palone.................................................................45........................................16-3-6
- Scott Zeron......................................................................67......................................14-7-9
- Trace Tetrick.................................................................61........................................14-11-5
- Yannick Gingras...........................................................73........................................14-12-12
- Bruce Aldrich Jr.........................................................65........................................13-12-12
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